



## Family Ties Newsletter February 2025

### From Pastor's Heart ❤️

Dear Church Family:

February is the month of love. Valentine's Day is the focus of the month! Some people are fortunate and find a person that they love and the other person also loves them. Some people are not as fortunate. Often relationships are "What have you done for me lately?" Also love and relationships need to be nurtured. Patience and understanding have to be central! It is tough that often human love becomes very conditional.

### **Then came God!!**

God's love is unconditional! God's love transcends our failures and weaknesses! God is patient and kind and understands our less than perfect lives! God will see good in us even when nobody else does. Are you not glad that you have a God whose love knows no end? But just like human love, we need to find ways to nurture God's love...How?

Spend time with God who loves you. In prayer and worship. In Silence and Bible study. For God so loved YOU that He gave us Jesus!

If you have no relationship with Jesus, right now, February 2025, would be a great time to do so!

In Christ's Love,

Reverend Ted A. Hartley

## February Sermons

- February 2:** “The Funnel of Misbelief” 1st Corinthians 15:1-11
- February 9:** “Dorito theory and the deceptive heart” Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Synopsis: “Just one more chip...” How can we explain the unhealthy things we choose to do.”
- February 16:** “True Love” 1st Corinthians 13  
Synopsis: “What’s Love Got To Do With It.”
- February 23:** “What Tempests Can Teach Us” Acts 5:27-32  
Synopsis: “Can you see clearly when the rain is gone?”

## SPECIAL EVENTS!

- February 9th:** **Hymn Sing**—Call out your favorites during worship
- Town Hall**— All teams will meet after a shortened worship service for a short meeting.
- Souper Bowl**—The Teams are Set—bring in your soups for the food pantry may the best team win! GO CHIEFS! GO EAGLES!
- February 16th:** **Marriage Renewal**—If you and your spouse wish to renew your vows, please let the office know by February 12th. Each lady will receive a flower and we will present a certificate to each gentleman, for this event. Widows and widowers will also have a special time of recognition.

# FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

**Wed—Feb 5 :** 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Bible Study

**Sun—Feb 9:** **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**  
8:30 am Adult Sunday School  
9:45 am Worship—HYMN SING!  
10:45 am Town Hall—Team Meetings

**Wed—Feb 12:** 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Praise Band Practice  
7:00 pm NUMC Vocal Choir Practice

**Sun—Feb 16:** 8:30 am Adult Sunday School  
9:45 am Worship—Wedding Vow Renewal  
6:pm Youth Group

**Wed—Feb 19:** 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Praise Band Practice  
7:00 pm NUMC Vocal Choir Practice

**Sat—Feb 22:** **OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY 10 a.m. to Noon.**

**Sun—Feb 23:** 8:30 am Adult Sunday School  
9:45 am Worship

**Wed—Feb 26:** **NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES A.M. OR P.M.**

## January Mission

Thank you to Northwest UMC's Congregation for a great job on Sunday mornings of giving donations for helping the people of California Wildfires and Salvation Army. Thank you for your generous donations!

## February Mission Emphasis

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

**IT'S OUR 2ND ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! ARE YOU READY FOR SOME SOUP???**

**We are collecting soups for our very own Our Daily Bread Food Pantry! Last year we collected 425 cans of soup!!! Can we beat it???** GO CHIEFS!! GO EAGLES!!



## Northwest UMC Book Club News - February 2025

### Northwest UMC Book Club News

The Book Club has selected three new books for our next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 15th. All are promising good reads! The titles include:

**“The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs Kip”** by Sara Brunsvold

**“Parable of the Sower”** by Octavia Butler (carry over from our winter reading list)

**“Wasa-Wasa: A Tale of Trails and Treasures”** by Harry Macfie

Check out these books and mark your calendars to join the discussion on April 15th at 6 p.m.! We look forward to you joining us!

Happy Reading!

--Deb Lauseng

February Liturgist: Matthew Nunn

Ushers:           Feb. 2     Terry & Vickie Haas  
                      Feb. 9     Gruber Family  
                      Feb. 16    Bob & Joann Stevens  
                      Feb. 23    Randy & William Anderson

Greeters:       Feb. 2     Gary & Dixie Rogers  
                      Feb. 9     Betty Callais & Chuck Traver  
                      Feb. 16    Linda Nicot & Nylene Bradburn  
                      Feb. 23    Lorna Gabbert & Karol Castens



## MISSIONS POSSIBLE

Our new Missions Team Leaders are Karol Castens and Susan Sparks! They have come up with some new projects for missions this year for our Church to get more personally involved in local missions and learn more about United Methodist ministries in our conference and the world. We will also continue our 5th Sunday #BeUMC. We are moving forward with our name "Missions Possible." On the next page are the missions and ministries we will make possible in 2025.



## 2025 Missions by Month

	Month	Sunday service bucket collection or activity	5th Sunday #BeMC	Quarterly Missionary Focus
1st quarter	January	Salvation Army \$135.42 UMCOR Fire Disaster Relief \$435.40 Collected		4th Sunday Collection for
	February	SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY cans collected		4th Sunday Collection for
	March	Pathway Ministries (formerly South Side Missions) Collected \$	TBD	4th & 5th Sunday Collection for
2nd quarter	April	Midwest Missions Collected \$		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection
	May	Baby Fold—Collected \$		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection for
	June	Worship in the Park	TBD	4th & 5th Sunday Collection for
3rd quarter	July	Haiti Collected \$		4th Sunday Collection for
	August	Teacher's Appreciation Bags		4 <sup>th</sup> & 5th Sunday collection for
	September	ISU Wesley Foundation Collected \$		4th Sunday Collection for
4th quarter	October	Bibles for India \$		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday collection for India- Brenda Lewis
	November	Our Daily Bread Food Pantry \$		4 <sup>th</sup> & 5th Sunday collection for India- Brenda Lewis
	December	Heifer International \$		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday collection for India- Brenda Lewis

## Leadership Team Meeting Summary

January 20, 2025

The team convened on Monday evening January 20th to start 2025 with 7 of 9 team members present. Team changes for this year include a new chair and four new members.

### Ministry Reports

Treasurer - Randy Anderson Balance sheet for December. Good December for giving. Missions account has funds for a distribution. Will let missions team know of their account balance so they can distribute funds. Sound system and carpet expenses are covered with (Trustee and Memorial) savings accounts.

4th Quarter treasurers report showed giving to be up significantly in 4th quarter due to some people pulling ahead their 2025 giving into 2024.

2025 pledges and expected giving. Eight new pledged units compared to 2024. 2025 estimated total giving is around \$6,000 less than 2024 due to non-pledged giving being much higher in 2024 than that estimated non-pledged giving for 2025..

A proposal and motion were presented that we pay off our remaining mortgage of \$17,500. Motion was brought to a vote and the team passed it unanimously.

Suggestion was made that some amount of the checking account be put back into the trustee's savings account. Thought was that we move some out of the checking account into a higher yield savings account instead. United Methodist Foundation was suggested. Checking with Ted Frost for more information.

Yearly financial audit scheduled for Saturday February 15th @ 8:00am.

Selection of a new Vice Chair. Matthew Nunn agreed to take it for 1 year.

Report on New Visitors and follow up - Pastor Ted Have one couple planning to join as new members.

Following up on another family who has been attending church regularly to see if they are interested in joining.

Another couple from University Church may transfer.

Goals for 2025 - Pastor Ted - Based on notes from Sam Rodriguez leadership retreat. Better follow up with visitors. Gift cards are a possibility. Getting people involved in a small group to connect people.

Streaming worship service and web page enhancement.

34% in area never been married.

Gens Y&Z outnumber the older generations in our area.

Address non baby boomers.



## Agenda:

Update on Church website - Pastor Ted Webpage construction is in the budget. Creative Media Services will do the webpage but will require our office staff to provide updated input on content.

## New Business

Donuts – None at all or have a signup sheet for person to order, pickup and pay is the only way to get them consistently. Try and do it once a month with person to signup and be responsible for them. Two dozen would be the required quantity.

Recording Secretary – Jerry Leonhardt

### Altar Flowers

**Please don't forget  
to sign up for your altar flowers!  
Flowers must be paid for prior to date they are  
ordered for.**

The forms and calendar are in the glass case in the fellowship hall.

The flowers are \$20.00 and you can take the flowers home with you after church.

If you haven't signed up you can call the office at 309-692-0421 or email to [office@nwunitedmethodist.org](mailto:office@nwunitedmethodist.org)

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary on the list? This means the Church office does not have your information. You may submit your information to the Church office by e-mail:*

*[office@nwunitedmethodist.org](mailto:office@nwunitedmethodist.org)  
or call the church office (309) 692-0421 for an update information form. Thanks!*

### Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

#### February Anniversaries

**Dan & Kathy Becker                      02/27**

#### February Birthdays

<b>Grant Gillett</b>	<b>02/01</b>
<b>William Anderson</b>	<b>02/04</b>
<b>Alicia Booth</b>	<b>02/05</b>
<b>Faedean Turner</b>	<b>02/13</b>
<b>Kingston Beene</b>	<b>02/15</b>
<b>Elaine Hackward (Bell)</b>	<b>02/21</b>
<b>Dixie Rogers</b>	<b>02/28</b>

## TERI'S TIDBITS

Whew it's been a bit since I had the opportunity to write a Teri's tidbits! So, I thought long and hard about what I wanted to share with you because so many good things have happened. Some not so good things too but let's focus on the good cause positivity always makes the world a better place! So I went in to the ER on November 19th was admitted November 20th and had surgery December 3rd and was finally dismissed to go home on December 13th. I have had 28 major surgeries and this one which is called a fundoplication (correcting a large hernia in my stomach where the mesh had failed) was the hardest to recover from. I spent Thanksgiving in the hospital being tube fed but my family was with me and we had a wonderful time of laughing and just being together. Then miracle of miracles my two daughters, Jennifer & Cait made Thanksgiving dinner and my husband said it was great. They made the terminal mistake of letting me know they could do it so now I know and I will be calling on them in the foreseeable future lol. We will see how that goes. I almost went to see Jesus twice in the hospital once when medication was forgotten and once when the wrong medication was given. However I fully believe that the power of the hundreds if not thousands of people praying for me saved me both times and I will never ever forget the power of those prayers of how everything worked together to save me, to help me get the surgery I so desperately needed and didn't even know I needed it, to help me to heal though it was really slow going I am healing and feeling better and got my G-Tube out so I can eat like a big girl now lol. Your prayers, your cards, calls, texts, e-mails, visits, flowers and gifts they just meant so much to me and to my family. We are so grateful for all of you. I found the following in Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:18 "Who am I sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far." Psalm 17:1 "hear me, Lord, my pleas just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer—it does not rise from deceitful lips." It is humbling to know that people are praying for you. Sometimes people who do not even know me pray ed for me! That's so humbling. As long as we pray with truth in our hearts, God will hear us and will answer. We never know how He will answer but He always does and it always with our best interests in His heart even if we do not see it for a while. Am I glad I had to spend 24 days in the hospital. Absolutely not. Am I glad I am fixed and alive? Yes I am. You had a lot to do with that! Thank you just doesn't seem to cover it but THANK YOU!

**In Person Opportunities**

**Sunday Worship (in person) 9:45 a.m.**

**Children's Worship in the Fellowship Hall during Service in easy view from the Sanctuary.**

**Wednesday Activities**

Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Evening Bible Studies	6:00 p.m.
Praise Band Practice	6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.



**Our Daily Bread Food Pantry**  
**Every 4th Saturday of the month**  
**10 a.m. to 12p.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Ted A Hartley: (217) 330-0708 [tubated1@yahoo.com](mailto:tubated1@yahoo.com)**

**Worship Director: Lisa Rogers: (309) 472-4472 [lsealine@yahoo.com](mailto:lsealine@yahoo.com)**

**Children's Ministry: Tricia Buck: (309) 868-3059 [twbuck1@hotmail.com](mailto:twbuck1@hotmail.com)**

**Administrative Assistant: Tammy Trawick (309) 397-4396**

**Admin. Assistant/Accounting: Teri Sebesta: (574) 275-9282**

**Church Phone: (309) 692-0421**  
**[office@nwunitedmethodist.org](mailto:office@nwunitedmethodist.org)**

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Visit us on the web: [www.nwunitedmethodist.org](http://www.nwunitedmethodist.org)**