

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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www.comejourneywithus.com

September 2023



We are having a Ministry Fair! – Sunday, September 10

Sunday, September 10, before and after church we will be highlighting the ministries we have here at First United Methodist Church. Please come and see all the current ministries we have going on here and you might discover an area that you have been given a gift for, one you didn't know you had!

Ministries that will be highlighted include Greeters, Welcome Center, Follow Up Team, Transportation Team, Children's Ministry, Prayer Team, Prayer Shawl Team, Caring Committee, Technology Team, Communion Set Up Team and Christmas Decorating Team. Contact Peggy Perrin at 309-299-4230 or psp059@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Calling All Ladies to Come for Tea – Friday, September 15

You are invited for tea and fellowship! Our church is hosting the Church Women United Love Tea on Friday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m. Our Pastor will be presenting our program, "All About Love" and you will have an opportunity to meet with other women from many churches in Monmouth and the vicinity. More information about Church Women United can be found in an article in this issue of the Caller. We hope to see you on September 15 at 1:30 p.m. Bring a friend or two!

Christian Education Sunday - September 17



All youth will be participating in the service where the third grade Bibles will be presented, and teachers will be recognized. Come and worship with us and celebrate our youth!



Early in August, wind-driven fires on Maui prompted evacuations and caused significant damage and loss of life. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to provide emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings.

A portion of your offering on any given Sunday helps cover the administrative costs for UMCOR so that when disaster strikes, and our hearts are moved to give compassionately, 100% of your gift can be used to aid the people in need. If you would like to contribute to the disaster fund for Maui, you may put a check in the offering plate or mail it to the church and put "UMCOR" or "Maui" in the memo blank, and we will put all of our contributions together and send them at the end of September.

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 and their families 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.

Details to follow.

From the Collar

I have SO enjoyed preaching “what it all comes down to” but it’s time to keep moving forward! Thank you to all of you who have made time to come to a Meet and Greet—even if it ended up being not so much a come-and-go style as a sit-and-learn from each other gathering! I’ve learned some about many of you and look forward to learning more as we continue to journey together.



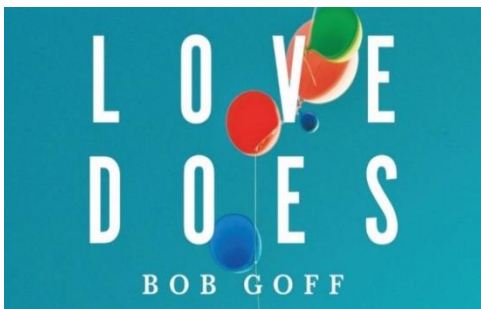
Anita Anderson has asked me to lead the program at a Church Women United Tea that will be hosted by our women on September 15, and the theme is on knowing and sharing God’s love. What a great theme! It doesn’t get any better than that!

As I plan for that program, I have decided to move in that direction for the messages through September as well. One of the scriptures I did NOT yet use in “what it all comes down to” is one of my favorites: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30). This scripture has a lot to do with how we should live our faith every day, and with how we continue to grow the church—which is part of the message from Jesus’ last words to us—the Great Commission—“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:20).

Together we will see how: Love starts with a name, Love is more than a theory, and Love adores extravagantly. See you in worship!

People are more open to starting something new as a new school year begins. This is a good time to invite someone to church.

Short Term Study



One thing that I heard at the Meet and Greets is a desire for additional adult learning opportunities since the stated vision of our church is that we want ***“To make a home built on Christ’s love and understanding through: Knowing by learning the teaching of Jesus, Growing by embracing God’s mission and Showing by serving as we journey together.”*** (By the way, those are a LOT of words—we will need to work on that!)

I like to offer short-term studies so that they have good on-ramps and off-ramps. It’s easier to invite someone new to a study that has a definitive beginning and end—so they don’t think that once they come, they’re in it for life. People’s lives ebb and flow with seasons too. (I have come to know that some of you are away for parts of the year.)

I will be leading a five-week study written by Bob Goff. He is an amazing Christian man who lives his life to the fullest and seeks to live with love as a verb in his life and encourages others to do the same.

I will be offering this study on Sundays in the Lounge during Youth Group time, 6:00-7:30 p.m., beginning on Sunday, September 10. (We will decide as a group when to have the 5th session due to the VBS follow-up game night on Oct 8.) I will also offer the study on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, September 7.

The study guide will be available for a suggested donation of \$10. (If you can't afford it, come anyway!) Bob Goff's book "Love Does" is also available for purchase on christianbook.com, amazon.com or a variety of other places.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center so that enough books are available.

Contact Information for Pastor Shelly

Cell phone - 217-722-4597

Email - 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.

Our updated altar table

This week our altar table was completed. The three stain glass panels were added to the altar table. This photo was posted on our Facebook Page and several of you clicked like or love and left comments. The comments were "absolutely gorgeous, beautiful, WOW! Just WOW!! ❤️, stunning and we do have talented, gifted people in our church family that make fantastic, beautiful things!!!"

The talented, gifted people include Craig Sheagren, who made the altar table with help from Don Daily with the wood supplied by Bill Robinson, Donna Smith, who designed the stained glass panels and Pat Bates who helped Donna with the stained glass.



Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Alani Patterson, our newest member of Grace Place, won the big candy bar this month! Congratulations to Alani!

We are continuing our study on the miracles of Jesus. We learned from Jesus walking on water that sometimes things get tough and we have to have faith. We need to trust in God and step out of the boat (our comfort zone) and into the water. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will not sink!

Next, we talked about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This brought about a lot of discussion on resurrection and eternal life. When Jesus heard that his friend, Lazarus, was sick, Jesus responded, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Mary and Martha couldn't believe that Jesus waited 4 days to come and see Lazarus. Of course, by that time, his friend was already dead and in the tomb. Mary and Martha were very upset, but Jesus told them that Lazarus would rise again! The mourners rolled away the stone and Jesus said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, Come out!!" He came out and they removed his grave clothes. The kids were curious about being wrapped in grave clothes. So, they wrapped each other in toilet paper and then yelled, "Come out!!" They had a lot of fun doing this and it set the stage for discussions about Jesus' power to raise us from the dead!



We moved on to the faith of the Centurion. This Roman leader believed in the power that Jesus possessed. He had so much faith in Jesus' power to heal, that he told Jesus that he didn't even need to come to his house to heal his servant.... he just had to say the words that his servant was healed. May we all have that kind of faith.

The next few weeks we will be practicing for Christian Education Sunday, on September 17. Please mark your calendars. The youth of our Church will be leading the entire service that Sunday. Come and worship with us on September 17 and be amazed at our youth as we glorify God together.

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

Senior News

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

Printed copies of the weekly sermon and the monthly Caller continue to be 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. Also, if you would like to help with this ministry, please let me know.

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.

We also have "healing bags" for those who are having surgery or spending time in the hospital. Please let me know if there is someone who should have one.

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 one to a friend. If you desire to schedule a healing touch session, please call Chris Moore or Joyce Clark. There is no charge.

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

Thank you!

Thank you to all the bakers that provided cookies for the Monmouth College students. Their faces light up when they see the tray of cookies they may choose from during the New Student Walkout.



Church Women United

Church Women United is a national ecumenical movement of Christian women witnessing to 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 support the missions of our churches both local and worldwide.

When our church celebrates CWU Annual Blanket Sunday these funds collected go to missions. At our local United Methodist Women in Faith meetings when we collect our Least Coin, these funds collected also go to missions. The motto of Church Women United is "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

We have a 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.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group had a successful kick-off on August 27. They will begin meeting again on Sunday, September 10. Please check with Adam and Michelle Carlson for the time and place each week. They like to plan outside activities as long as the weather permits.



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.

September Birthdays

2	Brian Helms	20	Bill Oaks
3	Jill Munson		Jamey Cornell
4	Melinda Todd		Marlene Edwards
	Derek Chandler	22	Mark Anderson
5	Bill Clayton		Jon Ferguson
	Jackie Lemley		Will Brooks
8	Mike Lee	24	Derek Bass
	Deb Moore		Alicia Pierce
	Aidan Myers	25	Liz Walker
	Rich Thomas		Joshua DeCrane
9	Logan Moore	26	Mary Jane Darrah
11	Dean Watkins	27	Jamie Smith
13	Jim Dice	28	Sarah Hall
16	Jerry Marenholtz		Hannah McVey
19	Coleen Flaar	29	Dottie Ray
			Max Richardson



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

Organist - Elizabeth Walker
Pianist - Jo McVey
Keyboard - Joy Boostrom
Praise Team Director - Sue Ray
Custodian - Doug Ray

First United Methodist Church of Monmouth SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>EVERY SUNDAY</u> Beginning Sept. 10 6-7:30 pm Short term book study in Lounge			<u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Study	<u>EVERY THURSDAY</u> 6-7:30 pm Short term book study in Lounge	1	2
3 No Youth Group	4 Labor Day Church Office Closed	5 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team	6	7 No UMW Executive meeting	8	9
10 Ministry Fair in Atrium Youth Group	11 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	12	13 9:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge	14	15 1:30 pm Church Women United Love Tea in the Fellowship Hall	16
17 Christian Ed Sunday Youth Group	18	19	20	21 1:30 pm Priscilla Circle in the Chapel	22	23
24 Youth Group	25 Oct. Caller Info Due	26	27	28	29	30