Tidings



(Inion (Inited Methodist Church, Belleville, II

February 6, 2025



I am excited about the upcoming worship service on Mother's Day this year. Our children will present the musical "Children's Letters to God." We heard a few excerpts from Julie Petraborg in the children's sermon last week. Of course my favorite was the letter that thanked God for their baby brother or sister, but reminded God that it was really a puppy they had requested.

God invites our letters; God covets our prayers. He is always more than ready to hear our joys, our concerns, our thanks, our praise, our cries for help. We are called to follow Christ's example whose whole life was saturated with prayer. He rose early in the morning to pray. He prayed

while on journeys. He left adoring crowds to find solitary places to spend time with His Father.

Here is something I've learned. When we become convinced of two things: one, our great need for help and two, God's great willingness to provide help, we become people of great prayer. Are you convinced of those things? I believe that if you really are, prayer becomes as instinctive & natural as breathing. It's not about self-discipline. Nobody here has to breathe out of self-discipline. Nobody here was awake for like one hour & then said, whoa, I forgot to start breathing today! There's not a day that goes by that you do not need the Lord and not a day that God is too busy to help you. Pray! Now more than ever we need to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Do you realize that every major spiritual renewal and revival in the Bible is connected to an intense time of prayer. At Pentecost, Luke made sure to note what the church was doing: "And these all with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer." (Acts 1:14) Later, the new church was dealing with intense opposition. So they got together to pray. "And when they had prayed, ...they continued to speak the Word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

A convincing case can be made that the single most important factor in the growth of the Methodist church was the requirement that all members be in a small group. This was a group that held each other accountable through prayer, prayer and more prayer. They called it "watching over one another in love." With the people engaged in prayer, their faith grew deeper and they were equipped for ministry.

Brothers and sisters, I invite you to make a commitment to prayer, prayer and more prayer. The Vision Team report identified developing "a vibrant prayer life at Union" as a major objective for us.

Come Sunday mornings at 8:30 to pray for our worship and that all would leave having been touched by God. Come the first Tuesday of the month to the sanctuary at 9 am to pray for our church, its people, our leaders, the community, our witness and ministries to those who do not know Jesus. Men, attend BBQ Tuesdays on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for fellowship, food, fun and prayer. (Location varies; see Tidings.) Women, join a United Women of Faith circle where prayer is a priority. One of the circles just created a prayer texting group. Check for the special prayer requests of those who receive our sack lunches; they are posted above the donation box in the welcome center. Pray faithfully over the weekly prayer list. Pray seeking God's direction for who you should invite to one of our services.

Let's commit ourselves to prayer, prayer and more prayer. We'll see a spiritual renewal and revival at Union. God has done it before. God will do it again. And, hey, if we get a puppy too, that's OK by me.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{In Christ alone,} \\ \textit{Pastor Allynn} \end{array}$

3 Journey

> 4 Youth

5 Birthdays/Anniversaries

> 6 UWF

10 Music Tidings

United Women in Faith

10:00 am
Krause Room
2nd Wednesday (not July)
Special events posted in
Tidings and the bulletin

United Methodist Men

Third Wednesday 5:30 pm Krause Room

Ruth Circle Quilters/Stitchers

Each Thursday 9:00 am Krause Room

Horticulture

Each Wednesday, 9 am *Coffee, 8 am*Krause Room

Junior Church

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

Lenten Services

Starting March 12

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Please join us for the meal at 5:15

When David faced Goliath

He didn't talk about

How dangerous Goliath was—

He talked about how great God is.

Don't talk fear.

Talk faith.

www.she-rises.net

Union Methodist live stream services

9 am service:

https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent5122 or later through YouTube Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, Illinois

11:15 service:

https://www.facebook.com/ CrosswalkUnionUmc

Tidings

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

Pastor: Rev. Allynn Walker

Thel Lemons, Editor

Please attach copy to email or text the information to the editor: chefthel@aol.com 618/530-8435

Upcoming *Tidings* deadlines (12 pm):

February 28 March 28 April 25 "<u>DINNER & THE WORD</u>" meets on the 1st Friday of every month at the home of Bruce & Marjie Simms. We will begin the evening with a potluck dinner & then watch one episode of "The Chosen" followed by a short discussion. Friday, March 7, at 6:30 pm we will watch Series #1, Episode #2. Come for Christian Fun, Fellowship & Growth!

The Simms' will provide the meat. Bring your choice of dish—and since it's March, please bring an Irish dish or something "green" to share! RSVP by Saturday, March 1, with number attending: (618) 623-9279. The Simms' address is 1745 St. Andrews Dr., Shiloh. Everyone is welcome!



Aldersgate Fellowship Group



The Aldersgate Fellowship Group is looking forward to attending the Union UMC Fine Arts Series on Thursday, March 6th, in the Sanctuary. SSG Aaron Eckert, a member of the U.S. Army Blues (part of the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Army), will be the featured soloist on trombone. The Eastern Illinois University Jazz Ensemble and the Belleville West High School Jazz Ensemble will be featured.

Bring a friend!
Freewill offering
A reception in McKinley Hall will follow the concert.



PLEASE BE A PART OF UNION'S NEW PRAYER MINISTRY

WE ARE COLLECTING PRAYER REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SACK LUNCH AND FOOD PANTRY PROGRAMS.

PRAYER REQUESTS ARE POSTED ON THE INFORMATION RACK LOCATED ABOVE THE DONATION BOX IN THE WELCOME CENTER

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK FOR THESE SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS EVERY SUNDAY AS YOU PASS THROUGH THE WELCOME CENTER.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE MOST SINCERELY APPRECIATED.



"2nd Tuesday BBQ"

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, the men of Union UMC are invited to get together for a time of fellowship, fun and BBQ! On Tuesday, February 11th, we will meet at Beast Craft BBQ, 20 South Belt-West, Belleville.

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

JOURNEY CHURCH

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

Continuing the Journey

What's Happening in Freeburg

We survived the snow and ice along with everyone else, only having to cancel worship on January 5th.

Two Bible study opportunities have begun:

- We are reading through the New Testament in 2025 as a church. We started on January 27th, and are basically reading one chapter per day, six days per week. There is even a Facebook group to serve as a place to chat about it: "Journey Through the New Testament 2025". So It's something we do on our own time.

 - Wednesday night Bible Study has resumed as of January 22nd and meets most Wednesdays at 6pm at Journey (not
- first Wednesdays). We are using discussion questions to talk about Pastor Mike's sermon from the Sunday prior. So far we have talked about The Lord's Prayer and where our treasure is to be found.

I have two thought-provoking funnies for you:

- As a volunteer at the St Louis contemporary Christian music radio station JOY FM, I was invited last week to meet Taya (think Hillsong music out of Australia). She talked a little, prayed a little, and sang a little – just her and a keyboard. But I loved one thing she said and want to remember it: "If God can use a donkey, he can use me". (She was referring to a story that starts in verse 21 of Numbers 22.)
- My uncle writes regular letters to the family. He's been dealing with some health issues that affected his voice so he had not sung in his church choir for awhile. Feeling better recently, he wrote, "I decided that as soon as I could sing better than an empty chair, I should get back to choir."

So I leave you with these thoughts: If God can use a donkey, he can use you and me. And whether or not you have a singing voice, you have something to contribute to your church that is better than an empty chair or an empty pew. Yes, take care of your health, of course – you are the only one who can do that. But then get back to doing what you can to contribute to the greater good. It will bless you as well.

> "Cathy 0" Cathy Obernuefemann Journey Worship Leader

EVERY WEEK

- Worship Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson
- Youth Group Sundays at 6:00 pm; contact Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or jolson@nashville-k12.org
- AA and Al-Anon Thursdays at 7:00 pm; Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- February 5 First Wednesday Meal: Italian night
- February 9 No youth group
 - Ash Wednesday; no First Wednesday meal; worship service
- March 16 Confirmation classes begin
- March 29 Journey work day





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

Bring yourself, friends, snacks & your portable hobby!

Please note: Hobby Time will not meet during the Lenten Season, March 5 to April 16. We will start again on Wednesday, April 23.

Call Becky Keiser with questions: 618-795-0317

The public is cordially invited to attend the 60th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM, at Bellecourt Manor, 225 East A Street in Belleville.

This year's theme is "Sharing our abundance; honoring every person's dignity; creating authentic community".

We are honored to introduce Brigadier General (Retired) John Michel, who will deliver the Inspirational Message.

For more information, please see Jane Peters.





YOUTH NEWS

Angela@unionumc.org

Youth Schedule

No youth: February 9th (Super Bowl Sunday)

February 21-22: Lock-In at Union UMC

Arrival: 7 PM on Friday Departure: 8 AM on Saturday

Meals: Donuts provided for breakfast; snacks and

drinks available throughout the night

Activities: Games, worship, movie screening, and

morning Bible study

Must RSVP by emailing Angela Rawson

Cost: \$10 per youth

No youth: Feb. 23rd - we are doing a Family Bowl in

placement at Bel-Air bowl from 2 PM-4 PM

Mission Trip Meetings: We will meet about mission trip things, play "get to know you" games, and do a small Bible study - meet in the Youth Room at Union

February 16 at 6 PM March 16 at 6 PM April 13 at 6 PM May 11 at 6 PM

March 2: Escape room

Time: Arrive at 4:30 PM

Pick up: 6 PM

Location: Escape 618: 102 East Main Street

Belleville, IL 62220 Cost: \$35 per youth

March 16 - April 13: Confirmation Classes

Location: Union UMC Youth Room

6th - 12th grade Time: 4 PM - 6 PM

Dates: March 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13

Dinner provided

Youth will follow at 6 PM

April 20: Confirmation Sunday



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.

Family Ministry Schedule

Angela@unionumc.org

February 23rd: Family Bowl

Where: Bel-Air Bowl Time: 2PM-4PM

Cost: Bring \$10 per person

RSVP: email or text Angela if you are attending and how many are joining you by February 15

Children's Schedule

Jesus & Me Prayer Program

When: February 11, 18, 25, March 4

Time: 5:30 - 7:30

Location: Union UMC; Children's wing on the second

floor

Age: K - 1st grade

Bible lesson, games, crafts, Dinner

RSVP using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/

e/1FAIpQLScK30I4UdncebPNgzM6wNZt2xxuvd Bo-5 q4UFz9SxteM3vgQ/viewform?usp=sf link

March 15: Children's Conference

Location: St. John's UMC in Edwardsville

Time: 9 - 4 Age: K - 5th grade



Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 in the MOMSConnect Room on the 4th floor.

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

Raise Right



Order: March 2; Pickup: March 9

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

Please visit RaiseRight.com for a full list of retailers, or contact Stephanie Pierce at 618-406-7960 for more information.

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



March



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Elsa Eltrich
- 3 Ginger Doiron Deb Sebol
- 4 Jane Bonaldi
- 8 Donald Eltrich Kenzie Manno
- 9 Julie Callaghan
- 10 Sarah Lanxon
- 11 Danny Nollman Dawn Feazel
- 12 Tom Wade Matt Hill
- 13 Charles Rogers
- 14 Jane Helms Dick Frette
- 16 Nancy Reaka

- 17 Barbara Kern
- 18 John Long
- 19 Jim Maule
- 20 Joan Braswell Kristin Trapp
- 22 Nancy Rogers Mark Teimann
- 25 David Braswell Carol Margerum
- 26 Charles Treser
 Joe Lanius
- 27 Jerard Perez
- 29 Irene Piersol Elizabeth Diener
- 30 Janet Stephens



ANNIVERSARIES



March 11, 1988 Bill & Suzanne Hutcherson

> March 15, 1975 Skip & Nancy Uhl

March 24, 1984 Charles & LeAnna Kaemmerer

> March 24, 2001 Paul & Julie Petraborg

March 27, 2004 Carlos & Amy Perez



United Women in Faith News February

Mother Nature started the year on the wild side with snow, sleet, ice, wind, and arctic temperatures! I know some people who were injured in this bad weather, and I appreciate Sunday services being cancelled as a precaution.

I regret that our Family Bunco event was postponed but SAVE THE DATE NOW – September 27, 5-7 pm.

Thank you to Elizabeth Circle and all who baked and bought at our UWF bake sale on Sunday, January 26. It was a resounding success!! We appreciate our church members who faithfully support the missions of UWF!

Our next unit meeting will be February 12, 10 am-12 pm in the Krause Room. The Executive Board will meet in Room 407 at 9 am before our unit meeting. Our program will include an update on the UWF and church budgets for 2025. Elizabeth Circle will be hostess and Miriam Circle has the card ministry. If anyone needs transportation to the February meeting, please contact Karen Milton, sewwutt4@aol.com or 618-971-5079 by noon Monday, February 10.

The Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat is February 22, 9 am-2 pm 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.

March is shaping up to be a busy month! UWF will host the Lenten meal on March 12. Barb Cleland is coordinating this meal and will make necessary assignments.

Thank you to all who sent cards during my recovery. I'm healing slowly and I still can't drive yet. I am thankful for my husband, John, who has been a wonderful care giver and executive assistant!

Blessings, Jenny

United

Women

UWF Calendar

Feb 10 noon Request transportation to Karen

Milton for February unit meeting

Feb 12 9 am Executive Board Meeting, Room 407

Feb 12 10-12 pm Unit Meeting, Krause Room

Mar 12 4-7 pm UWF Lenten Meal

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).



After taking care of card ministry, hat/glove collection and reviewing UWF upcoming events, Miriams enjoyed playing table games and socializing on a cold winter day.



UWF Readers,

It's time to tackle another book! We will begin reading and discussing the book, "The Wild Land Within" on Sunday,

February 9th, during the Sunday School time. The book is about "cultivating wholeness through spiritual practice". It endeavors to have us focus on our individual lives, thoughts and feelings and how our interiority affects our relationship with God's love. I know this is a change, but there are reasons!!!

This book needs to be read thoughtfully, and discussed as we go along, with other women. We will meet February 9, 16, 23; March 2 and 9. For our first session, please read the first two chapters. Location will be announced later. .Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

Blessings, Bette



VBS SAVE THE DATE

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

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

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

More info to be released in the next months.

Jane Peters VBS Director



The children and youth are invited to participate in this year's spring musical, Children's Letters to God. The program will include drama, singing and dancing. We will present our program during worship on May 11.

Auditions are February 22 and 23, at 2:00 pm. Rehearsals will begin February 25. All children and youth who want to participate will be included. There are flyers in the narthex with more information. Contact Julie Petraborg at julie@petraborglaw.com with any questions.





Visitation and Other Good Stuff with Dr. Joe Scheets

Wish I'd said this ---

"A group of flowers together is beautiful. But if you ever see a flower growing by itself, you go, *Oh, what happened?* As a society, we all somehow turned into a bunch of lonely flowers."

--- That's from an interview with comedian Roy Wood, Jr.*

Before you and I go any further here, please note my Giant Disclaimer: I've not seen his comedy special and I know nothing of his work onstage or off. But what he says in the paragraph above? I'm filing it under "all truth is God's truth." And in this instance, it's painful truth. When he uses the words "lonely flowers", it's hard not to picture Christians you and I know. We may even fall into that category ourselves sometimes.

That comedian went on to say, "A lot of the places we used to be connected were at stores, in lines, in conversations with cashiers." It's hard not to add "in churches" to his list.

He wraps up that thought like this: "And that's been replaced by touch screens, automated ordering, Doordash-ing." It's hard not to add "we've tried to replace churches with online options as well." When necessary, it's a good option we've long needed. When it's a convenience, we may well be missing much more than we realize.

Why is this important to you and me? Because God tells us so. Check out these classic examples ---

Hebrews 10:24-25 Matthew 18:19-20 Psalm 40 Colossians 3:16 Acts 2:42 1 Corinthians 1:9 Philippians 2:1-2 Galatians 6:2

And because of what a friend shared with me: Watching church online is like watching a fireplace on tv...there's no warmth.

So if at all possible, let's not be Lonely Flower Christians: it's okay to reach out. What might I do or any others of us here at Belleville Union UMC do to be helpful?

As always, I look forward to hearing from you any time for any reason: my phone's **217.377.8049** and my email's **joescheets3@gmail.com**.

Yours in Christ, Joe

*https://time.com/7203679/roy-wood-jr-interview-lonely-flowers/



This year's ecumenical prayer service was held at Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Orthodox Church in Swansea. It was particularly appropriate to have this year's event at an Orthodox Church since 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea and the Nicene Creed.





The Belleville Historical Society is holding a "Mardi Gras Trivia Night" fundraiser in Union UMC McKinley Hall on Saturday, March 1. The contest will start at 7:00 p.m., but



doors will open at 6:00 so that people can decorate their tables with a Mardi Gras theme. Mardi Gras costumes are also encouraged.

Tickets are \$15 a person, available through Eventbrite, Paypal, or at the door, and there will be a maximum of 8 people on a team. Players can bring their own snacks or drinks (but not alcohol), or they can purchase soda or water.

Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place trivia contest winners. There will also be a silent auction and 50/50 raffle prizes.

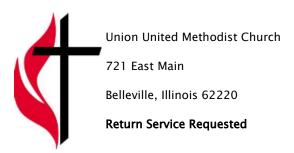
For more information go to BellevilleHistoricalSociety.org or call BHS president Larry Betz at 618-531-7753. Please gather up your friends and family and come to have fun and support this very worthy cause!

Administrative Council

The first Administrative Council meeting of the new year was held Monday, January 27. Highlights of the meeting: acceptance of the 2025-2027 Vision Statement; approval to allocate remaining 2024 unobligated funds, less \$40,000, to the building reserve fund; and announcement of our new pastor, Rev Angie Lee. If you would like a copy of the Vision Plan, please contact me or Judy Woodruff. If you want more information on the church budget, please contact Mike Engel. Any questions about the new pastor, please contact Danny Nollman, Chairman of SPRC.

Jenny





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

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 7 PM

The EASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY JAZZ BAND
and the
BELLEVILLE WEST HIGH SCHOOL
JAZZ BAND in concert



Guest Soloist: Aaron Eckert, trombonist with the US Army Blues in Washington, DC

Guest vocalist: Tom Birkner, director of the SWIC Jazz Band

Freewill offering
Reception following the concert

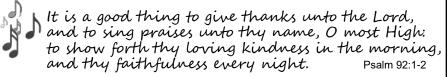


CROSSWALK

Sundays at 11:15 Chapel

https://www.facebook.com/ CrosswalkUnionUmc

MUSIC TIDINGS



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "I Will Arise" - Shaw/Parker Rev. Walker's sermon: "Remind Me Who I Am: God' Ambassador"; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" - arr. Ijames Four hand piano: Steve Bloomer and Gail Long King's Kids will sing Rev. Walker's sermon: "God's Masterpiece"; Ephesians 2:1-10

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem: "I'll Sing" - Ijames trumpet soloist: Michael Howland
Joyful Noise will sing
Rev. Walker's sermon:
"More Than Conquerors"; Romans 8:31-35,37

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem:
"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" - Forman
Jubilation Handbells will ring
Rev. Walker's sermon: "Salt and Light"; Matthew 5:13-16
Communion

Ash Wednesday Service March 5, 6:30 Sanctuary Choir will sing

