



**First United**  
METHODIST CHURCH

**THE MESSENGER**  
**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 9: 2025



## Message from Pastor Sean

Do you enjoy learning about your family history? It has become a major industry, especially in the United States. The annual revenue of Ancestry.com, a genealogy company, is estimated to be over \$1 billion. They have a new, fantastic slogan: “You have questions, we have ancestors.” They are selling the idea that our past tells us something about ourselves today.

As I traveled to England to trace the footsteps of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, I had the opportunity to learn firsthand that church families aren’t any different. Through the powerful movement of God in his own heart, he led a movement that was determined to take this message of grace to all people. At the time, in order to attend church the expectation was to essentially purchase a ticket each week. This simple practice eliminated many people from even being able to hear the good news of Jesus. Following the lead of a friend, Wesley was no longer bound to a church building or service to share Jesus. He began to preach outside, on the streets, in the hills – especially targeting the poor in communities across England. It was precisely because the message of Wesley focused on the grace of God that people of all situations, stations, classes, political standing and otherwise were able to worship together, study together and serve together. The theological truth that God’s grace is offered to us and in fact chases us down long before we ever respond to it led the people called Methodists to believe in a faith that drove them to minister in prisons, to visit the sick, to start church in the mines and more.



The social reputation of the Wesleyan movement was not great, because they were going to places they weren't supposed to go. They were loving and sharing grace with people they weren't supposed to. They were viewed as radicals simply because their ministry reflected the actual ministry of Jesus a little bit too much. Because a gospel that changes an eternal destination isn't enough. A message of Jesus that proclaims salvation isn't enough. It's a world transformed by the sacrifice of people who have been radically changed by the love of Jesus. The real evidence that one's heart has been taken over by God's grace is that they share grace with the world! For Methodists, there has never been a time where our faith wasn't about both personal piety (individual faith, devotion, repentance etc) and social holiness (serving the world). This is what led to one of the greatest Christian revivals in the history of the church.

And here's some more good news: if you are reading this letter, this is your heritage. This is your faith DNA. This is what it means to be Methodist – to be radically gracious, ridiculously generous and unreasonably sacrificial for others. If this is our DNA, then our charge is simple: let nothing stop us from chasing others down with grace. A lot has changed in the nearly 300 years since Wesley began the Methodist movement, but somehow, some way, through all of the ups and downs, what hasn't changed is who we are. This has always been us. This will always be us, come what may. It doesn't matter what has happened in the past. It doesn't matter what they say. It doesn't matter what our reputation is. We are going to relentlessly bring hope to the world. Because this isn't just the way of Wesley or the way of a Methodist, but this is the way of Jesus.

Pastor Sean



FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

# ***PRAISE AND WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS***

**SUNDAYS**

**7:00 AM PRACTICE**

*Wanted*

**CONTACT PASTOR SEAN**

**IF INTERESTED**

*Sean@fumcwestplains.com*





# September

Forgiveness

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## Week 1

Day 1: Colossians 3: 12-13  
Day 2: Colossians 3: 14-15  
Day 3: Colossians 3: 16  
Day 4: Colossians 3: 17  
Day 5: Numbers 14: 18  
Day 6: Numbers 14: 19  
Day 7: Numbers 14: 20-21

## Week 2

Day 8: Psalm 103: 1-5  
Day 9: 1 John 1: 5-7  
Day 10: 1 John 1: 8-10  
Day 11: Acts 2: 38  
Day 12: Matthew 6:9-14  
Day 13: Luke 6: 37-38  
Day 14: Proverbs 19: 11

## Week 3

Day 15: James 5: 15-16  
Day 16: Luke: 23: 33-34  
Day 17: Ephesians 4: 31-32  
Day 18: James 2: 12-13  
Day 19: James 5: 15-16  
Day 20: Proverbs 17: 9  
Day 21: Chronicles 7: 14

## Week 4

Day 22: Matthew 26: 26-27  
Day 23: Matthew 26: 28-29  
Day 24: Luke 7: 3-4  
Day 25: Ephesians 1: 7  
Day 26: Daniel 9-: 9-10  
Day 27: Matthew 18: 21-22  
Day 28: Micah 7: 18-19

## Week 5

Day 29: Psalm 32: 1-5  
Day 30: Psalm 11: 25





## Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

As the Summer comes to a close, we at Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool are excited to begin our new school year. Our Child Care children will have themes this month of Back to school, All About Me, Apples, Family, and Pets. We have also began daily lessons in alphabet, color, shapes, and number recognition. The children will be learning bible stories about Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Joseph.

Our Preschool Children will be learning about Sea Animals, Dinosaurs, Themselves and their families, Nursery Rhymes, Fall, and Johnny Appleseed. Our 4 year olds will be taking a special trip to the Splash Pad soon.

We are always in need of craft supplies and toys such as plastic dolls, dress up clothes, Etc. Please see Crystal if you would like to donate these items.

## Children's Ministry

During the month of August, Children's Church has been learning lesson on trusting God through Abraham and his Family. For September we will be learning stories of Moses, Joshua, Rahab, and Ruth as we are ON THE MOVE: Braving the Unknown with God. During our Sunday School, we will be learning the Parable of the Talents and soon we will begin learning the Fruit of the Spirit.

**Back to School Bash** Sunday, September 7th from 4-5:30 Ages Preschool to 8th grade. Families are welcome to come. We will have an Ice Cream Social and Nerf War in the Christian Life Center. All food will be provided. Bring a Nerf gun and a friend and come enjoy time with your church friends.

Crystal

Director of Friendship Circle Ministries /  
Children's Ministries

The logo for Nerf Wars, featuring the word "NERF" in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline, and "WARS" in smaller, yellow letters below it. The background of the logo is a red and yellow swirl.

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The logo for Ice Cream Social, featuring the words "Ice Cream" in a stylized, bubbly font with a purple outline, and "SOCIAL" in a bold, purple font below it. The background of the logo is a purple and yellow swirl.

**Bring a Nerf Gun and a Friend**  
**Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and their families are welcome**

**All food provided**

**September 7th, 4–5:30**  
**Christian Life Center**

**Hosted by: Children's Ministry**



Greetings Church Family,

Six years ago, the Freda Ellis Estate fulfilled Freda's desire to help children by donating \$350,000 to our church to manage with the intent of helping to fill the needs of children in our community. At that time the primary focus was to provide coats for area children. For the past 6 years we have been spending the interest generated by this generous donation to purchase coats and distributing them through our church office, area schools and Ozark Action. Fashion trends have changed over the past 6 years as more children are wearing hoodies and other clothing rather than heavy winter coats. Our committee is exploring other ways we could use these funds to fulfill Freida Ellis's wishes to meet the needs of more children in our area. This donation has impacted numerous children in our area, and will continue to do so for many more years.

This summer's heat wave has finally caused two air-conditioning units in the CLC to quit working. Replacing these 30-year-old units will cost \$32,245. In addition, we have a heating/cooling register in the original part of the church that needs to be replaced at a cost of \$4,217. Thanks to the past generous giving by our congregation and conservative spending, we have developed a reserve fund so we can cover these expenses, however they have greatly cut into our reserve. If you would like to make a one-time donation to help cover these unbudgeted expenses, please include "air conditioning" on your check.

The first phase of our security grant was completed this month with the replacement of the fence around our playground, just in time for preschool. The new fence is taller and stronger than the original fence. Be prepared for more construction projects around church as we work to improve lighting outside the building and improved security within.

Saturday, September 6, your Church Council will hold a planning retreat with the intent of incorporating items discussed during an "Onboarding" session and at the Donuts and Discussion sessions with Pastor Sean. We hope to develop framework where we can plug in ideas with our church's mission of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Since we will hold a planning retreat in September, we will not be holding our regularly scheduled Church Council meeting this month. However, our regularly scheduled Church Council meetings are open to all who are interested. If you have an item, you would like the Council to discuss, please notify the church office at least one week before our meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting, please join us on the second Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. We remain a church family whose desire is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Blessings, Bob Legler – Church Council Chair

Wanda Byrd – Secretary = UMW Representative

Finance Team: Melody Martin, Nick Schultz

Trustees Team: Greg Weeks, Scott Womack, Amanda Rutledge

Staff Parrish Team: Shaun Duggins (Vice Chair), John Ackerson, Mallory Snodgras, Carol Powell





# United Methodist Women (UMW) Bakeless Bake Sale

- Donations for the UMW will be accepted now through October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Please designate your donation for UMW.
  - Donations go to support local missions.
  - For more information, please contact Falana in the office.
- Thank You!

## *United Methodist Women*



Greg Carter will talk to us about the new and exciting things at the library. We will also get letters ready for our annual Bakeless Bakesale. Come join us for food and fellowship!

# Everyone is welcome!

**Tuesday September 9, 2025  
9:00a.m. Fellowship Hall**



## FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry had a busy summer! Special thanks to the Ross and Patillo families for opening their cabins to our Youth group so we can enjoy amazing fellowship opportunities!

### Summer Activities Included:

June 8th – Game Night at FUMC

June 27-28th – Overnight Lake Trip

July 1st – Work at local food bank

July 20th – Pool Party

July 25-26th – Overnight River Trip

August 3rd – Work at local food bank

August 10th – Back to School Event at FUMC

We wanted to send the Youth back to school with a fun night on August 10th with great food, messy and competitive games, followed by a massive slip and slide! We had 22 Youth in attendance!

High School Youth is held every Sunday night throughout the school year from 5:30-7:30PM. We always have food, games and finish the night with a lesson. Attendance is increasing because youth are inviting friends, not only for games and food but helping spread God's word through Bible lessons and their testimonies.

Special thanks to Joy Ross, Joanna Patillo, Bryan Moore and Ellen Bivens for supporting this Youth Ministry!

God Bless,  
John Ackerson - "Interim" Youth Director





**August 3**  
**Attendance: 132**  
**Gifts: \$5,205.00**

**August 17**  
**Attendance: 177**  
**Gifts: \$7,102.00**

# Gifts & Numbers

**August 31**  
**Attendance: 134**  
**Gifts: \$5,889.00**

**August 10**  
**Attendance: 159**  
**Gifts: \$6,210.41**

**August 24**  
**Attendance: 152**  
**Gifts: \$3,176.00**

**\*\*Currently we need \$8,308.00 per week to meet our 2025 budget\*\***

## Important dates for your calendar

Every Sunday:

8:30am Contemporary Service  
Christian Life Center

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Service  
Sanctuary - 2nd floor

5:30-7:30pm Youth Group  
Christian Life Center

Every Monday:

6:30 am Men's Group - Fellowship Hall  
2nd Monday of the month, will meet at  
Ozark Cafe for breakfast

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Labor Day- Church office will be closed

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

Church Council retreat (closed meeting)- Fellowship Hall, 9-2

There will be no regular monthly meeting on September 8th

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Red Cross Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall, 11-3

*Be the change.*

Help change a life. Give blood.



American  
Red Cross

## **Blood Drive**

### **First United Methodist Church**

Fellowship Hall  
503 West Main Street  
West Plains, MO 65775

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*In Loving Memory*

Deana Gleghorn

Francis Wahlquist  
Dick & Nancy Davidson





# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Aug 31, 2025

## ADDITIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ♦ Jeff Kuebler
- ♦ Charlene Case - health
- ♦ Chyler Frazier
- ♦ Jessica's father—Tom Pospisil
- ♦ Mya McClung— unspoken
- ♦ Dee Rothenmich - health issues
- ♦ Arielle - unspoken
- ♦ Braelyn - unspoken
- ♦ Izzy - surgery
- ♦ John Hinklin - Heart block-age
- ♦ Amanda Aughenbaugh - blood clot
- ♦ Shannon Briscoe - unspoken
- ♦ Billy Wade
- ♦ Brad Hallworth
- ♦ Lee Ann Warren
- ♦ Erika - family

Former pastor, Mark Mildren's wife, Lynda recently had a stroke. Prayers for her recovery: 1971 E. Lakewood St., Springfield, Mo 65804

Deana Gleghorn passed away on (8/14). A memorial service was held on 8/23 at FUMC . Continued prayers for the Gleghorn family during this time.

Becca Barnes- prayers for her children to be guided to God. They are going through some personal struggles. Becca is recovering from neck surgery and could use prayers of healing: 625 Walker St., WP

Alice Reagle fell and broke her hip. Prayers for health and healing.

Ted Bunch is having some additional health issues and could use some extra prayer. He is having heart issues as well as the cancer.. Ted & Barbara Bunch: 4616 Marianna Dr., WP

Bud & Marie Nale are both having some health issues. They both could use some extra prayers. (address is below)

## Home

Matt & Regina Janocko: P.O. Box 385, WP

Daryl Leonard-2325 St. Rt. 14, WP

Bud & Marie Nale: 1619 Evergreen, WP

Charles & Carole Cooper: 2694 S. St. Rt. 17, Mt. View, MO 65548

## CANCER

- Kinsey Mincey
- Ivan Kochubey - lymphoma
- Sheri Hedrick - cervical cancer
- Ralph Mattison - cancer (friend of Gary & Marybeth Davis)
- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Tumer
- Trina Johnson

## NURSING HOMES & ASSISTIVE LIVING

Larry Pope-Rm 7B, NHC

Barbara Gingles-Whispering Pines, 2313 Bradford Circle

Joanne Lowe-Sleepy Oak Place, 2313 Bradford Circle

Nean Dorris-Whispering Pines: 2313 Bradford Circle,

Helen Birdsong: 213 Davis Dr., Apt. 403

Connie Long: 408A, Brookhaven

Wanda Janzen— Room 46, Cedar Hurst

Billy Wade - Room 15, Cedar Hurst

Dee McCormack - Room 503, Pleasant Valley

## Nursing Home/Assisted Living Addresses

West Vue-210 Davis Dr.

Pleasant Valley Manor: 213 Davis Dr.

Brookhaven: 1410 Kentucky Ave.

Greenhouses: 2313 Bradford Circle (Oak, Pine Place, Dogwood Cedarhurst-1521 US Hwy 63

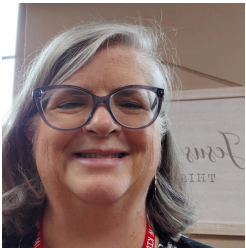
# STAFF & LEADERS



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- **Administrative Council Chair**  
Bob Legler
  - **Columbarium Committee**  
Janice Bowden

- **Librarian**  
Donna Cook
- **Methodist Women**  
Wanda Byrd
- **Treasurer**  
Amy Murphy

## Contact Information

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