

MARCH 2026

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

610 BONUS AVE

BELVIDERE, IL

61008



FUMC Courier



Belvidere First

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

March Newsletter

“Hosanna!”

It is the cry of the crowd on Palm Sunday. The Hebrew word means “save.” It can be a prayer that asks God to save us from things beyond our understanding and control. We could all pray that prayer. We live in a season of “Hosanna.”

The same word can be an affirmation that the one we speak to is capable of saving. It is a statement of faith. “You are a savior!” (do something!) Perhaps fewer of us can make this declaration and point it at Jesus Christ. We have to figure out what salvation is and how it happens and how Jesus in particular makes it happen, and if Jesus is the only one who can make it happen. But it would be nice if Jesus could and would, please.

We live on the after side of Easter, with the benefit of almost 2000 years of Christianity and Bible. When we enter into Lent it is not the pilgrim journey of the first disciples, suddenly interrupted by the Cross. We have their testimony to what comes next. We know that the tomb cannot hold Jesus nor can persecution extinguish his Church. We pray differently on this side.

“Hosanna!” You are my savior. You are our savior. You are the Savior! You have saved me from things seen and unseen in ways I can tell and in ways I will not know until glory. You were saving before I was born and will save after I am gone and for reasons I do not entirely understand, you put saving other stuff on hold to save me, with full knowledge and understanding. Nothing I do escapes your notice; nothing that happens to me is beyond your reach, and you have prepared a place for me and given me a key so that I may freely enter in this life and through all eternity.

This Lent we do not pretend not to know the whole story, rather we lay aside the things that are not part of God’s story. We seek to know better the one in whose grace we stand and with whom we shall enjoy the promise. Please take stock of the ways you serve the Kingdom and the ways we are drawn away in our daily life. We invite you to take advantage of a devotional booklet and Bible study intended to offer comfort and freedom to all of us. And please join us in worship to warm up our “Hosanna” and prepare for the day we shall sing it face-to-face.

See you in church,

Pastor Jim

Check out these books from our church library in March!

For Kids: *The Story of Joseph & His Rainbow Coat*
by Grolier

For Women: *From Christ to Constatine* by Curtis

For Men: *Three Simple Rules* by Job



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.



Daylight Savings Time Begins – or, as it’s known locally, Crabby Preacher Day falls on Sunday, March 8. Set your clocks ahead Saturday night before you turn in, or at the official time of 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, then get up and join us in person or online to mock our sleep-deprived pastor.



Palm Sunday—March 29th Service at 9am



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

3John 1: 5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters,^[a] even though they are strangers to you.

Would you like to meet and greet visitors to our church? Then our Hospitality Team (Greeters & Ushers) 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.



Join us for a fun
afternoon and
some yummy
desserts.

THAT
DESSERT
Thing



*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

Order your Easter flowers in honor of
someone or in memory of someone.

Tulips or Lilies are \$13 each.

Checks can be made out to the church.

Orders are due in by 3/24.

You can drop them off at the office or
mail them in before the deadline.



Once again, you can purchase lilies, and tulips in
honor/memory of loved ones for Easter. They will be
displayed in the sanctuary during the service. They
are \$13.00 each. You can drop off your form & money
in the church office, collection plate, or mail to
attention Debbi Bloomingdale.

Last day to order is Monday March 24th.

Please take your flowers home after the service.

____ Quantity Lily ____ Quantity Tulip

Your Name: _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Communion Servers

Each Sunday during Lent, we'll be celebrating Communion. This means opportunities to serve in one of the holiest ministries of the Church. Now we can welcome a number of new folks to pass along the grace of God to all those who would receive it. If you'd like to help serve Communion, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.



March Greeter Schedule

- March 1 Wayne & Nancy Jahn
- March 8 Linda & Cherie Clair
- March 15 Carla Walter
- March 22 Bo & Nicole Price
- March 29 Debbie Steinborn

March Ushers

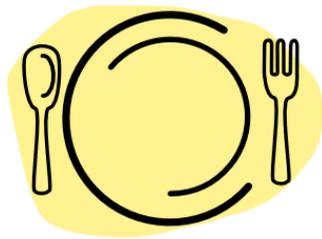
- Steve Heuer
- Aaron Heuer
- Terry Frazer

Free Community Supper

Wednesday March 4th,
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!



March Altar

Flowers

- March 1 Bud & Kim Schulze
- March 8 Lucy Capítosti
- March 15 Shírly Mills
- March 22 Greg Keegan
- March 29 Glenda Bahling

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.





The UMM will not hold a meeting in March. Instead, we will attend the Prairie North Spring Communion Breakfast Meeting at Faith UMC in Freeport on Saturday, March 14.

**United Women in Faith
Board Meeting**

March 2nd ~1pm in Parlor

General Meeting

**March 3rd~10am Perry
Hall**



United
Women
in Faith

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!



Visitation Team

“For even I, the Son of man, came here not to be served but to serve others...” Mark 10: 45

During this season of Lent when we reflect on our life with Christ, remember that we are all called to serve others. Jesus placed a high value on service and asked us to follow his example. Take time to consider with whom you should be connecting. As followers of Christ, we can offer God’s love by offering a word of encouragement, by spending time with someone, or by providing a listening ear. Always serve humbly and with joy.

If you know someone the Visitation Team should be visiting, or if you have suggestions on how the team could more effectively minister, please notify a team member or contact the church office at 815-544-3479.

“We have the privilege to serve, share, wait, help, and be patient in love” Stephanie Bryant

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

Next meeting Monday, March 16th at 1pm

As many of you know, I am currently serving as a Provisional Elder and am in the process of pursuing Full Membership as an Elder in The United Methodist Church. As part of this journey, I am required to design and lead a Bible study, receive feedback, and submit a paper on the experience. For this reason, I will be offering a three-week Bible study in March based on the book of Galatians (Unbound – Recovered – Synchronized).

This three-week study is important for our church because many of us, even as believers, still live with quiet pressure to prove ourselves. We may talk about grace, but we often measure our faith by performance, comparison, or religious achievement. Through Galatians, we will create space to recognize these hidden patterns and return to the simple and powerful truth of the gospel—Christ alone.

This study will also help us remember who we are together. We are not just individuals trying to be spiritually strong on our own. In Christ, we are heirs and members of God’s one family. Salvation is not only about personal comfort or security; it is about joining in God’s work of restoring the world. This changes how we see one another—as family, not distant individuals living side by side.

Finally, many of us experience faith as constant effort—trying harder, doing more, and feeling tired. Galatians invites us into a different way of living: not striving but walking in step with the Spirit. As we learn to follow the Spirit’s rhythm together, our lives will begin to show the fruit of new creation naturally and joyfully.

The Bible study will be held at Perry Hall after worship on Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22. It will not be overly academic or difficult, but engaging, interactive, and (if it unfolds as I hope!) genuinely enjoyable. I warmly invite you to join us for these three weeks as we explore Galatians together.

Pastor Jay



Mission Team would like to thank everyone who donated Toiletry Items for Empower Boone. As always, your generosity was overwhelming.

The ASP team is thankful for your "Gifts from the Heart" support. The team is looking forward to being able to head to Kentucky to help make homes warmer, safer and drier. Your monetary donations make this possible.

Upcoming events:

- Free Community Meal Wednesday, March 4, 2026
- March collection for Empower Boone to be announced (waiting to hear about their current needs!)
- April 22: Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Truck
- April 25: 2nd Annual Rice Meal Pack
 - Mark your calendar and start letting friends and family know the date
- May 17-22: Adult Mission Trip to Greenfield, Iowa

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!





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

Join us on Saturday March 14th 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.

Good Friday

Word Search

F H M B U R I E D W M L K Y J	HIGH PRIEST
W H H W X J C O I D S Z P N Y	ROOSTER
Q I X Z Z F R I S A O P E P Z	BURIED
Z G R N F H O J C R L C T I Z	JESUS
I H O I R R W B I K D R E L C	TRIAL
J P O Y I F N T P N I U R A R	DISCIPLES
R R S D D I O R L E E C F T O	SOLDIER
R I T S A M F I E S R I X E S	FRIDAY
O E E Q Y Y T A S S O F Y F S	DARKNESS
A S R U S W H L Q U S Y A W N	CROWN OF THORNS
T T X A V Q O E B E S F H I R	PURPLE ROBE
R E V H W H R F E Q E M M Q J	CRUCIFY
J E S U S E N P A X L Z Z J W	PILATE
O V T E F E S G U C O E V U E	CROSS
V P U R P L E R O B E C J B N	PETER



Hospitality: The Gracious Extension

Hospitality, as depicted in the scriptures, is an act of extending one’s resources, such as home, food, and care, to others, particularly to those who are strangers or in need. This form of giving is a direct reflection of God’s character, illustrating His care and compassion for the alienated and lost. In biblical teachings, hospitality is not just a social courtesy; it is a divine command, an expression of godly love and kindness.

Instances in Scripture

Abraham’s Welcome (Genesis 18:1-8)

Abraham’s encounter with the heavenly visitors is a prime example of divine hospitality. His eagerness to welcome and care for these guests unknowingly led to a blessed encounter with God. This narrative sets a precedent, demonstrating how acts of hospitality can be opportunities for divine experiences.

The Shunammite Woman (2 Kings 4:8-10)

The story of the Shunammite woman and her unwavering hospitality towards Elisha, a prophet of God, is another poignant illustration. Her selfless act of kindness brought about blessings and miracles, underlining the power and significance of hospitality in the biblical context.

<u>2026 Financial Information</u>				
	January	Year-to-Date		
Income	31,834.94	31,834.94	Annual Apportionment	54,140.50
Expenses	47,944.99	47,944.99	Apportionment paid to date	3,183.49
Net Income (Loss)	(16,110.05)	(16,110.05)		

Scouting Sunday

March 8

Make sure to welcome any scouts you may see in church this day. Many of them meet in the church.

We welcome them all!





March

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 Leviticus 24:1-25:46	Mark 10:13-31	Psalms 44:9-26	Proverbs 10:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/>	02 Leviticus 25:47-27:13	Mark 10:32-52	Psalms 45:1-17	Proverbs 10:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	03 Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54	Mark 11:1-26	Psalms 46:1-11	Proverbs 10:23
<input type="checkbox"/>	04 Numbers 2:1-3:51	Mark 11:27-12:17	Psalms 47:1-9	Proverbs 10:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/>	05 Numbers 4:1-5:31	Mark 12:18-37	Psalms 48:1-14	Proverbs 10:26
<input type="checkbox"/>	06 Numbers 6:1-7:89	Mark 12:38-13:13	Psalms 49:1-20	Proverbs 10:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/>	07 Numbers 8:1-9:23	Mark 13:14-37	Psalms 50:1-23	Proverbs 10:29-30
<input type="checkbox"/>	08 Numbers 10:1-11:23	Mark 14:1-21	Psalms 51:1-19	Proverbs 10:31-32
<input type="checkbox"/>	09 Numbers 11:24-13:33	Mark 14:22-52	Psalms 52:1-9	Proverbs 11:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Numbers 14:1-15:16	Mark 14:53-72	Psalms 53:1-6	Proverbs 11:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Numbers 15:17-16:40	Mark 15:1-47	Psalms 54:1-7	Proverbs 11:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Numbers 16:41-18:32	Mark 16:1-20	Psalms 55:1-23	Proverbs 11:7
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Numbers 19:1-20:29	Luke 1:1-25	Psalms 56:1-13	Proverbs 11:8
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Numbers 21:1-22:20	Luke 1:26-56	Psalms 57:1-11	Proverbs 11:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Numbers 22:21-23:30	Luke 1:57-80	Psalms 58:1-11	Proverbs 11:12-13
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Numbers 24:1-25:18	Luke 2:1-35	Psalms 59:1-17	Proverbs 11:14
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Numbers 26:1-51	Luke 2:36-52	Psalms 60:1-12	Proverbs 11:15
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Numbers 26:52-28:15	Luke 3:1-22	Psalms 61:1-8	Proverbs 11:16-17
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Numbers 28:16-29:40	Luke 3:23-38	Psalms 62:1-12	Proverbs 11:18-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 Numbers 30:1-31:54	Luke 4:1-30	Psalms 63:1-11	Proverbs 11:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Numbers 32:1-33:39	Luke 4:31-5:11	Psalms 64:1-10	Proverbs 11:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	22 Numbers 33:40-35:34	Luke 5:12-28	Psalms 65:1-13	Proverbs 11:23
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Numbers 36:1-Deut 1:46	Luke 5:29-6:11	Psalms 66:1-20	Proverbs 11:24-26
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29	Luke 6:12-38	Psalms 67:1-7	Proverbs 11:27
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Deuteronomy 4:1-49	Luke 6:39-7:10	Psalms 68:1-18	Proverbs 11:28
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25	Luke 7:11-35	Psalms 68:19-35	Proverbs 11:29-31
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20	Luke 7:36-8:3	Psalms 69:1-18	Proverbs 12:1
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22	Luke 8:4-21	Psalms 69:19-36	Proverbs 12:2-3
<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32	Luke 8:22-39	Psalms 70:1-5	Proverbs 12:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23	Luke 8:40-9:6	Psalms 71:1-24	Proverbs 12:5-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	31 Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20	Luke 9:7-27	Psalms 72:1-20	Proverbs 12:8-9

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM E V Worship</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Matthew Group 1:00 PM UWF Board Meeting 5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting 6:00 PM Cubscout Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>10:00 AM UWF General Meeting 2:00 PM Bright Point Head Start 5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>																																																																													
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<p><i>15</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM E V Worship</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Matthew Group 1:00 PM Visitation Team 5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 5:30 PM Mission Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting 6:30 PM Ambassador Meeting</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>2:00 PM Bright Point Doula Program 5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Baseball Practice 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>5:00 PM EV Band Practice 6:30 PM NI Emmaus Board</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>																																																																													
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM E V Worship 1:30 PM EV Luncheon</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 5:30 PM Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Baseball Practice 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:00 PM Disciples Forever</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>5:30 PM Baseball Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>5:00 PM EV Band Practice</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>																																																																													
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM E V Worship Palm Sunday</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Prospect Baseball Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>Feb 2026</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> </table> <p>Apr 2026</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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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

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)



**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.**

