Brothers and Sisters,

On the cusp of the New Year, I would like to share a beautiful blessing with all of you. The author is unknown, but it was adapted by Debra Mooney. I found this on the website of Xavier University. I pray that you take these words to heart as we enter 2026 together!

May God make our year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our faces bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our lives always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope, and joy to us for the year ahead.

Happy New Year.
Pastor John

This Sunday at Black Creek UMC!

This week, we celebrate Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is the day Christians remember and celebrate the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The word Epiphany means manifestation or appearance, and in worship we celebrate the recognition of the Magi that Jesus was, and is, the Savior for all peoples.

In our message, we celebrate that God is speaking to each and every one of us in ways that we can understand and He is leading us forward. All we need to do is make the choice to follow!

There are **four** ways to participate in worship at Black Creek UMC. Our service begins at 9:30.

- In person – All are welcome, come as you are!
- On Facebook Live.
- Right at the top of our website, www.blackcreekumc.org
- Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel. Just go to YouTube and type in @backpewbelievers and our channel will come right up! Don't forget to subscribe for new updates.

Liturgists and Ushers

Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Liturgical Ministries

Signup sheets for ushers / greeters and liturgists are now available for the 2026 church year! These positions are open to everyone in the church, and they are a great way to grow closer to God and one another. Please consider signing up for a month for one or both of these important roles!

Here is an updated list of available months.

Liturgists: May, August, September, October, and December

Ushers: March, August, September, and November

Soup Sale

Our next major church fundraiser is our **Annual Soup Sale.** The sale takes place on January 24th, but we will need plenty of soup makers before that. Please let Donna F. know if you can help!

Bulletin Prayer List

Pastor John is currently working to update our bulletin prayer list. If you know anyone who should be added, please email him at blackcreekpastor@gmail.com.

Looking for Church Committee Members

As we begin the new year, we are looking for volunteers to join some of the important **committees** at our church. We are hoping to add new members to our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, our Trustees, and our Finance Committee. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please see Pastor John!

Upcoming Church Council Meeting:

Our next Church Council meeting is January 14th at 6PM in our upstairs fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend!