



Hebron United Methodist Church
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

FEBRUARY 2025

The Pastor Ponders...

...How Do We Handle Our Fear?

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid,
for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will
help you; I will uphold you with
my victorious right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10)*

Since the inauguration, there have been headlines in the paper and blurbs on TV and the internet reporting that many, many persons are now living in fear. It's a reality. Many believe that the executive orders, memos, and policy of the current administration is putting the well-being of individuals, families, communities, and maybe, the entire nation and world in a precarious place.

I am not a politician, sociologist, economist, military strategist, physician, or any of those other specialists who claim to know what is best for everyone. However, I am a theologian, an ordained Elder, someone who has studied quite a bit of psychology, history, and the Bible, and I am a follower of Jesus Christ and that gives me some authority to weigh in on the issues. As Christians, we will probably never agree on the question of how and where it is appropriate to speak the truth to power, or whether or not the biblical teachings on family and sex supersede its teachings on love, compassion, justice,

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Mark your Calendars

Month of February

It's SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday time!
Bring in donations all month for the Hebron
Community Food Pantry

Sunday, February 9th

Mission Links for Reconciling Ministries
Network (HUMC will match all donations made
up to \$200)

Sunday, February 16th

9:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting
(No Church Works)

Thursday, February 20th

9:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran
"Communicating Effectively" a 1-hour
presentation by the Alzheimer's Association

Wednesday, March 5th - 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service at HUMC

Thursdays, March 6th - April 10th

Winter/Spring Productive Aging
Chair Tai Chi 9:30 a.m.
Lenten Study 10:15 a.m.

**SAVE THE DATE for the
HUMC Centennial Celebration!**

July 5th & 6th

More information to come!

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

and caring for those society has put on the margin but we have to acknowledge that when folks say they are scared, they ARE scared. Our feelings are real, whether the rest of us think there are circumstances that warrant them or not.

The Reconciling Ministries Network published an article last week acknowledging that our feelings of turmoil and fear at this time are real, because the chaos, terror, and harm to certain sectors of society (if not all – when one hurts, we all hurt) is real. They suggest making sure that we stay in good, healthy relationships with each other, are aware of all the folks around us who are suffering, stay in love (with God and others), and find strength in the stories of those who have suffered in the past. (rmnetwork.org)

Suggestions of stories of strength: *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Stride Toward Freedom* by Martin Luther King, Jr., biographies of Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Ida B. Wells, others that may be more up to date. (It's Black History Month and the recognition of the Holocaust.) I enjoy watching the movie, *Invictus*, which is both entertaining and a thought-provoking way of dealing with one's enemies/racism.

Suggestions for staying in love with God and others: scriptures of hope contributed by the NIC Board of Laity - For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (*Jeremiah 29:11*) But those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (*Isaiah 40:31*) We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (*Romans 5: 3-5*) Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. (*Romans 12:12*) And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love. (*1 Corinthians 13: 13*) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15: 13*) God's Spirit is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (*Titus 3: 6 – 7*)

Above all else, PRAY.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Char

During our January 12th worship service, we watched a video of our Bishop Dan Schwerin reading a pastoral letter from the United Methodist Council of Bishops addressing the plight of migrants, immigrants and refugees. The Northern Illinois Conference has also provided a number of resources on their website www.umcnic.org, some of which we are including here:

[Pastoral letter read by Bishop Dan Schwerin](#)

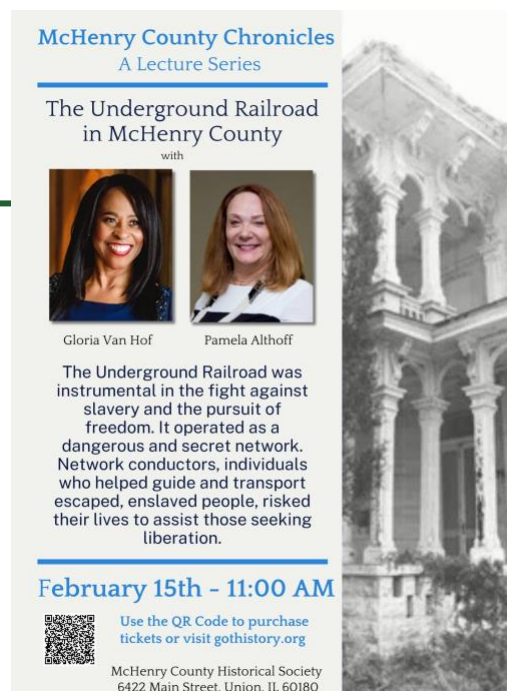
[Print your own Red Cards](#)

[ACLU Illinois - Immigrant Rights/Know your Rights](#)

[Resources for Putting Faith into Action](#)



[Northern Illinois Justice For Our Neighbors](#)

(Northern Illinois Justice For Our Neighbors has been selected as part of our Mission Links program in the month of May. If you [make a donation](#) to this organization through HUMC at any time this year, HUMC will match donations up to \$200).



McHenry County Chronicles
A Lecture Series


The Underground Railroad
in McHenry County
with

Gloria Van Hof Pamela Althoff

The Underground Railroad was instrumental in the fight against slavery and the pursuit of freedom. It operated as a dangerous and secret network. Network conductors, individuals who helped guide and transport escaped, enslaved people, risked their lives to assist those seeking liberation.

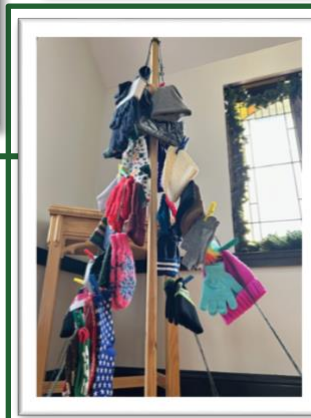
February 15th - 11:00 AM

 Use the QR Code to purchase tickets or visit gothistory.org

McHenry County Historical Society
6422 Main Street, Union, IL 60180

In honor of Black History Month, our friend and former church member Gloria Van Hof will be sharing an exciting piece of McHenry County's Underground Railroad History!

Our HUMC Kids/Youth did an excellent job presenting "The Grinch Who Found Christmas" on December 8th. We would like to thank everyone who baked and bought delicious treats to support our Kids helping Kids mission. Altogether we raised \$470.00 for [Kids In Need](#) in McHenry County! Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who decorated our Mitten Tree for the Red Bird Mission with several hats, mittens, gloves and scarves!

We were blessed to share with you all such a beautiful Advent Season! On December 15th we decorated cookies, sang carols indoors after worship, and then moved the caroling to Shirlee's house! On December 24th we celebrated Christmas Eve together in our Sanctuary, and on Sunday, December 29th, we gathered for Stone Soup - a joyful way to end the year!



We received this invitation from our friends reconciling friends at FUMCE in Evanston. [Click here](#) to register and learn more!



Rainbows Resistance Reconciliation:



A convocation celebrating Intersectional Pride

- to gather LGBTQIA+ persons and allies
- to Inspire
- to educate
- to strengthen our justice ministry

Saturday, February 15th 9:30am - 3:30pm

- Keynote Speaker - Rev. Beth Stroud,
- As well as a panel with local clergy and lay leaders, and 6 workshops all centered on caring for our queer community

Sunday, February 16th 10:30am

- Dr. Pamela Lightsey will preach and lead us in reflections on what is to come as we move forward together

<https://faiththatfirst.org/rainbows-resistance-and-reconciliation/>



Cultivating Health Ministries



Cultivating Health Ministries is partnering again with our church and St. John's Lutheran to provide important health education and resources in 2025! Our first program continues our series from last year on Alzheimer's and Dementia awareness. Join us at St. John's Lutheran Church on Thursday, February 20th at 9:00 a.m. for a 1-hour program called "Communicating Effectively." This FREE program, led by Alzheimer Association's Susan Laten, will teach how dementia affects communication, and will include tips for communicating well with family, friends, and health care professionals.



On Thursday, March 6th we will kick off our 6-week Productive Aging session for Winter/Spring! We will begin with a 40-minute Chair Tai Chi class led by Stephanie Claussen at 9:30 a.m. Then at 10:15 a.m. Pastor Char Hoffmann will lead us through Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours That Changed the World*. This Lenten bible study and video journey will take us virtually to the Holy Land and provide us with a deeper understanding of Christ's last days on earth.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Winter has a way of making people want to hole up and be still. While stillness has its time and place, action is required to do God's work. We must move. We must act. Even when it's cold and we may be feeling winter fatigue we need to continue to move forward to achieving God's will. Fortunately, we don't each have to do it alone. We have fellow church family members in our corner.

Sometimes, we forget God's power is limitless and through faith, we can achieve more than we can imagine - especially when we work together. On the third Sunday in Advent, I presented a message based on the Joy in our church. With this message we were blessed with a [video presentation](#) created by Stephanie Claussen of much of what we have achieved in 2024 being God's Inclusive Church. It was a year of accomplishing abundant and wonderful things for our church, our community and beyond. It was a year of doing more than we ever imagined we could.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." -Ephesians 3:20-21

Thankful doesn't begin to describe how Joyful I feel about each of you and all we have accomplished. This past month of January there has been a small box in the back of the Sanctuary collecting your big ideas for the future of our church. Without each of your epiphanous ideas efforts we will fail to continue to grow and go forward sharing our statement of mission with the community and our world. In February, your dreams, your ideas, your goals will be shared with the NOW Team to be evaluated and hopefully implemented. There are no bad ideas, only ideas not shared and in some cases ideas whose time will come in the future. In 2025, let us strive to join hands again with the fuel to be even greater and create a legacy of compassion, resilience and transformation for all of God's kingdom.

Peace and Blessing in the New Year, Your Brother in Christ,
Roy Bailey, Lay Servant and Leader

Dear Lord, please hear our prayer for the following...



James Hampton and his family on the passing of his grandson, Justin; and his mother, Marjorie, experiencing health problems
Sandy Rutherford, experiencing health problems, and Rose Rutherford as she cares for him
Karen Vipond's friend, Bob Athey, going through cancer treatments
Myrna Hoeft, experiencing health problems
Dale Walker's friend Sandy's mom on her diagnosis of cancer
Dan Staten's son, Nick
Alberta Austin at Alden Terrace ***Anyone wishing to send a card see below***; and her son, Donny, experiencing health problems
Erin Englehardt's co-worker, Pat Kerney, diagnosed with esophageal cancer
Harold & Juanita Bailey; Juanita's friend, Betty Recob's husband, Jim, suffering the effects of cancer
Dave Dickey
Joan O'Halleran
Katelyn Winter Sampson
Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, and her family, as they deal with the effects of MS
Luke Moore
Our former Pastor Jim & Char and their daughter, MaryBeth
Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn
Dorothy Peterson
Betty Garrett

"Thank you, thank you, thank you for your prayers and kindness shown to me these last few months. Your love has made the journey easier. I can't wait to see your smiling faces again!! God bless you my church family." -Shirlee



We pray for all who have suffered as the result of natural disasters.

We pray for protection and safety for all those who defend and protect us

We pray for peace for Ukraine and Israel during these trying times of war. Surround those affected by these and all conflicts with your precious love.

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence.

We pray for all children who have been victims of abuse.

We pray for the return of goodwill and unity among all people.

We pray for all those affected by illness; and we pray for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

We pray for our church, the Village of Hebron, and all leaders - local, state and national; our church leaders in Hebron, our Prairie Central District Sup't. Wendy Hardin Hermann, our Bishop Dan Schwerin, and the entire UMC. We pray for the names in our hearts that they will be kept safe from harm. God bless us all. Amen.

If you wish to have someone added to our Prayer List please contact Shirlee on our Nurture Team at (815) 648-5009 or at offqueen@aol.com.

During a mental health crisis, anyone can call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans crisis line is 800-273-7255.

***Alberta Austin
c/o Alden Terrace
803 Royal Drive, Rm. 602
McHenry, IL 60050

Another big thank you goes out to Bonnie Seeburg - an avid reader and supporter of this newsletter! Thank you, Bonnie for your kind words, ongoing prayers for our congregation, and for your generous donation! For those who haven't read Bonnie's card, check it out on the Thank You board by our mission tree!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M



Opportunities to Give

Thank you to everyone who gave in December through the A-H Secret Santa Program, to the HUMC Kids/Youth Bake Sale for Kids In Need (\$470.00), to the Red Bird Mitten Tree, and in January for Human Relations Sunday (\$86.00). Thank you for your support! We are excited to announce that we raised nearly \$5,000 in mission giving in the year 2024! [Click here](#) for our Mission Links Program 2025. Upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Mission Links - Reconciling Ministries Network February 9 (HUMC will match up to \$200)
- 2) Local Giving - SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY for the Hebron Community Food Pantry (any Sunday in February- baskets in back of Sanctuary)

Monetary donations to restock the pantry's meat supply will also be accepted and appreciated!

[Click here](#) to give to any of these missions through HUMC.



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