

# The Caller

## First United Methodist Church

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

June 2023



## Pastor Jon is retiring!

Pastor Jon and Anita's last day with us is  
Sunday, June 11.

Join us at 9:30 for worship in the Sanctuary and lunch in Fellowship Hall following the service.

## Community Care Days

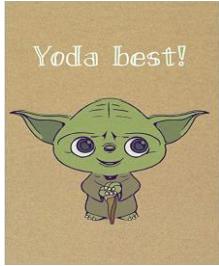
The Community Care Days Committee has designated Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, as workdays serving our community. The committee is from several area churches. All are welcome to take part in the workdays doing all sorts of odd jobs such as yard work, painting, small carpentry jobs, etc. Workdays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

## 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.

The sessions are Jesus is Holy, Jesus is Trustworthy, Jesus is Forgiving, Jesus is Worth Following and Jesus is for Everyone. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center along with a list of items that we need for VBS. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as well.



## Jon's Jottings

### Thank You!



As you probably know this is my last Jon's Jottings from Monmouth First UMC. And all I can think of to say is...THANK YOU!

Seventeen and a half years ago on January 8, 2006, Anita, Justin, and I moved into your beautiful parsonage and began working and living here in this wonderful town and amazing church. Do you remember what I preached about that first Sunday? Nope? Neither do I! I'm sure it was very forgettable!

I do remember how I felt, though. And I felt...welcomed! You all did an amazing job of making us feel welcome right away. I really don't remember any difficulties appearing on that first Sunday or even during those first few weeks. All I remember is feeling welcomed and feeling at home right from the start. I know we were provided food and fellowship and as I've told you before...we were even shown fellowship before we moved here. I actually came across the letter Jan Gebauer sent to us before we moved here and that letter and so many others, made us all feel like we were coming to our new home right away. Most of you know this, but Jan was the church administrative assistant and financial secretary and the treasurer for quite a while and she, of course, did an amazing job. When Jan retired, we never even had much of a worry because right away LeAnn came on board and now she holds the distinction (if that is what it is) of having to put up with me for the longest of any secretary-administrative assistant-financial secretary with whom I have had the pleasure of working. So, all through all the 17 1/2 years, it has always been a joy coming to work.

Lots of interesting things have happened here. Just being allowed to be somewhere for 17 1/2 years is amazing to me. I never dreamed that would be the case for us. And now when I look at the 36 years I have been a pastor and see that almost half of them were right here in Monmouth, I thank God and all of you that this is true.

God has blessed me in so many ways and it humbles me to even think about the life God has given me to live. Every night as I settle in to get ready to fall asleep...I thank God...for our family and for all of you. You have put up with a motorcycling, bicycle riding, running, grandparent becoming, bad joke telling, irreverent at times pastor. You have provided us a safe and wonderful home, you have paid us well, and you have

been there to help in so very many ways. It absolutely humbles me to think about all the kind things you have done for us and all the ways you have shown love to us.

And here's the thing...I realize I don't deserve it at all. From being born into the family I was, where I never had to wonder if I was loved, to marrying the girl who sat behind me in history and had to put up with all my talking and goofing off, then to have the amazing children and grandchildren we have, and to the health I've enjoyed...I am so blessed. God has been with us each step of the way...even when I had no idea God was there...God was THERE. And guess what? God is still there...still here with us. I always wanted to be the best at

something...but to my chagrin, I never have been...but I can say honestly that I have been blessed beyond understanding to be able to pastor in a church that has always pastored to our family in amazing ways. Through the death of my brother, the births of our grandchildren, both Justin and Anita graduating from college, Anita's Dad passing away, my diagnosis of Leukemia, COVID, all the building stuff...you have been there, and been here...and I thank God...and thank YOU for it all.

And here's the other thing...I don't ever want to discount at all...You have let me and let us...be us the entire time we have been here. Pastors discuss churches just the same as churches discuss pastors and suffice it to say...you letting your pastor and family simply be who they are is not always the case...and we thank God for you!

So...in a month pastor Shelly Forrest will be your new pastor. She will bring gifts and graces that I do not have to you as she becomes your new pastor. I hope and expect that she will see and experience the warmth and the acceptance you have shown to Anita and me throughout our time here. God has called her here and God has called you to be her church and her family's home. And I trust that in how ever many years from now it is her time to leave as your pastor she will be saying, just as I...just as we do...Thank YOU! God Bless you...and may God work God's highest Good in you and in the ministries of Monmouth First UMC!

Shalom,

Jon

I don't know if you have heard...Old preachers never retire they just go out to pastor! And I imagine you can identify with this one...Old preachers never die...they just ramble on and on and on and...Amen!

## **Your help is needed**

Pastor Jon and Anita have been in the Parsonage for 17 1/2 years and now we have some small maintenance items and cleaning to do to be ready for Pastor Shelly and her family to move into the Parsonage. We will be working on the Parsonage the first two weeks in June as Pastor Shelly and family will move in on June 14. Please contact Doug Ray or the office for a list of items to be completed before June 14.

## **Father's Day**

We would like to honor our fathers or men who may be "father-like" to us for Father's Day on Sunday, June 18. If you wish to make a donation in honor of or in memory of that special DAD, please include a suggested donation of \$10.00. Donations will go to Jamieson Center and Helping Hands Food Pantry. Forms can be picked up at the Welcome enter and turned into the church office by June 14. Checks should be made payable to our church with Father's Day on the memo line.

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

Kennedy Halcomb won the big candy bar this month! Congratulations to Kennedy!

All of the seeds we planted are growing and we are expecting pumpkins in the fall.

We are continuing our study on Creation and the Book of Genesis. We are learning that God actually spoke the world and all creation into existence! Because of this, we have learned about the power of our own words!

The youth all made cards to welcome Pastor Shelly into our community and our church family. They all told her how excited they were to meet her. Then we made Mother's Day cards for our mom's and gave them a gift. Sadly, we will soon be making cards for Pastor Jon and Anita thanking them for their service and friendship the last 17 years.

Our next project is practicing a surprise for Pastor Jon and Anita on June 11. Please come to church that Sunday and see what we have planned and say good-bye to the Sims. There is no Sunday School on June 11.

Don't forget that VBS is coming June 25-29, you don't want to miss it!!!!

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## **Update On Birdies for Charity**

Birdies for Charity is an important fundraiser, especially since there have been no other fundraisers since Uncle Phil's Diner in the fall of 2019. Please consider what you would have given to other events in the past, like the Ice Cream Social and the Hog Roast, then maybe donate those amounts to Birdies for Charity. We are guaranteed a minimum of 105% of what we donate (**received online or via mail at 15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244, by July 9, 2023**). It's a win-win!!!



If you haven't already, please share some time with God in prayer about your own donation. If you decide to participate, fill in your pledge card in the Birdies for Charity flyer. If you don't already have one, you can pick one up at church at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. Bird #2135 (already typed in) is our church's account #, unless you print off an original copy online. You can also save postage and donate online. Type in

<https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate>, which gets you to the BFC webpage. Choose "Donate" and follow the directions. At the very end you need to click the green "Choose Your Charity" to enter your payment. You will get an immediate "THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION" message and several emails verifying your donation. **You can guess the number of birdies you think there will be, but it has to reach the Birdies for Charity Office no later than June 16 to be eligible for the Car Giveaway Prize.**

Blessings for all of you,

Laurie Todd (Birdies for Charity Chairperson)

## Senior News

Wednesday mornings we continue to meet in the chapel for prayer at 9:30, followed by Bible study. We are currently studying the book of Matthew. Bring your Bible and join us.

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.

Reminder - the first session of technology training made possible by the Larsen Grant will take place Sunday, June 4. It will be in the Chapel during the Sunday school hour at 10:30. Pizza will be served following the training.

There are a number of prayer shawls displayed in the Atrium. If you know someone for whom one might be a comfort, please take one. Thanks to those who make them. They are always very appreciated by the recipients.

## Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective

(research has shown that Healing Touch facilitates the relaxation response and enhances the healing process). It reduces pain, reduces anxiety, relieves stress and depression, provides support during chemotherapy, strengthens the immune system, reduces the effects of trauma and chronic pain, and enhances recovery from surgery. (Quoted information taken from "Healing Touch Program -Enlighten Empower Practice" -)

If you would like to schedule a healing touch session, you may call Joyce at 309-299-5682. There is no charge for a session.

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

## Choral Dynamics

This spring, Choral Dynamics are presenting "Raised on Radio" on June 2 and 3 at 7:00 p.m. and June 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg. You can purchase tickets at the Orpheum box office 309-342-2299. Proceeds are to benefit Noon Rotary.

## Dates to remember

June 11 – Pastor Jon and Anita's last day with us

June 16 – 17 – Community Care Days

June 25-29 – Vacation Bible School

July 2 - Pastor Shelly Forrest's first Sunday with us

July 16 - Worship in the Park in Roseville

## Our 2023 High School Graduates

Addison Anderson  
United High School  
Daughter of Brooke and Craig Anderson  
Granddaughter of Debbie and Rick  
Anderson  
Attending Carl Sandburg College  
majoring in education

Aidan Myers  
Monmouth-Roseville High School  
Son of Amy and Larry Myers  
Grandson of Shirley Myers  
Going into the work force with a goal to  
become a park ranger

McKinley Rexroat  
Monmouth-Roseville High School  
Daughter of Jen and Casey Rexroat  
Granddaughter of Janet and Gene O'Leary  
and Ginger Rexroat  
Attending Monmouth College  
majoring in communications  
and singing in the choir

Paige Richardson  
Monmouth-Roseville High School  
Daughter of Karry Richardson and  
Steve Richardson  
Attending Iowa State University  
majoring in Civil Engineering

Tyler Watkins  
North Scott High School (Eldridge, IA)  
Son of Adam and Tiffany Watkins  
Grandson of Jane and Dean Watkins  
Attending University of Iowa  
majoring in business

## Our 2023 College Graduates

Nathaniel K. Anderson  
Son of Mark and Melissa Anderson  
Grandson of Neal and Anita Anderson  
Iowa State University  
*magna cum laude*  
Agricultural Systems Technology and  
Industrial Technology

Grace Murk  
Daughter of LeAnn and Kevin Murk  
Granddaughter of Joanie Larsen, Larry  
Murk and Donna Radake  
St. Ambrose University  
*magna cum laude*  
Social Work – Women and Gender Studies

Claire Robinson  
Daughter of Mark Robinson  
Granddaughter of Karen and Bill Robinson  
Illinois State University  
Bachelor of Arts and Major in Spanish  
Attending medical school this fall

JC Sells  
Son of Anita Sells and Gary Sells  
Grandson of Joyce and Ray Clark  
Illinois State University  
Communications

Rachel Williams  
Daughter of Richard and Tracey Williams  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
*summa cum laude with honors*  
Political Science



## Celebration Weekend

What a great weekend as we celebrated the completion of our building project. The weekend began on Friday, May 5 with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by the Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to Kelli Kinzer, Executive Director, for a wonderful ceremony. Jeff Uddin gave a recap of the building project and Pastor Jon closed with prayer and then cut the ribbon.



On Saturday, May 6, community members were greeted by members of our congregation at each of the doors. Members of the Fresh Start Committee were stationed throughout the building to answer questions about the project and others gave our guests guided tours of the building.



Sunday morning began with a breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Then everyone met in the Atrium for the opening of the Consecration Service. We all entered the Sanctuary as we sang the opening hymn. Nic Showalter, our new District Superintendent and Jan Griffith, the Bishop's Representative joined Pastor Jon in the Consecration Service as we consecrated the building for the worship of God and the service of all people. If you missed the service, it is available on our website at

<http://www.comejourneywithus.com/worship-services/worship-services>.

The evening ended with a light supper and concert in the Sanctuary by Harvest Ministry Team.

Now that all areas of the building are available to be used, we can begin to refocus on our mission and vision.

### The Mission of the First United Methodist Church of Monmouth

We are on a journey to know, grow and show the love of Jesus.

#### Our Vision

To make a home built on Christ's love and understanding through:

- Knowing by learning the teaching of Jesus
- Growing by embracing God's mission
- Showing by serving as we journey together

## June Birthdays

1	Helen Hull	15	Bill Salyers
2	Ron Moore	17	Joan Ryner
3	B.J. Salyers	18	Gene Hillman
4	Kaylee Cornell Mary Ann Brooks	21	Karissa Pierce
5	Brayden Halcomb	22	Sawyer Kramer
7	Neal Anderson Steve Sandstrom		Carmyn Way
9	Tom Prien Dave Geer	23	Jim Edwards
10	Andrew Way Amy Myers	25	Laurie Todd
11	Matt Frieden	27	Rick Anderson
13	Kim Lemley		Corey Armstrong
14	Sharon Stavenhagen	28	Terri St.George
			Dennis Willhardt
		29	Bob Edwards
			Jon Sims



## Thank you!

Thank you for your help in getting the church ready for Celebration Weekend. Anytime a request for help was made, you stepped up to help. This building project could not have been completed without everyone's help.

## 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 and Michelle Carlson

Certified Lay Speaker - 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

### June 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	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 a.m. Tech training class in the chapel with light lunch to follow	6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting in the Lounge  7:00 p.m. Worship meeting in the Lounge	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir  7:00 p.m. Worship meeting in the Lounge	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir  7:00 p.m. Worship meeting in the Lounge	No UMW Exec Board Meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		No Deborah Circle	No Priscilla Circle	Community Care Work Day	Community Care Work Day	Community Care Work Day
			5:00 p.m. SPRC meeting in the lounge			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
5-8:00 p.m. VBS starts.	VBS	VBS	VBS	Last night of VBS		
	July Caller info due					