

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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www.comejourneywithus.com

November 2023



Spiritual Growth Retreat

On Saturday, November 4, the United Women in Faith will host a Spiritual Growth Retreat. The retreat, "Expectation Meets Opportunity" will be held from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in our church. During the retreat, a healing ministry presentation will be given by Joyce Clark and Chris Moore.

All Saints Sunday

Our church will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 5 during the 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 who passed away last year, these names will be included in the bulletin. Please contact LeAnn in the church office by Thursday, November 2 with names for the bulletin.

Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering of Coins will be taken on Sunday, November 19 with proceeds going to Jamieson Center and Helping Hands food pantries.



Time Capsule

We will be blessing and installing the Time Capsule on Sunday, November 19 during and after worship. If you have any items you would like to have in the Time Capsule, please have them to the church office by Sunday, November 12.

Scrip Gift Cards

Find something for everyone on your Christmas list with gift cards available from over 750 top brands. Every gift card purchased through the scrip program immediately raises funds for our church. Whether you order all year round or just for the holidays, the more orders the merrier. Share the joy with family and friends this holiday season. See LeAnn in the church office or call to order cards by Monday, December 4 to have the gift cards in time for Christmas.

Advent Study Coming Soon!



Advent is about not only waiting, but also preparation. There are a lot of things to prepare for during this season—parties, presents, family gatherings, and such. But what if instead of all these things, we were preparing for Jesus, the Son of the Living God, to come into our lives in a meaningful way?

I am giving you an opportunity to prepare spiritually for this season. I have discovered a study written by Louie Giglio. Ironically, Louie is a Baptist pastor. Baptists have traditionally not embraced “Advent.” But Louie takes a dive in and has written a study that I believe is rich.

The sessions are:

- 1) God is at work while you wait.

The people of Israel understood what it meant to wait. God had promised through His prophets to send them a Messiah. But generation after generation, God’s promise did not come to pass. Yet this didn’t mean that God was doing nothing while they waited. God was at work and is still at work.

- 2) God will use your waiting.

Each generation of Israel likely wrestled with a sense of disappointment as they realized they were apparently not going to live to see God’s promise realized. However, those faithful to God knew that the Lord had not forgotten them or rescinded His promise—even if they didn’t experience it the way they wanted.

- 3) Waiting on God and with God.

Loneliness often increases during the holidays. But we need to remind ourselves that we are never truly alone. The birth of Jesus demonstrates God’s willingness to take on human form. He became Emmanuel, “God with us.”

- 4) God is waiting for you.

God wants us to receive so much more than we expect. He’s already ahead of us, using our circumstances, choices, and consequences as He shapes His plans for our lives. No matter what you’re waiting for, God is already there, waiting for you.

I will be leading the study on **Sunday, December 3, 10, 17 and January 7** from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and **Thursday, December 7, 14, 21 and January 11** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Study guidebooks will be available at the Welcome Center. A donation of \$15 would be appreciated, but not required.

Pastor Shelly



From the Pastor

As we come to November, I am filled with thoughts of all the gratitude that this month holds. We begin by honoring the Saints who have taught us by word and example to have the faith that we have today. I invite you to think of those who are still living or those who have entered the Great Church Triumphant who had impacted your life and helped lead you to a life of hope, faith, service, worship, and dedication. If you can, write them a note or call them to say thank you. If you can't do that, say a prayer. Thank God for their example and seek to be the same kind of example for those who follow you.

Then, we have Veterans Day. This is not a church holiday per se, but it is a day that we dedicate to being thankful for the men and women who have served or are currently serving in the military to protect us and the freedoms that we enjoy. As a pastor, and as a Christian, I enjoy very much that I live in a country where I am free to worship, and I can speak boldly of my faith without fear of persecution or other repercussions. If you are a veteran, or if you are a parent of a veteran, I thank God for you! Thank a veteran!

On November 12, we will be baptizing Zachariah DeCrane! I am grateful that we have a church with little ones, and with faithful parents who wish to raise their children to have the same faith that gives US strength. (If I have not yet said this in this church--when little ones make loud noises in church, I REJOICE! Because it means we have little ones in church! And Jesus spoke very clearly about the value of children!) I hope you will be here as we, the Church vow to lead him in a way that leads to faith!

Not long after that is Thanksgiving Day, a day that we specifically dedicate to gratitude. A long time ago, I read a book (part of the Mitford series) in which the small-town parish pastor has the thought, "What if God took from me everything for which I have never said thanks?" It was a very eye-opening question! It helps you to look around yourself and be thankful for all the little things and the simple things. I will never forget an African pastor who came to our Annual Conference many years ago. He had been taken into a parsonage that had been empty for several years. He turned on the faucet while he was inside and clean, clear water ran out of it. He said, "you don't understand--in my country, people walk for MILES to get to a well to get just enough clean water for the day and they carry it home in huge jugs on their heads. And here you had this resource just sitting here, being unused for all this time!" It helps put things into perspective! Be grateful for even the little things we take for granted.

And finally, at the end of the month, we will be decorating the church together and preparing for one of the most beautiful seasons in the church--the season of Advent--of waiting and of anticipation of the coming of our Savior.

God has truly blessed us. May we recognize that all we have is God's. We are only caretakers for the time being. And out of our gratitude may we also seek to be generous!

Giving Opportunity

As the Christmas season is approaching, we invite you to take part in the annual local mission giving opportunity. The “Charlie Brown Tree” is in the Atrium for decorations of **NEW gloves, blankets, socks, and underwear**. Jamieson Center has a large donation of hats, so no hats are needed at this time. All items collected will be delivered to Jamieson Center on **December 1** for distribution in their Christmas baskets. Thank you for your donation.

Deck the Halls

Christmas is fast approaching! I am excited to be planning for our second Christmas in our new Sanctuary. Last year we managed to pull together new decorations with no budget and 3 weeks to plan. This year I have had much more time to plan and a very small budget to prepare for this year's decorations. I thought the Sanctuary looked very beautiful last year, so this year I have been focusing on the Atrium and the front of the building. I will be adding a new 12-foot-tall pre-lit tree to the Atrium. For the front of the building, I am moving the white nativity outside and having 3-foot-tall wood cutouts made of the Advent words HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE. I feel it's important to share the message of the advent and what the Birth of Christ means to us with our community! So, in order to make this happen I need a few things donated.

I am in need of monetary donations to cover the cost of the wood cutouts, silver and gold ornaments, and AAA and AA batteries. Also, lots of help during Hanging of the Greens!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at psp0529@gmail.com

Joyful Blessings!

Peggy Perrin

Hanging of the Greens

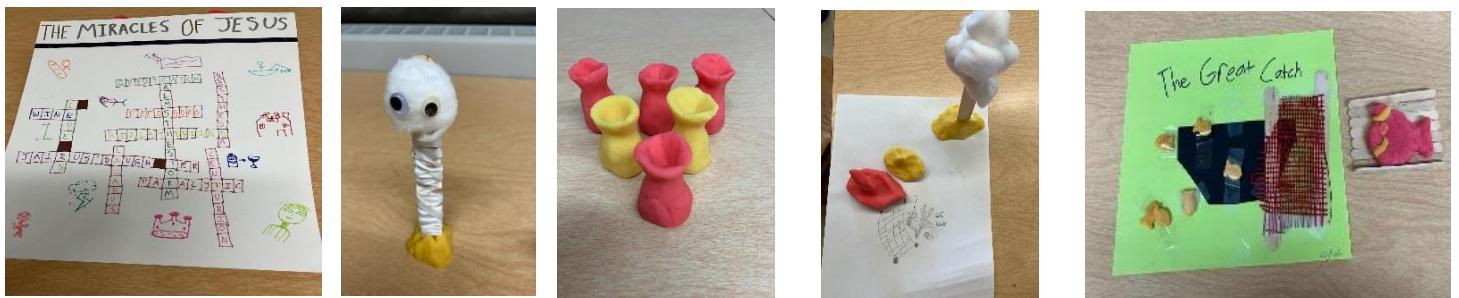
It's time to be thinking about getting ready for Christmas. This year we are planning our “Hanging of the Greens” for **Sunday, November 26** after our 9:30 service. We will begin decorating our beautiful church for Christmas in the Atrium and other areas of the church, as the children will be using the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour to practice for their program. When they are finished using the Sanctuary, we will decorate the Sanctuary. Afterward, please stay and join us for lunch. We'll be ordering pizza. There would be a free-will offering basket for the pizza. Please plan on joining in to make our Sanctuary festive for the Christmas season.



Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Landon Andrews won the big candy bar drawing! Congrats to Landon!

We have finished our study on the miracles that Jesus performed. Rather than review them, the kids chose one miracle that was meaningful to them and designed a picture or made a craft that demonstrated their particular miracle. They used paints, markers, play dough, craft sticks, fabric....whatever they could find to design their art project about their miracle. Some of the art represents changing the water into wine, the raising of Lazarus, calming the storm, the great catch, and even a crossword containing all of the miracles we studied.



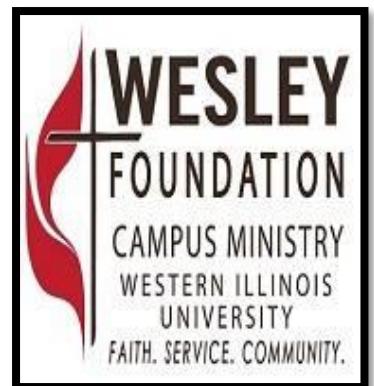
We made special cards for Pastor Shelly. We wanted her to know how much we appreciate her. The kids did a great job designing their cards!

Now we begin the season of "practicing for the Christmas Program"! I need ALL HANDS ON DECK each Sunday. The Christmas program will be presented on **Sunday, December 17** during worship hour. I know everyone will be amazed and God will be glorified!

Blessings,
Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

Wesley Foundation

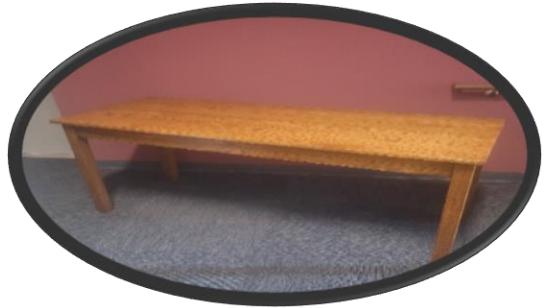
Just a short drive south of us is the home of a student ministry that is experiencing a new birth. I have been asked to serve on the board there and attended a meeting recently. On Sundays and Tuesdays, they are currently reaching about 20 students, many of whom are international students from various places in Africa, and also some of our Western Illinois-born students as well. As our Annual Conference has sought to decrease its budget in an effort to lower apportionments, the budgets of our campus ministries have felt that reduction as well. We are being asked to consider making a donation to the Wesley Foundation to help continue and strengthen its ministries. I will personally be making a donation and invite you to join me. If you choose to do so, please write a check to the church, and write "WIU Wesley Foundation" in the memo line.



Thank you!
Pastor Shelly

Communion Table

Thanks to Craig Sheagren, we now have a new Communion Table that matches the other wood pieces in the front of the Sanctuary. Generally, on Communion Sundays, you will find it covered with a white cloth holding the communion elements, but here is a glimpse of it uncovered!



Christmas Love Gift for Staff

In appreciation for all the staff does, the Staff/Parish Ministry team is asking the congregation to consider contributing to a Christmas Love Gift to be divided among the staff. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings through **December 17**. Please make checks out to the church and mark "Staff Love Gift" on the memo line.

Thank You!



I wish to thank everyone who sent a card, signed a card or remembered me with a Pastor's Appreciation gift! You are all an amazing blessing, and I am thankful to be here and to be your pastor! I look forward to all the wonderful worship and adventures we have together as we journey together.

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 10:00 – 11:00.

Printed copies of the weekly sermons and the monthly newsletter, *The 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.

Also, if you would like to deliver messages, please let me know. You could choose the number you would like to take and how often you would like to deliver. It is a blessing to those who deliver and the ones receiving enjoy seeing different people.

Thanks to a group who often meet on Sunday afternoons, there are a number of prayer shawls displayed in the Atrium. You are always welcome to join this group. If you know someone for whom a shawl might be a comfort, please take one. They are always very appreciated by the recipients.



Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective.

Good news...November 4 the United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat is at our church from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be a focus on Healing touch from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. All are welcome to come see some demonstrations of Healing Touch techniques and to learn more about the benefits.

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 at 309-337-4162 or Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682.

If you wish to have someone pray with you, or for you, call anyone on the Healing MinistryTeam:

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

Ladies Church Women United Luncheon

The local Church Women United noon luncheon will be held on **Friday, November 3** at the First Lutheran Church, 116 South B Street. Luncheon donations go to missions. Immediately following the luncheon there will be a Business Meeting and then the Program for World Community Day entitled "Labor with Love ~ Hands to Help".

All ladies are invited to attend. Church Women United is a national ecumenical movement of Christian women witnessing unity and faith in Jesus Christ in worship, study, and celebration of global relationships. We identify with Christian women in all parts of the world. We are organized to set common goals to grow in our faith. We nurture our faith through prayer, and we support the missions of our churches both local and worldwide.

In October our church held the CWU Annual Blanket Sunday. All of your donations were appreciated! At our Women in Faith meetings, we collect the Least Coin, these funds also go to missions.

The motto of Church Women United is "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

Remember to Change your Clocks!

Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, November 5, 2023**, in what is known as the annual "fall back."



November Birthdays

1	Karter Kelly	17	Stephanie Sims
	John Chandler		Dustin Lemley
2	Henrik Bergren	18	Paula Spence
	Kamryn Klein	19	Mollie Clark
3	Tyler Sells	20	Craig Sheagren
7	Karen Robinson		Gene Stavenhagen
8	Ken St. George	22	Jimmy Halcomb
11	Drew Carlson		Mary Jane O'Brien
	Diana Dawson		Jane Watkins
14	Tammy Halcomb	23	Anita Sells
15	Cody Lemley	25	Lynn McVey
	Claire Oetting	28	Jessica Way
	John Brooks		Don Willhardt
		29	Donna Martin



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

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Come journey with us!

Check out our website at <https://www.comejourneywithus.com/home>

First United Methodists Church of Monmouth

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Group 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM	2 1:30 pm UMW Exec. meeting in the Lounge	3	4 9:30 am UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
5 All Saints Sunday Youth Group	6	7 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in lounge 7:00 pm Worship meeting in lounge	8 9:30 am Deborah Circle in the lounge	9	10	11
12 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge Youth Group	13 6:00 pm Finance in the lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the lounge	14	15	16 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle in the chapel	17	18
19 Noisy Offering Youth Group	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 10:30 am Hanging of the Greens No Youth Group	27	28	29	30		