

# Tidings



Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

January 9, 2025



I'm still singing Christmas carols. One in particular keeps coming to mind: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, but only the chorus: Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

We love moments and places of comfort. We love our comfort zones. We really love our comfort food. Comfort is often tied to familiarity and routine. We have a deep desire to know what is coming next. Comfort is a feeling of being relaxed, unanxious.

Life has a way of throwing us curve balls, of bringing us unanticipated challenges or crises. I hate when that happens, right?! Just last week when I came home from my walk, my garage door opener (without any warning) decided it was not going to work. Thank goodness I have a hidden key. But many unexpected events are difficult and painful.

However, we were not promised nor guaranteed a life of comfort. What we are assured in Scripture is that in times of trouble, we will be comforted. In the Beatitudes of Matthew, chapter 5, Jesus taught that the blessed are those who are hungry, or poor in spirit, who mourn, are meek, merciful, and pure in heart. The blessed in those uncomfortable situations will be comforted. They will inherit the earth, they will see God, and more.

Comfort will come, but that cannot be our primary objective. When it is, comfort leads to complacency. Complacency leads to laziness which leads us to be more inner focused as individuals and then as a church.

Being a follower of Jesus is a lifelong journey of transformation—the pursuit of growing more Jesus-like. Transformation is not always comfortable. Putting others first is not always comfortable. Giving generously of one's time and treasures is not either.

God is calling all of us into Kingdom work. There are different tasks and assignments depending on our circumstances, our gifts, our aptitudes. We all have a part to play in the ministries at Union. Here's what I'm talking about.

The Vision Team has been meeting since September, coming together to listen to God and each other and plan for our future. That plan includes the creation of strategic goals and identifying specific steps to accomplish them. The Vision Team will share its recommendations to all the church committee members January 11. This is in preparation for the vote of the Administrative Council, set for our January 27 meeting.

The Vision Team has devoted many hours to provide a blueprint for the ways we believe God is leading us to be the church in 2025 and beyond. We have identified four key areas:

- Transformational ministries to help our faith mature
- Growth of the church with special focus on youth and families
- An informative financial plan
- Enhancing our communication to those outside the church

Our mission is "Developing followers of Jesus Christ to serve the World." Our mission has not changed, but how we carry out that mission must be constantly changing. That's where the discomfort can come in. May we all be ready to play our parts, being open to change, stepping up to serve, being committed to prayer without ceasing—for the cause of Christ.

Let's remember comfort is about the blessings we receive when we obey God's call. That's where we find true joy! O yes, tidings of comfort and joy! Sing it with me!

In Christ alone,  
*Pastor Allynn*

3  
Journey

4  
Youth

6  
Birthdays/Anniversaries  
Aldersgate Fellowship

8  
UWF

10-11  
Official Roll

12  
Music Tidings

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**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

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

### REMINDER FOR ELECTRONIC GIVERS

Did you change the amount of your 2025 pledge from your 2024 pledge? If so, please remember to make that change on Union UMC's "Online Giving" page. The church office **does not have** the authority to make the change for you. Thank you for using Union UMC's Electronic Giving program!

### Administrative Council Meeting January 27

The first administrative council meeting of 2025 will be on Monday, January 27, at 6:30 in the Krause Room. All church members are welcome. Administrative council members and members at large should attend. A key agenda item will be reviewing and approving the proposed 2025 -2027 Vision Plan.



Union Methodist live stream services can be accessed through  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent5122>  
or later through YouTube  
Union United Methodist Church,  
Belleville, Illinois

*Live stream services at  
9 am and 11:15 am*

## 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):

**January 31**  
**February 28**  
**March 28**



### A New Church for Union Methodist, 1955

After five years of planning and 15 months of construction, Union Methodist's new sanctuary opened for worship on Wednesday, January 12, 1955. Earlier in the evening, many parishioners attended a "closing" service at Union's old sanctuary (the former First Methodist Church) at 15 East Washington. They then departed for the new church building at 721 East Main. Carrying their hymnals with them, current church members Alice Gyerman and Tom Wade with others walked from the old building down Main Street and climbed the church's steps west of the sanctuary to the main entrance at the upper parking lot. There they joined other members, including Joan Braswell, who had arrived by other means. The doors opened, and the congregation entered singing. Reverend Gene Leckrone led the service of communion. The sanctuary was not quite finished. The chancel's wood paneling and religious furnishings had not been installed, but all was ready for the first Sunday service on January 19. In addition to Alice, Tom, and Joan, other current parishioners at this service included Grace Moon and Myrtle West. Illinois Conference Bishop Charles Wesley Brashares delivered the sermon. The anthem was Fanny Crosby's "Open the Gates of the Temple." They are still open 70 years later.

### Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity Tuesday, January 28 @ 9:30am

This is an annual event where community churches come together. Since 1908 Christians around the world observe this time of prayer for followers of Jesus, that we may all be one.

The location is the Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Orthodox Church, 400 Huntwood Road, Swansea, IL. It is particularly appropriate to have this year's event at an Orthodox Church since 2025 marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicea and the Nicene Creed.

You might remember last year Union made an impressive showing with many in attendance. Please let Pastor Allynn know if you plan to attend this year.

## JOURNEY CHURCH

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

### Continuing the Journey *What's Happening in Freeburg*

I recently posted on my personal Facebook profile something about being an introvert. A friend responded with something that I thought is insightful. She said, "I am an introvert. I love my alone time and my books. I do like people (some people) but it is really hard for me to get out of my own space. COVID and working from home (which I love) have made it even harder to get out of my space."

It made me think that is part of why people aren't attending church regularly. You certainly can worship from home or anywhere, but it's not the same as corporate worship. Even we introverts have something to gain by participating with others. There is value in gathering together, making a statement of faith together, and encouraging one another that doesn't happen on your own. We weren't designed to do life alone, which is why we are continually praying and working to draw more people to Journey.

Now for some good news: It may be hard to believe, but Mike Olson has officially been our pastor for over a year now – since December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. As one of the keepers of attendance, I can tell you I've noticed that our overall numbers are up, but we have such a traveling and camping congregation that it's sometimes hard to tell by our Sunday morning numbers. Pastor Mike crunched the data to share in a recent sermon. Comparing July – December of 2023 to the same time span in 2024...

attendance is up 14.5%

1<sup>st</sup> time visitors are up 300%

15% of those new visitors became new members (on average, less than 10% of new visitors come back a second time, so that is significant)

Those numbers represent people who feel genuinely loved and welcomed when they come to Journey, and that's a special thing. One of my prayers every Sunday morning is that we be present to the people who choose to walk through the doors that day because it's so easy to be distracted by many other things that seem important.

Let's keep praying and stretching ourselves to be there for others – and for ourselves.

*"Cathy O"*

Cathy Obernuefemann  
Journey Worship Leader

### EVERY WEEK

- Worship - Sundays at 10:15 am with "JPB" (Journey Praise Band)
- Youth Group - Sundays at 6:00 pm; contact Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org
- AA and AI-Anon - Thursdays at 7:00 pm; Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 8 – SECOND Wednesday Meal: Football food  
January 15 – Bible study resumes



**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

The sign-up for 2025 is now available in the Welcome Center (look for yellow folder).

It's a great way to honor or remember someone.

Arrangements are \$25 and you may take them home with you after the service.  
Contact a member of the Worship committee if you have any questions.

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





## YOUTH NEWS

Angela@unionumc.org

**\*\*Weekly Youth Meetings\*\*** Our youth group meets most Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the youth room at Union.

We engage in games, enjoy snacks, and explore the Bible together. Students in grades 6 through 12 are warmly invited to join us.

### Confirmation

Ages: 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Classes begin Sunday, March 16 from 4 pm - 6 pm in the Union youth room; dinner will be provided as youth group meets directly after.

Dates for classes: March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13 (4 pm - 6 pm)

Confirmation Sunday: April 20 during 9 am service

If a youth student has already been confirmed, we ask they participate as a youth leader (only if they would like to).



## Jesus and Me

When: Tuesdays, February 11, 18, 25, and March 4  
Time: 3:30 PM - 5:15 PM

Where: Union United Methodist Church in Belleville

Snacks provided

Ages: Kindergarten - 1st grade

We will be doing crafts, biblical teachings, and games!

Fill this form out to register your child:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScK30I4UdncebPNgzM6wNZt2xxuvdBo-5\\_q4UFz9SxteM3vgQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScK30I4UdncebPNgzM6wNZt2xxuvdBo-5_q4UFz9SxteM3vgQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For more information: Angela@unionumc.org



Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
from 10:00 – 11:30 in the  
MOMsConnect Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

January 26 – Coffee and Games  
February 23 – Spa Day  
March 23 – Music Therapy Session  
April 27 – Teacher's Gifts  
May 18 – Schedule for 2025-2026

Even though we have had Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, people have continued to remember those in need and have continued to donate to the Food Pantry. In September, we had monetary donations from **Bob Brunkow, Ann Braun, Linda Moyer, Don Eltrich, Jerry Sauerwein and Jerry and Skippy Turner**. In October, we received donations from **Linda Moyer, Bob Brunkow, The Turners, Ann Braun and Jerry Sauerwein**. In November we received donations from **Ann Braun, Bob Brunkow, Linda Moyer, The Turners, Jerry Sauerwein and Sheri Hill**. Thank you so much!



We also had the Boy Scout Food Drive in November! Our **Boy Scout Troop # 53, led by Jim Maule** always does a great job for us!! Thank you!

And thank you to **Linda Moyer** who stepped up to the plate to assume shopping duties for the Food Pantry. Believe me, it is not an easy job!! Thank you, Linda! And thank you, **Sarah Lanxon**, for taking my place! Sincerely, *Kay MacIntire*

## Raise Right

Order: January 12; Pickup: January 19

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

Please visit [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com) for a full list of retailers, or contact Stephanie Pierce at 618-406-7960 for more information.



## Family BUNCO Night

Sunday, January 26  
from 5:00-7:00 pm

Hosted by Mary Circle

More details to follow; stay tuned!



Join us for coffee and fellowship in  
McKinley Hall  
following 9:00 am worship.





*Thank You*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Tea. It is so wonderful to have so many ladies participate—if you're a UWF member or not. Thanks to all!

*Sandy Patrick and  
Jo Elyn Lynn*



### Our November-December 2024 Acolytes

Azalea Zaun  
Declan Zaun  
Roman Zaun  
Mandolin Petterson Kaemmerer  
Cailyn Kaemmerer  
Tess Kaemmerer  
Lochlyn Wilson  
Madeline Hill  
Rylee Melton  
Abby Melton



(John 8:12 RSV) "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" submitted by Zoey Pierce



Miriam Circle enjoyed a Christmas celebration at the home of Sandy and Bill Kuehn. A delicious meal was followed by fun and games and even included a take home gift! You are welcome to join us for the next meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the Krause Room. For more information you may contact Marvinna or Sandy Kuehn.

# February



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Tiemann
- 3 Debbie Rosendahl
- 5 Roger Knox  
Andrew Twenhoefel  
Evelyn Schmitt
- 7 Susan Botula  
Sarah Peters
- 11 Jordan Shock  
Stephanie Hawks
- 12 Kelly McKeown
- 13 Gina Heiligenstein
- 14 Mark Lanxon
- 15 Don Poirot
- 16 Ed Emge
- 17 Cynthia Knox
- 18 Jerry Turner  
Linda Moyer
- 19 Jerry Sauerwein
- 22 Kay Watt
- 23 George Uhl
- 24 Cathy Obernuefemann
- 27 Julian Perez



## ANNIVERSARIES



February 11, 1984  
Douglas & Tamara Morton

February 18  
Glenn & Jennifer Blondin



### Aldersgate Fellowship Group



#### "Winter Wonderland"

The Aldersgate Fellowship Group will meet on Sunday, January 12 in the Krause Room for food, fellowship, games and prizes.

- 4:00 set up
- 4:30 gather, food should be ready to serve
- 4:45 eat
- 5:30 cleanup
- 5:45 games/ prizes

Please rsvp to Karen, [sewwutt4@aol.com](mailto:sewwutt4@aol.com) or 618-971-5079, by Friday, January 9, and tell her what you would like to bring. As always, if you would like to provide \$10.00 instead of food, that is an option, too. You are welcome to invite church friends, too!

#### MENU:

Appetizers  
Sloppy Joes  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Vegetable side dishes  
Applesauce  
Dessert

*Please check your email for recipes/options if you are bringing food.*



#### Chicago Tap Theater at The Hett

Chicago Tap Theater will present the creativity and joy of tap dancing at The Hett at McKendree University on Saturday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm. Chicago Tap Theater is one of the most critically acclaimed, well-deserved dance companies in Chicago. All are invited to attend with the Aldersgate Fellowship Group. Your \$32.00 check, payable to "Union UMC", will reserve your Group rate ticket. Deadline is January 26th.

Contact Joe Milton with any questions, [joseph.milton@att.net](mailto:joseph.milton@att.net) or 618-235-5344.

#### Men's BBQ Tuesdays

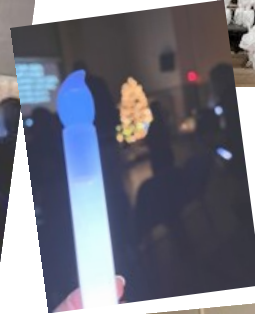
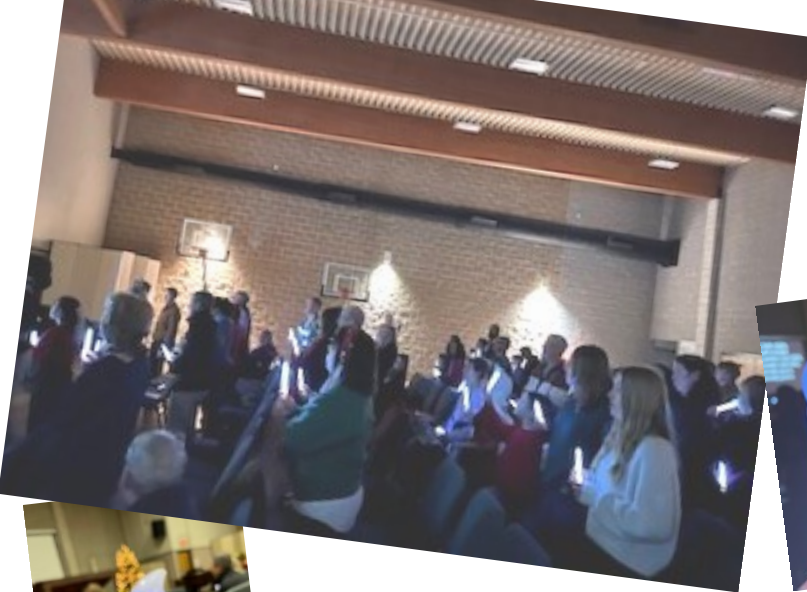
Starting Tuesday, January 14th, and every 2nd Tuesday of the month thereafter, all men of Union UMC are invited to lunch at Bandana's BBQ, in Fairview Heights, for a time of fellowship, fun and barbecue!



No reservation needed, just show up at 11:30. Bring a friend! Questions? Contact Joe Milton at 618-235-5344 or [joseph.milton@att.net](mailto:joseph.milton@att.net).

Happy New Year!





Christmas Eve Service  
By Kids, For Kids





UWF

Christmas meeting



### United Women in Faith News January



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year's Eve! I am looking forward to the new year and some of the exciting programs and events UWF has planned for 2025.

I want to thank Elizabeth Circle for the beautiful Christmas program, 'The Women of Christmas,' and the delicious brunch. The words and inspiration of Martha, Mary and Anna set the stage for a blessed Christmas.

Also, thank you to Marjie Simms for volunteering to serve as our Vice President this year!

Let's get 2025 started with a family-friendly afternoon of Bunco on Sunday, January 26, 5-7pm, hosted by Mary Circle. I'm practicing rolling dice with my non-dominant right hand! If you missed the fun in September, you don't want to miss this! Lydia Circle has the card ministry for January. Elizabeth Circle will host a bake sale this month.

February will be a busy month with our unit meeting on February 12, 10-12 in the Krause Room. We will get an update on the UWF and church budget for 2025. Elizabeth Circle will be hostess and Miriam Circle has the card ministry.

The Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat is February 22, 9-2 at Chatham UMC. The theme is 'Soul and Earth Care.' Come with ears to hear what the Bible says and how our Church and UWF are working to enliven our souls and sustain the earth. Registration is \$25, which includes lunch; due by February 12. Please coordinate with Laura Koehler if you plan to attend.

Thank you for your prayers and cards. I am recovering from my fall before Christmas (broken left-dominant arm, broken right kneecap) but still have a good way to go. My husband is a great nurse and executive assistant! Pray for him, please.

Blessings,  
Jenny





**2025 OFFICIAL ROLL  
OF THE  
UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
721 East Main / Belleville, Illinois 62220 / (618) 233-6375  
www.unionumc.org

<b>*Senior Pastor</b>	
Allynn Walker	604-2389
<b>*Assistant Pastor</b>	
Joe Scheets	217-377-8049
<b>*Assistant Pastor</b>	
Mike Olson	409-9358
<b>*Lay Members of Annual Conference (2024):</b>	
Mike Engel	979-4432
Danny Nollman	334-0320
Jenny Olson	
<b>Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference</b>	
Bette Frette	406-3770
Bill Campbell	513-208-3422
<b>*Administrative Council Chairperson</b>	
Jenny Johnson	792-7810
<b>*Administrative Council Vice Chairperson</b>	
Julee Baysinger	540-9451
<b>*Secretary, Administrative Council</b>	
<b>*Lay Leader</b>	
Lisa Koerkenmeier	979-2085
<b>*Finance Committee Chairperson</b>	
Mike Engel	979-4432
<b>*Treasurer</b>	
Dick Frette	235-8266
<b>*Board of Trustees Chairperson</b>	
<i>ELECTED</i>	
<b>*Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson</b>	
Danny Nollman	334-0320
<b>*Worship Chairperson</b>	
Thel Lemons	530-8435
<b>*Outreach Co-Chairpersons</b>	
Laura Koehler	792-8210
Bill Koehler	
Joe Milton	235-5344
<b>*Nurture Chairperson</b>	
Jan Wiggs	791-2048
<b>*Evangelism Chairperson</b>	
Joe Milton	235-5344
<b>*Visions Committee</b>	
Judy Woodruff	791-5655
<b>*Sunday School Superintendent</b>	
Jane Peters	235-3804
<b>*United Women in Faith</b>	
Jenny Johnson	792-7810
<b>*United Methodist Men</b>	
Tom Wade	530-2623
<b>*United Methodist Youth</b>	
Angela Rawson	432-254-2944

\*Administrative Council Members

**MEMBERS AT LARGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Sandy Kuehn	Judy Woodruff	Dave Favreau
Don Stein	Mike Olson	Bette Frette
Bob Dintelmann	Bill Campbell	Mardy Eisloeffel
Bill Hutcherson	Marvina Lee	Dianne Hilgert
Suzanne Hutcherson		

**Committee On Finance (203): Chairperson: Mike Engel**  
Jenny Johnson, *Chairperson of Administrative Council*; Lisa Koerkenmeier, *Lay Leader*; **ELECTED**, *Trustees*; Dan Nollman, *Staff Parish Chairperson*; Allynn Walker, *Senior Pastor*; Mike Engel, Danny Nollman, Jenny Olson, *Annual Conference Delegates*; Dick Frette, *Treasurer*.

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Gus Hilgert	Judy Woodruff	Lary Eckert
Sherry Greiman	Dale Helms	Dave Steinkamp
Arlene Glaeser	Mike Engel	Jim Lemons

**Board of Trustees (204): ELECTED , Chairperson**

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Dianne Hilgert	Skip Uhl	Dennis Watt
Jim Maule	Marvina Lee	David Braswell
Jerry Koerkenmeier	Kay MacIntire	Charles Rogers

**Staff-Parish (202): Danny Nollman, Chairperson**  
*Ex-Officio*: Mike Engel, Danny Nollman, Jenny Olson, *Annual Conference Delegates*; Allynn Walker, *Sr. Pastor*

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Suzanne Hutcherson	Arlene Glaeser	Nancy Rogers
Mardy Eisloeffel	Cindy Knox	Dan Nollman
Doug Greiman		Theresa Lumos

**Lay Leadership (201): Senior Pastor, Allynn Walker, Chairperson** *Ex-Officio*: Lisa Koerkenmeier, *Lay Leader*

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Jerry Sauerwein	Suzanne Hutcherson	Sandy Kuehn
Barb Cleland	Lisa Koerkenmeier	Linda Edwards
Mardy Eisloeffel		

**Worship Committee (250): Thel Lemons, Chairperson**  
*Ex-Officio*: Allynn Walker, *Senior Pastor*; Carole Eckert, *Music Director*; Karen Milton, *Altar Guild*; Julie Petrabor, *Youth & Children's Choirs*; Gail Long, *Organist*; Laura Koehler, *Communion Steward*; Dan Nollman, *Head Usher*; Beth Walz, *11:15 Service*

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Karen Milton	Tom Wade	Nancy Weston
Thel Lemons	Judy Eckert	Laura Koehler
	Dianne Hilgert	Patty Scheets

**Outreach Committee (302): Laura Koehler, Bill Koehler, Joe Milton, Co- Chairpersons**  
*Ex-Officio*: Kay MacIntire, *Food Pantry*;

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Carol Morey	Lori Kinney	Connie Stein
Charles Treser	Linda Moyer	Laura Koehler
Julie Callaghan	Barbara Harszy	Bill Koehler
Suzanne Hutcherson	Joe Milton	

Continued on page 11



**Nurture Committee (192): Jan Wiggs, Chairperson**

Ex-Officio: Jane Peters, SS Superintendent; Angela Rawson, Family Ministry Director

**2025**

Jan Wiggs  
Karen Buehler  
Kay Watt

**2026**

Jordyn Walz  
Brad Ebersohl  
Rose Cross

**2027**

Doris Wiemers  
Morgan Howland  
Mary Peck  
Laura Koehler

**Evangelism Committee (4): Joe Milton, Chairperson****2025**

Bill Baysinger  
Joe Milton

**2026**

Marjie Simms  
Bruce Simms  
Gigi Dowling Urban

**2027**

Laura Koehler  
Jerry Sauerwein  
Valerie Morgan

**Visions Committee (241): Judy Woodruff, Chairperson**

Jenny Johnson  
Lisa Koerkenmeier  
Mike Engel

Danny Nollman  
Thel Lemons  
Laura Koehler

Kay Watt  
Joe Milton  
Dianne Hilgert

**Safety & Security: Dave Philip, Chairperson****Communications/IT: Dick Frette, Chairperson****Visitation: Dennis Poole, Chairperson****Clergy Assigned to the Church Conference (13):**

Robert Edwards, Retired  
Roger Knox, Retired  
Edward Weston, Retired  
Dr. Joe Scheets, Retired

**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).

**Visitation and Other Good Stuff  
with Dr. Joe Scheets**

January 2025

**Q. Where's Waldo? Where's Joe?**

**A. Here & There, but not quite yet  
Everywhere**

"I miss seeing you in church, Joe. Everything okay?"

Thank you for asking! By the grace of God, I'm...

1. **HERE.** As I wrote in my 2024 Charge Conference Report, I'm still happily on staff here part-time. A difference is that since the beginning of 2024, at the direction of the Finance and Staff Parish Committees, my primary ministry here is now hospital visitation.

Please remember that *not all hospitals tell us who and when is admitted*, so if you are, or if you know of a friend or family member who is, let me know [JoeScheets3@gmail.com or 217.377.8049]. I'd much rather be told more than once than not at all...because *if I don't know, I can't go.*

2. **THERE.** At least twice a month (sometimes three times) I preach at the Wanda UMC by Wood River and Edwardsville, where I'm officially appointed by our Bishops as a retired pastor. This, too, is part-time.

Yup, there's a shortage of pastors...*I believe God still calls people, and I'd love to talk with you about what God's calling you to do these days.* RSVP

3. **Almost EVERYWHERE.** When I'm neither here nor there, I'm wearing my Associate District Superintendent hat (see the accompanying picture) either literally or figuratively, filling in for our District Superintendent. And if you guessed this is also part-time, you are correct.

Sometimes I'm a guest in a pulpit, or leading a meeting, or in a pew being overtly supportive of the appointed pastor or fulfilling other responsibilities.

There are two of us doing this, and the other lives in Peoria. This position has been necessitated by the doubling of the geography of districts and an accompanying reduction in the number of District Superintendents covering them.

THEREFORE. "I miss seeing you in church, Joe. Everything okay?" Thank you for asking and for understanding. I really miss you, too!

Yours in Christ,  
Joe

THIS YEAR I WANT  
TO BE MORE LIKE  
JESUS:

- Hang out with sinners.
- Upset religious people.
- Tell stories that make people think.
- Choose unpopular friends.
- Be kind, loving and merciful.
- Take naps on boats.



Union United Methodist Church  
721 East Main  
Belleville, Illinois 62220  
Return Service Requested

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Belleville, Illinois  
Permit #124



Our thanks to all of our wonderful musicians for their lovely Advent and Christmas music and to the United Women in Faith for the lovely Christmas tea!



**Bake sale  
January 26**

Supports UWF's missions in 2025

Please check out Elizabeth Circle's offerings after church on January 26.

*Free-will donations accepted  
when you make your choices.*



**CROSSWALK**

Sundays at 11:15

Chapel

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

#### MUSIC TIDINGS



Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke: 2:29-32

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Infinite Light" - English traditional

Rev. Walker's sermon:

"Life is Too Short to Make Excuses"; Luke 14:15-24

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Sanctuary Choir anthem - "I Will Arise" - Shaw/Parker

Rev. Walker's sermon: "Life is Too Short to Compare"; John 3:22-30

King's Kids will sing

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Be Still" - Marroli

Rev. Walker's sermon:

"Life is Too Short to Stay in the Boat"; Matthew 14:22-33

Joyful Noise will sing

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Jesu, Joy of Loving Hearts" - Forman

Rev. Walker's sermon: "Life Is Too Short To Be Afraid"; Psalm 34:1-14  
Communion