



LIBERTY LANTERN



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JANUARY 24, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

This past year has been one filled with many blessings, but also one of challenges. We said good-bye to true saints that passed on to eternal life with God. Time sure flies by quickly, and like every New Year, 2026 is a year full of many possibilities. Right now it is new and fresh, and we have the chance for a fresh start on all those things we didn't get around to last year. We have the chance to accomplish those goals this year.

I don't know if you make resolutions for the new year or not, but if you are like most people, it is not too far into the New Year before those resolutions have been broken. As people of mere mortal flesh and blood, we are not very good at keeping promises, but we can be assured that God always keeps promises.

Of all the fresh starts we can make this year, the best and most important is to develop a closer and more personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Everything else in life worth having flows out of that relationship. As we grow in this relationship, we may not be free from struggles with health, finances, or other things, but we will be happier because life will be kept in a better perspective. This year I would also encourage you to consider how your giving reflects your gratitude to God for all the blessings God gives you.

Start by increasing your prayer time. Just have honest discussions with God and listen for God to answer. Pray for you and your family. Pray for your church family and for God to lead others to our church. Go to God in prayer and establish a close relationship with Jesus Christ. The results just might astound you.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bob



LOOKING AHEAD, YOUR WORSHIP TEAM

With Christmas 2025 now past, we are beginning to look ahead for the coming year. **Your Worship committee is scheduled to meet on Sunday, January 25th at 11:45 am in the Conference Room.**

We will discuss the upcoming Lenten season including Holy Week and Easter. This season is a bit early this year with Easter on Sunday April 5th.

If you are interested in learning about how Liberty prepares for these Christian holidays and events, please feel free to join us at this meeting.

Your Sister in Christ,

Michele J., Worship Chair

FAREWELL DEAR FRIEND...

On Saturday, January 17th, family and friends came together to say goodbye to Jane Fricke (b.5/20/50-d.11/29/25). Jane grew up with her loving and extensive adopted family on a large farmstead, nurturing an early and lifelong love of animals, particularly horses. She grew up in the small rural Canann Methodist Church, and was devoted to her Lord.

With a degree from Southern Iowa Community College, Jane relocated to Arizona and continued her education with AAS and B.A. degrees from Scottsdale Comm. College and University of Phoenix. Her work with the Phoenix Police Dept. was one of her proudest accomplishments.

Jane will be laid to rest next to her parents, Alden and Grace Fricke, in their Sheridon family cemetery. Jane, now home with her Lord, will be missed, but remains in our hearts.

WOW-DAY - JAN. 10!

... and Happy New Year!!

On Saturday, January 10th, we began this year with a wonderful gathering of members and friends to un-decorate the sanctuary, fellowship

hall, outside along the fence and north and south lawns. All the Advent and Christmas decorations needed to be organized for the 2026 season yet to come.

This is my note of gratitude along with a huge thank you to all who helped our little church start 2026 clean and organized!

Thank you to Rachael and Steve for all removal of outside lights, wreaths, garland and banners. Thank you LaRae, Marcia S. and Linda Z. for the "patience of saints" in removing the little gold cross ornaments and keeping them organized!

Thank you to John, Gary, Yoshi and Pete for removing and boxing all the decorations in fellowship hall. Thank you to Joanna, Paula and Claire for helping to pack up the advent wreath, clean off the pine needles and dust from windowsills, altar tables and emptying the trash bins.

Thank you to Mike and Steven N. for 'Labeling' the storage bins, and making the tree and all bins fit in the little 'Pastor Changing room' behind the altar (where our circuit preacher would ride up on horseback/wagon and change into his vestments for Sunday morning service!).

Thank you Linda, Vic and Dave for vacuuming the fellowship hall and the sanctuary including the pew cushions.

Thank you to Nancy C., who helped to re-hang all the banners (and making a mad dash to Walmart for the correct size curtain rods!) with the help of Steven who knows his knots! Thank you to Art and Vern for their help outside, taking down the Christmas tree, putting away all the electric cords and doing a plumbing repair in the kitchen too!

As found in 1 Corinthians 12:12 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ". We managed to complete the un-decorating in record time and were mostly finished by 10:30 am!!

Thank you All! –

Michele J.,



WORTH THE WAIT ...

Our 'new' website is online! First, and foremost, the website address has not changed:

<https://www.libertyumcbuckeyeaz.org>

Our website has a new layout and we are working to iron-out some issues. Please bear with us as we work to put our 'best foot' forward before Ash Wednesday and our celebrations of Lent and Holy Week!

An important feature of the new website is the calendar. Events 'roll up' and the calendar is always current! Getting a headstart on what is being planned is going to be a vital part of supporting the new calendar. If you have any upcoming meetings or new events for the calendar check with Rachael S.

We will be setting up a brand-new **Facebook page** for Liberty UMC and will keep you posted!

The Liberty Lantern will continue to be a big part of our communication triad. **Each monthly newsletter for 2026 will publish on the fourth Saturday of each month.** If you would like to contribute an article for publication or have an important date for the calendar, please see Rachael, email, or text (contact info in the 2026 Directory).

NEW AND IMPROVED ...

Thank you to our Trustee's for the recent work following the floor install. During improvements in the restrooms with the new flooring, an additional plumbing issue showed up in the kitchen! To address the plumbing, an additional \$5,200 was approved to address a drainage issue, install a new water heater and update the faucet at the kitchen sink.

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL CHANGE!

What is that beautiful new sound in the sanctuary? We have a new electric piano!

Thank you to Linda Z. for lending her time and talent in researching and trying various instruments to choose our wonderful new piano.

Enjoy!

February 2026

Adult Study will be moving to the Conference Room on Sunday, January 25th! The new course is "Greatest Heros of the Bible". Since each session is close to an hour long, the move to the Conf. Room will let the Choir warm-up continue in Memorial Hall at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join the study!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Potluck Sun. No Adult Study Youth Study 8:45am, Sun.School Worship 10am	2	3 LUWF 10am Mem. Hall UMM 10am Conf. Rm. Youth Zoom 6pm	4 Choir Practice 6:30pm, Sanct.	5 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6pm Mem. Hall	6	7
8 Communion Sun. Adult Study, 8:45am, Conf. Room Youth Study 8:45am, Sun.Sch. Ad. Council 11:45		10 Bodacious Women Study, 10am, Mem. Hall Youth Zoom 6pm	11 Choir Practice 6:30pm, Sanct.	12 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6pm Mem. Hall	13	14
15 Adult Study, 8:45am, Conf. Room Youth Study 8:45am, Sun.Sch. Worship 10am	Baby Shower for Anne-Maite Feb. 15, 2 PM Please RSVP to Marcia Solan	17 Bodacious Women Study, 10am, Mem. Hall Youth Zoom 6pm	18 Choir Practice 6:30pm, Sanct.	19 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6pm Mem. Hall	20	21
22 Adult Study, 8:45am, Conf. Room Youth Study 8:45am, Sun.Sch. Worship 10am	23 Home Grp. 6:30 PM	24 Bodacious Women Study, 10am, Mem. Hall Meditation Zoom 6pm	25 Choir Practice 6:30pm, Sanct. Newsletter Deadline	26 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6pm Mem. Hall	27	28 Liberty Lantern Vol. 4, Iss. 3

Want to get a jump on your 2026 Shoebox gifts? Consider ‘shopping the calendar’ throughout the year ... We also have a few shoeboxes and filler about ready for any early birds!

Visit the LUMC Shoebox store in the nursery.



Guide to Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping, Packing, and Tips

Savvy shoebox packers know that it's never too early to start shopping, packing, and fundraising for shoebox gifts. Use this guide to pack quality shoeboxes that are **FUN, FULL**, and **PERSONALIZED** so that each is unique and prayed over. By preparing shoebox gifts all year long, you can send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boys and girls around the world!

YEAR-ROUND SHOPPING

<p>January</p> <p>Hats, Gloves, and Scarves</p>	<p>February</p> <p>Fashion Accessories</p>	<p>March</p> <p>"Wow" Items</p>	<p>April</p> <p>Stuffed Animals</p>
<p>May</p> <p>Personal Care Items</p>	<p>June</p> <p>Toys</p>	<p>July</p> <p>Clothing</p>	<p>August</p> <p>School Supplies</p>
<p>September</p> <p>Games</p>	<p>October</p> <p>Letter and Photo</p>	<p>November</p> <p>\$10 Donation Per Shoebox</p>	<p>December</p> <p>Prayer</p>