

# Faith *news*

WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JANUARY 2024



## Attendance & Giving Report

October: \$7,100.35

November: \$8,955.35

December: \$9346.35 (excluding Dec 31)

\*includes online giving

Monthly expenses: \$10,500

(based off the 2024 projected budget)

Average weekly attendance: 53

(excludes Dec 31)

## Church Events

- **Jan 1 New Year's Day, office closed**
- **Jan 3 Confirmation 5:00**
- **Jan 9-24 Pastor Jeff will be on vacation**
- **Jan 10 Youth Group 6:30**
- **Jan 24 Youth Group 6:30**



For a safe and secure way to give online, scan code. For safety, you will need to create an account if it's your first time using.

## HELLO, 2024!

As we wrap up the year's most celebrated holiday month, our minds have already started racing ahead to the end of the year and the beginning of another. I see this mainly because I already have a 2024 diary, in which I have begun jotting down planned activities ahead of time.

Talking of a new year reminds us of opening a fresh chapter in a book, a chance to embrace new beginnings, opportunities, and aspirations. It also invites us to renewed hope, promise, and a sense of anticipation.

We all are taking different experiences and insights from the year 2023. However, the arrival of 2024 offers us a clean slate waiting to be painted or written upon with vibrant shades of new experiences, lessons, and achievements. As such, transitioning from one year to another is not just a change in the calendar; it is a momentous occasion overflowing with possibilities and new promises. It is a time to reflect on the past, acknowledge the challenges we overcame and lessons learned, and embrace the cherished memories with gratitude in our hearts.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we ought to embrace the profound promise in **Isaiah 43:19**: "*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*" These words resound with hope and renewal, reminding us that each new year brings the potential for remarkable transformation and fresh beginnings. Just as the changing seasons bring new life, this verse invites us to open our hearts to the possibility of change and growth.

Indeed, as we enter the new year, let us envision a world where kindness, empathy, and understanding thrive among us. Let's hold on to whatever change 2024 brings with open arms, knowing that each day offers a chance for growth because the Lord is doing a new thing, and may the living word of God serve as a guiding light in all we do, inspiring us to approach each day with a sense of wonder and anticipation. Let us have the courage to embrace the new things that await us, knowing that the potential for growth, joy, and blessings lies beyond our imagination.

**Happy New Year 2024 to You all!**

—Pastor Geoffrey



## Mary Bilsend —Parish Nurse

Suffering from post holiday blues? Find yourself at loose ends now that the holidays are over? You are at step one if you recognize this phenomena and step 2 is talk with someone verbally, not text, about it. Discuss with them the best things about their holidays and get into a positive conversation about that time.

Next, get out of the house. Meet the mailman and pick up your mail, go to the store and go thru the check out line and speak with the cashier, park your car farther away from the place you are going and walk a little further.

Reread your greeting cards or emails, you can read old letters or correspondence.

Get some exercise.. Maybe go for a walk or go to the gym or the Y.

Look forward, not backward. Pick one thing to do or accomplish. Have you had something you wanted to try or do? This is the opportunity for that.

Start cooking. Make something from scratch, try a new recipe or make that dish a new way. This may lead to sharing it with a friend or neighbor

If you watch TV, try to make it something not related to the holidays. We can now get Christmas movies all year long. This is not what you need if you are feeling the post holiday blues.

This may be the time to go on that day trip, visit a friend or family member that you are missing. Make it a positive experience. Go to a new place to eat in a neighboring town. A lot of the time, we just need to step out of that old place and experience a new thing.

May the new year find you listening to God and what he has in store for you. He always has some message for us. Sometimes we need to look for it. Open your mind, heart and being to the possibilities.



# January 2024



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Janet Snodgrass Curtis Rohrich	Matt Thompson Patty Camp	Bible Study 9:30 Confirmation 5:00	Donna Burr	Tyler & Rachel Lucas Joyce Miller	Rod Skeen
7 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00	8 Shad Smith	9 Pastor Jeff on vacation until the 24th Cole Arnett	10 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30	11	12	13 Arturo & Rachelle Valdez
14 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Amanda Arndt Jake Molczyk	15	16 Charles McLamb Maggie Brandt Jennifer Henrichs Jim & Kim Thompson	17 Bible Study 9:30 Ron Rickert	18 Wesley Duval	19 Allison McLamb Dylan Mayfield Christi Burnett	20 Noah Landanger
21 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Paisley Hayes	22 Nathan Burnett Susie Powell Casey Arndt Roxy Arndt	23 Cindy Howe Kent & Mona Luebs Nolan Molczyk Jane Clampitt Julie Burkhardt	24 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30 Mona Luebs	25 Pastor Jeff back in office Inez Rohrich Calvin Henrichs	26 Raynard Apfel Braeden Oster	27 Dave Reeder Jessica Rauer AJ Valdez
28 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Marilyn Denman Howard Jackson	29 Ryan Camp Jim Skeen	30 Bill Heise	31 Bible Study 9:30 Morgan Foltz George Mead Dave Sidders			

# New Year's Word Search

J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E  
F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H  
N E Y S E R T I E M O W B L C  
B S I L Y F A E N E I Y A E O  
N O C R N V N V E Y D L B N U  
A L D C L O C K L T I E Y D N  
R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T  
V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D  
G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O  
C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W  
R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N  
A J A N U E L V E I M K E R A  
Y P A R T Y H A A P Y S E V W  
N E W Y E A R C L O K S O R Y  
S H A P P Y E B A L L R E S O

BABY  
BALL  
CALENDAR  
CELEBRATION  
CLOCK  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
EVE

FAMILY  
FRIENDS  
HAPPY  
JANUARY  
MIDNIGHT  
NEW YEAR  
NOISEMAKER  
PARTY

RESOLUTION  
TOAST

