



# MONTHLY

January 2026

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCHUNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Merry Christmas!



Happy Epiphany!

## From the Pastor

Dear ones,

We are moving into a new year. I am sure that the possibilities of change, renewal, and even of things simply being the same have been on your mind, just as they have mine. There are things that I would like to see change and things that I hope will remain the same. I have often wanted to think of the new year—and even anniversaries—as artificial constructs created by the existence of a paper calendar and not something I should get too worked up about. For instance, my mother died on August 17th of 2008, but she doesn't die every year on that date.

Still, even if there were no calendars, existence on this planet would still mark the cycle. Designed into creation is the passing of seasons, the changing of everything from the branches of trees to the light that filters through them. Just yesterday I had the experience of battling the sun at an intersection where the sun is usually not a problem. I realized the sun only becomes a problem at that intersection during the winter months. So, even if there were no calendar, I would be reminded that time had passed simply by the angle of the sun.

And so it is. Time does pass. And time is marked. God promised it would be so for as long as the earth exists. After the great flood had subsided and his ark had landed on solid ground, Noah made an offering of thanks to the Lord God. You can read that story in Genesis 8:14-22. I want to call your attention to verse 22:

**As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.** (Genesis 8:22 NIV)

There will always be uncertainty in our world. As long as earth exists, seasons and times will change. Imperfect human beings will continue to create imperfect situations, and we will continue to experience both crisis and beauty— often at the same time. I imagine that Noah felt some of that uncertainty as he left the ark. Noah's reaction to that uncertainty was to remember God. Perhaps that would be a good course for us as well. Perhaps, as a new year begins, we should remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8 NIV)

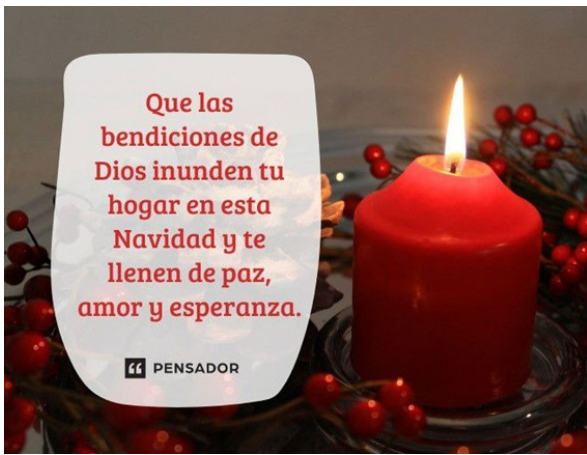
In our hymnal you may find a tool designed to assist you in making just such an offering in the face of an uncertain new year. It is called, "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition." With this prayer, you may offer yourself in service to God who promises to never leave you or forsake you.

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Have a most blessed New Year.

**Remember Christ!**

*Pastor David*



### Many blessings this Christmas season.

God bless your life and your family, that as we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, we may feel the wonderful presence of God that illuminates and transforms our own lives; God loves us so much that He gave His son and showed His love to humanity. Hallelujah!

A big embrace from Ecuador.

May you have a blessed Christmas season in your family, church, and community. May the New Year be one of great joy and hope.

Sara Flores and Dakin Cook

### FELIZ NAVIDAD Y UN AÑO NUEVO LLENO DE BENDICIONES.

Les agradecemos por su compañerismo y solidaridad en misión.

No hay mayor regalo que Jesús. Que su amor sea la estrella que ilumine tu camino esta Navidad y siempre.

Son los deseos de:

### IGLESIA EVANGELICA METODISTA UNIDA DEL ECUADOR

Merry Christmas

and a New Year full of blessings

We thank you for your partnership and solidarity in mission.

There is no greater gift than Jesus; may his love be the star that lights your way this Christmas and always.

These are the wishes of the:

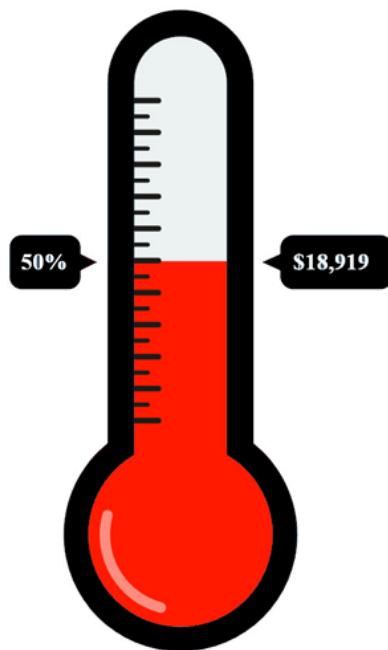
Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador

*Rev. Silvio Cevallos*  
Bishop IEMUE

*Rev. Carmen Castañeda*  
National Treasurer

*Sara Flores*  
UMC GBGM Missionary

**GOAL: \$38,000**



In addition to your regular giving, would you consider making a gift to offset the purchase of a new-to-us organ? If so, please mark your gift with the word "organ."

### Flower Calendar for 2026!

The yellow days are available for Sign-up! Please add your name to the poster on the church bulletin board outside the church office.

January	4	11	18	25	
February	1	8	15	22	
March	1	8	15	22	29
April	5	12	19	26	
May	3	10	17	24	31
June	7	14	21	28	
July	5	12	19	26	
August	2	9	16	23	30
September	6	13	20	27	
October	4	11	18	25	
November	1	8	15	22	29
December	6	13	20	27	

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <b>2-4 pm Fellowship Hall Rented</b> 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	<b>5</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 10 am Prayer Team <b>6:00 pm SPRC Meeting</b> 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>6</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School <b>6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</b> 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>7</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 CIA <b>6:00 pm Trustees</b> 6:00 pm Choir	<b>1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>8 am-12 LMA Gym</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	<b>12</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 10 am Prayer Team <b>2:00-5:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rented</b> 5-8 pm LMA Basketball 6:30 pm United Meth. Men Supper	<b>13</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>14</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 CIA 6:00 pm Choir	<b>15</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>16</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>17</b> <b>8 am-12 LMA Gym</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	<b>19</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>8-12 No MUMC Day School</b> 10 am Prayer Team 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>20</b> <b>Blood Drive</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>21</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 CIA <b>6:00 pm Finance</b> 6:00 pm Choir	<b>22</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>23</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>24</b> <b>8 am-12 LMA Gym</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Organ Dedication</b> <b>Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 pm Organ Reception in Fellowship Hall 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	<b>26</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 10 am Prayer Team 5-8 pm LMA Basketball 5:30 pm Myrle Strange Circle Meeting	<b>27</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>28</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 3:00 CIA	<b>29</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>30</b> 8-12 MUMC Day School 5-8 pm LMA Basketball	<b>31</b> <b>8 am-12 LMA Gym</b>



## January Birthday's

1/1 Jean Gamble, Ed Gamble  
1/3 Jean Prothro, Thomas Hensley  
1/5 Margaret Lee; Rebecca Gardner  
1/6 Kimbo Richardson  
1/10 Ann Cutter; Adelaide Ard  
1/14 Samantha McManus  
1/13 McKenzie Prothro  
1/15 Dawn Still  
1/18 Winston Hodge; Jane Powell  
1/21 Katheryn Ard  
1/22 Teresa Hensley  
1/30 Kathy Ward  
1/31 Bateman Brunson; Cagney Brunson, III

## January Anniversary

1/08—Marshall & Betty Black

**SPRC Meeting:** There will be a meeting of the **2026 SPRC** on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the library. Members are Joann Eaddy (Chair), Gayle Davis (Lay Leader), Carolyn Coffey (Lay Member of Annual Conference), Kass Varn, Rock Ouzts, Ed Gamble, Gene Barber, Scott Wannamaker, Venson Norris, Carolyn Chilton, and Greta Parker

**Church Council Meeting:** January 6, 2026, at 6:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Along with any other necessary business, we will receive any reports you wish to give from your ministry areas, elect a member to the Board of Trustees, and review and approve our 2026 budget.

**Trustees Meeting:** There will be a **Board of Trustees** meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm. Members are Joe Witt, Travis Brown, Robby Elmore, Sue Jordan, Gerri Danilowicz, Kathy Bryce, Eric Lochner, and Hal Lowder.

2025 Tithes & Offering		
Christmas Eve	Well Watered Min.	\$ 1, 290.00
Needed Year to Date		\$ <b>516,496.33</b>
Total Received YTD		\$ <b>387,795.61</b>
Overage or (Deficit)		\$ <b>(128,700.72)</b>

## **Memorial Gifts:**

**Rosella Dainels** given by: Carolyn & Woody Haynes, Sandra Brewer, Annette Browder.

**Jake Buddin** given by: Dianne & Buck Sprott, Cora & Venson Norris, Sena Gibson, Alan & Frankie Moore, Sherry & Billy McCombs, Sara & Bubba Wells, Billy & Frankie Geddings, Don & Lillian Holladay, Len Mathis, Carolyn Coffey, Kass Varn, Dawn & Rhett Still, Jan & Cliff Toner, Debra & Reid Mattison, Jeff, Michele & Sara Delmas, John & Marie Land, Lauri & Fuzzy Furse, Cleve Dowell, Sharon Cramer, AB & Sue Jordan, Alfred Breedin, Karen Myers, Michael & Lisa Burns, Jane & Tommy Benton, Woody & Carolyn Haynes, Jo Gamble, Shelia Vanscoy, Sandra Brewer, G.G. & Ann Cutter, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Brain & Kay Fox, Don & Helene Ellis, Winston & Genie Hodge, Chancel Choir, Carolyn & Ned Chilton, Camille Daniel, Susan Elmore, Harriet & Jimmy Holladay, Jonte Auction & Appraisal, John Mathis, Larry & Cindy McCord, Ted & Barbara Johnson, Mitch & Cathy Gardner, Cona Tyson, Sam & Linda Gamble, Lannes & Kay Prothro, Tommy & Margaret Cooper, Santee Summer Ministries, Daniels Hardware & Building Supply, Gene & Joan Barber, John & Marie Land.

**Tom Glans** given by: Jan & Cliff Toner, Billy & Betty Coffey, Garson Taylor, Sandra Brewer, Gene & Joan Barber.

**Dedee Clark** given by: Sara & Bubba Wells, Carolyn Coffey, Jan & Cliff Toner, Lauri & Fuzzy Furse, Sharon Cramer, Genie & Winston Hodge, Jo Gamble, Billy & Betty Coffey, Garson Taylor, AB & Sue Jordan, Michael & Lisa Burns, Sandra Brewer, Don & Helene Ellis, Chancel Choir, Camille Daniel, Tommy & Jane Benton, Harriet & Jimmy Holladay, Jim & Doris Daniel.

**O'Neil Ward** given by: Dot Stewart, Mary Edith Eaddy, Jan & Cliff Toner, Johanna Jones, Jackson Family, Annette Browder, Lauri & Fuzzy Furse, Susan Elmore, AB & Sue Jordan, Sandra Brewer, Mitch & Cathy Gardner, Cona Tyson.

**Rev. Debra Quilling Smith** given by: Carolyn Coffey, Lauri & Fuzzy Furse, Genie & Winston Hodge, Jo Gamble, Garson Taylor, Michael & Lisa Burns, Jane & Tommy Benton, Cona Tyson, Gene & Joan Barber.

**Bruce Gottheiner** given by: Sara & Bubba Wells, Lauri & Fuzzy Furse, Genie & Winston Hodge, Jo Gamble, Billy & Betty Coffey, Garson Taylor, Michael & Lisa Burns, Susan Elmore.

**Jerry Robertson** given by: Ann Kirven, Bubba & Sara Wells.

**Marvin Meistrell** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell.

**Lindy Brunson** given by: Genie & Winston Hodge, Billy & Betty Coffey, Garson Taylor, Susan Elmore.

**Brant Brown** given by: Genie & Winston Hodge, Garson Taylor.

**Pam McCabe** given by: Winston & Genie Hodge.

**Shirley Cogdill** given by: Genie & Winston Hodge, Billy & Betty Coffey.

**Bob Fleming** given by: Genie & Winston Hodge.

**Drew Taylor** given by: Billy & Betty Coffey, Winston & Genie Hodge, AB & Sue Jordan.

**J.H. Buster Johnson** given by: Brenda Thompson.

**Jerry Robertson** given by: Sara & Bubba Wells.

**Bobby Wilder** given by: Sara & Bubba Wells.

**Our Prayer List** Please remember the people below in your prayers. **This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.**

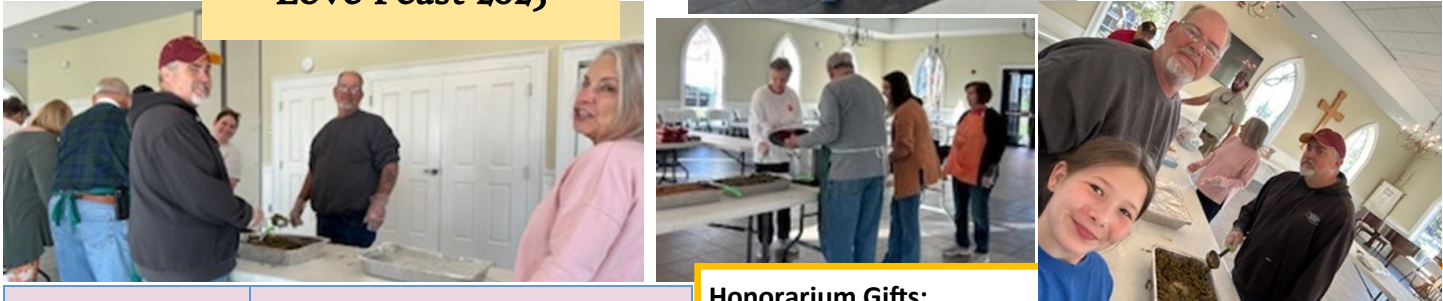
Carl Alewine	Ann Cutter	Family of Bruce Gottheiner	Sandra Murdough	Carrie Anna Strange
Tyson Bradshaw	Jim Daniel, Jr.	Brandon Herlong	Mark Newman	Barbara Schade
Virginia Brewer	Carol Gavin	Mary Howard	Warner Newman	Hallie Williamson Smith
Family of Jake Buddin	Artie Felder	Jaden Johnson	Venson Norris	Ken Vickery
Family of Paul Butler	Ed Gamble	Julie & Gerald Lockhart	Ricky & Tonna Phillips	Family of O'Neil Ward
Larry Cramer	Lisa Gibbons	Tommy Lowder	Linda Rodgers	Hollis Wilson
			Sandy Saxton	Rod Wilson

**Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military**, or who have limited mobility:**

Betty Black	Liz Denny	Margaret Lee
Joe Brewer	<b>Cameron Dodge</b>	Neal Mahoney
Isabelle Brown	William (Artie) Gamble	Joan Odom
George Clark	Woody Haynes	Helene Patnode
June Davis	Bo King	Margaret Robertson
	<b>Wilson Lepp</b>	Cliff Toner



**Love Feast 2025**



Date	Worship Attendance
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 56 Worship 10:30 am — 112</b>
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 42 Worship 10:30 am — 123</b>
<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 48 Worship 10:30 am — 108</b>
<b>Christmas Eve Dec. 24</b>	<b>Worship 10:30 am — 155</b>
<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>9:30 am Sunday School— 40 Worship 10:30 am — 83</b>

#### **Honorarium Gifts:**

**MUMC Congregation** given by: Cona Tyson  
**Church Staff** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Carolyn Meistrell** given by: Stan & Lu Nickell  
**Ashley & Lou Holladay** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Cathy Kennedy** given by: AB & Sue Jordan  
**Larry Carmer** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Neal Mahoney** given by: Sandra Brewer  
**Kass Varn** given by: Alfred Breedin  
**Sandra Brewer, Happy Birthday** given by: Susan Elmore  
**Cindy McInnis** given by: Jim Black



# The Back Page December 2025

