

MAY 2026

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



FUMC Courier



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

May Newsletter

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

Paul is selling hard, imploring a church to go beyond convenience and preference. He is exaggerating greatly – if our church means anything to you. . .And he is begging shamelessly: “it would mean so much to me. . .” What’s the big deal?

We have said for years that for any and all Christians, the stuff that unites us is bigger and stronger, more powerful and precious than anything that might divide us. We were talking in the big picture of national elections and church splits. Now let’s look at the same truth more locally.

Last fall we took a survey and assessment, and our coach proved that we are a vital, healthy church. We knew that. Not new information. But the survey revealed that many of us don’t know how decisions are made, how to give input or plug into a ministry. Coach says that’s really important. If we don’t move forward together, we’re likely to stagnate and decline.

So, the plan is to get together after worship on Sunday the 17th. We’ll call it a Town Hall meeting. Those words should encourage audience participation. We’ll review some results and some hopes and have folks ready to field questions and brainstorm. We’ll be brief so there’s time for Q & A and be done in an hour. But we’ll stay as long as there are interested folks with good questions and comments. And you’ll leave knowing who to talk to if you think of something.

If that’s clear, we hope you’ll join us on the 17th. If anything isn’t clear, contact Pastor Jim, mock him a little, or bypass him in favor of Pastor Jay and get the clarity you need. Can’t wait to see you there.

See you in church,

Pastor Jim and Pastor Jay

Check out these books from our church library in May!

For Kids: *The Story of Samson* by Grolier

For Women: *David* by Getz

For Men: *The Recovery of a Contagious Methodist Movement* by Hunter III

Thank you to everyone who signed up for Hug

An Athlete!



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.

FREE BIRDHOUSE KITS!

On Sunday, May 10th, please join our Trustee team in Perry Hall after church service to make your own birdhouse to hang on the church property for our feathered friends. All are invited to participate, from young children to the well experienced nature lovers.

You will assemble a pre-cut birdhouse kit with the assistance of our Trustees. This birdhouse will then be installed on our church property as a new home to our feathered friends. A 2nd pre-cut kit will be provided so you can build this kit at home and display in your own yard. Assembly instructions and all materials needed will be included in the kit you take home.



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

1Peter 4: 9 "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

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.



**United Women in Faith
Rummage Sale Coming**

April 29-May 1

Start Gathering items now!

Clean out those closets and cupboards.

You will make many shoppers happy that you did!

Lightly used clothing—Adults and children

Purses, kitchen items, books, games, toys, puzzles, floral, linens, jewelry. Outdoor items, etc.

Items will be accepted on Monday April 27th and Tuesday April 28th



*****NO ELECTRONICS PLEASE*****

Sale Hours

Wednesday & Thursday

8am-4pm

Friday

8am-11am

The Lord's Prayer

T A R D S Y D K H D
E E O E R I I X A K
V T M O H N M E L R
I E L P G T R S L E
L G J D T B A X O W
B Q O O Y A V F W O
R M Q L Q I T M E P
E V I G R O F I D Q
X A X W I L L K O G
D L J G F H B A J N

**FATHER
HALLOWED
KINGDOM
WILL**

**DAILY BREAD
FORGIVE
SINS
TEMPTATION**

**EVIL
GLORY
POWER**

*Happy
Mother's Day
May 10th*



**Memorial Day Service at Lawrenceville Cemetery
will be May 17th at 1pm .**

Flags and flowers will be placed on graves of the Veterans by Sweet Clover – Garden Prairie Grasshoppers 4-H club. Please join us, everyone is welcome.



May Greeter Schedule

May 3 Sue Holmes
May 10 Jeanette Gardner
May 17 Wandtke Family
May 24 Mara Baer
May 31 Joe & Eunice
Beckman

May Ushers

Craig Lawler
Jill Lawler
Jeanette Gardner
Lucy Capitosti

*May Altar
Flowers*

*May 3 Rick Tande
May 10 Jody & Greg
Simross
May 17 Sue Holmes
May 24 Dan & Sue
Holmes
May 31 Amy, Paul,
Sarah*

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.





All men of the church are invited to our meeting.

The next UMM meeting is 8:30am Saturday, May 16th in Perry Hall at the church. Come for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion of summer plans!



Church Office

Closed

Monday, May 25th

For Memorial Day

United Women in Faith

Board Meeting

May 4th 1pm in Parlor

General Meeting

May 5th 10am Perry Hall



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, May 9th, 10:00am Women's Ministry Gathering. We'll be enjoying a relaxing morning of fellowship and God's word as well as sharing a favorite word or saying from our Mothers or Grandmothers to honor Mother's Day.

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.

Visitation Team



"Forever I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

What a wonderful example Jesus set for serving others. As Christians, we know that true happiness comes from following his example. While God's call to each one is unique, the opportunities for service are endless - from sending a card to leading a worship service at Heritage Woods. As you pray for opportunities, remember the homebound and those struggling with difficult circumstances. God has a place for you to serve. Pray for guidance.

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." Sally Koch

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

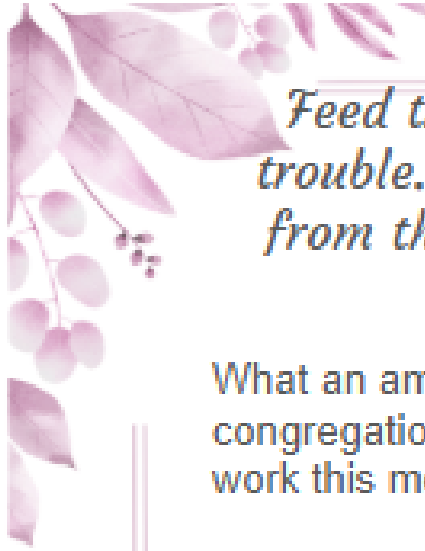
Visitation Team: Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Linda Clair, Joanie Eastland, Rene Worden, Pastor Jay & Janet Wheeler

****NEXT MEETING MAY 11TH, 1pm*****

The 2026 National Day of Prayer in Belvidere, IL, will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, featuring a breakfast prayer at 8:00 AM at the Community Building Complex (401 N Main St) and additional prayers at the Big Thunder Park bandstand, organized by the [Belvidere NDP Task Force](#). The 2026 theme is "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations".

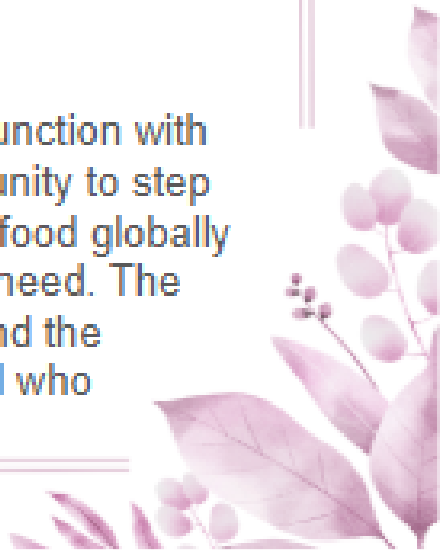
2026 Belvidere NDP Events - Thursday, May 7, 2026

- **Breakfast Prayer:** 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM (Continental breakfast at 7:30 AM) at the Community Building Complex, 401 N Main St, Belvidere.
- **Prayer in the Park:** Noon -- 1. Held at the Big Thunder Park bandstand (699 Van Buren St), featuring music and community prayer.



Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness...Isaiah 58:10 NLT

What an amazing outpouring of love this congregation has shared through your Mission work this month.

- An abundance of cereal has been collected and will be sent on to Empower Boone Food Pantry. Stay tuned as we wait to hear how we can be of help again.
 - The Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Truck was here on April 22nd and over 30 volunteers helped distribute food to 200 families. It was a beautiful day and we were blessed to have so many people share how much it meant to them to receive our food and our love.
 - The Rice Meal Pack, held in conjunction with Midwest Mission, was our opportunity to step outside of Boone County to send food globally to feed 14,400 people that are in need. The event took over 100 volunteers and the Mission Team is so thankful for all who helped!
- 

Adult Mission Trip

Please keep Pastor Jim and the entire group of adults who are travelling to Iowa, in your prayers. They will be working all week long to restore homes that were devastated by storms. They will be in Iowa the week of May 17-22.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20-23

6-8PM

FAMILY PARTY

JULY 24

5:30-7PM



Register now!

On-line (scan the QR code) or in the church office.

Deadline to register

7/17/2026

Ages 4 thru 5th grade

Advanced approval for 3 year olds.

Sacrificial Giving: The Echo of the Cross

Understanding Sacrificial Giving

Sacrificial giving in the Bible extends beyond mere convenience or comfort; it embodies a profound sense of self-denial and deep love, mirroring Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. This type of giving involves relinquishing something precious or significant for the sake of others, reflecting the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus for humanity’s salvation.

Scriptural Embodiments

The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)

Abraham’s readiness to sacrifice his son Isaac is a powerful testament to sacrificial giving. This act represents the depth and intensity of faith and willingness to give up what is most dear, prefiguring the greater sacrifice of Christ.

Jesus’ Sacrifice (Philippians 2:5-8)

The supreme example of sacrificial giving is found in Jesus Christ. His willingness to relinquish His divine privileges and endure the cross for the redemption of humanity is the epitome of sacrificial love and giving.

<u>2026 Financial Information</u>				
	March	Year-to-Date		
Income	38,548.89	101,605.48	Annual Apportionment	54,140.50
Expenses	42,065.67	167,306.72	Apportionment paid to date	10,130.55
Net Income (Loss)	(3,516.78)	(65,701.24)		



ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM


May

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 Judges 13:1-14:20	John 1:29-51	Psalms 102:1-28	Proverbs 14:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/>	02 Judges 15:1-16:31	John 2:1-25	Psalms 103:1-22	Proverbs 14:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	03 Judges 17:1-18:31	John 3:1-21	Psalms 104:1-24	Proverbs 14:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/>	04 Judges 19:1-20:48	John 3:22-4:3	Psalms 104:24-35	Proverbs 14:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/>	05 Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22	John 4:4-42	Psalms 105:1-15	Proverbs 14:25
<input type="checkbox"/>	06 Ruth 2:1-4:22	John 4:43-54	Psalms 105:16-36	Proverbs 14:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/>	07 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21	John 5:1-23	Psalms 105:37-45	Proverbs 14:28-29
<input type="checkbox"/>	08 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22	John 5:24-47	Psalms 106:1-12	Proverbs 14:30-31
<input type="checkbox"/>	09 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17	John 6:1-21	Psalms 106:13-31	Proverbs 14:32-33
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27	John 6:22-42	Psalms 106:32-48	Proverbs 14:34-35
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15	John 6:43-71	Psalms 107:1-43	Proverbs 15:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 1 Samuel 12:1-13:23	John 7:1-30	Psalms 108:1-13	Proverbs 15:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 1 Samuel 14:1-52	John 7:31-53	Psalms 109:1-31	Proverbs 15:5-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23	John 8:1-20	Psalms 110:1-7	Proverbs 15:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 1 Samuel 17:1-18:4	John 8:21-30	Psalms 111:1-10	Proverbs 15:11
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 1 Samuel 18:5-19:24	John 8:31-59	Psalms 112:1-10	Proverbs 15:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15	John 9:1-41	Psalms 113:1-114:8	Proverbs 15:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29	John 10:1-21	Psalms 115:1-18	Proverbs 15:18-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44	John 10:22-42	Psalms 116:1-19	Proverbs 15:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25	John 11:1-54	Psalms 117:1-2	Proverbs 15:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/>	21 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13	John 11:55-12:19	Psalms 118:1-18	Proverbs 15:24-26
<input type="checkbox"/>	22 2 Samuel 1:1-2:11	John 12:20-50	Psalms 118:19-29	Proverbs 15:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 2 Samuel 2:12-3:39	John 13:1-30	Psalms 119:1-16	Proverbs 15:29-30
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 2 Samuel 4:1-6:23	John 13:31-14:14	Psalms 119:17-32	Proverbs 15:31-32
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 2 Samuel 7:1-8:18	John 14:15-31	Psalms 119:33-48	Proverbs 15:33
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 2 Samuel 9:1-11:27	John 15:1-27	Psalms 119:49-64	Proverbs 16:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 2 Samuel 12:1-31	John 16:1-33	Psalms 119:65-80	Proverbs 16:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 2 Samuel 13:1-39	John 17:1-26	Psalms 119:81-96	Proverbs 16:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	29 2 Samuel 14:1-15:22	John 18:1-24	Psalms 119:97-112	Proverbs 16:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 2 Samuel 15:23-16:23	John 18:25-19:22	Psalms 119:113-128	Proverbs 16:10-11
<input type="checkbox"/>	31 2 Samuel 17:1-29	John 19:23-42	Psalms 119:129-152	Proverbs 16:12-13

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May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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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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