

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

610 BONUS AVE  
BELVIDERE, IL  
61008



*The  
Courier*

SEPTEMBER 2025



Belvidere First  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

## September Newsletter

Behold, I am doing a **new** thing! Now it springs up; do you not **perceive** it? **Isaiah 43:19**

Many of you have heard me speak of my studies for a Doctor of Ministry degree. I feel like Don Quixote, an old fool tilting at windmills. The program helps new clergy establish a robust pastoral identity and effective practice of ministry. The head of the program is a trusted colleague. But how will it help our congregation? I wasn't sure.

One of the benefits of enrollment is that I am assigned a clergy coach and a spiritual director for the duration. As we got acquainted, he became interested in our congregation and I got interested in his method. We thought we might be able to work together. The seminary will pay him to come and lead us through an assessment of our current church life and start thinking about our future. Eureka! We are entering another new phase in the life of our congregation which calls for a clear picture of our current reality and an equally clear and shared vision for our next chapter.

For us to take advantage of this rare, grant-funded opportunity, most of us will complete a survey; almost 100 questions about the life of the church. You can take the survey on-line, or fill out a paper copy and one of us will submit it on-line. We will publish a link to the survey on our website and the QR code for those who will use their phone to complete the survey. Please allow time to complete the whole thing at one sitting (30-50 minutes) and answer all the questions marked with an \*. Each week we'll get a report of how many folks have responded. We don't know who has and who hasn't, so we'll keep everyone updated.

On October 18 our leaders will gather to hear the results and the report of our coach. We'll start considering what might be next for First Church. On October 19 we'll have our Stewardship Celebration brunch, for any who would like to attend. Coach Jaye will give a report to as many as would like to stay, listen, ask questions and discuss.

I am thrilled by this opportunity, at exactly the time in our life and my ministry when it will be of most benefit. I am empowered by the enthusiasm of the folks who are already preparing to make sure your voice is heard and their commitment that this information won't gather dust on a shelf somewhere. Looking back, I am amazed at what God has done among us in the time I've been here. Looking forward, I know we face challenges we haven't seen before, without a seminary textbook to explain what to do. I believe our unchanging God is getting ready to do more. I think that maybe this survey and the coaching that comes with it are an instrument God has made available to light our path and bring about some new thing we wouldn't have believed if we had been told in advance.

See you in church,

(pastor) Jim

Check out these books from our church library in September!

For Kids: *I Love You Mommy* by Harker/Shephenson

For Women: *Because He Lives* by Gaither

For Men: *When Will Jesus Be Enough* By Joyce/Sorensen

### It's time to get to know the Bible better!

If you've been looking for one thing you can do to get closer to God and direct your life, this is it! This fall we'll be offering Disciple 1 on Tuesday evenings, for folks who'd like to survey the whole Bible in 34 weeks, and Disciple 3 on Wednesday evenings for anyone who has already completed Disciple 1, no matter how many years have passed. Disciple 3 is a study of the Prophets and the letters of Paul over 32 weeks. For more information, to register or pick up books, contact Debbi Bloomingdale or Pastor Jim in the church office.



**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

**Romans 15: 7** Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

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.



# Psalms 23

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

anoint	Lord	staff
comfort	mercy	still
death	oil	table
dwelt	pasture	valley
enemies	path	water
evil	restore	
forever	righteousness	
goodness	rod	
house	shadow	
lead	Shepherd	



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST FOR THE LABOR  
 DAY HOLIDAY.

## UWF

### (United Women in Faith)

All ladies of the church are welcome  
 to attend the general meetings.

September 2nd

Board Meeting—9am

General Meeting—10am



September 15-19  
 Sign up in gathering area or call  
 the  
 church office.

Thank you to everyone who shared a hug, sent a letter, texted/called, or attended the funeral of Ellie Wilson. She knew that her church family loved her, and I feel blessed to have so many people caring for me.

Debbi Bloomingdale



Thank you to everyone who called, stopped by, prayed for me, or dropped me a card. I am truly blessed with my church family.

Bev Gorham



### September Greeter Schedule

September 7 Max Gardner

September 14 Sue Holmes

September 21 Linda Clair

Cherie Clair

September 28 Helen Schuerr

### September Ushers

Mark Petersen

Leslie Hardy

Jim Hardy



### 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.

### *September Altar Flowers*

September 7 (Open)

September 14 (Open)

September 21 Dan & Sue  
Holmes

September 28 Karen &  
Terry Frazer



Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:30am-10 am \* Perry Hall  
Adults \$10 - Kids \$5 (10 and under)



## Pancake Breakfast

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

Tickets available beginning late-September from a UMM member or drop by the church office.

**Proceeds to benefit ASP and Adult Missions**

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

Please join us for our September 13th, 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.



All men of are invited to join the UMM meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This month's meeting will be at the Steam Plant Restaurant at 8:30am. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or a UMM member.

September Meeting Saturday September 20th at the Steam Plant in Belvidere



### Visitation Team

"But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control...." Galatians 5:22

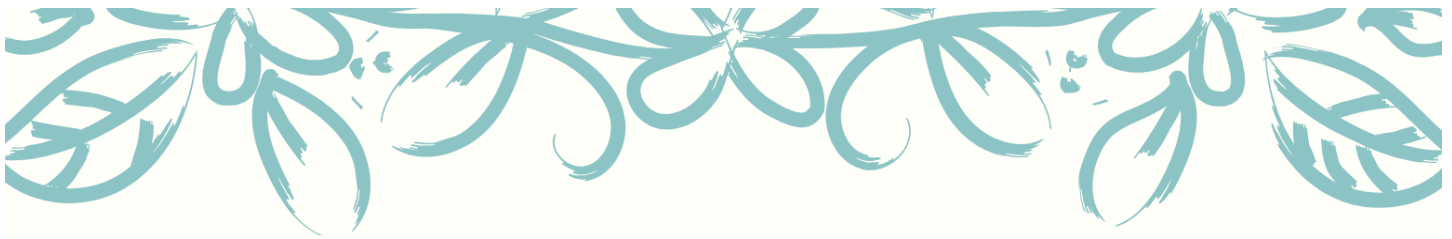
Kindness is one of the fruits of the Spirit and should be part of who we are as God's children. As God pours out his kindness on us he expects us to share that with others. Pray that God will lead you to individuals who need a kind touch or an encouraging word. Join the Visitation Team

in reaching out with phone calls and visits. Those contacts will bless the recipients, will bless you, and will delight our heavenly Father.

If you know a person who joins us on-line, or if there is anyone who would appreciate a visit, please share that information with a team member.

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless." Mother Teresa

Visitation Team: Jan Harty, Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Rene Worden , Linda Clair & Janet Wheeler



## Mission Moments

**Imagine** if you can be the person who delivers food and a smile to a person who might not see anyone else that day...

**Imagine** if you can greet someone in the parking lot and then offer them food through the Northern Illinois Food Bank...

**Imagine** if you can travel to Appalachia to do home repair to make a person's home warmer, safer and drier...

**Imagine** if you can travel to Iowa to do home repair for victims of tornados...

**Imagine** if you can donate items for Empower Boone Food Pantry to help those in need in Boone County...

**Imagine** if you can donate clothing to Belvidere schools so students can stay in school if they have an accident...

**Imagine** if you can donate snacks so students that have not had breakfast can get an energy boost when they need it...

**Imagine** if you can fill Rice Meal Packs so people in need will have food...

**Imagine** if you can provide Birthday Bags for families who might not be able to afford it can celebrate a birthday...

All of these are ways we have been in mission locally and globally.

**BUT** we are aware there are needs we are not meeting. Help us!

Do you know of a project we should be doing? Do you know of organizations that need help? Has God sent a thought your way?

Please share your ideas with a member of our Mission Team!

Cindy Poulter, Tammie Bahling, Jane Abernathy, Sharon Blachford, Tami Burnett, Lucy Capitosti, Ronn Gordon, Beth Hissong, Lora Hoffman, Amy Miller, Nancy Ramos



## OUR CHURCH IS PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

### AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Our church has entered into a time of discernment during which we are gathering information to guide our decisions for our future. Recently, you have heard and read about one aspect of this process: The Church Assessment Tool (CAT). This tool will provide a clearer picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future. Your response is very important to us.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any response to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. The assessment will take approximately 35-45 minutes to complete. Please set aside enough time to complete the survey **all at one time** (you cannot save it and come back to it). Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers. Please read the directions for each section carefully, especially questions 50-66.

When you are ready, scan the QR code or copy and paste the Survey Monkey link listed below.

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BELVIDEREFUMCIL>**

We do have printed copies available, if you are unable to complete the survey online. All surveys must be completed by September 28th.

If you have questions, please contact Debbi Bloomingdale or either of the Pastors.

God's Blessings & thank you.

QR code



### What is Stewardship anyway?

Pastor Jim had an epiphany while reading for his doctoral studies. Stewardship is more than giving God back 10% of the money God gave us. It's a way of life, a Christian way of life, and a better way than the world teaches. It's a spiritual practice, a responsibility we accept and a vow we make to our church. This fall we'll review our vows of membership, not as an obligation that the pastors have come to collect, but as God's way to a better life for us and for our church. Why not invite someone to church who could use a better life?

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Because of everyone who signed up and helped at the fair  
our church received \$13,098.66.



*Thank You*

### Walk to Emmaus

An ecumenical, but largely Methodist-sponsored, spiritual renewal retreat and a community of those who have experienced the weekend. Men will retreat September 25 - 28. Women will retreat the following week, October 2 – 5. Both groups will gather at Bishop Lane retreat center in Rockford. For more information about Emmaus, or with questions about joining the retreat or the community, please contact Pastor Jim, Ronn Gordon, or Cynthia Anderson.

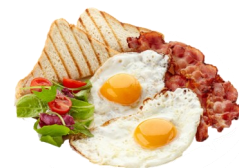


**Save the Date!!!**

**10/19**

**FREE celebration breakfast.**

**Watch for more info to RSVP.**



## The Promise of Blessing for Faithful Giving

The Bible teaches that faithful giving leads to God's blessings. When we give in obedience, God promises to provide for us and bless us abundantly.

- **Malachi 3:10:** *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*
- **Luke 6:38:** *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

These verses illustrate that when we give, God promises to bless us in return, often in ways that exceed our expectations.

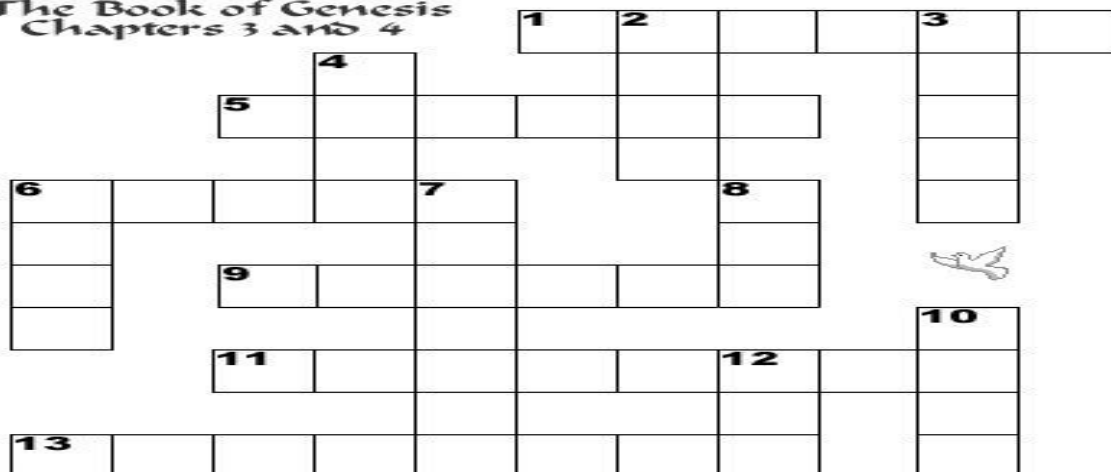
It is not about the amount we give but the attitude of the heart—whether we give cheerfully, sacrificially and with the right motives. As we honor God with our tithes and offerings, we participate in His work on earth and experience His blessings in our lives.

<u>2025 Financial Information</u>				
	July	Year-to-Date		
Income	31,059.84	263,377.15	Annual Apportionment	61,764.00
Expenses	43,022.24	295,805.39	Apportionment paid to date	25,527.18
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(11,962.40)</b>	<b>(32,428.24)</b>		

### The Book of Genesis Chapters 3 and 4

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more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>



#### Down

- (2) Adam's second son  
(3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)  
(4) Adam's first son  
(6) Adam's third son  
(7) What creature tempted Eve  
(8) Cain lived in this land  
(10) First man  
(12) First woman

#### Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)  
(5) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden  
(6) Adam and Eve's first clothes (Gen.3:21)  
(9) Because of sin the ground was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen.3:17)  
(11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)  
(13) Cain became a \_\_\_\_\_ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)



# ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM


## September

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Job 40:1-42:17	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Psalms 45:1-17	Proverbs 22:14
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Psalms 46:1-11	Proverbs 22:15
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7	Psalms 47:1-9	Proverbs 22:16
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18	2 Corinthians 7:8-16	Psalms 48:1-14	Proverbs 22:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Psalms 49:1-20	Proverbs 22:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16	2 Corinthians 8:16-24	Psalms 50:1-23	Proverbs 22:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	Psalms 51:1-19	Proverbs 22:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Isaiah 1:1-2:22	2 Corinthians 10:1-18	Psalms 52:1-9	Proverbs 22:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Isaiah 3:1-5:30	2 Corinthians 11:1-15	Psalms 53:1-6	Proverbs 22:28-29
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Isaiah 6:1-7:25	2 Corinthians 11:16-33	Psalms 54:1-7	Proverbs 23:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Isaiah 8:1-9:21	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Psalms 55:1-23	Proverbs 23:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Isaiah 10:1-11:16	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalms 56:1-13	Proverbs 23:6-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Isaiah 12:1-14:32	2 Corinthians 13:1-14	Psalms 57:1-11	Proverbs 23:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Isaiah 15:1-18:7	Galatians 1:1-24	Psalms 58:1-11	Proverbs 23:12
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Isaiah 19:1-21:17	Galatians 2:1-16	Psalms 59:1-17	Proverbs 23:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Isaiah 22:1-24:23	Galatians 2:17-3:9	Psalms 60:1-12	Proverbs 23:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Isaiah 25:1-28:13	Galatians 3:10-22	Psalms 61:1-8	Proverbs 23:17-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Isaiah 28:14-30:11	Galatians 3:23-4:31	Psalms 62:1-12	Proverbs 23:19-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Isaiah 30:12-33:9	Galatians 5:1-12	Psalms 63:1-11	Proverbs 23:22
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Isaiah 33:10-36:22	Galatians 5:13-26	Psalms 64:1-10	Proverbs 23:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Isaiah 37:1-38:22	Galatians 6:1-18	Psalms 65:1-13	Proverbs 23:24
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Isaiah 39:1-41:16	Ephesians 1:1-23	Psalms 66:1-20	Proverbs 23:25-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Isaiah 41:17-43:13	Ephesians 2:1-22	Psalms 67:1-7	Proverbs 23:29-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Isaiah 43:14-45:10	Ephesians 3:1-21	Psalms 68:1-18	Proverbs 24:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Isaiah 45:11-48:11	Ephesians 4:1-16	Psalms 68:19-35	Proverbs 24:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Isaiah 48:12-50:11	Ephesians 4:17-32	Psalms 69:1-18	Proverbs 24:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Isaiah 51:1-53:12	Ephesians 5:1-33	Psalms 69:19-36	Proverbs 24:7
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Isaiah 54:1-57:14	Ephesians 6:1-24	Psalms 70:1-5	Proverbs 24:8
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Isaiah 57:15-59:21	Philippians 1:1-26	Psalms 71:1-24	Proverbs 24:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Isaiah 60:1-62:5	Philippians 1:27-2:18	Psalms 72:1-20	Proverbs 24:11-12

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September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<b>1</b> 5:00 PM Soccer Practice	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM UWF Board meeting 10:00 AM UWF General Meeting 1:30 PM Brightstart Early Head Start 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 11:45 AM Brightstart Early Head Start 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	<b>4</b> 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>																																																																																											
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School Adult Mission Trip	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Matthew Group 2:00 PM Visitation Team Meeting 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting Adult Mission Trip	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Adult Mission Trip	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:30 PM Disciples Forever Adult Mission Trip	<b>11</b> 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share Adult Mission Trip	<b>12</b> Adult Mission Trip	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Women's Ministry Meeting																																																																																											
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	<b>15</b> 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Finance/Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 2:00 PM Retired Teachers Dinner & Prep 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Disciple 1	<b>17</b> 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:30 PM Disciples Forever Disciple 3	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Prospects Baseball Practice 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share	<b>19</b> 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 8:00 AM Shepherding Team Annual Conference 8:30 AM UMM Meeting 3:00 PM Wedding																																																																																											
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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](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](http://fumcbelvidere.org)**



Scan the QR 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.

