



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JAN 2025  
NEWSLETTER



***“But one thing I do: 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.”***

***~ Philippians 3:14***



**Pastor Letter ....1-2**

**Info/Events .....2-5**

**Birthdays &  
Anniversaries .....6**

One of my favorite things to talk about at the end of the year is just how did the year go. Things went well this past year. Church attendance is up. Giving is outpacing expenses. We are seeing new faces in church and some old friends are with us once again.

We do have our problems and struggles. One person told me that they had to park on the grass this year. I say that we need more 'problems' like this. More parking? One communion Sunday, we actually ran out of communion cups. Imagine this. More people showed up for church than ever before. With quick thinking, it was all taken care of.

We have experienced good participation in our 9 am Sunday school. I'm looking forward to seeing more and more of you attend in the new year.

Door Village is about so much more than attendance and giving. We are a church family. We have been getting together at our church potluck meals after worship. A game day is planned for January 11. Check the newsletter calendar for other upcoming events.

Yes, we finished the year well. An exciting year is ahead. What will you do differently this year at church? Start by being in church every chance you get. Connect with other believers in Christ - your church family! And... connect with Jesus in a deeper way.

Give our Tuesday night 6 pm bible study a try. We are looking deeply into the books of first, second, and third John. You can join us anytime. Another way to develop a richer spiritual life is to pick up one of The Upper Room devotional booklets which are available on the usher's table in the sanctuary. You will find short, daily meditations that help us focus on God and His great love. As we finish this year and start



(continued on page 2)

a new one, take a look in the 'rearview mirror'. See where you have been. Evaluate how well your life has been going. Remember the challenges of this past year that you were able to face and overcome with God's help. And take a moment to thank Him.

Look back briefly... only briefly. Spend most of your time moving forward into the new year. Set and keep New Year's resolutions. Ask God to guide you and strengthen you in setting them and keeping them. Leave old patterns of sin and shame behind and stop the cycle of sin and guilt that only slows us down. In Jesus, move forward with new strength, new hope, new habits. Resolve to draw nearer to God. Join in an accountability relationship or group. Find someone to check in on you to see how you are progressing in your faith.

Last year, our healthy eating group (that meets at 11 am on Wednesdays) really made a tangible difference in my life. My blood sugar improved; I lost a little weight. But more than that, I was accountable for the choices I made in my life.

May this year be better than the last. Grow deeper in your faith. Serve the Lord through the ministries of the church. You Can Do It! Live your best life in Christ in the New Year. Amen.

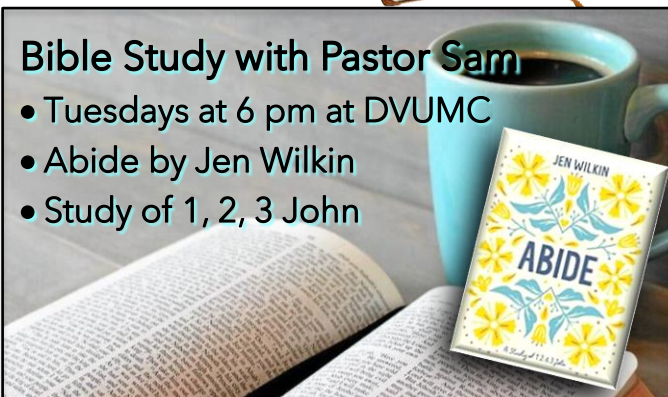
Grace and Peace <><

Pastor Sam



**Monday  
Bible Study at  
Oak Woods Manor**  
1211 Longwood Dr  
(Hwy 39 South) La Porte

**Mondays at 10 am**  
Public Welcome



### Bible Study with Pastor Sam

- Tuesdays at 6 pm at DVUMC
- Abide by Jen Wilkin
- Study of 1, 2, 3 John

### Thankful Offering Report

Our Fall 2024 "Thankful Offering" brought in \$4,295. Praise the Lord! In the new year, the Finance Committee will make a recommendation regarding use of these funds. Thank you for your generosity!  
~ DVUMC Finance Committee

Thank you from all of us...

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for your generous gifts this Advent season. Each of us is honored to serve our Lord and the church, and we all greatly appreciate your generosity. We wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Sam & Cindy Polito  
Mitch Marhanka  
Jane Hubner  
Cindy Fischer & Alaina Jeffers

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers each week are graciously provided by the Flower Committee. There is no charge for you to honor someone or commemorate a special event. Please sign up on the 2025 flower sheet on the greeter's table or call the church office to have us fill in info. Thank you to our Flower Committee for providing this lovely ministry.

## Prayer Requests

Celeste - cancer treatment  
Jerry H - open heart surgery recovery  
Aunt Tina - genetic mother/baby tests  
Marlene K - health and strength  
Rick K - mission travels  
Connie's friend Bob - colon surgery recovery  
Jon D - cancer treatment  
Sue - relief from back pain  
Ryan P - friend recovering from surgery complications  
Bonnie Q - cancer  
Annie's sis-in-law Annette - recovering from stroke  
Lynn - recovering from back surgery  
Nancy W - healing broken elbow  
Julie - improved breathing  
Sheri - medical condition  
Cheryl - improved health  
Polly - lymphoma  
Paul - recovery from leg surgery  
Diane P - good health  
Debra - bone cancer  
Terry - health & strength  
Connie's friends Bill and Diane - improved health  
Beverly's friends Paul & Carolyn - improved health  
Karen R - health, strength & happiness  
Alex - 96-yr-old friend - health & strength  
Joy - Neil W's sister in hospice  
Kathy - Donna C's mother-in-law - healing & strength  
Tom & Beverly H - pain relief, improved strength  
Sheryl E - cancer treatment  
Charlie C - stroke recovery  
Lea Ann Heims - heart health  
Spitzmesser's son-in-law Wes - cancer treatment  
Garry & Tina - asking for prayers  
Richard M - improved health & strength  
Hanna - Bonnie's great-grandniece - tumor on spine  
Janet U - prayers to stay cancer-free & heart health  
Wendy - health & strength  
Wade - health & strength  
Jayne W - health, comfort & strength  
Kate M - friend of Diane P  
Marilyn H - comfort and strength  
Pat G - health & healing  
Joe P - cancer  
John P - cancer  
Mark - colon cancer

Willie - cancer  
Elsie - health & strength  
Beverly B - improved health  
Addie - toddler friend from Texas with leukemia  
John - co-worker with cancer  
Dory M - kidney health & wrist strength  
George M - arthritis  
Judy D - liver cancer  
Roger T - Donna C's cousin in KY - prayers to stay cancer-free  
Scott - leukemia  
Dana's dad Jim B - health & strength  
Keith - Anne D's companion with cancer  
David - Anne D's son with cancer  
Barbara - Anne D's sister with cancer  
Tawnya - ongoing COPD  
Renetta - ongoing medical conditions  
Brian T - ongoing medical condition  
Chris K - ongoing medical condition  
Cheryl K - ongoing medical condition  
Beth - B & T's daughter - ongoing medical condition  
Prayers for those battling addiction

*If you know of any updates for our prayer list, please let us know in the church office.*

## BRING THEM IN!



- **Cancelled Stamps** – UWF All you need to do is carefully rip the cancelled stamp from the envelope and trim with scissors leaving 1/4" all around. Drop off your stamps in the basket on the greeter's table. Your cancelled stamps are prepared for purchase and the proceeds are used to support preparation, publication, and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools in Latin America, Spain and the United States.

- **Eyeglasses** - DV Lions – There is a wood box at the greeter's table for these. Used eyeglasses are distributed to people needing vision correction in other countries.



- **Novels & Children's Books** - DV Little Library Box – Bring adult and children's books to the greeter's table. They will be placed in the Little Library Box over at the park.

- **Coins & Cash** for mission projects.

We need funds for our church mission projects and we are also collecting aluminum tabs.





# January

## Sundays

Worship & Children's Church 10 am  
Communion Service First Sunday

## Mondays

Bible Study at Oak Woods 10 am

## Tuesdays

Bible Study at Church 6 pm

## Wednesdays

Kids Club at DVUMC 3:45-5:15 pm  
(Kids Club Resumes Jan 8)  
Choir Practice 6:30 pm

## Wednesday, Jan 1 - Happy New Year!

Office Closed  
Senior Breakfast at Christos 8 am

## Tuesday, Jan 7

Nurture Committee 5 pm

## Thursday, Jan 9

Ad Board Meeting 7 pm

## Saturday, Jan 11

Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 8 am  
DVUMC Games Cards & Fun 3-5 pm

# Kids Club



**Wednesdays after school  
3:30-5pm**

After-school program for Grades K-4  
Snacks, Games, & Christian Lesson

- Jan 1** – School Break – No Kids Club
- Jan 8** – LP County Police K-9 Officer
- Jan 15** – Indoor Snow Fun
- Jan 22** – Kingsbury School Gym Day
- Jan 29** – Indoor Scavenger Hunt

**OFFICE HOURS** Mon thru Thurs  
7 am – 12 noon  
219.362.3812  
doorvillageumc@gmail.com

**SUNDAY  
MORNINGS!**

**AGE 4 THRU  
4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**DURING  
WORSHIP**

## Children's Church

# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

January Leader: Katrina Langford

JAN 5 - IN THE STABLE

JAN 12 - BY THE STAR'S LIGHT

JAN 19 - WITH THE ELDERS

JAN 26 - AT THE RIVER

## DVUMC Game Day Saturday, January 11, 3-5pm Games ★ Cards ★ Fun!

Please plan on attending a fun event on Jan 11 from 3 to 5 pm at the church. We will have a few games and cards, but you are invited to bring your favorite game. Snacks will be provided by the Nurture Committee. Please plan on attending and having FUN!!



# DONATE




**Hats • Gloves • Socks**  
for area elementary kids

**PLACE IN BASKET ON GREETER TABLE**

**Senior Breakfast**



**January 1, 2025**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
 of each month  
 8 am  
 Christo's  
 1462 W State Rd 2  
 La Porte



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Come in to learn... Go out to LIVE!  
 POWER TO TRANSFORM... GO OUT TO LIVE!


**You're invited to Adult Sunday School in the Parlor 9-9:30 with Pastor Sam & the Devotion Team sharing Scripture & Prayer**

**United Women in Faith**

**UWF is on winter break in Jan & Feb See you in March!**



United Women in Faith



**MEN'S BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP**


will meet on January 11 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall

**Spotlight On Our Pastor**

Over the past several years of being a part of the Administrative Board meetings, I've had the opportunity to hear the reports from all the committees and the report from the Pastor as well. I never cease to be impressed by the accomplishments of all the committees, and certainly no less the work of our Pastor who routinely relayed a fairly long list of his recent activities. Activities like leading adult Sunday School class each week, leading a bible study at Oak Wood on Monday mornings and another at our church on Tuesday evenings, calling on church members in the hospital, serving communion to residents of Oak Wood the first Thursday of each month, calling long-absent members or former members of the church and encouraging them to be a part of the congregation again, preparing and delivering sermons and the order of worship for the Sunday and the Wednesday services, counseling and preparing for the occasional wedding, baptism, or funeral, and actively participating in our healthy eating group, our committees, supportively working at fundraisers, preparing reports for Charge Conference and Annual Conference as well as attending those events, communicating with our upper church leadership...and so much more! In summary, I would have to say that our pastor has a work ethic and a zeal for the job that God has called him to do. Again, as God has done so many times before, we are richly blessed with an excellent pastor at Door Village. Thank you for all you do, Pastor Sam!  
 ~ George Morley, Lay Leader

*Thank you* Dear Door Village Church Family, Your love, support, and prayers during the most difficult time of our lives has meant so very much. The generous donations to VNA, assistance and donations at the family luncheon, a love offering, and much more were all so very helpful. The family luncheon was absolutely amazing. Special thanks to Cindy Fisher, Pastor Sam, Bev Warfield, Carolyn Eyrick, Dennis Fisher, Gina Johnson, and Marcia Spitzmesser for all they did to assist that day. We especially appreciate the support from Pastor Sam at both services. His wife Cindy was a wonderful support as well. Their love and support for our family meant so much to us. Thank you all again from the bottom of our hearts.  
 Love, *The Council Family*

**Our Healthier Eating group at DVUMC is reading the book "Spirit-Filled & Sugar-Free." All are welcome. Wednesdays at 11 am at church. Please contact Lana Fenstermaker for more info.**




**Salvation Army Food Pantry**

*Suggested items for January:*  
 Spaghetti Sauce  
 Pasta  
 Tuna or Canned Chicken  
 Pancake Mix (add water)



**Electronic Giving**

Offerings can be made from a mobile device or computer through a secure site by visiting our church website, [doorvillagechurch.org](http://doorvillagechurch.org), and clicking the electronic offering button:





**How to contact Pastor Sam:**  
 Email: pastoroorvillage@hotmail.com  
 Mobile: 812-380-1589  
 Office: 219-362-3812  
 Find him on Facebook

**DOORVILLAGE**  
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 3502 West Joliet Road  
 La Porte, IN 46350  
 www.doorvillageumc.org  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



|                           |                          |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01/03 Lauren Kirk         | 01/12 Katie Fenstermaker | 01/20 Jaclyn Heath      |
| 01/07 Marilyn Holman      | 01/14 Roy Lowery         | 01/21 Linda Kmita       |
| 01/07 Jacob Pointon       | 01/15 Mauvie Fagg        | 01/22 Sam Langford      |
| 01/07 Wyatt Pointon       | 01/17 Rebecca Eyrick     | 01/24 Liliana Bernacchi |
| 01/07 Brock Schable       | 01/17 Lindsay Koselke    | 01/26 Norma Jean Hiatt  |
| 01/08 Margaret Applegarth | 01/17 Ronalie Rice       | 01/28 Paul Lindeman     |
| 01/08 Blake Hindsley      | 01/19 Schasta Antrim     | 01/28 Joyce Marhanka    |
| 01/08 Elijah Voelker      | 01/19 Carla Marhanka     | 01/30 Nick Applegarth   |
| 01/08 Madeline Byvoets    | 01/20 Olivia Bernacchi   | 01/31 Jordan Marcum     |
| 01/11 Celeste Dysard      | 01/20 Connie Clougher    | 01/31 Paul Martin       |

# January Anniversaries

- 01/13 Charlotte & Marvin Hurt
- 01/28 John & Katrina Langford

