

# Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WOOD RIVER FIRST & ALDA  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — JANUARY 2025

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

*Renae Graham, President*

Rachel and Ruth Groups of UWF did not hold regular meetings in December. The two groups joined together for a Christmas Party on December 6 at the Vault in Cairo for lunch, followed by a Christmas Program presented by the officers.

The Unit Meeting was held on December 11 at the Wood River Senior Center. The annual cookie boxes were packed, followed by a short business meeting. The Youth Group met later the same day to help deliver the cookies. Thank you to everyone who helped with this ministry; donating cookies, packing the boxes, delivering cookies, and a special Thank You to the Senior Center for the use of their building.

There will be no Rachel, Ruth, Unit, or Sewing Circle meetings in January. Regular meetings will resume in February: Ruth Feb 3 @ Oasis; Rachel Feb 6 @ Oasis; Sewing Feb 20 @ Alda Church; Unit Feb 27 @ Oasis. Thank you so much to the Oasis for allowing us to meet in their facility for these meetings. We are so appreciative!

As the new year approaches, we are already busy working on our ministries for 2025. We wish everyone a very Happy New Year! God's Blessings to each of you!

## Church Events

- Jan 8 Worship Committee 6:00
- Jan 8 Admin Council 7:00
- Jan 15 Nominations Committee 6:00
- Jan 15 Youth Group 6:30
- Jan 29 Youth Group 6:30



# Pastor's Note: Manifestation (Epiphany)

Beloved in Christ,



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We are grateful to God for allowing us to see the light in this new year. The year 2024 has been full of events, surprises, tears and laughter, but we have managed to make it to 2025, bless the Lord for that. After Christmas, we celebrate Epiphany. This is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

During Epiphany, we remember the Magi who came down to celebrate the birth of the one who is supposed to overthrow the kingdoms, Christ, the Messiah. For us, this message is a sign of hope that we too are included and concerned by Christ. As the story goes, they brought the baby Jesus gifts of great value, probably gifts that not even his parents could have given him. This shows that even though we, as Gentiles, have been visited by God and

received revelation, Christ. We are also have things to offer. These Magi brought with them myrrh, frankincense and gold. In the same way, God sees in us gifts and talents that, if shared with the body of Christ, will be profitable. During this new year, let us manifest the precious gifts of love.

This year, let us be open to God manifesting Himself to us, and ready to welcome Him. We are equipped to achieve more than we can imagine. God manifested himself to us Gentiles because he already knew we had a place in the kingdom.

Verse to ponder on: "Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. "Isaiah 43:1"

**Pastor Rachel Nkonge**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are going to try something new this year for Birthday Sunday invites. Rather than sending out birthday cards each month to invite you to that particular Sunday, we will be emailing a virtual card with the invite.
- Birthday Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. If you have a birthday or anniversary in that month, come receive a special blessing!
- Pastor Rachel will now be taking Monday as her Sabbath starting Jan 6, 2025.
- Youth Group dates for 2025: Jan 15 & 29; Feb 12 & 26; March 12 & 26; April 9 & 23 at the Senior Center starting at 6:30. If you would like to volunteer to provide a meal for the meeting, you can contact Mel Frear, Anna Miller, Pastor Rachel or even the church office.

## Giving Report

### **WOOD RIVER**

Dec: \$9625

Nov: \$6989

Oct: \$7008

Average Weekly Attendance: 36

### **ALDA**

Dec: \$1441

Nov: \$762

Oct: \$608

Average Weekly Attendance: 10



WR: For safe and secure way to give online, scan code with smartphone. You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.

# January 2025



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			<b>1</b> New Year's Day  <b>Janet Snodgrass</b> <b>Curtis Rohrich</b>	<b>2</b>   <b>Matt Thompson</b> <b>Patty Camp</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>   <b>Donna Burr</b>
<b>5</b> Dual Worship @Alda 10:00  <b>Tyler &amp; Rachel</b> <b>Lucas</b> <b>Joyce Miller</b>	<b>6</b> Pastor Rachel's Sabbath  <b>Rod Skeen</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Study 9:30 Worship Cmte 6:00 Ad Council 7:00  <b>Shad Smith</b>	<b>9</b>   <b>Cole Arnett</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Dual Worship @Alda 10:00	<b>13</b> Pastor Rachel's Sabbath  <b>Arturo &amp;</b> <b>Rachelle Valdez</b>	<b>14</b>  Amanda Arndt	<b>15</b> Bible Study 9:30 Nominations Cmte 6:00 Youth Group 6:30	<b>16</b>  <b>Charles McLamb</b> <b>Maggie Brandt</b> Kim & Jim Thompson	<b>17</b>  <b>Ron Rickert</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Wesley Duval</b>
<b>19</b> Dual Worship @Alda 10:00  <b>Allison McLamb</b> <b>Dylan Mayfield</b> <b>Christi Burnett</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor Rachel's Sabbath  <b>Noah Landanger</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Paisley Hayes</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study 9:30  <b>Nathan Burnett</b> <b>Susie Powell</b> Roxy Arndt Casey Arndt	<b>23</b>  <b>Cindy Howe</b> <b>Kent &amp; Mona</b> <b>Luebs</b> Nolan Molczyk	<b>24</b>  <b>Mona Luebs</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Sue Uhrich</b>
<b>26</b> Dual Worship @Alda 10:00  <b>Raynard Apfel</b> <b>Braeden Oster</b>	<b>27</b> Pastor Rachel's Sabbath  <b>Dave Reeder</b> <b>Jessica Huston</b> <b>AJ Valdez</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Marilyn Denman</b> <b>Howard Jackson</b>	<b>29</b> Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30  <b>Ryan Camp</b> <b>Jim Skeen</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Bill Heise</b>	<b>31</b>  Morgan Foltz Dave Sidders	



# NEW YEAR'S EVE

## WORD SEARCH

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

BALLOONS  
CALENDAR  
CELEBRATE  
CHEERS  
CLOCK

CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
GOALS  
HAPPY  
JANUARY

MIDNIGHT  
NEW YEAR  
NOISEMAKER  
PARTY  
RESOLUTION

