

# The Caller

## First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

(309) 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

[www.comejourneywithus.com](http://www.comejourneywithus.com)

May 2023



Celebrations are planned for the first weekend in May. We will begin on Friday, May 5 at 4:00, with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce. On Saturday, May 6, we will have an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for everyone to see our new building.

Sunday, May 7 will begin with breakfast from 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall before our 9:30 Consecration Service. During the service we will present this building to be consecrated for the worship of God and the service of all people.

That evening everyone is invited to join us in our Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. for a concert for the community by Harvest Ministries. If you would like to help sponsor the concert, donations may be made to the church designated for Harvest Ministries. More importantly, we hope you will invite youth and others in the community to the concert to help us celebrate our renewed commitment to serve God.

Please invite everyone to the Open House and Harvest Concert. Postcards are available at the Welcome Center for you to hand out to invite people. A personal invitation is always appreciated.

### 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



## Consecration!

Well...here it is...May of 2023 just 29 months after we voted to build a new building and just 16 years or 192 months after we started to get serious about doing the project, we are consecrating our church building! Wow!

So, in case you have not heard on May 7, 2023, we will be gathering at 8:00 am for breakfast and then at 9:15 we will gather in our atrium prepared to process into the sanctuary for our consecration service! Our Book of Worship says it like this:

“Consecration of a church building is the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of Holy communion as the first (ok for us not so much but you get the idea) act of worship in the new building. I suppose one could say that for the past few months we have been practicing and on May 7 we will have our real first service. The reasons we could not or did not do this earlier include that we did not have a full-time occupancy certificate just a temporary one, our elevator and kitchen both continued to need work, and there have been scheduling conflicts. But on May 7 we plan to have this important service and we all hope you will be there!

Consecration is defined as, “The action of making or declaring something, typically a church, sacred. “The consecration of this cathedral was a magical event” In the Bible we find a wonderful story in the book of Joshua. In the third chapter, verse 5 says, “Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

I don't know if you remember, I mean I expect you to remember **EVERYTHING** I ever say in church, but I know it's A LOT! But on one of the Sundays before a key vote the sermon and the letters written to promote the vote were all about Joshua. In the third chapter Joshua is about to guide his people through the Jordan River to the Promised Land in preparation for this wondrous event he instructs the people to consecrate themselves and then on the day of the procession across the Jordan it says, “So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far

away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan."

In order for this promise of God to be fulfilled the people had to show their faith in God. The call was for them to wade out into the Jordan when the Jordan was flooding and to be carrying the sacred ark of the covenant and show God and all they believed the Lord would do as Joshua had said. So, they waded out into the flooding river with the most sacred item they possessed, and the Lord stopped the water just as he had said. With that the people all crossed on dry ground and the Promised Land was now where they called home.

In many ways we have done this as well. We have planned, prayed, met, gathered, discussed, voted, voted, and voted, and met some more, and prayed a LOT more and we took the action necessary during a pandemic to show we had the faith necessary and the belief in our God to get this done. We survived the pandemic, masks, remote worship services, worldwide shortages, supply chain shortages, inflation and cost increases, trouble with work force shortages, and many difficulties in the actual construction process we could have never foreseen! But here we ARE and on May 7, we plan and hope to consecrate our building. The Bishop is sending his Executive Assistant, and our new District Superintendent will be here and we hope all of you are as well.

Our building has been prayed for, and over, and anointed. Now it will be formally consecrated and for as long as it stands may it be a place of peace, reverence, hope, love and a house of the God's. And may all who enter this place find a nearness and a closeness with the creator of the universe and may we all who come to this place feel a closeness with each other as well!

God Bless...and I hope to see you all on May 7!

Jon

## **United Methodist Women**

We sent off 23 College Care Boxes yesterday. With donations of wonderful homemade cookies, some snacks like Rice Krispie Bars, candy, Life Savers and also the Upper Room Devotional, the boxes were full. Thanks also for the donation of money for postage, boxes and bubble wrap. Twelve United Methodist women made light work of a big project. They were assembled and at the post office 1 1/2 hour later! Thank you everyone that donated or helped.

United Methodist Women are a group of women who seek to improve the lives of women, children, and youth all over the world. We welcome all women to join us.

DEBORAH CIRCLE meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Lounge at 9:30.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Thursday at 1:30 in the Chapel.

## Community Care Days

The Community Care Days Committee has designated Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, as workdays serving our community. The committee is from several area churches. All are welcome to take part in the workdays doing all sorts of odd jobs such as yard work, painting, small carpentry jobs, etc. Workdays begin at 8:00 a.m. both days, all day Friday and ending at noon on Saturday. If you are able, your help will be greatly appreciated. If you need work done the work applications are at the Welcome Center and are due back to the church office by May 11.

## Greetings from Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

The kids enjoyed a great Easter egg hunt thanks to all of you. Thank you to everyone who donated the candy and thank you to our Youth Group for filling all of those eggs for us! Miss Chris always fills this HUGE plastic egg with silly string, slime, a stuffed animal and all kinds of fun things. We always have a drawing for it and Carter Carlson was the big winner this year! Tyler Carlson won the big candy bar this month and Garrison Todd won the drawing for our preschoolers. He chose bubbles out of our prize basket! Congratulations to Carter, Tyler, and Garrison!

The kids did a great job singing Hosanna, waving their palms, and performing the Palm Sunday Percussion Jam! We are so proud of them! We also made our own palms on Palm Sunday.

We have been studying the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus and what it means to us today. We are now beginning a study in Genesis on Creation. The kids created their own world last Sunday. We have some very talented young people. Mr. Bill helped everyone plant pumpkin seeds, cucumber seeds, and flower seeds. Going to talk about seed, time, and God's exponential harvest!

Confirmation Sunday was wonderful. What a blessing to watch nine of our young people make a commitment to Christ and the Church. Congratulations to:

Reese Anderson, Lexi Andrews, Maddie Cook, Rogan Rexroat, Tyler Carlson, Keegan Smith, Sawyer Kramer, Parker Davies, and Henrik Bergren!

On May 7, the day of our Consecration Service for our church, there will be no Sunday School. Then after that we will need all hands-on deck each Sunday so we can practice for June 11. ☺

Thank you for your cooperation.

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## Mother's Day

This year Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14. If you wish to honor that special MOM or "mother-like" person in your life, please include a suggested \$10.00 donation to go to Strom Center and her name as you would like to see it listed in the Mother's Day Sunday bulletin. Please return the form to the office by May 10. Forms are available at the Welcome Center.

## **Senior News**

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

We continue to have printed copies of the weekly sermons and monthly Caller available for those who request them. Also, if you would like to have communion brought to you, please contact Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682.

Prayer shawls are available 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 who are spending time in the hospital. Please let Joyce Clark know if you know of someone who should receive one.

### **Dates to remember:**

**May 7** - Church fellowship meal at 4:45 -please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to attend.

**Harvest concert** from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Sanctuary

**June 4** – The 1<sup>st</sup> tech training session during Sunday school time at 10:30. The topic will be cell phones. Be jotting down questions you may have about using your phone. Watch your bulletin for more information.

### **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).

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 30 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.

## CHARITY CHALLENGE!!!!

There is an exciting new fundraiser that allows people interested in going to the John Deere Classic, to buy their online John Deere Classic tickets through us. Even if you aren't interested in going, you may have family or friends who would like to go. Starting now through May 31, our church will be able to sell tickets online to the 2023 tournament (July 5 – 9), to generate funds for our General Budget.

\$10 of each ticket sold will be donated back to us, and the remaining proceeds will go directly to the Bonus Fund, to increase the matching bonus for the over 450 charities this year. All of what you pay for each ticket is given to charity!! It's a win-win!

Whether you buy tickets, or others you've talked with are interested in ordering tickets, this special link MUST be used:

<https://jdclassic.spinzo.com/?group=charity-ticketing-challenge-wk8f&viewcode=t399pv7>

### **Here's how it works:**

**Step 1** – You have to go to this special link (above) in order for our 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church to receive credit or I can send you the link via your email address. You can find the link above, on our church's Facebook page (First United Methodist Church, Monmouth IL) or go to our church's webpage ([www.comejourneywithus.com](http://www.comejourneywithus.com)) to click or type this special link in yourself.

**Step 2** – You select which day and what type of tickets you want. Parking is included in the price of all tickets.

**Step 3** – You will need to select your charity from the dropdown list of participating charities prior to check out. It is "**First United Methodist Church (2135)**"

**Step 4** - Finalize payment information.

**Step 5** - Tickets are emailed directly to you and our church gets credit for the tickets sold!

This Charity Challenge is totally separate from our Birdies for Charity Fundraiser. These ticket funds can't be submitted through Birdies for Charity to qualify for the bonus match. Hopefully, you will consider helping by participating in both fundraisers.

You can share the special link with your friends, neighbors, anyone who might be interested in going to the John Deere Classic. All proceeds will be delivered to us within one month of the tournament's end. The Birdies for Charity money, including the percent added on, comes in late October. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Laurie Todd  
Contact person for Birdies for Charity  
[ltodd1956@gmail.com](mailto:ltodd1956@gmail.com)  
309-734-6536 or 309-225-1535



## May Birthdays

3	Sylvia Lee	18	Bryan Munson
	Delaney Rexroat		Peg Willhardt
5	Jeff Uddin		Greg Ryner
6	Libby Andrews	19	Jane Pratt
7	Rob Lantz	20	Kris Pierce
	Jodi Chandler		Terry Morris
11	Trevor Davies	21	Rod Melton
	Karry Richardson	22	Alex Clark
	Jennifer Adair	25	Alex Lile
13	Dave Wines		Dee Dee Davies
14	Debbie Anderson	26	Cassandra Ellison
	David Wilson	27	Andrea Frieden
15	Carter Halcomb	28	Tana Pierce
16	Amelia Anderson		Donna Spears
17	Edith Davies	29	Sue Clark
			Peggy Perrin
31			Brian Moore
			Michael Moore
			Justin Sims



## VBS IS COMING!!!! – Sunday, June 25 – Thursday, June 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!”

The sessions are Jesus is Holy, Jesus is Trustworthy, Jesus is Forgiving, Jesus is Worth Following and Jesus is for Everyone.

## 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

# May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School			Every Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting 7:00 p.m. Worship meeting	7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	No UMW Exec Board Meeting	4:00 Ribbon Cutting	4:00 Church Open House	2-4:00 Church Open House
			UMW Youth Group			
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Consecration Sunday 8:00 Breakfast 4:45 p.m. Light Meal 6:00 p.m. Harvest Concert	6:00 p.m. Finance meeting in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. Ad Council meeting in the Lounge	9:30 a.m. Deborah Circle in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal				Youth Group
	14	15	16	17	18	19
			1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle in the Chapel
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Graduation Sunday No Youth Group	June Caller info due					27
	28	29	30	31		
No Youth Group	Memorial Day Church office closed					