

JANUARY 2026

THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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BIRTHDAYS

1 - Landon Laing
3 - Robert Gruwell
6 - Bruce Barnhart
7 - Calvin Clemens
11 - Wyatt Haub
12 - Myrna Ferguson
 Joanna Fletcher
 Barb Frauenholz
13 - Margi Boles
14 - Chris Blayer
18 - Katie Stoolman
 JD Turner
22 - Steven Grace
24 - Jennifer Shanker
25 - Wes Clemens
28 - Bridget Buol
 Kyle Tisinger
29 - Katie Sabourin

ANNIVERSARIES

27 - Darrall & Nicki Brick (25)

SUMC'S MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Mission

We exist as a church to make disciples, bringing persons to Jesus Christ and to Christ's community.

Vision

*The Church bulges with attendance; Babies cry in the back pew; and Cheerios can be found on the floor.

*Many people get their hands dirty serving God's church and God's children.

*Persons of all ages regularly meet together in every nook and cranny for spiritual support and nurturing.

*Congregations gives joyfully.

Values

*Everything we do is based on our worth as God's children and seeing that in others.

*We use all we have and are to serve God and God's people.

*We believe in joy, content to give thanks to the Lord in all things even through tough times of darkness.

*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this.*

Psalm 37:4-5

REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS



As I write this, it is the last day of 2025, and the new year is fast approaching. This last year has been an exciting one for Springdale UMC with our yearlong celebration of our 150th year in ministry. For me as your pastor, it has been a joy to work with all of you, to witness to the many and varied ways that this congregation cares not only for its own members but also for the community at large. Our mission giving this year to the food pantry, for example, has provided more than \$1,300.00 through in-kind gifts of food and other non-perishable items. Let's keep this up in the new year!

My heart is full this season. Thank you all for the wonderful gifts that you shared with Diane and myself during worship. We both feel blessed to be able to be here with you each week and to worship with you.

Now, a new year beckons. What will this year bring for us here at Springdale? The Epiphany passage from Isaiah comes to mind, Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." We can be a shining light in our community this year, sharing our gifts for ministry with others, continuing the work we have already started.

I invite you to pray for our new year—and to ask yourself, "What one thing can I do this year to further the ministry of Springdale UMC?" Then, step up, volunteer, offer to lead, share your gifts in new ways, etc. It's a new year, a new start. I am excited and hopeful for what we can accomplish together.

Rebecca



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 4: Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship with communion, 10:00 am; Iowa City Circuit Epiphany event at Coralville UMC, 3:00 pm
- January 7: Youth Discipleship Night at WBUMC, 5:30 pm
- January 11: Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:00 am
- January 14: Youth Discipleship Night at WBUMC, 5:30 pm; UMW at SUMC, 6:30 pm
- January 18: Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:00 am; Human Relations Sunday Offering; Birthday Sunday; Fellowship
- January 21: Youth Discipleship Night at WBUMC, 5:30 pm **SUMC serving and providing desserts - volunteers needed**
- January 25: Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:00 am
- January 26: UMW Bingo at Crestview, 2:30 pm; Ad Board, 6:00 pm
- January 28: Discipleship Night at WBUMC, 5:30 pm

JANUARY WORSHIP

Theme for the Month: Living in the Light

January 4

Epiphany, Communion Sunday
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: "Shine Out"

January 11

First Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord
Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon: "We are Witnesses"

January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany, Birthday Sunday, Human Relations Sunday
Scripture: John 1:29-42
Sermon: "Come and See"

January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Sermon: "No Divisions"

**Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Wednesday Night Discipleship 5:30 p.m. - WBUMC**

SONG OF THE MONTH



**COME AS YOU ARE: MAKING A MEANINGFUL IMPACT
TOGETHER**

As followers of Christ, we are called not only to gather for worship, but also to **go into the world with love, compassion, and hope**. That calling is at the heart of our **COME Committee**—the *Committee on Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism*.

What Is the COME Committee?

COME exists to help our church live out Christ's love beyond our walls. Our work focuses on three interconnected areas:

- **Outreach** – Responding to needs in our local community through service, partnerships, and presence
- **Mission** – Supporting ministries near and far that share God's love in tangible ways
- **Evangelism** – Creating a culture of invitation, welcome, and relationship where faith can grow naturally

Sometimes this looks like organized projects or mission opportunities. Other times it's as simple—and as holy—as showing up, listening, and caring.

What We Do Throughout the Year

COME helps coordinate and support opportunities such as:

- Community service and mission projects (e.g. Special Sunday Offerings and Food Pantry Donations)
- Seasonal outreach efforts (like holiday support, school drives, or special collections)
- Partnerships with local organizations doing vital work
- Encouraging hospitality and welcome for newcomers and visitors
- Sharing stories of how God is at work through our congregation

Our goal isn't just to *do more*, but to help us **love more faithfully and intentionally**.

How You Can Make a Meaningful Impact

You don't have to be on a committee or sign up for everything to make a difference. Here are simple, powerful ways every congregant can participate throughout the year:

- **Be present** – A friendly smile, learning someone's name, or sitting with someone new matters
- **Be invitational** – Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to worship or a church event
- **Serve as you're able** – One-time projects and ongoing opportunities will be shared as they arise
- **Give generously** – Financial gifts, donations, and shared resources extend our reach
- **Pray intentionally** – For our community, our church, and the ministries we support
- **Share your gifts** – Skills, time, creativity, and compassion are all forms of ministry

Every act of kindness—no matter how small—has the potential to reflect God's love in powerful ways.

An Invitation

COME is not about checking boxes or filling calendars. It's about living our faith in everyday, tangible ways. We invite you to watch for upcoming opportunities, listen for God's nudging, and take part in ways that fit your season of life.

Together, we can be a church that doesn't just talk about love—but lives it.

If you have ideas, passions, or questions about outreach or mission, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to Rebecca, Steven, or Paula.

Thank you for being part of a congregation that seeks to serve, welcome, and share Christ's love—near and far, all year long.

Paula Rogers, COME chair

WEST BRANCH FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

January - Soaps

Laundry, dish, body, etc.

February

Diapers, pull ups, and Adult Depends.
Larger sizes of diapers and pull ups are appreciated.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

Beginning September 4, WND will meet every Wednesday during the school year. The schedule has changed a bit this year as they are adding in a Family Worship time! Classes are held for PK-12th Grade- please encourage your children and grandchildren to participate.

5:30 p.m. - PK-6th grade classes meet in classrooms

6:10 p.m. - Family Worship

6:30 p.m. - Family Supper in Fellowship Hall

(Parent/Guardian required for students in 5th grade and under)

7-8 p.m. 7-12 grade Youth Group

SUMC is looking for volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up for the Family Supper the Third Wednesday of every month. We also need volunteers to provide baked goods (6 dozen). Please contact Rebecca or Paula for more information and to sign up.

Looking for other ways to support this ministry? Visit the following supply wish list links: [Walmart](#)
[Amazon](#)

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is,
‘What are you doing for others?’”

— REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Your Generosity Can Change Lives

Human Relations Day is just around the corner! This Special Sunday supports vital ministries that nurture communities and bring hope to those in need. Through your gifts, programs like Community Developers and Youth Offender Rehabilitation create lasting impact.

Save the date: January 18

Let's build the beloved community together!

CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS



IOWA CITY AREA CIRCUIT PRESENTS:



Songs of the Journey

An Epiphany Celebration

January 4, 2026
3:00 PM
Coralville United Methodist Church

Hymn Sing and Fellowship

Every journey is made lighter when love walks beside us.

During our Songs of the Journey celebration, we'll join in supporting Open Heartland, an organization that journeys with immigrant families through care, community, and connection.



LAITY BOOK STUDY *THREE SIMPLE RULES*



Join Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development, as we dive into the book "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Ruben Job

Note: This study will count as an Advanced Class for Lay Servant Ministry Certification.

When:

January 5th - February 9th
Monday Evenings -
6:30pm to 7:30pm

Where:

Zoom from the
comfort of your home

What Do I Need:

Book: "Three Simple Rules for
Christian Living" by Jeanne Torrence
Finley, Bishop Rueben P. Job

Participant Guide: "Three Simple
Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living" by
Bishop Rueben P. Job





For More Visit:

[Iowa Conference](#)
[Southeast District](#)
[United Women in Faith](#)

SUMC 2026 AND BEYOND MINISTRY GOALS AND PLANNING

Goal

Key Action Steps

Timeline

Resources Needed

Increase outreach

Identify at least 3 community events for presence or sponsorship; develop simple materials; set up volunteer sign-ups

Ongoing

Flyers; social media posts; volunteer schedule

Increase family attendance

Host family-friendly worship & outreach events quarterly (e.g. picnic, mini-VBS, outdoor service)

Ongoing

Family-friendly activities; food budget

Show appreciation for current attendees

Create quarterly recognition Sundays (e.g. "Birthday Sunday"); thank-you notes

Ongoing

Cards, refreshments

Organize and store church photos

Gather photos; assign a small group to organize photos and develop a storing system (digital and/or physical)

Q2 2026

Photo boxes and/or scanner

ADA Building

Finalize accessibility plan; obtain bids; research grant opportunities

Q1 2026

Contractor bids and grant research

Grow worship attendance by 5% each year

Track attendance; launch invite campaign; feature personal testimonials on social media

Ongoing

Data tracking sheet; social media posts

Separate praise/worship time

Pilot an alternative or contemporary service once per month

Q2 2026

Committee

Outdoor worship/picnic

Schedule at park or church lawn; plan lunch & music

Summer/Fall 2026

Committee

Bi-Annual Bible/Book Study

Identify a study

Q1 & Q3 2026

Curriculum/book; identify a study leader

Lenten Devotional Book

Collect devotions from members; publish by Lent.

Q1 2026

Printing or digital platform

Bless the Animals Sunday

Select date; promote

Fall 2026

Marketing, supplies

Christmas Caroling

Organize routes and songbooks

December 2026

Committee

Weekly blog devotions

Create schedule of authors; make weekly posts

Q1-Q4 2026

Website access

Update Church Directory

Collect info/photos; publish printed & digital copy

Q4 2026

Camera; printing; design

Worship at Little Bear

Contact campground; schedule annual summer service

Annually through 2027

Volunteer; bulletins; sound system

Mission day to Matthew 25 (CR)

Coordinate service team

Annually through 2027

Volunteers

Engage with local celebrations

Participate in at least 2 community festivals each year

Ongoing

Volunteers; identify celebrations

Better utilize west wing & closet

Inventory space; create multipurpose plan (storage ministry use)

Q2 2026

Volunteer

Church-wide clean-up/purge

Annual spring cleaning day

Q2 each year

Create cleaning list and recruit volunteers

Grow connections within circuit

Host or join shared worship/mission events

Ongoing

Identify opportunities

Weekend Retreat (Youth and/or adult)

Plan small retreat at local camp

2026-2027

Identify programming; location; date; promote

Rebuild youth programming

Recruit 2 volunteers; plan quarterly youth events and/or Sunday programming

Q2 2026

Volunteers; curriculum

155th Anniversary Celebration

Form committee at least 1 year in advance; plan worship; meal; and community event

2029

Committee formed by 2028

Revised Yule Buffet

Refresh menu & decor; invite community

Annually beginning 2028-2030

Committee

ADA Building (completion)

Finish all accessibility upgrades

2028-2030

Committee

Increase pastoral support (1/2 to full-time)

Stewardship campaign; reassess budget & needs

2027-2029

Assessments

Long-term stewardship study

Implement multi-week giving & vision series

2026-2028

Committee

Upgrade/update Kitchen

Assess needs, fundraise, and complete renovation

2027-2029

Committee

Seal Time Capsule

Identify items to include

Q1 2026

Announcement as to date

Sew personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission

Recruit sewers or those willing to learn

Q2 2026

Machines, sewing materials