



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 09: 2026

Making Room for More

A New Sunday Morning Schedule Begins September 13

Over the past several weeks, you've heard us talk about an exciting step we're taking as a church. **Beginning Sunday, September 13, our modern worship service will move from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** Our traditional worship service will continue to meet at **11:00 AM.**

Or, if you need an easy way to remember it:

Nine-Thirty on Nine-Thirteen!

This change is about much more than moving a number on the clock. Our mission is to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**, and that mission calls us to continually ask how we can remove barriers and create opportunities for more people to encounter Christ.

We believe a 9:30 AM worship service gives us a better opportunity to do exactly that.

It also gives us an opportunity to rethink what Sunday morning can look like for our church. Rather than every Sunday School class being tied to the same 9:45–10:45 schedule, our youth, adult, and God's Crew ministries will have greater flexibility to determine what works best for their communities.

For our children and families, the change creates an exciting opportunity as well. Beginning September 13, meaningful children's programming will be available during **both worship services**. At 9:30, children will have childcare for ages 0–4 and Sunday School programming for older children. At 11:00, children will have childcare for ages 0–4 and Kids Church for older children.

Some of our classes and groups will make adjustments, while others will continue meeting at their current times. Our ministry leaders are working through those details now, and we are grateful for their willingness to help us make this transition well.

I also know that for some of you, this change means giving up a Sunday morning routine that you genuinely enjoy. I don't want to minimize that. Whenever we make room for something new, sometimes we have to be willing to rearrange something we already love.

But that's part of what it means to be the church.

We don't exist simply to preserve what is comfortable or familiar. We exist to make disciples. And if changing our schedule can remove a barrier that might keep someone from walking through our doors, then I believe it is a sacrifice worth making.

I am incredibly grateful for the leadership of our church and for the spirit with which so many of you have approached this change. I am especially thankful for those who are willing to adjust their routines so that we can create more opportunities for others.

And now, I want to invite you to do more than simply adjust your schedule.

Invite someone.

Think about the neighbor, coworker, friend, family member, or person you've been praying would find a church home. Beginning September 13, invite them to come sit with you.

Nine-thirty on nine-thirteen.

Let's make room for more people to encounter Jesus, find community, grow in faith, and discover their place in the family of God.

I'm excited about what God is going to do next.

Let's make room for more.

— Pastor Sean

— **A NEW SUNDAY MORNING BEGINS** —

9:30 **ON**
9/13



Making Room For More



9:30 AM

MODERN WORSHIP

Childcare 0-4

Sunday School for Older Kids



11:00 AM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Childcare 0-4

Kids Church for Older Kids

SAME MISSION. NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

LET'S MAKE ROOM FOR MORE PEOPLE TO ENCOUNTER JESUS.



September

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Day 1: John 16:33 | ☐ Day 16: Jude 1:2 |
| ☐ 2: Psalm 72:7 | ☐ Day 17: Psalm 119:165 |
| ☐ 3: Isaiah 32:17 | ☐ Day 18: Philippians 4:9 |
| ☐ 4: Proverbs 12:20 | ☐ Day 19: Isaiah 52:7 |
| ☐ 5: John 14:27 | ☐ Day 20: Romans 8:6 |
| ☐ 6: Romans 5:1 | ☐ Day 21: Hebrews 12:11 |
| ☐ 7: 2 Corinthians 13:11 | ☐ Day 22: Psalm 29:11 |
| ☐ 8: Ephesians 2:14 | ☐ Day 23: Romans 5:1 |
| ☐ 9: Numbers 6:24-26 | ☐ Day 24: Luke 2:14 |
| ☐ 10: Romans 15:13 | ☐ Day 25: Proverbs 3:1-2 |
| ☐ 11: Matthew 5:9 | ☐ Day 26: Isaiah 54:10 |
| ☐ 12: Isaiah 26:3 | ☐ Day 27: 1 Peter 3:11 |
| ☐ 13: Colossians 3:15 | ☐ Day 28: 2 Thessalonians 3:16 |
| ☐ 14: James 3:18 | ☐ Day 29: Galatians 5:22-23 |
| ☐ 15: Psalm 34:14 | ☐ Day 30: Psalm 37:37 |





United Methodist Women

Everyone Is Welcome!

Coming soon.....



Bakeless Bake Sale 
with the Women of FUMC

We will be meeting
September 8, at 9:00,
in the Fellowship Hall to prepare
for our annual fund raiser.

We hope you will join us!

August 2nd

Attendance: 163

Gifts: \$4,974.25

August 9th

Attendance: 154

Gifts: \$6,552.21

August 16th

Attendance: 158

Gifts: \$19,764.00

August 23rd

Attendance: 158

Gifts: \$3,387.00

August 30th

Attendance: 150

Gifts: \$5,393.00

Gifts & Numbers

****Currently we need \$8,689.00 per week to meet our 2026 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 Wednesday:

5:30-6:30pm God's Crew

6-7pm Handbell Practice

7-8pm Choir Practice

Every Monday:

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

September 1st

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

September 7th

Labor Day - Office Closed

September 8th

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am

September 13th

New service time begins:
Contemporary - 9:30am
Traditional - 11:00am

Grandparents Day

September 14th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

September 15th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

September 22nd

Fall begins

September 29th

Red Cross Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall, 11-3

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

During September the Preschool we will have the following Themes: Apples, Family, Pets, Transportation, and Fall. The children will be learning bible stories about the Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses . Prekindergarten will be learning Letters A,C, and T. Number 2-5. Shapes Square and Circle. The color Brown. Our special event this month will be Grandparent's Day September 9th, and Bike Days September 23rd and 24th . Be on the lookout for a fundraiser coming in the near future.

We will welcome our new Prekindergarten Educator September 8th. Her name is Cassie Cressman. We look forward to having her join our team.

Children's Ministry

During September, our Nursery/ Preschoolers will be learning God made the World. Our Elementary Children will be learning about Creation during Children's Church. During Sunday School, we will continue learning about Noah's Ark. Our lessons will include a Movie, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Science, and Games. Beginning September 13th, our children's program will be changing. Sunday School will start at 9:30am and Children's Church will start at 10:45am. Children will transition from Sunday School to Children's Church with a snack time and guided free time. Children's Church will last until the end of the 2nd service.

Courtney Ames our nursery worker for several years has stepped down to pursue her new career in nursing. Please wish her well. Drew Bauer and Kiara Sexton Hymes will be our nursery workers. They both work in our Preschool Program. They will alternate weeks. If you are a Parent of a child in the Nursery or Children's Program and you would like to help with Children's Ministry, please come by the church or email Crystal.

Crystal Houston

Director of Friendship Circle Ministries/

Director of Children's Ministries

Welcome

to

Friendship Circle



My Favorites



Reading



Coffee



Singing/
Making Music



My family

"Raise your children with the strength to know what they stand for, yet the humility to listen, learn, and grow."

-Unknown



Mrs. Cassie Cressman

Meet The Teacher

Hello! My name is Cassie and I am so excited to be teaching the PreK class this year! I can't wait to help your little ones learn, grow, and create wonderful memories. I hope to make this school year fun, inspiring, and full of new discoveries!

About Me

I have lived in West Plains, MO for the majority of my life. My family is made up of a wonderful husband (Trevor), a beautiful new baby boy (Oliver), and an adorable cat (Arya). I have been a teacher for 3 years, and have a Bachelors in Elementary Education from Missouri State University. I'm passionate about creating a positive and supportive classroom where every student feels confident and valued.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

My heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible love and kindness you have shown me during my recovery from surgery. Thank you for your prayers, calls, messages, wonderful meals, beautiful flowers, and thoughtful gifts. Each act of kindness has meant more to me than I can adequately express.

I want to extend a special thank you to Lori, who organized help, ran errands, managed the necessary safety arrangements at my home, and cared for my animals while I was recovering. She truly served as my vital connection to the congregation.

During a time when I felt vulnerable and in need of physical and spiritual strength, your support reminded me that I am surrounded by a wonderful community. Your prayers encouraged me, your generosity blessed me, and your thoughtfulness brought comfort and joy to my recovery.

I never knew a church family could hold so much love. Thank you all so much.

Warmly,

Margot Doohan



Our youth had a great summer and now, somewhat reluctantly, are heading back to their school schedules. The good news is that means regular youth sessions are back too! Before we look at what is coming up, let's recap what we've been up to.

We had another fantastic river trip at the Ross cabin, spending two days floating, playing games, and eating great food. We even got to see some of our youth make the decision to get baptized! Congrats to Drew and Elenor



We kicked off our regular sessions this year with another big slip-n-slide and an all-out water balloon fight! There was plenty of laughter, water, and people who discovered that staying dry was simply not an option. It was the perfect way to start the year—fun, messy, and full of memories already being made!





If you missed the back to school bash, no problem! Coming up, we already have big plans for some great nights, filled with food, fellowship, and fun. We would love to welcome you, a friend, and/or family member in grades 6-12 from 5:30-7pm on Sunday evenings.

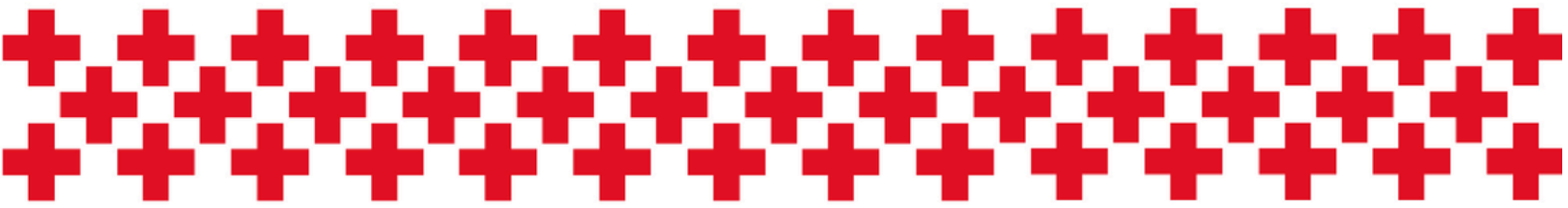
We would also like to welcome any adult members who wish to join in on the fun as volunteers in discussions and games or helping us out by cooking a meal for these awesome kiddos. If you or your youth are interested, please contact the church office for more details. We hope to see you next time as we start our studies on the importance of good friendship and its place in the Bible and God's creation.



A special thanks to all of our current volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication and, of course, our supportive congregation.

God Bless,
John Ackerson
"Interim" Youth Director

American Red Cross



Give blood.

Blood Drive

First United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall
503 West Main Street
West Plains, MO 65775

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thank You!

Because of your generosity,
we met our goal of collecting

500 Bottles
of shampoo!

Your support will help students
start the school year off
feeling confident and cared for. ❤️

You made a difference!



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

September 6, 2026

- ♦ Billy Wade - health
- ♦ Charlene Case - health
- ♦ Deborah Whittington - health
- ♦ Amy Smith - health
- ♦ Jessica Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Desirea Baker - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Patty Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Shirley Hinkle & her brother - health
- ♦ Jim Peterson - health
- ♦ Bruce Owens - health
- ♦ Alecia Goodfellow - health
- ♦ Kate & Harper - unspoken
- ♦ Charley Woodworth - vision loss
- ♦ Nancy Shelton - surgery
- ♦ Marvin - moved to Brookhaven
- ♦ Christie H. - Moved to Brookhaven from S. View
- ♦ Ernie Vaughn - health progressing
- ♦ Jennifer Shriver - is home, continued prayers for health
- ♦ Darla - gallbladder surgery recovery
- ♦ David White - health

Kim & Mark Dakes daughter, A.K. Dake Washington had surgery for breast cancer. Prayers for healing and recovery.

Beckie Legler's brother-in-law Ken Leonard underwent surgery in Little Rock. The performed 6 bypasses and he is feeling better. Prayers for continued healing.

Pat Holmes is home after being hospitalized with health issues. Continued prayers for Pat and his family; 5400 US Hwy 160, Koshkonong, Mo 65692

Donna Cook's nephew, Mark Cook has responded well to treatment for melanoma. Prayers for continued healing.

Continued prayers for Wanda Byrd's brother, Mike. He recently had a bone marrow transplant and is doing well. However his immunity is very low, but he is slowly improving.

Jim Weathers is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia. He has a long road ahead. Prayers for comfort and recovery. P.O. Box 694 Salem, AR 72576

Amy Ross, recent surgery to transplant bone from her hip to her foot. She will be non-weight bearing on the foot for four months. Prayers for healing.

Becca Barnes is continuing to have health issues. She is requesting prayers and is seeking answers.

Prayers for the region of Nepal. They have experienced massive natural disasters.

Joel Kerschen (Geoff Posegates brother-in-law; his sister's husband) has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. Prayers for him and his family as they face this diagnoses.

CANCER

- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Turner
- Trina Johnson
- Don Schlag - prostate cancer (Sue Risner's nephew) had surgery on 9/2

Home

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

Bill Shaw: 872 CR 424 Birch Tree, MO 65438

Steve Evans: 7324 St. Rt. BB, WP

NURSING HOMES & ASSITIVE LIVING

Barbara Gingles-Whispering Pines, 2313 Bradford Circle

Nean Dorris-Whispering Pines: 2313 Bradford Circle,

Helen Birdsong: 213 Davis Dr., Apt. 403

Connie Long: 408A, Brookhaven

Billy Wade - Room 15, Cedar Hurst

Dee McCormack - Room 503, Pleasant Valley

Marvin (special needs class), Brookhaven

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Addresses:

West Vue: 210 Davis Dr.

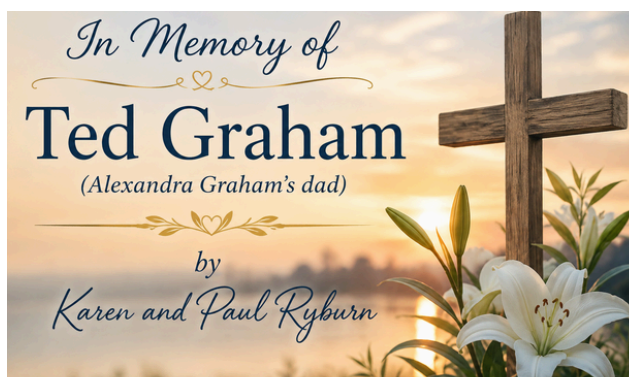
Pleasant Valley Manor: 213 Davis Dr.

NHC: 211 Davis Dr.

Brookhaven: 1410 Kentucky Ave.

Greenhouses: 2313 Bradford Circle (Oak, Pine Place, Dogwood

Cedarhurst: 1521 US Hwy 63



STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
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- **Administrative Council Chair**
Shaun Duggins
 - **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden

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

Contact Information

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