

Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALDA & WOOD RIVER FIRST UNITED METHODIST
OCTOBER 2024

Autumn's Blessings

By Pastor Rachel Nkonge

Picture a green leaf hanging out on a tree branch, and then, just like that, it's gone. But before that happens, there's a whole journey involved: The leaf transforms from vibrant green to a cozy yellow as it soaks up less sunlight, causing a drop in chlorophyll that keeps it looking lively—this is the heart of Autumn.

Autumn is such a great time to think about what we hold dear. Watching the weather change and enjoying the beauty around us reminds us that life goes in cycles. The way the seasons shift tells us more about our own experiences than about nature itself. It shows us that change is a part of life, and it can come in all sorts of ways.

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Church Events

- Oct 2 Youth Group 6:30
- Oct 3 Rachel Circle 1:30
- Oct 7 Ruth Circle 1:30
- Oct 17 Sewing 9:30
- Oct 21 Church Conference forms due
- Oct 22 Blood Mobile at High School 12-6
- Oct 23 Ad Council 6:00
- Oct 24 UWF 1:30
- Oct 28-30 Pastor Rachel gone to Orders & Fellowship
- Oct 30 Youth 6:30

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Lately, I've been really enjoying seeing how pumped everyone in Wood River and the surroundings is about garage sales and the recent Junk Jaunt. It is like a buzz in the air as folks hustle to clear out their long-held treasures that are ready for new owners. You can feel the excitement as people get their homes and yards ready to welcome visitors, all while aiming to make some cash from their load.



We all have stuff hanging around that we think we do not need anymore. Sometimes, it's those old memories that just will not fade away, and they can really weigh us down. It might feel like we are stuck with no way out. But let's take a cue from nature, like when leaves fall from trees. When the time comes, we need to learn to let go and find our inner peace. By turning to God and putting our trust in Him, we can get through those tough times. Otherwise, it can really take a toll on us.

It might also just be a coincidence, but it feels like a blessing that the first day of autumn landed on a Sunday this year. A moment when folks everywhere around the world gather to celebrate and show their thanks to God, embracing His amazing strength. This not only fills us with joy but also serves as a warm reminder that God is leading us through the lovely transformations and vibrant colors of the season and our lives.

Encouragement: Ecclesiastics 3: “⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Happy Autumn!!!

United Women in Faith

Renaë Graham, President UWF

UWF met on September 27. The ladies voted **not** to participate in the City-Wide Garage Sales in 2025. We will wait until the following year when we will be back in our church home. We **will not** have a Community Thanksgiving meal this year, also due to our building situation.

Plans are underway for the Annual Bazaar to be held on November 5. Our Bazaar will be held at the Catholic Church. We will **not** have 'Rummage/ New to You items'. We will have crafts and sewing creations available. Bazaar will begin 8:00 a.m. that day and close at 7:00 p.m. We will serve Coffee & Rolls in the morning. Chili, Chicken Noodle, Hamburger Vegetable, and a variety of other soups will be offered. There will be many kinds of pie to choose from! This will be a Free Will Offering event. Please tell your friends and family about the change in location. We are so grateful to the Catholic Church for the honor of using their building this year. God has blessed us!

Pastor Rachel and Cherie Smith attended the District Meeting in Norfolk on September 28.

We will be packing Cookie Boxes in December. The Youth Group will deliver the boxes for us. We so appreciate the help of the youth with this project. The date for this will be December 11.

Cherie presented a program titled "Food Justice" which challenged us to research local community needs for better food justice, and to find ways we can participate in food justice. Ways we as UWF can get involved in decision-making plans and ideas were discussed in the group. The program closed with Psalm 146. Please read this Psalm for yourself – very powerful words!

A Reflection on Psalm 146

My God pours out love day after day,
He never stops looking to show it,
He searches for the broken hearted child,
Those who have felt life's blows,
Beaten mercilessly by the pursuit of more,
Those who have missed out,
Because of the ravenous greed of self,
Those who cannot see a way forward,
Blinded by the liar's orchestrated darkness,
God's love brings freedom,
From the weight of the loveless liar,
Despair turns to celebration,
An awesome shout of hope,
Erupts from God's heart,
Bringing new life to today.


<http://www.chrisgribble.com/>

Parish Nurse—Mary Bilslend

What a great experience it has been being the Wood River Methodist Church Parish Nurse. I am letting my nursing license expire after over 50 years.

I do want you to know that I am still available to help any way I can. I am still able to help you get to the Dr or appointment, pick up medicines, 7 up, soup or any other needed item. Any information I can find for you I am more than willing to find. I just have no license to back me but I don't know as that takes the nurse's heart out of the nurse.

Thank all of you for your help and support. I still believe the best way to handle healing is with body, mind and spirit. Blessings to all. —*Mary Bilslend*



While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.
Genesis 8:22

Church Conference

It's that time of year again. Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 10, at 3:00 at Hastings First UMC. Pastor Rachel is asking at least one member from each church to attend with her. Please let her or the office know if you'd be interested. ALL Forms and paperwork are due back by Oct 21st. So be on the lookout for any meetings that you may need to attend in the next couple of weeks.

October 2024



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30 | 3 Rachel Circle 1:30 | 4 | 5 MaryAnn Lilley Zenon Rivera Megan Thompson |
| | | Ken Fairbanks Miquel Rodriguez | | Jason Franssen | Joe Jack | |
| 6 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 | 7 Ruth Circle 1:30 | 8 | 9 Bible Study 9:30 | 10 | 11 | 12 Jordan Wescoatt |
| | | Koanne Heinrich Adam Hayes | Charles Mead | Autumn McCurdy Travis Fairbanks | | |
| 13 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 | 14 | 15 | 16 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30 | 17 Sewing 9:30 | 18 | 19 |
| | | | | Zach Mayhew Sydney Tiarks | | |
| 20 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 | 21 | 22 Blood Mobile at High School | 23 Bible Study 9:30 Ad Council 6:00 | 24 UWF 1:30 | 25 | 26 |
| Stan & Donna Bilslend | Sydney McCoun | | Arturo Valdez | Adam Anderson Sydney Rohrich | Stan Bilslend Linda Sample Cary Voss George & Sue Mead Nohemi Arrespide | Ida Quisenberry Joyce Willoughby |
| 27 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00 | 28 Pastor Rachel gone Orders & Fellowship | 29 | 30 Youth Group 6:30 | 31 | | |
| Lori Rodriguez | | Cindy Arndt | Maggie Arnett | Doug Weber | | |

Announcements

- ♦ Youth Group will be meeting at the Senior Center this year. They are looking for help with meals again this year. If you are interested in providing a meal (16-20 people including leaders), please contact Mel Frear or Anna Miller. There was also an email sent out with a link for Signup Genius and more details. Dates: Wednesday 10/16; Wednesday 10/30; Wednesday 11/13; Wednesday 12/11 6:30-7pm for all current dates.
- ♦ Fall Bazaar will be held at the Catholic Church on Nov 5
- ♦ Church Conference is set for Nov 10, 3:00 at Hastings First UMC

Giving Report

Wood River:

Sept: \$7,714

Aug: \$7,969

July: \$4,220

Average weekly attendance: 27

Alda:

Sept: \$670

Aug: \$650

July: \$684

Average weekly attendance: 12



For safe and secure way to give online, scan code with smartphone. You will need to have an account and be approved to use.