

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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October 2025



We have been invited to an additional Bible Study beginning Tuesday, October 7. Thinking Faithfully Out Loud/Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage

On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am, from October 7 through November 11 at First Lutheran Church, you are invited to come together for an ecumenical study with friends from First Lutheran Church, Faith United Presbyterian and First United Methodist.

Sessions will include discussions around: the theology of the cross (something we hold in common), the history of the Bible, atonement (am I at ONE with God?), identity of God, what does it mean to be a Christian, and how does our faith inform our views on politics.

Bring your own Bible and a beverage! Again, these sessions will be at First Lutheran Church.

Blanket The World with Love on Sunday, October 12

On October 12 during the worship service, we will be celebrating United Women in Faith Sunday. We are so excited to have our own Wendy Anderson as our guest speaker that morning. She will be sharing how she got involved with St. Jude's and her experiences over the past 11 years.

Also, that day we will be celebrating Blanket Sunday through our local Church Women United of Church World Service. Each blanket costs \$10. By giving your gift of any amount, will combine with others and enable someone to see and feel God's love. In Hebrews 13:16 God's Word says, "And don't forget to do good and share with those in need, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased."

When you give your donation, write your check to United Methodist Women and mark it for the special offering for Blanket Sunday. THANK YOU for being a blessing.

Charge Conference – Sunday, October 12

Our Charge Conference this year is once again at the Aledo United Methodist Church at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 12. All members of the church are welcome, and leaders, those who serve as committee chairs or Administrative Council, are encouraged to attend.

29th Annual Hog Roast – Saturday, 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 to help defray cost of the pork. Sign-up sheets are available in the Atrium. We need workers, cookies and desserts. Many hands make light work so please save the date.

October Is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is annually Pastor Appreciation Month. We often take for granted the energy, efforts, and support of Pastor Shelly Forrest and Joyce Clark for our Church Family. Please take a moment to thank Pastor Shelly and Joyce for all that they do for us and our church community.

Pastor, Parish, and Staff Relations Committee

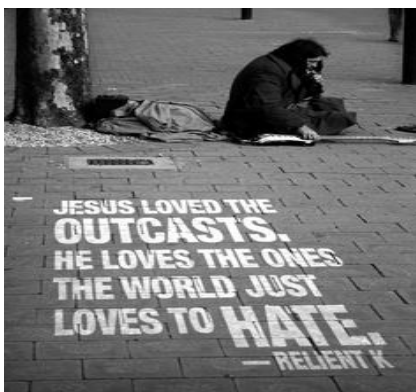
All Saints Sunday – November 2

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.

MELC Turkey Trot – Thursday, November 27

Registration is now open for the 14th annual Turkey Trot 5k run/walk and kids run. Go to the M.E.L.C.-Monmouth Early Learning Center Facebook page for more information and to register.

Pastor's Letter



Recently, my daughter was home, and we began watching the Netflix series *Wednesday* which is a spin-off of the old TV show *The Adams Family*. In the Netflix show, the odd characters like Wednesday, Thing, and her family are called "the outcasts." The Warren County Public Library is organizing this year's trick-or-treat around the square with an Adam's Family theme. I wasn't sure what to do with that until I heard the words "the outcasts." Then it came to me! ***Jesus came for the outcasts!***

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Sin had been introduced to the world.

The rest of the Bible is God's relentless pursuit of His people. That separation was never

God's desire! God did not desire His children to be enslaved (as they were in Egypt). So, he sent Moses to free them.

Jesus is often referred to as the new Adam. Jesus is described as the "new" or "last" Adam because his obedience and death brought salvation, justifying life and abundant grace for humanity, in contrast to Adam's sin and disobedience, which brought condemnation and death to all people. The Apostle Paul contrasts these two figures, seeing Jesus as a new head of humanity who reverses the effects of the first Adam's fall, establishing a "new creation" and a "life-giving spirit" for all who believe in him. C.S. Lewis calls the children in the Narnia series "the sons and daughters of Adam." We are ALL outcasts, and we are ALL Adam's family. And so is every other human on earth! Jesus came for, and **Jesus loves the outcasts!**

Speaking of the library event, on Friday, October 24 from 2:00-3:00 p.m., we will be handing out apple laffy taffy and a note of invitation to our church. We just may have some Adam's Family "outcasts" there that day! Check out the November Caller for pictures.

The New Cross—the whole story

Hopefully you have noticed the beautiful new addition to the front of the sanctuary! In March, the Worship team wondered why we couldn't have a cross up front. Knowing Craig Sheagren's talent with wood, I asked Craig to think about what he would envision there. He and Cathy went to a wedding where he was inspired by a cross similar to the design you now see, but he made several prototypes (just in case) and reconvened the decorating committee. They approved this design, and Craig got to work. With wood from Bill and Karen Robinson's grove, and the help of Don Daily and Dave Flaar, this beautiful new cross came to fruition. It needed backlighting, which is where the next beautiful miracle happened. The amount given to the church for Suzanne Lovdahl's memorial was almost the exact amount needed to complete the project. As Jim Lovdahl was a woodworker too, the family was delighted to have Suzanne's gift fund this project. And now, as a focal point for worship, the cross will remain for years to come.

Why the cross? The circle certainly represents the eternity of God. God, and God's love has no beginning and no end. The three circles together represent the trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. But the cross represents the sacrifice that God made—His leaving heaven to come to earth. The obedience of Jesus, that there is nothing He would not do for us, even death on a cross. He came to free us, He came to save us. And the fact that the cross is empty is a symbol of victory. Jesus is victorious over all sin and all death—yours, mine and EVERYONE else's. In the Protestant tradition, the cross does not represent shame and guilt. It represents faithful love, obedience, and FREEDOM from the sins that haunt us. I encourage you to find this song and listen, but check out these lyrics:

Thank You Jesus for the Blood by Charity Gayle

I was a wretch, I remember who I was
I was lost, I was blind, I was running out of time
Sin separated, the breach was far too wide

But from the far side of the chasm
You held me in Your sight
So You made a way, across the great divide
Left behind, Heaven's throne, to build it here inside
And there at the cross You paid the debt I owe
Broke my chains, freed my soul, for the first time I had hope
Thank You Jesus, for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus, it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus, You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light
You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin
You were buried for three days but then You walked right out again
And now death has no sting and life has no end
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Garrison Todd won the big candy bar this month. Congratulations to Gary!

This past month was dedicated to practicing for our Christian Education Sunday Worship service. The youth did an amazing job. Everyone shared their talents as we gave glory to God. Our younger ones sang about the plagues that God put on the Egyptians in order to change the mind of Pharaoh. We put on the Full Armor of God to demonstrate the power God has given us over our enemy, Satan. We worshiped God through music, Scripture, and prayer. Everyone shared their talents and gifts.



Raelynn and Dreyson Johnson received their Bibles, and we honored all of our teachers, staff, and helpers.

Blessings,
Miss Chris

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.

Stained Glass Ornament Sale

The stained-glass ornaments that have been displayed at church for several years will be sold in November. The original intention for the creation of the ornaments was to sell them to raise money. The Worship Committee discussed this and selected to purchase new Chrismons for the Sanctuary Christmas tree. The current Chrismons are several years old and have deteriorated.

The sale will take place on November 9 after the worship service. No early sales will be allowed, and this will allow everyone to have equal opportunity to purchase an ornament. To begin, each family will be able to purchase one ornament. At the end of the sale, if there are remaining ornaments families can purchase more. The ornaments will be priced individually depending on size and detail. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pat Bates or Peg Perrin.

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.

October 9 there will be a trip to Christ Apple Orchard near Brimfield. We will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. to go to the orchard. After the orchard, we will have lunch at the Jubilee Café in Edwards and then return home. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center in the Atrium. Please sign up by October 5.

Joyce Clark - 309-299-5682.

Thank you

There simply are not enough words to express my gratitude for the ways that all of you have expressed your love, concern, and care this month as I recover from the most difficult physical pain and disability I have ever personally experienced. Thank you for the prayers, cards, meals, flowers, gift certificates, and car rides! Normally, I hand-write notes of appreciation. In this instance, please accept these words of sincere gratitude! It is humbling to be on the receiving end of all this care, but it is fantastic to see how amazing you all are!

October Birthdays

5	Hannah Clark	18	Parker Davies
6	Linda Dean	19	Michelle Carlson
8	Chuck Bennett	20	Craig Sheagren
9	Andrew Ray	21	Paulette Harper
10	Bill Robinson	22	Tyler Carlson
	Chuck Bennett	23	JC Sells
12	Alexa Andrews		Caleb Bennett
	Joyce Clark	26	Ali Bennett
	Richard Uddin	28	Addison Anderson
13	Steve Smith		Megan Smith
14	Cathy Daily	29	Kyler Bennett
15	Matt Genisio	30	Hannah Clayton
16	Pat Davis		



Ministry Teams

Directing Pastor - Rev. Shelly Forrest

Secretary/Financial Secretary - LeAnn Murk	Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir and Praise
Treasurer - Melinda Todd	Team Director – Adelia McGee
Senior Ministries Coordinator - Joyce Clark	Organist - Elizabeth Walker
Education Director - Chris Moore	Keyboard - Joy Boostrom
Youth Coordinators - Adam & Michelle Carlson	Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray
Nursery Attendant - Julianne Drum	Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson

First United Methodist Church of Monmouth

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Study	2 1:30 pm UWF Executive meeting 6:00 pm Worship Meeting in the Lounge	3	4
5 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge Youth Group	6	7 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting	8 9:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	9 9:30 am Christ Apple Orchard	10	11
12 UWF Blanket Sunday 1:30 pm Church Charge Conference at Aledo Youth Group	13 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	14 6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study	15 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	16	17	18 Hog Roast 4:30-7 pm dine in 4:30-6 pm drive through
19 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lounge Youth Group	20	21 6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study	22 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	23	24	25
26 Youth Group	27 Nov. Caller Info Due	28 6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study	29 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	30	31	