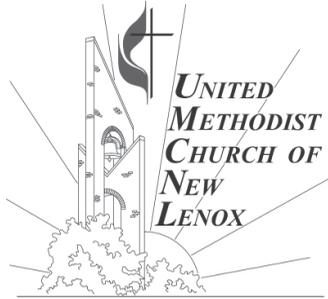


February 22, 2026

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

1st Sunday in Lent



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

9:00 Music performed by Celeste Choir

11:00 “The Lone, Wild Bird” by Lau
(Karen Weirman)

Welcome & Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Prayer**

Holy and Merciful God, You call us, again and again, to return — from our distractions to Your presence, from our fears to Your faithfulness, from our wandering to Your embrace. By your Holy Spirit, draw us back to you, where we find grace in our failures, and strength in our weakness. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
(#400)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time Mostly for Children

Anthem 9:00 Music performed by Celeste Choir

11:00 Music performed by Youth 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 Matthew 4:1-11, NRSV

Sermon: “Return to the Wilderness”
Rev. Wesley Dickson

THANKSGIVING

Moment of Gratitude and Generosity

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



Offertory 9:00 “The Lone, Wild Bird” by Lau
(Karen Weirman)

11:00 Music performed by Youth Choir

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious and Loving God, all that we have comes from You — our breath, our days, our resources, our hope. As we return these gifts to You, we offer our hearts, our hands, and our lives. Use what we bring to heal the broken, to lift the weary, and to proclaim the good news, so that all who wander can discover Your love. Receive us, O Lord, and make us new, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11 a.m.) See Insert

SENDING FORTH

***Closing Hymn** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
(#127)

Benediction

Recessional “Amen”

Postlude “Lead On O King Eternal” by Martin
(Karen Weirman)

****Communion will be available in the Chapel immediately following the service for those who wish to participate.**

The flowers on the altar have been placed by:

*Ron and Melinda Myotte, in memory of Ron’s dad
Robert Myotte and*

*Joyce Foutch, in memory of her mother,
Feliciano U. Dela Cruz*

Church Happenings

Coffee Hour Come and enjoy fellowship time between services! Thank you confirmation youth mentors/parents for hosting coffee hour today. VBS will host 3/1.

Easter Flowers for Sale Time to order flowers for Easter beauty! Tulips are \$17.50/plant; lilies are \$22.50. Last day for ordering is March 22, no orders will be accepted after this date. Flowers will be available to take home after any Easter service on April 5. Order forms are available from ushers or on the welcome center.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Join us after the 11:00 service on Sunday, March 15 for a free meal and delightful fellowship! You only need to bring yourself, we hope you can join us! Hosted by Michael Johnston, Joann Jeffers & Terri Novy. RSVP by signing up in the Narthex or texting Terri at (815) 370-3063.

Introduction to United Methodism We are pleased to announce our Spring Intro to United Methodism Class. This is a 4-week study that is open to our entire church, designed as an interactive way to learn a lot about United Methodism. This class is also the way that we receive those who desire to join the membership of The United Methodist Church of New Lenox. We will cover a little of our history, doctrine, theology, and membership vows. There is no cost to participate; simply contact Pastor Wesley (wesley@umcnl.com) so that we have enough materials for everyone. This Study will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning at 2:30 p.m. on March 15, March 22, March 29, and April 12. Those desiring to join the membership of UMCNL will be received during the service of their choice on Sunday, April 26.

Save the Date and Help Stamp Out Hunger Join us Saturday, March 14 for an evening of fellowship! This event will be a fundraiser by The UMM to help cover the cost for our 2026 Potato Drop. The buffet dinner is \$25/person and the concert is free, tickets will be sold during coffee hour or thru our office during normal office hours. The dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment by the United in Hope at 6:45 p.m. followed by the Alleluia Quartet at 7 p.m. There will be a “free will” offering at the end of the concert to help support our UMM 2026 Potato Drop. Please join us for a fun evening and a great cause!

Get Involved

Come and volunteer for the Easter Egg Hunt! Helpers are needed the morning of the hunt, March 28, as well as filling Easter eggs March 18 and 19 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Small, individually wrapped candy donations are appreciated. We fill over 10,000 eggs! A candy donation basket and volunteer sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this community event on our beautiful church grounds.

Sarah Circle will meet Friday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Joyce Spalla’s house in New Lenox. Bring a friend! Contact Teresa Randolph for more information. Call or text (773) 405-6233

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!

Save the Date! UMCNL Women’s Spring Retreat will be Saturday April 11 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Last year we had over 40 ladies attend! Retreat is held at our church with lunch provided. More details to follow. Hosted by Sarah Circle

Prayer Shawl Ministry Our group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Beverly Deptolla’s house, 125 Whisper Creek Drive. Please contact Beverly at (815) 514-6814 for info!

Friendship Group Our next Friendship Group Luncheon will be March 19 at 12 p.m. at Country Charm Restaurant at 101 Lincolnway Drive in New Lenox. The Sponsors are Ray Christiansen and Beverly Deptolla. All 55 and older are invited. See you there. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex next to the name tags.

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!

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

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.

Youth Updates

UMCNL Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. (Note this is the Saturday before Palm Sunday.) All children--toddlers through fifth grade--are invited to participate. The community is welcome. Bring your family and friends! We will meet in the sanctuary before the hunt. In case of rain, the hunt will be held inside the church. Donations of small, individually wrapped candies are welcome!

Scholarships The time for applying for scholarships is here! The criteria and application form for the scholarships are available by contacting Al Haring at haring1@sbcglobal.net. “Scholarship question” should be in the Subject line. High School seniors should cc their parents on all emails. Completed application forms for consideration will need to be returned to the church office by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

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.

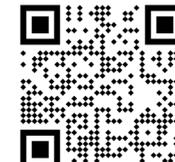
Pastor Mark: Call/text: 815-587-3795; mark@umcnl.com

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

Pastor Mark



Prayer Requests



Pastor Wesley

