

The WORD

February 2026

Volume 57 Issue 2



Westville United Methodist Church

**Communion
Feb. 1, 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

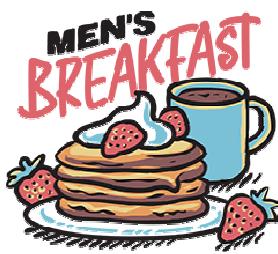
Free Community Meal Feb. 18th

5-6:30pm, Ham & Bean Soup

A message from Pastor at 6:30pm

Men's Breakfast

Feb. 14th 9 am



Service Feb. 18th

6:30pm

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

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

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

WORD – FEBRUARY 2026**From the Pastor's Desk — February 2026**

Beloved friends in Christ,



As we step into February—a month often associated with love—it feels especially important to reflect on what Christian love looks like in a world that is hurting. Our nation continues to reel from the recent shootings in Minneapolis. Families are grieving. Communities are shaken. And many of our immigrant neighbors—already vulnerable—are feeling even more exposed and uncertain.

Moments like these test the soul of a nation, but they also test the soul of the church. How will we respond? What voice will we listen to? What lens will we use to understand what is happening around us?

The Voices We Allow to Shape Us

We live in a time when news outlets, social media platforms, and online personalities compete for our attention. Their goal is not always truth. Often, it is outrage, fear, or clicks. In the aftermath of tragedy, misinformation spreads quickly. Conspiracy theories take root. People begin to see enemies where there are none, and suspicion replaces compassion.

As followers of Jesus, we must be vigilant about the voices we allow to shape our hearts. Scripture warns us that not every spirit is trustworthy, and not every message is aligned with the way of Christ. When we let fear-driven narratives guide us, we risk losing sight of the gospel's call to love, mercy, and justice.

Our task is not to interpret the world through the lens of cable news or social media feeds, but through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

What Scripture Calls Us To

The Bible speaks clearly about how God's people are to treat those who live among us, especially the foreigner, the outsider, and the vulnerable. In *Leviticus* 19:33–34, God commands that the foreigner “**be treated as your native-born**” and loved as ourselves. *Deuteronomy* 10:18–19 reminds us that God “**loves the foreigner residing among you**,” and calls us to do the same. Jesus deepens this teaching in *Matthew* 25:35, saying, “**I was a stranger and you welcomed me.**”

These passages are not suggestions. They are the shape of Christian discipleship.

A Story of Neighbor-Love

A few years ago, a small-town church—much like ours—learned that a newly arrived immigrant family had lost everything in a house fire. They spoke little English and had no extended family nearby. The congregation didn't know them personally, but they knew enough: here were neighbors in need.

Cont.



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Within hours, people showed up with blankets, clothing, meals, and gift cards. One member offered temporary housing. Another helped navigate paperwork. A retired teacher volunteered to tutor the children. No one asked whether the family “belonged” or whether helping them would be convenient. They simply acted out of love.

Months later, the father stood before the congregation and said, “We came to this country hoping to find safety. We found something even better—people who treated us like family.”

This is what it means to love our neighbor. Not in theory, but in practice. Not only when it is easy, but especially when it is costly.

Our Call in This Moment

In the wake of the violence in Minneapolis, many of our immigrant brothers and sisters are living with renewed fear. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a counter-testimony to that fear. We are called to be people of refuge, compassion, and courageous love.

And we are called to guard our hearts against the noise of the world—against narratives that divide, distort, or dehumanize. When we let Christ shape our vision, we see people not as threats, but as neighbors. Not as strangers, but as children of God.

A Prayer for Peace

God of mercy and justice,
Hold close all who grieve in Minneapolis and across our nation.
Protect those who feel vulnerable or unseen.
Quiet the voices of fear and falsehood,
and tune our hearts to your truth.
Make us instruments of your peace,
that our lives may reflect the love you have shown to us.
Amen.

A Call to Action

This month, I invite each of us to take one concrete step toward loving our neighbors—especially those who may be immigrants, refugees, or newcomers in our community.

And I invite us to take one big step away from the noise: limit the voices that stir fear, resist the pull of conspiracy theories, and choose instead the steady, compassionate way of Christ.

May we be a church where strangers become neighbors, and neighbors become family.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Toby



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

- 2/1 Personal Hygiene: toothpaste, & brushes, soap, deodorant, sanitary napkins, tampons., shaving cream
- 2/8 Pastas, noodles, macaroni, sauces, Hamburger Helper
- 2/15 Sugar, flour, cake mixes, cooking oil, shortening
- 2/22 Drinks, juices, coffee, coffee filters, tea

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 Feb. 23rd** IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY **Feb. 2th** AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILLED TO 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.**

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





-Blessings Article-

HELP! Please!!! Our Furnace Broke Down and It's 5 Degrees Outside

Why does His goodness always surprise us? Today we had a request for help to repair a broken furnace, a cost of \$1200 from the repairman. The repairman wanted the payment prior to fixing the furnace. The house was 40 degrees inside and the family did not have the money until later in the month to pay the bill. We prayed and discussed how to best help this family, when somebody remembered someone with a connection to the church who has an HVAC repair business. After consulting with the family and the new repairman, the "hero to the rescue" went out to the house.

Long story short, the new repairmen had a relationship with the family (used to work with him), had a furnace motor, and had time to go out. He put in the new motor that he already had and told them they did not owe anything, stating, "Nothing for a friend." The furnace was running, the house was warming, and no money was spent.

ONCE AGAIN, we have to remind ourselves to stop putting boundaries on His love and answering prayers. And remember...God is Good...ALL The Time!

*Please join us for our 75th and last Valentine Tea
February 14th, 2026*

1 pm

First United Methodist Church

121 E 7th Street

Michigan City

We have had so many good memories of

Sharing this event with our community.!



Blessings from the United Methodist Church



When grocery prices continued to rise, and government monetary cuts were being made this year, the United Methodist Church in Indiana was concerned about increasing hunger. They offered local churches grant money to address this increasing need. Great news... we applied, and praise God and Thank You to the United Methodist Church for awarding our church a \$5000 Feeding Indiana Care and Share Grant. Kathie Long, Kay Tetzloff, Shantrece Salyer, and Kim Glassley are on the grant committee and want to share with you how the money will be spent.

~**Care and Share** + Meal Kits (meals for a family of 4 which will include meat, the ingredients, and a recipe in a bag) to make a fast and easy meal. We will start with making 50 meals which will be available to our Care and Share families and food pantry clients upon request. We will need a team of people to help build the meals and to perhaps deliver them.

~**Blessing Box expansion**-our Blessing Box in front of our church which was made and donated by Sue and Rob Klett is used daily. We will be expanding this space, since this ministry is so successful.

~**More Protein**~ we know how meat prices have sky-rocketed, so we are providing more meat to the Westville Community Food Pantry and Care & Share families.

HOW CAN YOU HELP??? Please pray for this ministry. Pray for those we are serving, and please consider becoming a volunteer to help with these outreach, sharing projects. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the entryway bulletin board in the Ways to Serve area.

“There’s a blessing in every moment.”

FRAUD ALERT

This Could Be Happening Without You Knowing

Medicare fraud often happens quietly- without warning, without a phone call, and without obvious signs. Many seniors don't realize their Medicare number may be stolen or compromised until fraudulent charges appear. The good news is that there is a simple and effective way to help stop it.

Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) is one of the strongest tools you have to protect yourself. Fraudulent companies may use official-sounding names and bill Medicare for services or medical supplies that were never provided. These charges can go unnoticed when only the first page of the MSN is reviewed and everything appears approved.

Medicare urges beneficiaries to carefully review EVERY claim listed, confirming that the provider, service, and dates are familiar. When something doesn't look right and is reported, it helps stop fraud—not only for you, but for others as well.

What to Do:

- Review every page of your Medicare Summary Notice
- Confirm the provider, service, and dates are correct
- Question charges for services or supplies you did not receive

Contact Medicare directly if anything looks unfamiliar

Medicare fraud depends on being unnoticed. Taking a few minutes to review your MSN is more than a personal safeguard—it is a way to protect your identity, your benefits, and the future of Medicare for everyone. Paying attention truly makes a difference.

DON'T LET YOUR SILENCE OR INACTION BE AN INVITATION TO FRAUD!!!

Care & Concern

Health and Healing

Kelly Murphy	Kristi – Health Journey
Pete Buckmaster	Jerry Adrian
Sheryl Elliott	Lee Bently
Rita White	Nash & Family
Bob & Sheila McCaughey	Richard Lee
Donna Bunch	Hemi Ostroski
Tina Dickinson	Diane Toomire
Colleen Parker	Jerry McCall
Kerry Cole	Samera Mohammed
Christopher Watson	Frank Bagwell
Butch Weston	Ramey Salyer
Jeff Lantz	Scott Piotrowicz
Warren Howard	Wes Bane
Rod McClane	Cheryl White
Kristi Dabbert	Terry Ream

*Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression

*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

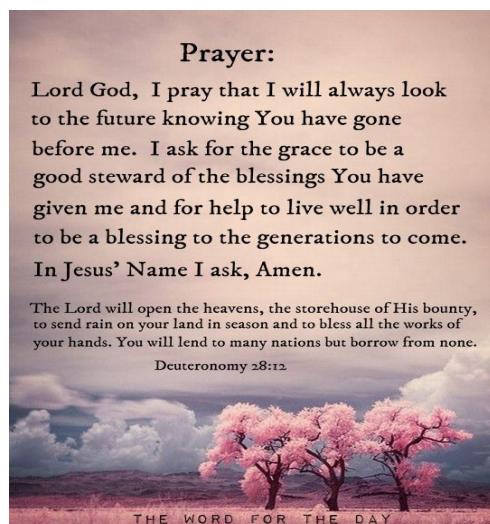
If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

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

Feb. Dates of Joining

2/24/1974	Dr. Carol Bloom
2/17/1991	Del Hutchison
2/17/1991	Kathy Hutchison
2/2/2003	Cory Stark
2/13/2022	Steve Swanson
2/13/2022	JoAnn McLane
2/13/2022	Rodney McLane
2/13/2022	Suzann Klett
2/13/2022	Robert Klett

**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".

Jan. Giving

Date	Worship	SS	Giving
1/4/2026	49	12	\$2,718.50
1/11/2026	54	18	\$1,127.00
1/18/2026	45	17	\$1,895.00
1/25/2026	50	15	\$2,467.50

Feb. Birthdays

Cheryl Hamilton	2-Feb
Khloe Lambert	4-Feb
Erin Nittner	5-Feb
Jean Herrold	10-Feb
Sue Klett	11-Feb
Nick Allen	15-Feb
Taylor Bachman	20-Feb
David McKee	20-Feb
Kyle Elkins	22-Feb
Cora Espinoza-Tamaya	22-Feb
Jonny Espinoza-Tamaya	24-Feb
Jerry McCall	26-Feb
Hailey O'Brien	26-Feb

**Westville United Methodist Church**

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...





February 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		TRI KAPPA RESALE SHOP 9-12		Resale shop 1-4pm		Resale Shop 9-12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				FLC Rented		Men's Breakfast 9 am
		Trustee/Church Council 6pm	Resale Shop 9-12	Resale Shop 1-4 pm		Resale Shop 9-12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Community Meal 5-6:30pm FLC Ham & Bean Soup <u>ASH Wednesday Service</u> 6:30pm	Resale Shop 1-4pm	Kairos Ministry 8-1pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Resale Shop 9-12	Resale Shop 1-4pm	Resale Shop 9-noon
Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Tri Kappa FLC Resale Shop 9-12		Lion's Club		Resale Shop 9- noon