

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

610 BONUS AVE
BELVIDERE, IL
61008



The Courier

JULY 2025



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

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

Pastor Jay

Check out these books from our church library in July!

For Kids: *The Bird* by Allan

For Women: *Amazing Grace* by Turner

For Men: *Walking Humbly, Doing Justice* By Peck

If you would like to send a note to Paul Felton, his new address is listed below.

Paul Felton
8104 Sawyer Rd
Rockford, IL 61108

Thank you,
The family of Paul Felton



Thank you ~ Thank you
For all of the thought,
prayers, cards, and visit
the from Pastor Jim
while I was hospitalized. They were very
much appreciated. I am home now and
looking forward to worshipping with you in
person soon.

Blessings to you all, Margaret Brown

I would like to personally thank the Funeral Luncheon Team who provided the meal for Mary Strandberg's funeral in May. It was lovely. And seeing the round tables being used that were purchased with my late husband's memorial funds, was a wonderful treat. I also want to thank the Visitation team that has been dropping off cookies to me over the last several months. They make my day.

Shirley Sellers

*Thank
You*



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

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.



You otter be here!

Jesus is our True North!

Come and have an amazing week with us.

From July 21st to July 24th, 6-8pm, First United Methodist Church (610 Bonus Avenue, Belvidere) will be hosting Vacation Bible School, free, for kids 4 years old thru 5th grade.

The week will be filled with adventures, fun, snacks, learning, and above all, worshipping Jesus.

Register now before it's too late!

<https://fumcbelvidere.org/home/vacation-bible-school>





July 14-18

Sign up in gathering area or call the church office.

July Greeter Schedule

July 6 Wayne & Nancy Jahn

July 13 Debbie Steinborn

July 20 Mary Cordray

July 27 Jeanette Gardner

July Ushers

Steve Heuer

Aaron Heuer

Curt Newport



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 of the office.

July Altar Flowers

July 6 Leslie & Jim

Hardy

July 13 Tiffany Arellano

July 20 Shirley Mills

July 27 Amy, Paul, Sara

Adult Mission Trip

What a great experience our team had in Greenfield, IA, rebuilding after a lethal tornado from November, but there's more work to be done. We plan to return September 7-12. If you might benefit from a life-giving adventure to serve God by serving others, please contact Pastor Jim or the church office for details or to sign up.



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.





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

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 Avila (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 worship-like 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: <http://www.umcnic.org/AC2025Docs>

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

Sign up to help!

The NIFB
Mobile Pantry
will be at
Belvidere 1st UMC
Wednesday,
July 23rd
3:30-5:00pm
610 Bonus Avenue
Belvidere

Volunteers please be at the church at
2:30

ASP 2025



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.

<u>2025 Financial Information</u>				
	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)		

Music!



GAMES



FUN

Save The Date
VBS Family Night
Fun at FUMC
Friday, July 25th
5:30pm-7:00pm



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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July

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

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July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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**First United Methodist
Church**
610 Bonus Ave
Belvidere, IL 61008
Lead 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



Scan the QR with your phone, or Ipad to go directly to our website.



VBS is July 21-24

