

JULY 2026

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
610 BONUS AVE  
BELVIDERE, IL  
61008



# FUMC Courier



Belvidere First  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

## July Newsletter

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" - **Mark 12:28**

One of the biggest traps for established churches is mission drift. One of the most productive exercises for the leaders of established churches is a review of our values, priorities, mission and vision. Mission drift is when we start off with a clear understanding of what we're about. Then, over time, another good idea comes up and we add it. Then another and another until we are a jumble of good ideas without any clear direction. Reviewing our core commitments and big picture helps us refocus and reset.

At our June Ministry Council meeting, we discussed the values that would guide our congregation through our transition and into the next chapter of our life together. We started with a list of good ideas and made notes of our personal priorities and those that guide the church. We narrowed our lists, remembering that sometimes we choose between good things. We reduced further, remembering that sometimes our priorities compete for staff time, budget allocation, attention and emphasis with our church family. We narrowed a great list down to three core things:

We are, at heart, a **Community**, established and bound together by Jesus Christ. We are a sometimes quirky extended family with a place for everyone and increasingly the heart of Christ for the town and county (Community) around us.

We ground our faith in the **Bible**, the Word of God for God's people, the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We study the Scripture and apply what we understand to our individual lives and the guidance of our shared ministry.

We are a people called to **Mission**. The Spirit of God moves us to bring healing where the circumstances of life, injustice and oppression have wounded our neighbors. We emphasize children in our community and their families. We believe that God calls us to give from our abundance and to work with loving hearts and hands to represent God's care for all creatures.

As we continue to grow together, we pray that these values will shape who we are and all that we do. May we deepen our life together in Christ, be rooted in God's Word, and share God's love with our neighbors through acts of service and compassion.

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jay

Check out these books from our church library in July!

For Kids: *The Story of Noah* by Grolier

For Women: *Handbook of World Religions* by Woods

For Men: *methodist Doctrine* by Campbell



*The Church Office Will  
Be Closed 7/3  
For The Holiday  
Happy 250<sup>th</sup> America!*



Parking Lot is Complete!

With faithful prayers and financial support from many, we have finally completed the balance of the parking lot work that started 2 years ago. We extend our thanks to BelRock as well for returning our tired and worn parking lot back to a new condition.

A biannual maintenance program of sealcoating, crack filling and stripping has been developed by our Trustee team that should keep our parking lot looking in good condition for many years to come.

Your Trustee Team.



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 relationship to you
- Branch of military
- Location serving
- Address to send correspondence

### Hospitality Team

**Ephesians 6:7** "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,"

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.



# COMMUNITY DINNER *free*



**Wednesday  
July 1  
4:30 to  
6pm**

Make plans to join us the first Wednesday of the month for a free community dinner. This month we're serving up pulled pork. Then stay for a brief group prayer time at 6pm. All are welcome!



**fumcbelvidere.org**  
610 Bonus Avenue  
815-544-3479

## July Greeter Schedule

July 5 Kazy-Garey Family  
July 12 Max Gardner  
July 19 Bo & Nicole Price  
July 26 Linda & Cherie Clair

## July Ushers

Terry Frazer  
Jeanette Gardner  
Max Gardner

## *July Altar*

### *Flowers*

*July 5 Leslie & Jim Hardy*

*July 12 Tiffy & Juan*

*Arellano*

*July 19 Dan & Sue Holmes*

*July 26 (open spot)*

## **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.





**There will be no UMM meeting for July, due to the Pancake Breakfast**



United  
Women  
in Faith

*United Women in Faith*  
There will be no  
UWF meetings in  
July.



**REGISTER**

**VBS  
JULY 20-24**

**NOW**





### Visitation Team

"We are the people he watches over,  
the sheep under his care.  
Oh, that you would listen to his voice today."

Psalm 95:7

When you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thinking as to which individuals need to be remembered.

See where your mind goes and what people come to mind. Make a list of those folks that God puts on your heart. Reach out to them with a visit, a phone call or a card and remember to pray for them. Listen to the still small voice within and obey its leading.

If you have suggestions on how the Visitation Team may more effectively share God's love, please notify a team member or contact the church office at (815)544-3479.

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

**\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\***

**July 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm**

**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 11-16. 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 sheets are available in our entry hall, or feel free to contact the church office to sign up or to inquire about opportunities to serve in the office.



### 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 are beginning our planning for a fall trip. We may return to Greenfield or may be called to some of the more recent tornado damage closer to home. 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.

Date: Wednesday July 22

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](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp)



## NEECITA USTED ALIMENTOS

Si usted no alcanza lo suficiente para sustentar su comida, la Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank puede ayudarle.

La Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank distribuye comida nutritiva en lugares con necesidades altas.

La comida es gratuita para que los vecinos puedan prosperar.

Por favor traiga bolsas o cajas para envasar su comida.



La comida se distribuye por orden de llegada, hasta agotar la existencias.

Escanee el código  
QR para saber más



**VECINOS.  
EMPODERADOS.**

[www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/GetHelp)

# SUMMERTIME PANCAKE BREAKFAST!



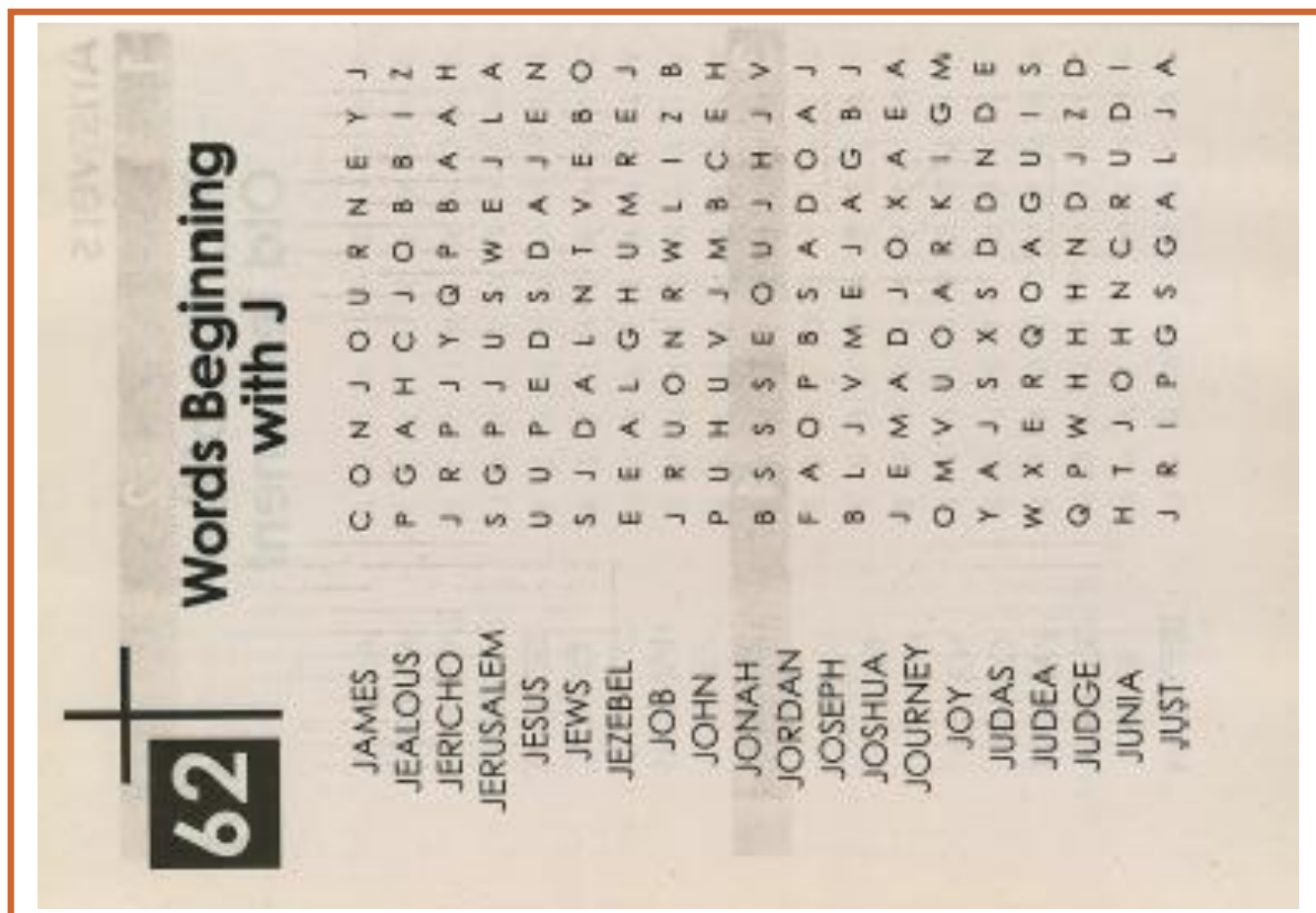
**Saturday, July 11**  
**7:30 - 10am in Perry Hall**  
**Proceeds to benefit Adult Missions**

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



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

Tickets will be available mid-June from UMM members or the church office!



*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2*



### May Expenses explained

Did you notice, did you see our parking lot redo has been completed? What does this have to do with the May Expenses?

Let's go back to February when our expenses were \$65,758.67, of this total, \$32,695.91 was approved to assist the Trustees to pay the deposit to begin the parking lot project. Trustees had been informed that a Trust was going to be paid out in the next few months. Essentially Paul (Capital Building Fund) borrowed from Peter (Operating Fund). The Trust Fund was paid out in May and Peter paid back Paul, offsetting the Operating Fund expenses.

<u>2026 Financial Information</u>				
	May	Year-to-Date		
Income	37,475.06	176,702.86	Annual Apportionment	54,140.50
Expenses	5,040.48	215,356.51	Apportionment paid to date	17,610.28
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	32,434.58	<b>(38,653.65)</b>		



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](http://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry)*

Join us on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Hope to see you there, we'll save you a seat.

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.



# ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM


## 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
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<input type="checkbox"/>	26 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34	Romans 9:25-10:13	Psalms 20:1-9	Proverbs 20:2-3
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<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

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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**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](mailto: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 code with  
your phone, or Ipad  
to go directly to our  
website.**



**If you would like us to  
to pray for you, email the  
church or scan the QR  
code below.**

