



"Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World"

Tidings

Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

October 2, 2025



A Season of Hope

At Union United Methodist Church, we believe hope is more than a word—it is a gift from God. It takes root in our hearts, grows with care, and brings a harvest of joy and strength. This fall, we invite you to share in *A Season of Hope* with us.

You may have seen our invitation card with the message: "*Hope gives resilience—helping us weather life's storms and bounce back stronger. Like seeds growing toward a harvest, God's grace renews our strength and fills us with joy. Find your harvest of hope here at Union.*"

The hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* has been my anchor in both joyful celebrations and life's hardest moments. I have sung it with tears and with thanksgiving. Its words remind us that even when we are weighed down by disappointment, concern, or anxiety, God's faithfulness never fails. Morning by morning, His mercies are new.

This is the very nature of Christian hope. It is not wishful thinking, but God's promise that we are never alone. It is the assurance that grace is greater than our struggles and the courage to face each new day, trusting that new beginnings are always possible.

In our community of faith, we see this hope lived out—in worship and fellowship, in acts of kindness and service. Whether you carry burdens or celebrate blessings, God is planting seeds of renewal among us. Through Christ's love and grace, we bring encouragement to the weary, healing to the hurting, and restoration to our world.

Any way you support this ministry—through prayer, presence, gifts, service, or witness—is never wasted. Together we serve a Living God, whose resurrection power carries us forward from generation to generation.

This fall, I invite you to imagine—playfully and prayerfully—what God might do in and through our congregation to renew life in our church and community.

Praise the Lord, for His faithfulness endures forever!

Pastor Angie Lee



On Sunday, October 5, we will join Christians around the globe in celebrating *World Communion Sunday*. On this day, Christians of many denominations and cultures gather at the Lord's Table, reminding us that we are part of one family in Christ.

At Union, we will celebrate this holy day with a time of worship and a fellowship meal. Between the services, we invite you to a soup luncheon where the *United Women in Faith (UWF)* will share "Bread from the World." Sharing bread from different cultures symbolizes the unity and diversity of the global church. As we break bread together, we remember that Christ calls us to be peacemakers, bridge-builders, and witnesses of God's love across every boundary. Come taste the bread of the nations, share a bowl of soup, and experience the joy of belonging to the worldwide body of Christ.

A free will offering will be collected and go to SIU-C Wesley Foundation and Garrett Seminary.

3
Journey

4
UWF

7
Ministry Report

9
Music Tidings

United Women in Faith
10:00 am
Krause Room
2nd Wednesday (not July)
*Special events posted in
Tidings and the bulletin*

United Methodist Men
Third Wednesday 5:30 pm
Krause Room

**Ruth Circle
Quilters/Stitchers**
Each Thursday 9:00 am
Krause Room

Horticulture
Each Wednesday, 9 am
Coffee, 8 am
Krause Room

Junior Church
(Kindergarten – 4th
Grade)
Junior Church is held
during the 9:00 am
worship service

Our prayers may be awkward.
Our attempts may be feeble. But
since the power of prayer is in
the One who hears it and not in
the one who says it, our prayers
do make a difference.

--Max Lucado

Sunday School

No Sunday School on October 12
(long holiday weekend) or October 19
(Fall Gathering)

Jane Peters, Sunday School
Superintendent

Union UMC live stream services

9 am service:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent5122>

or later through YouTube

Union United Methodist Church,
Belleville, Illinois

11:15 service:

[https://www.facebook.com/
CrosswalkUnionUmc](https://www.facebook.com/CrosswalkUnionUmc)

Tidings

Union United Methodist Church
721 East Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
618-233-6375

Pastor: Rev. Angie Lee

Thel Lemons, Editor

Please attach copy to email or text the
information to the editor:
chefthel@aol.com
618/530-8435

**Upcoming Tidings
deadlines (12 pm):**

**October 31
November 21
January 2**



Annual Fall Gathering Sunday, October 19 One service at 10

FALL FAMILY POTLUCK The Nurture Committee is pleased to announce the return of the Fall Family Potluck. The potluck will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025. There will be one combined worship service that Sunday at 10:00 with the potluck immediately following at 11:00.

A sign-up poster is in the Welcome Center. Please sign up based on the first letter of your last name and indicate how many people from your family will attend. Unlike in past years, we will NOT have a basket raffle. Instead we hope you will consider donating to our "Autumn Blessings Bake Sale" with proceeds to benefit the Youth Mission Trips.

Along with the Fall Family Potluck hosted by the Nurture Committee, we will be having an **"AUTUMN BLESSINGS BAKE SALE"**. We are looking for donations of prepackaged individual desserts which friends may want to enjoy as part of their meal, or larger items such as full cakes, pies, etc. that people can take home and enjoy later. Candies, pastries, or any other baked goods are also welcomed and appreciated.

Items will be sold on a free-will basis during the potluck and the proceeds will benefit the Youth Mission Trips. There is a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center. If you have questions, please contact Jan Wiggs at jlwteach@aol.com and include "dessert donation" in the subject. Thank you in advance for your support.

KIDS FOR CHRIST

LET'S CELEBRATE

OUR FOREVER OFFICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2025

We are excited to invite you to join us as we celebrate the gift God has given us - a new permanent home for our Kids For Christ Office!

14 S MONROE, FREEBURG, IL

Open House - Come any time 10:00am-4:00pm.
Praise and Worship band will play 2:00pm-4:00pm.
Please bring a finger food to share.

JOURNEY CHURCH

900 NORTH STATE STREET, FREEBURG, IL 62243
618-710-0224 WWW.JOURNEYUMC.ORG

Continuing the Journey *What's Happening in Freeburg*

Outreach & Youth Missions Update: all funds collected go to youth missions:

- Soda Stand at Freeburg Homecoming - \$725 from the committee + over \$50 in tips
- Indoor Yard Sale – over \$2,000
- At press time we are prepping for a Dessert, Popcorn, and Bottled Water booth at the Freeburg Fall Festival / Chili Cook-Off

Speaking of prepping, we had such a great time at our September Dinner & Music in the Park that we are doing it again October 1st. We had as many people at the September event as we average on Sunday mornings, and it drew a few people that we don't normally see on Sundays. Our October theme will be soups.

Pollinator Plot Project: One of our youth, Gage Lang, is asking for help on a conservation service award pollinator plot plant day. It will be Sunday, October 5th, at noon at Foley Park near Smithton. His project is a quarter acre pollinator plot to help attract more pollinators to our local area. If you would like to volunteer, you can just show up or contact him at gmlang711@gmail.com.

College & Career – since we don't currently have any youth attending "youth group" at Journey, we are rebranding it as *College & Career Bible Study*. Jenny is still the contact person. (See below.)



"Cathy O"
Cathy Obernuefemann
Journey Worship Leader

EVERY WEEK

- Worship - Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson
- College & Career Bible Study - Sundays at 4 pm with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org (see calendar below for current date/time changes)
- Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6 pm with Jenny Olson, 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org (not first Wednesdays)
- AA and Al-Anon - Thursdays at 7 pm; Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

October 1 – First Wednesday Dinner: Soup and Music in the park
October 15 – Lunch Bunch, 11 am



Bunco Night, hosted by Mary Circle—proceeds benefit youth mission trip



The sign-up for altar flowers in 2026 is now available in the Welcome Center (look for yellow folder).

Arrangements are \$25 and you may take them home with you after the service.

You may sign up for as many Sundays as you wish.

Hobby Time New Place - New Time



Room 211
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

These are open times and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Bring your portable hobby, a snack, and a friend for fellowship and fun as you work on a project. *Please contact Becky Keiser, 618-795-0317 for more information.*

United Women in Faith News October



UWF is busy this month! There is something for everyone! With our new team of officers the women are on full speed! Please support us in our many endeavors! If you can volunteer your help we would greatly appreciate it!

October 5 - **World Communion Sunday** . A Soup & Bread meal will be served after the 9am service. Come and sample breads from around the world. A free will offering will be taken to cover costs and share with The SIU-C Wesley Foundation and Garrett Seminary.

October 8 - our service project will focus on cleaning the beautiful sanctuary. Please help in sprucing up this area of the church. We will dust, vacuum, and polish before enjoying a light lunch together provided by the Miriam Circle.

October 15 - Wednesday Evening Dinner will be provided by the Elizabeth Circle. This is a light dinner to enjoy before coming together for a church wide Bible study led by Pastor Angie.

We would like to offer a big thanks to Dan Nollman for building an additional tablecloth rack to allow us a nice movable storage stand for the new tablecloths we have ordered with memorial funds for Steve Patrick. We hope his memory will live on as we put to use these beautiful tablecloths for various church wide activities.

Thank you to all those who supported "Bunco Night" sponsored by Mary Circle to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trips.

Our Child Advocate Coordinators have set the Warm Clothing Drive. (see more information below)

Please help us reach our goal of 75 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. The empty boxes are available near the Greeters desk in the Welcome Center. All boxes need to be filled and turned in by November 1.

Thanks again for all the support we receive in the various endeavors we pursue!

Keep praying! Marjie

Mary Circle meets the 3rd Sunday of every month (unless noted otherwise) from 10:30 -11:00 am.

October 19

November 16

December 21, no meeting

Contact Stephanie Pierce, 618-406-7960, for more information.



UWF Bale Sale,
September 28.

Thanks for your
generous
support!



September
General UWF
Meeting



On Sundays, November 2 and 9, there will be containers in the Welcome Center for new and gently used warm clothing for both adults and children.

Other items that will help people keep warm are also welcome (blankets, as an example).

We will share these items with Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and others in our area who need help.

Your generosity will be much appreciated.
Connie Stein and Carole Schneider
UWF Child Advocate

No Matter Our Age

September 26, 2025

*I grabbed a copy of the **Oak Hill Grapevine** from a stack in the lobby after a pastoral visit at a senior living and rehab center this week and read this while walking to my car —*

Studies show that older adults who interact regularly with children or teens often feel more purposeful, experience less loneliness, and even see improvement in memory and mood. Meanwhile, younger folks gain a sense of perspective, patience, and emotional intelligence when they build relations with seniors.

In countries like Japan and the Netherlands, preschools and daycare centers are joining forces with senior living facilities, creating shared spaces where little ones and older adults can learn and play together. It turns out that finger painting and storytelling sessions can do wonders for everyone involved, young and old.

Even without a formal program, small moments matter. And don't underestimate the values of a casual chat at the park or the grocery store; sometimes the best conversations happen when no one's trying too hard.

Let's celebrate the many ways we can all learn from each other, no matter our age.

From Joe Scheets' Blog @ joescheets.com



Aldersgate Fellowship Group will attend the movie "Soul on Fire" on Sunday, October 12 at 3:40 pm at Marcus Theaters in O'Fallon, IL. The movie is based on the book, "On Fire", the remarkable true story of John O'Leary and his recovery from burns to almost 100% of his body. The movie was filmed on location in St. Louis, where John lived. Skip and Nancy Uhl's son, Nick, is married to John's younger sister, Laura.

We have a limited number of tickets. To reserve your seat, give \$10.00 to Joe Milton. We will go to Syberg's for dinner after the movie, around 6:30. If you would prefer to just go to dinner, you may meet us there.

Dinner & the Word will meet Friday, October 3 for the next session of The Chosen. We will meet at the home of Bruce & Marjie Simms for potluck and viewing of the next episode before a brief discussion. Everyone is welcome!

This month is Season 1, Episode #8
Theme: "Your Favorite Soup" Potluck

Hosts are Bruce and Marjie Simms: 618-623-9279;
address, 1745 St. Andrews Dr., Shiloh

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Fall Gathering

Mark your calendar! One Service!

October 19, 10 am

Church-wide potluck + bake sale benefitting the youth follows the service



"2nd Tuesday BBQ"

We're taking the show on the road!

Mr. BBQ Bar & Grill
1280 Columbia Center, Columbia, IL
October 14, 11:30 to 1:00.

If the church van is available and we get a driver, we'll meet at Union UMC at 11:00. \$5.00 to ride the bus. More details to follow. Bring a friend! Please RSVP to Joe: joseph.milton@att.net or 618-235-5344.



Trunk or Treat
October 26 at 5 pm
upper parking lot

Please note the earlier start time
Please watch the bulletin and emails for more information

Raise Right

Order: Sunday, October 5
Delivery: October 12

10:00 - 10:15 at the Welcome Desk
(check or exact cash)

Please visit RaiseRight.com for a full list of retailers, or contact Stephanie Pierce at 618-406-7960 for more information.



Wednesdays at Union

September 17 - November 19, 2025

[Have fun. Learn the Bible. Grow in faith. Care for your body. Build friendships.](#)

Whether you come for one part or stay for it all, Wednesday nights at Union are designed to nurture your spirit, strengthen your body, and connect you with others. *Childcare is available (0-5 yrs.) except October 8.*

Schedule:

- **4:30–5:30 PM** – Yoga with Contemplative Prayer (*starting October 8*)
- **5:30–6:15 PM** – Dinner
- **6:15–7:15 PM** – Workshops and Bible Study on Gospel of Mark
- **6:15–7:15 PM** – Kids Prayer Explorers Group
- **7:30–8:30 PM** – Choir Practice

1. Yoga with Contemplative Prayer – *Energize Your Body & Soul*

Led by Rev. Angie Lee (October 8 - November 19)

Come as you are—no yoga experience needed. This gentle, adaptable practice blends stretching, mindful breathing, and Scripture meditation. You'll leave feeling both physically renewed and spiritually refreshed. **Benefits include:**

- Center your heart on God
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve strength, flexibility, and balance
- Lower risk of falls
- Enhance circulation and joint mobility



2. Wednesday Dinner – *Good Food, Good Conversation*

Are you often eating alone or grabbing quick, simple meals? Join us for a delicious, balanced dinner in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

- \$5 per person / \$20 per household
- Tickets available at the door (cash or check only)



3. 6:15–7:15 PM – Workshops & Bible Study (International)

Join us Wednesday evenings for engaging workshops and a fall Bible study on *The Gospel of Mark*.

Sept 17 – Time with Pastor Angie (sharing her personal journey of why self-care matters, and how Jesus' ministry was deeply rooted in healing.)

Sept 24 – Time with Pastor Allynn (Part 1)

Oct 1 – Time with Pastor Allynn (Part 2)

Oct 8–Nov 17 – Bible study led by Pastor Angie (*Following Jesus Today*, Mark's fast-paced Gospel invites us to discover His true identity, understand discipleship, and apply faith to daily life.)



4. Choir Practice – *Lift Your Voice in Praise*

If you love to sing, contact the church office to join our choir!



Ministry Report from Angie

Wednesdays at Union

We kicked off *Wednesdays at Union* on September 17 with a fellowship dinner. I served as host and prepared Korean BBQ beef (*bulgogi*), Korean-style noodles with vegetables (*japchae*), orange chicken, steamed broccoli, rice, five kinds of fresh fruit, and pies. About 30 people attended, and together we enjoyed a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. I was especially grateful for everyone's openness to trying new dishes and for the time we shared around the table. I look forward to beginning *Yoga with Contemplative Prayer* on October 8.

50 for 50 Ministry

The *50 for 50* initiative continues to grow. As of September 19, 2025, I have met with 12 individuals, and each conversation has been a true blessing. This ministry has already shown itself to be a meaningful way to build deeper connections within our church family.

You can still sign up—spots remain available for October. I am also considering offering this ministry again next fall, as it has been such a gift to share in these one-on-one conversations.

New Adult Sunday School

Our first new adult Sunday school class launched on Sunday, September 14. We are excited about this fresh opportunity for study, discussion, and spiritual growth together.

Community Engagement

I also had the opportunity to partner with *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* at Grace Church and to join in our Hot Dog Ministry at the Main Street parking lot here at Union. These ministries gave us the chance to meet new people and share meaningful conversations.

As I reflect on these experiences, I continue to seek ways for Union to become more engaging, more serving, and more giving within our community. In the coming weeks, I plan to visit several local social organizations to explore possible partnerships. If you have a vision or ideas for how Union can expand its outreach, I would love to sit down and talk with you.

Worship and Words

This October, we will explore stories of faith, gratitude, and persistence from Scripture—reminders of how God's Word shapes our daily lives and our life together as a church family.

October 5: *Faith That Breaks the Bread, Not People* (1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:17–34)
World Communion Sunday
Sunday Brunch at 10:10 AM (following 9:00 AM worship)

October 1: *Gratitude that Heals* (Luke 17:11–19; Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7)

October 19: *Faith That Persists* (Luke 18:1–8)
10:00 AM Joint Service (Fall Gathering) Followed by Church Potluck

October 26: *Who Goes Home Justified?* (Luke 18:9–14)—Featuring Drama Presentation

Looking Ahead

This is truly a *Season of Hope* at Union. Together, we are discerning how God is calling us to renew lives—in our congregation and in our community. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!



Fine Arts Concert
**Belleville Philharmonic
Orchestra**
featuring
Soprano Christine Brewer



Join us for the opening concert of the 160th
Concert Season of the Belleville Philharmonic
Orchestra featuring Christine Brewer
performing with the Orchestra
The Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss.
Saturday, October 11 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Union United Methodist Church ~ 721 E Main Street, Belleville, IL 62220
www.unionumc.org ~ 618.233.6375



Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main

Belleville, Illinois 62220

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
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PAID
U.S. Postage
Belleville, Illinois
Permit #124

**Liturgists needed
for the
9:00 worship
service**



To volunteer to read scripture, please contact Lisa Koerkenmeier at koer1922@gmail.com or 618-979-2085 (always leave a message).



**Sundays at 11:15
Chapel**

[https://www.facebook.com/
CrosswalkUnionUmc](https://www.facebook.com/CrosswalkUnionUmc)

MUSIC TIDINGS



O Sing unto the lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised. Psalm 96:1-4a

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, World Wide Communion Sunday

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem- "Let Us Break Bread Together"
arr. John Ness Beck

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Faith That Breaks the Bread, Not People"
1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17-34

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Praise the Lord" - G. F. Handel
Youth Choir, "Holy Grapes": "We Love You, Lord"

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Gratitude That Heals"
Luke 17:11-19; Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 - One Service

10 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Seek Ye The Lord" - Young
"Crosswalk Praise Team"

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Faith That Persists"; Luke 18:1-8
Church-wide potluck following the service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "The Meditations of My Heart" - Hagenberg
Kings Kids and Joyful Noise will sing

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Who Goes Home Justified?"; Luke 18:9-14

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, All Saints Sunday

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "You Do Not Walk Alone" - Hagenberg
Rev. Lee's sermon: "God Still Sees You in the Crowd"; Luke 6:20-31

Communion