

Circuit rider

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
CHANNAHON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2026
VOLUME 72 - NO. 2

Faithfully committed to
*Building Disciples
Growing Faith Serving God*

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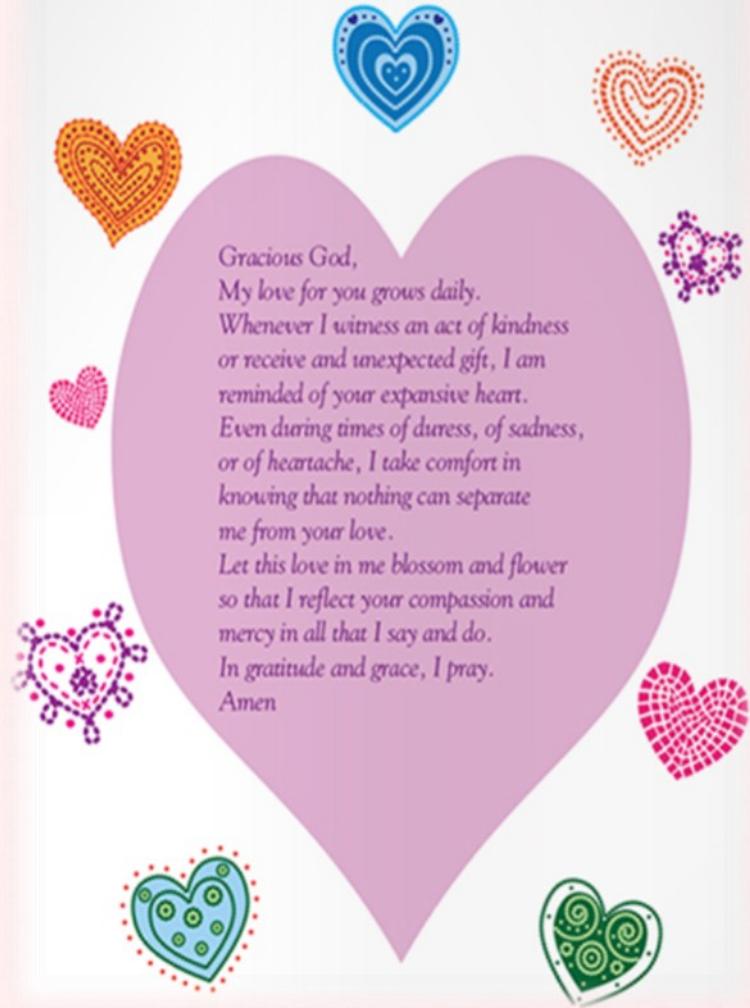
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When the Preschool is in Session - Access to the Education Wing will be off limits 8:30am-3pm when the Children are present. Preschool will be done after graduation May 15th.

Check the church online calendar for times/dates they are not in session. The break between classes is 11:30am-12n

A Valentine for God

Gracious God,
My love for you grows daily.
Whenever I witness an act of kindness
or receive and unexpected gift, I am
reminded of your expansive heart.
Even during times of duress, of sadness,
or of heartache, I take comfort in
knowing that nothing can separate
me from your love.
Let this love in me blossom and flower
so that I reflect your compassion and
mercy in all that I say and do.
In gratitude and grace, I pray.
Amen



A NOTE from PASTOR AYLA

YOU ARE MY VALENTINE!

When we think of February we think of Valentine Day, Ground Hog Day, African American History month, Presidents Day, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and lets not forget Super Bowl 2026. What do any of these "Days" have anything in common? Nothing that I can think of. Yet most of us give each of these events some form of acknowledgment.

The one celebration that is "in our face" and is most capitalized by consumer industries is Valentine Day. One cannot escape the flooded decor of hearts of all sizes in red and pink everywhere we go. The special axles of Valentine chocolate can give you a dizzy spin. Lets not forget the special sale of flowers, teddy bears, and clothing with hearts or "love" symbols..

Valentine's Day for some is special if you have a "special someone" to celebrate it with. For all the rest it is at best, a source of light fun with friends or a painfully depressing reminder of the absence of romantic love at worst.

Many who do not have a special Valentine in their lives try to circumvent the pressure of celebrating by gathering with friends at a "Galentine" party. Or just giving chocolate, cards or teddy bears to various friends and relatives as a loving gesture. Some people I know abhor Valentine Day, because of all the sad feelings it percolates in them, and they can't wait for it to be done with.

It is so unfortunate that LOVE is only celebrated in our culture in its romantic aspect. As Christians we know that LOVE is a divine attribute and it comes from God. Throughout the Scriptures God is the one who is seeking to bring the lost humanity close to Himself because GOD LOVES US. Micheal Angelo in his famous painting "Creation of Adam" depicts this divine love in a figure of God who has stretched out to reach the lazy hand of Adam.

Sincere Blessings,

Pastor Ayla Samson





Matthew 28:18-19

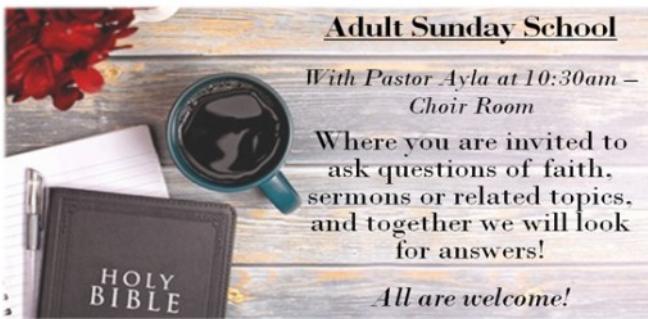
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Sunday Morning Worship

9am- In-Person and Online with Live Stream
Holy Communion celebrated 1st Sunday of each month!
Join us for fellowship following our Sunday services



“Curiosity Cafe”



Sunday School ~ 10:30am - 11:15am



Mondays at 11:30am in Choir Room
Led by Pastor Ayla
Bring a BIBLE or borrow one from the church!
This is an ongoing study
All are welcome - Come when you can!

A continuing class designed to delve into scripture with a refreshing drink of God's Word
Studying the Gospel of Mark!

Can't make it to church? Join us online LIVE at 9am or watch at your convenience - from our YouTube page -

www.youtube.com/@channahonumc813streams

The church is open and available for use for meetings, groups and events. Please be sure to confirm all usage, availability, and changes with the church office.

Join us as we gather for fellowship after our worship service!

3 WAYS TO GIVE



In Person



By Mail



Electronic
Giving

Thank you for your continued generous financial support!

End of Year Tax Statements not picked up in the Narthex by Sunday, Feb 1st, will be mailed on Feb. 3rd

2026

Communion Sunday Mission Offering

The monthly Sunday Communion Mission Offering for the 1st Qtr - Jan-Mar will support Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) www.nijfon.org for more information.

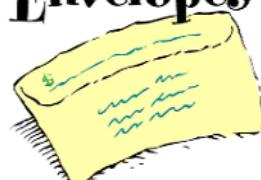
5th Sundays offering for 2026 has been approved
Our 5th Sunday will be **March, May, Aug. & Nov.**
Special envelopes are used and will be in the Narthex on the Usher's table.

Monies support the
United Voices for Children



Affiliated Agencies: Kids Above All • MYSI • Rosecrance

Offering Envelopes



Finance/Counters no longer assigns a number to the Sunday Giving envelopes—If you would like a box of envelopes—Please contact the church office – and please remember make sure your name is on the envelopes each week, especially when giving cash.



Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2026 A Journey through Lent

A Time of Preparation!

February 18
2026

Open-Door Walk-In Imposition of Ashes

11am – 1pm

All are Welcome!

Join us for
Ash Wednesday Service
at 6 p.m.
with Imposition of Ashes



Ash Wednesday

FIRST DAY OF LENT

Encounter the Promise
the Way, the Truth, and the Life

See page 8 for the FULL Lenten &
Easter Journey Opportunities
& Schedule

A Lenten filer is in your bulletin.
Take note of all the opportunities
to draw closer to God this
Lenten Season.



TUESDAYS LENTEN SERVICE & LUNCH

Each Tuesday, during Lent, join us for 'Journey Through Lent' Service
followed by a 'Soup & Bread' lunch—

Begins at 11am in Fellowship Hall

Sign up is needed—Please call the church office or sign up in the Narthex when you
plan to attend.

Dates: Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10, Mar 17 (in Narthex), Mar 24



Our 'Adult Choir' sings on Sunday
mornings with our 9am worship service.
(Sep—May)

Rehearsal is Wednesdays at 3:30pm.

All are welcome!

More information?

Contact Choir Directory;
Brittany Alcantar



United Women in Faith

YOU'RE INVITED

The invitation is always open...
TO JOIN A Channahon United Women in Faith CIRCLE!

Perhaps you are ready to get connected and get involved
and join a UWF circle.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the
following UWF members:

Dottie Priddy, Lana Stafford, Anita Young
Janet Robb, or call the church office.

Channahon UWFaith Circle Groups

UMF Leadership - 1st Tuesday—10am Choir Room

Ruth Circle - 2nd Monday - 9:30am FH

Rachel Circle - 2nd Tuesday -10:30am FH

Hannah Jessup - Dates/Location Varies

Circle of Hope - Varies - FH at 1pm — Feb. 19th

Ladies Aid - (Thrift Shop) 1st Thursday shop is open - 9am

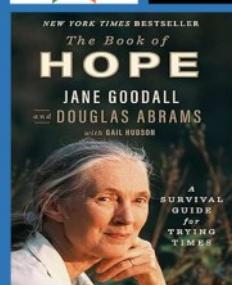


Channahon United Women in Faith READING CLUB MEETING

Rescheduled for Feb. 5th

6 p.m.

CUMC Room 145



We will discuss the late Jane Goodall's
book "The Book of Hope: A Survival
Guide for Trying Times." Zoom link
will be available to those who want
to join in online or in case of bad
weather. Contact Anita Young or
church office to get on the email list.



Saturday, February 14

The Men of the church meet the 2nd Saturday
of each month at 7:45am at Grandma's Pancake House
669 W. Mondamin St ~ Minooka

Men Sr. High School and older are invited!

THE UPPER ROOM

A devotion and prayer group
meets on Tuesdays Mornings—9:30am
using the Daily UPPER ROOM Devotional
booklets as a guide.

This group is open to everyone.

Attendance via ZOOM is available

(Call the church office for the ZOOM Link)



John 12:26

Whoever wants to serve Me must follow Me, so that my servant will be with Me where I am. And my Father will honor anyone who serves Me.

Senior Luncheon

**February 4th—12:00n
& March 4th—12:00n**
Doors open 11:30am
Suggested donation - \$8
Sign up in the Narthex or
call 847-738-1268 by Feb/Mar 2nd

Channahon UMC

Women in Faith –

Ladies Aid

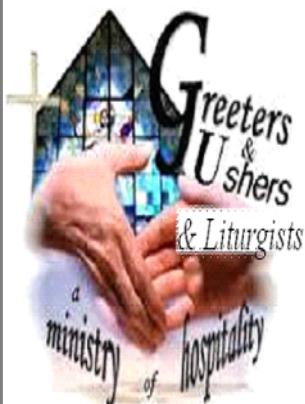


February Shop Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 1	after service
Monday, Feb. 2	6p—8p
Thursday, Feb. 12	10a—2p
Monday, Feb. 16	6p—8p
Thursday, Feb. 26	10a—2p

Not accepting Christmas Item
donations at this time!

Follow us on FACEBOOK
Channahon UMC Thrift Shop



Interested in our Hospitality
Ministry for Ushering,
Greeting and Liturgy?

Please contact the church office
or see Donna Buckley to be added
to the rotation list.

Prayer Blanket Ministry for



HOPE, HEALING, AND JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN.

**Next Date:
Wednesday, Feb. 11th
10:15am in FH
Bring your scissors!**



Spring Food Drive collection
is March 8th.
Bags and Needs List will be
out on February 22nd.
**Thank You in advance for
your generous gifting!**



The Veterans are so grateful for all of
our support and donations through
the year!

Continue collecting Little Debbie
snacks, bite-size candy bars, and
canned soda.

Visit our Giving Tree in the Narthex
for 'Layette Kits' –
See the tags for details!



Giving Tree



Outreach team is cooking/
serving dinner at Daybreak
Shelter in Joliet on Monday,
February 23, at 6pm
Monetary donations can be
given—Marked 'Daybreak'.
**Volunteers, please see
Janet Weakley**

More Serving God...



Wednesday Mornings at 9:00am

In Fellowship Hall
Check our website calendar
for any changes or updates.

All are welcome.
Please bring a mat.

NO YOGA
Feb 25 & Mar 4

Dispose of your old worn and tattered flags here at the church in the bin outside of Fellowship Hall. The Troop 444 Boy Scouts will dispose of them through a Troop Ceremony. Thank you for honoring our Country.



Candle Light
Cards
Chocolate
Cupid
Date
Dinner
First Kiss
Memories
Movie
Pink
Poem
Proposal
Red
Romance
Roses
St. Valentine
Sweetarts
Teddy Bear
True Love

Happy Valentine's Day

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

MENARDS
Dedicated to Service & Quality™

Menards REBATES

Collection of **UNUSED REBATES** to be used for
CUMC's Education Team needs!

Remember the Church when you shop
Menards & Save BIG MONEY with the
11% Rebates when it starts again!



Narcotics Anonymous recovery group meets
here at the church on Wednesday evenings at
6:30pm in room 143.

Enter around back through door #4.
For more information, contact NA Rep.
Pete - 815-530-1065



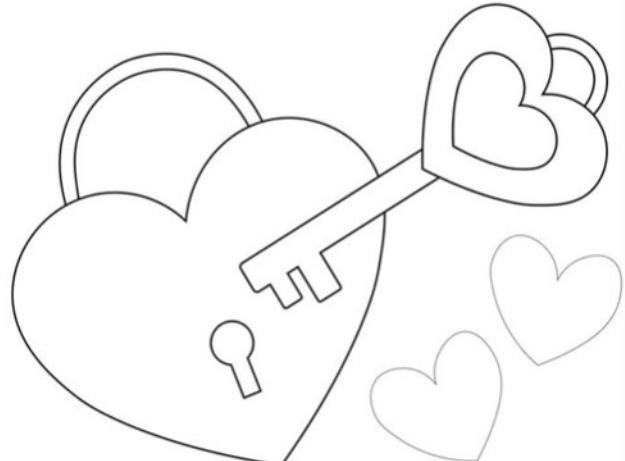
Arrangements can be brought in for
Sunday Morning Worship in memory or
honor of someone or something!
Please let the office know what date and
the details so it can be included in the
Sunday bulletin.



CoDA
Group
meets on
Saturday
mornings
8am room 143
CUMC's Contact
is Donna S.
815-342-9324



Jesus



holds the key to
my heart!

Church & Community News & Events

February Birthdays

2/7 Lila Barrett
Janet Sanders
2/10 Larry Schuler
2/14 Donna Buckley
Aileen Cotter
2/25 Leonard Hoffman
2/26 Vesta Nyamekye
Amy Powell
2/28 Bob Eaton



February Birthdays

2/14 Bob & Elaine Coen

If we have missed your celebration, please let the office know so we can add it to the weekly bulletin announcement and monthly Circuit Rider calendar, please contact the church office at 815-467-5275 or email: Office@channahonumc.org

Our Deepest Sympathy

Lamentations 3:21-23

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed. For his compassions never fail.

Prayers for all families who grieve loss of loved ones. May the Lord Jesus be close in heart to bring comfort and healing now and through the coming days.

the.prayer wall

BECAUSE PRAYER MATTERS

Visit our prayer wall on our church website to leave a prayer or pray for others.

www.ChannahonUMC.org/prayer-requests

Channahon Park District
Presents:

Valentine's MOVIE NIGHT OUT

Friday February 14

6-9PM



Ages 5-12—Registration & Fee Required
Call the Channahon Park District 815-467-8015



NIGHT

A Valentine's gift from us to you.

Channahon United Methodist Church

Education Team invites kids for

Kid's Night

with Pizza, Games, and a Craft

While Parents enjoy a

Valentine's Day Date Night or just a quiet evening at home!

WHEN? You ask:

Friday, February 13th

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Preschool - High School Invited!

Email or call / text Brittany Alcantar so we can add your child(ren) to the fun!

director@channahonumc.org

Cell: 815-603-9851

24751 West Eames Street, Channahon, IL

**It's THAT GOOD!
Come See for Yourself!!!**

If you are interested in the preschool program, please contact the school for an OPEN-HOUSE appointment

Give Us A Call Today!

Classes are filling up fast!

815-467-4708

Class openings for the 2nd Semester of 2025-2026 School Year—Call Today

Please share the info of our preschool with family, friends and community



**It's THAT GOOD!
Come See for Yourself!!!**

If you are interested in the preschool program, please contact the school for an OPEN-HOUSE appointment

Give Us A Call Today!

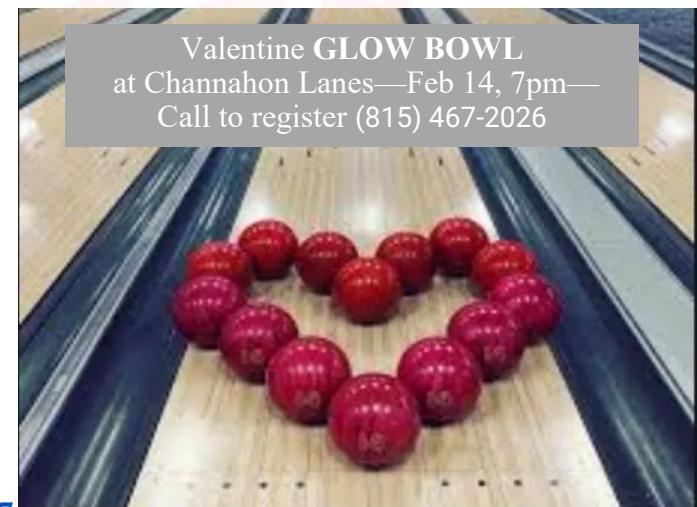
Classes are filling up fast!

815-467-4708

Class openings for the 2nd Semester of 2025-2026 School Year—Call Today



Valentine GLOW BOWL
at Channahon Lanes—Feb 14, 7pm—
Call to register (815) 467-2026



2026

A Journey Through Lent

A Time of Preparation!



ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection and preparation which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday through which we attain redemption. All are welcome!

Open-Door Walk-In Imposition of Ashes: 11am—1pm
(if not able to attend service)

Church Service—6pm (with imposition of ashes)



TUESDAYS LENTEN SERVICE & LUNCH

Each Tuesday, during Lent, join us for a 'Journey Through Lent' Service followed by a 'Soup & Bread' lunch—

Begins at 11am in Fellowship Hall

Sign up is needed—Please call the church office or sign up in the Narthex when you plan to attend.

Dates: Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10, Mar 17 (in Narthex), Mar 24



PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 29

As foretold in the Old Testament, palms symbolize Peace & Victory, and joyful acclamations at Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Hosanna in the Highest!

Sunday Worship at 9am

Kids are invited to march in waving palms (please, arrive 10minutes early)



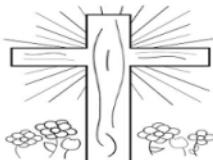
HOLY THURSDAY—APRIL 2

Jesus used the Passover to teach his disciples important lessons and prepared a meal that signifies a time of remembrance of Him to His disciples.

Experience a symbolic Passover Seder meal & service.

Service & Seder at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

Good Friday



GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 3

We commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ at Calvary, observed on the Friday before Easter. It represents a day of fasting, prayer, and reflection on Jesus's sacrifice for humanity's sins.

Cross Walk—10am (Channahon UMC Grounds/Prayer Path)

Church Service—6pm



EASTER EGG HUNT—APRIL 4

Kids of all ages are invited for an Easter Celebration—
Egg Hunt organized by age groups and prizes for all.

All Children —10am -11am (The hunt to begin at 10:15am for all ages in Fellowship Hall)



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE—APRIL 5

Join us in celebration of our Risen King! Hallelujah! All are welcome!
Bring a fresh flower for our Outdoor Living Cross!

Church Service —9am

Fellowship following the service

Channahon

United

Methodist Church

24751 W. Eames (Rt. 6),

Channahon, IL 60410 / 815-467-5275

www.channahonumc.org

Follow us on Facebook—Channahon UMC



Channahon United Methodist Church

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www.channahonumc.org

Pastor: Rev. Ayla Samson—ext 18 (to leave a message)
Available by appointment / Emergency Pastoral Care 773-729-0522
PastorAyla05@gmail.com

Director@Channahonumc.org

Treasurer - Mary Easton
Treasurer@Channahonumc.org

Office Admin. & Ministry Assistant:
Kris Hayden - Ext. 10
Office@Channahonumc.org

Office Hours Tue – Fri.: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Church office is closed on Mondays

Channahon United Methodist Preschool
Andrea Smith/Director - 815-467-4708
ChannahonUMPreschool@gmail.com



CHANNAHON UNITED METODIST CHURCH
24751 W. Eames St. Channahon, IL 60410

Faithfully committed to
Building Disciples ~ Growing Faith ~ Serving

The CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 72, No 2 ~ February 2026

Editor: Kris Hayden

CUMC reserves the right to edit all submitted materials

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am
In person, live stream and online!

Coffee Fellowship 10:00am

Children & Adult Sunday School is offered for
Pre-school – 12th grade (Sept. - May)
Adult Sunday School w/ Pastor Ayla
10:30a - 11:15 All are welcome!



Follow us on YOUTUBE for LIVE STREAMING

<https://www.youtube.com/@channahonumc813streams>



Follow us on FACEBOOK – Channahon UMC
and Channahon UMC Thrift Shop

We are especially grateful for:

