

Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST

SEPTEMBER 2024

Forecast

By Rachel Nkonge

Since I settled in Wood River, I have observed that weather is a common topic of conversation in this area. When I pause to consider it, it all clicks into place. Weather is essential for agriculture, a key aspect of this town, as it helps farmers determine the right moments for planting and harvesting. Without these discussions, how would anyone figure out the optimal times for working the land?

I have come to appreciate that weather is more than just a forecast; it holds a deeper significance for us, even though there is still so much for me to learn about the relationship between it and farming in this region. The National Weather Service describes weather as the atmospheric conditions at a specific time and place, influenced by factors like temperature, humidity, and wind. This understanding highlights how time is a vital element in shaping weather patterns, which we can observe through the changing seasons.

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Church Events

- Sept 2 Labor Day-office closed:
- Sept 5 Rachel Circle 1:30
- Sept 9 Ruth Circle 1:30
- Sept 19 Sewing Circle 9:30
- Sept 22 Welcome Party 5:00
- Sept 26 UWF 1:30

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For example, we experience Summers in July and Winters in December, showcasing the various characteristics of each season. This recurring nature of weather not only affects our daily lives but also has an insightful impact on agricultural practices. As I continue to immerse myself in this community, I realize that these conversations about the weather are not just small talk; they are essential for connecting with the land and understanding the rhythms of nature that govern our lives.

While time certainly plays a significant role in our experiences, it also interacts with the various changes occurring in nature, which can sometimes unfold in unexpected ways. We might find ourselves in a season of unusually high temperatures, an occurrence driven by climate change that seems beyond the influence of time itself. Alike, we can also encounter unexpectedly low temperatures that catch us off guard. These diverse elements combine to create a complexity that often feels beyond our control.

For Christians, this complexity can mirror the complexities of faith, where we encounter God in different ways throughout our lives. There may be moments when a storm disrupts our faith, leading us to question God's power and presence. Alternatively, we might experience overwhelming joy and a sense of abundance, filling us with pride in our identity as cherished children of a loving Father. These contrasting experiences highlight the multifaceted nature of both the world around us and our spiritual journeys.

Weather can also serve as a powerful reminder of our own resilience, revealing strengths within us that we may not have realized we possessed. When faced with challenging conditions, we often find ourselves rising to the occasion, learning to navigate through life's storms. This journey of resilience allows individuals to better prepare for and adapt to various adversities. For those who follow the Christian faith, this strength can be amplified by leaning on the divine power of the Creator, who composes all aspects of life.

As highlighted in Psalm 148:8, which speaks of the elements obeying God's command, we are encouraged to embrace the weather as a source of growth rather than a cause for fear. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by life's tempests, we can view them as opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and uncover the beauty and strength that lie within us. By recognizing the divine purpose behind these challenges, we can transform our perspective and emerge stronger, more resilient, and more connected to our faith.



Picture taken by Rachel N. _September 21st 2021, Evanston, IL

September 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p>	<p>2 Labor Day; office closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Sara Garber Amber Klaasmeyer</p>	<p>4 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Steve Arnett Keaton Shears</p>	<p>5 Rachel Circle 1:30</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p>	<p>9 Ruth Circle 1:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Casey Almquist</p>	<p>11 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Tracy Watts</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Jessica Kroli- kowski</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mary Bilsend</p>
<p>15 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Esther Rickert</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30-8:00</p> <p>Doug Barker Jeff Herber</p>	<p>19 Sewing 9:30</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>John Willoughby Shanna Cramer Lila Morse Shane McIntosh</p>
<p>22 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p> <p>Welcome Party 5:00 (Alda Comm. Center)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Phyllis Barker Jerry & Natalie Shears</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Bible Study 9:30</p> <p>Sue Mead</p>	<p>26 UWF 1:30</p> <p>Kay Bockstadter</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Jocelyn Rauert</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Deb Fairbanks</p>
<p>29 Dual Worship @Alda 10:00</p> <p>Amy Earnest</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Shelby Allan</p>					

United Women in Faith—Renaë Graham, President

Four members of United Women in Faith attended a two day Mission u event in July. It was held at Trinity UMC in Grand Island. The study was 'Welcome Home', which explored how we can know God as an intimate friend. The Great Plains Conference is re-aligning its districts. Our current Prairie Rivers District will become part of the new Central Nebraska District effective January 2025, Elkhorn Valley District, which will also be part of the new district, has invited our unit to their District Meeting to be held in Norfolk on September 28. It will be a time to make plans for next year as a new district. The UWF Conference Annual Meeting will be held in York on September 13 and 14. The ladies have started making initial plans for the Annual Bazaar to be held on November 5. This year the Bazaar will be held at the Catholic Church. Rummage/ New to You items **will not** be offered this year, however, crafts and sewing items created by the Sewing Circle will be available. . We are very grateful for the opportunity to use their facility this year. It was decided that we **will not** have a Community Thanksgiving Dinner this year due to our current situation. I feel the members of our church have done an outstanding job arising to the many changes in locations for the activities they have done. One of our UWF members has said that "We have taken our show on the road!" Thank you everyone for all your help!



Youth Group

Youth Group will be starting again on September 18, 6:30-8:00. We will meet at the parsonage the first night (1408 Main St in WR) for sign up and an informational meeting. Look for a sign-up link on our Facebook page, website (woodriverumc.org) and in an email! This is open to all kids in the 6th-12th grade. If you have any questions, call or message any of the following:

Church: 308-583-2716

Mel Frear: 308-379-3182

Anna Miller: 308-850-7677

Pastor Rachel: 931-371-1035

Announcements

- Mark your calendar for the United Women in Faith's annual Fall Bazaar on Nov 5 (Election Day). More details to come!!
- Church Conference will be held Nov 10 at 3:00 at Hastings First UMC. Pastor Rachel requests at least 1 member from each church attend with her. Contact her or church office if you may be interested.
- Youth group starts Sept 18, 6:30-8:00. Look for a signup link on facebook, website or email. All kids welcome, 6th-12th grade!

Food Pantry

Since the church has ben closed it has made it difficult to collect food for the Food Pantry so it was decided to place a box at the Senior Citizen Center for this purpose.. The Senior Citizen Center is at 120 E 9th St and is open Monday-Friday, 9AM-2PM.

Items are needed for the Food Pantry that are used for the Backpack program which is in full swing! With school back in session. some food they could use are, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, chicken, meal mixes like "Hamburger Helper", macaroni and cheese, puddings and cereals. Monetary gifts are always appreciated. The Back Packs are sent home with elementary students every Friday.

When you bring the food item to the Senior Center, plan on staying for cup of coffee and some conversation with the people who are there and enjoy one of their activities..



Join us on Sept 22 at 5:00 at the Alda Community Center for Pastor Rachel's Welcome Party! Food will be provided so bring yourself and some fun stories to share!

Giving Report

Wood River:

Aug: \$7,969

July: \$4,220

June: \$5,704

Average weekly attendance: 28

Alda:

Aug: \$650

July: \$684

June: \$832

Average weekly attendance: 9



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