

Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 2026

You're Invited!

If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of January, come receive a special blessing from Pastor Rachel and the congregation on January 11! We want to celebrate you!



Church Events

- Jan 7 Youth Group 6:30
- Jan 11 Communion Sunday
- Jan 11 Young Disciples Club 5:00
- Jan 21 Youth Group 6:30
- Jan 25 Young Disciples Club 5:00

The Manifestation



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In the life of the Church, January is marked by important moments of faith and reflection. One of the most significant is Epiphany, which will be celebrated this year on Sunday, January 4. After celebrating Christmas, we turn our attention, during Epiphany, to the Magi. These people, sometimes called the “three wise men,” traveled from afar to meet the newborn Savior, guided by a star.

The story of the Magi reminds us that there are stars that lead us to Jesus. Look around you and identify the people or opportunities that lead you back to Emmanuel. These stars can also represent all those who seek the truth with a sincere heart, even without having all the answers. We remember that the visit made possible by the star proclaims that Christ came for all nations and all peoples.

Epiphany commemorates the moment when Jesus revealed himself to the Gentiles, that is, to us. During this season, we celebrate God's universal love and the extension of salvation beyond borders, cultures, and expectations. In this sense, Epiphany invites us to recognize Christ revealed in unexpected places and among unexpected people.

As we move forward, we officially set aside the Christmas season, but we do not forget its message. The light of Christ continues to shine, calling us to follow him, just as the Magi did. The month of January invites us to ask ourselves: What stars is God placing in our lives today? And are we ready to follow the direction they point us?

Happy New Year 2026!!
May the Lord our Savior see us throughout this year!
Blessings,
Pastor Rachel



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

one brought a side of her choice. We were so happy to be able to celebrate our first Christmas back in our home!

The unit meeting was held December 17. Following a short business meeting and a Christmas lesson, Barb once again prepared soup for the ladies. Those attending helped pack Cookie Boxes. The youth helped with delivery of the cookies during their gathering time later in the day. Thank you to all of you who donated cookies and helped with delivery. A special thank you to Larry's Market in Shelton for the fruit for the boxes, and a 'shout out' to the youth and their sponsors for not only helping with delivery, but also for baking cookies! God's blessings to all of you!

Please Note: There will be no Ruth, Rachel, Unit, or Sewing circle meetings in January. We will return to our regular schedule in February: Ruth 2/2 @ 1:30; Rachel 2/5 @ 1:30; Sewing 2/19 @ 9:30 and Unit 2/26 @ 1:30. Please mark your calendars.

Renae Graham, President



HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH WARM AND WELCOMING!

The Church needs to raise \$87,000 by March 2, 2026 to cover the cost of replacing seven unsafe furnaces after the gas explosion across the street. Thanks to Jerry's Sheet Metal Heating and Cooling, the new furnaces are already installed - we just need your help to pay for them! The fund-raising campaign is going well so far, thank you!



Every gift matters, and if we reach **40 distinct donors**, we'll unlock a **\$25,000 challenge grant!** **We already have 22 donors - can you help us get to 40?** Give today by dropping off a check during service, mail it to the church and mark your check "Furnace", or use the QR code to give online to the Furnace fund. If we raise more than is needed, we plan to make some repairs to the bathrooms as well.

Together, let's keep our church warm and welcoming!



For online giving, scan code or visit <https://woodriverumc.churchtrac.com/give/154>

You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.

Check out the progress so far! As of 12/30/25 we have received \$32,000!

GOAL: \$87,000



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January 2026



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 New Year's Day Office Closed Janet Snodgrass Curtis Rohrich	2 Matt Thompson Patty Camp	3
4 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Donna Burr	5 Tyler & Rachel Lucas Joyce Miller	6 Rod Skeen	7 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30 Shad Smith	8	9 Cole Arnett	10
11 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples Club 5:00	12	13 Arturo & Rachelle Valdez	14 Bible Study 9:30 Amanda Arndt	15	16 Charles McLamb Maggie Brandt	17 Ron Rickert
18 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Wesley Duval	19 Allison Kunze Dylan Mayfield Christi Burnett	20 Noah Landanger	21 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30 Nathan Burnett Susie Powell Casey Arndt Roxy Arndt	22	23 Cindy Howe Kent & Mona Luebs	24 Mona Luebs
25 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples Club 5:00 Sue Uhrich	26 Raynard Apfel Braeden Oster	27 Dave Reeder Jessica Huston Aj Valdez	28 Bible Study 9:30 Marilyn Denman	29 Ryan Camp Jim Skeen	30 Bill Heise	31 Morgan Foltz Dave Sidders

Announcements

- Thank you to everyone who participated again in this year's Advent readings on our Facebook page, and thank you for blessing all those who watched the videos online with your readings.
- Reminder, there are no Ruth, Rachel, Sewing Circles or UWF this month.
- Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 9:30. Coffee, rolls and fellowship with a bible lesson or a book study. Everyone welcome!

Giving Report

Dec: \$10,005

Nov: \$13,177

Oct: \$6,770

Average weekly attendance: 34



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