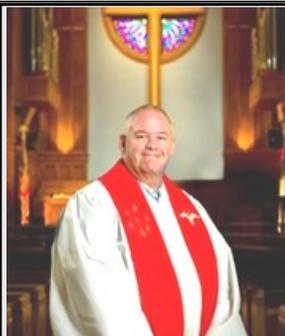


# Tidings



Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

November 19, 2020



We are about to celebrate another Thanksgiving. Of course, it will be unlike many of the Thanksgivings we have celebrated in the past because of the pandemic. But that does not mean that we are less thankful for all we have, right? There is much to be thankful for, isn't there?

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 50:14: “Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High.” God demands from us a thankful heart. Each one of us is to offer to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving. A sacrifice is something into which we put effort; it costs us.

Ray Stedman writes:

Of course if you have not received anything from God, then you have nothing to thank Him for. Though you come to the service, you really have nothing to say. God is a realist. He does not want fake thanksgiving. I know there are certain people (and they are awfully hard to live with) who think that Christianity consists of pretending to be thankful. They think it means screwing a smile on your face and going around pretending that troubles do not bother you. That is a most painful form of Christianity. God does not want you to go around shouting, Hallelujah! I've got cancer! But there is something about having cancer to be thankful for. That is what He wants you to see. There are aspects of it that no one can possibly enjoy, but there are other aspects that reveal purpose, meaning, and reason. God wants you to see this--what He can do with that situation and how you can be thankful. Thanksgiving is the first thing He wants in worship.

Even in the midst of this uncertain and difficult time, we can find ourselves giving thanks for a God who loves us and a God who saved us. God is calling us to not just relegate thankfulness to one day a year, but to make it a part of our everyday living.

As Henri Nouwen said, “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep on choosing it every day.”

The reality, however, is that the Christian concept of thanksgiving is a way of life rather than a set of circumstances or a time of year. The practice of thanksgiving reorients our hearts back to the God who is good, even when life's circumstances are not.

Thanksgiving reminds us that our joy is rooted in God, not in the temporal pleasures of this world or our ever-shifting emotions.

Ann Voskamp wrote, “When I give thanks for the seemingly microscopic, I make a place for God to grow within me.” So, let's seek to count our blessings daily in order to become more mindful of God's presence in our lives. Instead of celebrating Thanksgiving once a year, let's make it a way of life.



Harvey

2  
Journey

3  
UMW

5  
Kids on the Go

6  
Music Tidings

*dates and times subject to Covid-19 restrictions*

Second Wednesday  
10:30 am  
**United Methodist Women**  
McKinley Center  
(no meetings January, June, July, and November)

Third Wednesday 5:30 pm  
**United Methodist Men**  
Krause Room

Each Thursday 9:00 am  
**Ruth Circle**  
**Quilters/Stitchers**  
Krause Room

Each Wednesday, 9 am  
**Horticulture**  
8 am, Coffee  
Krause Room

**Junior Church**  
(Kindergarten – 4th Grade)  
Junior Church is held during the 9:00 am worship service



**Senior High Youth**

Mondays  
7 pm at Journey



### Sunday School

Unfortunately, because of the continued uncertainty with CoVid numbers, we will postpone children's Sunday School to a target date of December 20th. We miss everyone dearly, but feel we must err on the side of caution.

We will keep you updated.

Peace,  
Jane Peters  
Sunday School Superintendent

## Tidings

Union United Methodist Church  
721 East Main Street  
Belleville, Illinois 62220  
618-233-6375

Pastor: Rev. Harvey Gaither

Thel Lemons, Editor

Contributors may attach copy to  
email or text the information  
to the editor:  
chefthel@aol.com  
618/530-8435

### Upcoming *Tidings* deadlines (10:00 am):

December 7  
January 4, 2021

## JOURNEY UMC

900 NORTH STATE STREET  
FREEBURG, IL 62243  
618-710-0224      WWW.JOURNEYUMC.ORG

### Continuing the Journey *What's Happening in Freeburg*

Well, we stayed outside for as long as we could, which ended up being six weeks. With the exception of the wind trying to blow our music away, it was really enjoyable. Then we were inside for two weeks. That first Sunday back inside featured a mini fall fest, which attracted a few extra folks. Then we had one more mild Sunday outside. As I am writing this, we have now suspended in person worship for the remainder of November. The name of the game is change. What to do?

When we closed down in March, none of us knew the pandemic would go on this long and we've just been adapting as best we can. After a conversation with Sandy Merrill in late summer, I came to the realization that we had to stop playing the wait-until-it gets-better game and switch perspective to this: If the pandemic continues for a year or two or more, what are we going to do about it? What if this is long term? We began to see that we need to let go of the way we wish things were or the way we think they "should" be and embrace what we CAN do. Right now with what we have. Sandy made this point: Jesus just sat and talked with people. That's enough. We weren't sure how or what it was going to look like but we had this clear goal: we must do SOMETHING on site in Freeburg.

A few weeks ago we purchased inexpensive equipment to enable us to broadcast on a close range FM signal, which means that people sitting in our parking lot (and a bit farther away) can listen to services. We have some sound issues to work out, but you can listen at 106.9. It has already been a solution for people who weren't ready to come inside the building and is now a solution since no one can come in.

For a long time now I have thought we should try Facebook Live to broadcast worship, but I never pushed it through. So this Sunday we did broadcast just Dr. Joe's sermon. You can find it on our Facebook page. It was on my phone and I didn't think to silence it so not great quality, but again it is something. We plan to keep working at this and getting better.

Of course I continue to pray like the persistent widow in Luke 18. I know that God can end the pandemic and make everything "normal" again. But we're not to go back to exactly the same ways of doing things. We are learning and growing and becoming stronger in the process. We just have to hold on and trust.

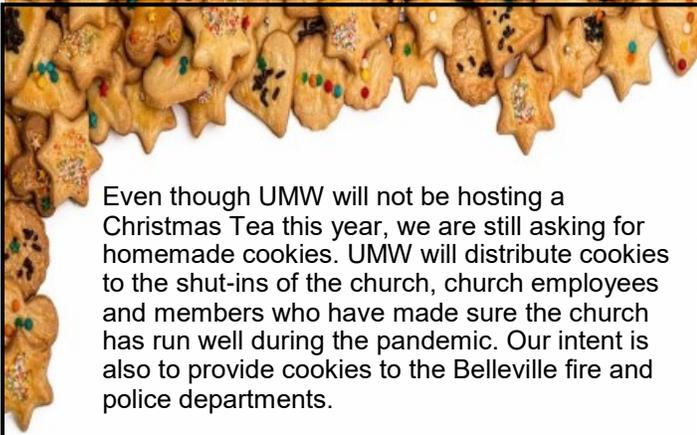
*Cathy O.*  
Interim Worship Leader

### Calendar

November 22 & 29: In person worship suspended  
December 24: Worship in Union's McKinley Center at 4:30 p.m. (tentatively)

### Every Week

Sundays: 10:15 am      Worship  
Mondays: 7:00 pm      Sr High Youth with Sandy Merrill  
(618) 789-3151 or journeyunionyouth1@gmail.com  
Wednesdays: 7:00 pm      Zoom Bible Study with Cathy O.  
(e-mail [cathy.obernuefeman@att.net](mailto:cathy.obernuefeman@att.net) for the link)



Even though UMW will not be hosting a Christmas Tea this year, we are still asking for homemade cookies. UMW will distribute cookies to the shut-ins of the church, church employees and members who have made sure the church has run well during the pandemic. Our intent is also to provide cookies to the Belleville fire and police departments.

Please provide 2-3 dozen homemade cookies to the church on Saturday December 19, 2020.

A small group of volunteers will prepare the cookie trays and deliver them.

Thank you in advance,  
Sandy Patrick and Nancy Weston

### 2021-22 UMW Reading Program Announced

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books. The reading program looks different this year. You will see it is actually for two years. If you are ready to start this new program, please go to [www.methodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.methodistwomen.org/readingprogram)

Complete details are at the website. For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through:

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg or Open Library.

If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon's charitable giving page, and select "United Methodist Women" as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.

As we develop our new procedures for our local unit during this Covid era, we will keep you updated. Please call me with your questions,

Patti Brooks  
618/420-9678



### UMW Calendar

December 2--*annual planning meeting*;  
executive team; 9:30 am, Krause Room

December 9--Unit UMW meeting; 10:30 am,  
Sanctuary  
(executive team meeting, 9:30 am)



### Miriam Circle Changes Meeting Date to November 20

Our regularly scheduled meeting day would have been held the day after Thanksgiving; therefore, we have changed it to Friday, November 20. We will meet in the Krause Room at 1:00 p.m.

Every year our members donate men's gloves that are then made available to those in need. If you are unable to attend, perhaps you could send your gift with any other member who is coming.

We will celebrate the birthdays of Joy Hawk, Judy Poirot, Mary Peck, Connie Stein & Kathy Underwood.

The Thanksgiving program will be presented by Lori Kinney, who requests that you bring a copy of your family's favorite Thanksgiving recipe.

*We wish you all a Blessed Thanksgiving.*

*Sandy Koene*

### Advance Notice

As you know every year UMW sponsors a school supply drive for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and schools in District 118. We also have a "warm items" drive for LBD. This year due to Covid19 we were not able to do this.

We know our members are anxious to help. From February 1 - 14 the congregation will have an opportunity to help. A monetary collection is planned. More details will follow in the next Tidings.

Our prayer is for everyone's health and safety.

### Worship Schedule for Christmas Eve, 2020

Noon - Service in Sanctuary  
Dr Joe Scheets and Natalie Gravois

4 pm - Service in Sanctuary  
Crosswalk Praise Team  
Communion by Harvey

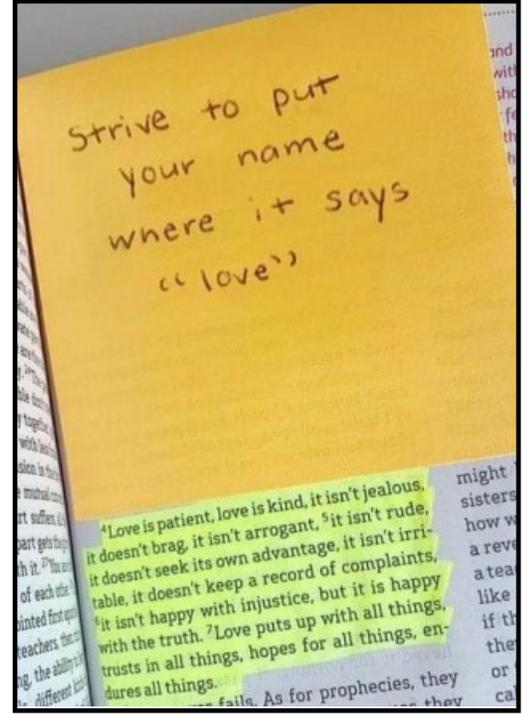
4:30 pm - Service in McKinley Hall  
Journey Praise Team  
Devotion and Communion by Harvey

11 pm - Service in Sanctuary  
special music chosen by Carol Eckert and Gail Long  
Homily and Communion by Harvey





All Saints Day  
Observance, 2020



**2021 Pledge Update**

This has been a difficult year in many ways due to the worldwide pandemic. But, there are still actions that we must take to continue forward, and one of those actions as a church is to prepare for the new year that is approaching. The church Finance Committee developed a budget for 2021 and the Stewardship Committee developed a program similar to years past to inform you of the plans for 2021 and how we would move forward into the new year.

Due to some long-range planning by the Finance Committee this year, we have been able to reduce the Union budget for 2021 by almost 12 percent and the Journey budget by one third. One of the major changes was refinancing our existing debt that resulted in a reduction of our loan commitment by almost \$48,000 per year. Sunday, November 8, was our Commitment Sunday.

Under normal historic circumstances, we normally receive about 50-55 percent of our budget commitment on that day. This year, we received just under 47 percent of the Union budget and 14 percent of the Journey budget. We still have a ways to go to reach budgets that are 75% pledged. If you have not sent in your pledge form, you still have time. Due to the current restrictions on in-person worship, mail it to the church office or email it to [bunny@unionumc.org](mailto:bunny@unionumc.org). God is still with us. Here is your opportunity to give back to his mission on earth some of the gifts he has provided for you. God bless each of you and your families as we move forward into 2021.

Mike Engel, Chairman, Finance Committee   Dick Frette, Church Treasurer   Bunny VonBokel, Comptroller

**Poinsettia Order Form**  
(Please Print)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$12.00 each (you may order as many as you like)

# of poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_



**\*Please Place  
in the  
Offering Plate  
or bring to  
the  
Church  
office  
by  
Monday,  
December  
14th**

\*orders may also be mailed to UUMC, 721 E. Main, Belleville 62220

**Recognition of Babies**



On Sunday, December 6, we will recognize the babies born to the Union families in 2020 with a small gift during the worship services. We will be recognizing them at the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services.

Please contact Donna at [donna@unionumc.org](mailto:donna@unionumc.org) or call the church office at 233-6375 by Sunday, November 29.

**HITTING THE ROAD!**



On Saturday, December 5, we will be hitting the road to visit our children and youth. We will be delivering our "Dough Holy Night" kit to the families. "Dough Holy Night" is a unique way to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We will be starting our journey around 9:00 am. We can't wait to see you again! Please email me at [donna@unionumc.org](mailto:donna@unionumc.org), so we know if you are available.

*Congratulations*

After lots of hard work and study Samuel Hill has passed all parts of the Certified Public Accountant exam. He can now add 3 more letters after his name. Sheri and Wally are very proud of his accomplishment.

WAY TO GO, SAM!



*Gratitude is a powerful prayer. You get more from God by thanking him than by begging him. And thanking him in advance for something he has promised but not yet given is a profound statement of faith.*

—Chris Tiegreen

**Update from Outreach Committee  
September-October**

*Sack Lunch Program*

<b>September</b>	Week 1	109
	2	99
	3	116
	4	170
	5	164

658 lunches handed out

<b>October</b>	Week 1	109
	2	135
	3	104
	4	79

427 lunches handed out

*Food Pantry*

<b>September</b>	Week 1	0
	2	4
	3	8
	4	7
	5	3

22 families assisted

<b>October</b>	Week 1	3
	2	2
	3	4
	4	11

20 families assisted

The Wednesday Shower Ministry was reinstated November 11, with 2 people participating. Unfortunately, that ministry is once again suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The committee is fervently looking into purchasing coats for some children in a few schools: Douglas Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Henry Raab Elementary and Whiteside Middle School. We know this will please both children and parents/guardians.

The committee wishes everyone peace and safety during these difficult times. We pray for each other to get through this crisis and welcome the time we can all be together.

Outreach Committee  
Larry Mueller

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



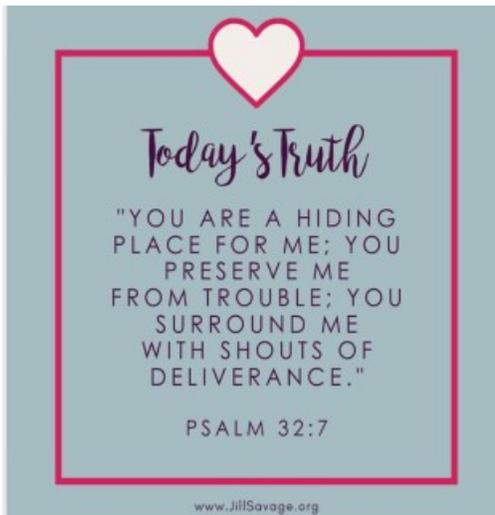
The altar flower calendar for 2021 will soon be available by the Welcome Desk. You can email or call the church office as well. Sign up for as many Sundays as you wish.

There is a price change for 2021. Flowers are \$25.00 each.



Union United Methodist Church  
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Belleville, Illinois 62220  
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Union Methodist live stream services can be accessed through <https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent5122> or later through YouTube Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, Illinois



## MUSIC TIDINGS



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100

*Live stream services at 9 am and 11:15 am*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
9 am - Special Music by the Petraborg family

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "To Give Thanks"; Psalm 100

11:15 am - Contemporary Worship Team

## ADVENT



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
9 am - "Wexford Carol", duet with Mary MacIntire and Katherine Eckert

monologue on Luke: The Story of Elizabeth by Katherine Eckert; written by Zona Ludlum

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "God's Comfort"; Isaiah 40:1-11

11:15 am - Contemporary Worship Team

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
9 am - "Good Christian Men Rejoice", quartet with Michael Woodruff, Perry Danford, Jim Eckert, and Steve Bloomer

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "Leaning into God"; Proverbs 3:5-6

11:15 am - Contemporary Worship Team