



Panora United Methodist Church

OUR MISSION:

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, TRANSFORM THE WORLD

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Panora, IA 50216
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Rev. Jeremy Poland
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Sunday Service

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
FaithSeeker's Sunday
School every 2nd, 3rd, &
4th Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery Available

Inside this Issue

Article from Pastor

Administrative Council 2
SPPRC 2
Poinsettia Dedications 2
Valentine's Day Dinner 2

Jan/Feb Birthday's 3
Chimes/Choir Schedule 3
UMW 3
Bible Studies 4

Christmas Is a Way of Life

Most people today imagine Christmas as a single day on the calendar. We spend maybe a month preparing for it; but when the time finally comes, it's over in a handful of hours. Then we have to begin the arduous process of disassembly –recycling the shreds of wrapping, taking down the lights and tree(s), laying the festive spirit to rest. Then, exactly one week later, it's New Years. A time to reset. And maybe wrestle a bit with the rituals that compose our day-to-day lives.

None of us ever had our toes in the sand of the B.C. world (earth Before Christ), so we don't have a complete perspective on the timelessness of Christmas. It's a bit like being born after the advent of electricity: we really only appreciate this history-altering innovation when the power goes out. (But imagine if Ben Franklin, or Edison, or Alexander Graham Bell were to stand in Time Square today, or hold an iPhone. What wonder! What *tomfoolery!*?) But Christmas is literally the re-membering of Christ: *God takes on flesh and dwells among us!* In Jesus, God shows us how to be whole and sin-free (holy) humans. How to experience deeper joy through self-giving (agape) love, and how to establish peace on earth (through forgiveness and participation in God's grace). Christmas is the eternal reminder of the power-struggle between our Divine Image and our mortal insecurity that plays out, moment-by-moment in the hearts of every person. Christmas is the irrevocable truth that God is present with us in every earthly mess we make, inviting us into something *more*.

Therefore, as you put away those material goods that again failed to conjure a full-day's happiness, keep Christ always in front of you. For Christ is the light that reveals the fullness of who you are. And it opens a future brighter than what you, alone, could ever dream of.

In Christ,
Jeremy

*Administrative
Council*

The next regular meeting of the
Administrative Council will be
7:00 pm, Thursday, January 19, 2023.



The SPPRC will not be meeting in January. The next meeting will be in March, the specific date has not been decided. Members of the committee could let Sue know at suemerryman@gmail.com if there are dates in March that should be avoided.

- * John & Kathy Coons: **In Memory of Coons Family**
- * Bill & Linda Dahl: **In Memory of Bob & Patsy Laidley**
- * Jay & Sue Merryman: **In Memory of Virgil & Ruth Robinson,
Mary Lois & Willard Merryman**
- * Karen Riley & Jim Sievers: **In Memory of Radene & Harlan Riley**
- * Jim & Julie Tibbles: **In Memory of Clarence Tibbles,
Rev. Don Mattson & Marge Mattson**
- * Bryce & Kendra Wilke: **In Memory of Cletis Wilke**



Valentines Day DINNER

**Tuesday, February 14th at 6:00 p.m.
PUMC Basement**

- * The community is invited.
- * All ladies will be free
- * There will be a free will offering for the Gentlemen
- * **Menu:** baked ham, potato casserole, green beans, cheese cake, coffee, tea, water
- * There will be entertainment & gifts for the ladies
- * Everyone will need to call the church at 641-755-2655 and register the number in their party that will be attending prior to February 10th.

Happy Birthday!

(I know there are some of birthdays missing! Please send to Shelley at PUMC@netins.net)
"God was there to hear your borning cry; we rejoice that you are part of our church family!"

January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 – Jackie Van Ahn | 15 – Gracie Grove, George Wilker,
Miranda Laabs |
| 2 – Terry Sprague | 18 – Brad Halterman |
| 6 – Cathy VanGundy | 19 – Brenda Halterman, Ben Wilker |
| 9 – Kjella Piper | 25– Roger Esbeck |
| 13 – Katy Bassett | 27– Linda Richey |
| 14 – John Coghlan | 30– Dave Brown |

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Jim Adamson | 10 – Kris Laidley |
| 3 – Kathy Coons | 11 – Brian Bahrenfuss |
| 7 – Karwyn Gibson | 15 – Linda Dahl |
| 8 – Shari Crouse, Deb Schumacher | 22—Paulette Chambers, Waneta Scott |
| 9 – Kelsey Laabs, Liam Wilker | |

Schedule for Chimes and Choir

Jan 5	6:30pm	Chimes Practice	Feb 9	9:30 am	Chimes Practice
Jan 8	9:30 am	Chimes Play	Feb 12	6:30 pm	Chimes Play
Jan 19	6:30pm	Choir Practice	Feb 23	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Jan 22	9:30 am	Choir Sings	Feb 26	9:30 am	Choir Sings

UMW Calendar



January— NO MEETING

February — UMW meeting at 7:00pm

A 2023 schedule will be developed and shared in January

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Tuesday afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
At Lake Side Village

Wednesday Evening, 6:00 p.m.
Church, upstairs tables