



“Developing Followers of Jesus Christ to Serve the World”

# Tidings

Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

November 6, 2025



## The Importance of Visibility in Our Online Community

In today’s world, many people’s first visit to a church happens online—through a website, a Google search, or social media. Before they ever step through our doors, they often see who we are through what we share. That’s why our online visibility matters—it’s one more way to open our doors wider to those who are searching for hope, faith, and connection.

Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden*” (Matthew 5:14). Our online presence is one way we let that light shine—not to draw attention to ourselves, but to reflect the light of Christ that already fills our community.

But our goal is not simply to grow our church; it’s to show genuine care for people—to help them find a place where they can know Christ, experience grace, and belong to a loving community. Authenticity matters. What we post and share should reflect the true spirit of Union: sincere, welcoming, and life-giving.

### Share Your Experience – Help Others Find Union!

Would you take a few minutes to leave a positive review about Union United Methodist Church on Google? Google reviews make a big difference when people search for a church or community to visit. As of today, we have 72 reviews and increasing that number will help more people discover Union.

#### How to leave a Google review:

Go to Google.com and search for “Union United Methodist Church Belleville IL.”  
Click on our church name in the search results.  
Scroll down until you see the “Write a review” button.  
Rate with stars and write a few heartfelt sentences about your experience.

Write from the heart—share what has made Union meaningful to you. Maybe it’s the friendliness, the warmth of worship, or how easy it is to make friends. Your words can help someone who is praying for a spiritual home find their way here.

You can also share your experience on Facebook! Visit our church’s Facebook page, click on “Reviews,” and write a short note about what you appreciate most about Union. Your post not only helps people find us online but also celebrates the life and love of our church family.

### Send Photos that Show Our Life Together

People attract people. When visitors see real faces—worshiping, serving, and laughing—they see the love of Christ in action. If you have *recent good-quality* pictures of church events with people in them, please email them to the church office so we can share the joy and energy of our congregation on our website and social media.

Let’s work together to help others see and feel the light of Christ through our online presence—not to promote ourselves, but to extend a genuine invitation of love and hope.

With gratitude,  
**Rev. Angie Lee**

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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

No Sunday School:

November 30  
December 28



Jane Peters  
Sunday School Superintendent



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

Deadline change for Tidings:

Please mark your calendar.....  
accommodating the holidays is not  
easy!

The January 2 deadline is now  
December 19.

Union UMC 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](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):**

**November 21  
December 19**

## JOURNEY CHURCH

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

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

Our dessert / popcorn / water bottle stand at the Freeburg Fall Festival & Chili Cook Off raised over \$500 for youth missions – we're pretty sure that's a record!

I am writing this Halloween week. I don't "celebrate" Halloween, but I do see it as a good outreach opportunity. We used to hand out church info. Perhaps you remember my Holy Spirit moment from one of the lighted Christmas parades a few years ago when I wondered, "Do the children know Jesus loves them?" So I'm handing out Jesus Loves You bracelets with the Halloween treats. Because more important than trying to get more people to our church is making sure they know Jesus loves them.

After two First Wednesday Dinner events in the park, where we incorporated music by Journey Praise Band, we're going to keep that music part going. We again saw as good or better attendance at that event as we do on a typical Sunday morning. This group enjoys food, music, and sitting around a fire pit. At press time, our location for November 5<sup>th</sup> is to be determined, but we will either be at Freeburg Recreation Park or our building.

We welcome anyone at Lunch Bunch on the third Wednesday of the month. We gather about 11 am to visit and eat a potluck lunch at noon. We don't plan the menu – it just always works out!

Journey Praise Band will be participating for the third year in a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Faith Baptist, 4 W High St, Freeburg, is hosting this year. The time will be announced later.

Our Feed the Kids ministry is ramping up again. We provide some groceries for students identified by Freeburg schools.

*"Cathy O"*

Cathy Obernuefemann  
Journey Worship Leader

#### EVERY WEEK

- Worship - Sundays at 10:15 am with Pastor Mike Olson and Journey Praise Band
- College & Career Bible Study - Sundays at 4 pm with Jenny Olson 618-979-3937 or [jolson@nashville-k12.org](mailto:jolson@nashville-k12.org)
- Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6 pm with Jenny Olson, 618-979-3937 or [jolson@nashville-k12.org](mailto:jolson@nashville-k12.org) (not first Wednesdays)
- AA and Al-Anon - Thursdays at 7 pm; Contact Eric G., 618-406-0366

#### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

November 5 – First Wednesday Dinner:  
Friendsgiving, 6 pm

November 9 – Commitment Sunday

November 19 – Lunch Bunch, 11 am

November 23 – Community Thanksgiving Service at Faith Baptist  
(evening)

December 3 - First Wednesday Event:

Holiday appetizers & Christmas carols, 6 pm



## United Women in Faith News November



The Union UWF had a very busy October! We were serving in many ways!

We served soup & bread for World Wide Communion; a few circles served delicious meals for our Wednesday evening activities; a few circles provided funeral receptions; and a lunch was served to the Laity Ministry.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are planning our part of the Community Thanksgiving meal.

We will have our Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, November 12. The meeting will be in the Krause Room beginning at 9:30 am. This meeting is for existing officers and incoming officers. This will be our planning session for 2026. Please bring recommendations for the good of the organization! We will go out for lunch after the meeting.

Keep Praying!  
Marjie

October meeting was a service project cleaning the sanctuary.



## Pledge Drive 2025

The 2025 pledge drive has started. But most of you know that already. You saw the first mailing. You heard Dick talk about it during worship. Also, many of you are on committees that have had input into the 2026 budget which was approved by the administrative council at their last meeting. You also heard from the committee chairs over the last several Sundays that the work of Christ's church known as Union is expanding for 2026. New programs will be provided to meet our congregational needs as well as the needs of the community. It's exciting to say the least! Now the task at hand is to answer the call helping with our expanding mission objectives. What can we do you ask?

First, we can all pitch in and volunteer our time to the different programs. The more we all volunteer the easier the load on all of us. We all have different talents and gifts so put yours to good use!

Second, we all know that the pledge drive helps the staff and committees know what financial resources they can expect, giving them confidence that their missions can be accomplished.

So, soon you will receive the second mailing with a pledge card. Pray about your level of giving for 2026 before you fill it out. Ask, how can I be of financial service to God's mission in Belleville and beyond? We all know that the result of faithful giving will provide for God's programs at Union and beyond. But as important, the practice of faithful giving is a key part of your spiritual growth journey. Robert Schnase says in his book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, "(you should) feel a soul-sustaining satisfaction in the sense of meaning and connection that comes with generosity."

**Mary Circle** meets the 3rd Sunday of every month (unless noted otherwise) from 10:30 -11:00 am.

November 16  
December 21, no meeting

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



On Sunday, November 9, there will be containers in the Welcome Center for new and gently used warm clothing for both adults and children.

Other items that will help people keep warm are also welcome (blankets, as an example).

We will share these items with Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and others in our area who need help.

Your generosity will be much appreciated.  
Connie Stein and Carole Schneider  
UWF Child Advocate

Thank you to St Mark Lutheran Church who donated 3 large bags of warm clothing and blankets.



## Shout Out and Heartfelt Thanks!

A huge thank you to all the committees and volunteers who have faithfully served and continue to serve each week at *Wednesday at Union Meal*: Pastor Angie, Outreach, Aldersgate, UWF Elizabeth Circle, UWF Lydia Circle, UMM, Horticulture, Trustees, and Nurture Committees. Your dedication and teamwork have been an incredible blessing. We deeply appreciate all the amazing support you've given to this ministry!

Join us for our final weeks and celebrate the season on Wednesday, November 19, as we come together for our Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

## TIME TO ORDER UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES FOR 2026!

We will be taking orders until Monday, December 1, \$15.00/regular print and \$16.00/large print. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church office. We will place the order that week based on the number of copies pre-ordered.





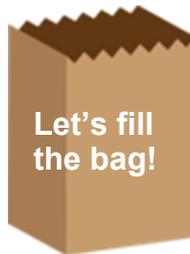
The Worship Committee encourages you to get involved! Volunteers are always needed for the following at the 9:00 service:

**Liturgists** (read scripture and Call to Worship)  
please contact Lisa Koerkenmeier at  
koer1922@gmail.com or 618-979-2085

**Ushers**  
please contact Danny Nollman at nollmandl@att.net or  
call 618-334-0320

**Greeters**  
please contact Judy Eckert at  
judy.eckert@eckerts.com or 618-476-1757

The Outreach Committee of Union UMC invites you to join them in providing a Thanksgiving meal for a family at Douglas School. In addition, we will give a gift card so that they may purchase their own protein.



We invite the Union UMC family to assemble one or more sturdy shopping bags at home, filled with the following items:

- 2 cut green beans, 14.5 oz cans
- 2 whole kernel corn, 15.25 oz cans
- 2 cranberry sauce (whole or jellied), 14 oz cans
- 1 sweet potatoes/candied yams, 40 oz can or equivalent
- 2 instant mashed potatoes, 13.7 oz
- 2 stuffing mix for turkey, 6 oz boxes
- 2 turkey gravy, 10.5 oz cans or equivalent
- 2 macaroni & cheese, 7.25 oz boxes
- 1 cake mix, 15.25 oz box
- 1 icing, 16 oz can

Assembled food bags may be delivered to the church office the week of November 10th. Office is closed from 12:00 to 1:00. Also, on Sundays, November 9th and 16th, you may bring food bags to the Welcome Center desk.

If you prefer that the committee shop for you, just make a gift to Union and note "food basket" on your check. Gifts towards the purchase of gift cards are welcomed, too. Also, you may donate online on our website, UnionUMC.org, noting "food basket" in the memo.

All food baskets will be delivered to Douglas School by November 19th.

Thank you for your generosity.

## Outreach Committee Update – Sharing God's Love in Action Our Outreach



Committee continues to put faith into action as we serve our community with open hearts and helping hands. Thank you to everyone who has supported our ministries—you are making a difference!

Food Pantry  
Sack lunches  
Shower Ministry with TOCO and Salvation Army  
Homeless & Hygiene Bag Donations: Girl Scouts Troop 763 and UWF Miriam Circle  
Hot Dog Ministry: Each Saturday from 11-1 PM

### Upcoming Opportunities

Thanksgiving Food Bags - for Douglas School

Community Thanksgiving Meal – Wednesday, November 19 Join us as we welcome guests for a time of gratitude, fellowship, and food.

2-5 PM: Haircuts for Love

1-5 PM: Shower Ministry

5:30 PM: Thanksgiving Meal in Fellowship Hall We need volunteers for prep, hospitality, setup, cleanup, and prayer teams.

Angel Tree Ministry (December): Help us bring Christmas joy to local families. Tags will be available in the narthex soon!

Get Involved! Whether you can pack a sack lunch, write a prayer card, or lend a listening ear, your gifts matter. Together, we can reach hearts and change lives.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." — 1 Peter 4:10*

With gratitude,  
Your Outreach Committee

## ANGEL BREAKFAST



Children (3-12) and a special adult are cordially invited to breakfast with the "Angels" in McKinley Hall on Saturday, December 6, at 8:30 am. Morning activities include: craft, family picture, breakfast, singing, and story time.

\$8.00/child - \$20.00/family - Pay at the door Make reservations by Monday, December 1st, at [unionumc.org](http://unionumc.org) or by calling 618-233-6375.



Many thanks from the Altar Guild to Jim Eckert who furnished pumpkins, gourds and cornstalks for our outside decorations.

## Pastor Angie's Ministry Report

### ◆ Wednesdays at Union

Our 2025 Wednesdays at Union program began on September 17 as a 10-week trial. Each week includes *Yoga with Prayer* at 4:30 p.m., *Dinner and Fellowship* at 5:30 p.m., *Bible Study* at 6:15 p.m., and *Choir Practice* at 7:30 p.m. We'll conclude this first series with a *Community Thanksgiving Dinner* on November 19.

So far, attendance has been steady and encouraging—about 10–20 for yoga, 30–35 for dinner, and 20–25 for Bible study. I give thanks to God for the joy and connection this midweek gathering has brought to our church family. Special thanks to those who prepare the meals, set the tables, and faithfully show up to share in fellowship and learning.

The plan for next year is already a work in progress, and we look forward to expanding this ministry with even more opportunities for worship, wellness, and community togetherness.

### ◆ 50 for 50 Ministry

The *50 for 50 Ministry* is concluding this October. So far, I've had the joy of meeting 22 individuals and each conversation has been a true blessing. These one-on-one times have offered a meaningful way to build deeper connections within our church family.

This ministry will return next fall and everyone is invited to participate—whether as an individual or as a family. I look forward to continuing these conversations and discovering more stories of faith, hope, and community among us.

### ● Community Highlights

One of my personal highlights this fall was attending the *Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra* concert with Christine Brewer on October 4. It was an extra blessing to have both of my children, Christine and Alex, join me for the evening. The concert was truly inspiring—filled with beautiful music that lifted the spirit. I also had the opportunity to meet the conductor, Joseph Choi, his wife, and several of the musicians.

I am deeply grateful that our church continues to be a place where the Fine Arts are celebrated and supported. These experiences remind me how both music and service reflect the beauty and grace of God's presence among us.

In addition, I have joined the Hot Dog Ministry at the Main Street parking lot here at Union a few times—what a fun and heartwarming way to connect with people! I've also been meeting with leaders at the Salvation Army. Both ministries are meaningful ways to extend the love of Christ into our community and to build relationships with our neighbors in practical, caring ways. I have also received a wonderful report from the Kids Hope USA mentoring program at Douglas Elementary School, led by Pastor Allynn. It's encouraging to see how this partnership continues to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

### ● Pastoral Care

Meeting with our parishioners in assisted living and nursing home facilities has been one of my greatest blessings. Each visit reminds me of the deep faith and steadfast spirit of our members. We truly are blessed with many faithful people who continue to inspire us through their prayers and love for the church.

I am also grateful to Pastor Joe Scheets for covering hospital calls with compassion and care. Please know that my door is always open if you would like to visit, pray, or share your heart.

### ● Worship and Words

November 2: Grieving with Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), All Saints Sunday  
 November 9: God of the Living (Luke 20:27–38), Stewardship Sunday  
 November 16: Not One Stone Left Unturned (Luke 21:5–19)  
 November 23: Grounded in Gratitude? (Philippians 4:4–9; John 6:25–35)  
 November 30: Wake Up to Hope (Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:36–44)

*"I thank my God every time I remember you."* – Philippians 1:3

May our ministries continue to grow in grace, gratitude, and love for one another.



UWF's Operation Christmas Child shoebox project is wrapping up. We are nearing our goal of 75 shoeboxes. Thank you for your generous support. Please pray for the children receiving shoeboxes.

Helen Rinehart

At their September meeting Miriam Circle filled over 80 Christmas boxes for children in need.



Photo by DPhilip



The sign-up for altar flowers in 2026 is now available in the Welcome Center (look for yellow folder).

Arrangements are \$25 and you may take them home with you after the service.

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

### Online Worship Community

If you worship with us online—whether through YouTube at 9:00 am or Facebook at 11:15 am—please know that we are here to meet your spiritual needs and help you stay connected.

One of my goals is to strengthen our online community and ensure that everyone feels included, no matter where you worship from. If you would like to receive the church bulletin or sermon manuscript in advance, please let us know.

I also welcome your feedback on how we can make our online worship experience even better. If you're interested in joining a coffee hour via Zoom or participating in a Bible study online, please reach out—I'd love to hear from you. You can contact me at [angie@unionumc.org](mailto:angie@unionumc.org) or church office [sheri@unionumc.org](mailto:sheri@unionumc.org).

Pastor Angie

### Visitation and Other Good Stuff with Dr. Joe Scheets November 2025

#### How You Can Help Me Help You and Others

As the retired part time pastor on staff here, Hospital Visitation is my primary ministry responsibility.

As a friend here says laughingly, "You're retired part of the time."

As I've been heard to say, "I'm the kindly, old, retired pastor. And on any given day I can usually hit two out of those three."

*And I love being in ministry with you!*

Two of our three local hospitals are unable to report to our church office when you, or a family member, or a friend are admitted there.

Which means that if you don't tell us, we won't know. And if we don't know, I can't go.

Please tell me. It's better for me to be told five times than not at all. Assume nothing. Tell me.

*The quickest and easiest way to tell me is to text or call me at [217.377.8049](tel:217.377.8049) or email me at [joescheets3@gmail.com](mailto:joescheets3@gmail.com).*

And as always, I love hearing from you, any time, any reason!

Yours in Christ,  
Joe

217.377.8049  
[joescheets3@gmail.com](mailto:joescheets3@gmail.com)



Union UMC will serve a Thanksgiving meal to our neighbors and our members on Wednesday, November 19th at 5:30 pm in McKinley Hall.

So that we have ample food, we are asking for paid reservations from our members, at a cost of \$5.00 each, due by November 17th. There will be no charge for our neighbors, but we are asking that they also make a reservation.

Also, starting at 2:00 P.M., we will host **Haircuts 4 Hope STL**, a local non-profit organization that provides free on-site barbering services via their mobile barber facility. **Haircuts 4 Hope's** belief is that a simple haircut can open the doors to opportunities, personal confidence, and emotional healing.

Our **Shower Ministry** will also be available, as will personal hygiene kits.

Invitations will go to the recipients of our **Sack Lunch** and **Hot Dog & Prayer Ministries**.

At 6:30 P.M. there will be an optional, brief Bible study done by Pastor Lee.



Hot Dog Ministry in action!



Aldersgate Chili Supper



**Breads of the World**

Soup lunch served by UWF in observance of World Wide Communion



*Potluck at Annual Fall Gathering  
Sunday, October 19*



Photo by DPhilip



**Fine Arts Concert with Christine Brewer**

Photo by DPhilip

## Christmas at Union United Methodist Church

You're warmly invited to celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas with us at Union United Methodist Church. Whether you're new to church, returning after some time away, or simply looking for a place to experience the beauty of the season, we welcome you.



### Advent Bible Study on The First Christmas Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17, at 10:00 am

Join us this Advent as we explore The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan—a thought-provoking journey into the deeper meaning of the Nativity stories and what they reveal about God's hope for the world.



### Angel Breakfast Saturday, December 6th at 8:30 am

Start the Christmas season with this joyful family event! Children (with an adult) will make a nativity craft, enjoy breakfast with sausage and pancakes, and hear the story of Jesus' birth. The morning concludes with a beautiful angel choir singing Christmas carols. Family photos will also be taken by Dave Philip.



### Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 14, at 9:00 am

Join us for a joyful retelling of the Christmas story presented by our children and youth—a heartwarming reminder of God's love through the eyes of little ones.



### Blue Christmas Service Thursday, December 18, at 4:00 pm (followed by a light supper)

This quiet, reflective service offers comfort and hope for those who find the holidays difficult. A space to rest, pray, and remember that Christ's light shines even in times of sorrow.



### Carols and Scripture Service (followed by Christmas Tea) Sunday, December 21, at 9:00 am

Join us for a beautiful morning of traditional carols, Scripture readings, and music by the Choir and the Ramos family's string ensemble. After worship, stay for a Christmas Tea in honor of our choir, graciously hosted by the United Women in Faith. Everyone is welcome!

### Christmas Eve Services – Wednesday, December 24



2:00 pm – "By Kids and For Kids" Service: A lively, child-friendly celebration perfect for families with young children.

4:00 pm – Contemporary Candlelight and Communion Service: Featuring contemporary music led by the Crosswalk Praise Team.

11:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight and Communion Service: A peaceful, traditional service featuring beloved Christmas hymns and music by the choir.

**Come and experience the wonder of Christmas at Union—  
where all are welcome and love shines bright.**

Last Christmas Eve Julie Petraborg introduced White Gifts as part of the “Kids for Kids” service. Some members of the congregation donated canned goods that were wrapped in white tissue paper and tied with a ribbon. At the close of the service all the children were invited to choose a gift or 2 to be placed at the manger. The canned goods were later taken to our church’s food pantry.

This year everyone is invited to share in this project. Thanks to Google, here’s the history behind White Gifts:

*The Meaning of White Gift Sunday*



The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today’s white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister’s wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

At Union we will have White Gift Christmas Eve. Please bring your canned goods to the Welcome Center or Krause Room the first two Sundays of Advent (November 30 and December 6). If you could wrap them in white paper (tissue paper works great; use white ribbon to tie it up), the Worship Committee would appreciate it. Nonetheless, your donations will be wrapped and ready for the Kids for Kids Christmas Eve service. Thanks in advance for participating in this worthy project. Our food pantry thanks you, too.

Our Food Pantry recently received a cash donation from Bank of Belleville. Here’s the scoop!

*“That’s why we’re casual every Friday. For everyone who wears jeans, a \$5 donation goes to support a worthy local cause.*

*Started as an employee-run fundraising effort to help a team member cover expenses through a temporary medical situation, the cause grew. Now, each month we select a Metro-East charity and present the cumulative donation.*

*Consider it, small change with big impact.”*



**Raise Right**



Order: Sunday, December 7  
Delivery: December 14

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 Angela Rawson for more information.

*Please note:* Only 1 date to order in December. Select \$5 and \$10 gift cards available; please see sign at Welcome Center desk to see those companies.

**Poinsettia Order Form**  
**(Please Print)**



In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 each (you may order as many as you like)

# of poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Place in the  
Offering Plate or  
bring to the  
Churchoffice  
by  
Monday,  
December  
15th**



*Fine Arts  
Concert Series*

Featuring

*Mezzo-Soprano*

*Danielle Long*

Accompanied by Gail Long

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**3:00 p.m.**

Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main Street

Belleville, Illinois 62220

Free-Will Offering





In 1988, one of the early well known song writers in Contemporary Christian music, Rich Mullins, wrote a song called "Awesome God". He thought it was one of the worst songs he ever wrote. But it became so popular it was his signature song. This year Phil Wickham took that song's chorus and wrote his own version, "What An Awesome God". This song has been so well received it even made it to the Billboard Hot 100. Not many Christian songs get that honor.

Maybe sometimes it just takes a little refreshing to make something new again and catch on in a big way. We know God is awesome, but maybe a hurting world needed to hear Phil's new twist and it is really speaking to them. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says: "Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges!" Let's pray that this song and others continue to reach people searching for hope and a new start!

The first Sunday of each month the Crosswalk anthem is a new song that the congregation will join us in singing the rest of the Sundays of the month. November's song is... you guessed it... "What An Awesome God". Join us to sing praises to our awesome God!!

- November 2 – "What An Awesome God" by Phil Wickham
- November 9 – "God Story" by Anne Wilson
- November 16 – "Red" by Carrollton
- November 23 – "Honest" by Leanna Crawford



On Wednesday, October 22, the Horticulture Club planted a 'Ruby Daze' crabapple tree in memory of Tom Sheeler. He was one of three original three members of the Horticulture group (others are Bob Inman and Bob Dintelmann) and he named the group. That was in 2002 when the landscaping was completed on the new addition. Tom loved all of God's nature and was a very good gardener. The Prayer Garden was his special place to keep looking good. His church activity with Horticulture continued as long as he was able. His wife, Betty, has asked that his memorial funds to Union be used by Horticulture for church beatification. We do this work to 'The Glory of God'.



## Wednesdays at Union

September 17 - November 19, 2025

**Have fun. Learn the Bible. Grow in faith. Care for your body. Build friendships.**

Whether you come for one part or stay for it all, Wednesday nights at Union are designed to nurture your spirit, strengthen your body, and connect you with others.  
*Childcare is available (0-5 yrs.)*

### Schedule:

- 4:30–5:30 PM – Yoga with Contemplative Prayer
- 5:30–6:15 PM – Dinner
- 6:15–7:15 PM – Bible Study on Gospel of Mark
- 7:30–8:30 PM – Choir Practice

### 1. Yoga with Contemplative Prayer – *Energize Your Body & Soul*

Led by Rev. Angie Lee (October 8 - November 12)  
Come as you are—no yoga experience needed. This gentle, adaptable practice blends stretching, mindful breathing, and Scripture meditation. You'll leave feeling both physically renewed and spiritually refreshed.

#### Benefits include:

- Center your heart on God
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve strength, flexibility, and balance
- Lower risk of falls
- Enhance circulation and joint mobility

### 2. Wednesday Dinner – *Good Food, Good Conversation*

Are you often eating alone or grabbing quick, simple meals? Join us for a delicious, balanced dinner in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

- \$5 per person / \$20 per household
- Tickets available at the door (cash or check only)

### 3. 6:15–7:15 PM – Workshops & Bible Study (International)

Join us Wednesday evenings for engaging workshops and a fall Bible study on *The Gospel of Mark*.  
Oct 8–Nov 17 – Bible study led by Pastor Angie (*Following Jesus Today*, Mark's fast-paced Gospel invites us to discover His true identity, understand discipleship, and apply faith to daily life.)

### 4. Choir Practice – *Lift Your Voice in Praise*

If you love to sing, contact the church office to join our choir!

## KIDS HOPE REPORT FROM THE "TIGER TEAM"

Recently a student asked his mentor if she could bring some markers next week. Sure, she said. Then he asked her to bring more paper. Sure, she said. Then he asked if she has spiders in her basement. She said, maybe.....probably. So then he asked if she could catch one in a jar and bring it in next week. NOOOOO, she said!

The mentors have moments of funny and wonderful surprises as they spend time with their students. It is truly a labor of love. Reading the Progress Reports each week is a joy.

We have 9 mentors currently matched with students. Each one of those mentors has a prayer partner who inquires each week what prayers that mentor and student need. We still have 4 volunteers who are waiting to be matched to a student. And they will, hopefully soon.

We covet your prayers as well—prayers for healthy and strong relationships of trust and love, prayers for families to know we do this to show these precious children God's love, prayers for families to be open to experiencing the grace-filled community at Union Church.

Allynn  
KIDS HOPE Director



TIGER TEAM SERVANT LEADERS:  
Kristin Trapp, Allynn & Geoffrey Schwalenberg

## Hobby Time

Wednesdays  
Room 211  
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm



These are open times and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Bring your portable hobby, a snack, and a friend for fellowship and fun as you work on a project. *Please contact Becky Keiser, 618-795-0317 for more information.*

**Dinner & the Word** will meet Friday, November 7 for the next session of *The Chosen*. We will meet at the home of Bruce & Marjie Simms for potluck and viewing of the next episode and a brief discussion.

This month is Season 2, Episode #1  
Theme: Sandwich Potluck — bring sandwich fixings

In December, we will meet on December 5.

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

## "2nd Tuesday BBQ"

The PEO chapter at Union UMC has invited the 2nd Tuesday BBQ group to lunch at their monthly meeting on November 11th at 11:00 A.M. in the Krause Room.

The speaker will be Dick Anshus, a former POW from the Viet Nam War. We will do this in lieu of our regular 2nd Tuesday BBQ.

Reservations were needed by November 1st, so that they have enough BBQ pulled pork. There will be a \$5.00 charge for lunch. Questions to Joe at 618-235-5344 or [joseph.milton@att.net](mailto:joseph.milton@att.net).



Union United Methodist Church

721 East Main

Belleville, Illinois 62220

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Drama Ministry  
October 26  
Thanks, Stephanie, Zoe and Gabby



**CROSSWALK**

**Sundays at 11:15  
Chapel**

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



### MUSIC TIDINGS

O Come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalm 95: 1-2

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "God of the Sparrow" - Courtney with violinist: Philip Tinge  
Rev. Lee's sermon: "God of the Living"; Luke 20:27-38

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9 am - Sanctuary Choir anthem - "Praise the Lord" - G.F. Handel  
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Not One Stone Left Unturned"; Luke 21:5-19

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, Thanksgiving Sunday

9 am - Sanctuary Choir Anthem - "Thanksgiving Medley" - arr. Berry with brass quartet: Len Bull, Michael Howland, Aaron Eckert, and Doug Kost  
Joyful Noise will sing  
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Grounded in Gratitude"; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35



### ADVENT BEGINS

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday in Advent  
9 am - Sanctuary Choir Anthem - "Praise Ye The Lord" - Saint-Saens from the 'Christmas Oratorio'  
Rev. Lee's sermon: "Hope: Wake Up to Hope"  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44