



Catch the Spirit!

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST NEWSLETTER
9811 MAIN ST. HEBRON, IL - 10:30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
WWW.HEBRONMETHODIST.ORG

MARCH 2026

We will be God's inclusive love



Mark Your Calendars

Productive Aging

Fridays, March 6 - April 3
9:30 a.m. Chair Tai Chi
10:30 Devotional Study

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 15th 10:30 AM
Worship Service

Church Council Meeting

March 22nd 9:00 AM

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 29th 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday

St. John's Lutheran
April 2nd 7:00 PM

Good Friday

April 3rd 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

April 5th 10:30 AM

The Pastor *Ponders...*

What is So Important About YET?

"..yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:18)

As I write this article, I have just finished worshipping with colleagues on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Tomorrow we will be interviewing persons seeking ordination in the UMC. Some of them will be recommended for ordination. Some of them will be told "not yet," which they usually hear as failure, or as "no," but what it really means is that there is still a little bit of growth that we would like to see take place before that candidate is sent into parish ministry without a whole lot of formal guidance or supervision.

Rev. Norval Brown preached the sermon and his text was among my favorites. Habakkuk 3: 17 – 18 says: Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. It's a verse that I often ponder when things in my life are extremely challenging.

Rev. Brown's sermon got me thinking. YET is such a small word, but it is a tremendously important word. Google AI says that it transforms a statement of finality into a statement

Continued on page 2

of possibility, resilience, and motivation. It turns what could be a pessimistic statement into one filled with optimism. For Habakkuk, the tiny word yet transforms a pretty bleak and depressing situation into a situation in which his faith and trust in God and God's abilities abound. Habakkuk is affirming that God has the ability and the intention to do things in the future which we can't see in the present. Habakkuk is speaking words of faith, trust, and hope to God's people.

While the cold and the gloom and the gray of winter has begun to drag us all down a bit, economic woes, politicians who can't seem to work and play well together, violence, lies, vitriol, the threat of war, and a death toll which keeps climbing whether it's in far off countries or right here at home on the streets is making us feel angry, scared, depressed, and out of sorts. Like the people and prophets of old, we are tempted to ask, "O Lord, why?" "Why aren't you doing something?"

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross. To stand in the shadow of that cross and to meditate on the suffering, injustice, unfairness, and grief that it represents also causes me to ask, "O Lord, why?" To me, the crucifixion event remains a confusing and unsettling mystery. The necessity of the pain and shame perplexes me. There are no immediate answers.

Yet Easter reminds us of the ultimate solution. Christ is Risen! There really is nothing more to be said. The power of sin and death have been overcome. We, just like the world around us, are able to begin abundant, new life filled with fresh possibilities. I wonder what would happen if we all began each day by simply affirming and proclaiming, "Christ is Risen!" My guess is that the day wouldn't be quite as difficult, and perhaps, we just might begin to make and to see a difference in our world. So, as we continue to work our way through Lent, to work our way through the final weeks of winter, to work our way through the morass of the times in which we find ourselves, let's also take to heart a reason to hope and to rejoice.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Pastor Char



On February 15th we welcomed guest speaker Ms. Kimberly Lynch who is the newly appointed Prairie Central District Lay Leader. Kim is a member of Journey of Hope UMC in Elgin. She is finishing up her coursework to be a Certified Lay Minister (CLM), with her area of emphasis being in Congregational Care. We enjoyed meeting her and hearing her message!



We celebrated our 3rd anniversary as a reconciling congregation on Sunday, February 22nd. A timeline of our reconciling journey lined the pews with space for ideas for where our journey will take us in 2026. We read "A Church for All" during children's chat and we recited our welcoming statement together. We look forward to another year of partnership with RMN!

WELCOME SEBASTIAN!



Celebrating a Baptism

On February 8, 2026 we celebrated the baptism of Sebastian David Bugar, son of Deidre & Lucas Bugar and brother of Francesca and Mateo. Sebastian was baptized on November 29, 2025 in Argentina and it was our joy as his church family to affirm his baptism and to make our vows to nurture him in the Christian faith. We are so excited to watch you grow in faith Sebastian! Welcome to the family! We hope you know how much you are loved!

As We See It...

As we see it, we could not be more grateful for the years of service Roy Bailey has given to our church! Roy is stepping down as our Lay Leader after many, many years of devoted service and care to the members and constituents of this church. He has held leadership roles with HUMC Youth, became a Certified Lay Speaker and delivered inspiring messages from the pulpit, he planned outings for PEP and served on SPRC, he wrote articles for Catch the Spirit in his column "As I See It", and blessed our church with his card ministry to let us all know that we are celebrated on our birthdays and that we are not alone during times of grief. Thank you Roy for being our Lay Leader and for shepherding us with love and care all these years! We wish you all the best on where the Spirit leads you next!



THANK YOU ROY!

HEALTH MINISTRY



Productive Aging

The Winter/Spring session for Productive Aging begins March 6th and runs every Friday until April 3rd at HUMC. We will begin this session with a 40-minute Chair Tai Chi class led by Stephanie and a devotional study led by Pastor Char. If you are a senior age 60+

please consider joining us for this free program provided in partnership with the Harvard Community Senior Center! To register for this program please register in-person with Stephanie or email churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org. We look forward to another fun and meaningful time of growth and healing together!

HUMC Kids & Youth

Our HUMC Kids and Youth provided a wonderful Christmas Program in December. This Wonka inspired retelling of the birth of Jesus was joyfully sweet! Afterwards, the HUMC Kids and Youth held a cookie sale and raised over \$400! Thank you to everyone who made this possible! In February, some of the funds raised were used to provide a basket of Valentine's Day treats for the veterans at New Horizons in Hebron. The kids created handmade Valentines for Veterans and included words of gratitude and encouragement, and reminders that God is always with us and that we are always loved. We enter now into the Lenten season and both classes are preparing for the Holy Week. Our Sunday School class is preparing a song to sing on Easter Sunday and our Church Works/Youth Group will be leading the Good Friday Service this year. 2026 is off to a great start!



With Deepest Sympathy

Gordon R. Johnson, 81, of Hebron, IL, passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at his home after a long battle with COPD. He was born in Elgin, IL, on April 4, 1944, to Hans and Irene (Fitzl) Johnson. He married Alice Smith on June 27, 1964, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Woodstock, IL. Together they owned and operated The Floor Store in Lake Geneva, WI, for many years and then Johnson's Floor Service in Walworth, WI, until retiring in 2007. He was a graduate of Alden-Hebron High School in 1962. He was an avid Bears fan and enjoyed doing crosswords along with jigsaw puzzles to pass the time. His greatest joy was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed being able to see them grow up and start their own families. His visitation and funeral were held on December 9, 2025. Memorials may be made to Hebron-Alden-Greenwood Fire Department District, PO Box 345, Hebron, IL 60034.

[\(Click here for full obituary\)](#)

Church Works
(Ages 13+) meets
Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
(Ages 4-12) meets
during last half of
Sunday Worship





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

Jeff Arnold, recovering from two pelvic fractures

Kris Bottlemy, recovering from surgery

Kris Bottlemy's brother, Jon, recovering from surgery

Harold, Juanita and Roy Bailey, their son/brother, Earle's wife, Tami pending multiple surgeries; Juanita's cousin, Bob, experiencing health issues; her friend Betty's husband Jim Recob, with ongoing cancer treatment

The Bailey's young neighbor, Mattias, having kidney related health issues

Dorothy Peterson experiencing health issues

Anyone wishing to send her a card, the address is below

Sandy & Rose Rutherford, experiencing health issues

Candy Wasicak, experiencing health issues

Norita Farrell's daughter, Leanna and family, on the passing of her husband Mark

Karen Vipond's, brother, George, diagnosed with cancer, her nephew, Mark, dealing with cancer treatment

Marj O'Halleran experiencing health issues

Dan Staten's son, Nick

James Hampton; his mother, Marjorie; his brother-in-law, James, experiencing heart issues; his brother, John, experiencing health issues

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; and Glenn as he recovers from knee surgery

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 and safety for all those who defend and 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 all children, women, and men 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 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 offcqueen@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.

**Dorothy Peterson

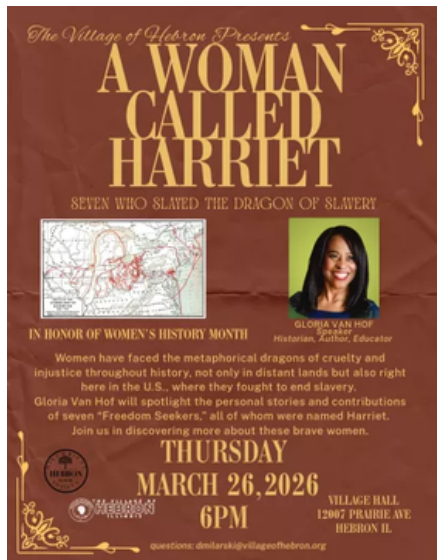
c/o Lisa Lillie

11520 Illinois Route 120

Woodstock Ill 60098

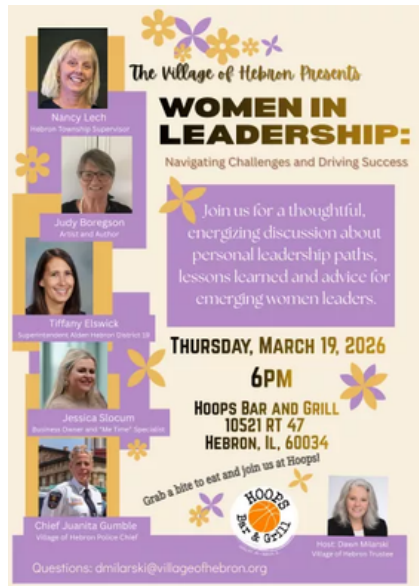


Community Highlights



A Woman Called Harriet

On March 26th at 6 pm, the Village of Hebron invites you to an inspiring and educational evening as they host "A Woman Called Harriet," a special presentation featuring Gloria Van Hof, exploring the incredible lives of seven courageous women who fought to end slavery. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Women in Leadership

The Village of Hebron is bringing together a dynamic group of female Hebron based professionals who have navigated the challenges and triumphs of leadership across various fields. Mark your calendars for March 19 at 6pm at Hoops Bar and Grill. [Click here](#) to learn more.



VBS Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt for Vacation Bible School hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church will take place Saturday, April 4th at 3 p.m. sharp at St. John's church in Hebron. For more info [click here](#).



Opportunities to Give

Thank you for your generous giving at the end of 2025 and the beginning of our new year of giving! Many items were collected and donated to the Red Bird Mission in December and January and to the Hebron Area Food Pantry for "Souper" Bowl Sunday Mission in Motion (HUMC Kids/Youth) \$431.00, \$31.86 for United Voices for Children, \$86.00 for Human Relations Sunday, and \$51.00 for Reconciling Ministries Network.

Here are some ways you can give this month:

- UMCOR Sunday - March 15
- Donations to Hebron Area Food Pantry
- Donations to VBS

Go to our [website](#) to give online to these missions.