

THE MESSENGER

June 2026



"Bringing People to Christ And Christ to People"

*The Will of God will never take you where the
Grace of God will not protect you!*

The smell of fresh cut grass, the song birds singing, and bright skies that can turn into a downpour... it reminds me of what Spring is all about in our Christian discipleship: renewal, new life, and change. Spring offers us an opportunity to consider where we are on our journey with Jesus. What are you conformed to: the world, or Christ? Is your faith leading you to a new and deeper connection with God? Is the Holy Spirit leading you to a spiritual transformation?

I think St. Paul in the Epistle to the Romans captures an attitude of Spring that we can contemplate as disciples, "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature." Romans 12:2 (CEB). Let's break the verse down to part by part, and see what Spring and St. Paul might be calling for us as Christian disciples.

Let's consider the grass that resists conforming to worldly control and resists uniformity in favor of thriving as God made it. St. Paul calls us to reject the patterns of this world and be transformed; thus don't cut yourself down to fit into what the world wants to limit you to be. A life in Christ isn't always fitting in; it's standing out by proclaiming the righteousness of God. Thriving as a Christian isn't about looking like and acting like everyone else, it's about nurturing the unique gifts you have from God's will to bloom and thrive according to that will.

With the songs of new life filling the Spring air, we're reminded of the renewal and continuing of God's will for life to flourish upon the Earth. In Genesis 1:28a, the first blessing we receive from God is given to us, "God

blessed them and said to them, 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it.'" God's will is more than this (and incomprehensible to us on this side of the veil), but Spring gives us a chance to renew our will to God's will.

With weather that can change faster than a fresh cup of hot coffee to a stone cold cup of coffee, we're called to be transformed as Christian (though on God's timeline, not by any measure we can use). St. Paul's central point in Romans 12:2 is an emphasis on what we should be conformed to—changed to; and that's the main point I want to make in this article: in whatever season of your faith journey you are in, you can be renewed, you can be made new, you can change. Don't be confided to the world, be conformed to God's will. Don't settle for the hum-drummery of the flesh, be made new in Christ. In a world that says that people don't change, be transformed by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let's pray that we bloom into that which is pleasing and mature to God.

That's all from Pastor Jay this month. No matter where you are, always remember you can faithfully seek God, sit at the feet of Christ, and be guided by the Holy Spirit. Go forth to serve your God with patience and passion. Be deliberate in enacting your faith. Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit's power. And may peace be your way in the world. Amen. (BOW, #559)

Shalom,

Pastor Jay

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Our Mission

To be a place where people **COME** to know Jesus Christ, **GROW**, in Christian relationship and understanding, and **GO** into the world as servants of Christ. We strive to be faithful to this mission as we minister in and to our community."





Remembered in Prayer



Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

~ James 5: 14

- Ann McLaughlin—fell at home and broke her collar bone. She is healing on vacation with her family.
- Susie Pruetzel—had knee replacement surgery—friend of many in our congregation.
- Bob & Shirley Albrecht’s grandson in Wisconsin in need of prayer.
- JOY—Margie Wheeler’s sister, Carol, does not need surgery for her shoulder!
- Vicky—friend of Jan Dodson’s with bilateral breast cancer.
- Thankful for the wonderful service on Youth Sunday and all who participated.
- Prayers and thanks to Joe & Susan Leonard for a great GPS season! So thankful for them and our church family. Very excited for Ignite season!
- Don Beem—had cataract surgery.
- Steve Schwartz—recovering after having a pacemaker and also a broken foot.
- Dean Dodson—has been moved to Gillespie Health & Rehab Center, 7855 Staunton Rd., Gillespie, IL 62033
- Jerry Bemis—at home and doing rehab 2-3 times a week. Needs prayers for strength.
- Terry Laflen—friend of Jerry Cannon’s who has started chemo after being diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer.
- Bill Pyatt—doing very well following surgery in April.
- Marjorie Wheeler asked for prayers for health concerns for her cousin Lynn and her husband Ed.
- Pam Sevier—continued prayer after heart surgery.
- Joe Hill—Rae Hill’s husband with continued health concerns but he is home.
- Keith Milner—health concerns
- Ray & Carolyn West—health concerns
- Linda Grames—recently had a procedure and is doing well.
- Crystal Jennings—her cancer has returned.
- Sherry Greenwood—health concern.
- Bonnie Tyler—health concern.
- Lisa Simmons—Linda Schwartz’s daughter with health problems.
- Sandra & Richard Lopez—Bob Albrecht’s sister & brother-in-law with health issues
- Jeff Weakley—ongoing health concern
- Loretta Dunphy—health concerns
- Marion Sanders—continued prayers for her health concerns.

- Bob & Shirley Albrecht—health concerns
- Mary Seyer—Brunstein’s daughter with continued health concern.
- Zula—Don Beem’s sister battling cancer
- All those serving in the armed forces; both domestic and international

Do you have a prayer concern you would like to share on our monthly newsletter? Just call the office, send an email to godfreyfirstumcoffice@gmail.com or write it on the back of your Sunday attendance card. The power of prayer is never-ending!

Our Prayers of Comfort and Sympathy go out to family and friends of...



~Jean Roach who died May 3. Jean had not attended for several years after she moved from the area but was a member of GFUMC. No services were held.

~Margie Wheeler’s uncle—prayers for his family, the Fenstermachers.

It’s summer:

*You don’t have to dress up!
We just want you to SHOW up!!*



HOUSE OF DAVID

Join us for the 8-episode viewing and discussion of the video series “House of David”, beginning on Sunday, May 10 at 8:50 a.m. Rev. Bill Pyatt will lead this series.

House of David tells the story of the most famous king of Israel. The series follows the once-mighty King Saul as he falls victim to his own pride. As Saul loses his power over his kingdom, David finds himself on a journey To discover and fulfill his destiny, navigating love, loss, and violence in the court of the very man he’s destined to replace.

Offering

5/3/2026—5/24/2026

General Fund Offering

5-3	\$ 10,155
5-10	\$ 3,483
5-17	\$ 3,197
5-24	\$ 2,145
TOTAL	\$ 18,980

Monthly Electronic Giving:

\$ 4,550

Monthly Total: \$ 23,530

Designated Offerings:

Preserving Our Future	\$ 1,924
Bridging Our Future	\$ 950
TOTAL	\$ 2,874

April income	\$ 27,883
April expenses	\$ 27,510
Year to date income	\$137,361
Year to date expenses	\$114,277
Net YTD Income	\$ 23,083



I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, thoughts and prayers for me during my recovery of my bad fall. I am slowly moving forward. I am very appreciative.

Pat Reed

Dear Members of GFUMC,

Thank you so much for the wonderful food donation. Your contribution helps us give more foods to those in need. We truly appreciate your support.

Board & Staff of Crisis Food Center



Wild Bunch - Family Game Night

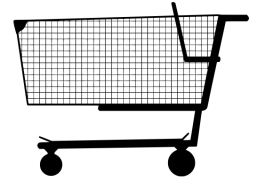
Our next game night will be on June 5th at 6:00p.m. Bring a snack, bring a game or play one that is provided.



Enjoy the fellowship and the friendly competitive spirit shared by all. Our game night will always be the first Friday of every month, so put it on your calendar. We look forward to seeing everyone and remember to **Walk In Love Daily**.

CRISIS FOOD CENTER

When you're doing your weekly shopping, pick up a couple extra items for the Crisis Food Center to fill our grocery cart in the entryway. We focus on non-perishable items to help those in need. Keep in mind our goal of collecting 2026 items in the year 2026!! Our counters have been on vacation, so we don't have a total for May yet. We think you'll be happy as the grocery cart seems to be filling up nicely! Let's keep up the pace!



Attendance:

5-3	120
5-10	100
5-17	110
5-24	78
Monthly Total	408
Monthly Average	102
Yearly Average	105

CHIT CHATTERS

Carole Baker has graciously invited the Chit Chatters to tour her garden on Monday, June 22! We will meet at church at 9:45 a.m. and follow each other to Carole's in Brighton. From what we hear, Carole has a beautiful, unique garden and it will be quite a treat to see it in person. All ladies are invited to join us!



CARE TEAM

Care Team will be meeting June 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. If you would like to share some encouraging words for our church family and others, please join us. There is plenty of room and no experience necessary! See you there.



GODFREY METHODIST MEN

The GMM will meet on the Saturday, June 13, at 8:00 AM. The meeting will include donuts, coffee, devotion, and fellowship. All men are welcome to join us!!

Following the meeting, men who are able and willing can assist with church maintenance projects in support of the trustees. Those unable to participate in the projects are still encouraged to attend the meetings and share in the fellowship.



happy
FATHER'S
day
June 21

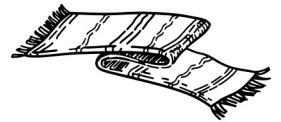


The Rummage Sale Committee met on May 11 to discuss the success of the Rummage Sale. The total profit from the sales, entry fees, bakery booth and food booth was \$5,169.18. That profit will be used to support local missions and any other projects voted on by the women to support. Again, thank you to everyone who helped in any way during Rummage Sale week! It takes a lot to get all the chairs down, all the tables up, hauling donated items to the correct department, pricing, packing things up after the sale, taking the leftover items to a designated place, taking tables down and put away, putting chairs back up, vacuuming, so, so many things! As Glenda Link put in her report from the Bakery Booth "Every day people came and worked with an attitude of cooperation and consideration. That is a wonderful blessing".

Next year's Rummage Sale is set for April 9 & 10, so block off that week and start saving for next year!
P.S. Thank you to an anonymous donor who gave \$2,000 to boost our total to \$7,169.18! God Bless You!!

SHAWL MINISTRY

With summer coming, heat and humidity are a definite possibility. It also means the air-conditioning will be running during worship. For those who feel discomfort when the chilled air is blowing, there are shawls available in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary for use during worship. You may leave them on your seat and they will be collected after the service is finished. Thanks to Sherry Simcox who suggested this ministry!



WAILING WALL

The Wailing Wall is located in the hallway across from the Choir Room. You can write a prayer concern on a paper (provided in the hallway), fold it up and put it in a crack in the wall. The GPS Youth periodically pray over the wall for all the prayers submitted. No one looks at them—those prayers are between you and God. So if you have something on your heart and want to add it to the wall, it is there every day—we all have prayers to lift up!



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

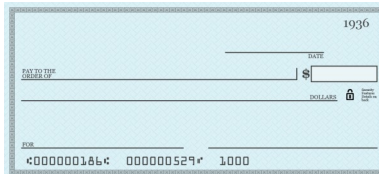
Come before or after the 10:00 service and enjoy some snacks with your church family. The goodies will be available in the Common Grounds area. **If you would like to take a turn hosting, there is a sign up sheet on the Welcome table in the entryway!** We are always in need of hosts! Get to know your church family and share some time with them! Time for fellowship!!



REMINDER!!!

NOW is the perfect time to set this up!!! You can have your tithe/offering sent directly from your checking account to the church. You need to complete the "Authorization for Direct ACH Payment" (which you can request from the office) and return it with a voided check attached. ***We can send a copy of the form directly to you for you to complete.***

If you have any questions about how this works, please speak to Karen McAtee, our Comptroller.



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 will never take you
 where the
 Grace
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 will not protect you.





2026 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

MAY 17	GODFREY FIRST UMC	6:00PM
MAY 31	ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL	6:00PM
JUNE 14	NEW HOPE BAPTIST-WORDEN	10:30AM
JUNE 22	LIBERTY VILLAGE-JERSEYVILLE	2:00PM
JUNE 28	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	9:00AM
		10:30AM
JUNE 28	NEW PIASA CHAUTAUQUA	7:30PM
JULY 5	UPPER ALTON BAPTIST	10:30AM
JULY 8	ASBURY VILLAGE	10:30AM
		1:00PM
JULY 12	ELSAH UMC	8:30AM
JULY 12	HARTFORD UMC	11:15AM
JULY 12	JERSEY COUNTY FAIR	6:00PM
JULY 16-19	BRANSON, KIMBERLING CITY METHODIST	VARIOUS
JULY 26	GODFREY FIRST UMC	10:00AM

TAKE YOUR FLAME **IGNITE** THE WORLD



FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM
IGNITE YOUTH CHOIR



CONTACT JOE LEONARD (618) 973-2244
IGNITEYOUTHCHOIR@GMAIL.COM

June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Rummage Sale Meeting 10 am	2 Private Function 6:30 pm	3 Care Team 10 am	4 Annual Conference, Peoria	5 Annual Conference, Peoria Game Night 6 pm	6 Annual Conference, Peoria VBS Make It Day 9 am
7 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am	8 NOW Committee Meeting 10:30 am	9 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	10	11 Little Knights Father's Day Breakfast 7 am Romans Bible Study 7 pm	12	13 Godfrey Methodist Men 8 am
14 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite to New Hope Baptist in Worden 10:30 am VBS	15 VBS	16 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am VBS	17 VBS	18 VBS	19	20 Bible Discovery Day 9 am-2 pm
21 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am	22 Staff Meeting 10 am Chit Chat to Carole Baker's 10 am Ignite to Liberty Village in Jerseyville 2 pm	23 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	24	25 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	26	27
28 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite to Community Christian Church 9 & 10:30 am New Piasa Chautauqua 7:30 pm	29	30 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am				

Below are the graduates that were submitted—grade school, high school and college! Congratulations and best of luck to all these students and may God protect them and lead them into the next chapter of their lives!

Eli Hanscom, son of Pastor Jay Hanscom and Erinn Green, graduated from 8th grade at Mascoutah Middle School on May 20. He will attend Mascoutah High School in the fall. He will continue playing percussion in the high school band and Jazz Band.



Parker Cannon graduated from Alton High School on May 16. Recognitions include high honor roll all four years, academic excellence award in athletics, dual credit classes, Career and Technical Education concentrator, Gold Alpha recipient and Silver Medallion in Academic Excellence (top 8% of the graduating class). Activities include biology club, golf, baseball and National Honor Society while also working part-time. Next year he plans to attend Missouri State in Springfield, MO, and major in Construction Management. He has been awarded multiple merit based scholarships that will cover more than half of his tuition.

Marcus Robert Hoffmann, son of Rob and Tina Hoffmann, graduated from Alton Senior High School with honors. Marcus participated in the Scholar Bowl club all 4 years and was on the AHS boys volleyball team for 3 years. He was also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He received recognition from the Illinois State Scholars and was awarded a certificate for Outstanding Academic Achievement his junior year. He was inducted into the National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and will graduate as Gold Alpha. He earned the Silver Medallion award for ranking in the top 8% of his graduating class. He completed his senior year with a 4.38 GPA. Marcus has been in Godfrey First's youth group, GPS since 6th grade and this season joined Ignite for his senior year. He has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America, starting his journey, as a Cub Scout at age 7. This past February he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. This summer, he will work his third year at Famous Eagle Boy Scout Camp near Farmington, MO and his first year in the position of Director of the STEM department. In the fall Marcus plans to attend SIUE School of Engineering.

Kenlea Jamison, granddaughter of Cal & Jean Garrett, graduated from Alton High School on May 16 with a Gold Alpha. She will attend Greenville College this fall majoring in Ministry and Worship.

Blake Rensing, the son of Jeff and Lora Rensing, graduated from Alton High School with the highest honor of Platinum Alpha. He received the following academic awards for his achievements:

*Platinum Alpha (Cumulative GPA of 4.5 or greater), *Mu Alpha Theta (National Mathematics Honors Society), *National Honors Society, *Illinois State Scholar, *Silver Medallion Recipient (top 8% in his class & across the metro-east region). Blake was also a varsity player on the AHS baseball and soccer teams. In his senior year he was awarded for his efforts on the soccer field:

*Team Captain, *Southwestern Conference—2nd Team All Conference, *Southwestern Conference—Academic All Conference, *All Section Honorable Mention, *AHS Soccer Scholar Athlete—highest GPA on the team.

Blake will attend Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY, to study Biology and Pre-Medicine. He was accepted into the Mahurin Honors College at WKU and received the WKU Border Scholarship plus an additional academic scholarship due to his GPA. After graduation, he plans on attending medical school for a career in orthopedics

Eagan Kirk graduated from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa on May 16, as a Chemical, Engineer. He is the son of Rodney and Ketra Kirk and the grandson of Ray and Carolyn West. He was honored by being chosen No. 1 student of his class. He will work for Koch Fertilizer, which is an arm of Koch Companies which has headquarters in Wichita, KS. He will be living in Ames, Iowa. He has been doing Taekwondo since he was three. When he can, he teaches it during the summer to young children. He is active in his church in Ames. He very much enjoys working with and on his parents' farm and is very good at building and making things. He's a Christian young man and doesn't hesitate to be a good example to others.

GRADUATES, Continued

Emma Grace Ebbeler (Dorothy Ebbeler's granddaughter) graduated from SIUE on May 9 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in management. After a family trip to Mexico, she will concentrate on finding employment.



Karis Hearne, daughter of Kenneth and Dawn Hearne, graduated from Fort Zumwalt North High School in St. Charles, MO, and will attend William Woods University in Fulton, MO.

Bryce Embrey, son of Josh and Deana Embrey, graduated from Stars Mill High School in Peachtree GA. College is undecided

Jaelynn Simpson, daughter of Sean and Danae Simpson, graduated from Holt High School in Wentzville, MO. She will attend Cosmetology School.

Karis, Bryce and Jaelynn are great-grandchildren of Len and Ruby Brunstein

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Exploring the Nature of God - that's what VBS 2026 is all about! At this year's VBS students will step through the mist of Rainforest Falls, overflowing with towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath the canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a life-long adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Only three more weeks until our adventure begins! We are in great shape this year as; station leader positions have already been filled, decorations are nearly complete and student materials have been ordered. With the camaraderie of St. Ambrose, Medora Methodist and Beltline Christian we have moved quickly to get ready for our program.



How you can help –

- *Volunteer to be a group leader, - accompany students from station to station.
- *Be on the look-out for the Wish Board (located in the back of the sanctuary) there are a few items still needed for nightly snacks and the ice cream truck.
- *Invite children! Ages 3 to fifth grade. Last year 42 students attended our VBS. We are hoping to raise attendance to at least 50 students this year!
- *Pray for our VBS program. Use the F.R.O.G. prayer to focus on specific aspects.

Did you know?

VBS is a proven, effective outreach event that brings kids in who wouldn't otherwise hear about Jesus.

VBS focuses on biblical truth – giving kids a structured week of faith-building.

VBS isn't just a fun event – it's kingdom work!



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Methodist Church*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision:

***Bringing People to
Christ,
and Christ to People!***

Time Sensitive Material. Please do not hold.



Join your friends at Godfrey 1st United
Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School!

June 14-18

6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Supper at 5:30 p.m.
(optional)

You will experience:

New Friends

Amazing Experiments

Creative Games

Surprising Adventures

Incredible Music

For more information, call 618-466-3624



Scan this QR code to register
your child for Rainforest Falls
VBS!!

