

**JANUARY 2026**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**610 BONUS AVE**

**BELVIDERE, IL**

**61008**



# FUMC Courier



## January Newsletter **Resolve, Not Resolutions**

Last year, I shared with you the new Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program that I was baited into by a long-time colleague. I'm still a little salty, but am immersed for all it's worth. Last year, we were working on ourselves, understanding ourselves, operating from our strengths, finding teams that would make up for our weaknesses, drawing closer to God and sharpening our focus on God's call. Thank you for your partnership on the journey. I was ready to drop out, but then found out some of this year's study and re-upped. So. . .

This year we look at the Church (global and universal) and the church we serve (Belvidere First) to see how our ministry can have a renewing, strengthening, upbuilding influence. The early readings track a thousand years of the decline of the Church, kind of like an Old Covenant prophet describing the sins of Israel. It's tough. I don't agree with all of it. It's hindsight. But there's a lot to be learned and even more to reflect on. The timing is perfect, as we seek God, listen for God's will and consider how we will build on the survey of last year.

Many of the things I'm reading about are things we talked about when the UMC was splitting. Back then I said that the division was a symptom of what was draining life from the Church. Now I can say that the division is an example of what's been wrong in parts of the Church for 1000 years. The good news is that what has sustained us through these years is an example of what has sustained the Church through those 1000 years and shows no sign of decline.

So resolve: I have been convicted by my reading. I am guilty of some of the ways Church has been tossed by the waves of modernity, swayed by influence of the State, pandered to popular opinion and become less and less the Church. Not us. Not me. Not anymore, if I can help it.

The Church is the assembly of believers in God through Jesus Christ who come together for worship, mission and to be built up in the faith. God wants everyone to know the benefit of being in the Church and wants the Church to do our utmost to make that happen.

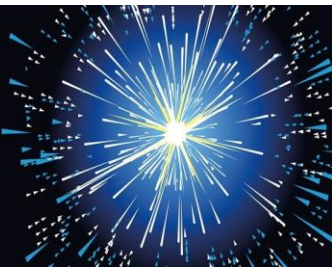
More and more, a vital church experiences the Kingdom of God, the gathering of believers who experience the will of God because we are all seeking it. This unique, supernatural condition is the epitome, peak, pinnacle of life on earth.

We are still seeking, still listening. We'll be doing that in groups and as a whole family for a while. I'm just one believer in the group, in the family. But I am resolved (and invite you to resolve): my life will serve the Church and not be distracted by other things. My pursuit will be the Kingdom and my taste for lesser things will be starved by lack of attention. I can't wait to see what will result, in my life, and in our church as you join me in whatever way reflects your faith and God's call on your life.

See you in church,

Pastor Jim

Happy  
New Year



The church office will be closed  
Thursday January 1st for the New  
Year holiday.



Our prayer team is always  
ready to pray for you, or  
someone you know. If you  
have a prayer request, please  
contact Karen Frazer @ 815-985-  
7970, or contact the Church office  
at 815-544-3479.

**90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
FOR**

**MARY CORDRAY**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**PERRY HALL**

**11AM- 1PM**



**Active Military**

**Do you have a family member  
serving in the military?**

Please contact Ruth Bower, and let us  
know so we can be encouraging and  
praying for them. Here is what we need:

- Name of active family member and their  
relation to you
- Branch of military
- Location serving
- Address to send correspondence

**On-Line Sunday School** – Would you like a chance to process the Scripture and message each week?  
Or just on weeks when something is unclear or super-clear? There's an adult Sunday School class built  
around discussing the sermon and applying it personally to our lives (including the preacher.)

Do you regularly worship with us on-line and want more to your Sunday experience? Would you  
like to be able to drop into a conversation on the Sundays you're away? Please let Pastor Jim or the  
church office know. We use ZOOM video conferences and need to send you an email invitation with a  
link.

**Hospitality Team**

**John 1: 5** "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

Would you like to meet and greet visitors to our church? Then our Hospitality Team may be the  
place for you. Contact the church office at 815-544-3479 for more information, if you feel God  
nudging you towards this team.



Debbi Bloomingdale is a Notary. If you need something notarized, please call the church office. This service is free to church members and their families.



## January Altar Flowers

*January 4 Linda Lennon  
& Paul Andrews*

*January 11 Mary  
Cordray Family*

*January 18 Carol Rowe*

*January 25 Bud & Kim  
Schulze*

## January Greeter Schedule

January 4 Debbie Steinborn

January 11 Helen Schuerr

January 18 Nancy Petersen

January 25 Sue Holmes

## January Ushers

Mark Petersen

Leslie Hardy

Jim Hardy

## Money Matters ~Becky Newport

### Offering: Beyond Obligation

In the scriptural context, offerings extend beyond the obligatory nature of tithes. These acts of giving are voluntary, driven by a heart full of gratitude, reverence, and love. The Bible speaks of offerings not just in terms of material wealth but also in dedicating time and talents for God's glory.

### Scriptural Insights

#### The Freewill Offering (Exodus 35:29)

The Israelites' voluntary contributions to the construction of the Tabernacle are emblematic of the spirit of freewill offerings. This act demonstrated their willingness to give generously, motivated by a deep sense of gratitude and devotion.

#### The Macedonian Churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

The Macedonian churches' remarkable generosity, despite their own poverty, illuminates the essence of biblical offerings. Their giving was an outpouring of joy and faith, exemplifying how true generosity knows no bounds.

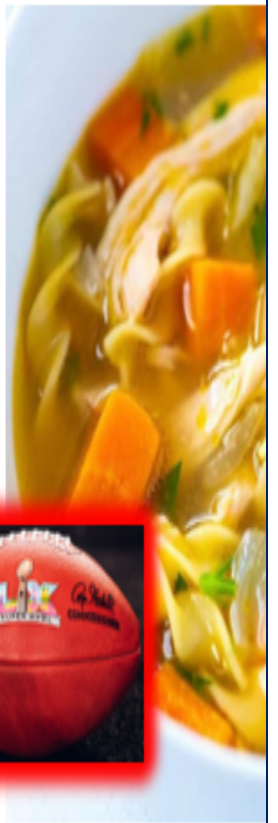
<u>2025 Financial Information</u>				
	November	Year-to-Date		
Income	56,821.32	438,751.95	Annual Apportionment	61,764.00
Expenses	42,753.61	467,512.41	Apportionment paid to date	42,534.19
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>14,067.71</b>	<b>(28,760.46)</b>		



## **SAVE THE DATE: SOUPER BOWL SUPPER!**

The Ambassadors Team is hosting a  
**"Souper Bowl" Supper!**  
**Wednesday, February 4**  
**4:30 to 6:30**

Just a few days before Super Bowl LX, please join us in Perry Hall for a FREE community fellowship meal of homemade soups and more. Bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors, and help spread the word!



*"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." (Acts 2:46-47)*

Check out these books from our church library in January!

For Kids: *If God Used Sticky Notes* by Shea

For Women: *Living the Sabbath* by Wirzba

For Men: *Major United Methodist Beliefs* by Stokes



United  
Women  
in Faith

### Board Meeting

January 5<sup>th</sup> --1pm

### General Meeting

There will not be a January  
general meeting.



### UMM meeting

Our next UMM meeting is  
830am Saturday, 1/17/2026 at  
the Boone County Family  
Restaurant (173 & 76). Come  
for breakfast, fellowship, and a  
discussion of 2026 plans!



Ministry by, with and for women, supporting spiritual growth individually and in community,  
encouraging and recognizing the unique needs that come with life stages.

*Adapted from [www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry](http://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry)*

Happy New Year. Wow, it's 2026. Ladies, we would love to have you join us Saturday January 10th  
at 10:00am to start the new year with star words, scripture and fellowship.

Please call any of the ministry team with questions, (Karen Frazer, Pam Rossmiller, Carla Walter,  
Linda Lennon or Cindy Poulter). We'll save you a seat.

## Visitation Team



"We have the privilege to serve, share, wait, help, and be patient in love."

Stephanie Bryant

There are many people in need today in our work, in our town and in our church. The opportunity to serve them is one of the highest privileges of the Christian faith. We need to prayerfully look around for ways to be of service. That service can be as simple as a cup of soup, a listening ear or a word of encouragement. Our God can multiply those small efforts for his purposes.

If you know a person who joins us on-line, or if there is someone who would appreciate a visit, please share that information with a team member.

"Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other, let us really show it by our actions." 1 John 3:18

The Visitation Team: Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Linda Clair, Rene Worden  
Joanie Eastland & Janet Wheeler



### Care Notes

**Care Notes** are small booklets offering strength, help, and healing for a variety of topics that impact everyday lives at a very personal level. They are free to those who are hurting and in need of them.

Topics range from overcoming everyday anxiety to dealing with depression, abuse, grief, financial stress, addictions, dementia, and suicide. There are booklets for children, teens, and adults. Check out the **Care Notes** rack in the main hall just outside the office.



Date: Wednesday January 28, 2026

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 3:30pm-5pm

Address: 610 Bonus Ave, Belvidere IL



## ARE YOU HUNGRY?

If you don't have enough to eat, Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Market Pantry can help.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes nutritious food in high-need areas.

Food is free so neighbors can thrive.

Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food.



Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

Scan QR Code  
to learn more



**NEIGHBORS.  
EMPOWERED.**

[www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp)



## NEECITA USTED ALIMENTOS

Si usted no alcanza lo suficiente para sustentar su comida, la Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank puede ayudarle.

La Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank distribuye comida nutritiva en lugares con necesidades altas.

La comida es gratuita para que los vecinos puedan prosperar.

Por favor traiga bolsas o cajas para envasar su comida.



La comida se distribuye por orden de llegada, hasta agotar la existencias.

Escanee el código  
QR para saber más



**VECINOS.  
EMPODERADOS.**

[www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp)





## Thank You for Sharing the Joy

- 41 Residents at Northwoods received gifts to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Thank you!
- 36 recipients of Meals on Wheels received Christmas Bags filled with fun, warm and helpful gifts. Thank you!
- 17 members of the church rang the bell on a very cold Saturday to help support the Salvation Army. Thank you!
- Belvidere North High School's W Club filled all the bell ringing slots at a Walmart entrance. A big thank you to Eryk Yunk for organizing this and to all the youth who gave of their time!

Mark you calendar...

Mobile Food Truck Wed. January 28

Volunteers needed at 2:30





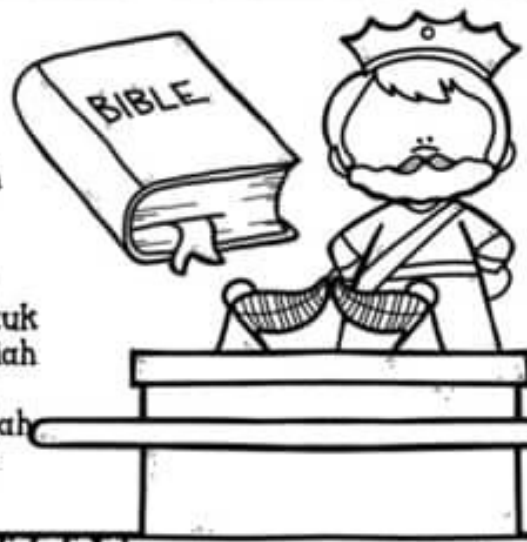
# BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

M P S H O N M W P R O V E R B S M Z C Q P Z T I N G S B O P  
 R K O J A F T H X L P W L V Y K J D E N V Q W A U W K U R A  
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 Y U E K E R S K S E C O N D S A M U E L Q N G A X V A R V Y

Genesis  
 Exodus  
 Leviticus  
 Numbers  
 Deuteronomy  
 Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth  
 First Samuel  
 Second Samuel  
 First Kings  
 Second Kings  
 First Chronicles

Second Chronicles  
 Ezra  
 Nehemiah  
 Esther  
 Job  
 Psalms  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes  
 Song of Solomon  
 Isaiah  
 Jeremiah  
 Lamentations  
 Ezekiel

Daniel  
 Hosea  
 Joel  
 Amos  
 Obadiah  
 Jonah  
 Micah  
 Nahum  
 Habakkuk  
 Zephaniah  
 Haggai  
 Zechariah  
 Malachi






## January

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Genesis 1:1-2:25	Matthew 1:1-2:12	Psalms 1:1-6	Proverbs 1:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Genesis 3:1-4:26	Matthew 2:13-3:6	Psalms 2:1-12	Proverbs 1:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Genesis 5:1-7:24	Matthew 3:7-4:11	Psalms 3:1-8	Proverbs 1:10-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Genesis 8:1-10:32	Matthew 4:12-25	Psalms 4:1-8	Proverbs 1:20-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Genesis 11:1-13:4	Matthew 5:1-26	Psalms 5:1-12	Proverbs 1:24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Genesis 13:5-15:21	Matthew 5:27-48	Psalms 6:1-10	Proverbs 1:29-33
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Genesis 16:1-18:15	Matthew 6:1-24	Psalms 7:1-17	Proverbs 2:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Genesis 18:16-19:38	Matthew 6:25-7:14	Psalms 8:1-9	Proverbs 2:6-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Genesis 20:1-22:24	Matthew 7:15-29	Psalms 9:1-12	Proverbs 2:16-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Genesis 23:1-24:51	Matthew 8:1-17	Psalms 9:13-20	Proverbs 3:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Genesis 24:52-26:16	Matthew 8:18-34	Psalms 10:1-15	Proverbs 3:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Genesis 26:17-27:46	Matthew 9:1-17	Psalms 10:16-18	Proverbs 3:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Genesis 28:1-29:35	Matthew 9:18-38	Psalms 11:1-7	Proverbs 3:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Genesis 30:1-31:16	Matthew 10:1-23	Psalms 12:1-8	Proverbs 3:13-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Genesis 31:17-32:12	Matthew 10:24-11:6	Psalms 13:1-6	Proverbs 3:16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Genesis 32:13-34:31	Matthew 11:7-30	Psalms 14:1-7	Proverbs 3:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Genesis 35:1-36:43	Matthew 12:1-21	Psalms 15:1-5	Proverbs 3:21-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Genesis 37:1-38:30	Matthew 12:22-45	Psalms 16:1-11	Proverbs 3:27-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Genesis 39:1-41:16	Matthew 12:46-13:23	Psalms 17:1-15	Proverbs 3:33-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Genesis 41:17-42:17	Matthew 13:24-46	Psalms 18:1-15	Proverbs 4:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Genesis 42:18-43:34	Matthew 13:47-14:12	Psalms 18:16-36	Proverbs 4:7-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Genesis 44:1-45:28	Matthew 14:13-36	Psalms 18:37-50	Proverbs 4:11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Genesis 46:1-47:31	Matthew 15:1-28	Psalms 19:1-14	Proverbs 4:14-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Genesis 48:1-49:33	Matthew 15:29-16:12	Psalms 20:1-9	Proverbs 4:20-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10	Matthew 16:13-17:9	Psalms 21:1-13	Proverbs 5:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 17:10-27	Psalms 22:1-18	Proverbs 5:7-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Exodus 4:1-5:21	Matthew 18:1-20	Psalms 22:19-31	Proverbs 5:15-21
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<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Exodus 8:1-9:35	Matthew 19:13-30	Psalms 24:1-10	Proverbs 6:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Exodus 10:1-12:13	Matthew 20:1-28	Psalms 25:1-15	Proverbs 6:6-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Exodus 12:14-13:16	Matthew 20:29-21:22	Psalms 25:16-22	Proverbs 6:12-15

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# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																														
<div>Dec 2025</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<div>Feb 2026</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr></table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	<div>1</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</div>	<div>3</div>
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<div>4</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School</div>	<div>5</div> <div>1:00 PM UWF Board Meeting 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting 6:00 PM Cubscout Committee Meeting</div>	<div>6</div> <div>2:00 PM Bright Point Head Start 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cub Scouts</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study  10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10:00 AM Women's Ministry Meeting</div>																																																																														
<div>11</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 11:00 AM Mary Cordray Birthday Celebration in Perry Hall</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10:00 AM Matthew Group 2:00 PM Visitation Team Meeting 5:30 PM Finance/ Council Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study  10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>5:00 PM EV Band Practice 6:30 PM NI Emmaus Board</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8:30 AM UMM Meeting</div>																																																																														
<div>18</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School</div>	<div>19</div> <div>5:30 PM Mission Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting 6:30 PM Ambassador Meeting</div>	<div>20</div> <div>2:00 PM Bright Point Doula Program 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cub Scouts</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study  10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</div>	<div>22</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting</div>	<div>23</div> <div>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</div>	<div>24</div>																																																																														
<div>25</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 1:30 PM EV Luncheon</div>	<div>26</div> <div>5:30 PM Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 3:30 PM NIFB Mobile Food Truck 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</div>	<div>31</div>																																																																														





**First United Methodist Church**  
**610 Bonus Ave**  
**Belvidere, IL 61008**  
**Pastor Jim Bell**  
**Associate Pastor Jay Shin**

**Phone: 815-544-3479**

**E-mail: [officeadmin@fumcbelvidere.com](mailto:officeadmin@fumcbelvidere.com)**

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-3**

**Friday 9-12**

**After hour emergencies--847-764-6563**

**Worship 9:00 AM**

**Sunday School 10:15 Sept--May**



**Find us on the web [@fumcbelvidere.org](http://fumcbelvidere.org)**



**Scan the QR code with  
your phone, or Tablet  
to go directly to our  
website.**



**If you would like us to  
to pray for you, email the  
church or scan the QR  
code below.**

