

This coming week in the life of the church

Today 8/23

9am Worship
10am Rally Day

Monday 8/24

10am IDA Public Library Bookmobile in parking lot
5:30pm Soccer Practice
6:30 Ambassadors

Tuesday 8/25

5:30pm Soccer Practice
7pm EV Disciple Lessons
7pm Boy Scouts Outside

Wednesday 8/26

9am Psalm Sisters Bible Study
10:30am Fitness Class
5:30pm Soccer Practice

Thursday 8/27

5:30pm Soccer Practice
6pm Grief Share
7pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings to God~

All that we have comes from God; we are caretakers of what belongs to Him. As an act of faith, we return a portion of God's provision for the growing and continuation of His work. There is an offering plate as you enter for tithes and offerings, you can send them through our website, or they may be mailed to the church office.



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

August 23, 2026



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Find us on the web fumcbelvidere.org
After hours, emergency contact number for Pastor
Jim Bell 847-764-6563

Order of Worship for August 23, 2026

Prelude (song/s)

Welcome

***Opening Songs of Praise:** "Stand Up and Shout"
"You Are So Good to Me"

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 65 UMH #789

Liturgist: Jay Hazlett

One: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

Many: and to you shall vows be performed.

One: To you who hear prayer all flesh shall come because of their sins.

Many: When our transgressions prevail over us, you forgive them.

One: Blessed are those whom you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

Many: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple!

One: By dread deeds you answer us with deliverance, O god of our salvation,

Many: who is the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas; who by your strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

One: who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples; so that those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are afraid at your signs;

Many: you make the morning and the evening resound with joy.

One: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;

Many: the river of God is full of water; you provide its grain, for so you have prepared it.

One: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Many: You crown the year with your bounty; the tracks of your chariot drip with fatness.

One: The pastures of the wilderness drip, the hills gird themselves with joy,

Many: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

***Scripture:** Matthew 13: 1-9 & 19-23

Prayer Song: "Holy Spirit Rain Down"

Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jim Bell

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Message: Pastor Jay Shin

***Doxology** (UMH #95)

***Prayer of dedication**

Gracious and generous God, as we begin a new season, we give thanks for all that you have placed in our hands. Receive these gifts we offer today, and use them for the work of your kingdom. Bless our children, our families, and our whole congregation as we learn, grow, and serve together.

May what we offer today be used like seeds, scattered wherever they are needed, bringing your love, hope, and grace to others. We offer these gifts in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Backpack Blessing

Mutual Blessing:

Leader: Today, we bless our children, their families, and all who teach and care for them. As a community of faith, we promise to walk with them, encourage them, and pray for them.

Congregation: We bless you and promise to walk with you. May God guide you, protect you, and give you joy as you learn and grow.

Children, Families, and Teachers: We thank you for your prayers and support. We bless you, too, and look forward to growing together in faith as God's people.

All: May God bless us and keep us, guide us in all that we do, and make us a blessing to one another and to the world. Amen.

***Closing Song of Praise:** "Garden Song (Inch By Inch)"

Children and their families are invited to go forth first, carrying God's blessing with them.

*** = Stand as able**

****Headsets to assist with hearing during the service are available from any usher****

****Altar flowers given by Marilyn Weaver****

Matthew 13: 1-9 & 19-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."