

# *The Caller*

## First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

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www.comejourneywithus.com

April 2023



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### Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2	9:30 am children bringing in the palms
Maundy Thursday, April 6	7:00 pm in the sanctuary
Easter Sunday, April 9	9:30 am in the sanctuary

### Lenten Lay Breakfast Series

The last two Lenten Lay Breakfast are listed below. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m. at Strom Center with the program from 7:15-7:45 a.m.

March 31	Immaculate Conception
April 7	Heritage Bible Church

### Confirmation Sunday

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we plan to confirm nine students, we hope you can come to support our youth.

### College Care Packages

If you have a college student in your family, you may turn in their name and address to the church office by April 18. On Tuesday, April 25 we will fill boxes to be sent to college students prior to their spring finals. If you would like to make cookies, 3 per baggie are needed, please sign up at the welcome center.

### Open House and Consecration Sunday

Saturday, May 6 from 2-4:00 pm will be an open house for the community.  
Sunday, May 7 will be Consecration Sunday.

### Graduation Sunday 🎓

May 21 will be Graduation Sunday. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school, junior college, college or graduate school, please call the church office with their name and please submit a photo. We don't want to miss anyone!

# Jon's Jottings

If you haven't heard...I announced my retirement effective July 1 of this year. Some of you are excitedly counting down the days as I write this! We, by the way, don't know where we are going to live once we retire. We thought we knew, we had a closing scheduled, we had gotten



everything from home owners insurance to garbage pick up figured out, and then the seller backed out of the deal at the eleventh hour. So, we are back to not knowing where we will be moving. But we are not panicking...yet!

As part of the the retirement process our conference has all new retirees come to a special meeting at the conference center and while there the cover lots of necessary things like how to apply for our pensions, insurance, supplements, and how we are to behave when it comes to being retired pastors attending worship, etc. One of the things they do is interview us and then picking some of our answers to be aired at conference. To help with this they sent us a list of five questions we need to answer. These five questions have caused me to do a lot of thinking, remembering, and considering over the past few days. So...I decided to write this Jottings about one of the questions. The question is: Do you have a story that stands out from your ministry?

I have a LOT of stories that stand out from my ministry! You, who have been putting up with me and my stories for the past 17 ½ years know this. But today's answer is one of my favorites. We were working in LaHarpe & Durham. I was fresh out of seminary, and really looking forward to showing off my seminary education! I was still doing Greek work as I did the exegetical research necessary for the sermons each week. I was quoting noted theologians like Barth, and Schlermacher, and I was only using the NRSV because that was the version we used in seminary. I was worried about things like, how was God working with the people of Iraq in the middle of a war, and handling theological issues like whether it was acceptable to be baptized more than once. I enjoyed getting deep questions that caused me to do some research. I lived for folks to challenge my intellect. I still believed I would one day be a district superintendent because I knew I was a talented pastor. Ok, so maybe I did need some humility!

Anyway...you get the idea...I was wanting to be taken seriously. I wanted to make a name for myself, I wanted to have a fast growing church! And then one day my phone rang with a prayer request that set me back a bit. Margie Petty, a saint of the church, called me to say a special prayer for her friend Joan...because Joan had lost her false teeth! She wanted me, seminary graduate, aspiring theologian to pray for her to find them. I searched the Book of Worship for an appropriate prayer but I found nothing that seemed to be a good match.



But because I wanted to be a good and reliable pastor I prayed...silently...half heartedly...for Joan to find her teeth. A couple of days later I was talking with Margie and I asked her if Joan had found her teeth and she said, "Nope, Joan says even Jesus don't want her to find her teeth!" So I asked Margie what she told Joan and she said,

"I told her...Jesus wants you to get NEW teeth!" Joan resisted that option at first but then with Margie's encouragement and with her desire to eat an apple once in awhile she went ahead and ordered new teeth.

When they came in she was thrilled! They fit better than her old ones, they were a lot whiter, and she could eat apples with confidence! So one day I got up the courage to ask her how disappointed she was with Jesus not helping her find her old false teeth. She thought for a moment and then she said, "I think Jesus knew I needed and deserved NEW teeth...thank God he did!"

I truly believe God does answer all our prayers...sometimes not like we expect...but always in a way that is best! Amen.

Shalom

*Jon*

## **Greetings from Grace Place, our youth Sunday School**

Our youth have been busy memorizing the books of the Bible. We have been practicing singing Hosanna and proceeding into our new sanctuary. The youth will also be performing a "Palm Sunday Percussion Jam" with instruments! We hope you like it!!!!

The last few weeks we have been reviewing the life of Jesus—from His birth until His death. We have been studying the importance of the locations where everything took place—the people that He encountered and what all of this means to us today!

April 2-Palm Sunday-please have your child at Church by 9:15-we will meet in the Atrium.

April 9- We will have an Easter egg hunt during Sunday School beginning at 10:30!

Thank you to all that donated easter candy!!

Reagan Scanlon-Kessler was the winner of the BIG candy bar this month.

Mason Ewing's name was drawn to pick a prize out of our bucket of surprises!

Congratulation to Reagan and Mason!

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## **Let's Celebrate**

We have a working elevator and kitchen. With only a few things left to complete, we are ready to invite the community in for an open house. We will begin with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce on Friday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m. Then on Saturday, May 6 from 2:00 -4:00 p.m. we will have an open house for the community. Sunday, May 7, we be a breakfast beginning at 8:00 in our new Fellowship Hall followed by our Consecration Service at 9:30. That evening we will end the weekend with a Christian concert by Harvest Ministries in our Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. Join us in celebrating our new building.

## Senior News

Wednesday mornings all are invited to meet in the chapel at 9:30 for prayer - followed by Bible study. Currently we are studying the book of Matthew. Bring your Bible and join us. All are welcome to attend one or both.

Printed copies of the weekly sermons and the monthly Caller are available to those who request them. If you would like to receive them, or to have communion in your home, please contact Joyce Clark at 309 -299-5682. If you would like to help with this ministry, please let me know.

Prayer shawls are located in the church atrium. If you know someone for whom one might be a comfort, please take one. You are also invited to add one if you are a person who enjoys crocheting or knitting. They are always appreciated by those who receive them.

We also have "healing bags" for those who are having surgery or are spending time in the hospital. Please let Joyce Clark know if you need a healing bag.

### Dates to remember:

**May 7th** - the fellowship meal (4:45) and Harvest Concert 6 p.m.

**June 4th** - the 1st tech training session during the Sunday school hour at 10:30 a.m. It will be on the topic of cell phones. There will be more information in the coming Callers.

## Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective

There are flyers explaining healing touch on the hallway table outside of the church office. Feel free to take one for yourself or to give to a friend. If you desire to schedule a healing touch session, please call Chris Moore (309-337-4162) or Joyce Clark (309-299-5682). There is no charge.

If you wish to have someone pray with you, or for you, call anyone on the healing ministry team:

Chris Moore..... 309-337-4162

Teresa Prien..... 903-261-3084

Cathy Sheagren ..... 309-221-1668

Bernie Troutwine.....309-536-0937

Ray Clark .....309-299-5681

Joyce Clark .....309-299-5682

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry please join us on Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m., for stitching and fellowship, in the lounge.

Whether you are a veteran stitcher or would like to learn a new craft we would love for you to join us. Lessons in crocheting and basic knitting will be available.

If you have any questions, please call Susie Clark 309-337-7867.

## Meet Pastor Shelly

Hello friends! I am Pastor Shelly Forrest. I was born and raised in Owatonna, Minnesota, a mid-sized town with strong connections to both agriculture and industry in Southeastern, MN. Both sets of my grandparents were farmers (in Southwestern MN), and while I was growing up my father was a tool and die worker at a company called Wenger Corporation. They make all things connected to music performance—like shells, risers, stands, etc.



Because of that, music and the arts were also a strong part of my home community. I have one sister, and the two of us have recently inherited some farm ground as both of my parents and my grandfather have passed away in the past three years, so we are learning more about what that means for us, but we are happy to maintain our heritage.

I was also born and raised in the United Methodist Church. My very first memory in my life was my baptism at the age of three. I remember the pastor, the water, and being taken out into the congregation and introduced to “my church family.” That family has grown and expanded over the years as I have moved from place to place!

My call to ministry began in high school. When I was a senior, I accepted my call at an event called “Exploration ‘90” which was the first of its kind. It was a national event organized by the Board of Discipleship to help young people explore and assess their calls to ministry. At the end of the weekend, we had the opportunity to take a note forward and nail it to the cross that said, yes, no, or maybe I am going to follow a call to ministry. I said “yes!” Since then, I have been faithful to that decision.

I went to college at Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN where I majored in French and Religion. (I knew where I wanted to go to seminary before I knew where I wanted to go to college, and they said to major in anything but religion so that I would have a broader experience, but I could not leave it alone for four whole years, and I loved French!) Then I went to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois where I graduated with my MDiv in 1998.

It was there I met my husband who at the time was preparing to also be a pastor. He grew up in Urbana, IL (hence my move to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference), but early in our marriage, God redirected his path toward social work. The part of ministry he enjoyed most was helping people. For the past 14 years he has been working at the Central Illinois Agency on Aging in Peoria. He especially loves serving older adults, and it is truly a ministry for him, even if not in the church. He is an amazing partner in ministry and supports me in many ways. One thing he has been able to do in Mackinaw, where we are currently, is play drums with our praise band.

As of this July, I will have served in ministry for 25 years. The first seven were at Johnston City, a very small town in Southern Illinois. My spiritual life was grown and stretched a lot while I was there as they do things differently in the South! I knew I still



had a lot to learn, so my next four years were as an associate pastor in Monticello, IL. There I was mostly in charge of ministries involving children/youth/families in addition to worship leading and “other duties as assigned.” From there, I went to El Paso, IL for seven years, and have now been in Mackinaw for seven years. Each place has been unique, and we have enjoyed getting to build relationships and the kingdom of God. I make every effort to “bloom where I am planted.”

We have two children who, it amazes me to say, are now both adults! Our son Garrett is currently a junior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is the student body president this year and is majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies. Our daughter Cece will be graduating from Dee-Mack High School this May and will be going to the University of Illinois Chicago this fall. This leaves us “empty nesters” soon, but we are excited about this new time in our life as it will allow us time to engage in new hobbies or other community activities.

My priorities in life are to love God and love people. I enjoy worship leading, Bible studies, other group activities. I still love children and youth ministries but also care for older adults and everyone in-between. I am excited about this new chapter in our life that is about to begin, and I look forward with joy to meeting you!

Pastor Shelly

## April Birthdays

If you have a birthday in March and you're not listed here, please give the church office a call at 309-734-9437.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mark Clark      | 15 Pete Gebauer     |
| 3 Matt McVey      | 16 Sharon Elliott   |
| Bryson Hall       | Joan Horner         |
| 4 Carol Stombaugh | 17 Joy Boostrom     |
| 5 Seth Richardson | Don Daily           |
| 6 Madelyn Hall    | 18 Mandy Andrews    |
| 8 Jake Halcomb    | Karen Oaks          |
| 9 Callie Lantz    | 19 Will Hall        |
| Rick Williams     | 20 Haxell Mouandza  |
| 10 Teresa Prien   | 22 Melissa Anderson |
| 11 Steve McVey    | Andrew Myers        |
| Sue Cooley        | 25 Nick Lantz       |
| 12 Bobbi Uddin    | Jonathan Boyer      |
| Daniel Uddin      | 26 Brenda Robinson  |
| 13 Brian Boyer    | 28 Marlita Bulen    |
|                   | Jim Pierce          |



# **VBS IS COMING!!!!**

June 25-29

From classic tabletop games to video games and more, those who are 3 years old through those that have finished 5th grade will play their way through VBS in Bible Study, Music, Crafts, and Games. They will see Jesus through the eyes of Peter, one of his Jesus' closest friends.

Our Scripture focus is Psalm 25:4

**Make your ways known to me, LORD, teach me your paths.**

Our Motto is "Following Jesus changes everything!"

Day 1- Jesus is Holy.

Day 2- Jesus is Trustworthy

Day 3- Jesus is Forgiving

Day 4- Jesus is Worth Following

Day 5- Jesus is For Everyone.

## **First United Methodist Church Family Fun Facts**

In an ongoing effort for our church family to become more familiar with each other, we are sharing Family Fun Facts on Sundays. Watch the screens each Sunday for a photo of one of our family members and some fun facts about them. We would like everyone to participate! Please email or text a casual photo along with 2 fun facts and how long you have been a part of the family! Send them to Peggy Perrin - [psp0529@gmail.com](mailto:psp0529@gmail.com). If participation does not pick up, the Family Fun Fact will end April 30th. If participation picks up, I will continue putting family pictures and information out on Sundays.

## **Ministry Teams**

Directing Pastor - Rev. Jon Sims

Secretary/Financial Secretary - LeAnn Murk

Treasurer - Melinda Todd

Senior Ministries Coordinator - Joyce Clark

Education Director - Chris Moore

Youth Coordinators - Adam & Michelle Carlson

Certified Lay Servant - Anita Anderson

Music Director – Missy Roberts

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Bell Choir Director - Candy Duncan

Praise Team Director – Sue Ray

Custodian - Doug Ray

# First United Methodist Church, Monmouth

## April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>Every Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. WRAM radio 1330			<b>Every Wednesday</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation Class 2:45-4:15 Youth Group		1-3:00 p.m. workday 6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting 7:00 p.m. Worship meeting	6-7 p.m. Lent Bible Study	1:30 p.m. UMW Exec Board Meeting Chapel 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 a.m. Lenten Lay Breakfast with program at 7:15 at Strom Center	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Easter</b> No Confirmation Class No Youth Group	6:00 p.m. Finance meeting in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. Ad Council meeting in the Lounge	9-11:00 a.m. workday	9:30 a.m. Deborah Circle In the Lounge No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	6-8:00 p.m. workday		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30-11:30 a.m. New Member Invitation 2:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry Class in the lounge 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation Class No Youth Group				1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle in the Chapel		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Confirmation Sunday Youth Group	May Caller info due	Packing College Care Packages				
30						
10:30-11:30 a.m. New Member Invitation No Youth Group						