

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462

309 734-9437

1umc@frontiernet.net

www.comejourneywithus.com

September 2026



Prime Beef Parade – Wednesday, September 9



Members of the church will be walking along the parade route BEFORE the parade begins in order to hand out frisbees and invitations to the Hog Roast. If you are able to help, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We will gather at the church at 4:15 and go as far as possible until we run out of frisbees.

Choirs begin on Wednesday, September 16



Both the Bell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 16. Bell Choir begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room on the second floor. Sanctuary Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All ringers and singers are welcome!

Mission Breakfast – Sunday, September 20

On Sunday, September 20, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, the Mission/Outreach Team is organizing a Mission Breakfast. There will be farm-fresh eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, fruit, coffee, and juice. Proceeds from this breakfast will go to Chaddock. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center for donations of juice, cheese and fruit.

Christian Education Sunday – September 20

Please come and join us for worship on September 20 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 begins again on Sunday, September 20

As our thoughts turned to fall and cooler temperatures, we prepare to meet again to create shawls, chemo caps, lap blankets, and NICU octopuses. Our first meeting of the season will be September 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Whether you are a lifelong fiber artist or are interested in learning a new craft we would love to have you join us. Beginning in October we will meet on the first and third Sundays at 2:00 pm in the Chapel. For additional information, please call Susie Clark at 309-337-7867.

MELC Welcome Back!



As we welcome the Monmouth Early Learning Center back to the building, Anita Anderson and Pastor Shelly will be setting up a coffee cart to welcome parents, grandparents, or whomever does their kid drop-off on Wednesday, September 9 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. This is an easy way to make a bridge between the church and the pre-school!

Confirmation Class

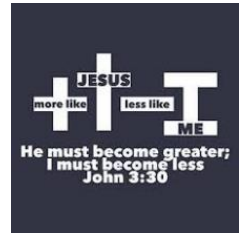
Pastor Shelly will be leading this year's confirmation class beginning on Sunday, October 4 during Sunday School time. If you or someone you know is interested in taking a course in the basics of Christianity alongside a couple of our youth, please talk to Pastor Shelly.

30th Annual Hog Roast – Saturday, October 17

It's that time of the year again. The 30th Annual Hog Roast is Saturday, October 17 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. We will again be offering our dine-in option in the Fellowship Hall and the drive-through and carry out service. There will be a Free-Will donation.

Pastor's Letter

As we enter September, I find myself thinking about what it means for us to *be* the church– to truly *be* the people God has called us to be. I talked about planting seeds and growing things throughout the summer. But God isn't just interested in numbers.



Jesus didn't measure success by the size of the crowd following him. In fact, sometimes Jesus seemed more interested in *challenging* the crowd than attracting it. He welcomed children. He touched those others avoided. He ate with people who were considered outsiders. He noticed the lonely, the hurting, and the forgotten. He served rather than seeking to be served. He loved boldly, even when that love was costly.

If we want to grow, then, let us grow to be **more like Jesus**. Let us become a church where people experience the extravagant welcome of Christ. Let us become a church where someone who walks through our doors for the first time wonders, *"How did they know I needed this place?"* Let us become a church where all children and young people know they are valued and loved. Let us become a church where older adults know that their wisdom and faith still matter. Let us become a church that doesn't simply talk about serving our community but rolls up its sleeves and gets involved. Let us become a church that prays for people—and then looks for ways to be part of the answer to those prayers. Let us become a church where grace is more important than judgment, where compassion is stronger than criticism, and where love is not just something we talk about, it's something we DO every day.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians that we are to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” Our goal isn't simply to know more *about* Jesus. It is to become more *like* Jesus.

Because when we become more like Jesus, we will naturally become the kind of church where people want to come, where people find belonging, where people discover grace, and where people encounter the love of God. *That* is the kind of growth I pray for. And that is the kind of church I believe God is calling us to become. **Come journey with us.**

The Mission Breakfast will benefit Chaddock.



Chaddock Children's Home summarizes its overarching purpose with the motto and core vision, "Every child deserves a chance." Chaddock is focused on strengthening children and families impacted by trauma, abuse, and neglect. Its guiding principles explicitly state a commitment to caring, honoring God, partnering with the United Methodist Church, and fostering health, healing, and quality education.

Core Mission & Values

- **Overarching Purpose:** To strengthen children and families and help them heal from the effects of trauma, abuse, and neglect.
- **Caring:** Acknowledges the inherent worth of each individual, treating them with compassion, concern, and support.
- **Faith & Partnership:** Works in active partnership with the United Methodist Church and honors God.
- **Respect:** Promotes deep respect for neighbors, the environment, and self.
- **Healing & Growth:** Ensures clients experience improved health, emotional recovery, and quality educational opportunities.

Volunteers Needed

We need a few more volunteers to help on Sunday mornings.

Greeters are stationed at the south, north and west doors. They welcome people as they come into church for worship. **Welcome Center volunteers** stand at the Welcome Center in the Atrium and assist with sign-up sheets and information about upcoming events.

Sanctuary greeters hand out bulletins for worship.

All that's required is for any of these positions is a welcoming smile! We also ask that volunteers be in position by 9:00 a.m.

If helping out this way has been on your heart for awhile, please add your name to the sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center. It's not necessary to volunteer every week. A monthly or quarterly commitment will go a long way to ensure that we present a warm welcome to all who walk through our doors each and every Sunday. Thanks!

Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

Mason Ewing won the big candy bar this month. Congrats to Mason!



We began our study on the miracles of Jesus. Jesus' very first miracle was turning Water into Wine. Jesus obeyed his mother when she informed him that they were out of wine at the wedding. We learned that He cares about all of our needs no matter what they are. He can take the ordinary and turn it into the extraordinary.



The next miracle that we studied was called The Great Catch. After the disciples had fished all night and caught nothing, Jesus told them to cast out again and throw their nets on the other side of the boat. They didn't want to, but they listened and obeyed Jesus and brought in an enormous catch of fish. It seems that we can accomplish much more in life when we trust Jesus in everything that we do.

Then we studied the miracle of Jesus and the Centurion or the Unseen Miracle. This Roman soldier came to Jesus and asked if Jesus would heal his servant. Jesus offered to go to the Centurion's home, but he said that was not necessary. He believed that all Jesus had to do was speak healing over the servant and he would be healed! That was extreme faith! We must live by faith, not by sight. Hebrews 11:1 says that "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Our next miracle will be seeing how Jesus heals a paralytic. Can't wait to see what He is going to teach us! We are also practicing for Christian Education Sunday which will be September 20 during the worship service. Hope to see you there.

Blessings-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

New Offering Box



A new offering box will soon be located at the back of the Sanctuary. The box is wooden and has a cross on the top where you may slip your offering into the box. The Worship Committee hopes to have the box in place by September 6.

Prayer Time

The Worship Committee would like to encourage people with prayer concerns to stay after worship on Sundays for a brief time of communal prayer. After Pastor Shelly has walked to the Sanctuary doors, please come to the front row to receive a prayer, or offer one.

Communal prayer is a powerful and wonderful way to support each other and seek God's help and guidance. Whether you pray aloud, or lay hands on to silently pray, all are welcome.

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 Ephesians. 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 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.

Dream Team is working on sponsoring some Saturday morning mini sessions to provide information that will benefit seniors and their families in our church and community. More information will follow in the next few months.

Healing Touch – is non-invasive and effective.

Healing touch is an opportunity you may want to consider. 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.

You're Invited Ladies!

Plan to attend the *Church Women United World Community Day* at Roseville United Methodist Church on Friday, September 11, for a noon luncheon, program and business meeting to follow. Bring a friend! CWU unites women of all faiths and diverse backgrounds, so all women are always welcome!

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 from the United Women in Faith.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School. We had a great week exploring the nature of God. 70 kids ages 3 years old through 6th grade signed up for the week! After the meal in Fellowship Hall, we had an Opening in the Sanctuary. Then each of the 5 groups rotated through the six stations every night ending back in the Sanctuary for the Closing and music. We couldn't do it without all the volunteers who helped before, during and after the week.



Donna Winbigler Fund

The Gerlaw Christian Church is starting a fund for Donna Winbigler. Donna experienced an aortic dissection and then suffered a stroke. She is still in the hospital in Albany, New York and will be having another surgery to insert a feeding tube. The contributions to the fund will be given to the Winbigler family to help with their ongoing expenses. Joy Boostrom will be collecting the money and sending it to the Gerlaw church. If you are writing a check, make it out to Gerlaw Christian Church and write in the memo line Donna Winbigler. Please continue to keep Donna and her family in your prayers.

September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Zach DeCrane | 13 Jim Dice |
| 2 Brian Helms | 16 Jerry Marenholtz |
| 3 Jill Munson | 19 Coleen Flaar |
| 4 Melinda Todd | Marlene Edwards |
| Derek Chandler | 22 Mark Anderson |
| 5 Bill Clayton | Will Brooks |
| Jackie Lemley | 24 Derek Bass |
| 8 Mike Lee | 25 Liz Walker |
| Deb Moore | Josh DeCrane |
| Aidan Myers | 27 Jamie Smith |
| Rich Thomas | 28 Hannah McVey |
| 9 Logan Moore | 29 Dottie Ray |
| 11 Dean Watkins | |



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

Nursery Attendants - Julianne Drum and Hannah Clark

Certified Lay Speaker - Anita Anderson

Sanctuary & Bell Choir Director -

Vea Vavrosky

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Praise Team Director - Sarah Moore

Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

First United Methodists Church of Monmouth September 2026

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