

# The Caller

## First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

309 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

www.comejourneywithus.com

May 2026



### World Day of Prayer – May 1

On Friday, May 1 at 1:30, our church will host Church Women United's World Day of Prayer. ALL women in the community are welcome!

### Graduation Recognition Sunday – May 3

On Sunday, May 3, we will honor our graduates during worship.

### Mother's Day Recognition – May 10

If you wish to honor that special Mom or "mother-like" person in your life, forms are available at the Welcome Center in the Atrium. Please return the form and a suggested \$10.00 donation to the office by **Tuesday, May 5**. This year, donations from Mother's Day and Father's Day will be divided between Strom Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Support and the Recharge Teen Center in Monmouth



### Ice Cream Social – June 4



On Thursday, June 4, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., we will serve sloppy joes, ice cream, and other desserts in Fellowship Hall. The Monmouth Municipal Band will play at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. No tickets are needed. There will be a basket for a free will donation.

Sign-up sheets will be out soon. We will need people to make homemade desserts, serve, and clean up.

### Community Care Days - Workdays-June 12-13

All are welcome to take part in the workdays doing all sorts of odd jobs such as yard work, small carpentry jobs, etc. Workdays begin at 8:00 a.m. both days, meeting in the Monmouth Roseville High School parking lot with work all day Friday and ending at noon on Saturday. If you are needing work done the work applications are at the Welcome Center and are due back to the church office by **Friday, May 15**.

## Strom Center Ladies Day Tea – May 8

All ladies 60 and over, are invited to the Strom Center Ladies Day Tea on Friday, May 8 at 1:00 p.m. More information is available at the Welcome Center. Make a reservation no later than Friday, May 1 by calling 734-5677.

## You Are Invited – May 23

With grateful hearts, we invite our church family to celebrate Drew Carlson's graduation. Your encouragement, support, and prayers have meant so much throughout this journey. Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, May 23 in Fellowship Hall 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## Honoring, Remembering, and Giving Thanks



May is a month that invites us to pause and remember—remember who has shaped us, who walks alongside us, and who has sacrificed for the freedoms we often take for granted. As a church family, we hold together moments of celebration and reflection, joy and gratitude, all grounded in God's constant and ever-present love.

First, we celebrate our graduates. Whether finishing high school, college, or another significant milestone, graduation marks both an ending and a beginning. These individuals have worked diligently, persevered through challenges, and now stand on the threshold of new opportunities. As a church, we give thanks for their accomplishments and pray that they will carry their faith boldly into whatever comes next. May they know that God goes before them, walks beside them, and calls them into lives of purpose, compassion, strength, and courage.

We also take time to honor mothers and those who nurture. On Mother's Day, we give thanks for the women who have loved, guided, and cared for us—biological mothers, adoptive mothers, grandmothers, mentors, and spiritual mothers/mentors. At the same time, we recognize that this day can be tender for many. Some grieve mothers they have lost, relationships that are strained, or the longing to be a mother. As a community of faith, we hold all these experiences with compassion, trusting that God's love meets each of us right where we are.

Finally, as we approach Memorial Day weekend, we remember and honor those who gave their lives so that we might live in freedom—including the freedom to gather, worship, and live out our faith openly. Their sacrifice calls us not only to gratitude but also to responsibility: to be people who seek peace, pursue justice, and honor the dignity of all God's children. We remember with humility, knowing that the cost of freedom has been great. All gave some, some gave all.

In all these moments—celebrating graduates, honoring mothers, and remembering the fallen—we are reminded of a deeper truth: we are shaped by love—love that is given, received, sacrificed, and remembered. As Scripture teaches us, love is not just something we feel, but something we live out—boldly, faithfully, and with gratitude.

May this month be one in which we remember well, give thanks deeply, and continue to love one another as Christ has loved us.

## Miracle Sunday—a Word from Bishop Bard



There is much going on in the world. Many of the significant news stories in recent weeks have connections to the war in Iran. There is the war itself – how it is being waged and the rhetoric being used, the economic impact of the war, and the dispute that has arisen between Pope Leo XIV and the President of the United States.

While there is within Christian moral thinking a tradition of considering when war might be justifiable (just war theory), there is also the strong presumption that the primary task of followers of Jesus is to be peacemakers. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Jesus in Matthew 5:9). “Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and mutual upbuilding” (Paul in Romans 14:19).

The desire of God for peace is powerfully articulated by the prophet Isaiah: “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). The church leans into peace and peacemaking, even as it acknowledges the possibility that war may, in certain circumstances, be justified. This is a subject for deep, theologically-informed conversation. It is also important to note that the just war tradition mandates that wars, when justifiable, be limited in scope and take every measure to protect non-combatants.

**Recent events, then, suggest the need for deep, thoughtful, theologically informed conversations. If we desire more such conversations and hope to do the things that make for peace, we may want to enhance the opportunities within United Methodism for forming leaders who can lead such conversations and equip others to do so. This is one reason we ask our clergy to pursue theological education through seminary or, alternatively, through a Course of Study.**

The United Methodist Church in the United States is well-equipped with resources for providing such education. The United Methodist Church in other parts of the world yearns to develop more resources for the theological education and formation of its leaders. In numerous conversations over the years, I have heard United Methodist leaders from outside the United States share their deep hope that the church would enhance opportunities for the education and formation of clergy.

This is the rationale behind the Miracle Sunday Initiative put forward by the Council of Bishops with support from the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration. The initiative seeks to unite 30,000 congregations worldwide to extend the mission of The United Methodist Church and to raise vital support for 500 clergy a year through The Endowment for Theological Education outside the U.S.

***If you wish to add to what was received from our March Mission Breakfast, you may either write a check to the church or donate through our website. On the memo blank write: “Miracle Sunday.” Online, donate to “other” and write “Miracle Sunday.” The goal is to have this completed on May 17.***

## Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

We had 2 BIG candy bar winners this month. Congrats to Kennedy Halcomb and Carter Carlson.

Our Easter egg hunt was a huge success. The golden egg was found by Landon Andrews for the Jr. High group, Garrison Todd in the 5-8 age group and Austin Lam in the Pre-K group Austin Lam won the drawing for our BIG yellow Easter egg filled with lots of goodies! After we emptied all of our Easter eggs, the kids made their own empty tombs out of glazed donuts, vanilla wafers, and frosting. They were delicious!



The older youth are finishing their study on James. We learned:

- Perseverance brings maturity
- How to be doers of the Word
- How to control our tongues
- Always choose God's wisdom
- What it means to submit to God
- Always give the glory to God
- The importance of prayer



Our younger students are continuing their study on Special People of the Bible. So far, they have studied John the Baptist and the story of Mary and Martha.

Blessings,  
Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

## St. Jude Run



Wendy Anderson is once again making plans to run the St Jude Memphis to Peoria run in late July. St Jude supports children and families as they go through cancer treatments. Their vision is that “no child should die in the dawn of life.” St Jude’s gives HOPE to families during a time that often feels hopeless. If you would like to support Wendy, you may use the link below or write a check to St. Jude Runs, leave it at the church, and we will get it to her!

[https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR?px=5972905&fr\\_id=163222&pg=personal](https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR?px=5972905&fr_id=163222&pg=personal)

## Chapel Windows Repaired and Installed

Great news! Three of our Chapel windows that had some damage have now been repaired and re-installed. The Chapel windows tell a story. On the west wall, they depict some of our early Wesleyan history with John Wesley’s famous quote, “The World is My Parish.” As you work your way across the North wall, they depict many parts of the world, ending with our own Warren County history, and our church’s early beginnings. On the East wall, are the symbols of Alpha and Omega. Jesus is our beginning and our end. If you haven’t stopped to see the windows for a while, stop in and enjoy them.

## **Birdies for Charity**

Here are 3 choices about how you can donate to Birdies for Charity. Our **BIRD #** is “2135” & **CHARITY** name is “First United Methodist Church”.

Fill out the form available at the Welcome Center and mail the form and your check made out to “Birdies for Charity” with 2135 Bird # on memo line, directly to **15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244**.

OR give it to the church office or to Laurie Todd, to be mailed in with other donations, saving you a stamp.

OR to save postage, donate online. Type in <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate> and follow the directions. Minimum online donation is \$20.00.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Laurie Todd at 309-255-1535. You can also email her at [ltodd1956@gmail.com](mailto:ltodd1956@gmail.com). You can also go to <https://birdiesforcharity.com> to see more Birdies for Charity information online.

All pledges must be received by the Birdies for Charity office by July 1.

## **Senior Ministries**

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

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

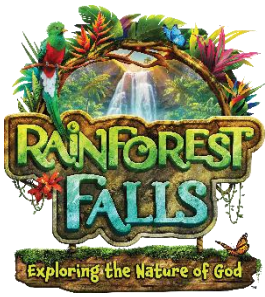
Weekly sermons are delivered to over 20 people and communion is available upon request. If you would like to assist in this ministry, please contact Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682.

This is a reminder that Strom Center is making the final preparations for their Stress-Busters Program. It will be led by Carla Ewing. This is a program which provides support to family caregivers and/or people with chronic illness. Stress management techniques and problem-solving skills will be included in the program. There is NO cost, but there are many benefits. If you are interested and/or desire more information Call Carol at Strom - 309-734-5677

## **Healing Touch**

Have you considered having a healing touch session? 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.

## Vacation Bible School – Sunday, August 2 – Thursday, August 6



August 2 is coming fast, and we are making final plans for this year's Vacation Bible School. Registration is now available either online or by using the registration form at the Welcome Center. Your help is needed not only during the week of VBS but also in encouraging youth to attend.

You may register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/fumc2026> or use the QR code to take you to the online registration.



3-year-olds through those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade may attend as participants and older youth may register as volunteers.

### May Birthdays

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Sylvia Lee       | 18 Peg Willhardt     |
| Laney Rexroat      | 19 Jane Pratt        |
| 5 Jeff Uddin       | 20 Kris Pierce       |
| 6 Libby Andrews    | Terry Morris         |
| 7 Jodi Chandler    | 22 Alex Clark        |
| Rob Lantz          | 25 Alex Lile         |
| 11 Jenny Adair     | Dee Dee Davies       |
| Trevor Davies      | 26 Cassandra Ellison |
| Karry Richardson   | 27 Andrea Frieden    |
| 13 Dave Wines      | 28 Tana Pierce       |
| 14 Debbie Anderson | Donna Spears         |
| David Wilson       | 29 Sue Clark         |
| 15 Carter Halcomb  | Peggy Perrin         |
| 16 Amelia Anderson | 31 Brian Moore       |
| 17 Edith Davies    | Michael Moore        |
|                    | Justin Sims          |



### 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 –  
Vea Vavrosky  
Organist - Elizabeth Walker  
Keyboard - Joy Boostrom  
Praise Team Director - Sarah Moore  
Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson  
Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

