

# *The Caller*

## First United Methodist Church

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[www.comejourneywithus.com](http://www.comejourneywithus.com)

August 2025

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### Fellowship Meal

Dream Team is planning a fellowship meal, which is open to all, on **Thursday, August 7** at 6:15 p.m. at Maple City Restaurant. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by August 5.

### United Women of Faith

Monmouth College New Student Walkout is **Monday, August 18** at 3:15 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to provide cookies. Please pack 3 cookies per zip lock bag with no nuts or peanut butter in the cookies. Thank you ahead of time for baking for our college students.

### Youth Group

If you are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, you are invited to be a part of all youth group activities. Youth Group generally meets on Sundays at the church, however there are times where alternate activities are planned. A typical gathering consists of worship, music, devotion, food and fun! **Sunday, August 24** will be the Youth Group Kickoff Cookout at the Carlson's home from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please get in touch with Adam or Michelle Carlson so you can be added to the GroupMe app where announcements, meeting times, etc. are posted.

### Birdies for Charity

Prayers of Thankfulness to our Lord!! In case you haven't heard the results (so far) of our Birdies for Charity Fundraiser...**it's exciting!!!** 38 of our 150 family units have pledged, donated, and paid in full \$13,805 to Birdies for Charity. This does NOT include the Bonus we will receive, on top of this amount, in October.

Remember we are guaranteed a minimum bonus of 5% of this \$13,805 which is \$690.25, making a minimum return altogether of \$14,495.25. In the past, we have had between the minimum of 5% up to 9.9%, so we may receive even more. Our grand total last year was \$12,334.68, so this has been a very successful "project" for us!! Thank you to all who donated. You really came through!!!

Laurie Todd - BFC Contact Person

## From the Pastor's Pen



As the summer begins to wind down in August, and our calendar is a little clearer than it sometimes is, I am mindful of God's call to "remember the sabbath and keep it holy." This is not just about remembering to worship on Sundays (although I hope you will continue to do that!) Sabbath is about creating space and intentionally setting aside a day (or at least a significant time) each week to step away from the demands of work and embrace a rhythm of rest, worship, community, and delight. Sabbath is not an obligation. It is a gift from God designed to bring refreshment and strengthen our relationship with Him and those around us. Some key elements of sabbath are:

- **Stop working.** This includes not only paid work, but any work that is done out of a sense of obligation or pressure to produce. Embracing that stillness is okay. It is okay to "sit a spell." Limit activities that drain your energy (which could even be social media or screen time.) And prioritize physical rest. Take a nap!
- **Connect with God.** Worship, whether together or alone. Take time to pray. Some would even fast as an act of worship—as we do during Lent, this can be skipping a meal or a certain kind of food or activity in order to focus on God. Read scripture, a devotion book, write in a journal, or spend time in nature. Go for a walk and look for signs of God's hand in creation or pray silently for the things you notice—a family in your neighborhood, or for the world.
- **Connect with others.** This is a time to have a delicious meal with family or friends. Play a game. Call someone and catch up. Again, worship is a way to connect with not only God, but others. We need people in our lives.
- **Cultivate a mindset of delight and gratitude.** Focus on God's goodness and how God has blessed you and provided for you. Engage in hobbies that renew you and bring you joy. Rediscover the joy of simple pleasures such as a fragrance or music. Let go of the need to strive/to perform, and simply BE.

As we go through the end of summer (and life!) accept the gift of sabbath. It is a blessing!  
Pastor Shelly

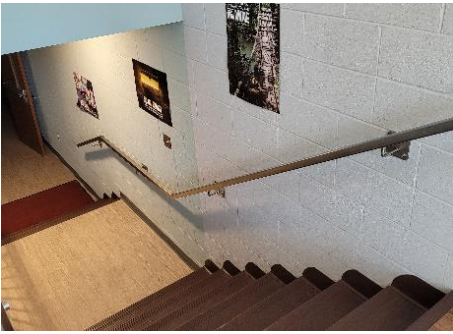
## Update on Photo Directory

We have submitted everything to the directory company and are awaiting the proof book. Thank you for your patience! And a great big thanks to Carolyn Thomas, Susie Clark and Laurie Todd for all their work on the project!

## Summer Special Music for Worship

During the summer months, the Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir are not practicing or taking part in worship. If you would like to provide special music for worship this summer, please contact Kaitlyn McCullough at 309-620-2307.

## A Note from the Trustees



We wish to express our gratitude to Max McNeeley with Cameron Custom Welding and Zach Johnson with Advance Plumbing and Mechanical, who donated their time, talents, and expertise to donate and install the handrail that goes from the South entrance to Fellowship Hall! If you run into them, please tell them thank you, and please help us repay them by giving them a positive word of mouth in the community!

## Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Carter Carlson won the big candy bar this month! Congrats to Carter!

We are now studying the Armor of God according to Ephesians 6:10-18. We are learning what each piece of armor represents for us today and what protection it provided to the soldiers in Bible times. We have started filling out our booklets about the armor. We also are learning a song about the armor to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," which will help us to remember each part of God's Armor. Hopefully we will be making our own swords, shields, and helmets in the weeks to come.

The full Armor of God:

Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of Peace

Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)

Blessings,

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang



## Senior News

Weekly prayer time is held in the Chapel at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings. It is followed by Bible Study from 10:00–11:00. We will be starting to study the book of Romans. Bring your Bible and join us. All are welcome to come for either one, or both.

In the Atrium you can find prayer shawls displayed. You are invited to select one that you can give to someone for whom it might bring comfort.

Weekly sermons are delivered to over 30 people and communion is available upon request. If you would like to assist in this ministry, please let me know.

Save the date for an all church day trip to Camp Big Sky about five miles west of Farmington. This will be on Saturday, September 13. Be watching for more information and a sign up sheet.

Joyce Clark – 309-299-5682

## **Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective.**

A growing number of people have chosen to experience healing touch and have found it to be beneficial. Some of the benefits include relieving stress and depression, reducing pain, supporting the body during chemotherapy, strengthening the immune system and enhancing recovery following surgery. If you would like to schedule an appointment, call Chris Moore (309-337-4162) or Joyce Clark (309-299-5682). There is no charge for a session. We also have information that will help you prepare your body for surgery.

## **Flowers for the Altar**

Do you have flowers in your garden to share or an artificial arrangement to share? If you do, let LeAnn know in the church office.

## **Thank you**

Church Family, I really appreciate your kindness during this difficult time I'm going through. Knowing I'm not alone makes me feel a little better. I'm so grateful for all of you.  
Lori Anderson

## **Coming in September**

"We Are the Body" –Sunday, September 14 during worship.

Missions Breakfast—Sunday, September 21 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Christian Education Sunday – September 21 at 9:30 a.m.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Wow! What a week. This year's theme was True North, trusting Jesus in a wild world. We guided kids through an Alaskan adventure as we learned that in this wild world, we can always trust Jesus. Thank you to the many volunteers that helped before and during the week. We had 50 registered volunteers helping at various times. The exciting news is that by the end of VBS, we had 83 kids registered. Sunday evening, we had 42 kids attend and then Monday's attendance grew to 75 kids!

The kids began with a meal at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the VBS Kitchen Crew for serving over 100 people each evening. At 5:30, we began with the Opening in the Sanctuary that included the Bible verse, Bible points, our Buddy for the day and of course music. Then the kids rotated through 5 stations and then ended up in the Sanctuary for the Closing.

During the week, we took an offering for the Monmouth-Roseville and United Weekend Meals Backpack Program. The families donated \$ 766.04 to be divided between the two school districts. We are hoping to add to the total to be able to feed more students on the weekends.

Thank you again for donating props and giving of your time and talents to bring these children closer to God.







## August Birthdays

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Aaran Lantz      | 17 Emmanuel Amouzouvik    |
| 2 Lance Oetting    | Matt Sims                 |
| Ann Halcomb        | 18 Andrew Uddin           |
| 4 Penny Vaughn     | 21 Lars Bergren           |
| 5 McKinley Rexroat | Bob McVey                 |
| Colton Willhardt   | 22 Brenda Cornell         |
| George Sprout      | 23 Reagan Scanlon-Kessler |
| 6 Linda Murray     | Rich White                |
| LeAnn Murk         | Patti Salyers             |
| 8 Rod Fuess        | 24 Steph Malachi          |
| 9 Todd Clayton     | 25 Janet Underwood        |
| Carol Tarr         | 27 James Petri            |
| 13 Camdyn Bennett  | 28 Phil Lemley            |
| Lori Anderson      | 29 Cinda Burgland         |
| 14 Carson Davies   | 30 Betty Bollman          |
| 15 Jim Ray         | 31 Grace Murk             |
|                    | Rhonda Willhardt          |



## Ministry Teams

Directing Pastor - Rev. Shelly Forrest

Secretary/Financial Secretary - LeAnn Murk

Treasurer - Melinda Todd

Senior Ministries Coordinator - Joyce Clark

Education Director - Chris Moore

Youth Coordinators - Adam & Michelle Carlson

Nursery Attendant - Julianne Drum

Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson

Sanctuary and Bell Choir Director –  
Kaitlyn McCullough

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Praise Team Director – Sue Ray

Custodian - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

# First United Methodists Church of Monmouth August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Group 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM		1 9:00 am Dream Team meeting in the Chapel	2 9:00 am Dream Team meeting in the Chapel
3	4	5 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in lounge No Worship meeting	6	7 5:30 pm Hospitality meeting in the Lounge 6:15 Fellowship Dinner at Maple City	8	9
10	11 10:00 am Nominations meeting in the Lounge 6:00 pm Finance in the lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the lounge	12	13	14 5:00 pm SPRC meeting in the Lounge	15	16
17	18 3:15 Monmouth College New Student Walkout	19	20	21	22	23
24 4-6:00 pm Youth Group Kickoff at Carlson Home	25 September caller info due	26	27	28	29	30
31						