

I don't know about you, but mornings are hard. That space between waking up and when the caffeine finally does its work is always a struggle. It's even worse in the winter. The sun is slow to show up, the cold bites a little deeper, and the bed feels far more welcoming than whatever waits on the other side of the alarm clock.

Sadly, staying put isn't really an option. As tempting as it may be, we can't just sit around and do nothing all day. We are called to go out and serve. We are called to work for the Kingdom and to follow Christ. And that means we actually have to wake up and get moving.

We serve God in the morning and in the evening. We follow Christ when it's cold and snowing and when it's hot and dry. We love God and love our neighbor when it comes easily, and when it takes real effort. In fact, we are called to love most especially when it's hard.

On those mornings when my brain refuses to cooperate and even my daily devotional feels like too much, I turn to a prayer from the United Methodist Hymnal. It's one a mentor shared with me early on, back when I was just beginning the journey toward becoming a pastor. You can find it on page 877:

*New every morning is your love, great God of light,  
And all day long you are working for good in the world.  
Stir up in us desire to serve you,  
To live peacefully with our neighbors,  
And to devote each day to your Son,  
Our savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Amen.*

We are called, my friends. Called not just on the good days, but on the gray ones. Not just when we feel ready, but when we feel worn out and under caffeinated. May God give us the strength and courage to answer that call each and every day. And as we rise, slowly, perhaps, but faithfully, may we find that God's love really is new every morning, meeting us right where we are and sending us out once more. God Bless, Pastor Ed

***Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every other Sunday at 6 PM***

**Online giving is available for your convenience  
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org**



**Food Pantry Needs:** pancake mix, ketchup, saltine crackers, cereal – all kinds, jelly or jam, peanut butter, dish washing soap, soup with meat, ranch dressing, jello, toilet paper

**The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM**

## Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Jan 25 Martha Feb 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Feb 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the  
kitchen door.**

## Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Jan 25 Hope Feb 1 Communion Feb 8 Hope  
**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the  
kitchen door.**

### Northern Lakes District *Leadership University via Zoom*

**Saturday, January 31, 10:00am-1:00pm (ET)**

**Saturday, February 7, 9:00am-12:00pm (ET)**

**There is no charge for this Zoom event.**

**Registration deadline** is 11:59 pm (ET) on January 30 for the January 31 event and 11:59 pm (ET) on February 6 for the February 7 event.

**The classes below will be offered both days.** Choose one class per day. Attend one day or two.

- Chat with the Chancellor: Legal Tips for Every Church
- Church Administrative Assistants
- Church Development: More than Just Sundays
- Church Governance and Single Board
- Clergy Early in Ministry
- Endowments and Planned Giving
- Fresh Expressions
- Growing Young
- Lay Leadership
- Outreach: Food Pantries and Beyond
- Staff Parish
- Trustees and Finance

**Register here** <https://www.inumc.org/>

**For more information contact Eva Goeb** [eva.goeb@inumc.org](mailto:eva.goeb@inumc.org)

**TOPS Club** meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

## Looking Ahead

Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, Jan. 22, 10 AM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Jan. 24, 4 PM

**Chili Cook Off – Sunday, Jan. 25, about 11 AM**

**Please bring a pot of chili or something that goes with chili!**

Disciples & Dragons – Sunday, Jan. 25, 6 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Jan. 27, 3-6 PM

Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Thursday, Feb. 5, 6:30 PM

Ad Council Meeting – Monday, Feb. 9, 6:30 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Feb. 10, 3-6 PM

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Feb. 24, 3-6 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Feb. 28, 4-6 PM