The Caller

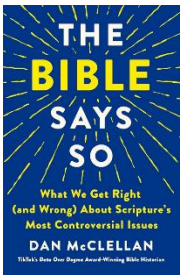
First United Methodist Church

221 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462
309 734-9437
1umc@frontiernet.net
www.comejourneywithus.com

October 2026



"The Bible Says So" Study begins October 6 and 8.



Pastors Jamie Gallagher from First Lutheran Church, Brandan Ouellette from Faith United Presbyterian Church, John Huxtable chaplain at Monmouth College and Pastor Shelly Forrest from First United Methodist Church are joining together in offering a study using information from the book, "The Bible Says So" by Dan McClellan.

The study will be offered on Tuesday mornings at Faith UP beginning on October 6 and will go for 6 weeks straight.

It will be offered on Thursday evenings at First Lutheran, beginning October 8 for 3 weeks, a one-week break and the first 3 Thursdays of November at 6:30 p.m.

McClellan comes to scripture with these questions: Who wrote it? When? To whom? In what historical situation? What did particular words mean at the time? How does the passage function within its larger literary context? How did ancient people understand concepts that we now understand very differently? And what assumptions are *we* bringing to the text?

We are not expecting that everyone will agree with McClellan, but we believe that this will challenge us all to be better readers of the scriptures.

Fellowship Meal – October 1

The next fellowship meal will be Thursday, October 1 at 6:15 pm at Maple City Restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.



Special Brass Quartet on October 11

Eudaimonia Brass Quartet is going to provide the music for worship on Sunday, October 11.



Eudaimonia: The pursuit of meaning, personal growth, and long-term fulfillment (such as helping someone else or working toward a meaningful life.)

Group members are Dean Petrie, tuba; David Ericson, trombone; Matt Welch, trombone and Eli Kelly, trombone



Hog Roast - October 17

It's that time of the year again. The 29th Annual Hog Roast is on Saturday, October 17 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. We will be offering our dine-in option in Fellowship Hall and our drive-through service. This will be a free-will donation. Please stop at the table in the Atrium to see how you can help with this event.

Community Care Days Extra Opportunity – October 17

There was a remaining project from this June's Community Care Days. On Saturday, October 17, if you have extra energy before our hog roast, meet at 615 North 10th Street at 8:30 a.m. to remove some tall weeds and clear some areas that are overgrown. Wear long sleeves and gloves for protection and bring any weed-cutting tools you have. This will be a blessing for the homeowner and her neighborhood.

Monmouth-Roseville Hall of Achievement Distinguished Service Award

On Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Warren County History Museum, Joy Boostrom will receive the Monmouth-Roseville Hall of Achievement Distinguished Service Award. The ceremony is open to the public.

On Friday, October 16, Joy will ride in the MRHS Homecoming Parade and be announced at halftime of the varsity football game.

Past Distinguished Service Award Inductees include Verna Davies, Dr. Kenneth Ambrose, Dr. Stafford Weeks, Peter Gebauer and Donna Spears.

Congratulations Joy.

You've Got a Friend in Us! – October 23



On Friday, October 23, the Warren County Public Library is hosting this year's Trick-or-Treat around the Square event for the children of the community with a Toy Story theme.

We're going to hand out fidget spinners, and cards that say: **You've Got a Friend in Us!** We're glad you're part of our community. If you ever need a place to belong, people to pray with you, or friends to walk alongside you, we'd love to meet you. Also, we'll give them save-the-date cards for next year's amazing VBS!

Trip to Camp's Orchard - October 24



On Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m., we will leave from the church parking lot for a trip to Camp's Apple Orchard outside of Roseville and then lunch in Macomb at Chicks on the Square. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center in the Atrium. Everyone is invited to join us for the day.

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 1

We will be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1. During the service, we will recognize our members or regular attendees who died after November 1, 2025 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 Tuesday, October 27 with those names.



Charge Conference – Sunday, November 1

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

Welcome and Security



Early in September, I announced at worship that the Trustees are making plans to have the doors locked during worship. Let me back up and then move forward!

The reason we are making this plan is because one of the local churches hosted a seminar on safety several months ago. One of our members attended, came back, and we created a focus group on safety. Out of that group, several recommendations arose. One, which has been accomplished, is that in the defibrillator, and a couple of other places in the church, the first aid kits have been improved. Another is to consider more security cameras in the future in different locations than the ones MELC has installed. And finally, the idea of locking the church doors after services begin since our attention during worship is facing forward.

We are temporarily pressing pause on this plan in order to smooth out the plans, consider more details, and ultimately, communicate that plan better. So, if you have suggestions or constructive thoughts, please share them with a Trustee. Those names are available in the office.

A year ago, our District Superintendent preached a sermon about living in the "And." We are called to be a church that is welcoming AND we want to help people be safe while they are here.

October Sermon Series



Our MISSION as United Methodists is to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

That’s great, but what does a disciple look like? How do we do that? And what difference does it make? Those are real questions that we need to wrestle with to fulfill that.

So, join us during October as Pastor Shelly uses not just the United Methodist mission statement, but the First United Methodist Church of MONMOUTH mission statement to help keep us on track to fulfilling the mission God has given us.

From Pastor Shelly

By the time you read this, I will be back, but as I write this, I am looking forward to going “home.”

Next week, I’m going on vacation. I’m not going anywhere exotic. There will be no amazing adventure, no bucket-list destination, no place where I can say, “I’ve never been here before.” Instead, I’m going home.

I’m going to see my sister. I’ll spend time with my favorite French professor who survived the Holocaust. I’ll visit my mother’s best friend whose husband died today. She is one of the few remaining people who have known me my whole life. I’ll see my best friends from college. And I’ll spend time with a friend I’ve kept since Junior High church camp.

In some ways, this vacation will take me backward. Back to people who knew me at different stages of my life. Back to stories I have heard before. Back to relationships that began long ago. And yet, I believe that going home will also help me see the present differently.

There is something sacred about being with people who remember who you were before you became who you are today. They remember the younger version of you. They remember your dreams, your mistakes, your questions, your laughter. They have witnessed pieces of your story that most people in your present life never saw.

And perhaps that is one of the gifts of returning home: we remember that our lives are not just about where we are now. We are the product of all the people and experiences that have shaped us along the way.

The Bible is filled with stories of people going home. Jesus returned to Nazareth. The prodigal son went home to his father. Ruth found a new home with Naomi. The disciples often returned to familiar places after extraordinary experiences.

And Scripture reminds us repeatedly that God is present in the ordinary places and in the relationships of our lives. Psalm 90 says: ***“So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”*** Perhaps counting our days also means remembering the people who have *filled* those days with meaning.

As I prepare for this trip, I find myself especially grateful. Grateful for a sister who shares my history. Grateful for a professor whose life itself is a testimony to strength and survival. Grateful for friends who belonged to my parents' world and therefore became part of mine.

Grateful for college friends who knew me when I was still discovering myself. Grateful for a church-camp friend who connects me with a younger version of my faith. These relationships remind me that none of us becomes who we are alone.

God works through people. Sometimes God uses a teacher. Sometimes a sibling. Sometimes a lifelong friend. Sometimes someone who simply shows up at exactly the right moment in our lives.

And sometimes, we don't realize how holy a relationship has been until we have the opportunity to look back. So perhaps going home isn't really going backward at all. Perhaps it is a way of remembering where God has been. And maybe that is something we all need from time to time: to pause from the rush toward whatever comes next and look back with gratitude at the people who helped us get here.

Who are the people who helped shape you? Who taught you something you have never forgotten? Who loved you when you were still figuring yourself out? Who shared your journey during an important season of your life? Who reminds you of where you came from? Give thanks for them. And if you have the opportunity, tell them. Because one of the most beautiful ways we can recognize God's presence in our lives is by recognizing the people through whom God has loved us. People matter.

Next week, I am going home. And I think I will discover that home isn't simply a place. Home is also the people who helped make us who we are. And wherever those people are, God is there, too. God is eternal, constant, and loving.

Confirmation Class Begins

This year's confirmation class is a class of one. But every ONE counts! Please pray for McKenna Carlson as she joins Pastor Shelly on Sundays and they work their way through a series of lessons that bring clarity and strength to faith that will culminate in January.

Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for Sunday, November 22.

This year, a brand-new nativity scene will be unveiled at the front of the church, made possible from memorial funds from Ernie and Mary Kay Robinson.

Festival of Nativities Coming on December 13!

The Worship Committee is planning to offer a special event on December 13, which is also the Sunday for our children's Christmas program.

Church members, we hope you will consider letting us borrow for that day, a nativity that has been displayed in your home during the Christmas season. We are going to display the nativities in the Atrium on December 13 until 2:00 p.m. We hope to have many varied nativities to include, and they can be large or small, for adults or made for children, from the US or internationally made. Following our worship service that day, as we enjoy the nativities, light refreshments will be offered in the hallway across from the church office.

Beginning October 18, volunteers will be in the Atrium after church to sign up families who wish to participate.

Sunday Volunteers Needed

Sign-up sheets for these positions are kept at the Welcome Center in the Atrium.

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 a while, 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



Carter Carlson won the big candy bar drawing. Congrats to Carter!!! We are continuing our study on the miracles of Jesus.

When Jesus healed the paralytic, He was amazed at the determination of his four friends. The house was so crowded the friends had to lower this man through the roof in order for Jesus to heal him. Those friends were full of faith and determination. Next, we moved on to the miracle in which Jesus fed 5,000 people. He showed his disciples and us that He is willing and able to supply our physical and spiritual needs. With just 5 loaves and 2 fish, He fed, people and had 12 baskets of food left over! Then we learned how Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus. By making mud using dirt and his own saliva, Jesus put the mud on the eyes of Bartimaeus and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, and Bartimaeus could see! Jesus shows us through his miracles that He loves us all very much and He is willing to work in all of our lives no matter what our problems may be.

Next, we are going to study the 10 lepers that Jesus healed. Do you know how many came back to thank Jesus?

The Christian Education Program was amazing. Our youth did a great job. They overcame some obstacles but refused to quit. They worshiped God without power. Actually, they worshiped with God's power and that was more powerful than any electricity!! Mikey sang his solo acapella and it was beautiful. Solomon Raymond received his 3rd grade Bible. The kids read their devotions and silly scenarios without the help of microphones. They were all overcomers! Then we went upstairs and played games by flashlight and found out how good we were at obstacle courses. Thank you to all who participated and helped.

Blessings,
Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

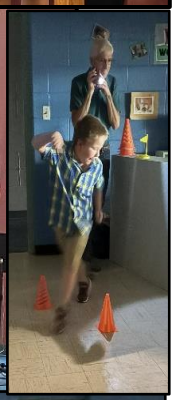
















Senior News

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 Philippians and will soon be starting Colossians. Bring your Bible and join us. All are welcome to come for prayer time, Bible study and/or for 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. Small pillows are also available.

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.

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.

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.

New Offering Box!

Have you seen the new offering box at the back of the Sanctuary? Please use it when making your weekly or monthly offering on Sunday mornings.

Thank you

Thank you to the good people of Monmouth that have been praying and sending love our way. It's amazing that we still have such a loving family in Monmouth.

Love to all,
Donald and Sue Cooley

Thank you for your support of Chaddock

During the mission breakfast for Chaddock, $350.00 was donated and will be sent to Caddock in Quincy.

We Miss You



We are creatures of habit. We often sit in the same spot during worship. When you realize you haven't seen someone in a few weeks, we would like you to stop by at the Welcome Center, jot down a note to the person you're missing. Make sure to put their name on it! Leave it on LeAnn's desk in the office, or Pastor Shelly's desk, and we will mail it for you. It means a lot to receive a note letting one know that they are missed!

October Birthdays

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



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 and Bell Choir – Vea Vavrosky
Praise Team Director – Sarah Moore
Organist - Elizabeth Walker
Keyboard - Joy Boostrom
Custodians - Doug Ray and Mitch Ray

First United Methodist Church of Monmouth OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Study	1 6:15 pm Fellowship meal at Maple City Restaraunt	2	3 9:00 am Dream Team meeting in the Chapel
4 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Chapel 1-2:30 pm Youth Group	5	6 6:00 pm Trustees meeting in Lounge 7:00 pm Worship meeting in Lounge	7 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	8	9	10
11 Brass Quartet Playing 1-2:30 pm Youth Group	12 6:00 pm Finance in the Lounge 7:00 pm Ad Council in the Lounge	13	14 10:30 am Deborah Circle in Fellowship Hall 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	15	16	17 Hog Roast 4:30-6:30 pm dine in & drive through
18 2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Chapel No Youth Group	19	20	21 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	22	23	24 10:00 am Camp's Orchard
25 1-2:30 pm Youth Group	26 Nov. Caller Info Due	27	28 6-7 pm Bells 7-8 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	29	30	31