

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

(309) 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

www.comejourneywithus.com

March 2023



Church World United Celebrate World Day of Prayer March 3

ALL women of Monmouth and the surrounding area are invited to be part of Church Women United. On the CWU World Day of Prayer, women will gather in the Kirkwood United Methodist Church Sanctuary on Friday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m.

The Worship Service is entitled "I Have Heard About Your Faith," inspired by Ephesians 1:15-19. Throughout the program women will learn about Taiwan's history and culture. Women will share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love. It is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Throughout the service letters of encouragement will be shared from women who have faced suffering and injustice.

Women around the world in 170 countries support the sacrificial offerings given by individuals through these annual services four times throughout the year. Our church supports Annual Blanket Sunday.

Church Women United is an inclusive Ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating Unity in diversity empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice. Please join us to share in the Annual World Day of Prayer worship service March 3!

For additional information about CWU contact Linda Dean or Anita Anderson.

Lenten Lay Breakfast Series

The 47th Annual Lenten Lay Breakfast series began Friday, February 24 and continues each Friday morning through Good Friday, April 7. Strom Center will again be the host for the series. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m. with the program from 7:15-7:45 a.m. The breakfast series is sponsored by the Warren County Ministerial Association. This is the schedule of the church that will have the program.

March 3	First United Methodist
March 10	First Lutheran
March 17	Faith Presbyterian
March 24	Fairview Center/Cameron Christian
March 31	Immaculate Conception
April 7	Heritage Bible Church

Jon's Jottings

Every year I try to decide if I should give something up or add something on for my Lenten journey. I suppose both work and if we add something on then we have to be willing to let something go or drop it or give it up or something. Anyway, I read this devotion from Vince Amlin that was posted on a UCC devotion site, and I really liked it. It reminded me of my biggest backpacking adventure which was done at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico back in the 70s. They had us bring EVERYTHING we thought we would need on our 10 day backpacking trip. Most of us brought WAY more than we could actually fit in our backpacks. I remember thinking that if I actually took everything I wanted I was going to need a much bigger backpack and that it would have weighed a LOT more than I really wanted to lug around with me.



So, the guide brought out some tarps and had us lay out everything we had brought to take on our backpacking adventure and then to look at what all we brought. Then he had us start taking stuff away that we really didn't need. This went from heavy stuff like each of us thinking we needed a tent to much lighter stuff like why would we bring extra shoe laces (his point was if we really thought our shoe laces wouldn't last a couple of weeks then change them before we headed out!). By the time we were done, paring down our stuff, we had a much smaller pile and when we were about 5 miles into the hike on any given day and felt like our packs were simply too heavy, we would be reminded they would have been a lot heavier if we hadn't gotten rid of so much stuff!

In life we are on a journey, and we have to carry what we need and want!

So here is what Vince had to say...

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself being born in human likeness. – Philippians 2:5-7 (NRSV)

Before a backpacking trip, I lay out everything I'd like to take on the floor. Clothes, food, water purification system, first aid kit. Then I start to take things away. The book I'm always too tired to read anyway. The trail mix that is delicious but heavy. The extra pair of underwear that would feel so nice to put on day four.

I'd love to take it all, but I can't. It's simple physics or biology. There is only so much room in my pack. And only so much energy in my body to carry it with.

I've heard a lot of progressive Christians say they don't like the idea of giving something up for Lent. It feels too negative. More than one has told me they prefer to take something on.

But I find myself wondering, "Where do they put it? How do they manage it?"

My bag is full. And my body can't carry what it used to. If I want to make the journey of this season, I have to put something(s) away. Jesus did too.

I don't pretend to understand the physics or the biology of how all that divinity got stuffed into skin. But Paul, at least, says it involved leaving something behind, emptying something out.

Jesus travels the road to the cross lightly. And I will have to do the same if I want any hope of keeping up.ⁱ

As we begin our Lenten journey this year, let us consider carefully what we should and could give up and what we can take on and may our journeys be Godly ones!

Shalom,

Jon

¹ by Vince Amlin | published on Feb 22, 2023

Greetings from Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

This month's big candy bar winner was Josie Clark....Congratulations to Josie!

We began our study on the Bible. In the beginning the stories of the Bible were told from one generation to the next. Then after the alphabet was invented, people known as scribes began to write the words; first on clay tablets and later on scrolls.

About 100 A.D. the Romans got the idea of sewing parchments together to make books with actual pages. The people who copied the scrolls and put the words on pages prayed that God would show them what should be written down. They would often go to rooms called scriptoriums so they could concentrate. Bibles were very valuable in those days. Not many handwritten copies of God's Word existed.

Consequently, the Bibles were chained in places of worship so people could not steal them. We learned that after the printing press was invented, Bibles were much easier to access.

We are now trying to memorize the books of the Bible. We are also learning reference keys on how to write the book, the chapter, and the verses. The type of punctuation tells us how to find the chapter and verse we are looking for and the references for that verse. We have been playing a basketball dribbling game to learn the names of the books. We played a balloon game this week to learn what category the books fall under, such as: law, history, poetry, Major prophets, Minor prophets, prophecy, etc. We will begin reviewing the song "Hosanna" for Palm Sunday. The kids are also working on a Palm Sunday Percussion. I will need the youth at Church on Palm Sunday, April 2, by 9:15. We will be processing in the Church waving palms and singing "Hosanna"!

Blessings from Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

GRACE Place would appreciate Easter Candy donations by March 26 to help fill Easter eggs.



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. 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 Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682.

Dates to mark on your calendars:

March 17- a fellowship meal at El Toro at 6:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

May 7- Harvest Concert and fellowship meal

Meal at the church at 5:00 p.m. with the concert in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.

June 4 First Tech training session- during the Sunday school hour at 10:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow. Using cell phones will be the topic for the first session.

All of these events are open to all ages. There will be more detailed information in the coming Callers.

There are several 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.

If you have suggestions for Senior Ministries, or if you would like to be a part of the Senior Ministry team, please let me know. Joyce Clark - 309-299-5682

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,

Healing touch strengthens the immune system, reduces the effects of trauma and chronic pain and enhances recovery from surgery. It reduces pain, anxiety, stress and depression, provides support during chemotherapy and strengthens the immune system. *(Quoted information taken from "Healing Touch Program-Enlighten Empower practice")*

If you would like to schedule a healing touch session, you may call Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682 or Chris Moore at 309-337-4162. 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:

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

Ray Clark 309-299-5681

Cathy Sheagren ... 309-221-1668

Joyce Clark 309-299-5682

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



Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday, March 11.

The Maple City Sponsor Circle



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the love and compassion you have shown the two Ukrainian families who now live in Monmouth. Over the past year you gave an incredible amount for these refugees. Because some donations were given directly to the Catholic Church and some were given anonymously through other channels, it's hard to know exactly how much our church members gave. I do know that whatever the totals, **all** of it (the kind words of encouragement, the new and gently used household items, the prayers, the Squishmallows, the money, etc.) is greatly appreciated by our new friends!

Here are some quotes from a recent article in The Catholic Post:

"Everyone has treated us with a lot of love and support, and showered us with kind words and blessings." ~Iryna

"My husband [Stepan] and I want to say thanks very much to the members of the sponsor circle of Monmouth. If we wrote it, the size of the words 'thank you' would be the size of the universe." ~Olesia

"You are a very open-hearted community. First, we had thoughts of going to places where there is a big Ukrainian community. But now that we are here, we understand it is the best place for us to be." ~Vitalli (translated by his wife, Iryna)

UPDATE: One family has now lived here for seven months, and the other for three months. They are settling into our community quite nicely. The generosity of the people of Monmouth combined with the frugality of the families has resulted in the Circle having an unexpected surplus of funds. We prayed for wisdom, and we feel that God is leading us to sponsor one more Ukrainian family in need. I will share more details as I learn them, but now we are no longer seeking additional monetary donations. Any specific needs will be announced when we know them.)

Thank you, again, for all you have given these precious people.

Teresa Prien

Maple City Sponsor Circle

Monmouth College recently circulated a news release about our efforts to support Ukrainian refugees. This article appears on-line here: <https://www.ourquadcities.com/news/local-news/monmouth-community-partners-to-welcome-ukraine-refugees/amp/>. It was also published in the Wednesday, January 18, 2023, issue of the *Community News*. Olesia and Tom Sienkewicz have also been interviewed viz Zoom by WQAD Channel 8. You can watch the interview at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Mm_3tWuwKw&t=27s&pp=ygUOd3FhZCBVa3JhaW5pYW4%3D

Save the date - Vacation Bible School is June 25 to June 29. More information and opportunities to volunteer will be announced soon. We are excited to be able to host VBS in our building this summer.

March 19 – United Methodist Committee on Relief Sunday

UMCOR makes all of the other programs possible. The UMCOR Sunday offering funds the cost of doing business for UMCOR. Any gifts that are over and above UMCOR's administrative costs go to where they are most needed. Often, they support under-funded programs.

Souper Bowl Offering

A big thank you to all that donated to the Souper Bowl offering for Jamieson Center and Helping Hands food pantries. We collected \$375.41 and several cans of food.

First United Methodist Church Family Fun Facts

In an ongoing effort for our church family to become more familiar with each other, we are sharing Family Fun Facts on Sundays. Watch the screens each Sunday for a photo of one of our family members and some fun facts about them. We would like everyone to participate! Please email or text a casual photo along with 2 fun facts and how long you have been a part of the family! Send them to Peggy Perrin - psp0529@gmail.com

If you missed seeing the Family Fun Facts on Sunday morning, the previous month's Family Fun Facts are posted in the hallway for everyone to read.

Scrip Program

For each card sold in the Scrip program, our church gets a percentage of the sale that helps with needed funds. So when you use Scrip cards for special occasion or as a treat for yourself, it helps Monmouth First United Methodist Church. Cards currently on hand Subway, Steak n Shake, Target, AMC Theatres, Walmart, Buffalo Wild Wings, Happy Moments (can be used at Cheesecake Factory, Macy's, Red Lobster, Regal Theatre, Bed Bath & Beyond, Buffalo Wild Wings and Sephora), and Happy Dining (Can be used at Cheesecake Factory, Red Lobster, Buffalo Wild Wings, McCormick and Schmicks, Cracker Barrel and P.F. Chang's). Many other cards are also available online.

March Birthdays

If you have a birthday in March and you're not listed here, please give the church office a call at 309-734-9437.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Alexa Anderson | 20 Adam Carlson |
| Ava Anderson | Tamia King |
| Nathaniel Anderson | 21 Ron Stombaugh |
| 4 Ray Clark | Brent Chandler |
| Jamie Ray | 23 Helen Paul |
| Greg Ray | Janet Stevenson |
| 5 Phil Porter | 24 Dillon Frieden |
| 6 Bill Spence | 25 Anne McIntosh |
| 7 McKenna Carlson | 26 Kevin Murk |
| 9 Rusty Boostrom | Jen Rexroat |
| Shannon Edwards | Rogan Rexroat |
| Daxton Hall | 28 Dave Bates |
| Hudson Hall | Hank Crede |
| 10 Marion Duncan | Lane Frieden |
| Mary Ellen Kauzlarich | 29 Ann Edwards |
| 11 Rayven Petri | Sue Wilson |
| 13 John Perrin | 30 Jeff Moore |
| Martha Hillman | Bethel Amouzouvik |
| 15 Ken Boyer | Jimmy Halstrom |
| 18 Norman Skov | 31 Teresa Armstrong |
| Lindsey Munson | Abby St. George |



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 & Michelle Carlson

Certified Lay Servant - 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

March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. WRAM radio 1330			1 Every Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6-7 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	2 No UMW Exec Board meeting	3 Every Friday 6:30 a.m. Lenten Lay Breakfast with program at 7:15 at Strom Center	4
5 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	6	7 6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. Worship meeting in the Lounge	8 9:30 a.m. Deborah Circle In the Lounge No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	9	10	11
12 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class No Youth Group	13 6:00 p.m. Finance meeting in the Lounge 7:00 p.m. Ad Council meeting in the Lounge	14	15 No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	16 1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle Chapel	17 6:00 p.m. Dream Team fellowship meal at El Toro restaurant	18
19 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	27 April Caller info due	28	29	30	31	