

THE MESSENGER

October 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!*

Before I start, yes I know I'm weird (I'd like to think, "special"). I just want to get that out of the way before I tell y'all that my favorite way to have egg salad is fresh and un-chilled (yes, that means I like a warm egg salad sandwich). We all have our preferences and things that make us unique. Just as much as my background led me to enjoy warm egg salad (we'll get there), we all have been uniquely blessed by God...but maybe not through egg salad preference. Best summed up by Paul, let's look at how we are uniquely gifted. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is **prophesying**, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is **serving**, then serve; if it is **teaching**, then teach; ⁸ if it is to **encourage**, then give encouragement; if it is **giving**, then give generously; if it is to **lead**, do it diligently; if it is to show **mercy**, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8)

The reason why I like a warm egg salad sandwich is due to my mother raising brothers (who are twins and only 14 months younger than me) and myself at the same time. Mom spins a yarn about how when we were small, we'd clamor at her feet in the kitchen for egg salad sandwiches, so much so that she'd barely have time to cool the eggs to peel them more easily. And now, I like a warm egg salad sandwich. But as I reflect on a love as old and familiar as growing up, I think about how my gifts have always been there too. I look at what Saint Paul has lifted up here, and serving and mercy have always been a gift to me... but not that it makes me special, it's just what makes me unique.

I served on School Council, Liturgist for Pastor Grandpa Rodney Hanscom at the small Newry church that worshipped a strong eight folk every Sunday, and worked in libraries (only paid via Federal Work-Study) for eight years... even before embracing rather than running from the call to prophesying (prophesying here means testifying, witnessing, or preaching) and teaching. Though I can be quiet... passionate (I still struggle to say I experience anger at times), mercy has been something I have been gifted with. I'm introverted by nature, but have always been one who folk come to so they feel, "heard." I spoke with a friend last night for 2 hours about the awful situation they're in, and have lots of other examples, but I've highlighted my gifts here as a way for you to consider your gifts, so...

Which gifts have you received from God? Whatever they may do, what I love about Paul here is that not only does the Saint list the gifts, but tells us how to put them into practice. Some are easy; if it's serving, encouragement, and teaching, make sure to engage with those gifts. However, with the others, Paul adds an adjective. With prophesy (again, testifying essentially), whatever level of faith you have, witness to others about God. If you give, give generously, and see what it means to be blessed through giving. If you're called to lead, don't do it half-heartedly, give it your all for God's will. With mercy, don't do so begrudgingly, but with love upon your heart.

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.

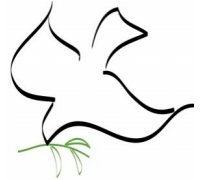
~ James 5: 14

- Marion Sanders—continued health concern
- Kim Thompson—friend of Linda Grames who had a kidney removed and got a clean report—PTL!
- Chas Knight—Chris Knight's father is home on hospice care after liver cancer diagnosis.
- Denise Pritchard—Glenda Link's daughter's surgery for kidney removal was delayed and has to be rescheduled.
- Sue Ansell had surgery to remove an unknown mass in her neck.
- Shannon Knight will be having foot surgery in early November.
- Renae White will have surgery on November 11.
- Praise the Lord! Ormond's daughter-in-law, Mary Ormond, is responding well so far with her experimental chemotherapy. Bloodwork is good and she is handling the side effects.
- At eight weeks, post surgery, Don Long, Sr. has regained much of his comprehension and communication. He is slowly regaining mobility and strength through ongoing residential rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the tumor biopsy came back malignant, and he is now facing six weeks of daily targeted-radiation treatment. Prayers are appreciated.
- Prayers for JoAnn Phelps' son, Brent.
- Bonnie, a friend of a friend, recently diagnosed with stage 3 cancer—submitted by Jan Rogalski.
- A friend's son who is struggling with addiction—submitted by Jan Rogalski.
- Allan Brown—Pastor Jay's cousin diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- Joe Hill—continued health concerns.
- Bob Handling—Connie Beyer's dad with health concerns.
- June Sproull—health concern
- Carol Simcox recovering from surgery at home.
- Ruby Brunstein—recovering from hip surgery.
- Marcy Reed—Al & Pat Reed's daughter diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Dean and Jan Dodson—Dean with health concerns and Jan moving into a condo to be near Dean.
- Jerry Bemis—continued prayers
- Joe Hill—Rae Hill's husband with continued health concerns but he is home.
- Keith Milner—health concerns
- Ray & Carolyn West—health concerns
- Crystal Jennings—continued prayers as she deals with cancer and treatment
- Bonnie Tyler—health concern.
- Lisa Simmons—Linda Schwartz's daughter with health problems.
- Richard Lopez—Bob Albrecht's brother-in-law with health issues
- Loretta Dunphy—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

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

~Sandra Lopez (Bob Albrecht's sister in Texas, who died September 9)

~Tam Larson friend of 66 years to Jerry and Etta Jane Leonard, passed away recently.



ARM CHAIRS

With help from the proceeds from the Rummage Sale and a donation from the Memorial Committee, we have purchased 20 new chairs with arms. We will have them all unwrapped and in the sanctuary soon. We are so happy to be able to accommodate more people!



Offering

8/30/2026—9/27/2026

General Fund Offering

8-30	\$ 2,821
9-6	\$ 5,171
9-13	\$ 4,760
9-20	\$ 1,881
9-27	\$ 3,784
TOTAL	\$18,417

Monthly Electronic Giving:

\$ 4,750

Monthly Total: \$ 23,167

Designated Offerings:

Bridging Our Future	\$ 950
Helping Hand	\$ 30
TOTAL	\$ 980

August income	\$ 42,365
August expenses	\$ 36,801
Year to date income	\$249,172
Year to date expenses	\$240,732
Net YTD Income	\$ 5,564

Attendance:

8-30	93
9-6	97
9-13	100
9-20	85
9-27	97
Monthly Total	472
Monthly Average	94
Yearly Average	100

Dear Godfrey 1st United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the goodie basket for staff at Gilson Brown Elementary School. We also appreciate you all with asking what supplies we tend to need the most to support our students! Thank you for your continued support through the years.

Sincerely, *Gilson Brown Elementary*

Godfrey First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the staff at the Early Childhood Center, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Welcome Back to School Basket! It is always so thoughtful of your congregation to think of us and show your support for our teachers and staff! You help to get us started off to a great year! Thank you!

*Cynthia Schuenke, Principal and the
Staff at the Early Childhood Center*

Our church grounds couldn't look as nice as they do without our awesome volunteers! Weekly mowing has been taken care of all summer by Bob Weaver, Renae White, Dave Osborn, Larry Peimann, Bob Lowe, Dennis Hammond, Bill Pyatt, Craig Davidson, Larry Ormond and Rod Thornton. Our beautiful Prayer Garden has been tended by Susie Lowe and Larry Ormond. Many thanks to all these people for their care of our property

CRISIS FOOD CENTER

We have exceeded our 2026 goal of collecting 2026 items, and we still have 3 months to go! THANK YOU!

Please remember, while we have surpassed our goal of collecting 2026 items in 2026, the need is still in our community. Please continue to bring in your donations. We are now collecting for the Fall Harvest Food Drive. Suggested items for fall are: canned vegetables, rice, pasta, instant potatoes, applesauce, stuffing mix, etc. Of course, any items are welcome! Let's fill up our grocery cart every week as the need continues to grow!



WILD Bunch - Family Game Night

Wild Bunch - Family Game Night,
Friday October 2 - 6 p.m.

Once again Pastor Jay will be there for those who want to learn how to play cribbage. Bring your own game if you'd like, or play one of the many choices we offer.

Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship and the friendly competitive spirit shared by all.

Any questions?? Call Glenda Link or Ellen Borgard. It's always a fun evening. We look forward to seeing everyone and remember to **Walk In Love Daily**.

Glenda & Ellen



CARE TEAM

Your Care Team will meet on Wednesday, October 7th and 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. If you have friends, family, or church members you would like remembered with cards from us, please contact Glenda Link at [618 741-1986](tel:6187411986) by message or text. We do NOT want to miss anyone with this caring gesture. If you are interested in helping, your comments and your participation are welcome.



CHIT CHAT

The Chit Chat ladies will meet on Tuesday, October 20, at 10 am. We'll gather at the church, have a little "chit chat", and then go to Santino's for lunch! All ladies are invited to join us!! If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Albrecht or Jean Garrett.



NOW (Nurture, Outreach, Witness) COMMITTEE NOTES

We hope you all enjoyed the church picnic on Sunday, September 27. The NOW committee is glad to be able to plan and support this event as a way of nurturing our congregation. Many thanks to Tina and Rob Hoffmann for all their work in organizing this event and cooking the meat! And thanks to our committee members and others who provided the food!

We were excited to get a recent report from Joe Leonard that the food drive is likely to go over the 2026 items that were our goal for this year! Well done everyone! Please keep up your giving. The need is still there in our community.

Grief Share has started and has had a turnout of four people who are experiencing the loss of a loved one. A small group does make it easier for conversation about all the feelings and issues around grief. The group will continue through Thanksgiving.

Thank you to Ann McLaughlin, Barb Hammond, Joe Leonard and all those who helped with the Back to School month. We know that many kids will benefit from the backpacks and school supplies. And we were glad to find that the teachers appreciated the 'goodie baskets' that Ann delivered. We are exploring other things we might do to help later in the year.

The Annual Church Clean-up Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 31, starting at 9:00am. We are looking forward to this chance to help get the church looking extra clean and ready for the holidays. In the past this has included sweeping up bugs, washing the kitchen mats, cleaning the pulpit and the lectern, vacuuming the sanctuary, cleaning out the storerooms and many other tasks that accumulate throughout the year. Please plan to give an hour or more to come and help!!



Holy Hiking Boots Campout



- October 23rd-24th
- Pere Marquette State Park
- 5:00pm Friday- 1:00pm Saturday
- HHBs will cover camping cost but will take donations to help with food.

*If you don't want to camp, come for campfire fun on Friday night.

*Hiking Saturday morning after an awesome breakfast

*There *MAY* be a night hike

*Dogs welcome

*If you're not a hiker, come for the fellowship!

*If you're not a camper, come for the hiking, fellowship, and food!!!

*Please RSVP by Sunday Oct. 18th so I can plan food accordingly!!!

Tina Hoffmann [618-960-5396](tel:618-960-5396)

GODFREY METHODIST MEN

The Godfrey United Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, October 10, at 8:00am. All men are invited to attend a breakfast of donuts and coffee along with fellowship time. Beginning at 9:00am those men willing and able with weather permitting will have several church property maintenance tasks to choose from to work for the Trustees. Those unable to work can simply stay and continue with the fellowship. We hope to see you on October 10!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, October 11, at Main Street UMC, at 4:30 p.m. This is where our 2027 leadership will be affirmed, budget will be approved and visions set. Everyone is invited to attend to support Godfrey First UMC.



FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Join in the "fun" and help to make our church sparkly clean for the upcoming holidays! We will work on Saturday, October 31, beginning at 9 a.m. There will be tasks to complete, areas to clean, glass to wash—just areas that need some extra TLC! Wear your work clothes and let's have a good time while we work! See you the 31st!!



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Jay will be conducting a New Member class on October 11, 18 and 25, at 9:00 a.m., in the Conference Room.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Godfrey 1st UMC, please contact him for more information. If you are already a member and would like to review the information, you are welcome to attend as well!!



From the Children's Ministry Director, Ann McLaughlin

Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday we were preparing for back-to-school, and suddenly we're making plans for the Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest!

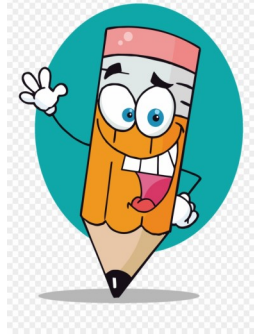
During September, we recognized Grandparents' Day with little candy bars and cute decorations. Now that I am a grandparent four times over—with another grandchild on the way!—I realize just how special and precious this role in life truly is. The following quote from an unknown author is a sweet affirmation of grandparents:

"Grandparents provide children with the essentials they need most. They give unconditional love, kindness, and patience; help create fond childhood memories; and pass on some of life's most valuable lessons."

A special thank-you to all the grandparents in our church family!

This year in JAM, we are learning about the life of Jesus. We began with His miraculous birth and childhood, followed by the calling of His first disciples. Now, we will begin learning about His miracles. We will also be preparing a special gift for Pastor Jay in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month in October. Shh...don't tell him!

Note: I will not be at church for JAM on October 4, but Missy Schhonasky will fill in for me.



GPS has gotten off to a fantastic start. We have welcomed several guests in our first few weeks, and look forward to welcoming more. We participated in the national See You at the Pole student let prayer event at Alton High. It was encouraging to see so many of our area youth praising God outside the main entrance of the school. We were proud to be part of it.

We had several youths graduate from our Jedi Council (our youth council) in the spring, so we had to fill those vacancies. We've had our first meeting and started sharing ideas for things for us to do this school year. Our next big event is the Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest on October 25. We are also planning our second youth conference with other local youth groups.

MUSIC

I hope everyone enjoyed the Hymn Sing. I had a great time putting it together. We sang songs from various Methodist hymnals and songbooks dating back to the 1885 Epworth Hymnal and concluded with the 2011 UMC Praise and Worship songbook. It was very interesting to see the progression of the denomination and how music played an important part of worship from the beginning. Thank you all for participating!

Joe

IMPROVEMENTS

For the safety and security of our congregation, guests, and facilities, portions of the church property are monitored by video surveillance. Smile for the camera!!

WIFI PASSWORD

We have been in the process of updating our phone, internet, and wifi system in the church. During that process, we created separate staff and guest networks. If you utilize the wifi signal while at church, please log into the GFUMC-Guest WiFi and enter the password: Wesley1100. If you need assistance, please see Pastor Jay, Joe or Barb.

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Girl Scouts 6 pm Romans Bible Study 7 pm	2 Game Night 6 pm	3
4 Prodigal God 8:45 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am GPS Youth 5:30	5	6 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Private Function 6:30 pm	7 Care Team 10 am GriefShare 1:30 pm	8 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Godfrey Methodist Men 8 am
11 JAM 9 am New Member Class 9 am Worship 10 am Charge Conference 4:30 @ Main Street UMC GPS Youth 5:30	12	13 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Great Rivers Choral Society Practice 6:30 pm	14 Staff Meeting 10 am GriefShare 1:30 pm	15 Girl Scouts 6 pm Romans Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Hot Dog Roast @ Garretts 4 pm
18 The Prodigal God Book Study 8:45 JAM 9 am New Member Class 9 am Worship 10 am Great Rivers Choral Society Concert 3 pm	19	20 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Chit Chat 10 am NOW Comm. Meeting 10:30 am Great Rivers Choral Society Practice 6:30 pm	21 Care Team 10 am GriefShare 1:30 pm	22 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	23 Holy Hiking Boots Overnight Campout @ Marquette Park	24
25 The Prodigal God Book Study 8:45 JAM 9 am New Member Class 9 am Worship 10 am Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest 5-6:30 pm	26	27 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Great Rivers Choral Society Practice 6:30 pm	28 GriefShare 1:30 pm	29 Board of Trustees Meeting 6 pm	30	31 Church Clean-up Day 9 am HALLOWEEN Parade 7 pm Downtown Alton

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision:

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

Time Sensitive Material. Please do not hold.

WEINER ROAST

Join your church friends for a Weiner Roast at Cal & Jean Garrett's home on Saturday, October 17, starting at 4 p.m. Bring a lawn chair with you and a dish to share. Hot dogs are provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway so you can let us know how many are coming.



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation month and we recognize our pastor, Jay Hanscom!! If you would like to do something special for him, any kind of gift cards are always appreciated, or a meal, or take him out for lunch—anything to show appreciation! We also have two retired pastors in our congregation who deserve recognition: Rev. Bill Pyatt and Rev. Jim Wheeler. We extend our thanks to all our pastors for always supporting us!



Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest

Our Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest will be held on October 25 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. This event is

intended to provide a safe place for children to trick-or-treat while also inviting families to visit

our church. As we did last year, we will have games and activities at each table or station. Children will visit each station and receive candy as they participate in the activities. Are you interested in getting involved? Here are some ways you can help:

- Decorate a table and supervise an activity. We'll provide everything you need.
- Donate candy and/or Little Debbie cakes. Individually wrapped Little Debbie cakes will be used at the cake walk station.
- Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for a fun evening!
- Pray for a safe and successful event.

Fall-O-Ween Fun Fest

October 25, 5:00—6:30 p.m.

