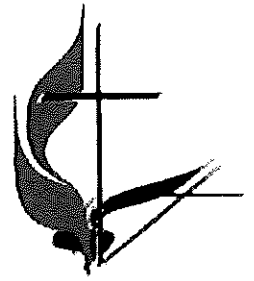


Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World

Tidings

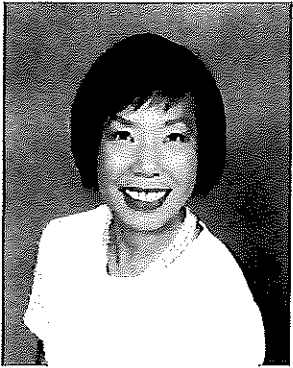
Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, Illinois July 2025



The Tidings Welcomes our new Pastor and her Message

Dear Union UMC Family,

With great joy and gratitude, I introduce myself as your new pastor. I am Rev. Angie Lee, and I am honored to walk this journey of faith



with you. I come with a deep sense of calling, hope, and a desire to listen—to God, to this community, and to each of you.

As we begin this new chapter, I've been praying about the kind of church we are called to become together. Three Scripture verses have come to my heart.

Joy – Our Inner Source and Heart Posture

“Joy of the Lord is your strength.” — Nehemiah 8:10, NIV

Joy is a spiritual strength. It flows from knowing that we are held by a faithful God, no matter what we face, even in difficult times.

A joyful church is a healthy church. When we nurture joy in worship, in community, and in service, we become a people of light. Joy draws people in—not because everything is perfect, but because they sense God's grace at work among us.

Excellence – Our Expression in Ministry

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” — Matthew 25:21

Excellence in ministry isn't about perfection or performance. It's about offering our best—our hearts, our gifts, our time—with love and intention. God is worthy of our best. Whether we are greeting someone at the door, preparing music, leading a study, or serving behind the scenes, we do it with purpose.

Excellence doesn't mean doing more—it means doing what matters most, faithfully and well. With focus and passion, our ministry becomes a reflection of God's beauty and power.

Justice, Mercy, and Humility – Our Outward Witness

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” — Micah 6:8, NIV

(continued to p. 2)

What's Inside

2 and 3

Pastor Lee's Message, continued

Pastor Joe's Message

6 and 7

August birthdays and anniversaries

8

Music Tidings

Third Wednesday 5:30 pm

United Methodist Men

Krause Room

Every Thursday 9:00 am

Ruth Circle

Quilters/Stitchers

Krause Room

Every Wednesday, 9:00 am

Horticulture

Coffee 8:00 am

Krause Room

*Sundays 9:00 am Worship
Kindergarten through fourth grade
during 9 am worship*

Pastor's Message (cont. from page 1)

This verse offers a vision for how we live our faith beyond the church walls.

- To do justice means we pay attention to the suffering of others and work for a more compassionate and equitable world.
- To love mercy means we extend grace freely, forgive generously, and welcome the stranger with compassion.
- To walk humbly with God means we stay grounded—not in ego, but in trust and obedience.

As we follow Christ together, may these words shape our soul, our life, our ministry, and our mission.

My door is always open, and my heart is eager to learn from you and walk alongside you in faith. I am truly grateful to begin this journey together. May you be blessed—and may others be blessed—through the ministry of Union United Methodist Church.

*With love and joy,
Rev. Angie Lee
Union United Methodist
Church*

About Sleep in Heavenly Peace: No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!

Several national non-profit organizations provide beds to needy children. Sleep in Heavenly Peace, (SHP), Hope to Dream, Sweet Dream Makers, and Beds for Kids are examples.

These organizations build and distribute beds, mattresses and bedding, to children who lack a proper sleeping space.

SHP has national and local non-profit groups building and delivering beds. They focus on providing safe and comfortable sleeping space for children who are needy.

Union's Evangelism Committee serves the Illinois Metro East area of St. Clair County and Madison County. There are also chapters in the greater St. Louis, Missouri area.

(cont. Donate Bedding: third column, page 3)

Tidings

Union United
Methodist Church
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Belleville, Illinois 62220

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"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!"

The Evangelism Committee of Union UMC is grateful to God and to our members who helped build fifty twin beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace--Metro East Chapter on June 7!

We thank everyone who made monetary gifts to make this Build Day possible. Sleep in Heavenly Peace provides beds to children ages three to seventeen who are sleeping in unwanted conditions such as on the floor, on a sofa or sharing a bed with a parent or siblings.

We are working together to ensure that:

"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!"



Visitation and Other Good Stuff with Dr. Joe Scheets

"We've been driven apart by groups and labels and are losing who we, all together, really are."

That's a loose, and polite, paraphrase of someone I heard on the radio while driving today.

I wasn't sure if the speaker was referencing a family, a local church, a denomination, or our country.

An old song says, "If you talk about me, the story's the same one." We could paraphrase that lyric to be, "If you talk about us, the story's the same one."

Again, referencing a family, a local church, a denomination, or our country.

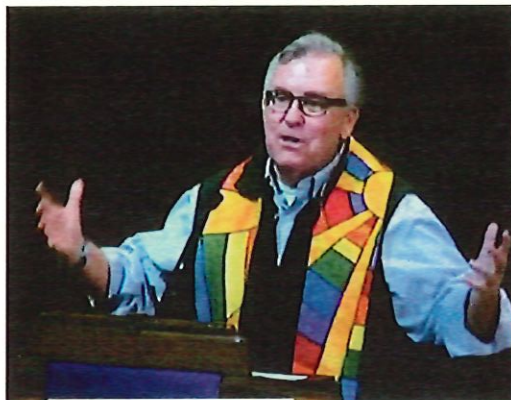
That's not who we're called to be as a church.

"Joe, where'd you get that notion?"

Glad you asked.

Let's eavesdrop on our Lord praying for the disciples: *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.*

May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one, I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.



Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. And he includes us in that prayer from **John 17:20-23.**

Let's remember what our old friend St. Paul tells us to do: *Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.* (**Galatians 6:2**)

Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers

and sisters. (Galatians 6:10)

Join me in praying for courage and the power of the Holy Spirit to live into those three Scriptures and so many more. By the grace of God, I still believe we can.

Together. As always, I'd love to hear from you anytime for any reason: you can email me at **JoeScheets3@gmail.com** or text or call me on my cell phone **217.377.8049.**

Yours in Christ,
Joe.

Donate Bedding

You can donate new twin size sheets, pillows, and bedding items to a chapter drop off at Grace Church 5151 North Illinois Fairview Heights, Illinois. Donation checks can be mailed to Cromwelt Ct. Maryville, Illinois 62062

Second Tuesday Barbeque

On the second 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, July 8, at 11:30 A.M., we'll meet at Beast Craft BBQ Co., 20 South Belt-West, Belleville. No reservation required, just show up for great conversation and BBQ!

ANNUAL YARD SALE

to benefit Journey Church.

Time to clean out your closets, garage, basement. We'll even accept furniture.

Donations will be accepted 8/27 & 8/29

10am - 4 pm and Thursday 8/28 noon - 6pm

Sherry Greiman can be reached at 618-560-8802.

"Continuing the Journey"

What's Happening in Freeburg

Our mission team returned on June 6 after spending a few hot days in Kentucky on a roof that needed repairs and shingles. The team made great headway, and the job was to continue with another team the following week. Photos are on our Journey Church Facebook page.

We have officially been asked to work the soda stand at Freeburg Homecoming on August 15 and 16. This year there will be one stand instead of two. We get paid a few hundred dollars, which will be given to youth missions. Volunteers will be appreciated.

Our annual Indoor Yard Sale benefiting youth missions has been scheduled for Saturday, August 30. We welcome your donations that week.

EVERY WEEK:

Worship - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
with Pastor Mike Olson

Youth Group - Sundays at 6:00 p.m. with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-kr2.org

(see calendar below for current date / time changes)

AA and Al-Anon - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Eric G. 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

Jul 2 – First Wednesday Event: Ice Cream Bar, 6pm

Jul 6 – Bill Campbell preaching

Aug 6 – First Wednesday Dinner: Breakfast, 6pm

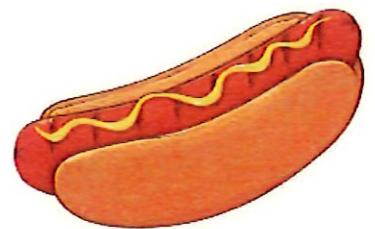
Aug 15-16 – Freeburg Homecoming Soda Stand

Aug 30 – Indoor Yard Sale

Cathy O. Journey Worship Leader

"But It's So Inconvenient!"

This is the response I often hear from members when I ask them to help with the Hot Dog Project. And they're right – it is inconvenient. The Hot Dog Project happens on Saturdays from 10:45 – 1:00 at the church. That's right, it chops up the day. It's inconvenient for us. BUT it's the best time to catch our neighbors walking by who might like a hot dog on a day when sack lunches are not available (and to offer them a prayer for whatever concerns them).



It's a way to make a personal contact with neighbors and offer them a connection with God. I'll bet that the fishermen Peter and Andrew thought it was inconvenient when Jesus asked them to cast out their nets yet again after they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. But what a catch they got! Are Hot dogs on Saturday too inconvenient to try?

We'll be starting the Hot Dog Project again on Saturdays in September and October. Call (314)397-3334 or text gidelgirl@gmail.com to volunteer for one Saturdays.

or more

Julie Callaghan

MOVING THE VISION FORWARD

Submitted by Judy Woodruff for the Visions Team

The Visions Team met June 23rd for the quarterly review of objectives that have been met since the last review in April 2025. They include...

KEY AREA #1

- For 2025, one teacher was identified and offered curriculum for a study group.
- The Director of Family Ministries worked closely with the youth to instill daily prayer.
- The youth have continued Bible studies on Sunday evenings and Thursday evenings.
- A self-care survey was created and sent to all Church members who have an e-mail, as well as having hard copy surveys available in the Welcome Center.
- The Card Ministry is continuing in 2025 with the need to expand.

KEY AREA #2

- Fifth Sunday Breakfasts have once again begun.
- The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts based at Union are accomplishing projects and is ongoing.
- We are continuing support for *Kids for Christ* program and the Friday lunches.
- We have identified families who work and live at Scott Air Force Base.
- A Fine Arts Committee has been formed and discussion has taken place to offer four programs for the 2025/26 season.
- We have identified a music school interested in holding their recital at Union.

KEY AREA #3

- The Finance Committee has provided information on all of Union's major financial accounts in the *Tidings*.
- Currently, Union's debt stands at 15% of approved budget for 2025 (well under the 20% target).

KEY AREA #4

- Received approval from the Staff Parish Committee to increase the Director of Family Ministries' hours to 30 hours per week in order to lead the Communications Team.
- The Communications Team has been identified and has been meeting.
- The environment at Union has been identified.
- Working to get bids for creating a new Church website, advertising/billboards, brochures, etc.

The Visions Team feels that we are on target with achieving the Objectives of the Visions Plan. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Judy Woodruff at 618-791-5655 or woodruff74@charter.net. Your continued prayers and support are deeply appreciated.

FINE ARTS IS BACK AT UNION

In answer to the Visions Plan, Key Area #2 – *Develop a diverse arts program to attract families and individuals to attend shows at Union*, the newly formed Fine Arts Committee has met twice to determine if it is feasible to bring back the series at Union, and the answer is yes. It was determined that we would initially offer four performances for the 2025/26 season. The first concert will present the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Christine Brewer Saturday, October 11, 2025, in our Sanctuary. The remainder of the series will be announced upon obtaining confirmed dates. In addition, we will offer receptions following the concerts. Karen Milton has generously agreed to organize receptions serving cookies and refreshments. Please contact Karen if you would like provide cookies for the 2025/26 series. You can reach her at sewwutt4@aol.com.

In addition, financial support for this season's concerts would be welcomed. If you would like to provide the means to offer outstanding concerts that bring the community into our church, please send a gift to Union UMC, 721 East Main Street, Belleville, Ill. 62220, with "Fine Arts" in the memo line. We appreciate your interest and support!

Union Fine Arts Series Committee

Susan Botula
Carole Eckert
Gail Long
Mary McIntire Pryor
Karen Milton
Julie Petraborg
Dave Philip
Gary Voelker
Angela Rawson
Judy Woodruff
Mike Woodruff



Elizabeth Circle had a very enjoyable, tasty lunch at the Blue Owl for their June outing. We had lots of laughs, but missed those who could not join us. Thank you, Carl Buehler, for driving us in the church van.

*"My command is this: Love each other
as I have loved you." John 15:12*



Happy 101 birthday, Grace Moon! with Mary Philip who stopped by St. Paul's on June 11 to wish Grace the best and got Grace's entire exercise class to sing "Happy Birthday" to Grace --a fun time for all!

United Women in Faith Calendar

July 20 Mission U, Springfield

August 20 Executive Committee
Meeting & Lunch at Marjie
Simms' home



United Women in Faith News

Our summer schedule is relaxed as we have many members traveling. We are resting up for our busy schedule planned for the fall! Many circles are enjoying field trips and lunches out at local restaurants.

We received two awards recently for our hard work! One award was in recognition of our "Love in Action" unit, the other was a "Five Star Award" for contributing to all five channels of giving. These were both presented by our district in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Great job ladies!

Blessings, Marjie
Get Outlook for iOS

2025 Annual Conference

Mike Engel, one of our delegates to AC prepared this recap for anyone curious about what decisions were made. Thank you Mike for a great summary.

700 voting delegates

Twenty-Nine clergy retired in 2025
Ordained four Elders and one Deacon in full connection

Fourteen Congregations closed
(655-14=641)(551 paid 100%)
Our Conference Our Kids endowment is providing \$26,285 to each of our 5 child welfare agencies for pastoral support.

There will be a new Legislative Actions

Equitable Compensation. Minimum compensation for full-time pastors increased by 2.5%. • 2026 Conference Spending Plan. For 2026 the conference budget as amended will be \$7.604M. Down from \$8.013M. This will make apportionments 11.2%.

- Clergy Leave. Clergy members being reappointed will have the option of 2 weeks of vacation at the end of their assignment.
- Explore sale of Conference Center. The conference trustees are empowered to look at the options for

selling the conference center and report back.

- Financial Support for Little Grassy camp. \$300,000 was added back to the 2026 and 2027 budgets for Little Grassy.
- Constitutional Amendments. The four constitutional amendments were voted on and results forwarded to the General Conference for tabulation with the votes from the other conferences.

P.S. from Pastor Allynn.

It was the first Annual Conference at which our new bishops presided: Bishop Bigham-Tsai and Bishop David Bard. They did a great job of keeping us on task (no small task!!) and did it with humor and grace.

The Bishops both preached on this year's theme: Rivers of Grace: Hope that Does Not Disappoint. We were challenged on the one hand to recognize our current reality. There is struggle. There is suffering. We have a humanitarian crisis and it's easy to develop compassion fatigue. But on the other hand, we have hope through God which does not disappoint. Bishop Bingham-Tsai quoted one of my favorite theologians, N.T. Wright. He wrote: "When patience is Christian patience, the result is neither shallow optimism nor settled fatalism, but real hope."

One last thing: a new "slogan" has been created which paraphrases our UMC mission statement. It was designed to communicate the core practices and invitation of our mission to those who don't "speak church." Be loved – know how deeply God loves you. Be loving – share God's love with all. Amen to that!

For more info, go to igrc.org



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Linda Edwards
- 4 Lisa Koerkenmeier
- Rylee Melton Karl Walz
- 5 Janice Cappelletti
- 6 Marcie Altman
- 7 Jordyn Walz
- 8 Dale Helms
- 9 John Wade
- Abigail Melton
- 10 Jay Adams
- 11 Adam Hill
- 16 Judi Quimby
- Danielle Long
- 17 Gauge Barton
- 18 Pearl Spies
- 19 Gail Piersol
- Everett Edgington
- 20 Andrew Hill
- 21 Gus Hilgert
- Erin May
- 22 John Glover
- Hunter Kaemmerer
- 23 Lisa Melton
- Jim Fickel
- 24 Sam Hill
- 26 Madeline Hill
- 27 Noah Obernuefemann
- 28 Sandra Jones
- Kenneth Walker
- Sarah Heil
- Richard Kaemmerer
- 29 Skip Uhl
- Sandie Nobus
- 30 Arlene Glaeser
- Sue Davis



August 3, 2007
Tim & Mary
Delabre

August 6, 1989
Michael & Diane
Munie



August 6, 2016
Dean & Janet Criddle

August 10, 2008
Terry & Mary Mueth

August 15, 1970
John & Ann Glover

August 15, 1980
Bill & Martha Blackburn

August 16, 1980
Mike & Julie Callaghan

August 18, 1962
Don & Connie Stein

August 22, 1959
Richard & Patricia Hunsaker

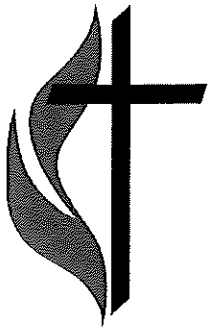
August 25, 1979
John & Jenny Johnson

August 26, 1979
Walter & Ann Braun

August 26, 2018
Bradley Ebersohl & Rose Cross

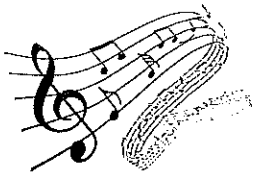
August 29, 1952
Jack & Bonnie Griffith

August 30, 1997
Joe & Patty
Scheets



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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 ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in
his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the
Lord." Psalm 105: 1-3*

SUNDAY, JULY 6

9AM Service- WE WELCOME REV. ANGIE LEE;
Reception following the service.

Sanctuary Choir Anthem- "God of Our
Fathers"- arr. McDonald with trumpet: Len Bull

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Celebrating True Freedom
through Christ's Strength"; Philippians 4:13

SUNDAY, JULY 13

9AM Service- Special Music: "It's Alright Now"-
arr. Lister Men's quartet: Michael Woodruff, Michael
Howland, Jim Eckert and Gary Voelker

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Living Purposely
Through Resilient Hope"; Lamentations 3: 22-23

SUNDAY, JULY 20

9AM Service- Special Music: "All Things Bright
and Beautiful"- John Rutter; soloist: Mary MacIntire
Pryor. Rev. Lee's sermon: "Purposeful Living through
Self-Care and Dignity"; Genesis 1: 27

SUNDAY, JULY 27

9AM Service- Special Music: "Beautiful Savior"-
arr. Knowles Ladies Ensemble

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Purposely Following
Christ in Discipleship"; Matthew 28: 19-20



"CROSSWALK"
11:15AM
Service in the Chapel

*A Special Thanks to all of our wonderful choir members and musicians for their wonderful
music, dedication, and worship inspiration through music!*

Carole Eckert