

# The Caller

## First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

(309) 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

www.comejourneywithus.com

July 2023



## Welcome Pastor Shelly, Mitch, Garrett and Cece

### Church in the Park

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 16. Our church has been invited to a community worship service at the park in Roseville as a part of the Warren County Fair. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. You will need to take a lawn chair. There is a continental breakfast offered at 9:30. Participating churches have been asked to bring a coffee cake and 2 dozen muffins for the breakfast. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center if you would like to bring a coffee cake or muffins. There will not be a worship service in the Sanctuary or Sunday School that day. We will return to our regular schedule on July 23. Let's support this nice offer to be a part of the community of the Warren County Fair.

### Update On Birdies for Charity

Five days left!!! Pledge cards and online donations must be RECEIVED by July 7 to be included in the 2023 Birdies for Charity Fundraiser. Just mail your check made out to Birdies for Charity and pledge card to 15623 Coaltown Rd., Moline, IL 61244, or give the pledge card and check to Laurie Todd or LeAnn Murk by July 2. You may also donate online at [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com).

If you have questions or need help filling out your pledge, feel free to contact Laurie Todd at 309-734-6536; 309-255-1535 or [ltodd1956@gmail.com](mailto:ltodd1956@gmail.com).



<b>Monmouth First</b> Jon Ermal Sims (19 RE) Shelly Forrest (1 FE) <b>Mount Sterling First</b> <b>Columbus</b>
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## Thank You!

The above is what I saw when I opened the new appointment list our conference sends out for the new pastoral appointments which happens after our annual conference in June of each year. For 17 years it just said, Monmouth First-Jon Ermal Sims and then had a number representing the year that was to come. As you can tell this year would have been my 19<sup>th</sup> appointment year. Now, I knew I retired, I was there when the Bishop shook my hand and said I finished well. Also, I was in church for that amazing final Sunday on June 11 that you all did for us. But somehow seeing that scratched out name of mine on that list, well it made it very real! It also turns out that was a mistake. The conference has now corrected it by simply taking my name out and just leaving Shelly's name there. After all, now I'm appointed to retirement! With all that being said, here is Anita and my attempt to convey our heartfelt and overwhelmed thanks for all of you and all you have done!

*We are thankful to our church family at Monmouth for 17 and a half years of time together of service, ❤️ love, compassion, fellowship and so much more! You were a great group to work with and serve! Bless our church family for the going away cookies, Payday Candy bars, chocolate bars and the many sweets which were very enjoyable especially for our grandkids! And of course, a special thank you for the more than generous monetary and other gifts from you all! In addition, we wish to convey what a tremendous blessing it was, and to express our thanks of appreciation, for the farewell luncheon. We were so delighted to see everyone and enjoy the good food and just everything!! We received so many special gifts we won't acknowledge them here but please know we are overwhelmed with the ways you have shown us love!*

*Shalom & God Bless You!*

*- Jon and Anita*

## New Address

Jon and Anita Sims  
107 Logan Street  
Bethalto, IL 62010

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to several new members of the First United Methodist Church of Monmouth, who joined in June. They are Lori Anderson, Adam DeCrane, Diana Dawson, Rod and Debbie Fuess, Romona Hughes, and George and Peggy Sprout.

The Hospitality Committee plans to hold another new member session later this year after Pastor Shelly settles in. If you are interested, please call Laurie Todd (309)255-1535 or Cathy Sheagren (309)335-9066.

## **Time Capsule Letters**

Finishing touches are being put on the materials to be included in our time capsule. It is not too late for you to include a letter about any reflection about our church and congregation that you would like to share. These letters and other church materials will be stored in the time capsule which will be installed later this summer. If you have any questions talk to Joy Boostrom, Deb Moore or Cathy Sheagren.

## **S.T.A.R.S. (Students To Arrive Ready for School)**

Backpacks filled with school supplies are given to area children in need. Jamieson Community Center serves as the application and distribution site. Jamieson's goal is to give 100 children all the supplies on their list so that they are prepared on the first day of school. We are asking for the exact brands specified by their teachers so that the children have tools they need to be successful. To minimize duplication and ensure that they have all supplies needed for each child, Jamieson Center is asking our church to collect 200 WIDE RULE spiral notebooks, 50 of each color, red, blue, yellow, and green by July 28.

## **Jamieson Community Center Potluck Battle of the Churches**

This event has been cancelled due to a lack of meal entrants to hold the event.

## **Community Care Days Update**

The Community Care Days volunteers worked on 19 projects during the June 16-17 weekend. The projects included painting, weeding, trimming, washing windows, building a ramp, replacing a deck, and replacing three small windows. The Community Care Days organizational group appreciates the volunteers that worked on the project. Plans will be made for next year's Community Care Days and returning, and new volunteers are always appreciated and needed.

## **Scrip Gift Card Program**

For each card sold in the Scrip program, our church gets a percentage of the sale so when you use Scrip cards for birthdays or wedding gifts (as well as a treat for yourself) it helps First United Methodist Church of Monmouth with needed funds. Cards on hand right now in the church office are, Buffalo Wild Wings, Kohl's, Target, Steak 'n Shake, and Olive Garden. Many other cards are available online.

## **Thank you**

I want to thank all my FUMC family for the prayers, good wishes, and support during both of my recent hospitalizations. The care gift bag was very thoughtful, and the crocheted prayer shawl was beautiful. We are so blessed to be members and part of such a wonderful congregation. Peggy Sprout

## **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!**

We want to thank the wonderful congregation of the First United Methodist Church for making the dinner for Pastor Jon, Anita, and their family a success. We had excellent help in the kitchen from our committee and other volunteers, and the abundance of good food brought in was amazing. The monetary donations more than covered the cost of the meat.

Enough tables were set up for everyone to be seated and the decorations were lovely and eye-catching.

We never should have worried because as always, our church family came through in glorious fashion.

Thank you so much to everyone for making it a very special dinner.

Love to all, Donna Spears and Janet Stevenson

## **Senior News**

Wednesday mornings we continue to meet in the Chapel for prayer at 9:30, followed by Bible study. We are just beginning to study the book of Mark. You are welcome to bring your Bible and join us.

On August 3, everyone is invited to BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and join in our second Tech Event. We will be using mostly iPads, laptops, and some personal computers. Warren County Public Library is graciously hosting this event for us starting at 6:00 p.m. If you do not have a device, you may use the ones at the library. This event is made possible by the Larsen Grant. Please come and enjoy technology with us! Refreshments and door prizes will be available to those who attend.

There are still 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**

Healing touch sessions continue to be offered by Chris Moore and Joyce Clark. Benefits of healing touch include relieving stress and depression, reducing pain, supporting the body during chemotherapy, strengthening the immune system and enhancing recovery following surgery. If you would like to schedule a healing touch, phone Chris or Joyce.

If you wish to have someone pray with or for you, feel free to call:

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

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

Cathy Sheagren ...309-335-9066

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

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

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

## Greetings from Grace Place

The youth were very busy this past month preparing for their presentation of "So Long, Farewell" for Pastor Jon and Anita. As always, they did an amazing job! We are so blessed to have such talented young people who are willing to share their talents. Whether they sang, played a piano solo, or spoke from the heart, they made the service very special!

Now we are looking forward to having Pastor Shelly and her family as a part of our church family. God is moving in our church, and it is so exciting!

The next unit we will be studying in Grace Place is the Miracles of Jesus. Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. We turned our water into red juice last week representing Jesus turning the water into wine. We will be studying the significance of the water and the wine.

Lexi Andrews won the big candy bar last month. Congrats to Lexi!!!!

Blessings,  
Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) is a midweek program at Faith United Presbyterian Church for children in 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades during the 2023-2024 school year.

An informational picnic will be held September 13 at 5:15 in the Faith UPC Social Hall.

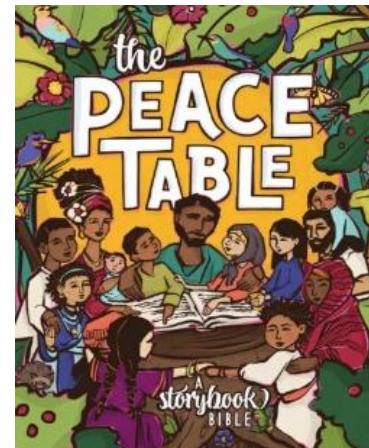
This year's WNL theme is *The Peace Table*.

Online registration is available in July. New students can register on the Faith United Presbyterian Church Facebook Page. WNL kids already attending can register online on the private WNL Parent's Facebook page. Paper forms are available at Faith UPC.

Transportation by carpool to WNL is provided, supper provided and sliding scale fee/scholarships are also available.

Faith United Presbyterian Church, 200 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Monmouth 734-5129

For questions, please contact Debbie Dingman at Faith United Presbyterian Church.



## Vacation Bible School

Thank you for your support of this year's Vacation Bible School. First Lutheran Church and Faith United Presbyterian Church joined us again this year as we held VBS for the first time in the new building.



During the week, our motto was "Following Jesus changes everything." Psalm 25:4, "Make your ways known to me Lord, teach me your paths" was the scripture that was the bases for our lessons. We studied five of Peter's encounters with Jesus and learned that Jesus is holy, trustworthy, forgiving, worth following and for everyone. Jesus guides us through all the twist and turns of our lives. He helps us know His ways and teaches us His paths.

We had many volunteers help during the week. When we asked for donations, you were very willing to fill our requests. We had over 30 adults and youth from our church volunteer during the week and then 10 more adults as part of the kitchen crew who provided a meal every evening. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this year's VBS a success.

Pastor Jamie Gallagher from the First Lutheran Church lead the Bible Story and Pastor Brandon Ouellette from Faith United Presbyterian Church helped with music. Pastor Shelly Forrest joined us each evening and had a chance to meet and talk with many from our congregation. She was able to see our children and youth enjoy learning about Jesus and Peter.

Our offering this year will be given to the Western Illinois Animal Rescue in Monmouth. During the week, over \$600.00 was donated to WIAR. There was a contest between the girls and the boys. This year, the girls donated more than the boys so Drew Carlson, representing the boys, had to kiss a pig. We would like to thank Janet Stevenson for loaning us a piglet for Drew to kiss.



## July Birthdays

1	Aiyana Sanders	14	Emmi Frieden
2	Morgan Lemley		Lori Oetting
	Sarah Moore	15	Jared Halcomb
3	Alex Burgland	16	Alexis Clark
4	Carson Clayton	18	Bev Crede
	Curt Scott	20	Sherry Rehn
5	Craig Anderson	22	Heaven Edwards
	Wendy Pinney		Chris Moore
6	Nancy Clayton	23	Gina Raymond
	Kendall Murk		Casey Rexroat
7	Jo McVey	24	Anders Bergren
	Cathy Sheagren		Jan Helms
8	Jill Sollenberger		Carter Carlson
	Susie Clark		Deb Melton
	Paige Richardson	25	Ashlee Salyers
	Debra Young	26	Brooke Anderson
9	Lois Cook		Suzanne Lovdahl
10	Candy Duncan		Carolyn Ross
11	Butch Pinney	28	Kayla Bishop
12	Jan Uddin	29	Madelyn Edwards
13	John Stinemates		Kathleen Elliott
14	Samuel Bolon		Bryan Murray



## Ministry Teams

Directing Pastor - Rev. Shelly Forrest

Secretary/Financial Secretary - LeAnn Murk  
Treasurer - Melinda Todd  
Senior Ministries Coordinator - Joyce Clark  
Education Director - Chris Moore  
Youth Coordinators - Adam & Michelle Carlson  
Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson

Music Director - Missy Roberts  
Organist - Elizabeth Walker  
Pianist - Jo McVey  
Keyboard - Joy Boostrom  
Bell Choir Director - Candy Duncan  
Praise Team Director - Sue Ray  
Custodian - Doug Ray

# Monmouth 1st UMC JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> Prayer Group 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM			1
2	3 2:00 P.M. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge	4 Church Office Closed No Trustees or Worship meeting	5 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church Office Closed No Trustees or Worship meeting	6 No UMW Exec. meeting	7	8
9	10 No Finance or Ad Council meeting	11	12 No Deborah Circle	13	14	15
16 Church in the park in Roseville 10:00 am No Sunday School	17	18	19	20 No Priscilla Circle	21	22
23	24 August Caller info deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					