



# ***Aurora First United Methodist Church***

## **February, 2026**

*“Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another”*

### **A message from Pastor Ryan**

Do you know the mission of the United Methodist Church?

Do you know the mission of the First United Methodist Church in Aurora, Indiana? I’ll confess – I had to look up the specific mission statement of our congregation –

“Provide a welcoming environment for people to worship and gain fellowship with the Lord and to faithfully offer the message of Jesus Christ through word and action to our local and global community.”

Not a bad mission! Do you think it describes the work we are doing together? Does it inspire you? How do we know if we are accomplishing it?

I believe it goes well with the mission of the UMC –

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Our church is called, not just through the official stance of our denomination, or a mission statement printed in our bulletin – but because of the call and command of Jesus to go into the world and make disciples. To help people fall in love with and follow Jesus. To help people grow to be more like Jesus. We don’t seek to just change people’s beliefs or understanding, we desire to see peoples lives radically transformed as they say, “Yes!” and “No!” to everything else.

This month we will be unpacking and exploring some key concepts and teachings from the Gospel of Matthew that will help us live out our faith and to invite us to live closer and more obediently to Jesus. I desire to live into God’s kingdom above everything else. I desire to grow to be more like Jesus every day. I hope you join us this month as we grow together as disciples of Jesus!



### **Attendance and Giving for January**

1/4 – attendance: 33/offering \$3594

1/11 – attendance: 30/offering \$1011

1/18 – attendance: 29/offering \$1122

25 – SNOW: online service

We have also received a mission donation of \$300. Our average attendance for the (three) Sundays of January was 30. Average giving for the (three) Sundays of January was \$1909. This month we sent \$140 to St. Vincent de Paul. Weekly our church gives \$10 to the Clearing-House, so for January we sent \$40.

### **Dates to Remember**

February 2 – Groundhog Day

February 8 – “Souper Bowl”

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

February 15 – Coffee and donuts  
after worship

February 16 – Presidents’ Day

February 18 – Ash Wednesday

February 22 – Hymn Choice

### **Mission and Outreach**

+ \$236 was given toward the Bishop’s Christmas gift in December.

+ Tammi Coombs has informed us that the Salvation Army raised \$13,494.67 in Dearborn County. A heartfelt thank you to 2025’s incredible team for another successful season. Blessings to you all – our volunteers, our generous donors, and those who will benefit from this wonderful support!

+ Finally, it’s Souper Bowl time again! The big game will be on February 8<sup>th</sup>, so choose between the Patriots and the Seahawks, and bring in your cans of soup; place them in your team’s container in the entryway. Soups will be given to local food pantries.

### **Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Oliver Moisio 2/3

Debbie Fehling 2/5

Steve Turner 2/8

Ken Jackson 2/11

Jacque Whitaker 2/13

Stephanie Baer 2/18

LouAnn Martin 2/18

Tom & Charlotte DeVille 2/19

Ellie Goode 2/22

Ted Hamrick 2/23

Robin Hochstrasser 2/26



## **Cleaning Teams**

February 1: Team 1

February 8 & 15: Team 2

February 22 and March 1: Team 3

Cleaning teams save our church money!

*If you are interested in being on a cleaning team, please contact Roger Fehling at 513-519-1309, or leave a message at 812-926-0535.*

## **February Liturgists**

February 1: Debbie Fehling

February 8: Bonnie Nocks

February 15: Steve Turner

February 22: Judy Mosier

## **February Ushers & Greeters**

February 1: Sue & Jeff Baer

February 8: Steve & Janet Hart

February 15: Bonnie Nocks and  
Shelly Hubbartt

February 22: Monica Haller and  
Steve Turner

*If you are unable to serve on your given Sunday, please change with someone, and notify Pastor Ryan.*

*Contact Judy Hizer at (513) 314-6682 if you would like to help out as a liturgist, an usher, or a greeter.*

## **February Blessing Box Update**

NEEDS: Peanut butter (most urgent), macaroni and cheese, breakfast cereal, pudding cups, fruit-cups or cans, potato or rice mixes, soup, tooth paste,

hair products, hand/body lotion, paper products, winter clothing (such as sweat shirts, sweat pants, long sleeved items, and coats). Each week we try to put 2 jars of peanut butter in the box. The price has increased - as you know. When you find peanut butter on sale, please let all of us know. We are happy to put clean worn clothing in the box—adult or children's sizes. If you want to donate money, we'll shop responsibly for you. Thank You for putting your donations in the shopping cart. Whatever you give, we use to stock the Blessing Box! YOUR GENEROSITY is BLESSING folks in our community. Many thanks!

Judy M.

## **Lectionary for February**

February 1 - Mic 6:1-8; Ps 15;

1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12

February 8 - Isa 58:1-9a (9b-12);

Ps 112:1-9 (10); 1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16);

Matt 5:13-20

February 15 - Exod 24:12-18;

Ps 2 or Ps 99; 2 Pet 1:16-21;

Matt 17:1-9

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Ps 51:1-17;

2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22 - Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7;

Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Let us share our concerns and**

**blessings with the Lord:** Travel safety for Camile (Charlotte), Travel for Pastor Ryan (Justin), Mattie's mother's surgical procedure Monday (Mattie), Nancy & Ben Turner (Debbie), JD's back surgery (Kathi), Hudson Goode-yearly evaluation (Pastor Ryan), Nancy Turner-tests Monday (Debbie), Phee Ellinghausen (Charlotte), Allen Collins-procedure Jan. 19th (Beth), Gary Starker-Ridgewood therapy (Judy M.), Terry Heath-hospice (Judy M.), Don & Marlene Kincer (Robin), Verna & Kenny Cotton (Pastor Ryan), Patty Terrill-foot (Becky), Ken Carpenter (Jeff), Ron Veverka-neuromuscular issues (Judy M.) Mattie-migranes & pet passing (Nick), Shirley Kuckenrider-fell (Kelley), Mark-depression (Charlotte), Mark-brain tumor (Charlotte), Carol-health issues (Judy M.), Janet Ingle-brain aneurysm (Janet H.), Randy Turner-gall bladder (Steve T.), Charlotte Hastings-stroke (Jim W.), Tim-seizures (Jeff), Liz Kenny-tests (Steve T.), Mike Peters- poor health (Jim W.), Barb Ankenbauer - injuries in auto accident (Debbie), Jan Uhlmansiek (Kelley), Danelle Clark & Cheyanne Terrell (Pastor Ryan), Millie Tufts-healing from hip replacement (Debbie), Roger Ullrich-health issues (Judy H.), Sandy-hip surgery (Steve T.), Dave Krouse-throat issues (Shelly), RJ-heart issues (Jim B.), Virginia Becker-

multiple issues (Debbie), Barbara Taylor-kidney donor needed (Steve H.), Liz Hauntz-dementia (Debbie), Julia Heyob (Debbie)

### **Our cancer prayer list of friends and families:**

Nancy Turner (Debbie), Angela Brookbank - appendix cancer (Jim W.), Tammy Veverka-breast cancer (Judy M.), Mark-brain tumor (Charlotte), Ishita (Cari), Jane Van Arsdale-lung cancer (Judy H.), Pastors Ed & Stormy Scherer-Berry's granddaughter, Xiomari, 2 years old-liver cancer (Judy M.), Kim Schmeltzer-lung cancer (Judy M.), Dakota's mom's friend - cancer (Jenna), Jackie Reynold's -breast cancer (Debbie), Merrill Hutchinson-brain cancer (Jeff), Paul Green-lung cancer (Debbie), Cooper Cain-stage 4 cancer (Jim B.), Bev Houze-masses in both lungs, inoperable (Nancy T.), Russ Smith-lung cancer (Roger), Cammy Hochstrasser (Robin), Lona (Kenn), Leslie Cassidy-cancer in 3 areas (Bonnie), Amy Shackleford (Julie), Doug-pancreatic cancer and coming surgery (Kelley), Ellaine Marshall (Julie), Kim Burkey (Pastor Ryan), Stephanie Riley (Gary)  
**Sympathy to the Families and Friends of:**  
Kevin Chivelle, Jennie Schourds





## **PRAISES**

Salvation Army collected over \$13,000 for Dearborn County (Steve T.), \$236.00 for Bishop's Offering (All of us), Jeff & Sue's 42nd anniversary (Jeff), SD winning Rivertown Classic (Debbie), 283 kids served with our donation of \$655.00 (Debbie), Generous donation for Blessing Box (Judy M.), lots of hats from Joy & another friend (Judy M.), \$655.00 for Cops & Kids-294 kids (Kathi), Janet Ingles-successful surgery, Joy knitting hats for the Blessing Box (Judy M.), 135 bags for St. Vincent de Paul (All of us). Gayle Templeman in remission (Mattie), Veterans everywhere (Kathi), Power of God's miracles (Cari), Served 53 meals at 4th Street (Judy M.), Recovery Groups appreciation for sharing our building (All of us), Opportunity to help through UMCOR (Everyone)

### **Those in Nursing Homes & Assisted**

**Living:** Doris Spencer, JD Largent

**Shut Ins:** Wilma Beyer, Jerry Stonebraker

### **Special Care & Concerns:**

Gun violence around the world; all who are suffering after natural disasters. For an end to war and violence around the world especially in Israel and Ukraine; refugees; discontent in United States, Red Cross workers and volunteers, relief workers

**Local Missions:** AA, NA, CASA, St. Vincent de Paul, Clearinghouse, YES Home, Heart House, Safe Passage

### **United Methodist Missions:**

UMCOR workers and volunteers, Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission

**Prayers for our Nation as COVID continues, racial tensions, Christian Unity, our United Methodist Church, Prayers for our cities, for our counties, our state, our police, our firefighters, EMTs, all military men and women and their families, all healthcare workers, first responders, chaplains, missionaries, clergy, persons in financial distress, businesses needing employees WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT**

**PRAYER.** To help us keep our lists current, if you see a name that can be removed, PLEASE let us know. If you would like to add a name, please let us know. If you know of a change, have a concern, or a praise and would like to add a name, you can call the church with the information, mail a note, email Pastor Ryan ([ryangoode1@gmail.com](mailto:ryangoode1@gmail.com));

Judy Mosier ([kjmosier@comcast.net](mailto:kjmosier@comcast.net)); or Jim Waldon ([jimgwaldon@gmail.com](mailto:jimgwaldon@gmail.com))

When submitting a prayer request please include the following information—

**\*\* Your Name (required), \*\* Name of the one needing prayer (*be sure you have their permission to make their need known*), \*\* Nature of Request (surgery, health concern, etc.)**