

The Family Connection Newsletter

February 2026

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry

HOLY GROUNDS

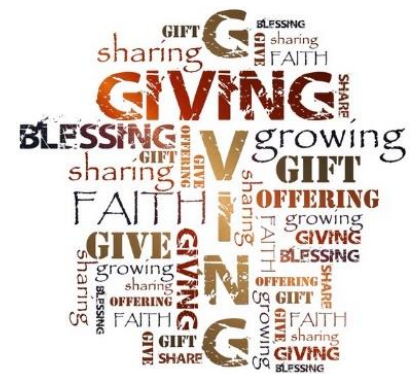
Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in February:

3 rd	9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
10 th	2pm at Holly Brook
17 th	9am at Gypsy Queen
24 th	9am at Latte Dough

If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. Your assistance helps us keep the doors open for those who need us!

Our church's day to work at the Thrift Shop is Saturday 2/14 between 8:00 am and noon. Food disbursement is every Tuesday from 1:30-4:30 pm. Help out any Tuesday that you're available!



Our income for January was **\$15,617**, while expenses totaled **\$21,529**. We are deeply thankful for the strong year-end giving in 2025. Because of that generosity, we were able to cover all January expenses and still carry a small balance forward as we begin February. Looking ahead, we will need approximately **\$22,000** to meet all local church expenses for the month of February. We are grateful for your continued faithfulness and partnership in the work God is doing through our church. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give this month toward our local church general fund. Any undesignated giving will go to cover our monthly local church expenses and ministry activities.

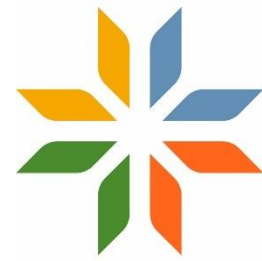
The Nurture Team is planning a Brunch!

Let's March Forward in Faith and invite others to join our wonderful Church Family. There will be a board in the back of the sanctuary with things you can donate to help us prepare the brunch, much like we put out requests for VBS supplies and other items. Please look for

this board and pick a flower or two to bring those items for Brunch on March 1st. If

you have any questions, you can talk to any of the Nurture Team for clarification: Kelly Lindley, Amy Cannady, Kathy Brown, Beth Macke, and Becky Wiggs. Make sure to put it on your calendar, and plan to stay after worship on March 1st.

There will be no Sunday School that day, so we can all fellowship together.



United Women in Faith

We have two different women's circles who meet every month. All the ladies of the church are invited to join either circle at any time. February's meeting dates are:

UWF Board – Tuesday, Feb 3 @ 4:00

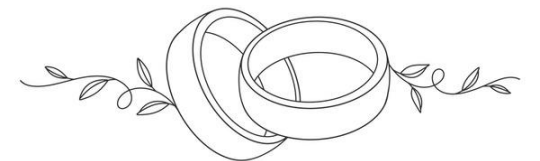
Susannah Wesley – Monday, Feb 16 @ 11:30am

Sisters In Faith – Thursday Feb 26 @ 6:00pm

February Birthdays & Anniversaries:



Jeff Mallory	February 01
Mike Sanders	February 01
Trenton Bullock	February 06
Connor Adamski	February 08
Sean McLennan	February 09
Russ Ross	February 09
Beth Macke	February 11
Alexander Schneider	February 12
Dominic Huisinga	February 13
Logan Huisinga	February 15
Sue Boyer	February 16
Rob Crumrin	February 16
Dale Ridgway	February 17
Scott Vest	February 17
Jessica Cannady	February 19
Dustin Morey	February 19
Julie Bullock	February 20
Dylan Daugherty	February 20
Jo Rich-Vadas	February 20
Alan Reed	February 23
Jo Sanders	February 25
Thomas Sanzenbacker	February 25
Tiffany Huisinga	February 28
Diane Lindgren	February 29



Jim & Tia Arthur
Gale & Jackie Titus

February 21
February 23





Kid's Korner



We are back in regular swing of things after the holiday season. We have started a new series during children's church. It will lead us into lent. Each week until lent, we'll concentrate on a New Testament story beginning with the Good Samaritan.

KFC is going strong. We have 25-30 kids every week. Thanks so much to all who help! We make good use of our playground every week that the weather allows. The kids love it!

On Sunday, Feb. 1 all kids are invited to go bowling at the Terre Haute Bowling Center on Springhill Drive. We will leave the church at 4:00. The church will pay for bowling and shoes. Please bring snack money.

I know it doesn't feel like it, but summer will be here before we know it! Why am I mentioning this on a day with a wind chill of -1? Because it is time to sign-up for Camp Illiana! To find more information, go to hello@campilliana.org or call me. You and your camper will be glad you did. We will provide transportation for groups of kids. If you let me know when your child chooses to go, I'll keep track so they will know when other kids are going. The church will pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fee for any child who attends our church.

Stay warm!

Billy



February Music Notes:

Brrr... It's cold outside! Thankfully, we are blessed to have a warm place to worship and fellowship together when we all come to church. It's always nice to see everyone, especially when it's so cold no one wants to leave the house very often!

Choir took a little break for a few weeks in the cold weeks we've had. I think we've pretty much decided to shorten our summer break and take a month off in the winter. 😊

That being said, practices will resume on February 11, and the choir will be leading you in worship again on February 15. Hopefully we will begin to thaw out by then. As always, we would love to have more of you join us to make a joyful noise! If you enjoy singing, join us sometime! You don't have to read music – we can help you follow along. We have some fun together as we practice on Wednesday evenings, and it's nice to be able to see the congregation from a different perspective on Sunday mornings! Hope to see you soon.

Becky

Our February Mission of the Month: Global Health & Mission: Healing in Eastern Congo A Story of Connectional Giving

When we talk about *apportioned giving* in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church, we're not talking about money disappearing into a black box. We're talking about **our shared resources joining with United Methodists everywhere** to do Christ's healing work in the world. One vivid example of that work is unfolding in **Eastern Congo**, where United Methodist global health initiatives are restoring hope and health to communities devastated by years of conflict.

In eastern Congo, decades of violence weakened health infrastructure, leaving families without access to basic medical care, clean water, or disease prevention programs. Through the **Global Health & Mission Initiatives** funded in part through the **World Service Fund**, which is itself supported by our apportionments, the United Methodist Church has helped **repair hospitals and health centers, renovate maternity and pediatric wards, and supply essential medicines and diagnostic tools** so people can receive the care they desperately need.

This is mission in action: **clean water systems are installed, sanitation improvements are made, and public health education empowers communities to prevent disease and care for one another**, not just for a season but for the long haul. Local church leaders and health workers are trained and supported, their care bringing physical healing and spiritual hope to families who have suffered loss, displacement, and deep hardship. One woman cared for through this ministry said, *"I lost everything in the conflict ... I have regained hope to rebuild my life and that of my children. Thank you for giving me hope."*

It is important for us to connect the dots between **our apportionments here in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference** and this kind of global ministry. Each year, our Annual Conference approves a budget supported by apportionments from our local churches, roughly **11.5% of local church operational expenditures** in 2025, and that total includes *general church apportionments* that flow into the wider United Methodist connection for ministries like this one in the Congo.

While the Conference budget does not break out exactly what percentage of our apportionments goes into the World Service Fund specifically, we do know that **the World Service Fund is the primary general church fund that underwrites global outreach and health initiatives** like this one; it is the essential core of our church's global mission, supporting Christian witness, evangelism, discipleship, and compassionate ministries around the world.

What that means practically is this: when we faithfully send our apportioned giving, a portion of what we give goes to **support the World Service Fund**, and through that fund, conferences and mission partners engage in **healthcare restoration, public health education, clean water access, and long-term community wellbeing** in places like Eastern Congo. Our gifts don't just stay "out there somewhere", they are sent through trusted mission partners, trusted United Methodist agencies, and trusted local leaders who are living out the love of Christ in places of deep need.

So, when we talk about apportionments here at home, we're talking about something much bigger than a budget line item. We're talking about **connectional ministry**, the beautiful, costly, life-giving sharing of resources that makes it possible for a mother in Congo to receive care, for a clinic to reopen, for clean water to flow, and for *hope to be restored* in Jesus' name.

This year the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, of which we are a part, is asking us to contribute \$29,580.00. Of that \$11,244.00 goes to Benevolence ministries through our Annual Conference, the Jurisdictional Conference, and the General Church. At Marshall First we cover our apportioned giving through personal donations. Please prayerfully consider giving to these important ministries. If you wish to give to Apportionments, please note how much of your giving you would like to go to this fund.

EVERY SUNDAY:
9AM Morning Worship with Family Fellowship after
10:15am Sunday School for all ages

February, 2026


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Children & Youth Outing 4pm	2 Exercise 8:30am	3 9am – Holy Grounds at Marshall Family Restaurant <u>Trustees – 5:30pm</u> Unified Leadership – January meeting 6pm	4 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch NO KFC due to early dismissal NO Choir this evening	5	6 Exercise 8:30am	7
8 New Member Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	9 Exercise 8:30am	10 2pm – Holy Grounds at Holly Brook	11 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	12	13 Exercise 8:30am	14 <i>Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12</i>
15 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	16 Exercise 8:30am Office Closed for Presidents’ Day Susannah Wesley 11:30am	17 9am – Holy Grounds at Gypsy Queen 10:30 – Nurture Team Meet	18 Ash Wednesdsay Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Family Dinner for all at 5pm! Choir 6:00pm	19	20 Exercise 8:30am	21
22 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	23 Exercise 8:30am	24 9am - Holy Grounds at Latte Dough <i>Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30pm</i> Unified Leadership 6pm	25 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	26	27 Exercise 8:30am	28

Did
You
Know?

♥ There have been a dozen or more St. Valentines over the centuries, and there is some debate about which one inspired the holiday we know today. There was even a Pope Valentine, who served for just over a month in A.D. 827.

♥ Valentine’s feast day was established on February 14 in 496 A.D. by Pope Gelasius I. The day did not then have a romantic connotation.

♥ Legend has it that on the day of his execution, St. Valentine wrote a note to his jailer’s daughter, whom he’d healed of blindness. He is said to have signed the note, “from your Valentine,” which some say led to the idea of a man appealing to a woman’s heart by asking to be her valentine.



FORWARD IN FAITH
BRUNCH

Sunday, March 1

Immediately following Worship

Please join us for FUN, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP