

THE MESSENGER

April 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!*

It's warming up out there GFUMC! As the weather transitions to spring, we see new life sprouting up all around us! And with the new life that spring brings, we have a moment to reflect on the new life available to us with faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! There are a lot of ways to connect with Christ during this Christian season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Maybe you've come every year to the extra worship services during this season or maybe you've thought, "Those aren't for me." Whichever end of the spectrum you are on, I want to invite you to these services. Speaking just for myself, these are some of my favorite services throughout the year. The flow from the triumphal entry to betrayal amongst friends at a dinner, to the ultimate defeat of the sting of death by Jesus humbling Himself, "... by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:8b, CEB) Though the secular world thought that'd be the end, God resurrected the Son, and we'll celebrate that on Resurrection Sunday, known as Easter Sunday.

With that, I invite you to the following services: **March 29th, Sunday at 10:00am for Palm Sunday, April 2nd, Thursday at 7:00pm for Maundy Thursday, April 3rd, Friday at 7:00pm for Good Friday, and April 5th, Sunday at 7:30am for our "The Son Arose" service (followed by a continental breakfast until 9:45am) and 10:00am for our Easter Sunday service.** If you're looking to deepen your relationship with God in this season of secular chaos, worldly anxiety, and perhaps personal woe, God is calling you to witness the old, old story once more to faithfully be assured of all that God has done for us.

In this season of Easter, let's be reminded of the assurance Saint Paul gives us concerning our faith in the Son in Colossians 3:1-4 (CEB), "Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. ² Think about the things above and not things on earth. ³ You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory."

I get so distracted (just ask Barb), but what I enjoy about this season is it turns our focus upon all that Christ has done for us. I was just talking with a congregant about how I tend to focus on growing my faith and relationship with Jesus, but Lent to Easter focuses upon all that God has done for us. It moves our faith from, "Lord, what would you have me do?" to "Lord, thank you for all You've done for me!" Let's move our gaze to Christ beside the Father. Because if your distractions are from the world, Paul proclaims we are to reorient our focus away from all the troubles of the earth.

Remember, Paul is writing from almost 2,000 years ago... but even back then the world could capture our gaze. Thus, with our eyes on Christ, let's be assured that with our life hidden in Christ, we too can be revealed in glory! Utilize your faith this season to not only get on the right path, but to be assured of salvation beyond all our human comprehension.

Shalom,
Pastor Jay

1100 Airport Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
(618) 466 - 3624
www.godfreyfirstumc.org

Pastor
Jay Hanscom
revjayhanscom@gmail.com
618-604-3609

Office Manager
Barb Hammond
godfreyfirstumcoffice@gmail.com

Comptroller
Karen McAtee
mchuny@charter.net

Youth Director
Joe Leonard
gpsyouthministry@gmail.com

Music Director
Joe Leonard
imnoavgjoe@gmail.com

Director of Children and Family Ministries
Ann McLaughlin
annemac1120@gmail.com

Nursery Coordinator
Missy Schonasky
missyschonasky@yahoo.com

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

- Jean Stalker & her family (Dorothy Ebbeler's sister with health issues).
- Donnie Ansell—knee replacement surgery—he did well
- Pat Reed—recovering from a fall
- A friend of Karen McAtee's who fell & broke her tibia—having surgery for that and another unrelated surgery at the same time.
- Prayers for Shirley & Bob Albrecht's grandson who is dealing with a difficult situation.
- Sue Ansell—as she has a long way to go in recovery after wrist surgery.
- Gil Rogalski—doing so much better now. Thanks to all for the prayers. Medication and diet changes are helping.
- Pam Sevier—continued prayer after heart surgery.
- Sharon O'Neal—friend of Karen McAtee's having surgery
- Becky & Jim Whiteside—Becky is still dealing with pneumonia and Jim is being an excellent care-giver.
- Rae Hill—her husband, Joe, is returning home after 6 months in a nursing home. Prayers for strength as they realize new challenges.
- Keith Milner—health concerns
- Bill Pyatt—date is set for surgery in mid-April.
- Beatrice Ormond (Larry & Deb Ormond's granddaughter) is finally doing well—infections are gone
- Dee Logan—Glenda Link's neighbor whose cancer has returned.
- Ray & Carolyn West—health concerns
- Linda Grames—having tests—pray for good results
- Chuck Tucker—after a lot of testing, it looks like the original test showed a false positive—he is cancer free! PTL!!
- 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—Sandra broke her hip and Richard has stomach cancer.
- Chandler Bogert & family—Doug & Danielle's Bogert's son has made it from Korea to North Dakota and now the family is on their way to Georgia.
- Jeff Weakley—ongoing health concern
- Loretta Dunphy—health concerns
- Marion Sanders—continued prayers for her health concerns.

- Continued prayers for Jerry Bemis with ongoing 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!

WHY PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH

*Some go to church to take a walk;
 Some go to church to laugh and talk;
 Some go there to meet a friend;
 Some go there their time to spend;
 Some go there to meet a lover;
 Some go there a fault to cover;
 Some go there for speculation;
 Some go there for observation;
 Some go there to doze and nod;
 The wise go there to worship God.*

-Gospel Herald



Offering

3/1/2026—3/22/2026

General Fund Offering

3-1	\$ 5,403
3-8	\$ 5,013
3-15	\$ 3,400
3-22	\$ 6,105
TOTAL	\$19,921

Monthly Electronic Giving:

\$ 4,550

Monthly Total: \$ 24,471

Designated Offerings:

UMCOR	\$ 445
Helping Hand	\$ 103
Memorial	\$ 50
TOTAL	\$ 598

February income	\$44,092
February expenses	\$31,314
Year to date income	\$83,849
Year to date expenses	\$54,421
Net YTD Income	\$-17,898

Attendance:

3-1	113
3-8	100
3-15	102
3-22	100

Monthly Total 415

Monthly Average

Yearly Average

GODFREY FIRST TRIVIA NIGHT



Save the date for a GFUMC Trivia Night and Silent Auction on Friday, April 10! Doors will open at 6 p.m. and trivia will begin at 7 p.m. Bring snacks to share for your table. Price is \$60 a table with a maximum of 8 people at each table. This includes free soda and coffee. Proceeds will go to "Preserving Our Future". Please see Tina Hoffmann or call her at 618-960-5396 with questions. You can also contact her to reserve your table!

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!!!



HOLY HIKING BOOTS

We will be hiking on Saturday, April 18, at 9:00 a.m., at the McCully Heritage Project in Kampsville. More details will follow or if you have questions, please contact Tina Hoffmann at 618-960-5396



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!!



NEW!!! CHIT CHAT HOUR

The Chit Chat Hour will not meet in April because of the Rummage Sale. We are planning for a gathering in May, so stay tuned for more information next month!



CARE TEAM

Care Team will meet on April 1 at 10:00 to write cards for those in need of care. Come and help make someone's day by helping with the cards.



GODFREY METHODIST MEN

The GMM will meet on the Saturday, April 11, at 8:00 AM. The meetings 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.



GREAT RIVERS CHORAL SOCIETY

GRCS 25: Echoes of the Past, Sounds of the Future

Friday, April 10 — 7 pm

St. Paul Episcopal Church, 10 E. 3rd St. Alton

Saturday & Sunday, April 11 & 12

Godfrey 1st United Methodist Church

1100 Airport Road, Godfrey

A 25th Anniversary Reception will follow the Sunday concert.



Children's Ministry Update
Ann McLaughlin, Director of Children's Ministry

JAM Ministry

JAM will continue to meet each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Upcoming lessons will focus on the Easter season and the mission of Paul and Barnabas as they spread the Gospel. All elementary-aged students are warmly invited to join us each week.

"Egg"stra Special Easter Craft Party & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Easter Craft Party and Egg Hunt will take place this Saturday. We look forward to a joyful morning filled with crafts, face painting, snacks, Bible adventures, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny. The celebration will conclude with an Easter Egg Hunt on the back lawn. We hope to see you there!



We extend heartfelt thanks to our church family for the generous support, candy donations, and kind words that make this event possible. Special appreciation is offered to those who will be helping on Saturday morning. Events like this remind us that we are truly "Better Together," just as God intended His people to be.



Looking Ahead: Vacation Bible School 2026

June 14-18 | Rainforest Falls

Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School 2026, where we will explore the nature of God through the theme Rainforest Falls. Please save the dates! Additional details will be shared in the coming months as we prepare for this exciting adventure in faith and fellowship.



For more information, please contact Ann McLaughlin, Director of Children's Ministry, at annema-c1120@gmail.com

GPS YOUTH MINISTRY

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over. We have just one more month of Sunday night GPS meetings before Youth Sunday on May 3. It's been a great year this year as our group has grown quite a bit. We are now AVERAGING 40 kids each Sunday for GPS! Our most recent discussion series was called Under Pressure. In it, we examined the different pressures that are put on our kids to make good grades, compete at the highest levels, perform with greatness, and achieve more than the youth before them. They are also dealing with pressures of unstable homes and the conflict and chaos they live with on a daily basis. Pressures that are placed on them by their parents, teachers, society, themselves, and their future. We talked about people from the Bible who also dealt with the pressures of expectations, conflict, and instability. The most important thing for them to remember is that no matter what they are facing, they are not facing it alone. They have God, each other, and us to lean on and help them through it.



GPS looks forward to worshipping together on Sunday May 3 for Youth Sunday. At that time, the youth will lead all aspects of worship including greeting, ushering, leading music, serving communion, and more. They will also burn all of the prayers that have been placed in the Wailing Wall over the past year. It's a symbolic gesture of lifting those concerns off of our shoulders and into God's hands.

RUMMAGE SALE INFO

The Rummage Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24 & 25. We will need help setting up all that week! Mark your calendars now so you can spend some quality time with your church family! It's a great week of getting to know each other and have fun working together! If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Albrecht at 618-946-1821 or Jean Garrett at 618-960-1354.

Time to start cleaning those closets and the basement and make a pile of your donations. We won't be taking those donations until the week of the sale, but hopefully you have a corner in your house that you can keep contributing to until the sale! Start getting ready! It will be here before you know it!!



Your Support Network

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 18: Hebrews 3:13; 1:24-25

He who separates himself seeks his own desire,

He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

Proverbs 18:1

When you are under great pressure or emotional turmoil, do you isolate yourself from others? Do you retreat to a particular place or hid yourself in work or a hobby: Do you busy your mind with everything other than what actually concerns you?

Understand, God established the church for you to have a support network—to give you guidance and direction for your life; to provide strength, protection, and help in times of trial; and, of course, so you can be his representative to this lost world. And the truth of the matter is that eventually, a lack of encouragement and support from fellow believers will always take a toll on your spiritual life and will invariably lead you to feelings of despair that will be difficult to overcome alone (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25). Why? Because without other Christians, you'll find it difficult to counteract the ungodly messages of the world and will become an easy target for the enemy. This is why it's so incredibly important for you to invest in godly relationships with Christ-like friends and mentors who inspire you, hold you accountable, and challenge you spiritually.

God engineered it so that relationships with other believers is where you discover and fulfill His will for your life. And when you have godly, Spirit-filled people loving you, building you up, and ministering to you as you serve—well, that's when you're positioned perfectly to experience the fullness of the Father's grace, power, and plan. So when you're feeling depressed, don't hide yourself away. Instead, seek out godly friends. Because there's absolutely no telling what all God wants to do in and through your life or how another believer could help you get there.

***Father, I do not want to isolate myself. Please lead me to loving believers who can help me become all You created me to be.*

Amen

(Thank you to Connie Beyer for submitting this devotion that she wanted to share)

IGNITE YOUTH CHOIR

Ignite is doing very well preparing for their first performance on May 17 at 6:00. On May 22, we welcomed Raynard Brown of the Great Rivers Choral Society to come work with us on our title song, Total Praise. I thought the song sounded pretty good before, but it was simply amazing after working with them for just an hour. We also had Heather Rothe come last month and work with them going over parts. We are truly gifted to have people like Raynard and Heather in our community and part of our Ignite family.



We will be starting our Ignite Patron fundraising campaign very soon. Be on the look out for information about supporting this ministry with a financial gift. Every little bit helps and is much appreciated.

April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Care Team 10 am	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	3 Good Friday Service 7 pm	4 Eggstra Special Easter Craft Party & Egg Hung 9:30 am
5 EASTER The Son Arose Worship 7:30 am Breakfast 8:45am Worship 10 am	6	7 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am GRCS 6:30 pm	8	9 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	10 Trivia Night Doors open 6 pm Trivia begins 7 pm	11 Godfrey Methodist Men 8 am Great Rivers Choral Society Concert 3 pm
12 Journey Sunday School 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Great Rivers Choral Society Concert 3 pm GPS Youth 5:30 pm	13	14 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	15	16 Romans Bible Study 7 pm	17	18
19 Journey Sunday School 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite 3 pm GPS Youth 5:30 pm	20 Rummage Sale Set-up	21 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am Staff Meeting 10 am Rummage Sale Set-up	22 Rummage Sale Set-up	23 Board of Trustees Meeting 6 pm Romans Bible Study 7 pm Rummage Sale Set-up	24 Rummage Sale 4-7 pm	25 Rummage Sale 8 am—12 noon
26 Journey Sunday School 9 am JAM 9 am Worship 10 am Ignite 3 pm GPS Youth 5:30 pm	27	28 Bible Study @ Round Table 6:15 am	29	30 Romans Bible Study 7 pm		

*Godfrey First United
Methodist Church*

1100 Airport Rd.
Godfrey, IL 62035

Phone: 618-466-3624

Fax: 618-466-3629

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision:

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



April 2-Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

April 3-Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.

April 4-Easter Eggstra Special Easter
Craft Party & Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m.

April 5-The Son Arose Service 7:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast 8:45 a.m.

Easter Worship 10:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive Material. Please do not hold.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

This will be the last newsletter coming to your mailbox! That is, unless you specifically request to continue getting it this way. You can email Barb at godfreyfirststumcoffice@gmail.com or since the church landline phone number has not been working, you can call Barb at 618-920-7310.



We will begin sending your copy via email with the May issue of the Messenger. Due to the rising cost of postage, paper and copy supplies, we feel this is the best way to go.

We will also have copies available at church if you still like to have a copy in your hands. We realize some folks are not able to physically attend church to pick one up or may not be able to use a computer to read it. For those people, we will be happy to send one in the mail. You simply have to LET US KNOW YOU WANT IT! If you don't get an email with the May Messenger by the first week in May, please contact Barb and we will get one out to you ASAP. You can also find it on our church website at godfreyfirststumc.org.