



SULLIVAN FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



UMC MESSENGER

JUNE 2025

SUPPORT FOR THE CONFINED AND IMMOBILE

Below are those who are unable to attend our Sunday services, but we can be a lifeline that reminds them they're deeply valued. Please consider reaching out to them with a visit, a phone call, a prayer, or send a card.

Shelbyville Manor: 1111 W. North 12th St. Shelbyville, IL 62565

Fred Davis

Mary Storm

Green Gardens: 601 W. North St, Sullivan, IL 61951

Jeretta Hecht

Darlene Brown

Heritage Woods: 20 Courtyard Estates, Sullivan, IL 61951

Joan Highland

Beverly DeVore

Shirlene Cole

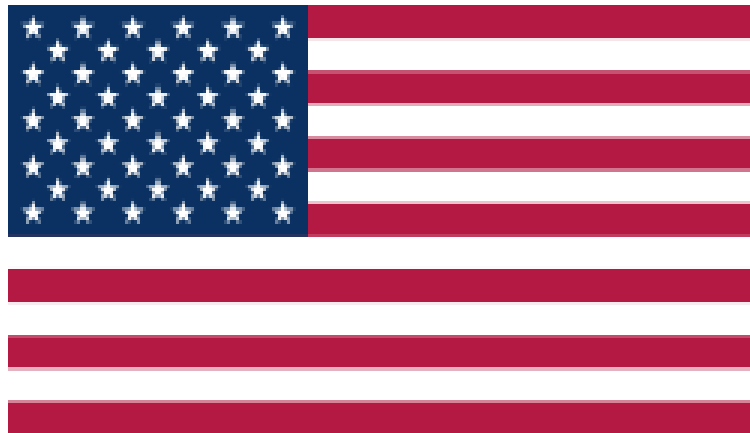
Sullivan Health Care: 11 Hawthorne Lane, Sullivan, IL 61951

Darlene Standerfer

At Home:

Bob & Phylis Maxedon, 11 Eastview Drive, Sullivan, IL 61951

Diane Strufe, 316 S 17th St., Apt 1A, Mattoon, IL 61938



FLAG DAY JUNE 14TH

Flag Day is a holiday celebrated on June 14th in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution stated "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. Federal law leaves it to the discretion of the president to officially proclaim the observance. Title 36 of the United States Code, Subtitle I, Part A, Chapter 1, Section 110 is the official statute of Flag Day. The United States Army also celebrates its birthday on this date.

Morning is God's way of saying,
One more time, go make a
difference, touch a heart,
Encourage a mind, inspire
a soul, and enjoy the day.

SAVE THE DATE

Father's Day, June 15, 2025.

Cook out and service in
Wyman Park **One Service at**
10: 00 AM.



July 2025

July 4th Fourth of
July parade, beginning
at Noon.



July 14-18th Vacation Bible School

July 20th VBS One service at 10:00 am

August:

Aug. 17th Back to School bash

As most of you know, Baby Talk has rented a space in our building for the past few years. Next fall they will be housed at the Sullivan Elementary School, so they will be moving from our building throughout the summer. When they moved to our church, they fully equipped our Preschool/Kindergarten room with their furniture, toys, shelves, etc. and generously shared all this with us.

We have stored our toys, equipment, etc. in the basement during the time Baby Talk has been here. However, much of this was donated when the MOMS group first formed several years ago, so several things need to be replaced.

Before we make any purchases to refurnish our room, we would like to give you the opportunity to help us out!! If you have anything that your children no longer play with that is durable and appropriate for 3, 4, and 5 year olds, please consider donating to our classroom. Two groups in our church have already agreed to help us financially, so we appreciate their support!

We want to thank Amy Eller and Jody Elzy for their generosity and cooperation during the time Baby Talk has been in our building! We wish them the very best as they move to the Sullivan Elementary School!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Lois Shuman) at 217-246-3534 or email me at loisshuman@gmail.com. Any donations may be left in the west room upstairs and are needed ASAP. Thank you so much!!

GOD'S PROMISES to a WOMEN'S HEART-CTA

Give ear and come to me; hear
me, that your soul may live. I will
make an everlasting covenant
with you, my faithful love. Isaiah 55:3

What's your favorite getaway? A nail salon appointment? A sunny afternoon in your flower garden with a hoe and spade? A candlelight dinner for two? Two weeks on the beach?

We all need to get away at least once in awhile. We all need to take a break — even from people, work, and service we love. If you doubt that or feel a twinge of guilt because of it, consider this:

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to the disciples, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6:31

We all need to get away at least once in awhile. Jesus himself experienced this when he lived here on earth. He knows what fatigue and overload feels like. And so he invites, “Come to me.”

Now that's a getaway — one like no other! **When we go to him, we find true rest.** In the shadow of his cross, our souls live, truly and forever! In his presence there is only peace, only acceptance, only compassion, only security. We were born to live there, to live forever in his faithful love. It's what his covenant, his promise to claim us and keep us as his own, is all about.

Most resorts and spas require a reservation. Even nail salons schedule appointments. But this get-away is ours for the asking whenever we need it—even on the spur of the moment. Heaven's door stands open: "Give ear and come to me."

Young moms sleep with one ear open for their infant's cry. Moms of teens sleep with one ear open, too, attentive to the return of their son or daughter from the after-game party or out-of-town marching band competition. Love tunes a moms ear.

Love tunes our ears to our Lord's words of promise, too. Whether we're weary and worried or elated and energized, we can come. Need to get away? Then run into his arms!

Lord, your covenant of faithful love is mine, just as you have promised. You invite me into your presence, so I come....





.....JANET RONEY



Ups and Downs

Our church has gone through many ups and downs in the 179 years of existence in Sullivan, Moultrie County, Illinois. We've survived the strife on the home front during the Civil War when about half of our county's population supported the north and the other half the rebels. All of the appointments in the Sullivan Circuit closed except two during the Civil War because folks believed the Methodists in general were too supportive of the Union cause. It took several years for some of the outlying appointments to reopen and some never did.

By the 1870s, the Sullivan Circuit had regained its strength at about the same time Rev. Samuel Harshman, a Holiness Methodist preacher, began evangelizing in the area. After he led a revival in our church, he decided to hold meetings in his home in Sullivan, and many of our long time members joined his congregation. The church struggled from this loss in membership until the late 1880s. A series of revivals brought so many into the church by 1893 during the pastorate of Rev. Wilkin, that a new church was needed.

As mentioned previously, the church experienced a period of great growth in the 16 years from 1896 to 1912, when only 4 pastors served. In contrast, four different pastors served in the next 7 years, (1913-1919) as the addition of new members slowed drastically. I could not find much information on those 4 pastors, the Reverends Jordan F. Wohlfarth (1913-1914),

Jesse S. Tharp (1915-1916), George W. Metzel (1917-1918), and J. A. Biddle (1919).

Rev. Jordan F. Wohlfarth was from Pennsylvania and served there in his early years. By 1879, he was in the St. Louis Conference, followed by the Illinois Conference in 1882 where he stayed until 1923. Along the way he received a doctor of divinity degree. In 1821, right after serving Sullivan, his wife died, but he soon remarried a woman from Colorado. He died in Denver in 1931. His grandson became a Methodist minister, too.

I did find Rev. Tharp's obituary from 1958 which says Tharp served churches in the Illinois Conference for forty-five years. "Some of the important occasions during the early years were conducting campaigns against the liquor traffic, and also evangelistic campaigns where many were converted and became active members of the church, and at Martinsville, Ill., a new parsonage was built."

There was a 1920 article from the Moultrie County News I found that detailed Rev. J. A. Biddle's attempts to get more young people coming to church. "Those attending (the regular church service) at least ten sessions were given a picnic on Monday afternoon at Pifer's Park..." Twenty seven young people qualified, including my Aunt Bernadyne Shuman. "Refreshments consisting of ice cream and cake were served... A trip to Decatur was given to those who were present at least twenty services during the past three months..." for which 6 teens qualified. Pifer's Park was a lake built near an old brick and tile factory southeast of Sullivan on the east side of the Kaskaskia that had resort cabins for rent as well as canoes and boats to rent. In my teenage years, our Methodist Youth Fellowship often went there for our youth outings and recreation.

A trip to Decatur may not seem so attractive today, but in 1920 most people traveled to Decatur via the passenger train that went through Sullivan several times a day on the Illinois Central Railroad (now the Canadian National Railroad). Hard roads were scarce and certainly not present between Sullivan and Decatur in 1920. Most traffic on local roads was by horse and buggy or wagon. Therefore, a free trip to Decatur was very, very special.

Also, by 1920, World War I was over, and soldiers came home. The community must have been elated to see their safe return from battle. Once again, the church seemed revitalized by the next ministers.



- 1 Zack & Amber Crothers
- 3 Dick & Mimi Atchison
- 4 Terry & Sharon Warren
- 12 Mike & JoAnn Pryor
- 15 Henry & Marianna Adkins
- 21 Roger & Janet Roney
- 23 Byron & Linda Lambdin
- 28 Barry & Lori Robinson
- 30 Kyle & Kristen Blakey
- 30 Jim & Nancy Moore

- 1 Kendall Brettschneider
- 5 Serrell Price
- 7 Terry Warren
- 15 Michael Hoss
- 16 David Sowers
- 18 Miles Monroe
- 19 Austin Brettschneider
- 19 Chip Hagen
- 19 Roger Roney
- 20 Bruce Hecht
- 20 Linda Lambdin
- 20 Trevor Poe
- 20 Rikki Ray
- 21 Alex Poe
- 23 Sue Weaver
- 23 Norm Yoder
- 25 Ethan Foster



- 25 Phylis Maxedon
- 26 Roger Tice
- 27 Michael Burns
- 28 Mardi Gott
- 30 Donna
- Ashinhurst 30
- Mimi Atchison
- 30 Jim Moore
- 30 Cindy Yoder



SUNDAY May 4	# 131
SUNDAY May 11	# 47
SUNDAY May 18	# 147
SUNDAY May 25	#158

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FINANCIAL REPORT, MAY

2025

NEEDED MONTHLY:

\$34,026.50 INCOME

May 4, \$4818.00

May 11, \$8781.00

May 18, \$6170.00

May 25, \$3479.41

MONTHLY TOTAL = \$23,248.41



SULLIVAN FIRST UMC SMALL GROUPS

Salt of the Earth_____	Joe Pound_____	217-454-0488
Jr. High Youth Group		
Sr. High Youth Group_____	Pastor Mike_____	217-728-4436
United Women in Faith_____	Samantha Berner_____	217-620-8735
Wings_____	Mary Ann Hecht_____	217-972-5481
Walking with Jesus_____	Merll Connor_____	217-259-8208
Women's Life Group_____	Susan Connor_____	217-259-1649
Young Men's Group_____	Pastor Mike_____	217-728-4436
Joy Group_____	Ann Wheeler_____	217-273-0789
Gals in Grace_____	Kendall Brettschneider_____	217-259-8800
Grace & Grow_____	MacKenzie Hoss_____	217-273-9171

STAFF

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