



"Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World"

Tidings

Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

August 6, 2026



Dear Families and Friends of Union UMC,

It has been very warm days. The days are long, the heat can be exhausting, and yet summer is growing season. We know the harvest does not come overnight. It comes through patient work, faithful care, and perseverance.

The same is true for the church.

As I look around Union United Methodist Church, I see countless people faithfully serving God in many different ways. Some prepare meals, welcome visitors, or care for members who are hurting. Others teach children, lead Vacation Bible School, prepare worship, organize events, maintain our buildings and grounds, serve on committees, or reach beyond our walls. Others faithfully pray for our church and community or simply show up week after week with their presence, encouragement, and support.

Every act of service, whether seen or unseen, helps fulfill God's mission through this church.

I cannot even imagine how many hours of work, countless acts of kindness, and faithful prayers have brought us to where we are today. This church stands on the faithful service of generations who believed that God's mission was worth their time, energy, and love.

Paul encourages us, "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). Likewise, the psalmist reminds us, "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy" (Psalm 126:5-6).

There are seasons when ministry feels difficult. Like the summer heat, it can leave us tired and exhausted. But summer is also a growing season. Even when we cannot see it, God is at work beneath the surface, preparing a harvest.

So let us keep doing good. Let us continue caring for one another, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, nurturing our children and youth, serving our neighbors, and faithfully using the gifts God has entrusted to us. When we do not give up, in God's perfect time, the seeds we sow in faith will bear fruit for God's kingdom.

May God strengthen our hands, renew our hearts, and give us joy as we continue serving Christ together.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Angie Lee

3
UWF

4
Journey
Save the Date

7
Summer Bible Study

8
Birthdays/Anniversaries

9
Pastor's Summer Report

12
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

Dinner & The Word will meet Friday, August 7, to watch "The Chosen"; Season 2, Episode #4 at Bruce & Marjie Simms' home, 6 pm. We will enjoy a "Nostalgia" potluck—bring a dish that brings back good memories!

Simms address: 1745 St. Andrews Dr., Shiloh.

Everyone is welcome.

Union UMC live stream services

9 am service:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent512>

2

or later through YouTube
Union United Methodist Church,
Belleville, Illinois

11:15 service:

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

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):**

August 28
September 25
October 30

Mid-Year Financial Status

Now that we have completed the first half of 2026 we are providing a mid-year financial update. As you know we have added new ministries this year as well as updated others and our overall budget increased by 7% from 2025. We are happy to report that the overall first half spending is within the approved budget levels albeit higher than in the first half of 2025. Thanks to all those that execute portions of the financial program.

As for contributions/revenue, we are behind by \$50,000. This is not a new phenomenon. We experience ups and downs in giving for a variety of reasons. However, since we normally see a lag in giving in the summer due to travel and vacations, we respectfully ask that you review your giving so that we can continue to meet all our program needs.

Thank you all for your financial faithfulness to the mission of Union.
Mike Engel, Finance Committee Chairman

THIS IS YOUR PRAYER CORNER

How best can we live by the words, "Do not doubt in the dark what you knew to be true in the light?"

Isaiah 50:10 (NIV): "Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on their God."

Understanding the "Dark Night of the Soul" through Isaiah 50:10: The dark night of the soul is not simply a fleeting moment of sadness; it is a season of profound suffering, where grief and fear overwhelm our sense of God's guiding light. Isaiah speaks directly to this experience. He does not say, "Let the one who walks in darkness try harder to feel God." He says, "trust in the name of the Lord."

How Do We Overcome the Dark Night of the Soul According to Isaiah 50:10?

✠ **1. By Trusting God Despite Our Emotions:** In the dark night of the soul, the darkness becomes the classroom where trust develops as we shift our focus from how we feel to who God is - His character, His faithfulness, His history with us becomes the anchor when all else fails.

● **2. By Walking Forward Even When We Cannot See the Path:** This scripture assumes movement as in "the one who walks in darkness"; it does not say "the one who freezes," or "the one who waits for light." Overcoming the dark night means continuing the journey. Isaiah does not deny the darkness; he acknowledges it. He does not demand clarity; he invites trust.

💧 **3. By Recognizing The Darkness as a Pathway For Spiritual Growth:** The dark night of the soul is not the end of our spiritual journey; it is the threshold of a deeper one. It is the place where trust becomes pure, where reliance becomes authentic, and where God's presence becomes more profound than anything we can see. It is not punishment. It is not abandonment. It is a sacred passage.

Isaiah 50:10 is God's whisper in the darkness: "You do not need to see the way. You only need to trust the One who walks with you."

Concluding Prayer: Holy God, In the quiet places where my heart cannot see the way forward, be my steady companion. When the path feels shadowed and my own understanding grows thin, teach me to trust Your name more deeply than my fears. Let Your faithfulness be the ground beneath my feet and Your presence the calm that steadies my spirit. Draw me close, guide me gently, and hold me in Your light until Your dawn unfolds within my soul. Amen.



Hobby Time

Wednesday
McKinley Hall
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.*

On August 12th the 2nd Tuesday BBQ men will gather at



Edley's BBQ, 531 W US Highway 50, O'Fallon, IL at 11:30. Bring your appetite and a friend for some great fellowship at the best place for Nashville BBQ! No reservation needed. Any questions,

contact Joe Milton, 618-235-5344.



Suzanne Hutcherson serves as UUMC's Prayer Ministry Coordinator. If you have a prayer request that you would like to include on our weekly distribution list, please send it

to Suzanne via email: suzannehutcherson@att.net. You may also leave a message on her landline phone: 618-235-3793 and she will promptly return your call.

The Weekly Prayer Request List will now be accompanied by a Prayer Corner Inspirational Message sent to UMC's membership on Friday mornings via email. The Prayer Corner message will be based upon the *following* Sunday's sermon and scripture readings - and will include a prayer and spiritual practices for the week.

Please make the Prayer Corner devotional a part of your weekly prayer life.



Raise Right Order: Sunday, August 2
Delivery: August 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. *Proceeds benefit missions of the UWF.*



United
Women
in Faith

I hope everyone is enjoying a relaxing summer. Relaxation and quiet time are important for our spiritual journey so take advantage of these laid-back summer days before our schedules go crazy with back-to-school activities!

Union's UWF has had a slower schedule but things are starting to pick up. Our next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, at 10 am. Everyone is invited. Miriam Circle will be the host as we gather in the Krause Room. Just a reminder that UWF Sunday will be Sunday, September 27. Keep praying, Marjie

Sunday School for Kids

- We will have the promotion for Sunday School on August 9th during Sunday School time.
- Bibles will be given to the children going from 2nd to 3rd grade during the church service.
- We will not have Sunday School on the following fall dates: September 6th, October 11th, November 29th and December 27th.

Jane Peters

Sunday School Superintendent



Thrift with a Mission!

Please bring collected items to Union Church the morning of August 8th and they will be included in the trailer going back to Midwest Mission with the Blessing Bags. Contact Joe Milton if you have any questions, 618-235-5344, joseph.milton@att.net.



Mary Circle meets the 2nd Sunday of every month (unless noted otherwise) from 10:30 -11:00 am.

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

Thank You Union Church!

A heartfelt Thank You to everyone who prayed, volunteered, and attended our Midwest Mission Benefit Breakfast.

Your generosity and servant heart has helped make the event a wonderful success. Because of you we are one step closer to our Midwest Mission Rice Packing Event on Saturday, August 8.

Please continue to keep this mission and all of our volunteers in your prayers as we prepare to pack thousands of meals for families in need.

Together, we are sharing God's love- one meal at a time!

Outreach and Evangelism Committees

Journey Church Annual Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, October 3.

Donated items accepted:
September 30 and October 2, 10 am to 4 pm
October 1, Noon to 6 pm

No pricing is needed.

Save the Date – Wednesday at Union Begins October 7!

We're excited to launch a new season of Wednesday at Union beginning October 7! Each week will include a delicious meal, fellowship, Bible study, and opportunities to grow in faith and serve together. The season will conclude with a special Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Meal tickets will be available—watch for additional details in the coming weeks.

Volunteers Needed: The Outreach Committee is looking for individuals and groups to help prepare and serve meals throughout the season. The Nurture Committee and Pastor Angie have already volunteered. We'd love for you to be part of this ministry!

If you're interested in serving, please contact Laura Koehler.



What In God's Name Is Happening at Freeburg Journey

Thank you to Pastor Angie and Pastor Bobby for each spending a Sunday with us. We enjoyed it!

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."—Benjamin Franklin

I'd like to add a third certainty: change. So why did it take me completely by surprise this summer when I had to wrap my brain around some new changes in our family? I thought this would be my last summer with our youngest, Noah, since he has one more year of welding school at SWIC. I was correct on that part. But I just didn't know it would end on July 20th when he started a full time job with his Uncle John. It's great in so many ways! But I was also a little sad. And honestly the shock and sadness had really started in June when he announced he was going to start attending a different church...in a different denomination...in a different "town" – St Louis!

Suffice it to say, Jesus and I have had extra talks lately. He reminded me that there are worse things Noah could be doing. He also reminded me that when I was Noah's age, I was not attending any church on a regular basis or reading my Bible daily as Noah has been. So I have had to come around to this attitude: *Look at my "baby" spreading his wings and embarking on his own journey.* That is something to celebrate.

Not all changes can be celebrated, to be sure, but I am determined to look for the good in all circumstances. See Romans 8:28 for more on that.

EVERY WEEK:

Worship - Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson and Journey Praise Band

AA and Al-Anon - Thursdays at 7 pm. Contact Eric G.; 618-406-0366

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| August 5 | First Wednesday Dinner, 6 pm:
Breakfast; guest speaker Michelle Barthelemy |
| August 14-15 | Freeburg Homecoming (working soda stand) |
| August 19 | Lunch Bunch, 11 am |
| September 17 | <u>The Chosen</u> , Season 2 begins weekly at Obernuefemanns, 6 pm |
| September 26 | Freeburg Fall Festival (dessert stand), 11 am – 7 pm |

"Cathy O"
Cathy Obernuefemann
Journey Worship Leader



Annual Fall Gathering
Sunday, September 20
One service at 10

The Nurture Committee is excited to host the annual Fall Gathering on Sunday, September 20. There will be only one service that Sunday beginning at 10:00 with the potluck to follow. There will be a sign-up board in the Welcome Center beginning August 16th. Please sign up for a dish according to the first letter of your last name.

Please also consider donating a dessert or individually wrapped sweets for the Autumn Blessing Bake Sale that day. Proceeds from the Bake Sale will benefit our Youth Mission Trips.

Thank you for helping The Nurture Committee.

Daniel slept in a lion's den.

Peter slept in a prison.

Jesus slept in a storm.

No matter your circumstance,

You can take a nap.

Mark Your Calendar for Wednesdays at Union!

We're excited to bring back Wednesdays at Union for a 7-week fall series, beginning in October 7. Join us each Wednesday evening for food, fellowship, and Bible study.

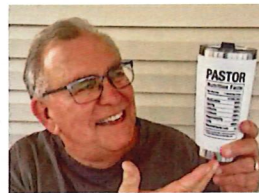
Time: 5:00–6:30 p.m.
 5:00–5:45 p.m. – Dinner
 5:45–6:30 p.m. – Bible Study

This fall, we will journey through the books of Genesis and Exodus, exploring God's faithfulness from creation through the Exodus.

Schedule:

October 7
 October 14
 October 21
 October 28
 November 4
 November 11
 November 18 – Community Thanksgiving Dinner

More details, including dinner menus, registration, and study materials, will be announced soon. We hope you'll plan to join us for this meaningful time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth!



Visitation and Other Good Stuff with

Rev. Dr. Joe Scheets

August 2026

Live in That Freedom

A month ago we celebrated our nation's 250th birthday. In this space you and I began absorbing what St. Paul tells us in Galatians 5 about our Freedom in Christ. I promised then we'd pick up right where we stopped, so here we go ---

Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day.

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity.

We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

*--- Again, I sure wish I had written that; it's from **Galatians 5**. Even more, I wish we'd simply live that way. And I intentionally say that in the First Person Plural (thank you, Belleville West Jr. High and BTHSW English teachers)...because this applies to all of us who claim the name of Christ Jesus.*

As always I look forward to hearing from you anytime --- joescheets3@gmail.com --- 217.377.8049 --- and I invite you to check out my Fresh-Brewed Daily Devotionals at joescheets.com. I love being in ministry with you!



To all those kind people who sent condolences to the family of Casey Watt, thank you!



Mary and Dave Philip stopped by St. Paul's to visit Grace Moon two days after her 102nd birthday. They enjoyed chatting with her and going over old and new times. Mary and Grace go way back when Mary taught Scott Moon in senior English at Belleville West. Also, when Grace worked for the Emge School District, she desperately needed a substitute teacher and called Mary who responded, teaching junior high classes.

Grace misses being at Union and likes to keep abreast of all that is happening with the church.

Happy 102nd birthday, Grace! We miss you, too!



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY!

How would you like to commit to one hour, one day a week, to support one student at Douglas School? You will be blessed more than you can imagine. And make a new friend!

Or you can support the mentor by being their prayer partner, praying over the mentor and student each week. To find out more about KIDSHOPE, our mentor ministry, see Pastor Allynn. Or call/text her at 618-604-2389.

VBS Thank You

Thank you to all of the helpers for VBS and to the people who made monetary, craft and food donations.

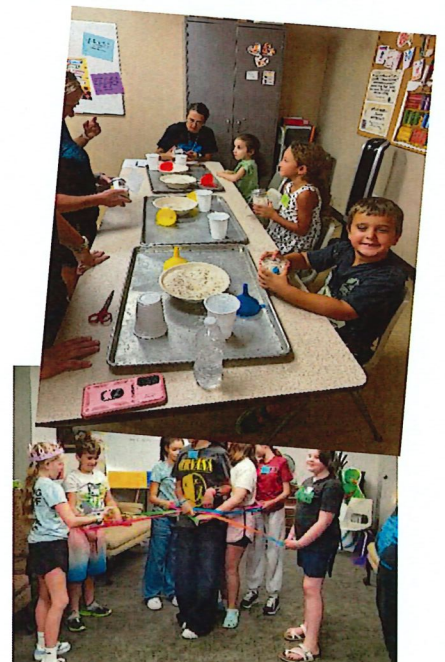
Our church family is very generous and helps in a big way whenever the kids are involved!! We had 43 registered participants and about 30 dedicated volunteers. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped every night! Donna Shock, Julee Baysinger, Jordyn Perkins, Marjie Simms, Debi Carle, Skylar, Sheri Hill, Shari Wall, JoJo Ross, Noah and Levi Zipfel, Brandi and Patrick VerSteeg, Kay Watt, Sheri Hill, Debbie Rosendohl, Dan Rosendohl, Kay Watt, Tasha Gansmann, Denise Gaynor, Madison Gaynor, Cailyn Kaemmerer, LeAnna Kaemmerer, Julie and Paul Petrabor, Mattox Ticknor, Leah Sonsoucic, Sue Engel, Dick Frette and Pastor Angie Lee.

The theme for the week was **SonForce Kids Special Agents** and it focused on being strong and courageous for the Lord is with you wherever you go. The theme verse was "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go! Joshua 1:9"

The kids listened to stories from the Bible, made crafts with the theme as a guide, sang songs and had recreation fun! On Friday night, a big celebration was kicked off with kids singing songs they learned to family members and then we had refreshments. After the meal, kids went outdoors and enjoyed an inflatable water slide and a few other activities.

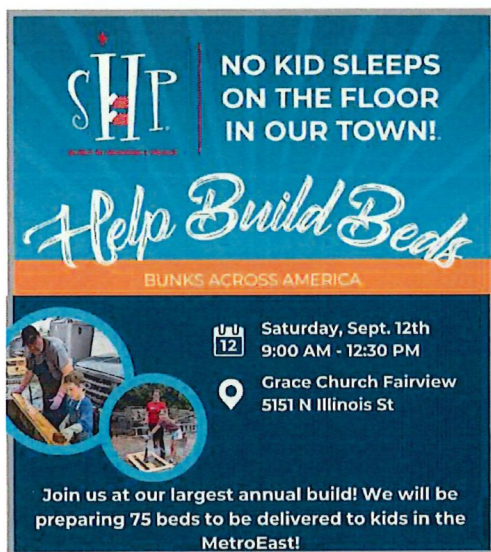
Through our Love Offering every night, we raised money to build a well for communities without clean water through Marion Medical Mission.

I heard many comments from kids and parents about the fun they had that week! Thanks again for all your help. In Christ's Service,
Jane Peters
VBS Director





Elizabeth Circle enjoys July outing in St Charles, MO



The Outreach Committee of Union Church invites you to help build beds on September 12.
"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!"



Pie Bake-off Champion,
Mary Mueth

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Lee

Session 1: The Fascinating History of the English Bible

Wednesday, August 17, 5:30–6:30 PM at Chapel

We often take our English Bible for granted. But behind it lies an extraordinary story filled with courage, danger, and sacrifice. Why were people imprisoned or even executed for translating the Bible into English? Discover the fascinating—and sometimes shocking—history of the men and women who risked everything so that ordinary people could read God's Word for themselves.

Session 2: A Taste of Hebrew & Bible Translations

Saturday, August 22, 9:00–10:00 AM at Chapel

Have you ever wondered what God's name looks like in Hebrew? Or why different Bible translations sometimes use different words for the same passage? Join us for a brief introduction to biblical Hebrew and discover some of the challenges of translating Scripture while remaining faithful to its original meaning. We'll also explore the different philosophies behind Bible translation and how each helps us hear God's Word in fresh and meaningful ways. No prior knowledge of Hebrew is needed.



Always room for
dessert!
Church Picnic, July 12



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



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

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



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 30, 1997
Joe & Patty Scheets



Youth Mission Trip



Horticulture
on the job!

Pastor's Summer Report

I would like to share a few highlights of what God has been doing at Union United Methodist Church and where we are headed in the months ahead. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and willingness to serve alongside one another.

Community Building & America's 250th Anniversary Celebration

This summer we celebrated our nation's 250th anniversary through a month of special events while strengthening our partnership with Bethel UMC in Mascoutah and Journey UMC in Freeburg. I give thanks to God and to all of you for making our joint worship in the park, the 250-Mile Challenge, Patriotic Home Decorating, the Liberty Games and Church Potluck, Pie Bake off, and our pulpit exchange such meaningful successes. These shared ministries not only celebrated our nation's history but also strengthened friendships and partnerships among our neighboring churches as we continue God's mission together.

"50 for 50" Conversations

This summer, I invited people to join me for "50 for 50"—a 50-minute, one-on-one conversation with 50 people. Those who have participated have shared how meaningful these conversations have been. Although participation has been smaller than I had hoped, I've also heard that people appreciate simply knowing the invitation is available. If you haven't signed up yet, the invitation remains open through the month of August. I'd love the opportunity to get to know you better and hear your story.

Question Box

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions this summer. We received two thoughtful questions—one about John Wesley and our Methodist heritage, and another about forgiveness. These questions have inspired our September sermon series, and I hope they will encourage all of us to grow deeper in our faith.

Beyond the Walls

One of the highlights of my summer was participating in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Rehearsals and performance weekend gave me the opportunity to build relationships with many people from our community. Approximately 260 people attended the Saturday evening performance, and about 180 joined us for worship on Sunday morning. Again, BIG thanks to Julie, Ginger, and all who helped.

Community connections continue to be an important part of our ministry. I enjoy participating in the Optimist Club and PEO, supporting Pastor Allynn and Kids for Hope, and exploring a new partnership with Journey of Hope, a Christian nonprofit organization that serves mothers facing crisis pregnancies. I believe God continues to open new doors for Union to share Christ's love beyond our church walls.

Leadership Development

With Lisa's leadership, the Committee on Leadership Development and Nominations held its first meeting on July 21. I give thanks to God for those who have faithfully served, those who have accepted the responsibility of serving on our committees, and those who are helping identify and encourage future leaders for our congregation.

Strengthening Leadership

I have continued working closely with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) to strengthen our staff and leadership. I am grateful for the faithful leadership of SPRC as we seek to cultivate a healthy, supportive, accountable, and Christ-centered workplace.

Looking Ahead

New Staff: Our Communications Director, Jayla Carter, has joined our staff, and SPRC is actively working to hire a Director of Youth and Family Ministry. We hope to have this position filled by mid-August as we continue investing in children, youth, and families.

Summer Bible study:

Session 1: The Fascinating History of the English Bible; Wednesday, August 19, 5:30–6:30 PM at Chapel
Discover the dramatic story of those who risked everything to bring the Bible into English.

Session 2: A Taste of Hebrew & Bible Translations
Saturday, August 22, 9:00–10:00 AM at Chapel; Experience biblical Hebrew and discover how different Bible translations bring fresh meaning to God's Word

Preparation for Fall Wednesdays at Union

This fall, our Outreach Committee will lead Wednesdays at Union, with a Bible study on Genesis and Exodus. One of our biggest needs will be volunteers to help provide weekly meals, and Laura and I have already begun exploring options. If we are able to welcome a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, we hope to expand Wednesday evening opportunities for children as well. Looking ahead to spring, the Nurture Committee will lead Wednesdays at Union during Lent, including our Lenten worship services.

A Vision for the Future

One area where we continue to seek God's guidance is the formation of an active Vision Team. The Committee on Leadership Development and Nominations is currently seeking someone to chair this ministry. A strong Vision Team will help us prayerfully discern God's direction and keep us focused on our mission for years to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and faithful support. It is a joy and privilege to serve alongside you. I am excited about what God has already begun among us, and I look forward with hope and anticipation to all that lies ahead.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Angie Lee
Pastor, Union United Methodist Church



Sunday Picnic, July 12





Summer Questions Become a Fall Sermon Series

Throughout June and July, our congregation was invited to submit questions about the Bible, faith, life, spirituality, the church, and following Jesus. Thank you to everyone who participated!

This fall, we will explore two thoughtful questions submitted by our congregation.

Question 1: Talk about our founder, John Wesley, and the influence he had at the time.

September 6 – Go & Grow

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47; 1 Corinthians 9:19–23

John Wesley believed the gospel was too important to remain within church walls. He took the good news into fields, streets, and marketplaces so that more people could experience God's grace. He also knew that faith grows best in community, so he formed small groups where people encouraged one another and learned to follow Christ together. Today, Christ calls us to go where people are and invite them into life-giving communities where disciples are formed and God's love is shared.

Sunday School: John Wesley and the Methodist Movement

Explore the life and ministry of John Wesley, the rise of the Methodist movement, and the lasting impact of his vision. Whether you have participated in a Wesley Heritage Tour or simply want to learn more, you are warmly invited to join us.

September 13 – Serve & Send

Scripture: Micah 6:8; 1 Peter 4:10–11

John Wesley believed that God's grace transforms both hearts and communities. Faith is meant to be lived through acts of mercy, justice, and compassion. Every Christian has gifts to serve, lead, and share the gospel. Christ continues to call each of us to discover our calling and join God's mission of transforming the world.

Sunday School: Living the Wesleyan Way Today

How can we live out Wesley's vision in the twenty-first century? Together we will explore Wesley's practical approach to discipleship, service, and leadership, and consider how our congregation can continue Christ's mission in our community.

Question 2: "What does the New Testament say about forgiveness—especially when forgiveness can't be given to you by someone else?"

September 20 – When We Can No Longer Say, "I'm Sorry"

Scripture: 1 John 1:8–9; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

This honest question touches experiences many of us have faced—when someone has died, reconciliation is no longer possible, or words were left unspoken. Together we will explore what Scripture teaches about God's forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and hope.

Sunday School Book Review: Nicole Johnson. *Dropping Your Rock: The Freedom to Choose Love Over Judgment*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2011.

I hope you will join us for this special sermon series and a short-term Bible study as we seek biblical wisdom for life's important questions. May these conversations deepen our understanding of God's grace, strengthen our faith, and encourage us to follow Christ more faithfully. Question Box will return next summer.



Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main

Belleville, Illinois 62220

Return Service Requested

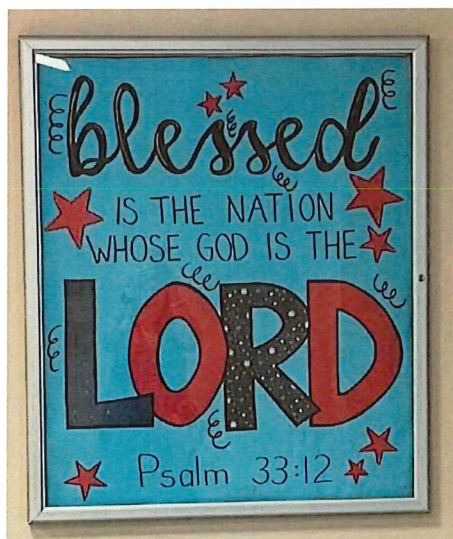
Non-Profit
ORG
PAID
U.S. Postage
Belleville, Illinois
Permit #124

**SANCTUARY CHOIR
REHEARSALS RESUME**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:45 - 7:45!

All are Welcome!



Thanks, Marjie Simms



Sundays at 11:15

Chapel

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

Music Tidings



"O Sing to the Lord a new song: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." Psalm 96 1-3

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

9 am - Special Music: "Everlasting Arms" - arr. Callaway

Quartet: Michael and Judy Woodruff, Jim and Carole Eckert

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Faith That Grows With the Years"; Psalm 71:5-9; 17-18

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

9 am - Special Music by Danielle Long

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Teach Us to Number Our Days"; Psalm 90:1-12

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

9 am - Special Music: "With One Voice" - Manalo

soloist: Kathy Hahn

Rev. Lee's sermon:

"Sweeter Than Honey: The Power of God's Word"; Psalm 119

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

9 am - Special Music: "Day by Day With Each Passing Moment" - arr. Fettke

Quartet: Marjie Simms, Susan Botula, Charles Botlue, Terry Mueth

Rev. Lee's sermon: "Lift Your Eyes: Help For the Journey", Psalm 121:1-8

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9 am - Special Music: "I Can Only Imagine" - Millard

soloist: Terry Mueth

Rev Lee's sermon: "Go & Grow"; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 2:42-47

Communion