

July Newsletter

See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." - Isaiah 42:9

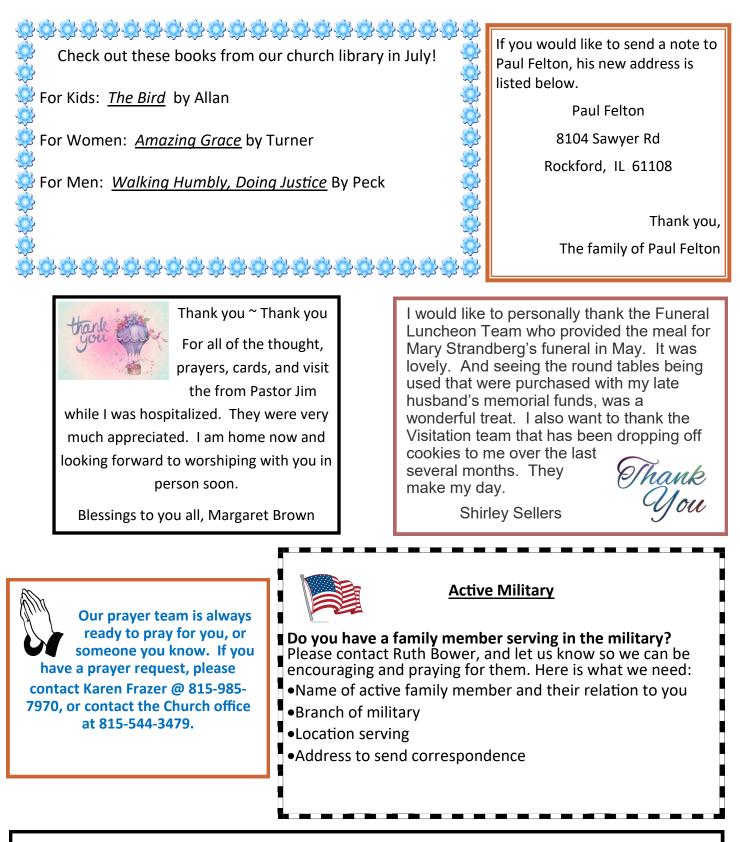
You may remember that a couple years ago we were reading the book of Acts and focused on a visit to a synagogue in a town called Antioch. Paul and Silas were sharing new information with the believers. It boiled down to three things: 1) God is doing so much more than we were taught in Sunday School, 2) The power and grace of God are available to us today, and 3) folks can take it or leave it, opt in or out. Acts 13 church. Maybe go back and read it for review.

We were excited and agreed that God was doing something new right here among us. And God has done new things and we have experienced new blessings, and kind of moved on. Now here we are, two years later, and it seems we're entering another new chapter in our history together. The pace of change is intimidating, like a fast roller coaster, and invigorating, like, I don't know, a fast roller coaster. But God's faithfulness is like the engineering and structure that stabilize the whole ride. Our fast-paced, God-powered new thing is just as stable as the lazy river log ride.

So we're taking steps to prepare ourselves for the ride. Our summer series on spiritual practices is helping us draw near to God and find our peace while the world swirls around us. We plan to take a survey this summer to get an accurate picture of the new makeup of our congregation. This fall we'll look at Stewardship through a different lens: financial stewardship, to be sure, but the whole of our church life and our place in it. By charge conference season we hope to have a good idea of our direction for the next couple years and beyond, with a transition plan and a bit of experimentation built in. If I had to guess, though, we'll be writing this article again in a couple years, to an audience including new folks and a leadership team with new leaders, and a ministry program of new activities reaching a new set of folks around our community. Because even before the ink is dry on the last new thing, God is announcing the next new thing. Until the day when God makes all things new, we get to watch as God makes us new and things around us new over and over again.

Let's chat this summer, about what's important to you, what you are itching to get involved in, what you hope God will renew next and what we should make sure we preserve for our next chapter. Looking forward to the conversation,

Pastor Jim



#### **Hospitality Team**

John 13: 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. "

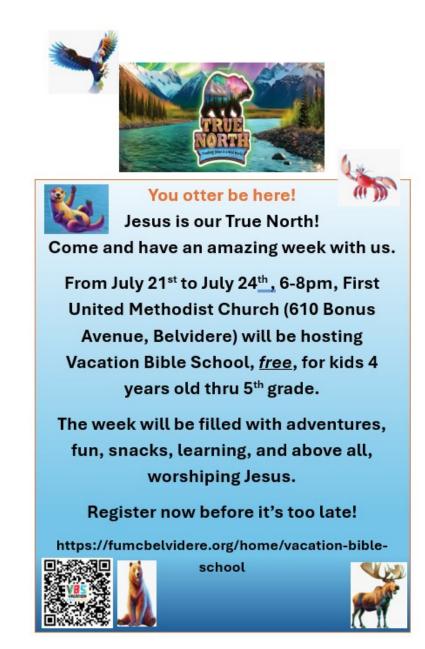
Would you like to meet and greet visitors to our church? Then our Hospitality Team may be the place for you. Contact the church office at 815-544-3479 for more information, if you feel God nudging you towards this team.

#### **Fair Play**

Signups are underway for ticket sellers and cart drivers to support the Boone County Fair, the largest county fair in the state of Illinois. Fair dates are August 5-10. For those with administrative gifts, there are less-publicized opportunities to serve in the administrative offices. By revenue-sharing, the Fair has been a strong supporter of First UMC and by providing volunteer support we are an increasingly strong supporter of the Fair.

Signup is available by contacting the church office (Debbi), or to inquire about opportunities to serve in the fair office.

The church office will be closed Friday July 4th in observance of the holiday.







Come join us for our Saturday, July 12th, 10:00am Women's Ministry Gathering. Please bring your Peace book as we discuss other ways to fast besides food. 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.

# There will be no UWF board or general meeting in July





#### **UMM MEETING NOTICE**

Our next UMM meeting is on Sat. July 19, 830am in Perry Hall. Come for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion on upcoming plans!

### **Visitation Team**

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Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other, let us really show it by our actions." 1John 3:18

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to walk in love and to share that love as we allow God to work through us. Pray that God will direct your thoughts to someone who needs a visit, a card, or a few kind words. A simple act of kindness can be a wonderful way to share the love of Christ in a very personal way.

If you have suggestions on how the Visitation Team can more effectively minister, please notify a team member or contact the church office at 815-544-3479.

The Lord does not look so much at the magnitude of anything we do as the love with which we do it." Teresa of Availa (1515-1582)

The Visitation Team: Janet Wheeler, Jan Harty, Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Linda Clair, & Rene Worden.

#### Annual Conference Report 2025

#### By Curt Newport, Lay Delegate

The Northern Illinois Conference, one of 54 conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States, held its Annual Conference in Schaumburg on June 9-11, 2025. Our conference includes about 300 congregations in 19 counties in northern Illinois, stretching from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River and generally north of I-80.

Delegates to Annual Conference include both clergy and laity. Carla Walter and I were privileged to represent First UMC Belvidere as lay delegates, and it is our duty to report to our local congregation about what happened there.

A fair amount of time is spent on the customary, administrative and procedural activities that happen every year. We commission and ordain new clergy, and this year we rejoiced as our Associate Pastor Jay Shin was commissioned for the work of an Elder. We recognize retiring clergy and remember those who have departed this earthly life. We vote on a budget, hear reports from numerous committees and task forces, and approve changes to the administrative structure and staffing. We set standards for clergy compensation, benefits and housing.

Intermixed with the business at hand, there was singing, praying, preaching and Bible study in a worshiplike atmosphere. Bishop Schwerin described our Annual Conference as "half revival, half shareholder's meeting." Seating was assigned to facilitate new friendships. Sadly, we approved the closure of two local churches in the conference, Malden UMC in Bureau County and Franklin Grove UMC in Lee County.

Financial overview: Unaudited 2024 figures show an operating deficit of \$(784,466) which is approximately 16% of total income for the year (pass-through funds excluded). Budgeted apportionment income for 2025 and 2026 are higher than 2024 actual, with a projected collection rate of 79%.

Beyond that mentioned above, several other legislative documents were presented. These proposals, all of which were ultimately approved by a vote of conference delegates, provide great insight into the prevailing ideologies of our annual conference and to some extent, our denomination as a whole. They are listed below by title. The full, 28-page list of legislation can be found here: <u>http://www.umcnic.org/</u><u>AC2025Docs</u>

640.01 Special Sundays with Offerings for 2026

650.01 Apportionment Formula

680.01 Benefit Programs (changes to health insurance and pension programs)

680.02 Minimum Salaries for Full-Time Elders

700.01 Reaffirming Our Commitment to Connectionalism in the Northern Illinois Conference

700.02 Who Are Our Neighbors? Standing with our Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers Communities

700.03 Supporting Human Rights Advocacy and the Right to Engage in Nonviolent Actions including Boycotts and Free Speech

700.04 Resolution to Support the Call to Boycott Chevron

700.05 Opposition to Unjust Theologies: Challenging Religious Nationalism

700.05 It's Time to Divest From Countries Involved in Prolonged Military Occupations

700.07 LGBTQIA+ Ministry

702.02 Amend the Standing Rules to separate the joint Board of Pensions, Health Benefits, and Equitable Compensation

700.05 Creation Care Advocate Resolution

#### **Boone County Fair**

Fair Dates are Tuesday, August 5th thru Sunday August 10th. This is a huge fundraiser for our church!



Call the office (815-544-3479) and ask for Debbi if you would like to sign up to work a gate, drive a cart, work in the administration office, or be a back up in case someone cannot do their shift.

Thank you!

# NEED GROCERIES?

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

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes nutritious food to high-need areas. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Mobile Pantry distributions have moved to a contactless drive-thru model, with pre-packed boxes of groceries.





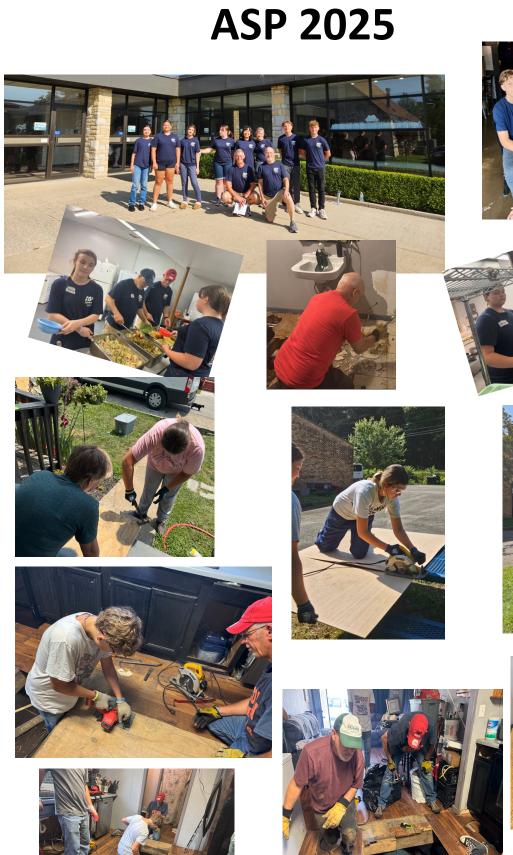




For additional food resources, visit www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp

signup to help' Signup Mobil **Mobile Pantry** will be at Belvidere 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Wednesday, July 23rd 3:30-5:00pm 610 Bonus Avenue **Belvidere** 

Volunteers please be at the church at 2:30











#### Money Matters ~Becky Newport

## Jesus' Teachings on Giving

Jesus affirmed the importance of giving but emphasized the heart behind it. He warned against giving for the sake of outward appearances, while urging believers to give sincerely and sacrificially.

• **Matthew 23:23:** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

**Luke 21:1-4:** "As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others.'"

In this passage, Jesus highlights the widow's sacrificial giving as more valuable than the rich who gave from their surplus, showing that God values the heart and sacrifice behind our offerings.

2025 Financial Information				
	May	Year-to-Date		
Income	30,033.49	197,097.96	Annual Apportionment	61,764.00
Expenses	40,153.15	210,283.55	Apportionment paid to date	18,899.25
Net Income (Loss)	(10,119.66)	(13,185.59)		



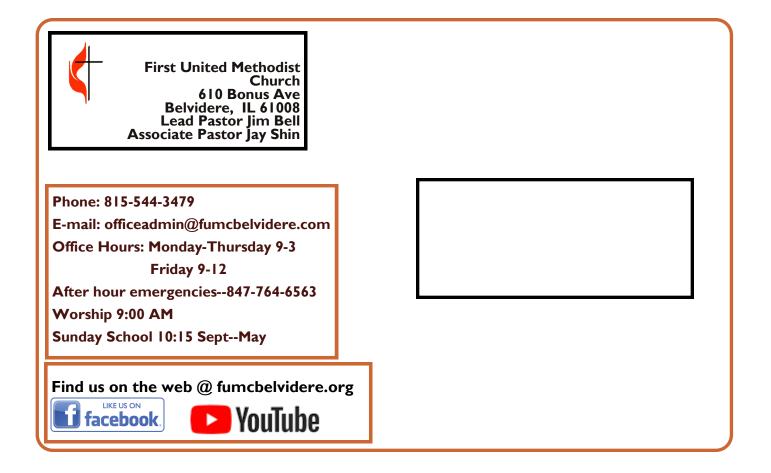


# ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM

# July

		Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
	01	2 Kings 18:13-19:37	Acts 21:1-17	Psalm 149:1-9	Proverbs 18:8
	02	2 Kings 20:1-22:2	Acts 21:18-36	Psalm 150:1-6	Proverbs 18:9-10
	03	2 Kings 22:3-23:30	Acts 21:37-22:16	Psalm 1:1-6	Proverbs 18:11-12
	04	2 Kings 23:31-25:30	Acts 22:17-23:10	Psalm 2:1-12	Proverbs 18:13
	05	1 Chronicles 1:1-2:17	Acts 23:11-35	Psalm 3:1-8	Proverbs 18:14-15
	06	1 Chronicles 2:18-4:4	Acts 24:1-27	Psalm 4:1-8	Proverbs 18:16-18
	07	1 Chronicles 4:5-5:17	Acts 25:1-27	Psalm 5:1-12	Proverbs 18:19
	08	1 Chronicles 5:18-6:81	Acts 26:1-32	Psalm 6:1-10	Proverbs 18:20-21
	09	1 Chronicles 7:1-8:40	Acts 27:1-20	Psalm 7:1-17	Proverbs 18:22
	10	1 Chronicles 9:1-10:14	Acts 27:21-44	Psalm 8:1-9	Proverbs 18:23-24
	11	1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18	Acts 28:1-31	Psalm 9:1-12	Proverbs 19:1-3
	12	1 Chronicles 12:19-14:17	Romans 1:1-17	Psalm 9:13-20	Proverbs 19:4-5
	13	1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36	Romans 1:18-32	Psalm 10:1-15	Proverbs 19:6-7
	14	1 Chronicles 16:37-18:17	Romans 2:1-24	Psalm 10:16-18	Proverbs 19:8-9
	15	1 Chronicles 19:1-21:30	Romans 2:25-3:8	Psalm 11:1-7	Proverbs 19:10-12
	16	1 Chronicles 22:1-23:32	Romans 3:9-31	Psalm 12:1-8	Proverbs 19:13-14
	17	1 Chronicles 24:1-26:11	Romans 4:1-12	Psalm 13:1-6	Proverbs 19:15-16
	18	1 Chronicles 26:12-27:34	Romans 4:13-5:5	Psalm 14:1-7	Proverbs 19:17
	19	1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30	Romans 5:6-21	Psalm 15:1-5	Proverbs 19:18-19
	20	2 Chronicles 1:1-3:17	Romans 6:1-23	Psalm 16:1-11	Proverbs 19:20-21
	21	2 Chronicles 4:1-6:11	Romans 7:1-13	Psalm 17:1-15	Proverbs 19:22-23
	22	2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10	Romans 7:14-8:8	Psalm 18:1-15	Proverbs 19:24-25
	23	2 Chronicles 8:11-10:19	Romans 8:9-25	Psalm 18:16-36	Proverbs 19:26
	24	2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22	Romans 8:26-39	Psalm 18:37-50	Proverbs 19:27-29
	25	2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14	Romans 9:1-24	Psalm 19:1-14	Proverbs 20:1
	26	2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34	Romans 9:25-10:13	Psalm 20:1-9	Proverbs 20:2-3
	27	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37	Romans 10:14-11:12	Psalm 21:1-13	Proverbs 20:4-6
	28	2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21	Romans 11:13-36	Psalm 22:1-18	Proverbs 20:7
	29	2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28	Romans 12:1-21	Psalm 22:19-31	Proverbs 20:8-10
	30	2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27	Romans 13:1-14	Psalm 23:1-6	Proverbs 20:11
	31	2 Chronicles 29:1-36	Romans 14:1-23	Psalm 24:1-10	Proverbs 20:12

		July	2025			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S M T 1 2 3 8 9 10 15 16 17	2025 W T F S 4 5 6 7 11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21 25 26 27 28	1 1:30 PM Brightstart Early Head Start 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 11:45 AM Brightstart Early Head Start 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric)	3 4:00 PM BCH Mobile Bus 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice	4 5:00 PM EV Music Practice 9:00 PM EV Prayer Vigil Church Office Closed	5
6 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM EV Music Practice 10:45 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Church Service	7 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric)	8 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	9 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric)	10 8:00 AM Lifeline Screening 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice	11 10:00 AM IDA Library Book Mobile in Parking Lot 5:00 PM EV Music Practice	12 10:00 AM Women's Ministry Meeting
13 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM EV Music Practice 10:45 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Church Service	14 10:00 AM Matthew Group 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 2:00 PM Visitation Team Meeting 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric) 5:30 PM Finance/Council Meeting 6:00 PM Main Street Players Camp	15 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Main Street Players Camp	16 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric) 6:00 PM Main Street Players Camp	17 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Main Street Players Camp	18 10:00 AM IDA Library Book Mobile in Parking Lot 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM EV Music Practice 6:00 PM Main Street Players Camp 7:00 PM Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting	19 8:30 AM UMM Meeting 10:00 AM Main Street Players Camp Show
20 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM EV Music Practice 10:45 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Church Service	21 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric) 6:00 PM VBS	22 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM VBS 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	23 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 3:30 PM NIFB Mobile Pantry 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric) 6:00 PM VBS	24 S:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice S:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM VBS 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting	25 10:00 AM IDA Library Book Mobile in Parking Lot 5:00 PM EV Music Practice	26
27 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM EV Music Practice 10:45 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Church Service	28 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric) 5:30 PM Trustee Meeting	29 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Baseball Practice (Eric)	31 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice	17 18 19 20	T F S 1 2



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VBS is July 21-24