



“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

Tidings

Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

January 29, 2026



Dear Families and Friends of Union United Methodist Church,

On the day I am writing this article, we are facing winter storms. As someone who is not a big fan of winter, I often find myself waiting eagerly for spring. And yet, winter plays an important role in God’s creation. It is a season of preparation. The ground rests. Seeds lie dormant. Trees appear bare and silent. Beneath the surface, however, life is quietly being made ready. Winter is not empty time—it is holy waiting.

As spring draws near, we begin to notice signs of new life all around us—longer days, warmer light, and the gentle promise that winter will not have the last word. Easter is coming. The joy of resurrection and Christ’s victory over sin and death is already on the horizon.

Before we arrive at Easter morning, the Church invites us into a holy season of preparation. Beginning on February 18 with Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent calls us to slow down, reflect, examine our hearts, and return to God with humility and hope. Lent is not meant to burden us, but to clear the way—to make space in our hearts for God’s grace, healing, and peace.

This year, our Lenten journey will focus on promoting peace and reducing violence—in our thoughts, words, conversations, actions, and relationships. We begin on Ash Wednesday by remembering our human vulnerability and by praying for a clean heart. True peace does not begin in the world around us; it begins within us, as God renews our hearts and aligns our lives with the peace of Christ.

Throughout Lent, we will explore what it means to be peacemakers—within our families, our community, and our public life. Guided by Jesus’ words, *“Blessed are the peacemakers”* (Matthew 5:9), we seek a peace rooted in justice, compassion, and love of neighbor.

As we walk this Lenten path together, may we prepare ourselves to fully celebrate Easter—to proclaim with deeper faith and clearer hearts that Christ is risen, and love has won. We invite you to join us in worship, Lenten services, Bible study, shared meals, and fellowship as we journey from ashes to resurrection, from brokenness to hope, and from fear to peace.

Blessings,
Angie Lee

Jericho Prayer Experience

We gather to pray boldly and faithfully, trusting God to move in our lives and our community.

- This 20-minute prayer experience includes Scripture, silence, and guided prayer.
- You are invited to walk, sit, or stand as you pray—whatever is most comfortable for you.
- Join us the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.

All are Welcome

2
Journey

3
UWF

7
Mark Your Calendar

8
Music Tidings

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

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

The Psychology of Gun Violence

Why do we have so much gun violence in our society? What causes mass shootings? What motivates a shooter to kill? How can we save lives by making smart choices?

An expert in the field, Dr. Janet Shibley Hyde, a professor emerita of psychology at the University of Wisconsin will speak of the public health approach to gun violence on Sunday March 8, 10:30 am in the Forum classroom on the 2nd floor at Union Church. All are welcome to this highly relevant talk.

In addition, on Sunday March 1, 15, 22 and 29 at 10:30 am the group will study in more depth Dr. Hyde's book, The Psychology of Gun Violence. Please come and share your thoughts in a group discussion. All are welcome.

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):**

**February 27
March 20
April 24**

JOURNEY CHURCH

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

Continuing the Journey What's Happening in Freeburg

Winter is hard on Sunday morning attendance, but happily we have other ways to connect, including monthly lunches and dinners. Our worship services are streamed live on Facebook. And Life Skills students come in weekly from the high school to fill Feed the Kids bags and do some cleaning. Many people are touched by our presence in Freeburg.

Beginning Thursday, January 29th, Sherry Greiman is offering a Ladies' Bible Study on the Book of Ruth at 10 am. Contact her for more info at 618-560-8802.

Our next First Wednesday Dinner is February 4th, at 6 pm. Look for the Facebook event and bring your favorite Italian dish to share. Music will be provided by JPB (Journey Praise Band).

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, and plan to join us.



"Cathy O"

Cathy Obernuefemann
Journey Worship Leader

EVERY WEEK

- Worship - Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson and Journey Praise Band
- College & Career Bible Study - Sundays at 4 pm with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org
- 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; Eric G., 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

January 29 Book of Ruth Ladies' Bible Study starting at 10 am
February 1 Communion
Feb 4 First Wednesday Dinner: Italian
April 2 Maundy Thursday Service at Union UMC at 6:30 pm
April 3 Good Friday Service at Journey at 6:30 pm

The Nurture Committee is looking for groups or committees willing to host a **"Wednesdays at Union"** meal during the month of April.

This involves providing a light meal as part of the evening activities. Any groups or committee willing to take one of the dates please contact Kay Watt. The dates we need covered: April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29.

Thank you for considering our request.

Blessings,
Kay Watt
618-520-1952
klw3900@yahoo.com



United Women in Faith News February



A group of UWF members enjoyed lunch with former President Jenny Johnson. It was a delightful time catching up with Jenny. She is thrilled with caring for her 7-month-old grandson and starting her involvement in a local church. We certainly do miss her!



Our members are gearing up for the coming year. We will have Bake Sales to help us raise funds to support our giving to missions and local organizations. Please watch for those announcements!

Our next general meeting is February 11. The program will be led by Thel Lemons: *UWF 101 (What in the world is UWF and what are we doing?)*. Please plan to attend this meeting. Thel will help us understand the ins and outs of our organization. We will meet in the Krause Room beginning at 10 am. Elizabeth Circle will be the hosts. Ruth Circle has the card ministry.

Keep Praying!
Marjie

Thank You from Union's United Women in Faith

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the faithful giving and active participation of our UWF members, in 2025 our local unit gave the following to missions:

\$5149 to UWF global missions
\$2473 for local missions (Kids for Christ, Union's Food baskets, Kindercare Cottage, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Violence Prevention Center to name a few)

We also sponsored a coat drive and a school supplies drive; collected cookies and drink mix for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House; in addition, we collected gifts cards for Cunningham Children's Home. Circles also had their own drives and projects.

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 Nurture Committee will be serving the February 25th Lenten meal. Here is the menu.



pulled pork
macaroni and cheese
coleslaw
applesauce
brownies
iced tea and water



United Women in Faith What in the world are we doing?

February 11, 10 am
Krause Room

Hostess: Elizabeth Circle

Program presented by Thel Lemons
Devotional presented by Laura Koehler

All women of the church—their sisters, friends, neighbors, daughters, daughters-in-law—are invited to UWF's February program and meal.

Visitation and Other Good Stuff with Dr. Joe Scheets

February 2026

Thank You for
Your Prayerful Support



My five-hour surgery was a week ago. Yesterday was a follow up appointment which included a couple of key events. This morning the surgeon called with good pathology reports.

I'll spare you the details. Suffice it to say that both Patty and I appreciate your prayers, concern, cards, and texts. Greatly so!

From this recent experience I can now happily and gratefully testify that our church does what our Bibles tell us to do ---

Pray for one another James 5:16

Help carry each other's burdens Galatians 6:2

Encourage one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it. 1st Thessalonians 5:11

Moving forward, I ask for your prayers for patience. The surgeon and others, along with Patty, insist that I follow their guidelines for recovery. Again, I covet your prayers for patience.

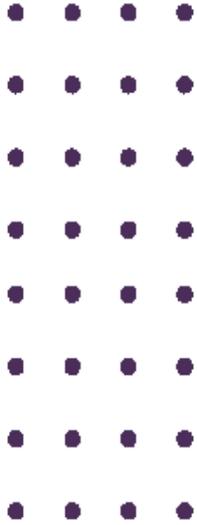
It's an honor being in ministry with you!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Joe Scheets

JoeScheets3@gmail.com

217.377.8049

JoeScheets.com



PurpleOne Training

Union Church
721 E. Main St
Belleville, IL 62220



Learn how to:

- ✓ Recognize
- ✓ Respond to
- ✓ Refer

survivors of domestic violence.

Saturday, March 28
8:45am - 12:00pm

Enroll Now!



For More Information
vpcswi.org/purpleone





**Fine Arts
Concert Series**

**Saturday, February 21, 2026
7:30 p.m.**

**Southwestern Illinois College
Jazz Band**

Director: Dr. Tom Birkner
with
Guest Trombonist: Aaron Eckert




Union United Methodist Church,
721 East Main Street Belleville, Illinois 62220
Free-Will Offering Reception following Concert



THANK YOU! Thank you so much Pastor Angie, Pastor Joe, and other family and friends who visited me after my recent knee replacement surgery. The flowers, plants, food, cards, texts, emails, phone calls all with inspirational messages and prayers really helped me endure this. Joe and I are blessed to belong to Union's wonderful faith family. I hope to get out and about real soon. Thanks again.

Karen Milton



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.



Good news! The Church's 2026 calendar is already filling up....as your committee starts planning its year, please confirm with Sheri in the church office that there is no conflict.

Opportunities during the Season of Lent and Spring

- Forum Sunday School: Dr. Janet Shibley Hyde, Professor Emerita of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, will speak on *a public health approach to gun violence* on Sunday, March 8. In addition, the group will study Dr. Hyde's book, *The Psychology of Gun Violence*, in greater depth on Sundays March 1, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:30 am.
- Violence Prevention Center Workshop – "Purple Training": Saturday, March 28, from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm. This training focuses on recognizing warning signs of violence, learning practical prevention strategies, and strengthening our community's ability to respond with care, awareness, and responsibility.
- Time with a Guest Speaker: Dr. Connie Kirkland will join us on Wednesday, April 29, at 5:15 pm, beginning with dinner. Dr. Kirkland is a nationally recognized trauma specialist and victim advocate with over forty years of experience supporting survivors and strengthening campus and community safety. She has worked closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, led wellness and sexual assault programs at major universities, and trained professionals nationwide. Details will be announced.



UWF Bulletin Board—thank you,
Marjie Simms!



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

Hobby Time

Wednesday
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.*

Dinner & the Word

Friday February 6

We will meet at 6 pm to watch and discuss "The Chosen". This year we are watching Season 2. We will begin with a delicious potluck before watching the episode and discussing it.

We will have a potluck of LOVE. ♥ Bring a dish that you LOVE to share!

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

Please RSVP to Marjie at (618)623-9279

2nd Tuesday BBQ Crew

Bandana's BBQ in Fairview Heights at 11:30 on Tuesday, February 10th is the destination for our next 2nd Tuesday BBQ. Bring your appetite and a friend!

Contact Joe Milton, 618-235-5344, for information.

Updates on Chair Yoga with Contemplative Prayer

I have been truly enjoying Chair Yoga with Contemplative Prayer on Wednesdays at 4:15 PM. This time together has offered space for gentle movement, prayer, and quiet reflection.

As we approach Lent, I have spent time discerning how best to shape our Wednesday evenings. With lower attendance and the desire to focus more fully on dinner, fellowship, and service during the Lenten season, I have decided to pause yoga offerings during Lent.

Chair Yoga with Contemplative Prayer will continue through February 11 at 4:15 pm. There will be no yoga classes during Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter.

Following Lent, I am excited to offer a four-week trial series, "Yoga on the Mat" (with a chair available), from April 8 through April 29. This series will provide an opportunity for those who would like to explore mat-based yoga, with chairs still available for support and accessibility.

Updated Yoga Schedule

- Chair Yoga with Contemplative Prayer: January 28, February 4, and February 11
- No Yoga Classes: Ash Wednesday through Easter
- Yoga on the Mat (chair available): April 8, 15, 22, 29

Thank you for your flexibility and continued participation as we move through the seasons together.

Pastor Angie

Union UMC 2025 Leadership Summit Shaping Our Future in Christ

When: Saturday, January 31, at 9:00–10:30 a.m.
Where: Krause Room

You are warmly invited to the Union UMC 2025 Leadership Summit, a morning set aside for prayerful reflection, listening, and discernment as we seek God's guidance for the next chapter of our life together.

This gathering is not only for committee members or church leaders. It is for anyone who loves Union and cares about where God is leading us. Each person's voice, gifts, and perspective matter as we live out God's mission together.

During our time, we will reflect on Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission, which shape our ministry at Union:

well in the next three years, what should they be?

Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Please join us as we pray, listen, and shape our future in Christ—together.

2026 Lenten Services

Theme: "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9)

Emphasis: The Lenten series will center on promoting peace and reducing violence—in our words, actions, and relationships.

Ash Wednesday service: February 18 at 6:30 pm

Preacher: Angie Lee
Sermon Title: *A Clean Heart: The Beginning of Peace*
Scriptures: Psalm 51:1–17; Matthew 5:9

1st Lent Service: February 25 at 6:30 PM

Preacher: Rev. Angie Lee
Sermon Title: *Breaking the Cycle: From Anger to Peace*
Scriptures: Genesis 50:19–21; Ephesians 4:26–32

2nd Lent service March 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Preacher: Rev. Ed Westen
Sermon Title: Peace
Scriptures: John 14:27-28

3rd Lent Service March 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM

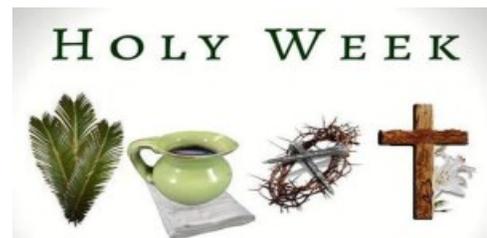
Preacher: Rev. Allynn Walker
Sermon Title: *Peace in Words and Attitude*
Scriptures: TBA

4th Lent Service March 18, 2026, at 6:30 PM

Preacher: Rev. Angie Lee
Sermon Title: *Peace in Our Communities: Safety and Compassion*
Scriptures: Micah 6:8; Romans 12:17–21

5th Lent Service: March 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM

Preacher: Rev. Angie Lee
Sermon Title: *Peace in the Public Square: Firm Conviction without Hatred*
Scriptures: Matthew 22:15–22; John 18:36



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

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



Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main

Belleville, Illinois 62220

Return Service Requested

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



JUBILATION HANDBELLS
will rehearse on Thursday
evenings beginning
January 22. We meet in
Room 214 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Please consider joining this talented
group of ringers! For information, call
Susan Botula at 618-791-5697.

**FINE ARTS CONCERT
at Union UMC**



The SWIC Jazz Band,
under the direction
of Dr Tom Birkner,
with guest trombonist: Aaron Eckert

Saturday, February 21 at 7:30

Freewill offering
Reception following the concert



CROSSWALK

**Sundays at 11:15
Chapel**

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



MUSIC TIDINGS

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known
among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to
him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name, let
the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Psalm 105:1-3

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9 am - Sanctuary anthem - "Jesus at Your Holy Table" - arr. Larson
flutist: Cheryl Schaefer
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Blessed in God's Eyes"; Matthew 5:1-12
Communion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Keep God's Light" - Patterson
conga drums: Jake Schlich
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Love Boldly. Live Courageously, and Service Joyfully"
Matthew 5:13-20

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Be Thou My Vision" - arr. Alice Parker
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Shining on the Mountain, Living in the Valley"
Matthew 17:1-9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - Tribute to Black History Month

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Siyahamba" - arr. Robinson
with djembe: Jake Schlich
Special Music: "Blackbird"- Paul McCartney
guitarist: Richard Mitts
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Tested but Not Defeated"; Matthew 4:1-11

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "O Living Bread of Heaven" - arr. Larson
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Born Again into Grace"; John 3:1-17
Communion