

APRIL 2026

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
610 BONUS AVE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008**



FUMC Courier



April Newsletter

We know how the story goes. We know the cross is not the end. We know the tomb will not remain sealed. We know what awaits on the other side of Easter morning.

And yet, we are invited to walk the road again – not because we have forgotten, but because knowing changes how we walk.

It is one of the quiet invitations of Holy Week.

We do not enter these days as those who are uncertain of the outcome, but as those who live between what God has done and what we are still learning to understand.

This April, as a church, we walk through these days together.

Knowing the resurrection does not move us quickly past the cross. It draws us back to it – not as a place of defeat, but as the place where God's love was most fully revealed.

Because of Easter, we do not see the cross less; we see it differently. We begin to see that the cross is not only where Jesus suffered, but where God was reconciling the world to God – where sin was dealt with and grace was made visible.

We invite you to join us as we move through Holy Week – from Thursday to Friday, from the cross to the empty tomb, and into the life that follows.

And as we continue through Eastertide, we will keep asking what it means to live in the light of the resurrection – as people who know the story and are still being shaped by it in our daily lives, our choices, and our relationships.

See you at church,

Pastor Jay

Check out these books from our church library in April!

For Kids: *The Story of Ruth & Naomi* by Grolier

For Women: *Chasing Daylight* by McManus

For Men: *Rethinking Wesley's Theology* by Maddox

The church office will be closed Good Friday, April 3rd



*HOLY WEEK
IN OUR
CHURCH*

Palm Sunday—March 29th 9AM

Maundy Thursday—April 2nd

Service~6:30PM

Good Friday—April 3rd

Service~6:30PM

Easter Sunday—April 5th

Service~6:30AM & 9AM



Our prayer team is always ready to pray for you, or someone you know. If you have a prayer request, please contact Karen Frazer @ 815-985-7970, or contact the Church office at 815-544-3479.



Active Military

Do you have a family member serving in the military?

Please contact Ruth Bower, and let us know so we can be encouraging and praying for them. Here is what we need:

- Name of active family member and their relation to you
- Branch of military
- Location serving
- Address to send correspondence

Holy Week Worship

Please join us for worship on Maundy Thursday (April 2) at 6:30, to remember the Last Supper and arrest in the Garden, Good Friday (April 3) at 6:30, to remember Jesus' trial and Crucifixion, and Easter (April 5) to remember the Resurrection and celebrate the hope of new life now and again when this life is over.

On Easter we'll have a 6:30 sunrise service outside (weather permitting), followed by a continental breakfast in Perry Hall and our regular worship service at 9:00 in the Sanctuary. Please bring a friend to hear the good news of Easter and an invitation to the hope that God has already provided in Jesus Christ.

Free Community Supper

Wednesday April 1st,

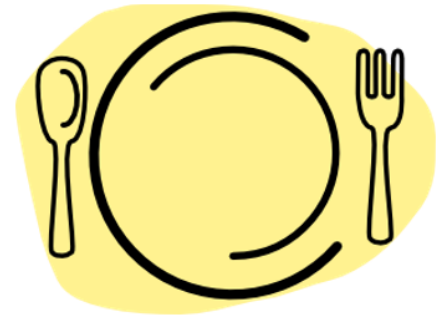
4:30-6:00pm

Join us and invite your friends.

If you are interested in
volunteering to help, please call
Karen Frazer 815-985-7970.

Hope you see you there!

Yummy BBQ Sandwiches



UWF RUMMAGE SALE

April 29 –8am to 4pm

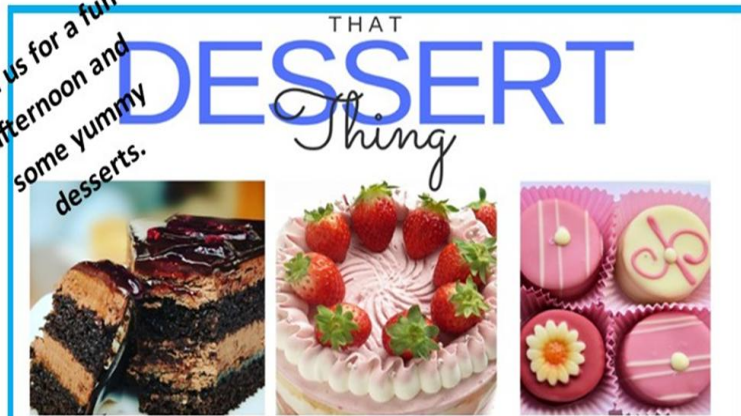
April 30—8am to 4pm

May 1—8am to 11am

Items will be
accepted April 27th
and 28th (8am-4pm)

**No
Electronics
Please**

Join us for a fun
afternoon and
some yummy
desserts.



Join us for a dessert auction featuring
local bakeries and the best home bakers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

BELVIDERE METHODIST CHURCH
610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere

2-4:30 PM / \$10

*proceeds support Camp Rock forward
a camp for children in foster care*

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN CHURCH OFFICE OR 815.566.1977

April Greeter Schedule

April 5 Helen Schuerr

April 12 Nancy Peterson

April 19 Carol Rowe

April 26 Bundschuh Family

April Ushers

Mark Petersen

Leslie Hardy

Jim Hardy

April Altar

Flowers

April 5 Easter Display

April 12 Kazy-Garey

Family

April 19 Underwoods

*April 26 *Open**



Empower Boone is in need of Cereal!
We will be collecting boxes of cereal during the month of April.
Collection box will be in the entryway.
Thanks for your support!
Mission Team

Care Notes



Care Notes are small booklets offering strength, help, and healing for a variety of topics that impact everyday lives at a very personal level. They are free to those who are hurting and in need of them.

Topics range from overcoming everyday anxiety to dealing with depression, abuse, grief, financial stress, addictions, dementia, and suicide. There are booklets for children, teens, and adults. Check out the **Care Notes** rack in the main hall just outside the office.

Debbi Bloomingdale is a Notary. If you need something notarized, please call the church office. This service is free to church members and their families.





Ministry by, with and for women, supporting spiritual growth individually and in community, encouraging and recognizing the unique needs that come with life stages.

Adapted from www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry

Remember those days when you could sit with crayons and your coloring books for hours. Come join us for Saturday, April 11th, 10:00am Women's Ministry Gathering and we'll be enjoying a relaxing morning of coloring and fellowship. We'll also be writing cards of encouragement for the kids going to Camp Rock Forward this summer.

Please call any of the ministry team with questions, (Karen Frazer, Pam Rossmiller, Carla Walter, Linda Lennon or Cindy Poulter). We'll save you a seat.

Our next UMM meeting is Saturday, April 18 at 8:30 am in the back room of The Steam Plant. Come for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion of summer plans!



United Women in Faith

Board Meeting April 6th 1pm

General Meeting April 7th 10am Perry Hall

Program is Helping Hands! Please donate paper products or laundry detergent, if able.

Saturday, April 18th

UWF speaker, Karen Andrus. She will be speaking to us about Tyler's Justice program for Children's Advocacy. More info on this following Easter. Please contact Lucy Capitostí at 815-520-7941 for more information.



United
Women
in Faith



Visitation Team

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

As we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Christ, we need to reflect on how to be faithful followers. God doesn't want us to be mere observers, but to be active participants in the faith. By reaching out and actively loving one another through acts of kindness, we serve as the hands and feet of Christ, as well as his eyes and ears. Take time to send an Easter card and note to a person who could use a little more love this Easter. God will surely bless you, as well as the person you are remembering.

"It doesn't cost so very much
To send a word of cheer,
To lonely folks whose heads are bowed
With pain, or grief or fear.
To make them feel that someone cares
And wants to lend a hand,
By word or deed, to show that someone
Tries to understand."

Anonymous

If you know someone who would appreciate a visit or if you would like to serve by joining our Visitation Team, please contact a team member.

Visitation Team: Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Linda Clair, Joanie Eastland, Rene Worden, Pastor Jay & Janet Wheeler

Adult Mission Trip – We have an opportunity to participate in tornado relief in Iowa from May 17-23. The town of Greenfield experienced what may have been the most powerful tornado recorded in history, killing 4. The newspaper coverage can be found at [Greenfield tornado damaged or destroyed 153 Iowa homes in 1 minute](#)

A 2-hour documentary is available here:

[The Day of the Strongest Tornado Ever Recorded - EXTREME Close-Range Storm Chasing - Greenfield, IA](#)

This mission opportunity is open to anyone 18 years or older who is willing to serve the people of this community, skilled or unskilled. We usually have a few tradesmen to help us and plenty of tools. The bare minimum requirement is a willing soul and 250 bucks and if the \$250 is a barrier, some scholarships exist that can help with that too. The fee covers food, transportation, lodging, and some construction materials and supplies.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Pastor Jim

Date: Wednesday April 22, 2026

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 3:30pm-5pm

Address: 610 Bonus Ave, Belvidere IL



ARE YOU HUNGRY?

If you don't have enough to eat, Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Market Pantry can help.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes nutritious food in high-need areas.

Food is free so neighbors can thrive.

Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food.



Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

Scan QR Code to learn more



**NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.**

www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp

BE A PART OF OUR 2ND

RICE MEAL PACK

Saturday, April 25, 2026

1st Shift: 9:00 - 10:30
2nd Shift: 10:45-12:15
2nd Shift training at 10:30

We will partner with Midwest Mission to pack 2400 meal bags (enough to feed 14,400 people)

Child care available 1st Shift
Sitting down jobs available
Invite a friend to come and share in the fun!

First United Methodist Church
610 Bonus Ave. Belvidere, IL
(815) 544-3470





On Sunday, March 1, 2026 three members of the Ambassador Team offered a Lenten Worship Service at Heritage Woods. Sue Holmes, Cindy Poulter and Carla Walters and six residents sang old familiar hymns (with the help of Bruce Poulter), prayed the prayer requests shared by those attending, listened to scripture and a devotion from Carla and ended with taking communion. The service was well received and will continue with a celebration on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 1:15.

We are hoping to continue offering services at Heritage Woods on the first Sunday of the month. Anyone interested in helping with this outreach may contact the Pastors, Sue, Cindy or Carla!

We need your help!

VBS 2026

Please save your brown filler paper from Amazon packages for Rainforest Falls VBS. You can drop them off in the nursery on Sunday mornings. Thank you!



THE UMM PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**Saturday, April 4th
7:30 - 10am in Perry Hall
Proceeds to benefit Camp Rock Forward**

Serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, and a beverage.



\$10 Adults // \$5 Kids (10 & under)

Tickets available from UMM members or the church office!

Money Matters ~Becky Newport

Service: The Act of Humility

Service in the Christian Context

In Christianity, service is portrayed as a selfless act of helping others, an emulation of Jesus Christ's example. It is characterized by humility and a profound desire to prioritize the needs of others above one's own. Service in the Bible is a demonstration of love and humility, mirroring Christ's servant-hearted nature.

Biblical Paragons of Service

Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)

This act of Jesus washing His disciples' feet stands as the ultimate symbol of humble service. By performing a task reserved for servants, Jesus illustrated the depths of humility and service, teaching that true greatness lies in being a servant to all.

Dorcas' Life of Service (Acts 9:36-42)

Dorcas, known for her acts of charity and service to the needy, epitomizes the impact and reach of compassionate service. Her life and deeds serve as a beacon, inspiring believers to live a life dedicated to service and kindness.

2026 Financial Information				
	February	Year-to-Date		
Income	31,221.65	63,056.59	Annual Apportionment	54,140.50
Expenses	77,296.06	125,241.05	Apportionment paid to date	6,275.66
Net Income (Loss)	(46,074.41)	(62,184.46)		

Children & Youth & UMM Spring Activities – A Joyful Season of Working Together

This coming May, we, children and youth are grateful to have several opportunities to partner with the UMM group. It is truly a joy to see different generations of our church coming together in meaningful ways.

We are excited to announce our upcoming **Youth Car Workshop on May 3**(Sunday). This special event is designed to equip our youth with basic car knowledge and practical skills, while also creating a fun and meaningful time of learning together.

Through this workshop, students will have the opportunity to learn simple car maintenance, build confidence, and develop a sense of responsibility. It will also be a great chance for fellowship, as youth and leaders spend time connecting in a hands-on environment.

We encourage all youth to participate and invite families to support this time. The workshop will take place **right after worship on May 3**, likely **in the picnic area in front of the garage**. More details, including the confirmed location, will be shared soon.

In addition, on **May 10**, we will host a **Birdhouse Building Activity**, an idea that began through the UMM group. This event is open not only to children and youth, but to anyone in the congregation who would like to participate.

This activity can be a meaningful way to prepare a Mother's Day gift, while also reminding us of our call to care for God's creation. For some, it may be a gift for a loved one; for others, it may be an expression of stewardship for "Mother Earth."

We also look forward to placing the birdhouses around our church grounds, hanging them on the many trees as a visible sign of our care for creation and our shared life together as a church community.

We hope many of you will join us for these wonderful opportunities for learning, creativity, and fellowship.



ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM


April

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Deuteronomy 18:1- 20:20	Luke 9:28-50	Psalms 73:1-28	Proverbs 12:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30	Luke 9:51-10:12	Psalms 74:1-23	Proverbs 12:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19	Luke 10:13-37	Psalms 75:1-10	Proverbs 12:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26	Luke 10:38-11:13	Psalms 76:1-12	Proverbs 12:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Deuteronomy 28:1-68	Luke 11:14-36	Psalms 77:1-20	Proverbs 12:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20	Luke 11:37-12:7	Psalms 78:1-31	Proverbs 12:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27	Luke 12:8-34	Psalms 78:32-55	Proverbs 12:21-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Deuteronomy 32:28-52	Luke 12:35-59	Psalms 78:56-64	Proverbs 12:24
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Deuteronomy 33:1-29	Luke 13:1-21	Psalms 78:65-72	Proverbs 12:25
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Deuteronomy 34:1- Joshua 2:24	Luke 13:22-14:6	Psalms 79:1-13	Proverbs 12:26
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Joshua 3:1-4:24	Luke 14:7-35	Psalms 80:1-19	Proverbs 12:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Joshua 5:1-7:15	Luke 15:1-32	Psalms 81:1-16	Proverbs 13:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Joshua 7:16-9:2	Luke 16:1-18	Psalms 82:1-8	Proverbs 13:2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Joshua 9:3-10:43	Luke 16:19-17:10	Psalms 83:1-18	Proverbs 13:4
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Joshua 11:1-12:24	Luke 17:11-37	Psalms 84:1-12	Proverbs 13:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Joshua 13:1-14:15	Luke 18:1-17	Psalms 85:1-13	Proverbs 13:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Joshua 15:1-63	Luke 18:18-43	Psalms 86:1-17	Proverbs 13:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Joshua 16:1-18:28	Luke 19:1-27	Psalms 87:1-7	Proverbs 13:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Joshua 19:1-20:9	Luke 19:28-48	Psalms 88:1-18	Proverbs 13:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Joshua 21:1-22:20	Luke 20:1-26	Psalms 89:1-13	Proverbs 13:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Joshua 22:21-23:16	Luke 20:27-47	Psalms 89:14-37	Proverbs 13:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Joshua 24:1-33	Luke 21:1-28	Psalms 89:38-52	Proverbs 13:20-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Judges 1:1-2:9	Luke 21:29-22:13	Psalms 90:1-91:16	Proverbs 13:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Judges 2:10-3:31	Luke 22:14-34	Psalms 92:1-93:5	Proverbs 14:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Judges 4:1-5:31	Luke 22:35-53	Psalms 94:1-23	Proverbs 14:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Judges 6:1-40	Luke 22:54-23:12	Psalms 95:1-96:13	Proverbs 14:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Judges 7:1-8:17	Luke 23:13-43	Psalms 97:1-98:9	Proverbs 14:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Judges 8:18-9:21	Luke 23:44-24:12	Psalms 99:1-9	Proverbs 14:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Judges 9:22-10:18	Luke 24:13-53	Psalms 100:1-5	Proverbs 14:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Judges 11:1-12:15	John 1:1-28	Psalms 101:1-8	Proverbs 14:13-14

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM EV Sunday School</p> <p>12:00 PM E V Worship</p> <p>2:30 PM That Dessert Thing</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Finance/Council Meeting</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Mission Meeting</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p> <p>6:00 PM Disciple 1</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 PM EV Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 AM Fitness Class</p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Disciple 3</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 AM Winnebago UWF District Meeting</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM Meeting</p>																																																																																												
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<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM EV Sunday School</p> <p>12:00 PM E V Worship</p> <p>1:30 PM EV Luncheon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 AM Rummage Sale Setup</p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Trustee Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 AM Rummage Sale Setup</p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p> <p>6:00 PM Disciple 1</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 PM EV Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00 AM Rummage Sale</p> <p>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 AM Fitness Class</p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Disciple 3</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 AM Rummage Sale</p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice</p> <p>5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice</p>																																																																																														



First United Methodist Church
610 Bonus Ave
Belvidere, IL 61008
Pastor Jim Bell
Associate Pastor Jay Shin

Phone: 815-544-3479

E-mail: officeadmin@fumcbelvidere.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-3

Friday 9-12

After hour emergencies--847-764-6563

Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:15 Sept--May



Find us on the web [@fumcbelvidere.org](http://fumcbelvidere.org)



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church or scan the QR
code below.**

