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Website**

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Shine a Light

One of the first big purchases that Alyssa and I made as a married couple was an artificial Christmas tree. I remember going to Wal-Mart on Touhy Avenue in Skokie, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Our Christmas tree from the year before, a four-footer, was not going to cut it, especially as our cats, Chocolate and Chubbs, loved knocking it down and breaking ornaments.

So, we bought a beautiful artificial tree that cost nearly \$200, which was a lot, considering I was going to graduate school and we only had one part-time job between us. But it was our tree now. And we loved it. Over the years, we have had to replace the tree's lights, as they burned out. But

December 2025 was the ninth Christmas for our tree.

I talk about our tree because a few years into our marriage we began to leave the tree up longer and longer after Christmas. Probably past what most people would consider sensible. And now, we leave it up until St. Patrick's Day. Winter is a dark season. Our Christmas tree has become our "winter tree," offering light and joy throughout winter. We are grateful for its radiance.

As we head into the new year, I encourage all of us to ponder how we can be a source of light and love in our world, providing a warm glow. There is much in our world that is broken, but there is much in our world that is good, too. And we can all ask God to move through us to be people that shine a light in the darkest night. And hopefully, you can find places and spaces to warm up, too, as sometimes we are the ones who need to simply sit in the light.

There are many opportunities at our church this month to connect with others whether through worship, our Community Game Night on January 28th, the Scouts' Spaghetti Lunch on January 18th, Bible studies, youth group, and other occasions. I hope that you

connect with others and discover God's light shining brightly through the community made among us.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks

Leadership Highlights



Attendance

	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 24	Dec. 28
Attendance	63	42	55	114	25



In December, Faith Food Pantry had one distribution on the 12th. We served 135 families 50 pounds of food each. It was a cold and windy day which affected our attendance.

We had a great time though with lots of fun and fellowship! A huge thanks to all of our volunteers and drivers who braved the cold!

-Deb Laber

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

- Friday, January 9 @ 1:30 pm
- Friday, January 23 @ 1:30 pm



Thank you from the Missions & Outreach Committee to all of the volunteers who helped make the Live Nativity a HUGE SUCCESS!!

I believe we counted approximately 50 extra attendees from the community above what we have seen in the past years!

-Dawn Hoherz



Upcoming Sermons

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Jan. 4 Epiphany Sunday	What Star Are You Following?	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 11 Baptism of the Lord Sunday	What's Baptism Got To Do With It?	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 18	How Can We Be a Light?	Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42

Jan. 25

Will You Come
and Follow Me?

1 Corinthians
1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23



Join us!

Every Wednesday at 5pm in the library

Here's what we're learning

Wednesday, January 7th

We are wrapping up our book study A Child is Born:
A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories by Amy-Jill Levine.

Wednesday, January 14th

Philippians, chapter 1

Wednesday, January 21th

Philippians, chapter 2

Wednesday, January 28th

On break - Join us for Community Game Night!

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT

FAITH UMC

FOOD, GAMES, &
CONNECTION

JAN 28, 2026
5:00 - 8:00 PM

909 19TH AVENUE N, FARGO, ND 58102

FREE
FOR
ALL!

GAMES
PROVIDED

LIGHT MEAL
PROVIDED

BRING FOOD
TO SHARE

BRING GAMES
TO SHARE

Scouts Spaghetti Luncheon

**Faith UMC
Fellowship
Hall**

**SAVE
the
DATE**

**Sunday
January 18th
11:00 AM**



Are you **new to Faith United Methodist?**

Want to learn more about us??

Join us for New Member Classes

We will meet for three Sundays:

January 11th

January 25th

February 1st

11:15am in the library. See you there!



01/04 - Bill Underwood

01/08 - Cassie Ishaug

01/12 - Debra Laber

01/19 - Indrani Samaraweera

01/19 - Upasiri Samaraweera

01/23 - Twila Hofman

01/25 - Susan Martin

01/26 - Julia Christiansen

01/26 - Kristen Garske

If your birthday isn't listed and it's your birthday this month,
please let us know in the office.



Prayers for the World

- Ukraine and Russia
- Israel, Gaza and Palestine
- Sudan
- Congo
- Gun violence in the United States
- Venezuela / U.S. Relations
- Flooding in Sri Lanka

Prayers of Support

To make a prayer request please call the office at 701-232-6844 or fill out a

"How can we pray for you?" card available in each pew and in the office.



As local, state, and federal food programs are seeing reduced funding, more people in our community may be facing food insecurity.

Please consider making a donation to the Faith Food Pantry.

Nonperishable foods can be placed in our food pantry box in the main entrance of the church or financial donations are always accepted in the office.

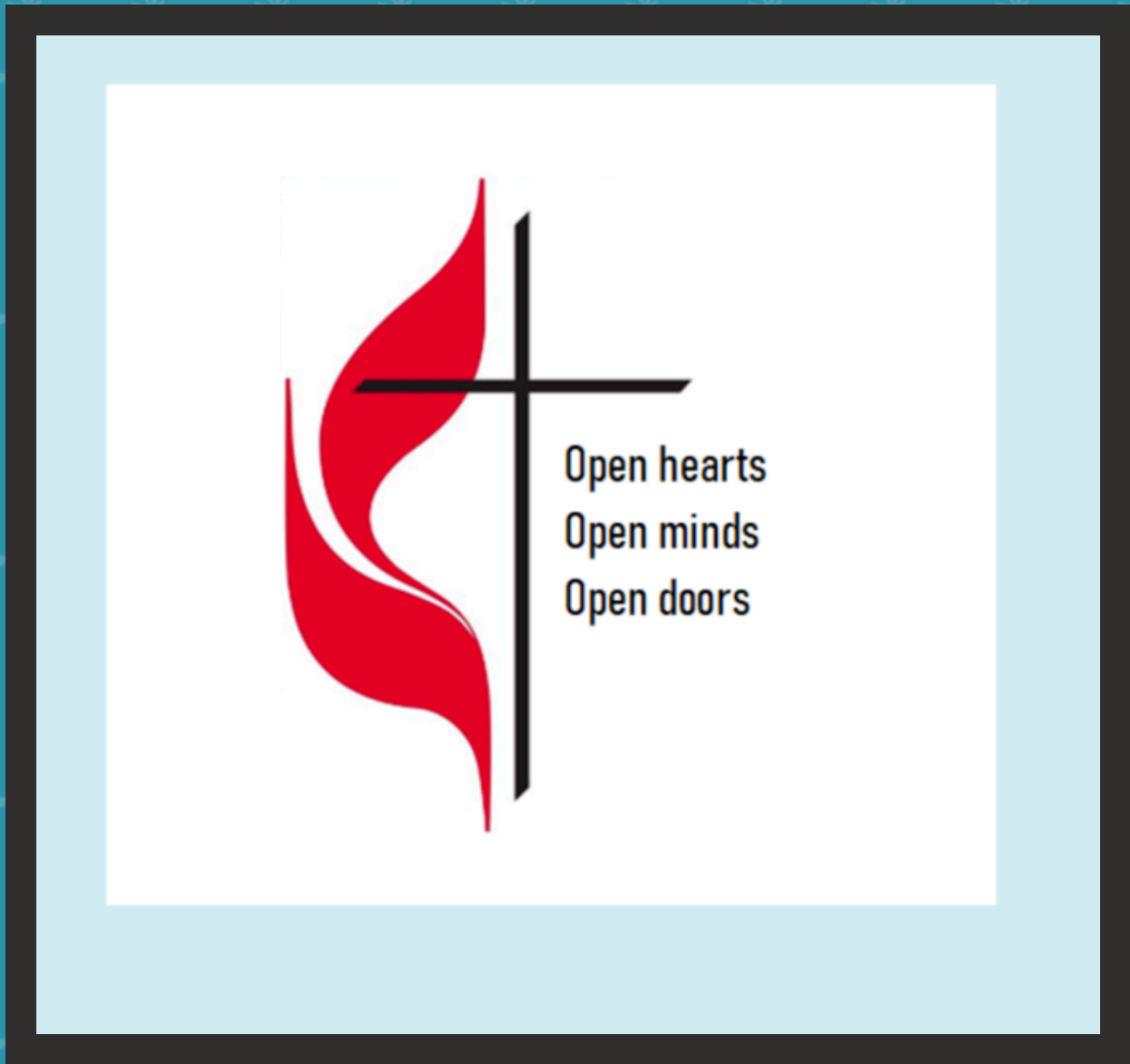


If you would like to give online, you can do so by using this QR code.



Faith United Methodist Church
Leadership Team

Leadership Chair	Deb Laber
Vice Chair	Kate Naujokas
SPRC Chair	Roger Grimm
Finance Chair	Teresa Dittmer
Treasurer	Susan Reed
Trustee Chair	Ken Laber
Mission & Outreach Chair	Dawn Hoherz
Education Chair	TBD
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Carol Fowler
Member At-Large	Janet Jones
Pastor (Ex-Officio)	Pastor Jordan Louks



Faith United Methodist Church | 909 19th Ave N. | Fargo, ND 58102 US

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