

Spirit Connection

FEBRUARY 2026

NLRFUMC

2.4.26



A Note from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Sara:

In the allotted space for each monthly article, and in the reality of rapidly changing communication styles, I'm delighted to share that going forward for this year, the article from the Senior Pastor will be a brief list of five things, including four things to know and one thing to grow!

Four things to KNOW about NLRFUMC this month:

1. Save the Date and invite a friend to join in the fun of Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show– Tuesday Feb. 17 at 5:30 p.m.!
1. Prepare to observe a holy Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18. We have services at 12 noon in the Chapel and at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with childcare available.
1. Consider this Lenten challenge: **how can you help your faith community in the 40 days of Lent?**
1. Check out how the winter weather looked on our campus with this photo from the full moon "SNOW MOON" on Feb. 1



In this newsletter you can find:

January Photo Recap

Ministry Updates & Looking Ahead

First Kids & Youth

Missions Ministries

Music Notes

CEC News



¹² "Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping,
and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment."

Joel 2: 12-13 NRSV

January Ministry Memories



January Ministry Memories: Christ the King Baptismal Sunday, Missions Team and guests serve at Canvas Community on MLK Jr. Day, Church Staff Annual Epiphany Lunch, UWFaith Craft Window display, Annie Eubanks and Bebe Walton speaking on stewardship and what it means to them, the wintery campus, Rev. Sara and our church providing meals for 200 at the NLR Warming Center.

Church News & Happenings



February 18, 2026

North Little Rock
First United Methodist Church

All are Welcome!

Ash WEDNESDAY

12 noon Chapel Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Worship and Online

"Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return"



Coming Soon!

TALENT SHOW

Shrove Tuesday | 2.17.26



United Women in Faith

Come buy some cookies on
Sun., Feb. 8 • 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

UWFAITH COOKIE STROLL

If you want to bring cookies or bars, please have them
labeled if they contain nuts and package 3 cookies per bag!
Cookie drop off is Feb. 7 from 1-3 p.m. at the church. Thank you!

Stewardship Moment:

I have a quick question for you: What is your vision for our church? Imagine that vision becoming a reality. You see people actively involved in making it a success, and the work of the Lord meeting the needs of the least, the last, and the lost. What barriers must be overcome to bring this to fruition?

Your Stewardship Committee is working hard to open doors that reflect our call to be Christlike. However, a vision only become a reality when we personally invest our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Stewardship is your invitation to evaluate how you will participate in the future visions of our church.

-Bebe Walton, Lay Leader

Ash Wednesday Worship Service Opportunities: Feb. 18th at 12 noon in the Chapel & 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary & live streamed.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During the time of worship, Rev. Sara will impose ashes either on your forehead or hand as sign of our humanity, mortality, and the repenting of our sins.

Talent Show and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal: Feb., 17, 2026

The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and the show will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have a talent you'd like to share with us, please let us know! To sign up, scan the QR Code.



North Little Rock
First United Methodist Church

Heart and Soul Care: Sandplay for Adults

Led by Jodie Goens, MA and Spiritual
Director in Residence

Feb. 10 - 1-2 p.m. or 6-7 p.m.
(Spiritual Direction Room # 211)

A \$10 love offering is suggested.



“...for God loves
a cheerful
giver.”
-2 Corinthians 9:7

Financial Review Corner: Giving for December:

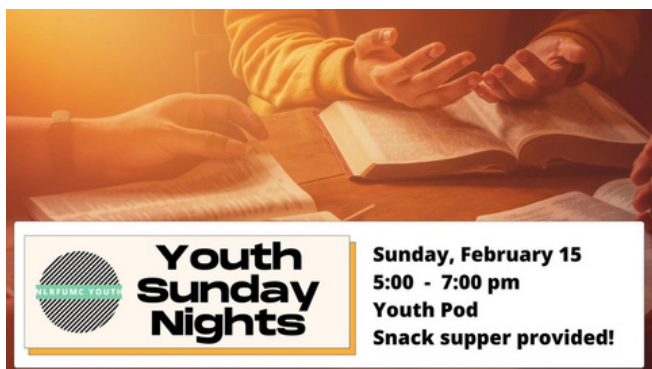
\$66,696

December Expenses:

\$80,043

David Martin: dmartin@nlrfumc.org

First Kids and Youth



Schedule For First Kids & Youth:

Sunday School 10 a.m. each Sunday Morning

First Kids & Youth Wednesday Nights:

Wednesday, February 4 & 11. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

First Kids on the First: Movie Night

Sunday, February 8, 4-6:30 p.m. (Kids Pod)

We will watch **How to Train Your Dragon**.

Football Party: Sunday, February 8, 5 p.m.

Youth Pod.

We will be watching the big game together! Bring a snack to share.

Confirmation Guardian Meeting: Sunday,

February 15. 4:30 p.m. Parlor.

Confirmation & Youth Sunday Nights:

Sunday, February 15 & 22*. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Parlor & Youth Pod.

First Kids Bible Boot Camp: Feb. 21, 2026,

8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Ferncliff

Central District Unite has been rescheduled

for Sunday, February 22, 4:15 - 7:30 p.m. from

NLRFUMC! Actual event will be at Cabot UMC.

Confirmation that night TBD.

Veritas: February 27 - March 1.

Registration closed.



Confirmation 2026

For us at NLRFUMC, confirmation is a time to learn more about the Christian faith and specifically what it means to be United Methodist. Youth learn how to become leaders in our congregation and to step into the fullness of their membership vows.

These vows have four parts:

- (1) to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- (2) to believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments;
- (3) to support The United Methodist Church; and
- (4) to uphold the local congregation with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

It is a time to be baptized for those who have not been already, and it is a time to remember their baptism for those who have.

We are excited to offer the following stepping stones in their journey of faith and look forward to your confirmand spending their time being disciplined.



For 2026, all youth who have not yet gone through confirmation are invited to participate. This age range includes 6th - 12th grades. There will be other youth Sunday night programming for those who choose not to participate.

Please respond to Pastor Kathy to confirm your youth's participation in confirmation. The link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/s6RYjBJG3pS5jQqr5>. The deadline is Sunday, February 8.

NLRFUMC Missions



Missions Collections for February:

Gardner Food Pantry: rice and jelly

Canvas Community: warm blankets, scarves, hats, and gloves, men's white crew cotton socks.

Dates to know:

Feb.. 16th: Missions Serve at Canvas Community (Meet at the church at 4 p.m. to carpool).

Feb. 22nd: 4 p.m. Missions Team Meeting (Parlor)

Interested in joining the Missions Team?

Contact Rita Newman,

rnewman1010@comcast.net



Music Notes:

Music events in February include the Chancel Choir singing at the 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday Sanctuary service and the Faith Ringers participating in the Arkansas Handbell Musicians of America State Festival at Highland Valley UMC on Saturday, February 28. As always, we'd love for you to join us in one of our music ministry opportunities! If you'd like to know more, contact Timothy Tucker, ttucker@nlrfumc.org.



C.E.C.: Children's Enrichment Center

Children's Enrichment Center-North
Little Rock First United Methodist Church

We are hiring!

Call: (501) 835-2903

or email Melissa Baddar:
mbaddar@nlrfumc.org

Important CEC December Dates:

Feb. 6 | Parents' Night Out

Feb. 12 | CEC closes early for Parent/Teacher Conferences starting at 2 p.m.

Feb. 13 | 2 p.m. Valentine's Day Classroom Parties

Save the Dates:

March 2-6: Dr. Seuss Week

March 12: Spring Picture Day

Parents' Night Out

Friday, Feb. 6th
6 - 10 PM

\$20 per child and \$10 for each additional child.
Payment is needed in exact cash amount.
Please have your child eat dinner beforehand.

**C.E.C.'s
Valentine's Day
Classroom Parties**

**2-3 p.m.
Feb. 13**

Connect with us:

Rev. Sara Bayles Charlton, Senior Pastor: pastorsara@nlrfumc.org

Rev. Kathy Butler, Youth Pastor & Associate Pastor of Worship Arts & Innovation: kbutler@nlrfumc.org

Brent Higdem, Minister of Congregational Care & Nurture: bhigdem@nlrfumc.org

Megan Hairston, Minister of Children and Families: mhairston@nlrfumc.org

Laura Turner, Minister of Communications & Connection: lturner@nlrfumc.org

David Martin, Minister of Operations & Ministry Engagement: dmartin@nlrfumc.org

Mary Beth Clark, Office Assistant: mbethclark@nlrfumc.org

Melissa Baddar, Director of CEC: mbaddar@nlrfumc.org

Linda Kennedy, organist: pianolk@aol.com

Tim Tucker, Minister of Music and Worship Arts: ttucker@nlrfumc.org

Aiden Tucker, Audio & Visual Technical Ministry: atucker@nlrfumc.org

Prayer Ministry / Prayer Chain: prayer@nlrfumc.org

Jodie Goens, Spiritual Director in Residence: jodiegoens@att.net

NLRFUMC	501-835-2201
www.nlrfumc.org	6701 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116