

THE MESSENGER

May 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!*

Can you believe Winter is over and Spring is in full swing! The grass is growing quickly, and GFUMC is quickly moving into familiar and new patterns of ministry! I just want to take a moment to thank all the folks and ministries here at GFUMC that are growing the Kingdom of God into our community with their service.

We had a new event, the Trivia Night that allowed for fellowship, friendly competition, and raised money for Preserving our Future. Special thanks to Tina Hoffman for making this ministry possible!

Another new event was the Eggstra Special Easter Craft Party and Egg Hunt, and for the little ones that experienced it, they got Christian education, quality time with their family, and fun! I want to thank Ann McLaughlin for organizing this new, "Anchor Event", and for all those who participated to make it a success!

And with the hustle and bustle surrounding me as I write this article, I want to thank Jean Garrett and Shirley Albrecht and the Rummage Sale Committee for putting in all the hard work with the Rummage Sale. In one week, the building changes from a church, to a department store, and back to a church. There are so many to thank (chair movers, cooks, donors, organizers, etc.) I won't even try, but thank you to all of you who make the Rummage Sale a possibility and a service to the community.

Considering serving the community, with us now reflecting on what Easter means to us as Christians, we too are called to serve others. Jesus tells us in Mark 10:45 (CEB), "... for the Human One (that is, the Son of Man) didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people." As we are liberated and saved by all that Christ has, is, and will do for us, we can mimic Christ and shine His light further into the darkness of the world.

Focusing on how we are called to shine the light of Christ's service into our communities, *what might you be called to bring to the community?* Above we've seen folk who heard the call for the first time and have shone (and plan to continue to shine) Christ's light into the community. The Rummage Sale is an example of a ministry that's been shining the light of Christ for happening so long at GFUMC that I believe it may be one of the primary things GFUMC is known for! Barb and I went digging through some of the records we have around here trying to figure out how long the Rummage Sale has been going on (we even called a few folk to get some insight!) and we couldn't find anything concrete except that this is the 27th year under Carolyn's 25 years, and Jean and Shirley's 2 years of running the Rummage Sale. But a fun nugget we found while trying to get this date was that the Sanctuary Choir did a fund raiser of "Spaghetti and Hymn-arma," to raise funds for new Choir robes (they were even going to do a skit!). Ministry and reaching the community can take various forms... *so again, how are you called to reflect Christ's light?*

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

- Dean Dodson—hospitalized with an infection.
- Ted Pearson—home after being hospitalized with a health issue.
- Jeff Watson—dealing with cancer.
- Jerry Bemis—was hospitalized after having another stroke but its now home and improving
- Terry Laflen—friend of Jerry Cannon’s who has started chemo after being diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer.
- Bill Pyatt—underwent surgery of April 14 for prostate cancer. He is home and recovering nicely.
- Robert Franke-Renae White lifted up prayers for Robert Franke who is in rehab after having neck surgery do repair a compressed spinal cord.
- Marjorie Wheeler asked for prayers for health concerns for her cousin Lynn and her husband Ed.
- Prayers were asked for all those who have be affected by sexual assault. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Remembrance Month.
- Donnie Ansell—continued recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Pat Reed—continued recovery from a fall
- Sue Ansell—as she has a long way to go in recovery after wrist surgery.
- Pam Sevier—continued prayer after heart surgery.
- Becky Whiteside—finally getting better after 4 months with pneumonia—still building her strength up.
- Joe Hill—Rae Hill’s husband who is back home after 6 months in a nursing home.
- Keith Milner—health concerns
- Bill Pyatt—had surgery April 14—he is home and doing well
- Ray & Carolyn West—health concerns
- Linda Grames—recent test results were all negative!
- 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
- Chandler Bogert & family—Doug & Danielle’s Bogert’s son safely settled in Georgia.
- 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...



~Jeanne Stalker, Dorothy Ebbeler’s sister who died April 11. Dorothy extends a thank you to the church family for their thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and hugs during her sister’s illness and in her passing.
~Denise Holliday, Rod Thornton’s sister who died April 6 of complications from dementia.

Thank You

Thank you to Ellen Bogard and all the volunteers for making a delicious breakfast for Easter! The NOW Committee continues to look at new projects. Your suggestions are welcome!

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 9:00 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

3/29/2026—4/26/2026

General Fund Offering

3-29	\$ 1,806
4-5	\$ 5,585
4-12	\$ 6,024
4-19	\$ 2,474
4-26	\$2,617
TOTAL	\$18,506

Monthly Electronic Giving:

\$ 4,550

Monthly Total: \$ 23,056

Designated Offerings:

Helping Hand	\$ 60
TOTAL	\$ 60

March income	\$ 25,629
March expenses	\$ 32,346
Year to date income	\$109,498
Year to date expenses	\$ 86,767
Net YTD Income	\$ 22,711

Attendance:

3-29	138
4-5	45/122
4-12	97
4-19	107
4-26	83
Monthly Total	592
Monthly Average	118
Yearly Average	106

CHIT CHATTERS

Plans for our May 18 get together are to visit the Women's Ministry Center, 2418 Bloomer Drive, Alton. We will meet at the church at 9:45 a.m. or you can



meet us at the Center at 10:30 a.m. The Center takes donations if you choose to take something. You can visit their site at WMCenter.org to see a list of items needed. Some things listed are: full size shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, blankets, new sheets, under garments, gently used clothing. After our visit, we will go to lunch at Hickory Grove. Anyone with questions, please call Shirley Albrecht at 618-946-1821 or Jean Garrett at 618-960-1354.

I wish to THANK EVERYONE for my 80th birthday card shower. I received 42 cards, several telephone calls and texts. It took me several days to read all the cards. Your thoughts, blessings and prayers meant the world to me.

Blessings,

Ray West

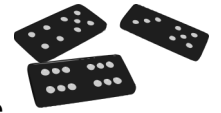


DOMINOS & FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Friday, May 8, 6:00 p.m.



Wild Bunch is sponsoring Dominos and Family Game Night on Friday, May 8, at 6:00.



Bring your favorite game to share or use one that is provided. Bring your snacks and something to drink. Don't sit at home watching yet another boring movie! Come and join the fun. Invite friends. The more, the merrier!!! Hope to see you all there!!!

**Effective the month of May, 2026, Ray & I will no longer be leaders of "Dominoes", which has met the first Friday evening of each month for approximately 12 years. We are dealing with some personal issues which warrant us stepping back. We have enjoyed leading this group and getting to know all the people who have participated. Love and God's blessings, Carolyn & Ray*

***As you can see from above, the Wild Bunch is offering something similar and we hope you will join us for Family Game Night! Thank you Carolyn & Ray for starting the "Dominoes" group!!*

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!! We collected 80 items in April. (We need to pick up the pace!)



CARE TEAM

Care team will meet on May 6, 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. Share a kind note of encouragement to those in need. Hope you can make the time.

Glenda Link



GODFREY METHODIST MEN

The GMM will meet on the Saturday, May 9, 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.





Many thanks to ALL who helped in any way with the Rummage Sale from set-up to tear-down and everything in between!! It is truly a group effort and our church family (plus friends) showed up every day! Our profit is a bit over \$5,000 (which is designated for local missions) but there are still a few things to even out before the final total is available. We will give more details in the June Messenger.

Jean Garrett & Shirley Albrecht

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

You are the best, generous bakers I know! You brought cakes, pies, brownies, muffins, breads and special treats of all kinds. You even baked after working all day on Friday, so we had more on Saturday. I cannot thank you enough for all the delicious treats. People told me, "This is my main reason for coming to the sale!!"

My gratitude overflows. You are a special group of ladies.

Glenda Link

P.S. There was a phone message at the church Sunday morning from someone who bought a Pistachio Cake at the Bake Sale and wanted to let us know it was absolutely delicious! She wanted to compliment the baker, so whoever baked that cake, you made someone's day!! Thank you!!

June 14th - 18th

The VBS Countdown Has Begun!

It's hard to believe that in only seven short weeks we'll be stepping into the mist of Rainforest Falls, overflowing with tropical flowers, towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath the canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will plunge into a lifelong 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. To make this amazing event happen we will need plenty of support. We are looking for:

"Trail Guides" to escort students from station to station,

"Station Leaders" to present lessons,

"Decorators" to help set up the main stage and classrooms,

"Kitchen Help" to make and serve the supper and many others to assist where needed.

With your help, we can make Rainforest Falls an exciting experience the kids will always remember! Please see Ann McLaughlin to volunteer.

**Our first official planning meeting will take place on Friday, May 8th at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! We also have "Make-It" days scheduled for Sat., May 23rd and Sat., June 6th. Hope you can join us!

Group Publishing has pointed out that - VBS isn't just another week on the calendar - it's one of the biggest outreach opportunities of the year.

*More kids meet Jesus during VBS than almost any other church event.

*VBS rallies our entire church together around one shared mission.

*VBS open our church doors to families in our community who may never walk in otherwise.



HOLY HIKING BOOTS

Holy Hiking Boots will have an EVENING hike on Wednesday, May 13, at 5:00 p.m., at the Nature Institute. Dogs are not allowed. Come and join us and have an enjoyable evening! If you have questions, please contact Tina Hoffmann at 618-960-5396.





Patron Program 2026

IGNITE IS A CHRISTIAN YOUTH CHOIR WHO, THROUGH ITS YOUNG VOICES, IS COMMITTED TO SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST BEFORE OTHERS IN SONG, SPEECH, CONDUCT, LOVE, AND FAITH.

IN ADDITION TO YOUR PRAYERFUL AND MORAL SUPPORT, WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. FOR EVERY MONETARY GIFT GIVEN, THE NAME(S) OF THE DONOR(S) WILL BE LISTED IN OUR PROGRAM THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT OUR VARIOUS PERFORMANCES. THERE IS NO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM DONATION!

NAME(S) TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM

DONATION AMOUNT
(DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM)

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2026 PROGRAM, DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY MAY 10, 2026
YOU CAN PAY BY CASH OR CHECK TO IGNITE YOUTH CHOIR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
GODFREY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (618) 466-3624 OR JOE LEONARD (618) 973-2244,
IGNITEYOUTHCHOIR@GMAIL.COM OR FACEBOOK: IGNITE YOUTH CHOIR

TAKE YOUR FLAME **IGNITE** THE WORLD



MAY 17	GODFREY FIRST UMC	6:00PM
MAY 31	ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL	6:00PM
JUNE 14	NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	10:30AM
JUNE 22	LIBERTY VILLAGE-J'VILLE	2:00PM
JUNE 28	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	9 & 10:30AM
JUNE 28	NEW PIASA CHATAQUA	7:00PM
JULY 5	UPPER ALTON BAPTIST	10:30AM
JULY 8	ASBURY VILLAGE	10:30AM & 1:00PM
JULY 12	ELSAH UMC	8:45AM
JULY 12	HARTFORD UMC	11:15AM
JULY 12	JERSEY COUNTY FAIR	6:00PM
JULY 16	THE HAYGOODS-BRANSON	7:00PM
JULY 17	SILVER DOLLAR CITY-BRANSON	9:00AM
JULY 19	KIMBERLING CITY METHODIST.	9:15 & 10:30AM
JULY 26	GODFREY FIRST UMC	10:00AM

Summer TOUR

2026 IGRC MISSION COLLECTION

Your congregation can join us in transforming lives, both globally and locally!
We will collect life-changing items for Midwest Mission during the 2026 Conference.



WHAT TO COLLECT (COMPLETE KITS & INDIVIDUAL ITEMS)

HOME CARE KITS

- Liquid household cleaner - 56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)
- Dish soap - 42-64 oz.
- Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz. total
- 1 Scrub brush
- 1 Five-gallon round bucket with resealable lid

PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo -12-19 oz.
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 Lotion - 8-10 oz.
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 Donation for toothpaste and carrying bag

Find Kit lists and instructions at midwestmission.org/kits

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

Layette gowns and sleepers (0-6 months), reusable day and night pads, and gently used wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, splints, braces, boots.

OTHER ITEMS

Anything listed in the 2026 Kits and Projects Brochure will be accepted (scan QR code).



DROP-OFF DETAILS

Drop off donations at Annual Conference at the Peoria Civic Center! **Collection open from Thursday, June 4th (8 AM-2 PM) and (5 PM-7 PM), and Friday, June 5th, (8 AM-2 PM).** The Midwest Mission truck will be located at the door on the North Side of the Civic Center on SW Monroe St.



IDEA FOR YOUR CHURCH

1. Choose the Kit(s) you want to focus on
2. Have people collect items for several weeks, and drop them off at the church — bonus if you get the community involved!
3. Have a packing event where your church comes together for a time of fellowship and Kit packing

Find shopping lists, instructions, and videos at midwestmission.org/kits

May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am					1 NOW 10:30 am GPS & Ignite Out Til Midnight 6 pm	2
3 YOUTH SUNDAY JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite 3-7:30 pm	4 Pastor Jay's BIRTHDAY!!	5 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Private Function 6:30 pm	6 Care Team 10 am	7 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	8 VBS Planning Meeting 1 pm Wild Bunch Game Night 6 pm	9 Godfrey Method- ist Men 8 am
10 MOTHER'S DAY House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am	11	12 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Staff Meeting 10 am	13 Holy Hiking Boots @ Nature Institute 5 pm	14 Church Council 6 pm	15	16
17 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite Perfor- mance 6 pm	18 Chit Chat to Women's Minis- try Center 10:30 am	19 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	20	21 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	22	23 VBS Work Day 9 am—?
24 House of David 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am	25 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	26 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	27	28 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	29	30

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision:

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

Time Sensitive Material. Please do not hold.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Hopefully, you are receiving this copy of the Messenger the way you requested it to be delivered!! Thank you for your patience while we get all the kinks worked out and all the email addresses correct. We will have copies available at church if you still like to have a copy in your hands. You can also find it on our church website at godfreyfirstumc.org.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!

We would like to recognize the graduates in our church family in the June Messenger! Please submit your senior's name, parents, school graduated from, next year's plans, any awards or scholarships received—just generally all about them! We like to hear about our youth! Submit your information to Barb at godfreyfirstumcoffice@gmail.com by Monday, May 18!



**Happy
Mother's Day**

A decorative graphic for Mother's Day featuring several colorful flowers (yellow, pink, red) on green stems with leaves, growing out of a patch of green grass. The text 'Happy Mother's Day' is overlaid on the flowers in a large, purple, bubbly font. A faint watermark 'ColoringPage.eu' is visible in the background.

coloringpage.eu