



“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

# Tidings

Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

March 27, 2026



## After Easter: What Comes Next?

I am writing this article before Easter, but many of you will read it after the celebration has passed. So let me ask you: How is your post-Easter season going?

After a big celebration like Easter, it is natural to feel a little tired. Some may feel exhausted after all the preparation. Others may feel relieved to return to a more familiar routine.

Do you know how the disciples were doing after Jesus rose from the dead?

We might imagine they were running everywhere with excitement, sharing the good news. But the Gospel tells a different story. The disciples were afraid. They worried that people might not believe them. They feared getting into trouble. So when they gathered together, they locked the doors.

It was not that they did not believe in the resurrection. They simply did not know what to do next.

Some of them even returned to their old routines—their daily work and familiar patterns. Perhaps we understand that feeling. After Easter Sunday, life often returns to its normal rhythm. And yet, the resurrection invites us to ask an important question:

If Christ is truly risen, how does that change the way we live?

Resurrection faith is not something we celebrate only one Sunday a year. It is a faith we live day by day. It grows as we take small steps—loving someone, serving others, offering our gifts, and becoming more involved in God’s work—because we trust that God brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow.

Christ is risen. And the risen Christ is still at work among us—guiding us, renewing us, and working through each of us in ways beyond what we can see.

### Maundy Thursday – April 2, at 6:30 pm joint service (Union, Journey, Mascoutah Bethel)

Location: Union UMC  
Preacher: Mike Olson  
Prayer: Bobby Davis  
Scripture Reading: Angie Lee  
Sanctuary Choir will sing  
Jubilation Handbells will ring

### Good Friday Service – April 3, at 6:30 pm (Journey & Union)

Location: Journey (900 N State St, Freeburg, IL 62243)  
Preacher: Angie Lee  
Sermon Title: *The Cost of Peace*  
Scriptures: Luke 23:33–46; Isaiah 53:5  
Prayer & Scripture Reading: Mike Olson

2  
Journey

4  
Wednesdays at Union

7  
UWF

8  
Music Tidings

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**United Women in Faith**  
10:00 am  
Krause Room  
2nd Wednesday  
(not January, April or 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

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



**UWF SPRING TEA** is Palm Sunday, March 29. UWF appreciates donations of two dozen homemade cookies from members of the congregation for this event.

Cookies are also delivered to shut-ins from our church. Your contribution can be dropped off Saturday, March 28, between 9:30 and 10, or on Sunday, March 29, by 8:30 am.

Workers are also needed on Saturday to help set up McKinley Hall. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please call Sandy Patrick at 618-719-6267.

Union UMC livestream 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/>

@Crosswalk.UnionChurch.Belleville

## 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):**

**April 24  
May 29  
June 26**



## What In God's Name Is Happening at Freeburg Journey

Holy Week we hope to see many of you at least one of our joint services: Maundy Thursday Worship at Union at 6:30 pm with Pastor Mike preaching and the Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at Journey at 6:30 pm.

Since the first Wednesday of April is during Holy Week, we are pushing back our monthly dinner a week to April 8<sup>th</sup>. This time we will have a guest speaker – Jeff from the AA group that meets at Journey. Bring a dish to share at 6 pm. Our theme for April is picnic food.

Lunch Bunch meets the third Wednesday of each month at 11 am for visiting and we eat a potluck meal at noon. Look for our Facebook group called Lunch Bunch at Freeburg, IL. Anyone may come anytime, but Thel Lemons did issue a particular invitation to UWF to join us in April since they do not have a unit meeting that month. That date is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Our address is 900 N State St in Freeburg. We are located right next to Dairy Queen.

*“Cathy O”*

Cathy Obernuefemann  
Journey Worship Leader

EVERY WEEK:

- ◆ Worship - Sundays at 10:15 a.m. with Pastor Mike Olson and Journey Praise Band
- ◆ College & Career Bible Study - Sundays at 12:00 p.m. with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or [jolson@nashville-k12.org](mailto:jolson@nashville-k12.org)
- ◆ Ladies' Bible Study – Thursdays at 10 am with Sherry Greiman, 618-560-8802
- ◆ *The Chosen*, Season 1 Bible Study at 6 pm at Obernuefemann's, 618-978-5375
- ◆ AA and Al-Anon - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

April 1 – NO First Wednesday Dinner; see April 8  
April 2 – Maundy Thursday Worship at Union, 6:30; Pastor Mike preaching; No *The Chosen* Bible Study  
April 3 – Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at Journey, 6:30  
April 5 – Easter  
April 8 – First Available Wednesday Dinner (note date!) – Picnic theme; Jeff from AA speaking  
April 15 – Union UWF visiting Lunch Bunch



## Save the Date

3-Church Picnic  
June 14, 2026

Union, Journey, Bethel churches  
will have a combined picnic!  
Details to come!

### Reflections from the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast: Common Ground

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. I had met Mayor Meyer before, but this was the first time I had the chance to hear her speak.

I do not know her personally, nor do I speak from a political perspective. But as I listened, I found myself quietly moved. What stood out to me was her clear sense of core values—values that, in many ways, resonate deeply with our faith.

She spoke about community, kindness, and hope.

She said, "Community is not simply where we live...it is how we live together."

That line stayed with me. As people of faith, we believe the same. Church is not simply a place we go. It is how we live together—with love, care, and responsibility for one another.

She also said something that felt especially meaningful: "Kindness is not weakness; it is courage."

In a world that often feels divided, choosing kindness does take courage. It takes intention to listen, to understand, and to treat others with dignity—even when it is not easy.

And she reminded us that hope is not passive, but something we choose each day.

That, too, is at the heart of our faith. As Christians, we believe hope is alive because Christ is alive. And we are called not only to speak about hope, but to live it—to practice it in our daily lives.

It was a gentle reminder that God's work is happening not only within the walls of the church, but also in the wider community—through people who seek the common good, who value kindness, and who choose hope.

May we continue to be people who live out these values—within our church and beyond—so that our community may be a place where all feel seen, valued, and cared for.

*"May community guide us, kindness shape us,  
and hope sustain us."*

*From Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer's remarks for the 61st Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on February 25, 2026*

### THIS IS YOUR PRAYER CORNER



As we approach Holy Week, let us reflect upon the following scripture: "Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.'" Matthew 26: 36-38

In the darkness of Gethsemane, Jesus is the loneliest man who ever lived. His disciples have abandoned him. Jesus is left utterly alone to face the agony of the Cross that awaits Him.

As we approach Easter, let us remember that, before the empty tomb, and before the bright joy of resurrection morning, Jesus chose to bear the full weight of our sin in the darkness of Gethsemane. Jesus suffered unbearable loneliness so that those of us who belong to Him might never be alone again.

We are all destined to encounter despair in life. We have all experienced the heartbreak of feeling unsupported, misunderstood, unloved, and alone. During such times, we can now find comfort in the fact that Jesus carried the same burdens of loneliness, pain, fear, and sorrow all the way to the cross – for our sake. And because He did, Easter proclaims something astonishing:

**The One who stood alone now stands beside us.**

**The One who felt forsaken now promises, "I am with you always."**

**The One who entered death alone now welcomes us into the realm of eternal life.**

As we look forward to Easter, may the memory of Jesus' lonely vigil in Gethsemane deepen our gratitude for His love and devotion toward us. May the joy of Christ's resurrection remind us that no darkness can ever prevent the light of His love and grace from entering our hearts and minds.



#### A Prayer for Holy Week

Lord Jesus Christ,

As we follow You through this sacred week, we remember the path You walked for our sake. When we face our own loneliness, remind us that You have gone before us. When we feel the burden of life's struggles, strengthen us with the courage You showed in the garden. Lead us to trust the Father as You trusted Him, to love as You loved, and to walk in hope toward the dawn of resurrection. May we be forever grateful for Your assurance that death has been defeated, sin is forgiven, and that we will never be alone again. Amen

### Spring Hot Dog Project Resumes

You are invited to offer a couple of hours on a Saturday or two in either May or June to offer God's love to our neighbors. You will be doing the work of Jesus, who reached out to everyone with the Good News.

The Hot Dog Project will begin again on May 9 and continue through June. You would be helping raise the canopy, cook the hot dogs and serve them to neighbors passing by. While serving, we ask them if there is anyone or anything that they would like to pray for. In our experience, 99% of people have a concern that they need prayer for! A simple prayer is provided for you to use if you like. This is a unique opportunity to reach out to people we might otherwise never reach. Call, text or email Julie Callaghan at 314-397-3334; [gidelgirl@gmail.com](mailto:gidelgirl@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Post Easter Wednesdays at Union (April 8-April 29)

Dinner at 5:15 pm; Bible Study at 6:30 pm

### Week 1: April 8 - When Faith Meets Fear

Key story: Disciples locked behind doors (John 20:19-23)

Curiosity questions

- Why do people feel more anxious than ever today?
- If God is real, why are we still afraid?
- How does faith help with anxiety, uncertainty, and the future?
- What are we actually supposed to fear—and what not?

### Week 2: April 15 — Is God Real... or Just Wishful Thinking?

Key story: Thomas the doubter (John 20:24-29)

Curiosity questions

- Why do doubts show up even in believers?
- How do people experience God today?
- What kind of evidence does faith actually offer?
- Spiritual but not religious.

### Week 3: April 22 - Love, Relationships, and Emotional Wounds

Key story: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

Curiosity questions

- Why do relationships feel so hard today?
- Can we love well if we didn't grow up feeling loved?
- Can broken relationships heal?
- What does God's love look like in real life?

### Week 4 - April 29 - Hope When Life Feels Heavy

Key story: Road to Emmaus (Luke 24)

Curiosity questions

- Why do so many people feel tired and burned out?
- How does hope actually change daily life?
- Can faith help when life doesn't improve quickly?
- Where do we find hope in hard seasons?



## Miracle Sunday – May 17, 2026

On May 17, United Methodists around the world will join together for *Miracle Sunday*—a shared moment of prayer, generosity, and connection. As part of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Union United Methodist church will participate in a global movement that reaches across more than 30,000 United Methodist churches.

Through the *Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously* initiative, we support theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. This effort helps equip future pastors and leaders who are called by God but often face significant barriers such as distance, cost, and limited resources.

While many clergy in the United States have access to formal theological training, fewer than five percent of clergy in these regions have the same opportunity. Yet the church continues to grow, and many are eager to serve. They simply need support to be equipped for ministry.

Miracle Sunday invites us to be part of God's response.

Through the Endowment Fund for Theological Education, the United Methodist Church is working to create sustainable support for scholarships, educational resources, and leadership development. The goal is to prepare at least 500 new leaders each year, grounded in a Wesleyan vision of faith and learning.

Every congregation has a role to play. Through our prayers and generosity, we join in God's work beyond our local community and strengthen our connection to the global church.

On May 17, we come together—trusting that God will use what we offer to raise up leaders, strengthen communities, and bring hope to the world.



The Worship Committee encourages you to get involved! Volunteers are always needed for the following at the 9:00 service:

**Liturgists** (read scripture and Call to Worship)  
please contact Lisa Koerkenmeier at  
koer1922@gmail.com or 618-979-2085

**Ushers**  
please contact Danny Nollman  
at nollmandl@att.net or call 618-334-0320

**Greeters**  
please contact Judy Eckert at  
judy.eckert@eckerts.com or 618/476-1757



On Wednesday, April 29, from 1 to 5 pm, Union Church will host **Haircuts 4 Hope**. They are a local non-profit organization that provides free on-site barbering services via their mobile barber facility. **Haircuts 4 Hope's**

belief is that a simple haircut may open the doors to opportunities, personal confidence, and emotional healing. The **Shower Ministry** will also be available, as will personal hygiene kits.

A FREE community meal will be offered at 5:15 pm. Invitations will go to recipients of our **Sack Lunch** and **Hot Dog & Prayer Ministries**. Members of Union Church are invited to the meal, but we do ask that members make a \$10.00 pre-paid reservation for the dinner by April 27, check payable to "Union UMC" with "H4H meal" in the memo.



Union United Methodist Church will present Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on June 27 and 28; an evening performance on the 27th and at the 9:00 am service on the 28th. There are multiple singing, dancing and non-moving roles available for all people, all ages.

Open auditions for this show will be held May 9 and 10, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Be prepared to sing a song of your choosing, approximately 24 measures or 45 seconds. We will also learn a short dance routine. Auditions are not to exclude anyone, but to determine who will play what roles. Everyone who wants to participate, will be cast.

Regular rehearsals will be Monday and Thursday evenings 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday mornings 10 am to noon, with "catch up" rehearsal Sundays 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. During tech week, we will have nightly rehearsals starting at 6:00 pm with mandatory attendance. If necessary, tech week rehearsals may last longer than the scheduled time. We will work will ALL rehearsal conflicts. Rehearsals begin Monday, May 11, 2026 with a read through of the script.

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of LW Entertainment.

Lyrics by Tim Rice Music by Andrew Lloyd Weber



## Hobby Time

Room 211  
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

These are open times;  
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.*



Lunch is served at  
A Bishop's Day with Clergy



The Horticulture Club does work on the Union property and then goes to lunch for food and fellowship. WE ARE WEEDING THE SHRUBS and will be applying mulch to fix up for Easter.

For MULCH MADNESS any new helpers are welcome Wednesdays, 8 AM (or thereabouts) in the Krause Room. Watch now for tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs planted last fall. Then the flowering trees, shrubs and roses. All provided to The Glory of GOD and to enhance your worship experience.




The Horticulture Club



## 2nd Tuesday BBQ Crew

The 2nd Tuesday BBQ crew will meet April 14th at **Cupio's**, a new restaurant located at 4320 West Main Street in Belleville. All men of Union Church, and their friends, are welcome to join us at 11:30 for a time of fellowship and great food! If you have any questions, contact Joe Milton, 618-235-5344 or [joseph.milton@att.net](mailto:joseph.milton@att.net).



**JOIN THE FORUM CLASS IN APRIL, 2026 AS WE DISCUSS THE PRESENCE OF HUMAN EVIL IN TODAY'S WORLD**

April 12: A Study of Evil in the Human Heart: How Scripture Validates Psychology  
April 19 The Life and Legacy of Cain – When Sin and Satan Collide  
April 26: Herod the Great: Power, Paranoia, and Murder  
May 3: Judas Iscariot: Sin That Grows in the Dark

Forum series led by Suzanne Hutcherson. Join our lively discussion where all points of view are welcome and encouraged. Room 217 – 10:30 a.m.



The Food Pantry is still up and running and helping lots of people thanks to all of you who contribute monetarily, with food and with your time! I am sure that the need will begin to rise exponentially in the near future.

In November, we had monetary donations from **Kathryn Grissom, Jerry Sauerwein, Mark and Shirley Wehrmeyer, Sue Davis, Ann Braun, Bob Brunkow, Linda Moyer** (who also does all the shopping to fill the shelves!) and **Jack Burke**. In December, we had donations from **Bob Brunkow, Ann Braun, Sheri Hill, Kathryn Grissom, Jerry Sauerwein, Linda Moyer and Bob Inman**. And in January, we had donations from **Ann Braun and Linda Moyer**. We also received a check for \$1,000 from **The Illinois Great Rivers Conference!** We, and all the food recipients appreciate each and every dollar that you give!


We couldn't do it without you! And **Linda**, my back is eternally grateful to you for doing all the shopping!! Also, thanks so much to our faithful workers who show up every Monday (**Linda Moyer and Doris Wiemers**) and Friday (**Don and Connie Stein, Sue Davis and Mike Engel**) to distribute the goods. Praise the Lord!  
 Sincerely, *Kay MacIntire*



GriefShare is a 13 week grief support group open to Union members, their friends and families. Co-led by Pastor Allynn and Danny Nollman, we meet every Sunday @ 10:30am (except the first Sunday of the month) in room 407 through April 26.

This Christ-centered program helps people as they deal with the emotions and life stresses following the death of a loved one. The videos and curriculum feature respected Christian counselors and pastors who provide biblically sound advice and guidance. There is no cost.

Each week is a stand alone lesson. So all are welcome to join at any time—whether it's week 1 or week 13. Call or text Pastor Allynn @ 618/604-2389 with any questions.



If you have a prayer request that you would like to include on our weekly distribution list, please send it to Suzanne via email: [suzannehutcherson@att.net](mailto:suzannehutcherson@att.net). You may also leave a message on her landline phone: 618-235-3793 and she will promptly return your call.

## Easter Lily Order Form

(Please Print)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

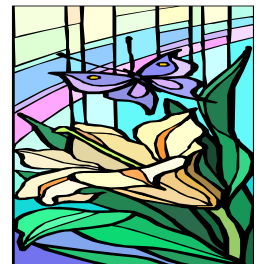
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

\$16.00 each (you may order as many as you like)

# of Lilies ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please place in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Monday, March 30**

**United Women in Faith News  
April**



UWF will be hosting the Easter Tea on Palm Sunday, March 29. Everyone is invited to enjoy delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Join us as we celebrate all our choirs!

The Union UWF have been busy with many activities! We have focused on being "Martha" (serving others) as well as being "Mary" (learning and listening). We have served meals to others, spent time in devotionals, and listened to the word of God. We have laughed together, cried together, and prayed together. Together as a large group, and together in small groups we are growing in our relationship with Him. When we are in the wilderness Jesus will meet us there and open gates for our walk in faith. Please feel free to join us on this journey!

As a reminder, there is no general meeting in April. Circles will meet as scheduled. Since we have no general meeting, UWF members are encouraged to try something new! Let's join Journey's "Lunch Bunch" on Wednesday, April 15. It's a potluck and Cathy O says there's always a wide variety of food. Time is 11-1:00; address is 900 N State St in Freeburg (right next to Dairy Queen).

Keep praying!  
Marjie

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



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



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.

**Dinner & the Word**

Dinner & the Word will not meet in April

We will resume in May!



Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main

Belleville, Illinois 62220

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**Wednesdays at Union, Spring 2026  
Dinner at 5:15 pm**

Note: No meeting on April 1, due to Holy Week (There will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services)

April 8: Angie Lee (Korean meal)  
April 15: Trustee (Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad)  
April 22: Elizabeth Circle (Chicken Casserole)  
April 29: Community Meal  
("Hopping for Bars": Salad Bar, Potato Bar, Ice Cream Bar)



**Sundays at 11:15  
Chapel**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
@Crosswalk.UnionChurch.Belleville](https://www.facebook.com/@Crosswalk.UnionChurch.Belleville)



**MUSIC TIDINGS**

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, Now I have told you'"

Matthew 28:5-7



PALM SUNDAY

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem:

"Festival Anthem on Ellacombe - arr. Lantz  
palm processional and brass quartet:

Len Bull, Bill Springer, Nick Mihalich, and Doug Kost

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Which King Will You Follow?"; Matthew 21:1-11  
Spring Tea by the UWF following the service



**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "Easter Festival" - arr. Bryson  
with brass quartet: Len Bull, Michael Howland,  
Nick Mihalick, and Luke Juergensmeyer,  
choir processional; children's choirs

Rev. Lee' sermon:

"Encountering the Risen Christ: Called by Name"; John 20:1-18  
Communion

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "Rejoice, the Lord is King" - arr. Young  
with trumpet: Clare Hogan

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ: From Empty Nets  
to New Calling"; John 21:1-6;15-19

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" - Nolte  
with violinist: Philip Tinge

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

Living the Life Christ Promises"; John 10:10-11; Colossians 2 6-10

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"  
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Love Boldly: Love That Becomes Justice"

Leviticus 19:9-18; John 13:34-35