



Gouverneur First United Methodist Church
34 Grove Street
P.O. Box 157
Gouverneur, New York 13642-0157
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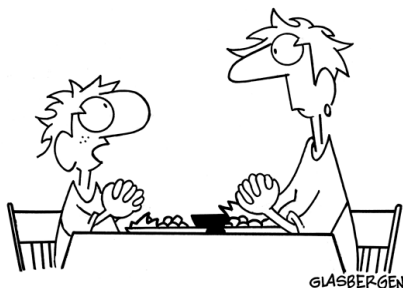
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Meet Jesus~Follow Jesus~Serve Jesus
Love Boldly~Serve Joyfully~Lead Courageously

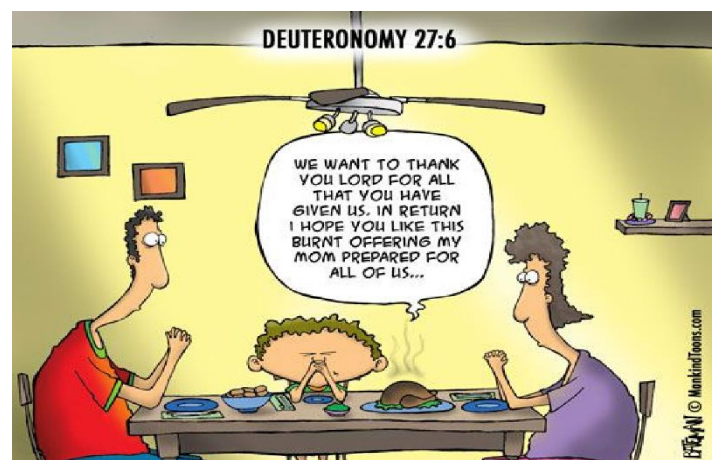
First UMC of Gouverneur Keeping Connected

Monthly Newsletter December of 2025

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"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables,
why did He make them taste like vegetables?"



MONTHLY MESSAGE

Submitted by: Amy Franco

Hello All 😊 My name is Amy Franco and I am the new Administrative Assistant here at Gouverneur's FUMC. I was raised in Gouverneur, spent the last approximately 30 yrs in PA and have just recently relocated back. I have attended this Church when home visiting through out the years. I look forward to serving not only the church, but the community as well. We know this newsletter is very important for so many of you, it helps us stay connected & informed! It is my sincerest hope that you find as much joy in reading it as we do in making it. With that being said, I know it's going to look a little different than in the past and hopefully you will find some of it to your liking! Please feel free to reach out to the Office via phone or email for anything you would like added into the newsletter or suggestions.

Announcements:

- Christmas Caroling- Sat. Dec. 13th at 4pm.** *(meet at church)*
- Angel Tree-** The angels have been hung on the tree.
Please put your name and Angel # on the clipboard after choosing your angel. Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, to the Office no later than **Sun. Dec. 14th.**
- North Gouv. UMC's Christmas Eve Service- Sun. Dec. 21st**
at **4pm** (located at 1607 CR-11 Gouverneur, NY 13642)
- Blue Christmas Service- Mon. Dec. 22nd at 7pm** *(location TBD)*
- Christmas Dinner- Wed. Dec. 24th**, call **Office** for more info!
(Deliveries will be available to those in need)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- Wed. Dec. 24th at 9pm.**
The Offering has been chosen to bless 2 missions this year:
 - local mission- **Ryan's Wish**
 - global mission- support the **People of Ukraine**

Last Month's Happenings:

- **4th Annual Grandparent's Breakfast** was a **HUGE** success! Over **100** community members were served!
- Our Free Thanksgiving Dinner** to the community was a **wonderful** success. We had well over **30** volunteers cooking, packaging, delivering, and so much more. What a blessing it was to serve over **500** meals to the community!

This month's Special Envelope:

You have received one pre-labeled envelope for specific ministry donations for December: Christmas Offering. Our Christmas Eve Offering has been chosen to bless 2 missions this year: local mission- Ryan's Wish; global mission- support the people of Ukraine.

Please give as your heart calls you to!

December Scriptures:

Dec. 7th: Matthew 3:1-12 and Romans 15:4-13

Dec. 21st: Matthew 1:18-25 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Dec. 14th: James 5:7-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 24th & 28th: *(not chosen yet)*

Bible Study Update:

Bible Study held every Wednesday morning 10am & Thursday evenings 7pm. ALL are welcome to attend!

Weds: Covering the book of Acts

Thurs: Studying upcoming Sunday scripture

Contact us!

Phone: (315)287-2440 **Email:** firstumcgouverneur@gmail.com **Website:** www.gouverneurumc.org

Foodness for The Soul

Cook's Recipe:

MUSHROOM RAVIOLI Bake:

2 Tbsp butter
1 Tbsp minced garlic
1 cup half-n-half
1 jar (any) alfredo sauce
1 8oz pkg sliced baby bella mushrooms
1 pkg mushroom ravioli
shredded parmesan/romano cheese

In a pan, sauté butter, garlic (salt/pepper to taste), mushrooms & cream, put lid & simmer (slowly) until mushrooms are soft. Boil ravioli in pot for 3-4 mins. Add alfredo to mushroom sauce. In a baking dish, pour half sauce, add ravioli & then add rest of sauce on top. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes or until bubbling. Add cheese on top and bake another 2-3 minutes until cheese is melted. Serve hot!

**you may make as much sauce as you like... just increase ingredients equally! (no need for more alfredo)*

Baker's Recipe:

Lace COOKIES

1 cup (2 sticks) Salted butter\
1 ¾ cup dark brown sugar
¼ cup granulated sugar
2 Tbsp honey
1 tsp vanilla extract
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp salt
1 lrg egg
2 cups quick oats
3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
6 oz bittersweet chocolate (chopped)

*Preheat oven to 350F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. In a medium saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar & honey over med. heat & cook, whisking until bubbling and the sugar is dissolved (5 mins). Pour mixture into large, heatproof bowl & whisk in vanilla, cinnamon & salt. Let cool until warm (not hot), about 20 mins. Add egg, whisking until smooth. Stir in the oats and flour. Scoop 1 Tbsp mounds to baking sheet, 3 inches apart. Bake, rotating pans halfway through, until edges golden brown. Remove & cool for 5 mins before transferring to cooling rack. Cool completely. *Allow baking sheets to cool completely between each use* Place chocolate in microwave safe bowl & microwave until melted (stir every 15 secs) Either drizzle on top or make a "sandwich" cookie/chocolate/cookie*

Let set for at least 1 hour before serving!

Friday Hot Lunch:

Did you know, every Friday, the UMC offers a free hot lunch to seniors? This is available for dine in, pick up & delivery! If you, or someone you know could benefit from this program, please reach out to the office for more information.

Blessing Box Suggestions:

Flour, Sugar, Salt, Seasonings, Oil
Eggs, Bread, Shelf stable milk

Healthy Habit:

Body:

Did you know...2 tsp of honey before bed can help alleviate a nighttime cough?

Home:

'Tis the season for keeping warm... check your smoke detector's batteries !!



UMC Happenings (You should Probably Know)

We just wrapped up our 2025 Stewardship Campaign where we focused on "How are we spending our time?" Are we focusing on God in all that we do? There are many ways to give back to God all that has been given to us:

time, talents, tithes.

**Included is an Estimate of Giving Card. Please fill out and mail back as the Spirit leads!*

There will be no COS or Trustees meeting for the month of December. All meetings will return in January and we encourage attendance by all 😊

Joys & Prayer Concerns:

- ♥ *Happy Birthday to those with a December birthday!*
- ♥ *Successful Community Thanksgiving & Grandparents Breakfast!*
- ♥ *Pastor Ben & Alyssa's safe return from over seas!*
- ♥ *Audrey passed her road test!*
- ♥ *JoJo's children were able to come for Thanksgiving with safe travels both ways!*

- ∞ LOSS OF LOVED ONES, ESPECIALLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
- ∞ TRAVEL MERCIES FOR THOSE TRAVELING
- ∞ FOR THOSE UNABLE TO FIND THEIR WORDS
- ∞ AUDREY PASSED HER ROAD TEST 😊

Advent Word Search

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

STAR
SHEPHERDS
ANGELS
PEACE
GOLD
BETHLEHEM
JESUS
FRANKINCENSE
JOY
CANDLE
NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS
WREATH
LOVE
WISEMEN
MESSIAH
MYRRH
ADVENT
HOPE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1766755/>

Shout Outs:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our ministries this year!

We thank those who stepped up and led a ministry and/or fundraiser:

*Denise Baer
Tina French
Alyssa Lalka
Amber Ormasen
Dede Scozzafava
Pat Williams*

*Ashley Barr
Linda Golja
Janet Melillo
Don Schuessler
Libby Spinelli
Judy Wood*

*Judy Bush
Joanne Jones
Kennedy Mussaw
Glenda Schuessler
Jane Wagner*

We thank those who were so diligent in keeping our properties safe and cared for:

*Lauren French
Ron McDougall*

*Andy Leonard
Vicky Reed*

*Naaman Lowry
Glenda Schuessler*

We thank every hand that worked so hard to bless God's Kingdom in 2025!

*Mussaw
Family*

*Wood
Family*

*Shelly
Jenkins*

*Donna
Massey*

*Josslyn
Fishel*

RipIters

*Connie's
Donuts*

*Dolores's
Cookies*

*Naaman's
Cooking*

*Chris's
Cooking*

Coloring Contest Winners !!

Emery

Layla

Bentley

Lylah



Special Advent Message from the Pastor



Advent Greetings!

I pray this letter finds you all well in this blessed Advent and winter season. Advent is a joyous time in which we are called to remember the promises of the Lord, especially that Christ will come again.

Advent, which is derived from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” is meant to help us focus on what it must have been like to first receive the promised Messiah AND remember that the Lord is coming again. This divine promise should sound familiar as it is found in our Communion liturgy as we announce the mystery of faith “Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.” As we get closer to the blessed day of Christmas, I would like to challenge all of us to hold on to this mixture of remembering the promise of Christ’s return and remembering what it might have been like to prepare for the coming Messiah.

One of our great joys here at First United Methodist Church of Gouverneur is our Christmas offering. In years past our church has lovingly taken all of the offering received during the Christmas Eve services and given them to local and global missions. This year we are proud to share that the Christmas Eve offerings will be going to support a local mission: Ryan’s Wish Foundation to assist those needing assistance with medical resources; as well as supporting a global mission: helping the people of Ukraine who have been effected by the war.

It is a holy privilege to invite you to join our church for worshipping the promised Lord this Christmas Eve. You are welcome to join us on any Sunday in person at 11am or online on our Facebook page for a wonderful service. I would also like to invite you to join us in worshipping the coming of our Lord with our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday December 24th at 9pm. Join us as we sing of the greatest gift, the Lord Jesus! I look forward to worshipping with you all. May the coming of the Lord bring us Peace, Joy, Hope and Love!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Benjamin Lalka

