Tidings



(Inion (Inited Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

June 5, 2025



Pastor's Note: I asked Natalie Long to write an article for Tidings about our garden, Bags of Bounty. I was so moved by her "invitation" that I decided it needed a front page location. Her invitation is extended to us all to join in the work of the garden. She reminds us that by tending and stewarding Creation in this way, (and through other ministries I would add), we grow in love for our Creator and are privileged to join in His work of redemption here on earth.

In Christ alone,

Pastor Allynn

The Grace of a Garden: An Invitation Natalie Long

There are many reasons to care for a garden. The harvest is one of them; who could find fault with caring for a plant and being rewarded with fresh strawberries in spring or a ripe tomato come late summer? Fellowship is another; even if a garden is a one-man project, the joy of sharing the fruits of one's labor creates moments of shared gratitude: for the earth, for the munificent generosity of the sunshine and the rain, for the fertility of the soil, for the astounding fact that life exists, for friendship, for love.

But as Christians, we have an additional reason—one both simple and profound—for undertaking this adventure: namely, to grow closer to God.

The Lord reveals himself to us in many ways, some more explicit than others. Sometimes he reveals himself in a manner most direct ("This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"); other times, in the depths of the silence of one's heart ("And after the fire, there was a voice, a soft whisper"). It is our task to do the listening, to attend to his presence, to create space for him to come to us in prayer, when all else within us stands still. The act of attention can be prayer.

For some of us, caring for a garden grants small moments of this grace-filled prayer, where we can attend to the presence of the Lord. Whether it is the first rays of sunlight casting out across the land, accompanied by the first voices of birdsong singing the day into being; the vibrant green of the plants, radiating life as they stretch toward the heavens; the sweet taste of a vineripened fruit, gently grasped and brought into the palm of one's hand; or the buzz of bees and the glint of butterfly wings flitting around from flower to flower; God's presence is felt through his Creation, through the world that he entrusted to man to cultivate and to tend.

Human experience shows us that in caring for something, we can come to love it; imperfectly, of course, for a human love always falls short of the ultimate love that only God can know, but with his help toward which we can strive. But in caring for the Creation, in stewarding and tending to it, we can come to love the Creation more deeply and—by extension—grow in our love for its Creator.

The great artists have always known that the quest for beauty is the quest for God; and it is in gazing upon the Creation that we are privileged to behold the masterpiece of the greatest artist, from whom all other beauty is derived. We come to know more about the source from which all life comes—from which we come—by virtue of studying what he deemed good to create. And in cultivating the land, we become, in our own small way, co-creators, privileged to cooperate with the Lord, caring for this earth as it sings its ongoing hymn of praise.

Continued on page 2

Journey

UWF

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

10 **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

Continued from page 1

The garden is the scene where mighty encounters with the Lord occur, for it was in the cool of the evening in the Garden of Eden that our first parents walked with our Lord; and it was in the darkest night in the Garden of Gethsemane that Christ asked that he might be spared, while submitting himself wholly to his Father's will. It is in the garden that God has met us, and it is in the garden that we can meet him still.

And so, this is an invitation. Here at Union, we have our own small garden: eight grow bags, filled with greens and vegetables and flowers, whose harvest is shared amongst us and with others in the community. Our garden is a volunteer enterprise, and we would love for you to join us. We are still learning what our garden can become, but we are hopeful it can be something very good. Come help us grow: come garden with us; come pray with us; come join us as we tend to Creation together.

To join us, please contact Jim Eckert at: Jim.Eckert@eckerts.com



If you have submissions for the July Tidings, please send your info to Zona Ludlum by June 27: laneclass@gmail.com

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

Tidings

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

Pastor: Rev. Allynn Walker

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):

June 27 (Zona edits) July 25 August 22

Dear Families and Friends of Union United Methodist Church, Grace and peace to you all!

My name is Rev. Angie Lee. I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new pastor, beginning July 1, 2025. My first Sunday worship with you will be July 6, and I eagerly look forward to meeting each of you, learning your stories, and embarking together on this exciting new chapter.

If you join me in worship, you will quickly discover the scriptures that anchor my life, the core values shaping my leadership, and the vision and direction in which I hope to journey with you. My deepest priority is helping each of you grow deeper in your personal faith journey, discovering together how richly fulfilling a life rooted in Christ can be. To kick off our journey together, our July sermon series is titled **"LIVING WITH INTENTION."** Each week, we will explore practical, life-giving ways to intentionally embrace our faith:

- July 6: Living with Intention Celebrating True Freedom through Christ's Strength; Scripture: Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
- July 13: Living with Intention Finding Hope in God's Faithfulness;
 Scripture: Lamentations 3:22-23 "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
- July 20: Living with Intention Honoring God through Self-Care; <u>Scripture</u>: Genesis 1:27 – "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
- July 27: Living with Intention Deepening Our Discipleship;
 <u>Scripture:</u> Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

I warmly encourage you to come, bring a friend, and let's explore together how living intentionally can transform our daily lives, our community, and our walk with Christ.

With great joy and anticipation, **Pastor Angie Lee**



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).

JOURNEY CHURCH

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

Continuing the Journey What's Happening in Freeburg

On Mother's Day, we welcomed new members Gage and Brynn Lang, who went through the Confirmation process this spring. They are the children of Brian & Andie Lang.

We recently heard testimonies from Betty Parsons and Rob Sygman. It is always a joy to hear how God is working in someone's life!

At press time, our mission team is preparing to leave Sunday, June 1st for LaCenter, KY. Those going from Journey this year are Paul, Daniel, and Noah Obernuefemann. If you are reading this that week, say a prayer for the team.

Bill Campbell will be preaching June 15, June 22, and July 6 as Pastor Mike & Jenny Olson do some traveling. Please keep all of them in your prayers. We are not having Bible Study in the month of June due to the mission trip and travels.

I am grateful for the additional musicians who fill in when our regulars aren't available. Kent Reynolds is the college student son of Jenny & Mike Olson and plays drums. Rich Greason plays bass part time for Scott Campus of Christ Church but has some free Sundays that he can play bass for us.



"Cathy O"
Cathy Obernuefemann
Journey Worship Leader

EVERY WEEK

- Worship Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson
- Youth Group Sundays at 6:00 pm with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org (see calendar below for current date/time changes)
- AA and Al-Anon Thursdays at 7:00 pm; Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 1-7 Youth Mission Trip to La Center, KY SECOND Wednesday Dinner, 6 pm:

cookout

June 18 Lunch Bunch, 11 am
June 15 / 22 Bill Campbell preaching

Dollars and Sense News (part 4)

This is part 4 of our series detailing how the financial management system works at Union UMC. In parts 1, 2 and 3 we discussed how the annual budget is built, how the execution of the budget takes place, and how cash is held. This month we will provide a look at other reports used to manage church finances.

- 1. What additional reports or documents do you use to manage finances? The cash statements for both Union and Journey are roll up reports that show actual cash on hand compared to the first of the year. The report shows cash coming in and out to specific accounts and expenses. The report also shows the mortgage balances.
- 2. Where are items like memorial funds shown? Memorial funds are shown on the Holding Account report. As funds come in for memorials they are accumulated under the name of the person being honored. The family can then have an input as to where the funds are used for a six-month period. The final approval for those funds during that period is governed by the Administrative Council. After six months funds are applied to items as needed.
- 3. Do we know how the endowment funds are invested? Yes. There are monthly reports that show what types of instruments are used to grow endowments. The Rayhill trust documents show what funds are invested in, but we do not have a say in what those are. The other endowment accounts are invested in balanced funds and can be moved at the request of the Finance Committee and Administrative Council.
- 4. Do we know if members intend to leave a legacy gift to the church? In some cases we do. In others we do not. This year we are asking members to let the Senior Pastor or Comptroller know if they intend to leave such a gift. It is not necessary to spell out the amount but just that the family intends to do it. Also, this intent is not binding, it is just an indicator of what might happen, so the church is not surprised by these gifts.
- 5. Are there safeguards in the financial system? Absolutely. Financial transactions are crosschecked by the Comptroller and Treasurer as they happen. Then the Finance Committee reviews transactions monthly. Then the reports are reviewed every time they meet. Some of this is required by the Book of Discipline and additional procedures are required by local management.

Well, that's about it for now. We hope this series has helped you understand how the financial management system works. Remember, if you have finance management questions please ask the Treasurer, Dick Frette; the Finance Committee Chairman, Mike Engel; or any of the Finance Committee members.



Mark your calendar! One Service!

June 29, 10 am

Reception honoring Pastor Allynn follows the service

Aldersgate Fellowship Group



On Saturday, June 28th, set sail out of Grafton Harbor aboard the **Hakuna Matata** for a 1.5 hour themed river cruise, "Rock & Rolling in the USA"! Aldersgate Fellowship Group has 26 Upper Level tickets for this 4:30 departure. Your \$24.00 check, payable to Union UMC and given to Joe Milton, reserves your passage on this fun excursion! (Poodle skirts and white buck shoes are optional.) Root beer floats will be available for purchase.

If you want to have dinner, on your own, at the **Grafton Oyster Bar**, let us know and you'll be included on the reservation. Contact Joe at 618-235-5344 or joseph,milton@att.com for any guestions.



Cinco de Mayo Fun! Aldersgate Fellowship Group



The Miriam Circle has been very busy recently. We greatly appreciate all supporters of our bake sale on May 18th.

Our oldest member celebrated her 101st birthday in grand fashion with a church wide reception on May 25th We celebrate the inspirational lady that Myrtle is for all of us!

Our next meeting will be on June 27th with a trip to the St. Louis Science Center to the Omnimax Theater. The show will feature the Super Human Body.

Afterwards, we will nourish our bodies at the Boat House in Forest Park. We will gather in the upper parking lot for departure at 10:00 The cost of tickets is \$9.50. If you would like to join us for the excursion, please contact Marvina at 618-910-9772 or marvey@charter.net,

Attention Administrative Council Members

We will meet on Monday, June 30 at 6:30 pm. We will **NOT** have a meeting in July; the meeting in June will be our only meeting for the summer of 2025. I welcome and appreciate everyone's support as this will be my first meeting to lead, and I look forward to working with all the members of Administrative Council. Thanks and see you at the June meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mark Tiemann

This year's VBS is
Wonder Junction Marvel at Jesus,
Live for His Glory



Theme verse: "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!" Psalm 113:3

Date: Sunday, June 22 - Friday, June 27 Time: 6:00-8:00 pm Free

Please register at Unionumc.org

VBS donations needed

The VBS team will put up boards with lists of needs for crafts and food donations in the narthex in the next few weeks. This is the first time in 20 years that we have bought a new VBS curriculum, so that has taken up a large part of our budget. We appreciate any way that you can help, but money donations are usually the most helpful!

In Christ's Service, Jane Peters VBS Director



Join us on Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm McKinley Fellowship Hall

Bring yourself, friends, snacks & your portable hobby!

Call Becky Keiser with questions: 618-795-0317

Raise Right

Order: Sunday, June 8; delivery, June 15



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.



just a typical day for the pastor herding the sheep



The Evangelism Committee is raising money to build 50 beds for the **Metro East Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. Each bed costs \$250.00 to construct and furnish with sheets, blankets and pillows.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our church members who have

donated enough money to build 34 beds! If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please make a gift to Union UMC and put "beds" in the memo of your check. If you have any questions, contact Joe Milton at 618-235-5344.



Congratulations to Terry Schuchman's grandson, Patrick, who graduated *summa cum laude* on May 10th.

Patrick plans to be a music teacher, K-12.



Girl Scouts Donate Rain Barrel to Support Union United Methodist Church and the Community Garden

The Girl Scouts of Troops 40,1107,763 recently made a eco-friendly contribution to our church by donating a beautifully decorated rain barrel for

use in our church community garden. This supports both our church's commitment to environmental stewardship and our mission to care for creation.

Through this project, the Girl Scouts learned about water conservation and sustainable gardening practices, then acted by providing a practical solution to help collect rainwater for the garden. The rain barrel will reduce water waste and help nourish the fruits, vegetables, and flowers grown by volunteers and families in our church and neighborhood.



Thank You, Joy and Friends!

Joy Hawk and her friends at Keystone Place Senior Living, under the direction of Activity Director Kim, donated items and bagged over 50 hygiene kits for those who come for our sack lunches and food pantry.

Outreach Committee Updates

Rice Blessing Meal Packing Goal: 2,400 Bags

We're partnering with Midwest Mission to pack 2,400 rice meal bags on August 9
Each bag costs just \$2 — sponsor one or more!
Donation Goal: \$4,800
Mark donations "Rice Blessing" and place in offering.
Packing Day: August 9; Volunteer sign-up coming soon!

Breakfast Fundraiser, Sunday, July 27
Join us for breakfast hosted by the Evangelism
Committee with help from Outreach.
All proceeds benefit our Rice Meal Packing Mission!
McKinley Hall – after worship
Freewill offering

Sewing Machine Collection

Donate working electric or treadle sewing machines to support vocational ministries.

Bring in August 9

Bicycle Collection
We're collecting repairable bicycles, especially adult sizes, for Midwest Mission.
Bring in August 9

Bottled Water Needed – Sack Lunch Ministry
As summer heats up, we're collecting bottled water for our local sack lunch outreach.
Please drop off water anytime this summer near the church office.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ through your giving and service.



United Women in Faith News June



United Women in Faith met on May 14 for our annual retreat. Laura Koehler gave a marvelous presentation on Spiritual Growth and the use of a labyrinth. Ideas were shared for using one here at Union.

The Executive Committee approved these changes in leadership:

President - Marjie Simms Vice President - Sandy Patrick Memorial Receptions - Marvina Lee

Please plan to attend our annual UWF Luau on Wednesday June 11, 6-8 pm at the home of Karen Milton. This is always a fun gathering, a great evening to connect with other women of Union. The menu:

Pineapple Bites Fruit Kabobs Edible Flip Flop Cookies Luau punch Pulled Pork Sliders Cranberry pinwheels Easy Hawaiian Dip

Cost is \$5.00. Please RSVP to Circle Chairs or Karen Milton by June 6. This event is open to guests/ nonmembers. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out about the activities planned for Union's UWF and to make new friends.

COMING SOON! Information regarding our goal for the Christmas Shoe Box program.

As your new UWF President I am excited with all the possibilities and endeavors we have planned in supporting missions for women, children, and youth.

Blessings, Marjie



Mary's Circle meets the 3rd Sunday of every month (unless noted otherwise) from 10:30 -11:00 am. No meeting in December. For more information, contact Stephanie Pierce, at 618-406-7960



UWF Calendar

June 11 6-8 Hawaiian Pool Party, Milton's Home

July 20 Mission U; Springfield

August 5 10:30 Executive Committee Meeting & Lunch

@ Marjie Simms' home

DINNER & THE WORD will meet the 1st Friday of the month at the home of Bruce & Marjie Simms. We will begin with a potluck dinner & then watch one episode of "The Chosen " followed by a short discussion.

June 6 (Summertime Favorites)

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We will not meet in July!



"2nd Tuesday BBQ"

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, the men of Union UMC are invited to get together for a time of fellowship, fun, prayer and BBQ! On **Tuesday**, **June 10**, at 11:30, we'll meet at Beast Craft BBQ Co., 20 South Belt-West, Belleville.

No reservation needed, just show up at 11:30. Questions? Contact Joe Milton at 618-235-5344 or joseph.milton@att.net.



JULY

BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Marvina LeeRobert CavegliaJudy Mc Gowen
- 5 Marley Kiefer
- 7 Jack Howland
- 8 Jerry Koerkenmeier Madeline Ticknor
- 9 Paul Obernuefemann
- 10 Jean Thomas Connor Shock Cailyn Kaemmerer
- 11 Thom Peters
 Bill Blackburn
- 12 Edward Weston
- 13 Andrew Delabre Brad May
- 14 Mike Callaghan Donna Lyons

- 17 Sharon Huebner Sharon Dahm Tim Delabre
- 19 Julee Baysinger
- 20 Ann Braun Mary Lou Crawley Kevin Mahoney
- 21 Darrell Shock
- 22 Katie Gourley
- 23 Karen Buehler Barbara Harszy
- 24 Linda Gray Douglas Greiman
- 26 Geoff Taylor Noah Emge
- 27 Marie Ticknor
- 30 Diana Hill Dwayne Reaka Gary Voelker
- 31 Phyllis Ellett



ANNIVERSARIES

July 7, 1979 Joe & Karen Milton

July 8, 2006 Matt & Monica Ticknor

July 9, 2007 Dan & Debbie Rosendohl

> July 10, 1965 Lary & Judy Eckert

July 11, 1970 Doug & Sharon Dahm

July 11, 1981 Bruce & Marjie Simms July 11, 1998 Mark & Robin Worthington

> July 18, 1970 Don & Judith Poirot

July 19, 1977 Charles & Susan Botula

July 25, 1970 Mark & Shirley Wehrmeyer

> July 26, 2014 Matt & Diana Hill

> July 29, 2000 Brad & Erin May





Visitation and Other Good Stuff with Dr. Joe Scheets

June

We need to be energetically at work...working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over.

Watch your step. Use your head.
Make the most of every chance you get.
These are desperate times!

Those lines sure do sound like people who are part of Belleville Union United Methodist Church.

It's true that we United Methodists haven't cornered the market on being "Can Do" people who get things "Done Before Breakfast." And yet....

Maybe those even sound like something you've said. Or better yet: maybe these sound like how you live your life.

You probably recognized those quotes as coming from the same source. If not, here's a hint, in the form of one more ---

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ---Yup, that's **Psalm 118:24**.

They're all three from our Bibles. Specifically, the two up top are **John 9:4** and **Ephesians 5:15 +16**.

Christ Jesus points us in this direction in **Matthew 6:11** and **Luke 11:3**, teaching us to pray and ask God to --- give us this day our daily bread.

--- For seasoning we can scoop up a handful of a book in the Old Testament that you and I probably haven't spent much time with so far today: **Lamentations**. Specifically, **chapter 22**, **verses 22** and **23**, which remind us that ---

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because God's compassions fail not. They are new every morning.

--- And the punch line, the kicker, the foundation of all the rest? Same spot in our Bibles, and it's both an Affirmation of Faith and a Prayer of Gratitude at the same time --- Great is Your faithfulness. O God.

--- Remember Arsenio Hall's late night talk show? One of his regular phrases was, "Let's get busy."

Roll all this together and you get our daily Call to Action.

I invite you to review, apply as needed, rinse, and repeat. And as always, I look forward to hearing from you at any time for any reason.

Yours in Christ, Joe

217.377.8049 joescheets3@gmail.com



The Horticulture Club recently planted flowers and shrubs that were purchased with funds from Dorothy Inman's memorial gifts, as directed by her husband, Bob Inman. Bob also had money given to Union's food pantry, in memory of Dorothy.

Bob is an original member of the Horticulture Club, started in 2005. Our motto is "To beautify the church to the glory of God." There is only one rule for our work, and that is "You can sit down anytime you want!" Come and join us for donuts and coffee in the Krause Room at 8:00 A.M. every Wednesday. We welcome anyone to join us as we work around the grounds of the church.

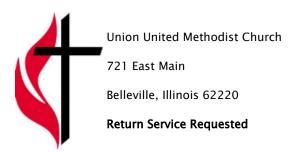


Ruth Circle Quilt Auction: Ruth circle has hand quilted a bed/sofa drape and donated it for a silent auction to begin on Sunday, June 8th thru 10 am, June 29th. Highest bidder wins. Minimum bid is \$50 and due at time of pickup. The quilt will be displayed in the Welcome Center near the elevator. All proceeds

go toward OCC. Please be generous in your bid.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world by partnering with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. UWF will be collecting shoeboxes in September as part of our outreach mission to develop followers of Jesus Christ to serve the world. Since its beginning in 1973, OCC has reached more than 232 million children with a shoebox gift and the message or God's love for them. For more information, contact Helen Rinehart at 970-310-3579.





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Invitation to all!

We will celebrate Pastor Allynn's retirement on June 29 at the 10 am service. (Please note time change) A reception in McKinley Hall will follow the service.

We welcome our new pastor, Pastor Angie Lee, on Sunday, July 6. A reception in McKinley Hall will follow the 9 am service.

Our church has been so blessed; we invite you to join us as we celebrate Pastor Allynn's leadership and welcome Pastor Lee to our church family.

The Planning Committee



CROSSWALK

Sundays at 11:15 Chapel

https://www.facebook.com/ CrosswalkUnionUmc



MUSIC TIDINGS

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk of all his wondrous works. Glory in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Psalm 105:1-3

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 — Pentecost

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "God's Gonna Set This World On Fire" spiritual/ Moses Hogan

Rev. Walker's sermon: "Walk With The Shepherd"; Psalm 23

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "The Lord is My Shepherd" - Goodall Rev. Walker's sermon: "Receive All The Shepherd Gives"; Psalm 23

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Shepherd Psalm" - arr. McDonald with violinist: Philip Tinge Rev. Walker's sermon: "Live With the Shepherd"; Psalm 23

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 — 10 AM - One Service

Sanctuary Choir anthem - "The Church's One Foundation" - arr. Althouse trumpet: Michael Howland

"Crosswalk" Praise Band

Rev. Walker's sermon: "Joy"; Philippians 1:3-11

Reception honoring Pastor Allynn following service