

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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www.comejourneywithus.com

August 2023



United Methodist Women

Monmouth College Freshmen Walkout is August 21 at 3:15 p.m.

Consequently we need cookies.....lots and lots of cookies!!!

There is a sign-up sheet at the church, or you may call the church office to have your name added to the sign-up sheet. Please package 3 cookies per zip lock bag with no nuts or peanut butter in the cookies

Thank you ahead of time for baking for our college students.

Youth Group

If you are entering the 6th grade through 12th grade, you are invited to be a part of all youth group activities. We generally meet on Sundays from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at the church. A typical evening consists of worship, music, devotion, food and fun! Sunday, August 27 will be the Youth Group Kickoff Cookout at the Carlson's home from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Technology Training

The second technology training made possible by the Larsen Grant will take place at 6 p.m., Thursday, August 3 at the Warren County Library, 62 Public Square. All are welcome to bring your electronic devices such as laptops, chrome books, iPads, or kindles. The goal is to assist you in finding answers to your technology questions. Library computers are available to those who do not have a device to bring.

Contact Information

Pastor Shelly's phone is 217-722-4597 and her email is pastorshellyforrest@gmail.com.

Texting is set to silent from 10 p.m. -7 a.m., but if you have an emergency, calls will still go through during those hours.

“A Month of Sundays”

As I meet people, a question that is almost always first is, “are you getting settled into Monmouth?” The answer is YES! Thank you! Thank you to those who have done so much to make us feel welcome, comfortable, and cared for! I appreciate those who have dropped by to say hello and bring us flowers, those who have worked hard painting, scrubbing, and doing other things to make the parsonage a great place for us to live and make many more memories as a family. Thanks to those who have sent cards, invited us for a meal, or friended me on Facebook. (I generally do not send out friend requests, but I do accept them—I don’t want anyone wondering why the pastor didn’t ask to “friend” them!) Thank you for everything you have done to welcome us to this church and to the community!

I want to get to know you better, and to do that, I am setting aside “a month of Sundays.” The Sundays in August, the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., I invite you to come out to Pattee Park (the shelter by the water pads) on East Broadway and 11th. In case of rain will meet at the church Atrium. I’ll bring lemonade and ice water. It will be open-house style, so come and go as you need to. I am hoping that not everyone comes the same night so that we can have informal conversations and I can learn about you as you learn about me. Together, we can share our dreams for the future of First UMC Monmouth!

Something important I want to share with you about myself is that GRACE is EVERYTHING to me! I was born and raised in the church. Frequently I have said, “I was Methodist born and Methodist bred, and when I die, I’ll be Methodist dead.” I really did not have any huge childhood struggles to speak of—at least none that I think of as out of the ordinary. I felt my call to ministry in high school and accepted my call to ministry my senior year. I knew what seminary I wanted to attend before I had chosen a college. I asked them what I should do to prepare myself, and they said, “study anything but religion” because too many who study religion in college come to seminary thinking they already know everything! That is why I studied French—a language that I loved. I also studied religion because four years was too long to set that on a shelf! In my junior year I studied in France for a semester. A very personal and very heart-breaking thing happened to me while I was there. I came back with a dark cloud hanging over me in many ways. But then, during Holy Week, my chaplain had a worship service on Maundy Thursday. It was a meal that was similar to that of what the disciples and Jesus would have eaten together. At the end of that meal, he held up the bread and the cup and spoke the words that Jesus had spoken, “this is my body, broken for you. This is my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Then the bread and the cup were then passed from person to person around that table. As the bread and cup came closer to me, it was as if the chaplain and everyone else in that room completely disappeared. I felt the presence of Jesus telling me, “I did this for YOU. Don’t you dare hold onto the grief and shame you have right now.” And in that moment, my chains were broken. I was set free. It was amazing! I left that room a changed person. I had always been a Christian. I had already been called to ministry. But in that moment, Jesus became more real to me than ever before.

I learned for myself what GRACE is—the powerful, real, overwhelming, undeserved love of GOD! I learned that I was completely forgiven from any sin that I had ever committed or would ever commit in the future. I understand that to be forgiven much means to love much. I learned something about not judging others. We all get into messes in our lives. Sometimes we walk in knowingly, sometimes not. Either way, Jesus loves us and died to save us.

That experience changed me and continues to shape me every day. You cannot give what you do not have. You cannot offer what you have not received. So, I do not wish hardships on anyone. I do not believe that God SENDS us trials. But I believe that God can do miraculous things through the trials in our lives. I am not grateful for what happened in my life at that time, but I am grateful for what it taught me.

I cannot manufacture the experience of grace that I received. It was a special, powerful moment of the Spirit of God at work. But like the woman at the well, I can do nothing less than tell people about the Jesus who met me where I was, loved me for who I was, and released me from all guilt and shame in my life. If you have not experienced that grace—I pray you will! And I pray that I can help create opportunities for that to happen! Grace is everything!

Pastor Shelly

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 Mark. Bring your Bible and join us. All are welcome.

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 me, Joyce Clark 309-299-5682.

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

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 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 ...309-335-9066

Bernie Troutwine.....309-536-0937
Ray Clark.....309-299-5681
Joyce Clark.....309-299-5682

Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Reese Anderson won the big candy bar drawing this month! Way to go, Reese!

We are continuing the study of the miracles of Jesus. We learned that Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine. Jesus showed us that God cares about all our needs and how He is able to take something ordinary and turn it into something extraordinary for his glory.

Then we went on to learn about the great catch. Jesus showed us that we can accomplish so much more when we include God in everything we do. Peter learned that trust and obedience pays off.

Next, we moved on to the miracle of the paralytic. This man had determined friends. They couldn't get him into the house for Jesus to heal him because the crowds were so great. So, with great persistence, they cut a hole through the roof and lowered their paralyzed friend down to Jesus in order for Jesus to heal him. Jesus first told the man that his sins were forgiven and then Jesus healed him. Jesus is more concerned about our spiritual condition than He is with our physical condition.

We then discussed the miracle of feeding 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. When Jesus saw that the crowd was hungry, he didn't just feel bad for them. He took action to help them. He received the humble gift given by the boy and miraculously turned those small loaves and fish into enough food for thousands! God will bless your small acts of compassion when you take your gifts and use them to serve others.

When we studied the miracle of feeding 5,000, we talked about the Bread of Life. For our activity, we made a Bread of Life snack. You can make the snack at home with a few ingredients.



Bread of Life

Graham Cracker represents our bodies. We are sinners and exposed to the world.

Frosting represents how Jesus will wash us white as snow. When we trust in him, He will forgive our sins and clean us from all unrighteousness.

Licorice represents the cross where Jesus died for us. It is red because it represents the cross where His blood was shed for us.

Cheerios – Jesus said that He is the bread of life, whoever comes to him will never be hungry.

M&Ms – These colorful candies represent the many blessings we receive when we follow Jesus and trust Him every day of our life.



We have a lot to learn from the many miracles of Jesus....so exciting! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Blessings from Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang



Do you know about our Prayer Shawl Ministry?

Are you looking for a ministry of prayer and care for those in need? The Prayer Shawl Ministry may be a way for you to help our church reach out with love and care to others in need.

Prayer shawls are made with love and given to women, men, and young people and to family, friends, and strangers. The shawls are given to comfort in times of stress, illness, in celebration of special events and as gifts of love and caring to special people in our lives. A prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God's ever present love as we share comfort and let someone know we care about them.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets to socialize while doing something for others. Some crochet while others are knitting. All levels of skill are welcome, and instruction is provided.

Currently, our Prayer Shawl Ministry group is meeting twice a month on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Lounge. The day and time may change this fall. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Susie Clark at 309-337-7867 and let her know you are interested.



Lori is learning how to crochet from Susie.



Linda is crocheting while Kathy and M.E. are knitting.



Prayer Shawls are located in the Atrium and available for anyone to take and give to someone in need or for a special celebration.

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 anniversaries, birthdays, or wedding gifts (as well as a treat for yourself) it helps Monmouth First United Methodist Church with needed funds. Cards on hand right now in the church office are Target, Buffalo Wild Wings, Olive Garden, Kohls, Steak n Shake, and Happy Moments (Can be used at: Cheesecake Factory, Macy's, Red Lobster, Regal Theatre, Bed Bath & Beyond, Buffalo Wild Wings & Sephora). Many other cards are available online.

August Birthdays

1	Aaran Lantz	18	Andrew Uddin
2	Lance Oetting	20	Ben McIntosh
	Ann Halcomb	21	Lars Bergren
4	Penny Vaughn		Lyle McGrann
5	McKinley Rexroat		Bob McVey
	Colton Willhardt	22	Brenda Cornell
6	LeAnn Murk	23	Rich White
	Linda Murray		Patti Salyers
	Sarah Hall	25	Janet Underwood
9	Todd Clayton	26	Mandy Grace
	Carol Tarr	27	James Petri
13	Camdyn Bennett	28	Phil Lemley
	Kaitlin Grace	29	Cinda Burgland
14	Carson Davies	30	Betty Bollman
15	Jim Ray		Cassie Decker
17	Emmanuel Amouzouvik	31	Grace Murk
	Matt Sims		Rhonda Willhardt



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 AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>EVERY SUNDAY</u> 6:30-8:00 pm A Month of Sunday's meet & greet Pastor Shelly at Pattee Park	1		<u>2 EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> Prayer Group 9:30AM Bible Study 10:00 AM	3 1:30 pm UMW Exec. meeting in the Lounge 6:00 pm Tech Training at the Library	4 The church will be open for the car show with water & restroom's available from 4-8:00 pm	5
6 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl ministry in the Lounge	7 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl ministry in the Lounge	8 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl ministry in the Lounge	9 No Deborah Circle	10 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in the Lounge 7:00 pm Worship meeting in the Lounge	11	12
13	14 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	15 6:00 pm Hospitality meeting in the Lounge	16 1:00 p.m. Nominations committee meeting in the Lounge 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	17 1:00 p.m. Nominations committee meeting in the Lounge 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	18	19
20	21 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl ministry in the Lounge	22 3:15 pm Monmouth College Freshman Walkout	23	24	25	26
27	28 4:30-6:30 pm Youth Group Kickoff Cookout at the Carlson's	29	30	31		