

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

309 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

www.comejourneywithus.com

September 2025



Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir

We DO have a new Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir Director! Adelia McGee has agreed to be our new director of both bells and singing. The Sanctuary Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Bell Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir meets on the 2nd floor on the northwest side. All ringers and singers are welcome!

Adelia will also be taking over the role of choosing music and getting it ready for the Praise Team. We cannot say thank you enough to Sue Ray for her many years of service in this area!

Sunday, September 21

Mission Breakfast

On Sunday, September 21, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, the Mission/Outreach Team is organizing this quarter's Mission Breakfast. Proceeds from this breakfast will go to the WIU Wesley Foundation as they continue to expand their ministry to WIU students. They are feeding students twice each week and providing opportunities to worship, serve, and grow as disciples. A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Center. We would appreciate donations of egg casseroles and fruit for that day.

Christian Education Sunday

Please come and join us for worship on September 21 at 9:30. The youth have many talents that they would like to share with the congregation, and they have been working very hard.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin their fall gatherings on September 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Whether you knit or crochet, or would like to learn, we would love to have you join us. Beginning in October we will meet on the first and third Sundays at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. For additional information, please call Susie Clark at 309-337-7867.

Boohoo and Wahoo Party – September 2

Pastor Shelly and Anita Anderson will be reaching out to the parents of MELC students on Tuesday, September 2 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. by hosting a gathering of coffee, lemonade and treats so parents can catch up after the summer or get to know each other as we begin this new year.

Prime Beef Parade – September 3

On Wednesday, September 3, before the parade, members of the church will be taking icy pops out along the parade route so we can once again meet our neighbors, offer them a refreshing treat, and invite them to come journey with us here at First United Methodist.

New Adult Study begins September 9

On Tuesday evenings beginning September 9, Pastor Shelly will lead a new study. The study will meet from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and continue through November 18. The study will not meet on the first Tuesday of each month due to Trustees and Worship Team meetings. We will begin with the Gospel of John, and then the letter of First John. We will be using the Serendipity Bible questions, therefore you do not need to purchase a book just bring a Bible. It is also okay not to make it to each week. While there is certainly continuity from one week to the next, each week can stand alone. The process of the Serendipity study includes ice-breaker questions, digging into the scripture, and life-application. In addition to growing in our love for God, we get to know and love one another in this study time.

Ladies It's Tea Time - September 13

On Friday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m., all women in Monmouth and the vicinity are invited to Gerlaw Christian Church, 948 245th Avenue, Gerlaw, for “Splashes of Joy in Song and Praise” Church Women United.

It's Time to Celebrate - September 20

Please join us for a reception on Saturday, September 20 for Sam and Clara Wolf at the home of John and Amy Wolf, 1609 Twp Road 1400 North, Biggsville, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

High School Sunday School begins September 21

Pastor Shelly and Mitch Forrest will begin leading the High School Sunday School Class on Sunday, September 21 after the Christian Education Sunday Worship Service. For the fall, the class will be following a study called “Alpha.” The Alpha Youth Series is designed to give young people space to explore their questions about life, faith, and purpose. This curriculum has been created to enable young people to explore the core ideas of the Christian faith in a relevant, accessible, and engaging way. It is video based with room for lots of conversation. If you have or are a student in grades 9-12, please join us in the Youth Room after worship. (Mitch will be there right away, Pastor Shelly will get there ASAP!)

Christ Apple Orchard – October 9

On Thursday, October 9 there will be a trip to Christ Apple Orchard near Brimfield followed by lunch at the Jubilee restaurant. Nearer to the time, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center. We will leave the church at 9:30 am for this trip.

Charge Conference – October 12

Our Charge Conference this year is at Aledo United Methodist Church at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 12. All members of the church are welcome, and those who serve as committee chairs or on Administrative Council are encouraged to attend. We have a new Superintendent this year, and the business may be kept brief, but there will be a time of worship and celebration of the good things God is doing in our churches.

29th Annual Hog Roast - October 18

It's that time of the year again. The 29th Annual Hog Roast is Saturday, October 18. We will be offering our dine-in option in Fellowship Hall from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. and our drive-through service from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. This will be a free-will donation.

The meal will include a sandwich, baked beans, applesauce, and chips. Dessert will be cookies at the drive-through and we will have a dessert table for those dining in Fellowship Hall. We will be asking for sponsors again this year. This helps to defray cost of the pork. Sign-up sheets will be available in the next few weeks. We need workers, cookies and desserts. Many hands make light work so please save the date.

All Saints Sunday – November 2



We will be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 2. During the service, we will recognize our members or regular attendees who died after November 1, 2024 with an individual rose. In addition, if you would like to recognize a family member who passed away last year, these names will be included in the bulletin only. Please contact LeAnn in the church office by Wednesday, October 29 with those names.

Our Vision: Know, Grow, Show Jesus

Even for those of us who haven't been in school for a long time, there is something about this time of year that is a reset. This is a time of new beginnings. So, as we begin all of our fall activities, choirs, Sunday School classes, and such, it's a good idea to be reminded: At the heart of our church is a simple yet powerful vision: **to know Jesus, grow in Jesus, and show Jesus to the world.**

Know Jesus – This isn't just about head knowledge, it's about relationship. We seek to know Jesus personally and deeply. This happens in worship, through prayer, Scripture, and time spent in His presence. Knowing Jesus is the foundation of our faith and the source of our hope. If you've been away for the summer, come home! If it's been a while since you've joined a class, join in.

Grow in Jesus – Faith is not a one-time event, but a lifelong journey. We are committed to growing together as disciples—through teaching, service, and community. As we grow in character and maturity, we reflect more of Christ in all we do, and that is our ultimate goal.

Show Jesus – Our faith is meant to be visible. Whether through acts of kindness, missions, or simply living out the Gospel in our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces, we are called to show Jesus to others. By His love in us, we become His hands and feet in a world that needs Him.

Let's walk this vision together—to know Him more, grow in Him daily, and show Him boldly.

Welcome Adelia



My name is Adelia McGee, and I'm so excited and honored to be stepping in as your new Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir Director!

Music has always been a powerful part of my spiritual journey, and I truly believe in the way it brings people together and lifts hearts toward God. My goal is to create a space where everyone feels welcome, whether you've sung for years or are just starting to find your voice. I can't wait to get to know you, grow together, and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Feel free to reach out or stop by a rehearsal if you're curious about joining the choir. I'd love to meet you!

Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Lyla Moore was our big candy bar winner this month. Congratulations, Lyla!

We are continuing our study on the Armor of God. So far, we have made our own Sword of the Spirit, the Shield of Faith, the Belt of Truth, and the Helmet of Salvation. We have two more pieces of armor to make, which are the Breastplate of Righteousness and the Shoes of Peace. We are planning on putting on the full Armor of God on Christian Education Sunday.



Also on that day, we want to share with you some of the other lessons that we have been studying this past year. Please come and join us for worship on September 21 at 9:30. The youth have many talents that they would like to share with the congregation, and they have been working very hard. We will need all the youth at the church that Sunday by 9:00 a.m.

Thank you for all for your support.

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

Youth Group

The Youth kicked off the new school year with a cook-out on August 24 with 24 in attendance. What a great start! Thanks to the Carlsons for their leadership!

The youth group, grades 6-12, meets on Sundays throughout the school year. If you would like to stay in the loop with what is happening, please contact us so you can be added to the GroupMe app that they use to get the word out about each week's events.

Adam and Michelle Carlson



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. Currently we are studying 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.

Joyce Clark - 309-299-5682.

A reminder to those who have signed up, the trip to Camp Big Sky near Farmington is. Saturday, September 13. We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m.

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.

Thank you for your donations!



The offering for Vacation Bible School was donated to weekend meals programs for area schools. Jameison Community Center handles the program for Monmouth-Roseville School District. Blessings in a Backpack, the program for United West and United North is handled by United Intermediate school who does all of the preparation of the bags as part of their curriculum. Each program received a check for \$525.00. Thank you for your support of these programs.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all who made our "New Student Walkout" a success again this year. Thank you to all who baked cookies and to all who helped hand them out! The college students were so appreciative. Thank You, United Women IN Faith

Love Packages Donations

During the next few months, we will collect Christian literature to donation to Love Packages. They have two criteria for deciding what material to accept: Something that will lead someone to faith in Christ and/or something that will disciple a believer. If your material does one of those things, donate it. Love Packages collects Bibles, Christian books, Sunday School materials, to distribute all over the world. You may leave your donations in the box in the Atrium.

September Birthdays

2 Brian Helms	16 Jerry Marenholtz
3 Jill Munson	19 Coleen Flaar
4 Melinda Todd	20 Jamey Cornell
Derek Chandler	Marlene Edwards
5 Bill Clayton	22 Mark Anderson
Jackie Lemley	Will Brooks
8 Mike Lee	24 Derek Bass
Deb Moore	25 Liz Walker
Aidan Myers	Josh DeCrane
Rich Thomas	27 Jamie Smith
9 Logan Moore	28 Hannah McVey
11 Dean Watkins	29 Dottie Ray
13 Jim Dice	



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 and Michelle Carlson

Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson

Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir and Praise

Team Director – Adelia McGee

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

First United Methodists Church of Monmouth September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day Church office closed	2 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in lounge	3 EVERY WEDNESDAY Prayer Group 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir in the Chapel	4 6:00 pm Worship meeting in lounge	5	6
7 Youth Group	8 6:00 pm Finance in the lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the lounge	9	10 9:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	11	12 1:30 pm Church Women United at Gerlaw	13 9-4:00 pm Trip to Camp Big Sky
14 Youth Group	15	16	17 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	18	19	20
21 Christian Education Sunday 8-9:00 am Mission Breakfast 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	22 October caller info due	23	24 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	25	26	27
28 Youth Group	29	30				