

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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www.comejourneywithus.com

October 2023



Charge Conference – Sunday, October 1

All members are invited, and all leaders (people who serve on ANY team!) are encouraged to attend this year's Charge Conference which will be held on Sunday, October 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 301 N. College Ave. in Aledo. If you would like to carpool, we will leave from the church parking lot at 12:45 p.m. Please come a little earlier so we do not leave anyone behind!

At the charge conference, we receive reports from various areas of ministry in the church, set forth goals for ourselves for the coming year as well as pass the proposed budget for the coming year and elect leaders to keep us on the journey!

Twists and Turns Returns - Sunday, October 8

Do you miss the music from Vacation Bible School? You have a chance to sing those songs again on Sunday, October 8. All Vacation Bible School participants, their families and friends are invited to join us for music, a light meal and games from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



We will begin in the Sanctuary with music, then move to Fellowship Hall for a light meal. After the meal, families will have a chance to play several games that will be set up around the church or you may bring your own game for your family to play. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to help us plan for the meal.

The Hog Roast Returns!



Saturday, October 21 - 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

All Saints Sunday

Our church will celebrate All Saints Sunday on **November 5** during worship service. During the service we will recognize our members or regular attendees who died after November 1, 2022, with an individual rose. In addition, if you would like to recognize a family member (near or far) who passed away last year, these names will be included in the bulletin only. Please contact LeAnn in the church office by Tuesday, November 1 with those names.

October Is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is annually Pastor Appreciation Month. We often take for granted the energy, efforts, and support of Pastor Shelly Forrest and Joyce Clark for our Church Family. Please take a moment to thank Pastor Shelly and Joyce for all that they do for us and our church community.

Pastor, Parish, and Staff Relations Committee

Welcome Kaitlyn



We are excited to welcome Kaitlyn McCullough to our ministry team. She will direct our Bell and Sanctuary Choir.

Kaitlyn is a recent graduate of Monmouth College and is in her first year of teaching music at Orion, IL. She grew up as a "preacher's kid" as her mother is a pastor, so is a person of faith which is important as she will be helping to lead our worship experience.

We are so thankful that God sent her our way!

Bells will practice at 6:00 p.m. and Sanctuary choir will practice at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome to join Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir.

United Methodist Women

This month we celebrate World Thank Offering where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world. If anyone would like to donate to the World Thank Offering, just leave your donations in the office or put them in the offering plates on Sunday with "WTO" in the memo. Thank you!

Blessed Broken Given

Through the month of October, during worship, we will be talking about what it is to live our LIVES as “bread.” What does it mean for us to be BLESSED, BROKEN and GIVEN in the same ways that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples.

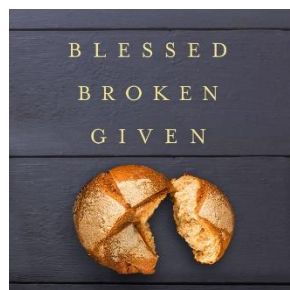
Throughout Scripture, we discover that nothing is as common as it *seems*, not even bread. Mysterious and holy bread fell from heaven daily for forty years as a sign of God’s provision to Moses and God’s chosen people as they wandered in the wilderness before entering the promised land. Bread became a metaphor for the law of the Lord. Jesus fed the multitudes with loaves of bread and Jesus referred to himself as “the bread of life.” Then, on the night that He was handed over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples as a picture of His body being given for the life of the world.

It is far too easy for us to believe that the ordinary, routine-filled days of our lives are all that God has in store for us. To the contrary, in the hands of Christ, the very ordinary spaces of our lives become sacred and even miraculous. We see this reality take place in the way Jesus uses bread, ordinary bread, in the New Testament. The Gospel of Luke records *three* stories about Jesus taking bread in His hands, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it. As believers it is so important that we see ourselves as God sees us. We are His children, His creation, His masterpieces. We are “blessed.” “Blessed” does not mean what the world thinks it means. Blessed isn’t about the abundance of our things or our possessions. Blessed means that we are called to be part of the family of God. We are part of a story that is bigger than ourselves. And we know that the end of that story is AMAZINGLY good!

It is important that we understand that our brokenness makes us open to the grace of God. Before I was broken, I did not understand how much I needed God. I thought I was pretty good. Like others, I might have said, “I don’t know why Jesus needed to DIE for me. I’m not that bad.” Until I was “broken” I would not have ever fully comprehended how God takes a wounded soul and makes it whole, and how incredible that is! But because I was “broken” and now am whole, God’s grace is clear, and I can do nothing less than give.

GIVE. Broken, blessed, and *given*. When we have been healed, it is hard to contain our joy! We GIVE to others when we share our story, when we let others know what God has done for us—how God has taken our ordinary “bread” lives and made them so much more.

I hope you will be here through the month of October as we explore our lives as “bread!”



Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Parker Davies was our big candy bar winner this month! Congratulations to Parker!

Christian Education Sunday was a huge success! All of our youth did an amazing job of sharing their talents. We had an awesome worship service and God was definitely glorified. We are blessed with very talented young people who love serving the LORD!

Our 3rd grade Bible recipients were McKenna Carlson, and Carson Ray. Alani Patterson received her Bible as our newest member in Grace Place.



We have been spending the last few weeks practicing for the Christian Education Sunday service, but now it is time to get back to studying God's Word. We are continuing our study on the miracles of Jesus.

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

Save The Date – December 17

Our Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17 during our worship service. So please mark your calendars and make sure that our youth get to Sunday School every Sunday because we will begin practicing soon!

Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for the gifts, cards and gift cards that were given to me a few weeks ago. It was a hard decision to step down as choir director and I will miss directing you all! You have become like family to me. I really appreciate you thinking of and praying for me!

Missy Roberts

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. You are invited to bring your Bible and join us. Bible study is from 10-11.

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 at 309-299-5682.

Save the date – We are sponsoring a meal "out" for our church family on October 24 at 6:00 p.m. Be watching for a flyer that will give the location. All are invited. There will be a sign-up sheet so we can make a reservation.

Thanks to a group who often meet on Sunday afternoons, 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. They are always very appreciated by the recipients.

Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective.

Healing Touch is an energy therapy that supports and facilitates your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual healing. To learn more about it you may pick up a flyer 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 309-335-9066

Bernie Troutwine.....309-536-0937
Ray Clark309-299-5681
Joyce Clark309-299-5682

Hospital Calls

Years ago, hospitals used to call pastors to let them know a member was in the hospital. Since HIPAA laws were initiated in 1996 and as time has gone on, that no longer happens.



If you or a loved one is in the hospital and wish the pastor or church people to know about it, please contact the church office at 309-734-9437 or Pastor Shelly at 217-722-4597. You may also wish to ask the hospital chaplain to contact the church for you. It is also important that we know your legal name, especially if it is different than what we know you by!

Have you seen our new Facebook Page?

First United Methodist Church of Monmouth

<https://www.facebook.com/people/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Monmouth/100094668163138/>



Please follow or like our Page. When you follow a Page, you may see updates from that Page in your News Feed. If you like a Page, you'll automatically follow it.

The worship service is live streamed on our new Facebook Page every Sunday morning at 9:30. We invite you to join us live if you are not able to attend in person in the Sanctuary.

Our website – Come Journey With Us

<https://www.comejourneywithus.com/home>

Every Sunday, the worship service is posted on our website under the Worship Service tab. A printed copy of the sermon is also available each Sunday. Just click on Resource at the bottom of each week's service.

The Caller, our monthly newsletter, is also available on our website. The current copy is on the Events tab, under Newsletter. The past year's issues are available on the Events tab under Previous Callers.

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.

Tithes and Offerings

Vanco is a convenient online giving tool that will help you set up recurring gifts or make a one-time donation. Once you have created an account you can explore the different choices for both your general tithe and special giving.

You can also give using the mobile app, with Vanco mobile you can send one-time donations or set up recurring gifts. Just go to the apple app store or google play and download Nanco mobile. Then you can search our church by name, First United Methodist Church, and follow the simple steps. Your generous financial support of First United Methodist Church of Monmouth is appreciated!

October Birthdays

5 Hannah Clark	19 Patty Johnson
6 Linda Dean	Michelle Carlson
8 Chuck Bennett	20 Craig Sheagren
9 Andrew Ray	21 Paulette Harper
10 Julie Richardson	Vicki Thornton
Bill Robinson	22 Tyler Carlson
12 Alexa Andrews	McKenzie Young
Joyce Clark	23 JC Sells
Richard Uddin	Caleb Bennett
13 Steve Smith	25 Will Ornduff
14 Cathy Daily	26 Ali Bennett
15 Matt Genisio	28 Addison Anderson
16 Pat Davis	Megan Smith
18 Parker Davies	29 Kyler Bennett
	30 Hannah Clayton



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

Sanctuary & Bell Choir Director – Kaitlyn McCullough
Organist - Elizabeth Walker
Pianist – Jo McVey
Keyboard - Joy Boostrom
Praise Team Director – Sue Ray
Custodian - Doug Ray

First United Methodist Church of Monmouth

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1:30 pm Church Charge Conference at Aledo 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge 3-5:00 pm Youth Group paint ball	2 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	3 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team	4 <u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Study	5 1:30 pm UMW Executive meeting 5:00 pm SPRC in the Lounge 6-7:30 pm Book Study in the Lounge	6	7
8 5-7:00 pm VBS Follow up	9 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	10	11 9:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge	12	13	14
15 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge No Youth Group	16	17	18	19 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	20	21 4:30-6:30pm Hog Roast
22 Youth Group 6-7:30pm Book Study in the Lounge	23 Nov. Caller Info Due	24 6:00 pm A Group Meal Out	25	26	27	28
29 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge Youth Group	30	31				