



# January 2026

## January message from Pastor Zach:

It never ceases to amaze me how the last days of December just kind of blend into one another. Due to weather and sickness, we didn't end up getting out to Ohio to meet up with my family this year, and by the time we got through the weekend, I wasn't sure what day it was. Friday felt like Saturday, Sunday felt like Friday, and Saturday..., well, Saturday wasn't so much a day as it was a series of hours broken up by doing a puzzle, checking on kids recuperating from sickness, shoveling snow, and watching the next round of Stranger Things episodes.

This limbo feeling is what we generally left to work with as the year winds down, transitioning from Christmas into New Years, from December to January, from one year to the next. This is true even if you don't have school aged kids or extended time off during the season. The double holidays within a week of each other creates a vacuum for everyone in some shape or form. The baby Jesus becomes baby New Year when we aren't looking and then he's put away with the rest of the decorations until next year.

Some years, we get a little more kid Jesus than usual. We see him at 12, staying behind in the Temple after Passover, almost giving his parents a coronary. But most of the time we go



United Methodist Church  
of Danielson

The Cross & Flame  
Journal

**Mission Statement:**  
**Learning the Three O's - Open  
Hearts, Open Minds, Open  
Doors**

**Vision Statement:**  
**Repentance, Renewal, Reform**

from infancy into adulthood within a blink of an eye. Those formative years become as murky as the days between Christmas and New Years. Before we have time to think, we exchange the star-child for a grownup carpenter and aspiring preacher, who, by now, has already lived at least one lifetime before arriving at the river Jordan to be baptized by his cousin, John, overtaken by a zeal of faith and identity as one of God's chosen people.

That will be how we enter January, but the time jump in scripture doesn't have to mean a time jump in every other part of your life.

Last year, you'll remember that January moved at a crawl. But we still had things to do, namely our annual Visioning meeting. This year will be similar. While I don't know if January will carry on and on, I do know we'll follow Jesus, from the manger to the ministry. This lectionary year will see the Gospels focus on Matthew, which will include Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. Scholars see that particular scripture as Matthew's understanding of Jesus' vision of the kingdom, God's vision for new creation. What will ours be for this new year?

On Saturday morning, January 17 at 8:30 a.m. we will gather to answer that question, taking the time we are given to vision for year ahead. We will have the opportunity to share project ideas and ministry focus, but one big thing that God has laid on my head and heart as your pastor for this year is reassessing how we organize ourselves.

Given our financial realities and current committee structures, there is a need to bring ourselves back into more intentional conversation with one another as we continue living into the role Jesus has called us to as people called Methodists. This will mean that our board and meeting schedule will look a bit different going forward. I will have a presentation to share during this portion of the meeting, and I will ask you for feedback so that together we can shape it to our specific needs. Our newly crafted 2026 budget will be on hand.

It will not be an instant transition like Jesus suddenly going from infant to adult, though parts of it will feel that way. There will be time for questions and suggestions and growing pains. But I do believe that your time of "simply keeping the wheels on" has come to an end.

We are growing, we are thriving, though, perhaps just a bit faster than our current model can maintain. So, as we grow in hands and feet, heart and voice, let us come together in these early days of this New Year to catch a vision of what star the Spirit is calling us to follow in this season after Epiphany.

See you in Church,  
Pastor Zach



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**Welcome  
to the  
United Methodist Church  
of Danielson**

**We're glad you found us.**

**Contact Us at ...**

**Church Office:** 860-779-2018

**Church Email:**  
[betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org](mailto:betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org)

**Pastor's Cell:** 217-840-1623

**Pastor's Email:**  
[pastor.zach@umcdanielson.org](mailto:pastor.zach@umcdanielson.org)

**Media Email:**  
[media@umcdanielson.org](mailto:media@umcdanielson.org)

**~ Church Office Hours~  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.- Noon**

**~Pastor's Office Hours~**

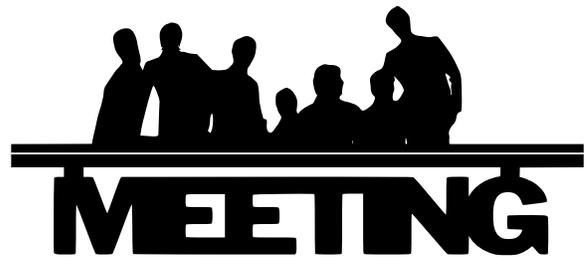
**Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - Noon**

**Wednesday: 10 a.m. - Noon**

**Thursday: @ Killingly Public Library:  
10-12 p.m., or any other time by  
appointment.**

**Pastor Zach's Sabbath are Fridays.**

**Things to put on your calendar:**



**January 17 - 8:30 AM**

**Visioning meeting**

**(snow date 1.24.26)**

**Church Happenings:**

**Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship - In Person and  
Zoom (See link below)  
2 p.m. Davis Place - every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
2 - 3 p.m. Al Anon in fellowship hall

**Tuesday:**

1 p.m. K.B.I.C. every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

**Wednesday:**

12p.m. Community Kitchens

**Friday:**

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Diaper Bank,  
last Friday of the month  
6:30 - 8pm: NA in fellowship hall

**Saturday:**

9 - 10 am: Bible Study in Christian Ed  
Room and ZOOM (See link below)  
10:15: Grief Group (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturdays) in Christian Ed Room and  
ZOOM (See link below)

**ZOOM Info:** Sunday Service:

**Meeting ID:** 899 8668 2568

Adult Sunday School: **Meeting**

**ID:** 862 3566 5633

Bible study and Grief Group: **Meeting**

**ID:** 707 166 7519

**Liturgist schedule:**

January 4 - Joann Caulder

January 11 - Liz Gentry

January 18 - Gail Bigelow

January 25 - Barbara Schreier

**Children's Moments:**

January 4 - Pastor Zach

January 11 - Cassi Miles

January 18 - Chrissy Pagano

January 25 - Sue Martin



Please sign up for Coffee Time and greeters. Please see Sandy Andrews with questions or to sign the sign-up sheets.

There is also a sign-up sheet for flowers on the back table. If you want to give flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend, pet, special occasion, etc. please sign up!



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1/4 Jess LeCrone

1/8 Nicholas Malone

1/17 Sharon Perkins

1/18 Chris Martin

1/21 Milly Briggs

1/22 Joyce Davis

1/28 Nate Bramlett

## Getting to Know... Cyndi Perkins

How and why did you come to this church?

My family has a long association with the church. My grandmother and her brother came as children, my dad came as a child, left for a while and then my grandmother started bringing us here in 1976. My parents soon joined us.

How long have you been coming to UMCD?

Forty-nine years.

What is or was your profession?

I am a tech and I help in the office in the ACU at Day Kimball Hospital.

What are your hobbies/interests?

Watching and going to Red Sox games!

A few words to describe yourself...

Cyndi will go out of her way to help people as is her organization and leadership is shown here at the church as well as the Angel Tree Program.

**Leadership group:**

**Lay Leader:** Cyndi Perkins

**Office Manager:** Betsy Kneeland

**Reverend:** Zach LeCrone

**IT/Media Director:** Cori Sharrow

Please feel free to share any of your special events: joys & celebrations, anniversaries, birthdays, special awards/honors, trips, etc. The deadline for news items is the 10th of each month. Send info to [betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org](mailto:betsy.kneeland@umcdanielson.org)

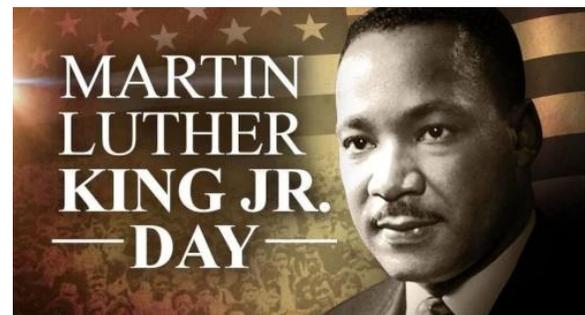
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The church's email has changed.

Please use

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going forward.



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