November 29, 2026
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW LENOX

Welcome! We're glad that you're here.
Please use the time before worship to prepare your heart and mind for being in the presence of God. The musical prelude is offered as a time of spiritual preparation

Please let us know you are here,
especially if you are new to worship with us!
Simply open your camera on your smart phone and aim it at the code below. Thank you!.

Stay in touch with UMCNL!

* Visit www.umcnl.com
* Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCNL
* Download the free UMCNL app for announcements, prayer requests,sermons, newsletters, online giving, and more.
* Subscribe on our website to get our monthly newsletter electronically and other e-mail updates.

ENTRANCE

Prelude & Processional
"Fugue in C Major" by Bach
(Karen Weirman)

Welcome & Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Prayer**
Gracious God, awaken our hearts to the promise of your coming. Remind us that we are a people who live in seasons of expectation. Christ has come, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again. Help us practice hope, peace, joy, and love in all aspects of our lives. Prepare our hearts, O God, for the coming of your Son. In the name of Jesus Christ, our coming King, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
#211, Vs. 1,2,4

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Advent Wreath Lighting

A Time Mostly for Children

Anthem
9:00 "Christmas Bells" (Celebration Bells)
11:00 "An Advent Alleluia" (Chancel Choir)

Moment of Silence and Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading Romans 5:1-5

Sermon: "Practicing Hope" Rev. Mark Meyers

THANKSGIVING

Moment of Gratitude and Generosity

Want to give electronically?
Please scan the code to give now!
Thank you!

Offertory
9:00 "The First Noel" (Celebration Bells)
11:00 "Alleluia for Advent" (Chancel Choir)

***Prayer of Dedication**
Faithful God, as we bring our gifts before you, we offer our time, our talents, and our treasures to build your Kingdom. May our giving be an expression of the hope, peace, joy, and love we seek to practice. May our generosity prepare the way for your kingdom and make your presence known in our community and throughout the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our coming King, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation to the Table
The Great Thanksgiving

SENDING FORTH

***Closing Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #196

***Benediction**

Recessional "Be Near Us Lord Jesus"
(To the tune of "Away In A Manger")

Postlude "Fanfare on St. Thomas" by Wagner
(Karen Weirman)

The flowers on the altar have been placed:

In Memory of our Church Family

Church Happenings

Coffee Hour Thank you Endowment/Finance for hosting our coffee hour today. Next Sunday will be hosted by Sarah Circle. Please join us if you can!

Advent Wreath Readers & Lighters We are looking for individuals/families to read a short reading and light the advent wreath starting on November 29th through Christmas Eve this year. Please put your family name in the date/times you are interested in. Please email Pastor Mark or the office for the link to sign up!

2026 Christmas Cantata Come one and all to our Christmas Cantata, "Sing We Noel" on Sunday, December 13 at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. The Chancel Choir presents this cantata with full orchestra in memory of Patricia Wakey by the Sue and Ann Wakey families.

Annual Church Conference Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Mark your calendar as we prepare for this meeting and tend to the necessary business of our congregation.

The Mitten Tree is Back! It's starting to get cold outside, and there are many children who do not have warm clothing. We are again collecting items to help keep them warm including new or gently used children's coats, hats, gloves, boots, PJ's, socks, and small blankets. We will distribute donations to six local shelters. Please bring donations and place on or under the mitten tree in the narthex any time during the month of December. Because of you, a child will be warm!

Sunday Email If you are not receiving a Sunday morning email for Wesley and wish to be added, please contact Pastor Wesley at wesley@umcnl.com. You'll receive an email each Sunday at 6:30 a.m. with the most current UMCNL information.

Thank You to all those who helped last month with our 5th Annual Potato Drop! Our church family and youth made the morning a success, distributing 39, 600 pounds of potatoes. Through the generosity of Hands of Hope, we also distributed miscellaneous boxes of food. This year we had 30 churches and government agencies participating! Thank you for making this day so special!

Get Involved

UMCNL Christmas Cookie Sale will be Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to bake and volunteer. For baking, we request festive cookies and at least 8 dozen of each type! We'll even have a judging contest with prizes! Cookies will be sold for $12 per pound with all proceeds going to local food pantries.

UMM Breakfast The LSD UMM will have their Annual Advent Breakfast here at UMCNL on Saturday December 12 with breakfast being served at 8:30 a.m. Our Advent Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. conducted by Rev. Mark Meyers.

The Hannah Circle Annual Christmas party will be at Beggars Pizza in New Lenox at 6:30 p.m. Friday, December 11. All women of the church are cordially invited! The cost is $20 per person. Please contact Jane Corradetti at 815-258-8304 or jcorradetti1@comcast.net by December 4 with questions and to RSVP. Come join us!

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Mission Trip The Midwest Mission trip for 2027 is scheduled for Sunday, February 7 - Thursday February 11th. Our team will leave from the church after the 9 a.m. service or whenever everyone is ready. For the last two years the women of the group have worked Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and heading home that evening. There is the opportunity to also work on Thursday/Friday if you would like to put in a full week. There is an informational meeting on Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the church for anyone who is interested in learning more! For additional questions or to sign up, please reach out to Teena at (815) 762-5668 or tjglazebrook0927@att.net

Our next **Friendship Group Luncheon Friendship Group** will be December 17 at Aurelio's Pizza at 9901 W. Lincoln Highway in Frankfort. The Sponsors are Mark Wieclaw and Jim Speicher. All 55 and older people are invited. The Sign-Up sheet is in the Narthex next to the name tags. We hope to see you there.

"Birthday in a Bag" Donations Please remember the "Birthday in a Bag" program! The following supplies are needed: box cake mixes, cans of frosting, candles, and 12 oz. cans of any type of soda, club soda, or sparkling water. The bags go to the New Lenox and Joliet food pantries. All items donated may be placed in the shopping cart in the narthex. Any donation is appreciated!

Youth

Youth Group Join us! UMCNL will host a weekly youth program for 7-12 grade students every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. We would love for you to join us! Keep in touch via email and text by texting JOINUYM to 84576 or connect online with us at unitedmethodistchurchofn.flocknote.com

Join Our New 11:00 Sunday School Team! (No Experience Needed) Want to make a difference in our kids' lives without missing the 11:00 service every week? We're looking for 5 caring adults to launch our new All-in-One Sunday School class (Kindergarten–4th grade) starting January 10th!

- Super flexible: Teach just once every 5 weeks (or team up in pairs!).
- Zero prep: All curriculum is provided—no teaching background required, just a willing heart.
- Great community: A fun, low-pressure way to meet new people at church.

Interested or have questions? Email Linda Haring at lharing15@gmail.com with subject of "11:00 Sunday School"

Contact Us/Prayer Requests

Would you like to connect with one of our Pastors? Please see the contact information below or you can scan one of the codes below using your smartphone to directly set an appointment. If you have a prayer request, please scan the prayer request code.

Would you like to be a part of our Prayer Chain Ministry by becoming a prayer warrior? Email office@umcnl.com to let us know your desire to be a part of this wonderful group! Prayer changes things! If you are interested in a paper copy, please let the office know.

Pastor Mark: Call/text: 815-587-3795; mark@umcnl.com
Pastor Wesley: Call/text: 630-708-2470; wesley@umcnl.com

Pastor Mark *Prayer Requests* *Pastor Wesley*