



**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**204 Horn Street**  
**Brillion, WI 54110-1508**

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January 2025

**Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob, Pastor**  
**Faith United Methodist Church**

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**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday—8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Friday—Closed



**WE DON'T CHANGE THE MESSAGE, THE MESSAGE CHANGES US**

*"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold." Job 23:10*

Dear Faith Church Family,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I greet you with love, gratitude, and hope. I find my heart profoundly touched by the abundance of love you have shown through your thoughtful cards and heartfelt gifts. Thank you for sharing your love so generously- it means more than words can express. Each January invites us to reflect on the road we have traveled and anticipate the path ahead. While this transition may stir many emotions, we find our stability in the unchanging God, who declares, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End"* (Revelation 22:13).



Unlike the mythological Janus, who looks both forward and backward, our gaze rests on Jesus Christ, who holds the keys of life and death (Revelation 1:18). Our hope is not in cycles or chance but in the One who *"is the same yesterday, today, and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8).

Together, let us reflect on God's faithfulness, celebrate our fellowship, and resolve to deepen our commitment to His purposes in the year ahead.

**A Year of Faithful Service and Fellowship**

Before looking forward, let us give thanks for the blessings of the past year and honor the faithful service of our congregation. First, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Megan Ourada for her dedication as Chair of the Administration Council. Her devoted service has been a blessing to our church. As we welcome Darron Lattomus into this vital role, let us pray for God's wisdom to guide him. Likewise, we thank Dawn Michael and Earl Herring for their loyal service on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Their efforts have strengthened our congregation. We now welcome Jodi Haese and Kyle Woolgar to carry forward this important ministry, trusting God to equip them for the journey ahead.

This past Christmas season was a beautiful testimony to the love, creativity, and unity of our church family. The Sunday School Pageant, *"The ABC's of Christmas,"* was a joyful celebration of the gospel story. My heartfelt thanks to Kathy, Alissa, Jennifer, and Terri for their tireless efforts behind the scenes. Alissa's performance on the Clavinova added an inspiring touch to the pageant.

The Candlelight Christmas offered us a space for oneness and fellowship. John Gulley, our emcee, guided the evening with much warmth. Traditional decorations - the wreaths, garlands, nativity scene, and Christmas trees created a visual reminder of the sacredness of the season. At the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, the simple yet profound act of passing the Christ Candle from person to person, symbolizing the light of Christ, was a moment of spiritual beauty that reminded us of the words of Jesus: *"Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

On the final Sunday of the year, our hearts gathered as one to reflect on the unfailing faithfulness of our God. Together, we shared stories of His incredible works - prayers answered in perfect timing, provisions that arrived like streams in a desert, and sacred moments where His presence was undeniably near. Jim and Sharon Kresl bore witness to God's grace through Laura's journey, and the Rukamp family celebrated the miraculous gift of Teagan's life. As a congregation, we lifted prayers for Harlin Fischer and for Lynn Gauger as she prepares for surgery, knowing our God hears every plea. Our hearts rejoiced as we recounted God's steadfast faithfulness in the lives of Dennis Rusch and Judy Ott, and we honored the light and legacy of those who have gone before us. Candles glowed softly in tribute to the cherished memories of Sandy Belanger, Norman Ott, and Carol Koerth. Their lives remind us of the rich, godly heritage we have inherited and inspire us to leave behind a legacy of faith for generations to come.

## Looking Back and Pressing Forward in Faith

As we reflect on the past year, we may find ourselves meditating on both victories and challenges.



Scripture encourages this rhythm of reflection and renewal. The Apostle Paul writes in *Philippians 3:13–14*: “*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*” Paul’s humility serves as a model for us. Despite his profound faith and service, he recognized that he had not yet “arrived.” Similarly, we are all works in progress, shaped by the loving hands of our Creator. Augustine of Hippo echoes this truth in his *Confessions*, writing, “*You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*”<sup>1</sup>

If you carry the weight of past mistakes, hear the good news of *Psalms 103:12*: “*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*” God’s grace offers a fresh start, not only for a new year but for each new day. If you experienced victories, give thanks, but do not linger there. God’s mercies are new every morning (*Lamentations 3:23*), and He has prepared new works for us to do (*Ephesians 2:10*).

### A Call to Spiritual Renewal

As we begin this year, I encourage you to pursue spiritual growth with intentionality. While resolutions to improve health or habits are valuable, let us prioritize drawing closer to God through prayer, Scripture, and worship. The Christian life, as Tertullian observed, is a battlefield where faith is refined and strengthened.<sup>3</sup> Like gold refined in fire (*1 Peter 1:7*), our faith grows through perseverance. Jesus Himself promised, “*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (*Matthew 28:20*). This assurance reminds us that we are not alone on this journey.

### Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

Faith Church family, as we navigate this new year, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, “*the author and perfecter of our faith*” (*Hebrews 12:2*). G.K. Chesterton insightfully remarked, “*The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but that we should have a new soul.*”<sup>4</sup> Let this year be marked by transformation, not in the changing of calendars but in the renewal of our hearts and minds. Paul assures us in *Philippians 1:6*: “*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*” This promise anchors us in hope and calls us to trust the One who holds the future.

### A Prayer for the Journey Ahead

As we embark on this new year, my prayer for you comes from *Ephesians 3:17–19*:

*“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”*

May this year be filled with grace, guided by His Word, and overflowing with love. Together, let us press on, trusting in the One who is faithful to complete the good work He has begun in us.

With much love and fervent prayers,

Rev. Dr. Wesley Jacob



### Endnotes

1. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), 3.
2. John Stott, *Basic Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008), 21.
3. Tertullian, *Apologeticus pro Christianis*, ed. Timothy David Barnes (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971), 27.
4. G.K. Chesterton, *The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton, Vol. 2* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1987), 116.

## Those Who Serve Us

### Communion Sunday, January 5

Communion Steward - Kathy Brockmann  
 Greeter - Florence Behnke  
 Acolytes - Charli Lattomus & Parent  
 Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp  
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus  
 Counters - Team 3

### Casual Sunday, January 12

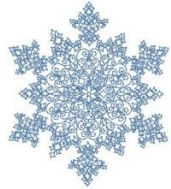
Greeter - Jennifer Gulley  
 Acolytes - Emily Horn & Parent  
 Children's Message -  
 Counters - Team 4

### Adult Choir/Food Pantry Sunday, January 19

Greeter - Dennis & Sue Rusch  
 Acolytes - Logan Woolgar & Parent  
 Liturgist - John Gulley  
 Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp  
 Children's Message - Kathy Brockmann  
 Counters - Team 5

### Children's Choir Sunday, January 26

Greeter - Arlan Behnke  
 Acolytes - Sharon Kresl & Lynn Gauger  
 Liturgist - Darron Lattomus  
 Song Leader - Amy Riemer-Hermans  
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus  
 Counters - Team 6



## *January Birthdays*

1/2	Linda Krause	1/17	Robert Popp
1/3	Rebecca Tiffany	1/19	Alexa Calaway
1/6	Sarah Cook	1/19	Cyril Clavers
1/6	Alissa Popp	1/19	Colleen McConnell
1/8	Irena Gallagher	1/24	Jeremy Kiekhaefer
1/8	Sandi Pingel	1/24	Laura Larsen
1/11	Adam Juckem	1/25	Jennifer Gulley
1/11	Doug Lemke	1/26	Sandra Clark
1/11	Jordan Lemke	1/26	Carly Schoen
1/13	Cheryl Kuchenbecker	1/27	Lynda Ott
1/14	Garnett Stebane	1/28	Logan Woolgar
1/15	Jim Kresl	1/30	Nick Miller
1/15	Christopher McConnell	1/31	Brianna Zelten
1/15	Brenda Seckel		



## OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, January 19, 2025, there will be an 'Open House' immediately following the service at the parsonage, hosted by Faith Women. We invite you to save the date for this special opportunity to explore our parsonage, enjoy fellowship with Pastors Wesley and Liz, connect with members of our church family, and deepen our sense of community together.



# ***Winter Warm-Up Fest***

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**

**at Brillion Faith United Methodist Church**



**Polka Worship Service at 10:00 am**

**Featuring the Bob Kuether Legacy Band**

**Lunch 11:15 am to 12:30 pm**

**“MOM’S” Famous Chicken Dumpling Soup, Chili,  
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Homemade Desserts**

**Over 100 Silent Auction Baskets**

**Bidding closes at 12:45 pm  
Winners announced at 1:00 pm**

**Bake Sale  
Specialty Popcorn Sale**

**Tickets are available from church members and at the door:**

**Adults \$10**

**Ages 5 to 12—\$5**



**Ages 4 & under—Free**

**Proceeds support church missions and ministries. For more info: 756-2717**

**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative and Ministry Teams-2025**  
**Report of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee**

**Administrative Officers**

<b>Pastor</b>	Wesley Jacob
<b>Church Council Chair</b>	Darron Lattomus
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Cindy VanHandel
<b>Lay Member to Annual Conference (2025)</b>	Clarence Harms
<b>Recording Secretary for Church Council</b>	Alissa Popp
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jennifer Gulley
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Sharon Kresl
<b>Asst. Financial Secretary</b>	Joie Cunningham
<b>Youth Representative</b>	Serena Vasko

**MINISTRY IN ACTION**

**Christian Education**

Pastor Wesley Jacob  
Jennifer Gulley, Judy Stebane

**Hospitality and Membership**

Pastor Wesley Jacob  
Holly Vasko – Chair, Bev Riemer, Judy Ott, Joyce Behnke,  
Janis Stebane, Barb Boettcher, and Florence Behnke

**Mission and Outreach**

Pastor Wesley Jacob  
Lynn Gauger – Chair, Jill Blauert, Dennis Kiekhaefer, Jean Kiekhaefer,  
Clarence Harms, Laura Larsen, Melissa Lattomus, Alissa Behnke,  
Kathy Brockmann, and Florence Behnke

**Worship Committee**

Pastor Wesley Jacob  
Alissa Popp – co-chair, Kathy Brockmann – co-chair, Terri Belanger, Barb Brockmann,  
Sue Rusch, Joyce Behnke, John Gulley, Mitchell VanHandel, and Holly Vasko

**Church History**

Joie Cunningham – Chair, Dean Wallace, Pat Wallace, and Earl Herring

**Audit Committee**

Dennis Rusch – Chair, Sandi Pingel, Bev Riemer

Continued on next page

**Endowment Fund Management Board**

Orvis Genske – Chair, Sharon Kresl, Jamie Kilgas, Bob Stebane,  
Jerome Fischer, and Jim Kresl

**ADMINISTRATION OF OUR CHURCH**

**Church Council**

The Church Council consists of all members elected to ministry teams or administrative committees and Church Conference.

It is expected that Committee Chairpersons and Ministry Team Leaders attend and report the work of the team at Church Council meetings.

**Finance/Stewardship Committee**

Pastor Wesley Jacob

Jennifer Gulley, Treasurer

Sharon Kresl, Financial Secretary

Cindy VanHandel, Lay Leader

Clarence Harms, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Judy Stebane, SPRC Rep.

Jerome Fischer, Trustee Rep.

CHAIR, Bob Stebane, at-large

Darron Lattomus, Church Council Chair

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)**

Cindy Van Handel – Lay Leader

Pastor Wesley Jacob

**Class of 2025**

Amy Genske

Shelby Edinger

Melissa Lattomus

**Class of 2026**

Judy Stebane, Chair

Tracey Levash

**Class of 2027**

Jodi Haese

Kyle Woolgar

Kathy Brockmann

**A very special ‘Thank You’ to  
Laura Larsen** for making all of the  
treat bags for our Sunday School  
Christmas Program! The kids (and  
some adults) were very happy to  
receive them after the program.



*Thank you to  
Terri and Bob Belanger  
for the donation of  
new pew cushions  
in the sanctuary in memory of  
Sandy Belanger.*



Thank you to Collins State Bank-Collins branch for selecting Faith UMC to be the recipient of their "Banks-giving" campaign. We received many grocery items to be used for our Food Bank donation, Giving Box, and Free Community Meal, along with a check for \$195 for Missions & Outreach. The donation is greatly appreciated!

## Candlelight Christmas



On December 8, 2024 we celebrated our annual Candlelight Christmas. It was a special time filled with music, friends, family, and peace to begin the Christmas season.



## PUSH



On Sunday, December 15, 2024, PUSH had a Cake War! The youth battled and created wonderfully decorated cakes.





# Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you to all who helped, participated, and made sure the kids got to rehearsals! You all did a wonderful job!

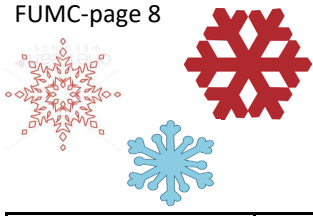


## Christmas Eve






for unto you is  
born this day  
in the city of David  
a Savior,  
which is  
Christ the  
Lord Luke 2:11





# January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Sunday 10:00 am.	SPRC Mtg 6:00			Finance Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council 6:30 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Casual Sunday 10:00 am  Coffee Hour Returns	CORR Meeting 1:00 at the Parsonage	Free Community Meal 4:30-6:00 pm	Faith Women 6:00 pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Adult Choir and Food Pantry Sunday Worship 10:00 am	Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm			Mission Committee Meeting 6:30 pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Children's Choir Sunday Worship 10:00 am						

*Offering Envelopes*

**If you have not picked up your offering envelopes yet they will now be placed in your Church mailbox. If any questions or concerns about your envelopes please talk to Jennifer and Joie in the office, 920-756-2717.**