

SEPTEMBER 2026

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



FUMC Courier



September Newsletter

“one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:42

There's a phenomenon reported on the social media these days, referred to as FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out. Evidently, we are wired to be social creatures and will go to great lengths to participate in the same things that others are enjoying. Sometimes this need moves us to do things we wouldn't normally do, silly reindeer games.

Of course, none of us can do all the things, and life is best when we pick the best and are able to let go of the rest. Mary chose the company of Jesus and fellowship. We are invited to follow her example.

Lately, we've heard about 1-1 discipleship from Pastor Paul, Disciple Bible Study from the recent graduates, Galatians Bible Study from Pastor Jay and (spoiler alert) we're about to hear about small groups at church and in our homes from Pastor Pam and Karen Neibarger.

Our Council has identified Community as our top value; both the community we experience as part of this church family and the way we connect with our town and county to increase community for all those who live nearby. It is the good part and is far more lasting than many things we strive for, pay for and look for.

I've long thought that many churches make the mistake of offering a great number of cookie-cutter groups, with no variety in content or group size. We want our offerings to be as personal as they can be – the number of people and the spiritual practices that are comfortable and helpful for you.

Please take some time to explore your options and pick a place to anchor your soul for at least the weeks to come. And please think about who might be wired like you and join you in your best place and good part, so that they may benefit from life built around Jesus as we do. For help in considering your options and plugging in, please contact any of our pastors, or for info contact Debbi in the church office.

See you at church!

Pastor Jim

Check out these books from our church library in September!

For Kids: *The Story of the Tower of Babel* by Grolier

For Women: *Hope in a Chaotic World* by Stedman

For Men: *Fresh Expressions* by Carter/Warren



The church office will be
closed September 7th
in honor of
Labor Day



Be Honest...

How many of you knew this was on the grounds of our church? This is the stone that stood at the old church (on Whitney Blvd) that commemorated when our church was established.

I will give you a hint on where it is located: it is a lovely setting with a beautiful wind chime. The marker recently had a makeover (thank you Greg S)

If you can't figure it out, stop in and see Debbi in the church office, I will point you in the right direction.



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

Titus 1:8 "Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined."

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.



Health update:

We're still finalizing the details, but Pastor Jim will be receiving radiation treatments for most of September and October. Along with additional prescription meds, we assume that there will be visible side effects, probably familiar to those who've been here a few years. Good news – this course of treatment holds out the significant possibility of a complete cure. Feel free to contact Pastor Jim with any questions or for more info.

Missions Update

Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER
Straight From the Heart

On Thursday, Sept. 3 we will host the RRVBC Mobile Truck. They will be here between 10:00 and 2:00. If you can donate, or know someone who can, please call them at (815) 965-8751.

Mission Team is busy connecting with the nurses of District 100 to help them begin their year with enough clothing items to keep our children in school.



Sunday School Ice Cream Social!

After Labor Day, Sunday school officially gets underway! To celebrate the beginning of a new Sunday school year, we're having a special Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 13!

This is more than just grabbing a popsicle or an ice cream sandwich! We'll have vanilla and chocolate ice cream, chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and lots of fun sprinkles and toppings so everyone can make their own special treat.

Children, youth, and even our adult Sunday school classes are all welcome! Come join us for a sweet time of fellowship as we begin a new Sunday school year together.

And do you remember how much Ellie loved ice cream? In her memory, this special celebration is made possible through the Ellie Wilson Memorial Fund. We hope you'll join us for this sweet time together!



UMM meeting

Saturday, September 19 at 8:30 am in Perry Hall. Come for breakfast, fellowship, and a review of our plans!



September Greeter

Schedule

Sept 6 Rene Worden
Sept 13 Carla Walter
Sept 20 Nancy Petersen
Sept 27 Joe & Eunice Beckman

September Ushers

Mark Petersen
Leslie Hardy
Jim Hardy



September 3 is a very special day!

It is Pastor Jim Bell's

65th birthday!

Please make sure to wish
him a very happy birthday!

September Altar

Flowers

Sept 6 Kenny & Chris
Freeman

Sept 13 Missy & Mike
Ingersoll

Sept 20 Mark & Nancy
Petersen

Sept 27 Karen & Terry
Frazer



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.



COMMUNITY DINNER *free*



Wednesday
SEP 2
4:30 to
6pm

Join us the first Wednesday of the month for a free community dinner. This month we're serving up Swiss steak. (No carryouts.) Then stay for a 6pm hymn sing as we enjoy some old favorites. All are welcome!



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVIN' JESUS LOVIN' YOU

fumcbelvidere.org
610 Bonus Avenue
815-544-3479



SISTERHOOD Women's Retreat

*"Be Together, Feel Together,
Heal Together, Rise Together"*

October 24, 2026

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Check in begins at 8:30 AM

Cost \$5.00

Belvidere First United Methodist Church
610 Bonus Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008

Register by visiting fumcbelvidere.org
or calling the Church Office
at (815) 544-3479





Visitation Team

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

1 Peter 4:10

Our church has a Visitation Team that visits people who are otherwise unable to come to church.

We see those in hospitals, assisted living, nursing homes and at home. If you know someone who would like to be visited, please contact the church office at (815)544-3479 or contact a team member.

"We are all God's extension cords, taking His light and song to the dark and empty places of our world." *Roberta L. Messner*

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

Next meeting is September 14 at 1:00 pm



United Women in Faith

Board Meeting

August 31st 1pm in Parlor

General Meeting

September 1st 10:30am Perry Hall (social time 10am)

Carol Rowe will lead the program



Thank you to everyone
who volunteered at the
Boone County Fair!

The church made
\$11,629.32!

This could not be
our biggest fundraiser without
every one of you!

Bible Study – Small Groups – John Wesley

We all know that bible study is important, in fact, many of us do bible studies on our own or attend church developed bible studies such as Disciple, Pastor led studies, or established groups. There is another option available at Belvidere First, that is choosing a DVD led short bible study and meeting with a few friends to start your own Small Group Bible Study in the Wesley Tradition.

It's normal to ask who is going to teach. It's normal to hesitate to ask others to join in a bible study. But, if Wesley and his friends could do it, so could you. Using a DVD study brings many of the great bible teachers into your home and the provider adds questions and discussion topics. Just play the DVD (DVD recorder required) and the conversations will begin.

For those who are not interested in having books to read or workbook pages to fill out, this is ideal. Bring your bible, look up passages as they are discussed, and bible study ensues.

To take part in these studies, contact Karen Neibarger (815-985-6151) or ask at the church office. This is the year to return to or begin a Wesleyan Group Bible Study!

Some of the bible studies we have cover the Old and New Testaments, but others move into exploring the holy land, looking at grace, forgiveness and the sacraments, and simply living a Christian life. For a complete list of these studies, check with the church office, and then start your group.

Karen Neibarger



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 September 19th at 10:00am in the Parlor. 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.

What is Stewardship anyway?

We hear about stewardship once a year for a few weeks as we think about financial giving and prepare next year's budget. But stewardship is much more than a commitment to support the church financially. It's a spiritual practice, a responsibility we accept and a vow we make to our church. This fall we'll review the treasures that God has placed in our care and consider our individual and shared patterns of care 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?

Bible studies starting this fall!

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 Wednesday evenings, for folks who'd like to survey the whole Bible in 34 weeks, and hoping to organize other groups for anyone who has already completed Disciple 1, no matter how many years have passed. Signup sheets are available outside worship through Sunday the 5th, or for more information, to register or pick up books, contact Debbi Bloomingdale or Pastor Jim in the church office.

Walk to Emmaus is an ecumenical, but largely Methodist-sponsored, spiritual renewal retreat and a community of those who have experienced the weekend. There are upcoming retreats for men and women, and we'd love to sponsor you to attend! Men will retreat September 17 - 20. Women will retreat the following week, September 24-27. 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, Cynthia Anderson or Mike and Missy Ingersoll.

The family of Jerry Hart wishes to express our deepest appreciation for all the kindness that has been shown to us during the time of his passing.
You have truly been a blessing.



2. Love Gives

John 3:16 illustrates this beautifully: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

When we give, we reflect the love that God has shown us, and the sacrifice He made for us of giving His only begotten Son.

God loves, and He gives extravagantly *out of His love*. Not because we are good or deserving, but because He is good.

This inspires us to give too, out of our love for God and others.

Speaking points:

- God gave His Son to us because He loves us
- God modeled radical love and sacrifice
- Our generosity is not an obligation (*we get to give*)

~From 20 Effective, Encouraging Tithe & Offering Messages

<u>2026 Financial Information</u>				
	July	Year-to-Date		
Income	32,350.81	239,352.94	Annual Apportionment	54,140.50
Expenses	36,739.05	289,094.85	Apportionment paid to date	23,875.29
Net Income (Loss)	(4,388.24)	(49,741.91)		

SAVE THE DATE: PANCAKE BREAKFAST!



Saturday, October 31

7:30 - 10am in Perry Hall

Proceeds to benefit ASP / Youth Programs

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



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

Tickets will be available in October from UMM members or the church office!



ONE YEAR BIBLE ONLINE.COM

September

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

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM UWF General Meeting 1:00 PM Bright Point Head Start 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM EV Disciple Lessons	2 9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Fitness Class 4:30 PM Community Meal 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice	3 10:00 AM RRVBC Mobile Blood Drive 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share	4 7:00 AM EV Band Practice	5
	6 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Worship	7 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Scout Planning Committee 5:30 PM SPRC Meeting 6:30 PM EV Music Lessons Labor Day	8 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM EV Disciple Lessons	9 9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Fitness Class 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciples Forever	10 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share	11 7:00 AM EV Band Practice
	12 7:00 AM Walk to Emmaus Group	13 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Worship	14 1:00 PM Visitation Team 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 5:30 PM Finance/Council Meeting 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:30 PM EV Music Lessons	15 5:30 PM Retired Teachers Meeting 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM EV Disciple Lessons	16 9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Fitness Class 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciples Forever	17 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share
	18 7:00 AM EV Band Practice 11:00 AM Bright Point	19 8:30 AM UMM Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Ministry Meeting	20 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Worship	21 10:00 AM Matthew Group 5:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5:30 PM Missions Meeting 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:30 PM EV Music Lessons	22 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM EV Disciple Lessons	23 9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Fitness Class 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciples Forever
	24 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Grief Share 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting	25 7:00 AM EV Band Practice	26	Aug 2026 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 Oct 2026 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		
27 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM EV Sunday School 12:00 PM EV Worship 1:30 PM EV Lunch Fellowship	28 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Trustee Meeting 6:30 PM EV Music Lessons	29 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM EV Disciple Lessons	30 9:00 AM Psalm Sisters Bible Study 10:30 AM Fitness Class 5:30 PM Riize Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciples Forever			



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



**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.**

