

December 24, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve



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!*



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ENTRANCE

Prelude Music performed by Susie Jasurda

Welcome, Announcements & Passing of the Peace

***Opening Prayer**

Glorious God, we praise you for all your blessings in our lives. We have come together despite our busy holiday schedules. We might not have everything ready at home, but we are here, because we need to be ready. Work in our hearts tonight, preparing us for your presence. Work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion; work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of your light. In faith and expectation, we pray. AMEN.

Opening Song Music performed by Youth Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Lighting of Advent Wreath [Burgess Family]

Reader: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light... the true light that shines on all people was coming into the world."

People: *Tonight we rejoice: God's promised light has come!*

Reader: In Jesus, God's Word made flesh, we behold grace, truth, and glory. The light we awaited now lives among us, guiding, healing, and saving.

People: *O Holy Light, shine in our hearts. Shine in our church. Shine in our world.*

Reader: This is the light of Christ. The light no darkness can overcome. The light that brings hope, peace, joy, and love. The light that saves the world.

A Time Mostly for Children

Mackenzie Burgess

Anthem Music performed by Celeste Choir

Pastoral and Lord's 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 "Gen Z Christmas"

Responsive Song Music performed by Youth Choir

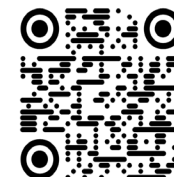
Sermon: "O Holy Light" Rev. Mark Meyers

Responsive Song Music performed by Celeste Choir

THANKSGIVING

Offering

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



Offering Music

Rebecca Stefanelli with Susie Jasurda

***Prayer of Dedication**

God, there are so many things to be thankful for tonight. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love, shown in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they bring light back into a world that needs hope, love, joy, and peace.

SENDING FORTH

Candlelight Service

***Closing Hymn** "Silent Night" UMH #239

***Benediction**

Postlude

Church Happenings

All Church Retreat Mark your calendar now for the All-Church Retreat on Saturday, January 11, 2026 from 9:00 to 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. We will spend some amazing time thinking about some big-picture items, addressing some of the changes that we have seen in the past year, and taking a look at our future and the ways that God might be calling us forward.

Memorial Ornament Please don't forget to take your loved one's ornament home with you. Thank you to Bonnie DuCharme for putting names of deceased loved ones on memorial ornaments.

The Mitten Tree is Back! It's starting to get cold outside, and there are many children who don't 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!

Regular Worship Service Join us on Sundays! We have our traditional worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. We also offer a much more relaxed experience of worship Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.

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 7:30 a.m. with the most current information related to happenings at UMCNL.

A Note about Winter Weather When there is an abundance of snow, ice wind or whatever, please be absolutely sure to exercise caution when making the decision to venture out to worship. It is our practice to meet for worship every Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. Even if the snow is blowing and the lights are out, we will still be here for service and we will also do our best to stream the 11:00 service.

Prayer Chain Ministry Would you like to be a part of our Prayer Chain Ministry by becoming a prayer warrior? Email business@umcnl.com to let us know your desire to be a part of this wonderful group! Prayer changes things; we will never know the impact our prayers will have on other lives, but we will know when that time in prayer begins to change us.

Get Involved

Midwest Mission Trip The trip for 2026 will be Sunday February 15th through Thursday February 19th. The opportunity to be the hands of God to provide products for those in need. We need to have a count of those going by January 15th, 2026. If you have interest please contact Teena Glazebrook at (815) 762-5668 or tjglazebrook097@att.net. This trip is an awesome experience of helping and getting to know your fellow volunteers.

2026 Bible Study It's not too late to join Pastor Wesley's 2026 Bible Study! Join him starting in January for this chronological bible reading, hosted live on Sunday evenings in person or via Zoom. Bibles are available for purchase, the cost is \$20. Please contact Pastor Wesley with any questions!

Friendship Group Our next Friendship Group Luncheon will be January 15, 2025 at Mo's Chinese Kitchen at 18062 Wolf Road in Mokena. The Sponsors are Chuck and Barb Lamar. All are invited 55+ to see you there. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex next to the name tags.

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study meets in the church chapel Friday mornings from 9:30- 11:00 a.m. New ladies are always welcome to join us!

Greeters Needed We are looking for greeters on Sundays! Please contact Joyce Korista at (815) 485-6879 if you can help!

Welcome Center Volunteers are needed on Sundays! If you are interested and/or have any questions, please contact Amanda Fox at amandaseverson1281@gmail.com

The Comfort Makers sewing group meets on various days throughout the year to make different projects for missions. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 22. They make comforters, backpacks and other items to be used throughout the world. You don't even have to know how to sew to join in the fellowship of this wonderful group of ladies. You can cut fabric or iron if sewing is not your forte. If you would like more information, please contact Judy McCune at jmcsews@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Shawl Ministry Our group meets on the fourth Monday of the month. If you knit or crochet, come join us for fellowship and mission. Yarn and patterns are provided. For more information, contact Beverly at (815) 514-6814.

Youth Updates

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

Joy Camp Winter Weekend The 3rd Annual Joy Camp Winter Weekend is January 2-4 at beautiful Camp Reynoldswood. Winter Weekend provides campers with all of the best aspects of JOY Camp, with a wintery twist! There will still be lots of time to worship together and to connect with friends, both new and old. If the weather cooperates, we will spend time playing in the snow, so pack accordingly! The cost of Winter Weekend is \$70.00. To register, go to www.joycamp.org, click on Registration, and select the Winter Registration form. Many of our UMCNL youth have gone in the past and had a wonderful time!



Contact Us/Prayer Requests

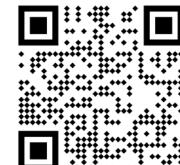
Would you like to connect with one of our Pastors? Please see the contact information below or you can scan one of the codes below using your smartphone to directly set an appointment. If you have a prayer request, please scan the prayer request code.

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

