

January 4, 2026

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday after Christmas**



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 & Processional

“Breath of Heaven” by Grant
(Pastor Mark Meyers, Clarinet)

Welcome & Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

Opening Hymn “We Three Kings” (#254, v. 1,4)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time Mostly for Children

Anthem “In The Bleak Midwinter”
(United In Hope)

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.

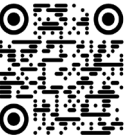
Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

Sermon: “Seeking a King” Rev. Mark Meyers

THANKSGIVING

Invitation/Confession

Moment of Gratitude and Generosity
Want to give electronically? Please scan the code to give now! Thank you!



Offertory “Go Tell It On The Mountain”
(United In Hope)

Doxology “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
(#95)

Prayer of Dedication

O Holy One, we make our offerings both in gratitude and in seeking; in both remembrance and hoping; in both fear and faith. Regardless of what is going on in our lives right now, receive these gifts as our way of praising you. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn “Joy to the World” (#246 v. 1,2)

Benediction

Recessional “Amen”

Postlude “O Come, All Ye Faithful” by Smith
(Karen Weirman)

Church Happenings

Coffee Hour Come and enjoy fellowship time between services! Thank you Trustees/Stewardship/Saturday Morning Class Meeting Group for hosting coffee hour today. Memorials/SPRC will host 1/11.

2026 Giving Envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex. If you don't have envelopes assigned to you and would like some, please email the office at office@umcnl.com

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.

All Church Retreat Mark your calendar now for the All-Church Retreat on Saturday, January 10, 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.

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.

Musicians Wanted Church Orchestra Sunday is on February 8th at both services. If you are interested in participating, please sign your name, instrument and email at the Welcome Center. There will be one rehearsal only on Wednesday evening, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you!

Prayer Chain Ministry Would you like to be a part of our Prayer Chain Ministry by becoming a prayer warrior? Email office@umcnl.com to join this wonderful group! Prayer changes things; we will never know the impact our prayers will have on others, but we will know when 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.

Friendship Group Our next Friendship Group Luncheon will be January 15, 2026 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

Funeral Luncheons Volunteers Did you know that UMCNL hosts luncheons after funerals? Do you want to help out with funeral luncheons, but aren't sure what you'd like to do? I am compiling a list of people willing to contribute a salad, small sandwiches, or desserts. If you are interested in helping with this, please email Linda Haring at lharing15@gmail.com to be added to our list of volunteers. In the subject line, please enter 'Funeral Luncheon Volunteer'. Let me know in your email what you would like to contribute, your name, and a phone number. You would receive a phone call a few days before a luncheon. Thank you for considering.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Our group will now meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We will next meet on Monday, January 26 at Beverly Deptolla's house, 125 Whisper Creek Drive. Please contact Beverly at (815) 514-6814 for more info!

Men's Study Group meets every Saturday at 7:00 a.m. in the lower level conference room and is led by Scott Creech. All men invited!

The Comfort Makers sewing group meets on various days throughout the year to make different projects for missions. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 22. They make comforters, backpacks and other items to be used throughout the world. Judy McCune heads this group and sets the meeting day/time in the Chapel. 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 at jmcsews@sbcglobal.net for the next chance to be a part of this group!

Youth Updates

Nursery is available today during the 9:00 service for children 3 months to 36 months. Please bring your child down before 9:15.

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

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.

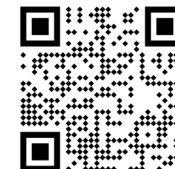
Pastor Mark: Call/text: 815-587-3795; mark@umcnl.com

Pastor Wesley: Call/text: 630-708-2470; wesley@umcnl.com

Pastor Mark



Prayer Requests



Pastor Wesley

