



A Note Worth Sharing from Pastor Keith

Hello everyone, and I do bid you greetings on one of the last few days of January. Speaking of January, I don't know about you, but I am very much looking forward to seeing February begin. And speaking of February (do you see a trend here?), the start of this new month will also mark our eighth month together.

I cannot express enough the kindness and welcome that my wife Shelly and I have received from you and from this church family. It has been overwhelming in the very best way, and it is so deeply appreciated.

A member asked me the other day, "Pastor Keith, do you feel comfortable around here?" Without hesitation, I said yes — I truly do feel comfortable, and very much like a member of the family.

As I look back on our walk together so far, we have already gone through a valley or two and come out the other side smiling and singing praises to God. Everywhere I look, I see devoted people who want to serve the Lord in whatever way they feel led.

As we move forward, I invite you once again to grab your Bibles, sit down in prayer, and worship every day. Give all your cares to God, and know that He has your six. Go to Him with anything — He has the time, because He loves you.

Lastly, although I've been a little under the weather as of late, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Call me, or email me at faitheyotapastor@gmail.com— if you need anything from me at all, I am here.

That's all for now.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Keith

Faith United Methodist Church

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Service every Sunday at 10:00am *Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Here for Good.*



Faith United Methodist Church, Eyota

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday

represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays.

On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lenten Events

2/18 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

2/25 6:00pm Soup, Sandwiches and Service

3/11 6:00 pm Soup, Sandwiches, Service

3/25 6:00pm Soup, Sandwiches, Service

"As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

[Genesis 8:22](#)

Recognition Sunday

**February 15, 2026
at 10:00 am**

Join us on Recognition Sunday at 10am. We will spend time to thank the leaders who have worked so hard to keep our church running. Their dedication to service in our church is phenomenal.

Installation Sunday

**February 22, 2026
at 10:00 am**

We will recognize new leadership during the church service.

Save the Date!

**Stay after worship on
March 1st – your voice
matters!**

Join us for a potluck and help shape the future of our church. Tables for Nurture, Outreach, and Worship will be ready for your ideas.

We're also looking for volunteers to help lead the conversation.

Bring a dish. Take a seat. Be part of what's next.

Leadership Committee Updates

Leadership Council

Website Update Coming Soon!

We're making a behind-the-scenes upgrade and moving our church website to a new host. Don't worry—nothing will change about how you find or use our website. You may have noticed a recent text from the church; that's all part of this transition, too. The new site looks great, and because it's part of Tithely, it will give us even more helpful features and functionality moving forward. We're excited to share what's coming next!

N.O.W

Nurture, Outreach, Worship

We will have a potluck on March 1st after church. There will be tables which will show various parts of this important part of our church. Please bring a dish to pass and look at what we've done and what we are planning to do this year. There will even be a place for you to volunteer if you are able. Many hands make light work.

Finance Committee

The finance committee has reorganized and is up and running. The main goal of this committee is to manage our budget effectively. We are working on reports for the congregation regarding our financial status and will share those soon. The members of the Finance Committee are: Jaime Putzier (chairperson), Brenda Allen (Treasurer), Jessi Leichtnam (Financial Secretary), Michelle Merchant (interim treasurer while Brenda Allen recovers from her knee surgery), Linda Tamminga

Staff/Parish Relations (SPRCC)

Linda Tamminga is the chair. The focus of this group is to build strong relationships between the staff and the congregation and between the congregation and the district superintendent. The ministry of this committee is crucial for this aspect of a vital and effective congregation.

Trustees

The boiler is installed and up and running in the parsonage. It should be rented the first week of February. There will be some fundraising opportunities soon to help pay for this and other expenses we are incurring as we maintain our properties. We extend grateful thanks to all who have donated and helped with this.

More information to come.

Leadership Council

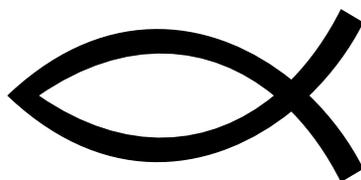
- **Leadership Council Co-Chair:** Lori Ehlenfeldt
- **Leadership Council Co-Chair:** Peter Larson
- **Nuture Chair:** Irene Vehrenkamp
- **SPRCC Chair:** Linda Tamminga
- **Finance Chair:** Jaime Putzier
- **Head Trustee:** Frank Merchant
- **Financial Secretary:** Jessi Leichtnam
- **Interim Treasurer:** Michelle Merchant
- **Secretary:** Irene Vehrenkamp
- **Lay Member:** Peter Larson

Being United Methodist

The United Methodist Church is a global network consisting of over 12 million members across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. We are the neighbor next door, the church across the country, and the worshipping community worldwide. United, we continue the legacy of being disciples of Jesus Christ, expressing God's love through our words and our service to others. The United Methodist Church is also part of the World Methodist Council, connecting Methodist denominations around the world. The United Methodist Church has many

commonalities with other Christian denominations.

Like others, we hold the belief that God's grace is accessible to everyone, which is why we embrace "open Communion"—inviting all to take part in this sacred ritual. We hold that salvation is a gift from God, accepted by individuals according to their free will. The United Methodist denomination is a "big tent" theologically, offering room for theological discourse and occasional disagreement.



Like many other Christian groups, we affirm the beliefs expressed in the Apostles' Creed, which include:

- Belief in one God, the Creator and sustainer of the universe.
- Belief in the Trinity, acknowledging one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is both fully human and fully divine.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, emphasized the importance of pursuing our faith in community and taking action alongside others. He advocated for a concept of social holiness.

Fuel Up For A Good Cause with Kwik Trip Gift Cards!

We're offering an easy way to support the ongoing ministry and work of our church — just by shopping where many of us already do: Kwik Trip!

When you purchase Kwik Trip cards through our fundraiser, a portion comes back to support the church's general needs:

Gas & Store Cards — **5% back**

Grocery-Only Cards — **15% back**

Car Wash Cards — **\$16 back per card**

Sign up at church or find the links on our Facebook page, website, or using the QR code.

Thank you for helping support our church in such a simple, everyday way!

Kwik Trip | Kwik Store
CAR WASH AND GIFT CARD

Fundraising CARD PROGRAM



FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to be a member of the Methodist movement?

Being a member of The United Methodist Church (UMC) means entering a covenant to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ, actively participating in a local congregation through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness

Do I have to be a member to attend worship or events at FUMC?

No, you do not need to be a member to participate in our worship service, or any activities we offer at Faith United Methodist Church (FUMC). Our service is every Sunday at 10:00 am. Can't make it? No problem! You can watch it on Facebook Live or view it on our Facebook page at your own convenience.

Why would it be important to become a member at FUMC?

Membership in Faith United Methodist Church is significant because it represents a commitment to actively participate in our community of faith through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, rather than just holding a nominal or "visitor" status. It fosters spiritual growth, provides support, and connects individuals to a global mission of service and justice, fulfilling the Methodist focus on personal and social holiness.

Is membership required to take communion? (Short answer: no!)

Absolutely not! You may join in Communion without being a member. We offer Holy Communion at FUMC is always the first Sunday of every month. Come and join us!

How is Methodist membership different from other denominations?

Methodism, also called the Methodist movement, is a Protestant Christian tradition whose origins, doctrine, and practice derive from the life and teachings of John Wesley. In addition to evangelism, Methodism is known for its charity, as well as support for the sick, the poor, and the afflicted.

The UMC Mission is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

**DO ALL THE
GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE
MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE
WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE
PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE
TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE
PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS
EVER YOU CAN.**
-JOHN WESLEY

What Does Stewardship Really Mean?

In the Methodist church, stewardship is about much more than money. It's about how we care for all that God has placed in our hands – our time, our abilities, our resources, and even the world around us. Stewardship is a way of living that recognizes everything we have as a gift from God and asks, "How can I use this to love God and serve others?"

Stewardship isn't a once-a-year conversation or a fundraising drive. It's a daily practice of faith that we all share. Each member of the congregation has a role to play in caring for the life and mission of the church, and that role looks different for everyone. No one is expected to give in the same way – but everyone is invited to participate.

At its core, stewardship is a response to grace. We give – whether that's our time, energy, skills, presence, prayers, or financial support – not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what God has already given us. When each of us offers what we can, together we create something stronger than any one person could on their own.

In our church, stewardship comes to life through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. When we each take part, we help this church remain a welcoming, faithful place where lives are nurtured, needs are met, and God's love is shared – right here in our community and beyond.

Key aspects of Methodist stewardship include:

A Way of Life: It is viewed as a daily, lifelong commitment to managing resources, rather than merely an annual campaign for church funds.

Stewardship as Grace: It is a response to God's love, focusing on returning a portion of what God has provided, with an emphasis on generosity and "first-fruits" giving.

The "Five Pillars": Stewardship is commonly expressed through offering prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Biblical Foundation: It is rooted in the concept of holding resources in trust for God to be used for the church and the world, often encouraging the tithe (10% of income) as a standard.

Methodist stewardship is ultimately about transforming lives and serving the kingdom of God.





FEBRUARY 2026

SUN MON TUE WE THU FRI SAT

1 8:45 Bells 9a Sunday School 10a Church 11a Coffee 11:30 Choir	2	3 Office Open 9a-1p Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm	4	5 Bible Study 9:30am	6	7
8 8:45 Bells 9a Sunday School 10a Church 11a Coffee 11:30 Choir 2:00pm Girl Scouts	9 Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	10 Office Open 9a-1p Cub Scout Meeting 6:30pm-8:30pm	11	12 Bible Study 9:30am Leadership Work Group 6:30	13	14
15 8:45 Bells 9a Sunday School 10a Church 11a Coffee 11:30 Choir	16	17 Office Open 9a-1p Boy Scout Meeting 6:30pm-8:30pm	18 Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00	19 Bible Study 9:30am	20	21
22 8:45 Bells 9a Sunday School 10a Church 11a Coffee 11:30 Choir	23	24 Office Open 9a-1p	25 Soup and Sandwhich Service 6:00	26 Bible Study 9:30am Leadership Meeting 6:30	27	28 Private Event - Dining Hall Reserved

“ He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.
 — PSALM 147:16.

SCAN ME!

