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# January Flame 2026 •

## ALGONA 1<sup>ST</sup> UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### Message from Pastor Russ

Luke 10:38-42 The Living Bible

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem they came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed them into her home. Her sister Mary sat on the floor, listening to Jesus as he talked. But Martha was the jittery type and was worrying over the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Sir, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

But the Lord said to her, "Martha, dear friend, you are so upset over all these details! There is really only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it—and I won't take it away from her!"

As 2025 draws to a close and 2026 nears, I certainly relate to Martha. I am busy. Yes, at times "jittery" busy. I've got a list of things to do before Christmas. Goals are racing in my mind for 2026.

Jesus speaks of a different approach to life and ministry. Develop a Mary heart. Sit at His feet. Focus. Pay attention. Be grounded. Enjoy His presence and His peace.

I am finding help to do just that from author Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath:

- "The Christian faith is all about a relationship of love, trust, and vulnerability, on God's part and on ours. Prayer is the essence of that relationship. Prayer is the very breath of God, breathing life into us, opening us to who God is, to who we are, and to this world that God loves."

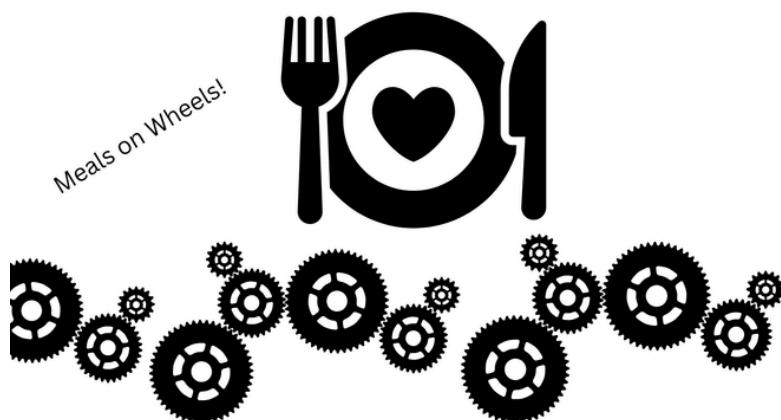
- “Fundamentally prayer is a practice of being present to God, who is always present to us.”
- “When you guide new Christians in following Jesus . . . start with prayer. Teach them to gaze into the face of Jesus, who gazes back with infinite love.”
- “Gazing into the face of Jesus who gazes back with infinite love is a contemplative practice that grounds us in a beloved relationship with God. We are already dearly loved by God. We can’t diminish or lose God’s love for us.” “Five Means of Grace: Experience God’s Love the Wesleyan Way”, Abingdon Press, pages 4-5

Let's enjoy living in the presence of Jesus in 2026.

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Russ*

**We are in charge of delivering meals in January! Please sign up if you are able!**



***Installation & Recognition of Church Officers***

On the weekend of January 10 & 11 we will be dedicating our elected leaders to a new year of ministry. We appreciate your service!



WE WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY. MEN ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PREPARE THE VINE MEAL FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14. WE CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER SET OF HANDS.



**Would you like to become a member of Algona First United Methodist Church?**

We will be receiving new members on the weekend of January 10 & 11. Members are received in one of two ways: Profession of Faith or Transfer from another Congregation. Please let Pastor Russ know if you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation. If this weekend doesn't work for you, we welcome new members at all times!

**Help Wanted**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO RUN THE SLIDES ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY. IT CAN BE ONCE A MONTH, TWICE A MONTH OR A SUB. EASY TO DO. WE WILL TRAIN.**

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO RUN THE LIVESTREAM ON SUNDAY. IT CAN BE ONCE A MONTH, TWICE A MONTH OR A SUB. EASY TO DO. WE WILL TRAIN.**

*Call the office if interested!*

## United Women in Faith

**Charity Circle:** January 15 @ 9am  
**Friendship Circle:** January 15 @ 1:30pm  
**Birthday's:**

Janie Montang 1/1  
Peggy Boomgarden 1/2  
Deb Warner 1/16  
Rosemary Dunn 1/22



### Worship Committee

If you would like to be a Liturgist, Greeter or Coffee Host please sign up on the sheet in the office or in back of the sanctuary. You can also call the office and Kim can sign you up. Thank you!



### Acolyte Schedule

January 4- Quinn Bormann  
January 11-Steele Hubbard  
January 18-Calla Bormann  
January 25-Gunner Geitzenauer



### SERVE Shelf

We have recently been blessed with a \$4,000 Grant from FCS. Thank You Farm Credit Services!

Thank you to all that have brought in items from the Advent SERVE Calendar. It is greatly appreciated.

Hunger is a REAL thing right here in Kossuth County. If you are able; please consider helping us FEED the hungry with your donations. Thank you! God Bless!

### Vine Meal @ 5:30pm

January 7- Church Chicks  
January 14-Men's Group  
January 21-Rose & Jean  
January 28-The Samp's

## Christian Ed News



We continue to meet on Wednesday Nights 6:15-7pm. We begin our next 4 week series, January 7. It is called "The Best Year Ever!"

The Children's Christmas Program, "JOY!" was held on December 17 @ 6:30pm. All the children did a fantastic job!



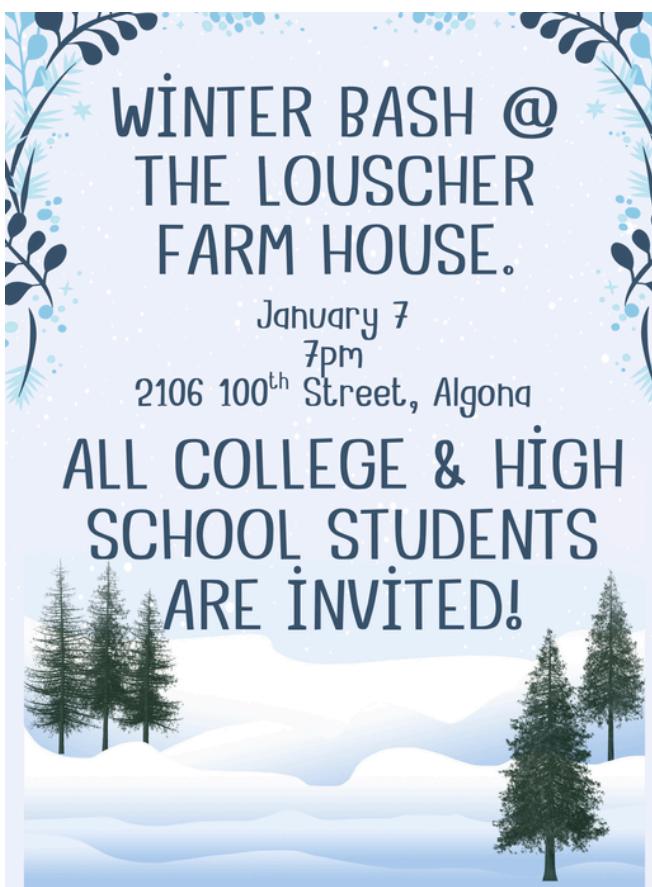
High School Youth Group

### Confirmation

They continue to meet on Wednesday nights 6:15-7pm. In the basement. Confirmation Day is May 3 @ the 9am Worship.

They continue to meet on Wednesday Nights 7-8:30pm. They start off with supper in the Fellowship Hall. They end up down stairs for their lesson.

On December 10, they delivered Care Packages to the residents of Eastland Apartments.



The Christian Ed Committee is looking for volunteers to help with our Kids Club. Wednesday Night's 6:15-7pm. If interested contact Laci Mortensen or the the office. Thank you!

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Upcoming Conference Laity Book Study via Zoom

Join Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation, for a Laity Book Study.

We are diving into the book "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Ruben Job. We will intentionally practice this transformational way of living in the Methodist Movement that grounds us in our faith and roots us in our relationships with self, others, and God. This is a great opportunity to meet other laity within the Conference and grow in your own faith journey.

When: Monday Nights 6:30 pm -7:30 pm beginning January 5th through February 9th

Where: Zoom link to join from home or wherever life takes you

<https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/19490110>

We need volunteers on the weekends to run the slides. We will train you. You can pick your days. Super easy.

Call the office. 515-295-7241

Thank you!



## Missions

The Mission of the Month for January is HEIFER International



Goats are \$120. The gift of a goat provides milk, cheese and butter for nourishment. On small farms, goats are often the key to a family's survival.



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## MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

### Remember This??

***“Here’s church, here’s the steeple, open the doors and see all the people.”***

That old classic children’s rhyme and fingerplay was a simple, engaging tool for teaching young children a faith concept and coordination. However, its meaning is real. People are the real church! Not just the building with a steeple pointing to God. This rhyme taught young people that a congregation is united in faith and fellowship while also stressing the importance of gathering, serving, and supporting one another. All the things we do as a church. All the lives we touch throughout the year. All the ways we carry out the mission of the church is because of the people in this church. We thank you for your support in 2025 and hope that you will continue to support this church in 2026. A New Year! What kind of potential do we have as members of the First United Methodist Church to grow this church in the upcoming year. The Stewardship and Finance Committee prays for your support through your time, talents, and resources to make 2026 a good year for our church.

***There will be no updated financial bar graphs for this month. Our final income and expense numbers for 2025 will not be finalized until January. We will, however, give you a recap of 2025 in the February Flame.***

### Mat Weaving

Every Tuesday 9-11:30am



### Homestead Chapel

Every Tuesday  
@ 9am

### Van Buren Bible Study

Every Tuesday  
@ 10am

### Prayer Devotions

Every Tuesday  
@ 12 noon

### Paper Magnolia's

They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 1-3pm. & The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month 10-12 noon. In the Craft Room



## Birthday's

Janie Montang 1/1  
Jeremy Walker 1/1  
Peggy Boomgarden 1/2  
Hunter Anderson 1/4  
Sue Hicks 1/6  
Karmon Kaduce 1/6  
Hayden Mortensen 1/7  
Dini Anderson 1/10  
Renee Bowman 1/12  
Steve Cook 1/14  
Micah Kitzinger 1/14  
Taylor Kelly 1/15  
Terri Mortensen-  
Jergenson 1/15  
Emily Oldenkamp 1/15  
Debra Warner 1/16  
Dane Kitzinger 1/21  
Rosemary Dunn 1/22  
Tim Samp 1/26  
Jason Kelly 1/27  
Brian Connick 1/29

## Birthday Prayer

"Dear God, thank you for the gift of life and the person celebrating their birthday today. We pray for your blessings, guidance, and protection over them in the coming year. May they feel your love and know how cherished they are. Amen".

## Anniversary Prayer

"Lord, thank You for the love and faithfulness you have blessed our friends with. On this special day, we ask that You continue to deepen their love for one another and grant them many more joyful years together. Strengthen their bond, bless their home, and guide them in all their days. Amen."



*Thank you for reading!*

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