

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
610 BONUS
AVE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008



The Courier

NOVEMBER 2025



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

November Newsletter

As we approach Thanksgiving, I once again pause to give thanks for First Church, for our family, our staff and our ministry. God has been faithful, and over and over we have seen evidence of God's particular favor on us, the little flock of God camped out on this beautiful pasture.

All through the Bible, God's faithfulness calls for our response. We have spent recent weeks learning stewardship through the lens of our vows, responding to surveys and hearing an assessment report from our coach, Dr. Jaye Johnson. To nobody's surprise, we are a very healthy church, strong and flexible, adaptive and pleased with our life together.

Coach Jaye cautions that our satisfaction could lead us to plop where we are instead of moving ahead and outward as God's redeeming force in the world. He says that's a common response and often leads to decline, loss of energy and flexibility, and a deeper trough than the one from which we have emerged.

The prescription? A bold new Kingdom effort, welcoming new folks to faith and healing our part of this broken, hurting world. If it is not bold enough and new enough to scare us a little, it's not God-sized enough to continue our momentum.

Once our leaders took a deep breath and got over our fear, we started imagining what that God-sized Thing might be. Perhaps a new worship service, time, venue, site or a partnership with another congregation? Or ministries to meet folks in the community or bring them to our house to find healing, grace, peace and maybe faith?

As we work on our budget, as we have our Charge Conference (annual meeting) and renew our covenant vows we will give thanks for God's goodness and also keep asking the question, "What next?" There will be a couple opportunities to listen to our leaders' thoughts, ask questions and offer inspirations of your own. But for now, and any day, please join us in thinking, "How can we help one more person come to faith in God through Jesus Christ? How can First Church shine God's light into the darkness that surrounds so many and touch their wounds with God's healing balm?" Feel free to chat with a pastor or leader of the church to make sure your voice impacts our future.

It was at just a time like this that God took on flesh and dwelt among us to bring that light of life and that healing balm to the world in Jesus. Surely God, who does not change, stands ready to redeem our community through the faithful folks of First Church.

See you in church,

Pastor Jim

Check out these books from our church library in November!

For Kids: Heaven by Allan

For Women: Reconnecting Worship by Weber/Hood

For Men: Men With Glad and Generous Hearts By Willimon

Veteran's Day 11/9 Service

We would like to honor all active military during our service on 11/9. Please contact the church office (Debbi Bloomingdale) so your loved one can be added to the list.



Front Door Status Update

The new front doors have been received by the contractor and the installation date has been scheduled for Monday, November 10th. As the work will take most of the day, guests will be redirected to use the Perry Hall/Kitchen door for the day.

Thank you for your continued patience.

Trustees



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

Psalm 69: 33 The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive 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.





*Christmas Poinsettia for
Christmas Eve
Services. Last day to turn in
your order is
December 1.*

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To decorate the Christmas Eve altar.
Please place orders by **Monday 12/1**
\$13.00 each.

Choice of:

__Red

__Pink

__White

__Bi-color

Please Place order form and payment
(made out to First United Methodist
Church) in Debbi Bloomingdale's mail
bin, in the collection plate, or mail to
the church.

In Memory
of _____

In Honor
of _____

Given
by _____

***You may take your flowers home af-
ter either service, or contact the
church office and we can hold it for
pick up***



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH AND FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 28TH SO OUR STAFF CAN
ENJOY THANKSGIVING TIME WITH THEIR
FAMILIES.

UWF

Board meeting only November 3rd at 1pm

There will be no general meeting in

November

Reminder



November 24-26

Sign up in gathering area or call
the
church office.

Due to deteriorating conditions and safety concerns, we have dismantled the old gas grill. We have a large supply of used concrete blocks that are available for no cost. If interested, please contact Greg Simross or Greg Keegan directly.



Annual Meeting

On Monday, November 17, we will hold our annual Church Conference. At 5:30 our SPRC will meet with District Superintendent Dr. Hwa-Young Chong. At 6:00 we'll have our meeting, elect leaders for the coming year, set compensation for our pastors and celebrate God's goodness in this year and our hopes for the year ahead. You must be a member to vote, but anyone is welcome to attend. This year our nomination of leaders leaves an empty spot on each team, with hope of filling that spot during the year and expanding our roster of contributing leaders. If you feel God calling you to serve in a specific role or ministry, before the meeting or as you attend and experience it, please let Pastor Jim know so he can work with our Lay Leadership team to include your voice and gifts.



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.

November Greeter Schedule

November 2 Max Gardner
November 9 Terry & Anna Wandtke
November 16 Lucy Capitosti
November 23 Jeanette Gardner
November 30 Linda & Cherie Clair

November Ushers

Craig Lawler
Jill Lawler
Carla Walter

November Altar Flowers

November 2 Open
November 9 Open
November 16 Karen McClenthen
November 23 Open
November 30 Nancy Hearn & Family

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.

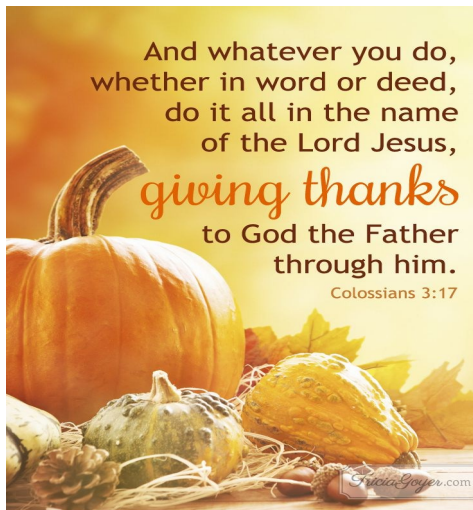




Ministry by, with and for women, supporting spiritual growth individually and in community, encouraging and recognizing the unique needs that come with life stages.

Adapted from www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry

Please join us for our November 8, 10am, Women's Ministry Gathering. 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 November meeting due to the pancake breakfast

Next meeting December

Visitation Team



"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

During this season of Thanksgiving, we try to focus our attention on our many blessings, with a grateful heart.

However, as followers of Christ, we are called to do more. God challenges us to a life of service which is one of the highest callings of our faith. If we prayerfully look around, opportunities will present them-

selves for serving: a listening ear, a word of encouragement or an invitation to church. Pray for God's guidance as you seek opportunities to serve God and others.

"What wonders a bit of encouragement can do! It's one of the most awesome treasures God has given us-the ability to inspire, motivate, and reassure others." Barbara Johnson

Team members: Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Rene Worden, Linda Clair & Janet Wheeler

B1 Missions on the Move

Monthly update from your Missions Team

The Missions Committee wants to thank all of our church family who helped reach out a hand to those in need in our community:

- We were able to meet the needs of 200 families at the NIFB distribution on October 15.
- Meals on Wheels continues to be delivered by faithful church members - Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.
- 50 Birthday Bags were delivered to Empower Boone to enrich the lives of families in our community who are able to celebrate birthdays with those they love.

Much-needed personal hygiene items were ordered and delivered to Empower Boone to fill a need.

In the coming months, we anticipate helping to share the Christmas Spirit through several programs . . . Watch the Courier and the Sunday morning loop for these exciting opportunities being planned:

- Christmas Blessing Bags will be delivered to those receiving Meals on Wheels. Each year, this is a highlight for so many seniors who are blessed with these gifts.
- We are hoping to partner with Northwoods Care Center (on Pearl Street) to provide gifts for residents who would appreciate knowing that others care for them at Christmas. We hope to give church members an opportunity to “adopt a resident” . . . We’ll share more information about how to choose the name of a resident before Thanksgiving.

Our Church Army of Salvation Army Bell Ringers will be out in our community again this year . . . Look for sign-up sheets to come.





UWF Bazaar

November 7th

Hamball Luncheon

11am-1pm

Tickets \$15 each



May be purchased from a member, or the church office, beginning October 12th

Granny's Attic

9am-2pm



Items make wonderful gifts! Drop off items in good condition (Christmas, glassware, linens, collectibles, antiques) November 3 & 4



Saturday November 15th

7:30am-10 am * Perry Hall

Adults \$10 - Kids \$5 (10 & Under)

Serving: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, and a beverage.

Proceeds to benefit ASP & Adult Missions.

See a UMM member, or stop in the church office for tickets.



**Pancake
Breakfast**

BIBLE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE - THANKSGIVING



Psalm 50:14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Psalm 107:22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalm 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God,

Find the words in the verses and add the missing letters

O__ER _S__M_ __JO_C__
PRA__SE E__R SA_R_F__E
_AGNI__ _H__FUL __D
PR_SE__E B__S N__
J__F_LL_ D_C__RE TH__SGI__

Find the words. They're hidden in all directions.

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



www.ReasonsForHopeJesus.com

Types Of Giving and Serving

The Bible highlights seven types of giving and serving: tithes, offerings, first fruits, almsgiving, serving others, using spiritual gifts, and sacrificial giving. ~From The Bible Colleges

These types will be explored over the next 7 months in this article.

1. Almsgiving: The Compassionate Outreach

In the heart of biblical teachings lies almsgiving, a practice as ancient as faith itself. This form of giving is not just about charity; it's a profound expression of empathy and mercy.

The Bible heralds almsgiving as more than just an act of kindness – it's a spiritual discipline, an integral part of a believer's life. Almsgiving, in its essence, is about reaching out to those in need, reflecting the boundless compassion that Christianity advocates.

Scriptural Examples

The Widow's Mite (Luke 21:1-4)

In this touching narrative, the widow's small offering stands as a testament to her immense faith and generosity. Her contribution, modest in material value but vast in spiritual significance, challenges our understanding of true generosity.

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Here, the parable of the Good Samaritan serves as a powerful illustration of almsgiving transcending cultural and societal norms. It's a call to action, urging believers to extend their hands in kindness, regardless of the recipient's background.

<u>2025 Financial Information</u>				
	September	Year-to-Date		
Income	33,625.71	341,509.92	Annual Apportionment	61,764.00
Expenses	42,585.90	378,333.12	Apportionment paid to date	33,375.12
Net Income (Loss)	(8,960.19)	(36,823.20)		



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November

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
☐ 01	Ezekiel 1:1-3:15	Hebrews 3:1-19	Psalms 104:1-23	Proverbs 26:24-26
☐ 02	Ezekiel 3:16-6:14	Hebrews 4:1-16	Psalms 104:24-35	Proverbs 26:27
☐ 03	Ezekiel 7:1-9:11	Hebrews 5:1-14	Psalms 105:1-15	Proverbs 26:28
☐ 04	Ezekiel 10:1-11:25	Hebrews 6:1-20	Psalms 105:16-36	Proverbs 27:1-2
☐ 05	Ezekiel 12:1-14:11	Hebrews 7:1-17	Psalms 105:37-45	Proverbs 27:3
☐ 06	Ezekiel 14:12-16:41	Hebrews 7:18-28	Psalms 106:1-12	Proverbs 27:4-6
☐ 07	Ezekiel 16:42-17:24	Hebrews 8:1-13	Psalms 106:13-31	Proverbs 27:7-9
☐ 08	Ezekiel 18:1-19:14	Hebrews 9:1-10	Psalms 106:32-48	Proverbs 27:10
☐ 09	Ezekiel 20:1-49	Hebrews 9:11-28	Psalms 107:1-43	Proverbs 27:11
☐ 10	Ezekiel 21:1-22:31	Hebrews 10:1-17	Psalms 108:1-13	Proverbs 27:12
☐ 11	Ezekiel 23:1-49	Hebrews 10:18-39	Psalms 109:1-31	Proverbs 27:13
☐ 12	Ezekiel 24:1-26:21	Hebrews 11:1-16	Psalms 110:1-7	Proverbs 27:14
☐ 13	Ezekiel 27:1-28:26	Hebrews 11:17-31	Psalms 111:1-10	Proverbs 27:15-16
☐ 14	Ezekiel 29:1-30:26	Hebrews 11:32-12:13	Psalms 112:1-10	Proverbs 27:17
☐ 15	Ezekiel 31:1-32:32	Hebrews 12:14-29	Psalms 113:1-114:8	Proverbs 27:18-20
☐ 16	Ezekiel 33:1-34:31	Hebrews 13:1-25	Psalms 115:1-18	Proverbs 27:21-22
☐ 17	Ezekiel 35:1-36:38	James 1:1-18	Psalms 116:1-19	Proverbs 27:23-27
☐ 18	Ezekiel 37:1-38:23	James 1:19-2:17	Psalms 117:1-2	Proverbs 28:1
☐ 19	Ezekiel 39:1-40:27	James 2:18-3:18	Psalms 118:1-18	Proverbs 28:2
☐ 20	Ezekiel 40:28-41:26	James 4:1-17	Psalms 118:19-29	Proverbs 28:3-5
☐ 21	Ezekiel 42:1-43:27	James 5:1-20	Psalms 119:1-16	Proverbs 28:6-7
☐ 22	Ezekiel 44:1-45:12	1 Peter 1:1-12	Psalms 119:17-32	Proverbs 28:8-10
☐ 23	Ezekiel 45:13-46:24	1 Peter 1:13-2:10	Psalms 119:33-48	Proverbs 28:11
☐ 24	Ezekiel 47:1-48:35	1 Peter 2:11-3:7	Psalms 119:49-64	Proverbs 28:12-13
☐ 25	Daniel 1:1-2:23	1 Peter 3:8-4:6	Psalms 119:65-80	Proverbs 28:14
☐ 26	Daniel 2:24-3:30	1 Peter 4:7-5:14	Psalms 119:81-96	Proverbs 28:15-16
☐ 27	Daniel 4:1-37	2 Peter 1:1-21	Psalms 119:97-112	Proverbs 28:17-18
☐ 28	Daniel 5:1-31	2 Peter 2:1-22	Psalms 119:113-128	Proverbs 28:19-20
☐ 29	Daniel 6:1-28	2 Peter 3:1-18	Psalms 119:129-152	Proverbs 28:21-22
☐ 30	Daniel 7:1-28	1 John 1:1-10	Psalms 119:153-176	Proverbs 28:23-24

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November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Oct 2025 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 31		Dec 2025 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 31			
2 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 11:30 AM Ambassador Meeting All Saints Day	3 1:00 PM UWF Board Meeting	4 6:00 PM Disciple 1	5 9:00 AM Make hamballs for luncheon 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	6 9:00 AM Make salads for luncheon	7 5:00 PM EV Band Practice Bazaar Luncheon 11-1 Sale 9-2	8 10:00 AM Women's Ministry Meeting
9 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School	10 10:00 AM Matthew Group 1:00 PM Visitation Team 5:30 PM Finance/ Council Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	11 2:00 PM Bright Point Doula Program 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	13	14 5:00 PM EV Band Practice	15 7:30 AM UMM Pancake Breakfast
16 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School	17 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting 6:00 PM Church Conference 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting	18 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	19 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	20	21 5:00 PM EV Band Practice	22
23 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School 1:30 PM EV Luncheon	24 5:30 PM Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	25 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	26 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class	27 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	28 5:00 PM EV Band Practice Church Office Closed	29
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM EV Sunday School						



**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

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

