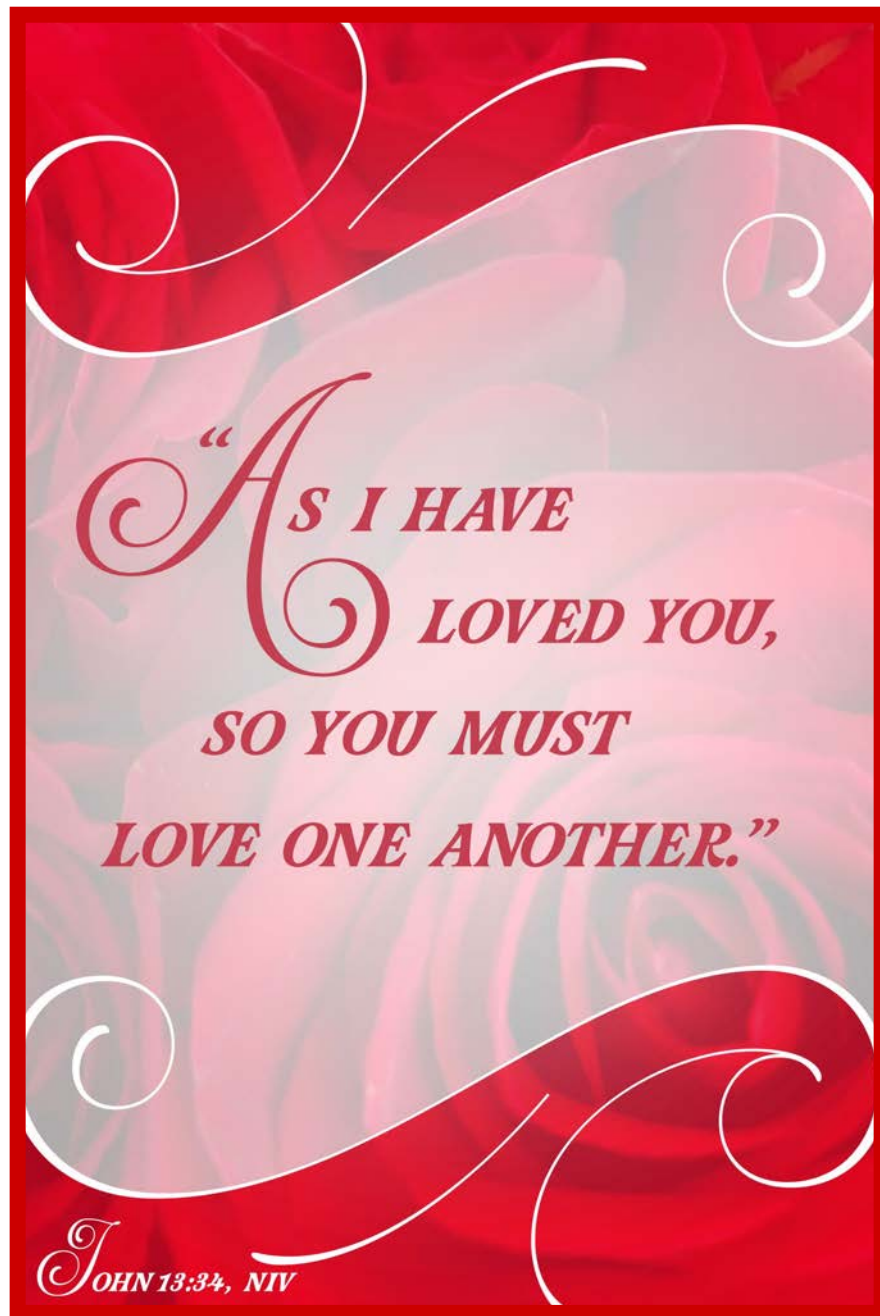


# February 2023 Newsletter



First United Methodist Church

Pastor Mike McInnis

974 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Windom MN 56101

507-831-3284

[umcoffice@windomnet.com](mailto:umcoffice@windomnet.com)

[www.windomfumc.org](http://www.windomfumc.org)

# A Few February Pastor's Notes

**Update on Disaffiliation** – Our current survey results (as of January 25<sup>th</sup>):

79% - leave the UMC

21% - stay in the UMC

Administrative Council meets Feb. 1. Pray for wisdom for your church leadership. All of our polls/surveys have shown there is strong majority supporting disaffiliation from the UMC. There will be an announcement soon about a date to vote regarding disaffiliation.

Here's an important truth to remember: If Windom First UMC decides to disaffiliate—and become Windom First GMC (or whatever name we select)—we will be no less Methodist than we've ever been! We will simply be joining a new branch of Methodism that God will use in our generation to reach others for his kingdom.

As John Wesley said—and we will still be able to say— *“The world is our parish!”*

**New Bishop to preach at Windom on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** – the new Minnesota – Dakotas area Bishop, Lanette Plambeck, will join us for worship Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. She will preach (at the 10:30 service) and will also offer a time for Q&A after worship.

**Live Lightly this Life** – While we were created for this world—and God created this world for us, to be our home—the bottom line is: *we are only visitors here*. As Moses wrote in **Psalm 90:10**, *“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone and we fly away.”* We know that those years are brief in light of the eternity we will enjoy with God in the new heaven and new earth—living a life without pain, tears, sickness, aging, evil or death!

To “live lightly this life” gives you freedom: you're set free to live this life investing your time, energy and passion in helping and blessing others—physically, socially, mentally and spiritually. And you can know that your investment here pays eternal dividends: Jesus promises there is a reward for those who are faithful!

This also gives us the freedom to see this world's news in a different context. While we're concerned about injustice, crime, corrupt leaders, and community issues (*after all, these do affect us and our loved ones*); we know that this world is passing away—and those who build their kingdoms here are building on sand—not the Rock of Christ.

They will receive their reward. Our responsibility is to do what we can to reach others for Christ and help them find salvation and new, meaningful, abundant life in him.

May we—Christ's body—not get distracted from that mission! No matter what direction our local church takes in the future, may we always be intentional and fruitful, serving our Lord and building his kingdom!

*Blessed to serve with you!*

*Pastor Mike*





## Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:00am—Noon

1:00—4:00pm

Closed Holidays—February 20th

## Church Family News

**Thank you** to the Missions team who packed 81 backpacks for the Backpack program in January.

**Thank you**—We have begun another new year of ministry and there are many new committee members. Thank you to everyone who has served on a committee, and in all areas of serving the Lord through First UMC. Take a look at the church calendar and all around you to see all the generous hearts it takes to run a vibrant ministry. Thank you all.

**Thank you** to those who sent back your surveys and for your attendance at the various “Town Hall” meetings. Your involvement has been appreciated.

**We welcome New Members to FUMC**—Hannah Anderson, Meredith Basinger, Brittany Espenson, Justin Espenson, Nick Espenson, Zach Espenson, Jeremy Green, Madison Green, Tom Hansen, Kellen Piotter, Rylie Raverty, Saydie Raverty, Brad Schlomann, Katie Schlomann, Mike Schowalter, Ian Smith, Aaron Walklin, Kaylee Walklin, Liz Walklin, Grace Weinzetl, Logan Weinzetl, and Nancy Weinzetl. We also welcome those who have transferred their membership from a United Methodist Church to First UMC Windom since our last Membership Sunday—Carol Hansen, Donna Crowell, Dori Hansen, Barb Pieper, Pat Bretzman, Rick Bretzman, Sue Frederickson, Laura Piotter, and Nikki Schowalter.

**Meet Our New Bishop!** Bishop Lanette Plambeck and our District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf will be visiting our congregation on February 19th. Bishop Plambeck will share a message with us during the worship service.

**COMING APRIL 29th—The White Elephant Sale!!!!** The White Elephant sale will be held April 29th from 9-12. This event is sponsored by the United Women in Faith (UMW). Proceeds will go to missions. Gently used/new items can be brought to the church beginning **March 1st**.

**Church Directory**—The 2023 copy of our Church directory will be available by February 12th. They will be by the mailboxes, located across from the church office. While you are getting your directory, check out your mailbox for a special treat. If you don't have a mailbox and would like one, please write your name on the list provided and help yourself to a treat in the basket.

**Reminder**—the Church office will be closed on February 20th.

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Church Family, please continue to pray for the families who have had to say goodbye to loved ones this past month:

The family of (Norma) Jean Willsher  
The family of Pat Rupp  
The family of Lana Tibodeau



# You are Invited...

As we enter into the Lenten season, please join us for these services:

## Ash Wednesday Service

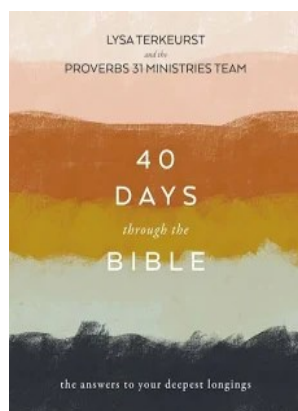
Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30pm, Sanctuary

## Community Lenten Services and Lunch—Noon

Wednesdays—March 1st—March 29th  
Windom Presbyterian Church

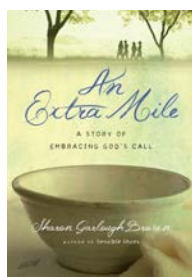
## Holy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 6th at 6:30pm, Sanctuary



## Coming Soon..."40 Days Through the Bible"

- Take a journey through the storyline of the Bible in 40 days so you can see major themes, how they are all connected and what that means for us as we read the Bible today.
- A Lenten study that begins February 22nd and offered 2 times - 9:00 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (On February 22nd only, the evening class will meet at 7:30pm following the Ash Wednesday service.)
- Sign up at the Sign-Up table in the lobby.
- Stay tuned for more information!



## Tuesday Book Club

Book Club had a great discussion about the book "Barefoot". February 21st, join us after reading the stand alone novel by Lauraine Snelling, "Heaven Sent Rain", about a women living her orderly life until she buys breakfast for a seven year old and his dog. April 18th we will be discussing "An Extra Mile". It is the 4th and final book of the Sensible Shoes series. We will meet at 6:30pm in the Fireside room. Any questions about Book Club, please contact the church office.



2022 giving statements were mailed in January.

Thank you for supporting this ministry with your gifts, your prayers, your service, and your Christian witness.

Ways to give...

- Lobby Collection Boxes
- Postal Mail
- Direct Deposit by contacting the church office
- Online at [www.windomfumc.org](http://www.windomfumc.org)
- Download Vanco Mobile
- Thrivent Choice Dollars

### Apportionments

We've been asked how much the 2023 apportionments are if you were to divide by each member; our total apportionment amount divided by each member is \$138 per member.



# MISSIONS



# FEBRUARY 2023



## The Dinner Table is Moving "Home!"

Thank you to all who helped with and prayed for the Dinner Table last month. Please continue to do so as we navigate through this move. We have been blessed by your prayers.

**When:** Tuesday, February 28th  
**Where:** First United Methodist Church  
974 Sixth Street, Windom, MN  
(507) 831-3284

**Time:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- \* Dine In and Take Out only
- \* No Drive-Thru

Come join us in February. Bring your friends and have a meal on us! Our heartfelt thanks to the Presbyterian Church for their kind hospitality to us for almost 4 years. God bless you!

## A NOTE FROM OUR MISSIONS TEAM



**Join us in the "Have a Heart for Ukraine" campaign promoted by the Missions Team!**

**The Missions Team will match up to \$1,000 in funds for Ukraine. You must hurry though because this offer runs only until Valentine's Day, February 14th.**

**Please make your checks to First United Methodist Church. For all donations, please make note that it is for "Ukraine".**

**Won't you join us in "Have a Heart for Ukraine?" Your prayers are also appreciated.**

**Thank you!**

Ruby's Pop-up Pantry is America's Rural Food Shelf. This is for anyone! The next distribution date is Monday, February 20th. Bring \$25 (**Note price change**) **cash** to the Regional Worship Center located at 2 Crossroads Drive in Sherburn MN from 5:30—7:00pm. Volunteers will place food in your trunk. Please make sure you have made room in your trunk for your food share. More information about Ruby's Pantry is available on their Facebook page at Ruby's Pantry-RWC-Sherburn.



## Easter Lilies & Flowers



Our church will be ordering Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 9th. Flowers can be taken home after the Easter service, or if you'd like, they can be left until April 16th to be enjoyed another week in the sanctuary.

The deadline to place orders with the church office is **Sunday, February 19th.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily plants at \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Daisy Mum flowering plants at \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea flowering plants at \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

In MEMORY or in HONOR of (please indicate which one and please write how you would like it written in the announcements)...

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that we are not able to specify flower colors for the mums and hydrangeas, but they will be pastel colors.

Please make your check payable to First UMC Memorials and turn it in with this form. Orders may be put in the offering boxes, turned in to the church office, or mailed to 974 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Windom MN 56101.

## Weather Announcements

Please check with the following media for weather-related church announcements:

**Jackson KKOJ radio 1190AM**

**Windom KDOM radio 1580AM / 103.1 FM**

**Windom TV cable channel 3**

**Facebook.com/FirstUMCWindom**

**Please check your email for possible updates.**

**(If the church does not have your email, please contact [umcoffice@windomnet.com](mailto:umcoffice@windomnet.com) or call 831-3284)**

When school is canceled due to weather,  
the church office is also closed.

Church services and activities are automatically cancelled if there is a **BLIZZARD WARNING** or a **WINDCHILL WARNING**. Lesser weather conditions are decided on a case by case basis. Please check ahead before venturing out if you are unsure. The safety of our church family is our first priority.



**LSS Meals—Bistro** served at the Community Senior Center is OPEN! Meals are served at 11:30 AM. Winter weather reminder—LSS meals of Windom usually follows the Windom Area School District regarding weather closures. Listen to KDOM radio 103.1 FM for weather related announcements throughout the winter season. The meal site will be closed February 20th for Presidents Day.

# February

## The Father's Love

- Day 1: 1 John 3:1
- Day 2: John 16:27
- Day 3: John 15:9
- Day 4: 1 John 4:9
- Day 5: 1 John 2:15
- Day 6: 2 Corinthians 6:18
- Day 7: Matthew 7:11
- Day 8: John 8:42
- Day 9: 2 John 1:3
- Day 10: John 10:17
- Day 11: John 17:23
- Day 12: 1 John 4:8
- Day 13: 1 John 4:19
- Day 14: John 3:35
- Day 15: Proverbs 3:12
- Day 16: John 17:26
- Day 17: John 3:16
- Day 18: 1 John 5:1
- Day 19: 1 John 4:7
- Day 20: 1 John 4:16
- Day 21: John 14:23
- Day 22: Romans 8:37-39
- Day 23: Isaiah 54:10
- Day 24: Romans 5:8
- Day 25: Galatians 2:20
- Day 26: Psalm 136:26
- Day 27: Ephesians 2:4-5
- Day 28: Psalm 86:15

"God loves each of us as if  
there were only one us."

*Augustine*

*susandavis.com*







February 2023

# Youth & Education



*Love the Lord  
your God with  
all your heart.*

Matthew 22:37

Sunday  
School  
Offering  
Challenge!

We will be keeping track of our Sunday School offering for the four Sundays in February. Things will be a little different this year! Instead of a boys vs. girls challenge, we will be working **TOGETHER** for 1 goal. If we can raise **\$300.00** for the Windom Backpack Program, we will get to **PIE PASTOR MIKE IN THE FACE** in March. This is a great opportunity to show our children how our offering can help others in need, and that, even as children, we can make a difference. This challenge is for grades **PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12!**

If you have any questions, please see Robin.

February is  
Children's Dental  
Health Month!



In honor of February, Children's dental health month, our Sunday school classes will be collecting toothbrushes and dental floss for our Operation Christmas Child project. We are unable to send toothpaste because it has an expiration date. Please put any items in our collection box in the lobby and we will pack them away until November when it is time to pack up our boxes. The Sunday School classes thank you for your help with this wonderful project!

## Special points of interest:

- *The Chosen* season 3 continues on Wednesdays at 9:00am or 6:30pm through February 15th.
- McPrayer meets Fridays before school at 6:30am at McDonalds. For kids in grades 7th-12th!
- Feb. 1st— KFC for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders meets from after school until 5:30pm. Supper provided.
- Feb. 5th— Jr. High Youth (grades 6-8) meets from 4-6, Sr. High Youth (grades 9-12) meets from 5:30-7:30
- Feb. 12th—Children share love with the residents at the Nursing Home **AND** sing for the congregation
- Feb 12th— Youth group (all grades 6-12) will meet right after Worship for a Pre-game Super Bowl Party until 2pm.
- Feb 17th & 18th Inspiration Hills winter retreat for 4th, 5th, & 6th graders.
- Feb. 19th— Youth group will NOT meet.
- Feb. 19th—Camping Sunday! Think summer!
- Feb 26th—Jr. High Youth meets from 4:00-6:00pm, Sr. High Youth meets from 5:30-7:30

Coming this summer...

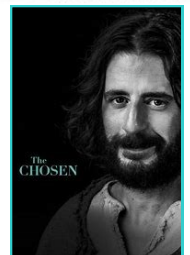




**KFC  
KIDS FOR CHRIST**

**WE WILL MEET WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST  
AFTER SCHOOL.—5:30PM  
SUPPER IS PROVIDED!**

**FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3, 4, AND 5.**



Adult Classes continue through  
February




Our Sunday School classes will be sharing some love with the residents at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home!! On Sunday, February 12th the Sunday School classes will be singing at the nursing home. They also have handmade Valentine's to deliver to the residents. We will then return to the church to sing for our church family during the church service. **What a great way to share some love for Valentine's Day!**



**INSPIRATION HILLS  
4th-6th Grade Winter Retreat  
February 17-18**



**REGISTER TODAY!**

Ft. our chaplain Tanner Mans!



Visit

[WWW.INSPIRATIONHILLS.ORG/WINTER-RETREAT-2022/](http://WWW.INSPIRATIONHILLS.ORG/WINTER-RETREAT-2022/)

To register and learn more

Please keep the following students and chaperones in your prayers as they head to the Winter Retreat!

Victoria Fester  
Emma Quade  
Kaige O'Brien  
Sophie Prokosch

Samantha Branch  
Chloe Snyder  
Claire Fast  
Kinley Fuller  
Lindsey O'Brien

Moesha Blodak  
Collin Inman  
Sam Fast  
Brynnley Pletcher  
Robin Snyder

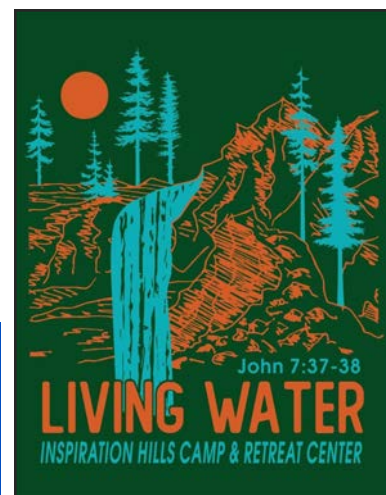
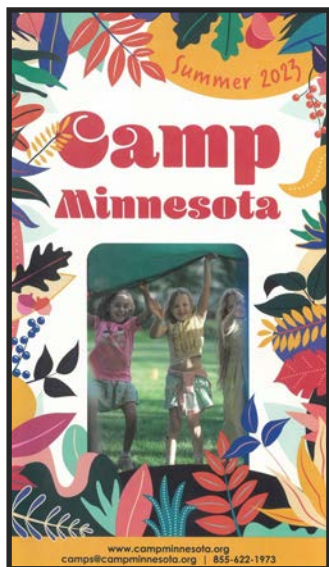


**Hey Parents** ~ Check out all the summer camps available for our students! We have camperships available. Applications are in the newsletter or in the church lobby. For more information and to find the camp that is right for your student, please check out these websites, or talk to Robin!

[campminnesota.org](http://campminnesota.org)

[okobojicamp.com](http://okobojicamp.com)

[inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html](http://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html)



## Why Summer Church Camp?

*A week of day camp or overnight camp can be one of the most exciting, fun, and unforgettable parts of your child's summer. With a focus on safety, thrilling activities, fostering relationships, and Godly role models, Church camp is able to help your child grow!*

### **7 reasons every child should experience summer camp.**

- **Social Skills** ~ *At summer camp, children will be around other kids their age. This gives your child the opportunity to bond and make friends, teaching valuable social skills and creating what could be lasting relationships.*
- **Unplug from technology** ~ *It is easy for television, video games, and social media to consume a child's day. At summer camp, kids "unplug", tuning back into nature, friends, and the world around them.*
- **Physical Activity** ~ *When you send your child to summer camp, the opportunities for outdoor fun are endless. Whether that is swimming, playing sports, canoeing, or ropes courses, campers are physically active throughout the day. Many times, activities at summer camp, such as the zipline, encourage children to push beyond their "comfort zone" and overcome fear.*
- **Fostering Independence** ~ *Kids who spend a week away from their parents practice making some of their own decisions. At summer camp, they experience this in a safe and caring environment. This helps build important character qualities such as responsibility and self-confidence.*
- **Role Models** ~ *Children who attend summer camps are mentored by character role models - counselors who are still young enough to be fun, but farther along in their path to offer some guidance and wisdom. Great summer camps spend countless hours recruiting, vetting, and training counselors that will pour into campers.*
- **New Experiences** ~ *Camp can guide kids out of their daily routine and let them explore new activities they might not be able to try at home. Whether that is a ropes course or zipline, or archery, camp allows campers to have the opportunity to discover new hobbies or passions.*
- **Have Fun** ~ *Most importantly, camp is a place where kids have fun! With activities that cater to different ages, and a broad range of fun things to do, camp allows tremendous variety. Fun with a purpose—of growing into all they were created to be!*



# JANUARY MEMORIES



*January Youth Food  
Drive and  
Dog Treat Baking*



*Sunday School Greeters*



*Children's message*



*Youth group/4-H  
blanket making!*





# First United Methodist Church ~February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> KFC 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Bible Study 7:30p Admin Council	<b>2</b> 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardees	<b>3</b> 6:30a McPrayer @ McDonalds	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Communion</b> 9:00a Coffee Fellowship 9:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a KDOM First Things 4:00p Jr High Youth Gr 5:30p Sr High Youth Gr	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30a UMW Exec Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00a Bible Study 3:30p Lois Circle 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Bible Study 7:00p Congr Trust 7:00p Trustees Mtg 7:30p Finance Mtg 7:30p SPRC Mtg	<b>9</b> 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardees	<b>10</b> 6:30a McPrayer @ McDonalds	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Children Sing in Worship/Nursing Home</b> 9:00a Coffee Fellowship 9:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a KDOM First Things 11:30a All Youth Group Meet	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardees	<b>17</b> Inspiration Hills Retreat  6:30a McPrayer @ McDonalds	<b>18</b> Inspiration Hills Retreat
<b>19 Camping Sunday</b> <b>Bishop Lanette Plambeck/ D.S., Fred Vanderwerf visit</b> 9:00a Coffee Fellowship 9:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a KDOM First Things	<b>20 President's Day</b> <b>Church Office</b> <b>Closed</b>  5:30p Ruby's Pantry	<b>21</b> 1:00p Missions Meeting  6:30p Book Club	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> 9:00a Bible Study 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p Bible Study	<b>23</b> 6:30a Men's Breakfast @ Hardees	<b>24</b> 6:30a McPrayer @ McDonalds	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00a Coffee Fellowship 9:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a KDOM First Things 4:00p Jr High Youth Gr 5:30p Sr High Youth Gr	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30p Serving Dinner Table at <b>First UMC</b>				

# 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Birthdays & Anniversaries ~February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Marshall Bartelt	<b>4</b> Kaleb LaCanne
<b>5</b> Lane Steele	<b>6</b> Denny & Becky Marker	<b>7</b> Lucas Vesey Sue Visker	<b>8</b> Erin Sebring Rob Visker	<b>9</b> George & Elaine Bramstedt	<b>10</b> Vicki Anderson Jens Hansen	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Pastor Mike & Kathy Jo McInnis	<b>13</b> Arnold Haack Lucy Stevens	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Blaine & Sally Larsen	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Sally Larson	<b>18</b> Greg Pfeffer
<b>19</b> Tom Hansen Paul Vesey	<b>20</b> Bob Mayden Eldon Moon	<b>21</b> George Paulson	<b>22</b> Kai Johnson	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Ava Mathiowetz	<b>25</b> Delaney Smith
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Greg Peterson	<b>28</b> Mira Buresch  Pastor Kathy Brandt (29th)			Black = Birthday Red = Anniversary  Corrections? Additions? Please let the office know.	