

Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
ALDA & WOOD RIVER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MAY 2024

Thank You from the United Women in Faith

We want to thank each of you for your part in making our Salad Supper on April 24 a success! A huge thank you to Babel's Barn and Staff! To those of you who helped with setting up tables and chairs, and taking them down after the event, your help was awesome! Our very busy youth and their sponsors gave so much of their time with 'The Style Review', modeling their dresses, being escorts for the young ladies, and being servers for the meal. That is always a favorite part of the evening for our guests. We are so grateful for the programs and table tents that were created for us, and the announcements that preceded the evening! Entertainment was provided by Gospel Duo 'Tom and Harvey'. Their music was so inspiring. Our Theme was 'God Loves the Children of the World' and the hostesses had so many clever ways of interpreting that theme. The salads were delicious and there were so many varieties! Thank you to our guests! We raised \$1500, which will be gifted to our Church. Again, thank you for all the many ways you helped us! God's Blessings!

Renae Graham, President of United Women in Faith

Happy Mother's Day

"Motherhood is a million little moments that God weaves together with grace, redemption, laughter, tears, and most of all, love."—Lysa TerKeurst

Church Events

- **May 2 Rachel Circle 1:30**
- **May 6 Ruth Circle 1:30**
- **May 12 Mother's Day**
- **May 16 Sewing Circle 9:30**
- **May 23 UWF 1:30**
- **May 27 Memorial Day; office closed**

FIND HEALING, BE THE HEALING!

Many of us reading this article are familiar with the incident of 2nd March 2024 in our city of Wood River. Even with the devastation we had, I know that some of us have already moved on with life, a testament to our resilience. However, many, especially those whose property was damaged, including our church building, know we still have a journey ahead. With this in mind, we are thinking of ways to help people heal. I have heard of children terrified by the incident who are struggling every school day in the morning. I have also heard of families struggling to get rent, which was not an issue for them before. Others are still fighting it out with insurance companies that want to avoid liability at all costs. As such, all of us, whether directly affected or not, need healing, and the best place to start the healing process is by listening to what God says to us in scripture.

One of the most touching stories of healing is found in the Gospel of Luke, where a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years approached Jesus in a crowd, believing that if she could touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed (***Luke 8:43-48***). Jesus, recognizing her faith, said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." This powerful encounter illustrates the intimate connection between faith and healing, emphasizing the importance of trust and belief in God's ability to bring healing into our lives.

As a church family, we are not just individuals but a collective force called to be agents of healing and reconciliation in a world often fractured and hurting. When we have many people around us who need us, we cannot fold our hands and look at things. We are called to represent Jesus by offering any help that we can. God calls us to comfort the afflicted and hope to the despairing. Like Jesus, it's time to let others hold onto us as they gain stability again by availing ourselves and opening our houses to those in need or by opening our wallets to share the little we have, even though times are hard. Sometimes, all it takes is to offer a listening ear and a shoulder for someone to lean on. I have already witnessed the great efforts and commitments we all have put into helping one another. Indeed, this is how we live out our divine purpose and genuinely make a difference in the world.

Finally, since this is my last article as your pastor, may I thank you all for the ministry we have been able to do in my two years as your pastor. I would have wanted to be around, especially as we rebuild what was lost in the explosion, but the lord calls us to another place of ministry. I believe that God has a good plan for us all. We Methodists practice itineracy, a system where pastors move to different stations as they share their gifts with different people. As such, I am so grateful to God for bringing our paths together and for the love you showed me. God bless us as we continue serving and as we trust him for a wonderful ministry ahead.

Amen

Pastor Geoffrey.

Mary Bilsend—Parish Nurse

May is a big month in health concerns. It is Mental health awareness month. It is important that we are aware of mental illness and do not ignore it or leave it untreated. It is also important to speak about it and not hide it. Many problems occur due to mental health concerns not being dealt with.



May is also Arthritis awareness month. Many suffer from various arthritis problems. There are special physicians to handle this problem if it is too bad for your family physician to treat. There are also Pain management physicians for the pain that can result from arthritis. There are different kinds of arthritis that affect different ages. Do not hesitate to get help if problems persist or grow worse. There is help.

May is also Physical fitness month. Your physical health and wellbeing having a large role to play in your overall health. Be sure to take advantage of this for your wellness.

Enjoy spring, care for each other and yourself. Early detection makes most health concerns easier to treat and handle. Do not be afraid or put off taking care of these important things.

Older adults health and wellbeing is also featured the month of May. AARP really focus on this as do Medicare. Be sure to get your yearly checks. Some illnesses, diseases and problems are more prone with age while others are less likely. Medicare pays for a yearly physical and the more common tests required to check out your over all health.



Lastly, May is Women's Health month. Often, the woman is the care giver and often neglects her health needs caring for her family. You cannot care for your family is you are not in good health. Be sure to care for yourself so you can be here to care for your family. Your yearly checks are very important.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **June 8** UWF will be taking part in the City-Wide Garage Sales. We will have a garage sale and our popular 'Sloppy Joe' meal will be available. Please, no donations of clothes, furniture, or large items. The sales have been moved to June this year. Our sale will be held at the Wood River Senior Center.
- ♦ **June 22** UWF will be presenting a Mission Study on 'The Lord's Prayer'. It will be from 10:00 to 3:00 with lunch provided. The study will be held at the Wood River Senior Center. It will include Bible Study, journaling, Prayer Walk, crafts, music, and an in-depth Study of the 'Model Prayer'. If you would like to attend, registration is not necessary, however, we would appreciate knowing if you are planning to attend, so that we can plan accordingly for materials and food.



Vacation Bible School is still on! July 8-11 at the Wood River Community Center (108 W 10th St) 5:30-8:30 with supper served. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Mel Frear 308-379-3182 or church phone 308-583-2716. You can pre-register at woodriverumc.org

Giving & Attendance Report

WR: April \$6453; March \$6462; Feb \$8566
(includes online giving)

*projected monthly budget: \$10,428
Average weekly attendance: 35

Alda: April \$873; March \$1,658; Feb \$859

*projected monthly budget: \$2,237
Average weekly attendance: 11



WR: For a safe and easy way to give online, scan code with smartphone. Will need to create an account if it's your first time using.

May 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Mark Miller</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Rachel Circle 1:30</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Gary Camp</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Dual Worship 10:00 at Alda</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ruth Circle 1:30</p> <p>Brandon Thompson</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Haley Redding</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Brad & Sherry Desel</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Dianne Thompson Marc Howe</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Betty Gall Val Herber Steve & Darlene Wheeler Maylin Ammon</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Tony Ammon</p>
<p>12</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i> Dual Worship 10:00 at Alda</p> <p>Carolyn Hoard</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Macy Heise Garret Reeder</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Sewing Circle 9:30</p> <p>Caleb Paulk Brett & Deb Baxter</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Kennedy Tiarks</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Dawn Brandt</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Dual Worship 10:00 at Alda</p> <p>Lacey Smith Bryce Sidders</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Annika Reitz</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Jan Carter Cherie Smith</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Ron & Esther Rickert</p>	<p>23</p> <p>UWF 1:30</p> <p>Irma Weber Shae Wood</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Joshua Bilslend</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AJ Soto Bailey Baxter</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Dual Worship 10:00 at Alda</p> <p>Ivan & Mary Bilslend</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day: Office Closed</p> <p>Mike Hieb</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Tim Camp Julie Hayes Knox Arnett</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Brady Summers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Greg Burnett Keith Desel Amanda & Casey Arndt</p>	<p>31</p>	