



ສະບາຍດີ (Saibaidee), Hello from Laos!  
 I'm sitting here with our treasurer, Nang Nyai, who is proudly showing me the accumulation of funds coming in from the Advance for the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center. With Marshall First UMC's sizable \$2,800, we are now able to start up the school year with a whole lot of "Amen!"s and "Hallelujah!"s.

Let me tell you how your generous giving is currently being used.

I recently hired a full-time caretaker of the Center for \$70 a month, a total of \$840 per year. Suher lives at the Center, in one of the empty classrooms. This income is now

helping him support his mother in the countryside and his brother, now attending college. He is also an active member of our Laos UMC praise team.

The Center enrollment is increasing! From September onward, we will be using more classrooms, which means more tables. I ordered 12 tables (\$60 each) and 1 metal cabinet (\$120) for textbook storage. These are being delivered the first week of September.

Celebrating my Laos staff's special events is important. The 7 here have families to support and many weekly church activities to lead, meaning they are very busy. To make our time together special, I celebrate birthdays (cake and outside meal), family members' special news (births, weddings, children's high test scores) and overcoming illness or financial difficulties. Having your funds available for planned or last-minute happenings is such a boost to our spirits.

Lastly, upkeep of the Center is paramount in keeping our students and ourselves safe. This is an old building complex that we rent. We are plagued by roof and ceiling repairs, leaking faucets, and electrical issues. With money readily available, there is no need for us to delay in taking care such things.

While you may never visit Laos, know that support for myself and the staff here through your Advance dollars is making a huge difference in our lives and our service to the Lord.

Blessings to you all!

Connie Wieck, serving in Laos as Director of the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center.



MMA Thrift Shop is up and running in their new location at 143 Maple Street. Please consider volunteering a few hours or more each month. ( There are many different jobs to be done, both food and distribution)- Tuesday's from 2PM-4PM (1:30-4:430 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)- and for the Thrift Store operation – Monday's, Wednesday's, & Saturday's 8AM-12Noon. Stay for the entire shift or help the amount of time you have. This is a wonderful way to share the love of God to those less fortunate. And don't forget- EVERYONE can shop at the Thrift Shop!

# THE MESSENGER



September 2024

*From the Pastor's Pen*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, the United Methodist Church is going through some changes. Our General Conference (our top law and policy body in the UMC) has made some decisions that not everyone is happy about. Because of this, the Church Council (our local church governing board) formed a committee to discuss the possible ways we as a local church could find a way forward together despite our differing opinions concerning the decisions of the General Conference. Within the coming weeks the Exploratory Committee will be sharing their findings with you and giving you an opportunity to ask questions about all that is before us.

All of this has caused me to think deeply about the local church, what is it, what is our purpose, and what is our mission. We are Methodists, so part of my study led me to the Book of Discipline. There are 80 Methodist denominations around the world, with the UMC being the largest. Without exception these denominations have a book of discipline that lays out their doctrine, understanding of how to live out the faith, and the laws and policies governing the way they operate.

In Paragraph 201 of the UM Book of Discipline it states: —The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world. Continuing in paragraph 202 it states: The local church is a strategic base from which Christians move out to the structures of society. The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God.

In looking at the Book of Discipline of other Methodist denominations, Global Methodist, Free Methodist, etc. I found much of the same kind of understanding concerning the local church. What this means to me is that the local church is what matters most when it comes to the work of the Church in the world. Yes, we do need a larger body to belong to, as the local church is not intended to go it alone. When we read the scriptures, we find that the local churches were in a connectional system with one another for the sake of the mission of Christ, and to provide accountability and mission extension. But where the rubber meets the road, the local church is where the most significant work of making disciples takes place.

When most of you joined this local church, you were not thinking about our denominational affiliation, you were connecting with a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ who loved you, nurtured your faith, helped you carry your burdens, and gave you a context for the work of ministry our Savior would have you to do. In addition, you connected with a Wesleyan-Methodist understanding of a grace filled expression of the Christian faith, where all were welcomed and given the opportunity to experience the life-changing work of the Holy Spirit in your lives to lead you to become more like Christ in every way.







Vance Snedeker, Beverly Wiggs, Mike Sideroff, Gilbert Clark (Gordon Clark's Brother), Candace Painter, Frederick Shaw (friend of Linda James), Brian Winkleman (brother-in-law of Eric Murphy), Bev Smith, Molly Macke (Patty & John's daughter-in-law), Angie Broncano (Laos missionary with cancer), Eddie Gutierrez, Mike Delp (friend of John & Linda James), Unspoken, Tim Bronkie (Pastor's friend), Gale Glick, Diana Bailey, Tiffany Macke, Millie Swalls (Nora & Brad Swalls' granddaughter), Kinley Nash (Lois & David Nash's granddaughter), Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Angie Lee, Chase Brady (Joyce Gwyn's great-grandson), Peg Hintz (Tom Hintz's mother), Julie Krietemeier (Beth Macke's sister), Israel, All Long-term Healthcare Facilities in Clark County, Natural Disaster Victims, Our Missionaries

**Our Military Personnel:**

**Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and Armed Forces**

Chris Bradford	John Flowers	Daniel Gard
Michael Holmes	John Kuhn	Shelby Sanborn
Lewis Sanborn	Jake Hoalt	Chaplain Jonathon Maloney

**Our Homebound & Health Care Facility Residents**

Violet Cook	JoAnn Donehue	Ray King
Mary E. Koutsoumpas	Phyllis Boatright	Dan Flowers
Ron Hicke	Sharon Miller	

*Seeking a Way forward*

*Report of the Exploratory Committee*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday, September 11th, 6 pm** - Our District Superintendent will be here to speak to the congregation concerning the actions of the General Conference and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Exit Plan.

**Exploratory Committee Congregational Listening Sessions**

Sunday, September 15th, after worship service  
(children's Sunday School classes will be meeting during that time)  
Monday, September 16th, 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, September 18th, 6:30 pm

A packet of information will be mailed to all professing members during the week of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you do not receive one and think you should have, please call the office.



Prayer Focus for the month:  
**Peace in Our Time**



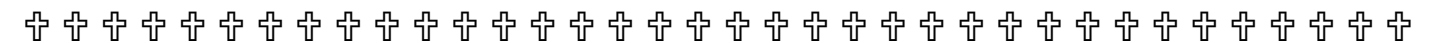
Quiet Prayer Time - Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the sanctuary Everyone is welcome. We have completed 7 mats for MMDC. A big thank you to everyone who has been weaving on Wednesday mornings. They are doing a great job & weaving about 2/3 of a mat each week. We will continue to weave on Wednesday mornings in September. Come join us!! We have completed our 3 Book Studies for the summer with around 15 ladies attending each study. Thank you to the circles for being wonderful hostesses - great food, interesting book reviews, fun time together. We still haven't set a date for our Breaking Bread Together Dinner. This dinner, for the ladies in our church, will be hosted by the circles. Hopefully, a date will be set & more information will be available soon. The East District Fall meeting will be Sat., Sept. 14, from 9:15 to 2:00 at Sullivan UMC. Lunch will be served. Please let Karen know if you would like to attend. Reservations are due by August 31. We will be taking items for Cunningham & Lessie Bates. Boxes are outside the office door, if you would like to make a donation. Items needed: **Cunningham** - bath towels, pump hand soaps, white rounded neck t-shirts sizes S-XL, black or white ankle socks size 6-12, & Walmart or Amazon gift cards. **Lessie Bates** - diapers (all sizes, including adults), wipes, gift cards for Walmart, Subway, McDonald's, Dollar General, Target, & gas cards. The end of the Summer Reading Program ends September 1<sup>st</sup> but you can still keep on reading. Our program eat out date is to be determined.

Upcoming Events:

IGRC Annual UWF Meeting - Sat., Oct. 5, Springfield  
UWF Sunday - Oct. 13  
Chili Day - Tues., Nov. 5

**Mark Your Calendar:**

UWF Board Meeting - September 3, 4:00 PM  
Esther Circle - Thursday, September 12, 7:00 PM  
Faith Circle - Thursday, September 19- 9AM  
Sisters In Faith - Thursday, September 26, 6:00 PM at the Church



**Seniors**



Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday. All are welcome to join!

3rd - Marshall Family Restaurant 9AM  
10th - Hollybrook 2PM  
17th - Gypsy Queen 9AM  
24th - Cilantro's in Casey- Meet at church at 9:30, Windchimes at 10 for a hayride, or at Cilantro's, 25 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St Casey, IL, at 11AM. Watch for a sign up sheet.



## Mission of the Month for September--Ukraine

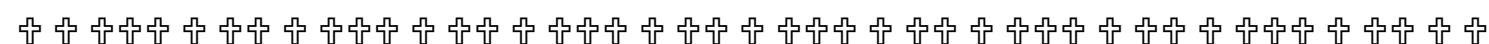
Since February 2022 when Ukraine was invaded by Russia, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has provided help and assistance to that country on behalf of the people of the United Methodist Church. Grants from UMCOR have been given to Methodist churches in surrounding countries, other denominational partners and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). These grants serve to provide direct aid to Ukrainians who are displaced from their homes.



Aid has been and will continue to be provided in the following ways:

- \*Distribution of water, food, transportation and safe shelters for Ukraine refugees who have fled to Hungary, Poland and Romania and to protect against human trafficking as they travel.
- \*Legal assistance, counseling and social support for those who have lost their homes and jobs.
- \*Winterization and repairs at shelters and construction of long-term housing.
- \*Repairs on homes as refugees are able to return to their communities.
- \*Explosive removal and mine education to reduce risks to those returning.

Please consider helping Ukrainians in their time of need by giving to UMCOR's continuing commitment to the country and its people. 100% of your donations will be used for the cause. You can donate through the church office or pew envelopes. Be sure to designate Ukraine Relief. John Wesley's words still ring true: do all the good you can to whoever you can for as long as you can!



Keep those hangers coming!! We are still collecting store clothing hangers for the new Thrift Shop. We only need the plastic ones that have the metal hook. Please no wire or rounded plastic hangers. A collection box is in the office hallway. Thank you!



**Looking for a gift? Going out to eat?**

**Need fuel for your vehicle?**

**We have SCRIP cards for these vendors**

**and many many more! Contact Angie Setzer or see Rick Manuel after church on Sundays.**



### Anniversaries

Jarod & Jody Green 9/2  
 Mike & Becky Farrell 9/4  
 Jeff & Brooke Fattal 9/6  
 Larry & Jeanne Strohm 9/16  
 Steve & Angie Setzer 9/19  
 Troy & Candace Sanzenbacker 9/24  
 Derrick & Jessica Eitel 9/24

### Birthdays

Ryan Arthur 9/1  
 Adam Schneider 9/6  
 Alice Schroeder 9/7  
 Dustin Bishop 9/7  
 Charlie Moore 9/8  
 Terry Welsh 9/9  
 Erica Crumrin 9/11  
 Rick Manuell 9/13  
 Emmy Maurer 9/15  
 Tim Bloodworth 9/16  
 Tom Brannan 9/16  
 Weston Price 9/16  
 Abby Brown 9/16  
 David Rardin 9/18

Jerry Joab 9/19  
 Logan Cannady 9/20  
 Emma Ramsey 9/20  
 Richard Lewis 9/21  
 Gwyn Brown 9/24  
 Sadie Claypool 9/25  
 Brady Bullock 9/25  
 Jeanne Setzer 9/26  
 Peggy Zoll 9/27  
 Ken Claypool 9/27  
 Luke Smitley 9/28  
 Tony Graham 9/28  
 Matt Davidson 9/29

## September Volunteers

Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup>- Mark & Jeanne Setzer  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Sue Boyer & MaryAnn Stepp  
 15<sup>th</sup> - Sue Boyer & MaryAnn Stepp  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - Larry Woodard & Judy Eitel  
 29<sup>th</sup> -

Ushers - 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> - Russ Ross  
 Garvin & Barb Manhart  
 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
 29<sup>th</sup> -

Nursery- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jody Green & Charlene Moore  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Jenna Morey & Dana Ramsey  
 15<sup>th</sup> - Ken & Nancy Claypool  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - Fred & Janet Eitel  
 29<sup>th</sup> - Amy & Kaylee Daugherty



### Altar Flowers

1<sup>st</sup> - Mike & Jo Sanders  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Diana Bailey  
 15<sup>th</sup> -  
 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
 29<sup>th</sup> -



United  
Women  
in Faith

Illinois  
Great Rivers  
Conference



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **East District Fall Meeting**

**Saturday Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting Hope Gifts:**

### **Cunningham Children's Home:**

**Bath Towels, Pump Hand Soaps,  
White Rounded Neck T-Shirts sizes S-XL,  
Black or White Ankle Socks size 6-12,  
Walmart or Amazon Gift Cards**

### **Lessie Bates Davis**

### **Neighborhood House:**

**Diapers – all sizes (including Adult), Wipes,  
Gift Cards for Walmart, Family Dollar, Subway,  
McDonalds, Dollar General, Target, gas cards**






**When: September 8 @ 5PM**

**Where: Lincoln Trail State Park:  
White Oak Shelter**

**What to Bring: Covered Dish & Lawn  
Chairs**

**Meat, drink, and service provided**

# SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. Communion Sunday Jr. & Sr. YF - 5PM	2. Labor Day- Office Closed Summer Reading Prog Ends 	3. Holy Grounds-9AM @ Marshall Family Restaurant  UWF Board Mtg 4PM	4. Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	5.	6. Exercise – 8:30 AM	7.
8. UMM Breakfast-7AM Church Picnic - 5PM 	9. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM Blood Drive- Chapel	10. Holy Grounds-2PM @ Hollybrook  Pen Pals & Pizza-5PM	11.  D.S. Angie Lee Visiting- 6PM Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	12.  Esther Cir – 7PM	13. Exercise – 8:30 AM	14. East District Fall Mtg- 9:15-2PM
15. Listening Session – After Sunday Worship UMM Co-Op Breakfast Zion UMC Confirmation -4PM Jr. & Sr. YF- @ Willowbrook	16. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM  Listening Session – 3PM	17. Holy Grounds- 9AM @Gypsy Queen	18. Power Lunch Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM Listening Session – 6:30PM	19. Faith Circle 9AM	20. Exercise – 8:30 AM	21. <b><i>Come volunteer at the Food &amp; Clothing Bank from 8:30-12</i></b>
22. Jr. & Sr. YF - 5PM Confirmation -4PM	23. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM	24. Holy Grounds – 9:30AM Cilantro’s See bulletin for details Come volunteer @ the Food & Clothing Bank from 12-4:30PM	25. Power Lunch Choir Practice-5:30PM Prayer Time 5-6PM	26. Sisters in Faith 6PM	27. Exercise – 8:30 AM	28. KFC Kickoff 2-4PM
29. Noisy Offering Sunday Confirmation -4PM Jr. & Sr. YF @ Marshall Rehab- 5PM	30. Exercise- 8:30 AM Yoga- 9AM					

