

# The WORD

January 2026

Volume 57 Issue 1



Westville United Methodist Church

**Communion**  
Jan 4, 2026

**“Reach up, Reach in, Reach out**

**Reach up to God, Reach in to know  
God, Reach out in Love”**

**Sunday Morning Schedule:**

**Sunday School 9:15 am –**

**Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15am**

**Drive In Service Radio Station 91.3**



Community Meal

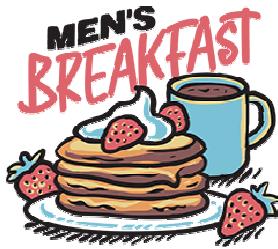
**Free Community Meal Jan 21st**

**5-6:30pm, Pizza**

**A message from Pastor at 6:30pm**

Men's Breakfast

Jan 10th 9 am



**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!!!**

**THE WORD** is a publication of Westville United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.,  
P.O. Box 619; Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-2314

**\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-noon /Tues.—Thurs. am**

**Our Web Address is [www.westvilleumc.org](http://www.westvilleumc.org)**

In order to go green The Word will be e-mailed to you. Be sure to e-mail your address to Jane at  
**[secretarywumc@csinet.net](mailto:secretarywumc@csinet.net)**

**Printed copies will continue to be available at the church for those who do not have e-mail.**

**January 2026**

## **From the Pastor's Desk: A New Year, A New Opportunity in Christ**



Dear Church Family,

As we step into **2026**, we are reminded that every new year is a fresh gift from God—a chance to grow deeper in His grace and experience His fullness in our lives. The Apostle Paul writes in **Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)**:

*"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

This year, I invite you to join me in exploring **four areas of life** where we can make changes that open the door to God's blessing:

### **1. Better Priorities**

Life is full of demands, but Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 6:33** to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” When God is first, everything else falls into its proper place. Let's commit to prioritizing prayer, worship, and time in His Word above all else.

### **2. Better Relationships**

Healthy relationships reflect God's love. Forgiveness, kindness, and encouragement should mark our interactions. Ask yourself: *Who needs grace from me today?* Let's build bridges, not walls, and strengthen the bonds within our families and church community.

### **3. Better Choices**

Every decision shapes our spiritual journey. Whether it's how we spend our time, handle our finances, or respond to challenges, let's choose what honors God. Remember, small daily choices lead to big spiritual victories.

### **4. Better Christian Witness**

Our world needs hope, and we carry the greatest message of all—Jesus Christ. Let's live in such a way that others see His light in us. Share your faith through words and actions, and let your life be a testimony of God's goodness.

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of a new year. Help us to set better priorities, nurture better relationships, make better choices, and be better witnesses for Christ. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may walk in Your fullness and blessing. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

As we journey through 2026, let's press forward together, trusting that God has great things in store for His people.

**In Christ's love, Pastor Toby**

**Join us in local missions!****Items needed for the Food Pantry:**

- 1/4 Paper Products: toilet paper, tissue, foil & etc.
- 1/11 Canned meats, tuna, chicken...
- 1/18 Canned Fruits, & Vegetables, Soups
- 1/25 Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo, dressings

**TIME & LOCATION****Food Pantry Information:**

The American Legion is now working in cooperation with the WMC Food Pantry ministry. Please drop off donations of the above mentioned items at the Legion. **For those receiving donations, items may be picked up at the American Legion on Thursdays from 4:30—5:30.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

INFORMATION FOR THE WORD IS **DUE BY Jan 26th** IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY **Jan 28th** AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILED TO [secretarywumc@csinet.net](mailto:secretarywumc@csinet.net)

**Family Life Center is available for rental for parties and celebrations.  
Contact the church office at 219-785-2314 for more information.**

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**Save your pop cans and bring them to the church. The money earned from the can collection supports the Heifer Project.**



## Blessings from 2025

**The end of a year calls for reflection, and a new year encourages us to look forward. So, let's look back at the blessings God provided through our many ministries...**

**\*\*\*We faithfully dispersed weekly backpacks to 30 to 41 school kids. Our packing team, delivery team, and our shopper, Kay Tetzloff, make this ministry happen. The backpack ministry is self-sustaining through congregation and community donations. St. Vincent DePaul from the local Catholic Churches has also been very generous.**

**\*\*\*The Resale Shop had a successful year and generously donated \$5000 to the Nest Shelter, \$5000 to the Food Pantry, and \$5000 to the Benevolence Fund. 80 pillows were also donated at Christmas to the Nest from our congregation.**

**\*\*\*Monthly Community Meals continued to grow, with regular faces and new ones sharing delicious meals together.**

**\*\*\*Bible School and the Maze of Terror delighted kids!**

**\*\*\*The Community Garden and Free Farmer's Market were successful beyond our expectations. Frank, Sherri, and others proved they truly have green thumbs.**

**\*\*\*The Benevolence Fund was used by those in need throughout the year. Our compassion and generosity helped several folks who found themselves struggling to pay rent/water bills/NIPSCO bills. \$1830 of assistance was given, plus many gas cards.**

**\*\*\*The Blessing Box and Thursday After School Snacks help to feed those who may be hungry or need a quick snack or meal.**

**\*\*\*We celebrated Pastor Toby on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, reminding us of the many blessings of his ministry to us.**

**God has truly had His hands in our ministries. We praise Him for blessing our ministries so abundantly, and we pray that He continue to challenge and guide us in 2026.**

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace, hope, and love.**





Reflecting in 2025 with accomplishment in “our church” through the work of the Church Council and Trustees planning! & All of You!!

We began our 2025 with new Acolyte Candle Holders

God Loves You T-Shirts

New Chairs for the Founders Room

Painting of the Sanctuary

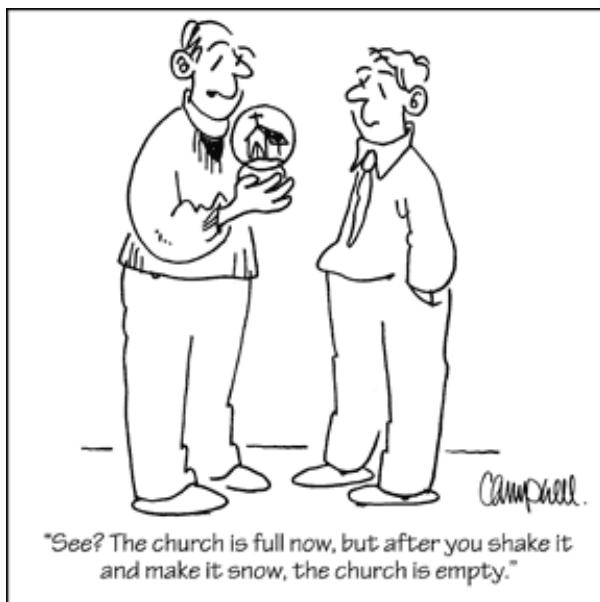
Carpet cleaning

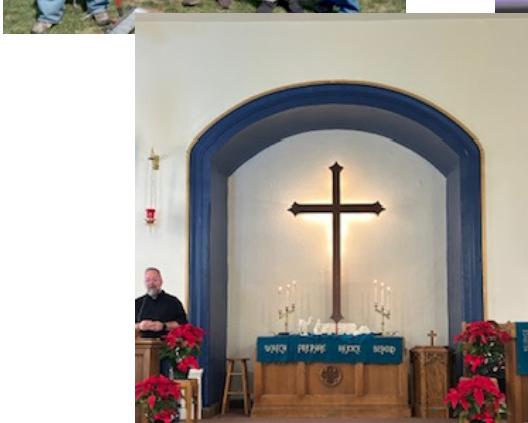
We upgrade hugely our sound system and added 3 TV's

Our Information board was installed and has information for Ways to Serve, Local Events, and Church News

Pastor Toby held Summer Conversations in small groups

We represented ourselves in the Pumpkin Festival Parade and gave away water at the festival along with information about who we are.





## Care & Concern

## Health and Healing

Kelly Murphy  
Pete Buckmaster  
Sheryl Elliott  
Jayme Richards  
Bob & Sheila McCaughey  
Richard Lee  
Hemi Ostroski  
Tina Dickinson  
Colleen Parker  
Kerry Cole  
Christopher Watson  
Rick Parker  
Ian Parker  
Greg McCuen  
Jeff Lantz

Kristi – Health Journey  
Jerry Adrian  
Lee Bently  
Rita White  
Nash & Family  
Donna Bunch  
Lucas Bradshaw  
Diane Toomire  
Jerry McCall  
Samera Mohammed  
Frank Bagwell  
Laurie Mullett  
Butch Weston  
Ramey Salyer

\*Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression  
\*Unspoken Prayers    \*\*Families                    \*\*Youth    \*\*First Responders  
\*\*Law Enforcement

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\*Unspoken Prayers \*\*Families \*\*Youth \*\*First Responders  
\*\*Law Enforcement

## The Care Corner, Adele Lundahl

## Guidance & Protection

Quinn Bacon Preston Wilson  
Aaron Hale

## All Military Personnel All Victims of War



Pastor Toby Guill maybe reached @ 219-850-3768

Or email at **toby.guill@inumc.org**

# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?



## PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

### Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that I will always look to the future knowing You have gone before me. I ask for the grace to be a good steward of the blessings You have given me and for help to live well in order to be a blessing to the generations to come. In Jesus' Name I ask, Amen.

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none.

Deuteronomy 28:12



## \*\*\*\*\* Church Office Hours \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 9am—noon, Tues-Thurs am**

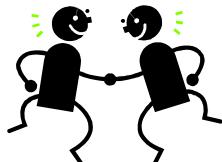
**My hours vary, please call 219-898-3077**

**Jan. Wedding Anniversary's**

Mark & Kim Glassley      3-Jan  
 Jay & Cory Stark      6-Jan

**Jan. Dates of Joining**

Jan      1/20/1991 Amy McMahon

**Jan. Birthdays**

Tina Dickinson	10-Jan
Kim Buchanan	12-Jan
Karen White	16-Jan
Melanie Bennett	17-Jan
Ronarie Rice	17-Jan
Charley Herrold	18-Jan
Dawn Tharp	22-Jan
Eric Poloncak	23-Jan
Mary DeGarmo	31-Jan

**Westville United Methodist Church**

**WELCOME STATEMENT**  
 "With open hearts, open minds and open doors; we welcome people of all races, nationalities theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect".

**Dec. Giving**

Date	Worship	SS	Giving
11/30/2025	20	6	\$212.73
12/7/2025	47	10	\$3,665.11
12/14/2025	48	15	\$3,183.00
12/21/2025	66	15	\$1,831.01
12/24/2025	55		\$614.00
12/28/2025	35	12	\$989.00

Give as the Lord calls you to give:  
 be as generous to God as God has been to you!

*Thank you for being Faithful Givers*

Your tithes and offerings maybe  
 mailed to :

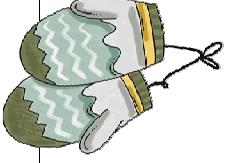
WUMC P O Box 619, Westville, In  
 46391

QR Code for giving...



# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Resale Shop 9-12
<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> FLC Rented Resale Shop 1-4 pm	<b>10</b> Men's Breakfast 9 am Resale Shop 9-12
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Resale Shop 1-4pm	<b>17</b>
		Trustee Church council 6p,	Resale Shop 9-12			Resale Shop 9-12
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
		<u>FLC Rented</u>	Resale Shop 9-12	Free Community Meal—5-6:30. Message at 6:30	Resale Shop 1-4pm	Resale Shop 9-noon
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Resale shop 1-4pm
						Resale Shop 9- noon