

# The Caller

## First United Methodist Church

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February 2026



### Souper Bowl of Caring – Sunday, February 8

Sunday, February 8 is “Souper Bowl of Caring” day. The children will help us take a “Noisy Offering” during worship which we will share between the Jamieson Community Center Food Pantry and Helping Hands Food Pantry in Roseville.



### Ash Wednesday Soup Supper – February 18

The Worship Committee invites you to an Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 18, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Five delicious soups will be available: Potato, Broccoli Cheese, Cheeseburger, Lasagna and Taco. Sandwiches, cheese and crackers, relishes, and cookies will also be served. Free will offering for Jamieson Community Center Food Pantry and Helping Hands Food Pantry in Roseville.

After the meal, the Worship team hopes you will stay for the Ash Wednesday service beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of preparation forty days before the celebration of Easter on April 5.

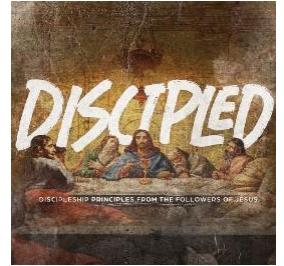
### Lenten Lay Breakfast Series

The Lenten Lay Breakfast Series will run from Friday, February 20 through Good Friday, on April 3. Strom Center will be the host for the series. Each Friday breakfast will begin at 6:30 a.m. followed by the program from 7:15 - 7:45.

- February 20 First United Methodist Church
- February 27 First Lutheran Church
- March 6 Faith United Presbyterian Church
- March 13 Fairview Center Church
- March 20 TBD
- March 27 Heritage Bible Church
- April 3 Immaculate Conception Church

## New Sermon Series beginning February 15

Jesus Christ transformed the world, but he did not do it alone. He invited disciples to follow him and learn from him so they could carry on his mission after he was gone. Jesus is still making disciples today. We are disciples, we are called to *make* disciples, and our mission remains, “*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*”



This four-week series will help us to discover the significance of following Jesus’ example in our daily lives, ultimately becoming more devoted and transformed followers of Christ who pour ourselves out for others.

## Game Day is Sunday, February 22

Two weeks after the “Big Game”, On Sunday, February 22 from 2:00-4:00(ish) we’re going to have our own game day! Bring your board games, card games, or other games to the church Fellowship Hall. We’re going to have a day to just have FUN together! There are lots of tables. We will break up into groups based on which games we decide to play. If you wish, bring a snack to share.



## Beginning the Journey: Ash Wednesday and the Gift of Lent



Each year, Ash Wednesday invites us to begin again. With the sign of ashes placed on our foreheads and the ancient words spoken — “*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return*” — we step into the holy season of Lent. It is a quiet, honest beginning to our journey toward Easter.

Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us of truths we often try to avoid, we are fragile, we are finite, and we are all deeply in need of God’s grace. Yet this is not a message of despair. In our United Methodist tradition, repentance is always paired with hope. The ashes mark not only our mortality, but also God’s unwavering love and desire to restore us. Out of the ashes spring new life.

Lent is a season of forty days (not counting Sundays) given to prayer, fasting, reflection, and acts of mercy. It is a time to examine our hearts, to name what has grown between us and God, and to make room for the Spirit to shape us more fully into Christ’s likeness. Through worship, Scripture, and intentional spiritual practices, we learn again what it means to follow Jesus on the way of the cross.

This journey leads us steadily toward Easter morning—but we cannot rush there. Resurrection joy is made deeper and more meaningful when we have first walked through repentance, humility, and trust. Lent helps us remember that God meets us not only in victory, but also in surrender.

As a church, we enter this season together. We pray together, serve together, and encourage one another along the way. May this Lent be a time when God draws us closer, softens our hearts, and prepares us to celebrate the new life we find in the risen Christ.

Come, let us return to the Lord—and walk this holy road toward Easter. Invite someone to Come Journey with Us this season.

## Worship Sunday, March 1



On Sunday, March 1, James Fielder, our District Superintendent, will be with us to lead worship and communion. Pastor Shelly is having wrist surgery on February 27.

Rev Fielder became our District Superintendent on July 1, 2025. He is a native of St. Louis, Mo., a decorated veteran, having served in the United States Marine Corps for 12 years. At age 23, Fielder enlisted in the Marines where he received his call into the ministry.

"My life's work has been dedicated to leadership development, a calling I believe God has entrusted me," Dr. Fielder said. "I am committed to guiding others to the next level in their ministries, nurturing disciples who will spread the word of God and positively impact the world. My mission is to help others experience the love of Jesus Christ by fostering their spiritual growth, helping them discover their spiritual gifts, and preparing them for effective ministry."

## Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Logan Moore won the big candy bar drawing this month. Congratulations to Logan!



Before starting on a new unit after our Christmas program, we decided to play a few games and have some fun!



Now the younger students are learning about the 12 Disciples. They are remembering the names of the apostles by learning a song sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Do you know their names...Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Bartholomew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon, Thaddaeus, and Judas.

Our older students started the new year off in the book of James. In the first chapter we see that he tells us to "count it all joy when we face trials of many kinds." That's hard to understand until we read on. James says that trials produce perseverance. Then we see in verse 12 that we are blessed when we persevere under trial, because when we've stood the test, we will receive the crown of life. One thing that surprised us is that James says "when" we face trials, not "if" we face trials. Lots of wisdom in the book of James.

Then all the kids had the chance to spend their Bible Bucks at the Bible Buck store. A huge thank you to our High School youth for helping us shop and keeping our money straight! The kids had lots of money to spend!



Blessings,  
Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## Save the Date

Vacation Bible School will be July 26-31. More information will be in the March Caller.

## 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 I Corinthians. Bring your Bible and join us. All are welcome to come for either one or both.

Weekly sermons are delivered to over 30 people and communion is available upon request. If you would like to assist in this ministry, please call Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682.

Mark your calendars for **February 12**. Once again, there will be a fellowship meal at the Maple City Restaurant at 6:15 p.m. A sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. All are welcome. This is a good opportunity to get better acquainted with one another.

There will be two more informational meetings sponsored by the Senior Dream Team. The next one is **February 28**. It will be in the Chapel from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The topic for February is: What is Occupational Therapy (OT) and What Can It Do for You?

Speaker Kim Sandstrom will discuss the difference between Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, and measures OT therapists use to maintain independence in the home. She will cover adaptive equipment, environmental adaptations along with general home safety, staying healthy, and the importance of good nutrition and staying hydrated. Kim is an Occupational Therapist and works at McDonough District Hospital in Macomb.

Information about the March 28 workshop will be included in the next Caller.

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

Perhaps this is the month when you would like to benefit from a healing touch session. It is non-invasive and effective. 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.

## Prayer Shawls and Comfort Pillows



Our Prayer Shawl team has been busy knitting and crocheting through the winter. In the Atrium, there is a rack that is full of wonderful shawls that you are welcome to take and give to anyone who you think needs a little extra comfort as they go through a medical treatment, grief, or some other challenge in their life. Let them know that they are being prayed for! There are also small pocket prayer squares that can be held in one's hand while going through an MRI or can be kept in one's pocket just for a touch of comfort during a time of need. Additionally, there are many pillows that have been made and donated. The pillows can be used behind your back in the car, if you have grandchildren, they can use them as travel pillows. I used a couple after my wrist surgery to prop my hand up. Please stop and take something to comfort someone you love.

Pastor Shelly

## **Memorial Gifts Recognition Sunday – February 8**

February 8 has been designated as Memorial Gifts Recognition Sunday where we honor loved ones whose memorial monies were used in 2024 through 2025. Memorials are gifts given to our church in memory of a deceased individual. These gifts “become the property of this church with the use of those funds to be determined by the proper representatives of this church”, which are the people serving on the Memorial Committee. The funds in these Memorial Dedicated Accounts are meant to be utilized to aid our church’s needs. The family may request that their loved one’s memorial fund be designated for a specific use or area of our church’s work. If there are no specific requests by the family, requests for use of memorial monies for the church must be approved by the Memorial Committee, who does it’s best to “consider the area of interest and of church participation by the individual memorialized by that particular Memorial Fund”. Committees within this church may request Memorial monies for needs and use within our church and church programs.

These are the purchases made in 2024, from the following memorial dedicated accounts:

**Microphone for the Pastor** – In memory of Brenda Robinson, Mark Clegg, Clyde Farwell, and Beth Farwell.

**10 new sanctuary chairs with arms that match what we already have** – in memory of Clyde Farwell, Beth Farwell, and Joyce Bennett.

**In 2025, the installing of power and lighting for the new back lit for the cross at the front of the sanctuary** was funded by the dedicated accounts in memory of Carrie Gaertz and Suzanne Lovdahl.

Current members of the Memorial Committee for 2026 are Anita Anderson, Joy Boostrom, Lois Cook, Deb Fuess, Jackie Lemley, Amy Meyers, Mary Jane O’Brian, Jen Rexroat, and Laurie Todd

## **Donations Needed**

The Dream Team is asking for donations of birthday and thinking of you cards and stamps for our card ministry that is beginning this year. Donations can be made throughout the year, but during the month of February we are making a special push for supplies to begin this program. Items can be dropped off in the office Monday – Friday, 8:00 to noon or on Sunday mornings. Cards and stamps will be used by our volunteers throughout the year. Your contribution will go a long way to get this new ministry off the ground. We know stamps are getting expensive and any size donation will be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

## **Thank you**

Extending a big thank you and much appreciation to everyone that helped with Hanging and Unhanging of the Greens this year! It would be impossible to transform the building and sanctuary to celebrate the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love without your help. I truly hope everyone, new or a regular attendee, feels the welcoming warmth of the love we share in Jesus.

Peg Perrin

## Have you noticed?

During the fall and winter months, the sun shines in the south windows in the Sanctuary. The sun shines on the pulpit, Praise Team and anyone sitting in the north section of the Sanctuary. In December, shades were installed on the south windows. They are remote controlled and solar powered. Having the top of the highest window at 24 feet made it hard to recharge a battery so solar power was the best option. When the shades are up, you don't notice that there are shades installed on the windows.



## February Birthdays

2	Scott Boyer	16	Terry Sage
	Lela Clark	18	Lucas Clayton
	Martin Edwards	20	Pat Bates
3	Suzie Geer		Chad Clayton
4	Jackie Brentise		Josie Clark
	Neal Frey		Annie Bergren
6	Bunky Scott		Jayvon Michael Gold
	Elene Frey	23	Maxine Cline
8	Rachel Williams		Maddie Cook
10	Solomon Raymond	24	Dylan Ankle
11	Jayse Willhardt	26	Lois Kelly
13	Sherry Sage	27	Ben Anderson
15	Rolland Sollenberger	28	Trevor Oetting



## 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 and Hannah Clark

Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir

Director - open

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

Certified Lay -Speaker-Anita Anderson

# First United Methodists Church of Monmouth

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>EVERY WEDNESDAY</u> Prayer Group 9:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM			
1 1-2:30 pm Youth Group 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Chapel	2 3 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in lounge 7:00 pm Worship meeting in lounge	4 3 6:00 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel	5 10 6:30 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel	6 11 10:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge	7 12 5:00 pm SPRC meeting in the Lounge 6:15 pm Fellowship meal at Maple City	8 13
8 Memorial Recognition Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring offering 6-7:30 pm Youth Group	9 6:00 pm Finance in the lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the lounge	10 6:30 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel	11 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	12 10:30 am Deborah Circle in the Lounge	13 5:00 pm SPRC meeting in the Lounge 6:15 pm Fellowship meal at Maple City	14
15 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Chapel 6-7:30 pm Youth Group	16 17 6:30 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel	18 5:30-6:30 pm Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	20 6:30 a.m. Lenten Lay Breakfast 7:15	21 FUMC has the program at Strom	22 23 March Caller info due 6-7:30 pm Youth Group
						24 6:30 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel 25 6:30 pm Alpha Study in the Chapel
						26 27 6:30 a.m. Lenten Lay Breakfast 7:15 First Lutheran has the program at Strom Center
						28 9-10:00 am Dream Team workshop on Occupational Therapy in the Chapel