



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

# Catch the Spirit!



[www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org)

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

## The Pastor Ponders... ...What's New in the New Year?"

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in God's word, I hope.  
Psalm 130: 5*

In the midst of a foot of snow, the hearty, faithful, and hopeful of HUMC braved the weather to come together for our yearly Church Conference. We were joined by our equally dedicated and grace-filled District Superintendent Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann. With joy we celebrated those things we did in 2025, set goals for 2026, passed Budget 2026 – a working blueprint for our ministry, affirmed Roy Bailey as a Certified Lay Servant, welcomed Norita Farrell as the new Chair of the Outreach Team, and thanked the rest of the Leadership Team as they continued in their current positions or switched around a tad.

Bishop Dan Schwerin designated 2025 as the Year of Grace and we were asked to reflect on how we lived out the year. Stephanie made a video using pictures from events and activities throughout the year, and it was good to see how we shared grace – God's acceptance, forgiveness, love, and healing, with those in our church, community, and world. From messages of love and acceptance drawn on our sidewalk during Pride Sunday, to our participation

*(continued on page 2)*

## Mark your Calendars

**Sunday, December 7th**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**

Faith & Football Tailgate Party  
and Cookie Decorating  
after worship in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 14th**  
**3rd Sunday in Advent**

9:15 a.m. - Intergenerational Advent Study

**Sunday, December 21st**  
**4th Sunday in Advent**

8:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for Children's  
Christmas Program  
10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program during  
worship service: A Willy Wonka Christmas  
Mission in Motion Cookie Sale after worship

**Wednesday, December 24th - 8:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
at Hebron United Methodist Church

**Sunday, December 28th**

No Sunday School/Church Works  
Stone Soup after worship \*Bring an ingredient!\*

**Sunday, January 4th - Epiphany Sunday**

**Sunday, January 18th - Human Relations Day**

**Saturday, January 31 - Culture Shift Training**

## ***The Pastor Ponders (continued)***

the building of Never Say Never Playland, to the Productive Aging Program, to our Mission Links wall, to our outreach into the community during our 100 year celebration, all of the folks at HUMC from the youngest to the oldest, from a variety of backgrounds made an intentional effort to live into the Year of Grace.

This year Bishop Dan has asked us to make 2026 into a year of “Practicing Hope.” At our Conference, we were asked to focus on how we were already practicing hope and what we intended to do in the future. Rev. Wendy said that it is quite obvious that HUMC has been practicing hope for many years, and that makes us a special and vital congregation. Our goals to 1) do something, somewhere outside our building, 2) move the bell that was donated by the village to our church closer to the front of the building, and 3) to begin renovating the kitchen to bring it up to FDA standards so it can be better used for community events also demonstrates the hope that we have that we can use our many resources creatively to experience and spread God’s love in a variety of ways.

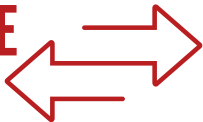
These days there are many things in our world causing pain, fear, and darkness. However, God has placed God’s Spirit within us and shown us that we are capable of carrying out the mission to bring the light of Christ into our world, to do our part to bring love, joy, peace, and hope to our little corner. One of my favorite verses that we read during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is from the gospel of John. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. John 1: 3 – 5. Nothing can put out the light of Jesus Christ. So let’s let our “little lights” shine.... all around our neighborhood.

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)

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas,  
**Pastor Char**

Empowering Churches. Strengthening Connection. Living the Mission.

**PRAIRIE CENTRAL TRAINING:**

**CULTURE SHIFT** 

**CULTIVATING HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS**

A Leadership Event For Prairie Central District Clergy and Laity,  
open to all in the Northern Illinois Conference

**January 31** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Grace UMC in Naperville** 300 E. Gartner Road

**Cost \$ 15 each** Up to \$40 per church



**Guest Speaker, Rev. Jim Ozier**

Culture, not programs, budgets, or buildings,  
determines whether a church thrives or merely survives.  
When culture shifts, everything shifts:  
worship, generosity, mission, and morale.

**Doors open at 8:30 for registration and refreshments**

Because healthy congregations start with a culture that looks outward in love.

**Registration & more info:**  
[umcni.org/calendar/prairie-central-training-culture-shift](http://umcni.org/calendar/prairie-central-training-culture-shift)

Northern Illinois Conference  
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HUMC is invited to attend this Prairie Central Leadership Training Event on January 31st at Grace UMC in Naperville. See Stephanie or Pastor Char if you are interested in attending! [Click here](#) to learn more.

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2025  
8:00 PM



Hebron United Methodist Church  
9811 Main Street, Hebron, IL  
Come as you are.



Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25th. We are thankful and honored to worship in community with our siblings in Christ at St. John's Lutheran and Alden UMC! A special thank you to everyone who brought delicious cookies, pies and cakes for our dessert buffet following this special service!



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## HUMC KIDS

Our first Mission in Motion event was a great success! We raked leaves before worship on November 9th, enjoyed some donuts, and saw a few faces we haven't seen in a while! Thank you kids and parents for making a difference in our community!

The HUMC Kids & Youth are hard at work on the upcoming Christmas program! This year's unique retelling of the Christmas Story is called, *A Willy Wonka Christmas*. We will be rehearsing during Sunday School time and we'll have a costume fitting briefly after worship on December 14th. Our dress rehearsal will take place the morning of the program at 8:00 a.m. The program will take place during the morning worship service on December 21st at 10:30 a.m.

After worship, the HUMC Kids/Youth will host a Christmas Bake Sale to raise funds for their next Mission in Motion project! Please join us for this special day and support our HUMC Kids & Youth!



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Our first Sunday in Advent was a busy morning! We were blessed to have our D.S. Wendy Hardin Hermann join us for our annual Church Conference in spite of all the snow! Our worship service started a little late, but we were happy to see how many brave congregates made it through the snow! After the service we enjoyed decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. A special thank you to Pastor Char for the sandwiches and to everyone who stayed to decorate!



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to provide gifts for the A-H Secret Santa program this year! Just a reminder that gifts should be dropped off to the A-H Elementary School no later than December 10th. Also a big thank you to those who have donated for popcorn tins to go to every family in this program. Thank you Shirlee Correll for coordinating with the school and our church family on this important mission!



You are invited to join our high school class and our Productive Aging group for an **intergenerational Advent study**! We will be exploring the letters in Ruth L. Boling's book "Season's Greetings" where we will meet and discuss characters that would have likely been present at the birth of Jesus. This study will take place in Fellowship Hall on Sundays December 7th and December 14th, and we are considering extending the study beyond Advent. We will gather at 9:15 a.m. and begin the study promptly at 9:30 a.m. Jeff and Debbie Arnold have generously donated the books for this study so please see Debbie or email [churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org](mailto:churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org) if you planning to join!



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



The family and friends of Gordon Johnson on his passing.

The family and friends of Alberta Austin on her passing.

Kris Bottlemy's brother, Jon, recovering from surgery

Debbie Arnold's cousin, Darlene, experiencing medical issues, and her brother, Ellis, recovering from surgery

Harold, Juanita and Roy Bailey, their son/brother, Earle's wife, Tami recovering from surgery; and Juanita's cousin, Bob, experiencing health issues

Dorothy Peterson

Sandy & Rose Rutherford, experiencing health issues

Candy Wasicak, recovering from surgery

Glenn Hoffmann, recovering from surgery

Norita Farrell's son-in-law, Mark, in Hospice care, and her daughter, Leanna

Karen Vipond's brother, George, diagnosed with cancer, and her nephew, Mark, recovering from cancer surgery; the family of her friend, Bob Athey, on his passing

Marj O'Halleran experiencing health issues

Dan Staten's son, Nick

Alberta Austin in a nursing home in Oconto Falls, WI \*\*see address below\*\*

James Hampton; his mother, Marjorie; and his brother-in-law, James, experiencing heart problems

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 Paul & Lynn

Betty Garrett

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

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

We pray for peace for all countries during these trying times of war and unrest. 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 children, women, and men who've been victims of abuse

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

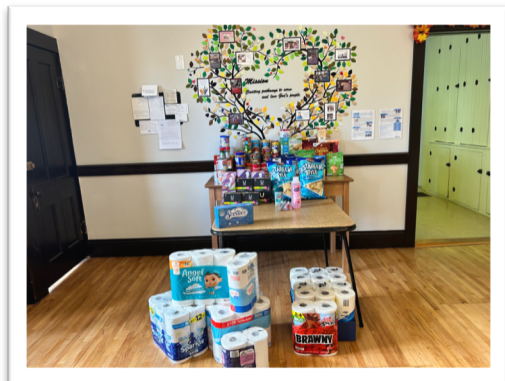
We pray for all those affected by illness; and for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

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](mailto: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.*



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



## Opportunities to Give

Thank you for your generous giving in the month of November! We donated a great amount of items to the Hebron Community Food Pantry and we thank everyone who donated gifts and popcorn to families through the A-H Secret Santa program! Here are some ways you can give in December and January:

- 1) Special Sunday - Human Relations Day - January 18th
- 2) Local Giving - Mission in Motion Cookie Sale - December 21st
- 3) Red Bird Mitten Tree - All Sundays in Advent
- 4) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry - any Sunday

*Baskets to collect items are located at the back of our 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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