

SEPTEMBER 2026

LAMPLIGHTER

First United Presbyterian Church

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September 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Comm on Transitions Pastor 10:30 AM	2 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM Brandi out of office	3 Bible Study 9:00 AM	4 Brandi out of office	5
6 Communion 9:00 AM Adult S.S. 10:30 AM Worship	7  HAPPY LABOR DAY office closed for Labor Day	8	9 Ministerium Mtg Pastor 1:00 PM	10 Bible Study 9:00 AM Session Mtg 6:30 PM Fall Festival	11 Fall Festival	12 Fall Festival
13 9:00 AM Adult S.S. 10:30 AM Children's SS 10:30 AM Worship Deacons Mtg R.Y. Reunion @ Noon	14 EBW 6:00 PM	15	16 Quilt Club 8 AM - 4 PM	17 Bible Study 9:00 AM	18	19
20 9:00 AM Adult S. S. 10:30 AM Joint Worship with Yates City Faith Potluck following - bring sides or desserts Worship Cmmtt Mtg	21 Brandi out of office thru the 28th	22 	23 EDA Mtg - Pastor 12:00 PM	24 Bible Study 9:00 AM	25	26
27 9:00 AM Adult S. S. 10:30 AM Worship Coffee Hour	28 PEO 6:00 PM	29	30			

Upcoming Events

Bible Study.

Thursday Mornings @ 9AM

Adult Sunday School

Sunday Mornings @ 9AM

Children's Sunday School

10:30 AM on the 2nd Sunday of each month

Out of the Office

Brandi will be out of the office
September 2nd thru the 4th

Quilt Club

September 2nd 8AM – 4PM
September 16th 8AM – 4PM

Session Meeting.

September 10th @ 6:30PM

Deacons Meeting.

September 13th

Joint Worship

Sunday, September 20th here
Potluck following w/ pulled pork sandwiches provided.
Bring sides and desserts to share.

Out of the Office

Brandi will be out of the office
September 21st thru the 28th

Coffee Hour

on the 4th Sunday of each month
following worship

TEXT PRAYER CHAIN

The church's text prayer chain is a great way to communicate prayer needs outside of our usual Sunday prayer request times. Keep in mind that prayer texts need to be brief. Please have the person's permission to share their request (after the text goes out it is PUBLIC) so be careful what details are shared. Also, do NOT reply to the texts with questions or comments--replies are not monitored. You may contact either Pastor Marla (217-828-1866) or Anita (309-251-9537). We will do our best to get the prayer request out in a timely manner.

Happy Birthday.

September 1st

Bob Shoop

September 3rd

Ron Cox

Sam Kepple

September 13th

Dan Kepple

September 14th

Dianne Morton

September 15th

Diane Criswell

September 16th

Jake Roberts

September 23rd

Ed Cosby

Happy Anniversary.

September 7th

Ron & Peggy Cox

September 15th

Greg & Denise Hotz

Tony & Dianne Morton

September 24th

Steve & Diane Winslow

Tim & Brandi Teel





Brandi will be out of the office
September 2nd thru the 4th
& September 21st thru the 28th



We are hosting Joint Worship
on Sunday, September 20th
@ 10:30am

The Worship Committee will provide
Pulled Pork Sandwiches, BBQ Beans,
Cheesy Potatoes, Drinks & Plastic Ware.

Everyone is asked to bring
a Side Dish or Dessert.

"The Anointing"



ANOINTING WITH OIL...WHAT IS THIS?
It's an outward sign of an inward grace.

In the Old Testament anointing was used for
designating/ consecrating a new king (King David)
or prophet, or for a priest (Aaron and his sons).

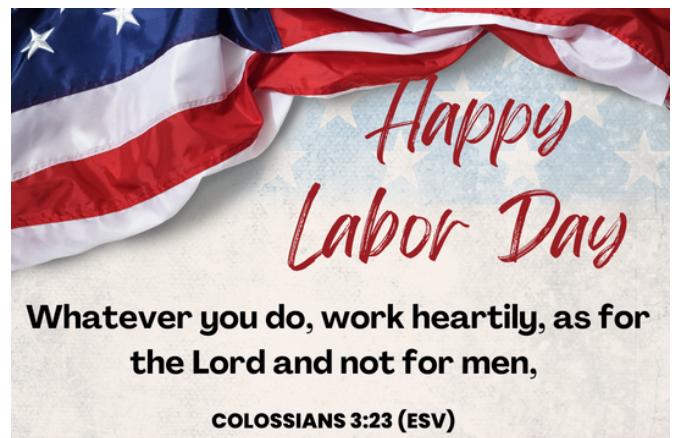
In the New Testament anointing is used:

1. To set a person aside/ consecrating (such as a missionary) for lifetime or for a specified period of time,
2. for the healing (physical, emotional and spiritual sickness) of a person,
3. as a request/desire for God's protection,
4. as a request for spiritual cleansing,
5. to experience a closer relationship with the Lord.

Last year we first were introduced to Anointing with Oil on Pentecost Sunday and World Communion Sunday. I'd like to continue this tradition and offer anointing twice a year for the spiritual benefit of our congregation. People may choose to participate or not—no judgement.



Thursday, September 10th
thru Saturday, September 12th



Congratulations

to Katie (Alcaraz) & Blaine Romanoski

They were married on July 25th
which was her Grandpa Frank's birthday- a special day!



The wedding was at
the Sunflower Hill Farm
in Augusta, Missouri.

Kyle was the officiant and
it was a beautiful wedding!

Their address is:
Blaine and Katie Romanoski
619 N. Main Street Apt. 2
Hanna City, IL 61536



A Letter From The Pastor



September 2026

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."
John 3: 3

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Hello Dear Friends,

Several months ago, a movie came out called [A Great Awakening](#). It is an historical drama based on the intersection of the lives of Rev. George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin. Their lives are dramatized (probably some fiction, too), their careers, their religious thoughts, as well as each of their lives' impact on the early years of this country and the spiritual awakening which followed. [Watch it for free with your Amazon Prime Video subscription] Since seeing this movie, I've gotten my hands on a copy of [The Printer and the Preacher](#) by Randy Peterson, which goes into MUCH more detail on the lives of these two remarkable men.

Rev. Whitefield's main message to the throngs of people to which he spoke usually centered around the above verse: No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. He emphasized an inward acceptance, surrender and following of Jesus. To be born again is to relinquish our will to the Almighty, trusting in Jesus Christ to forgive us and for the Holy Spirit to guide us. It is an internal work of our will and our heart, but it's made external by what we do, how we do it, and by our spiritual attitudes.

This isn't preached about too often in our mainline churches, is it? We just assume that everyone who attends is already a Christian-- already has surrendered their will to the Lord. But, even as the old hymn goes: We love to hear the story, even those who know it best. So, today I offer to you another opportunity to reflect on your soul. Have you yielded your will to Jesus? Have you submitted your heart to him? Do you trust in our Lord for every breath you take and every step you make?

Want to talk more about this topic? Then give me a call or stop by the church office and let's explore this together!

In Christ,

Rev. Marla Bauler

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes May 7, 2026

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on May 7, 2026. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Larry Criswell at 6:30 p.m.

Elders present: 2026 – Ron Cox
2027 – Larry Criswell and Calie Stalter
2028 – Gene Gibson and Emily Roberts

constituting a quorum. Absent was Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 8, 2026 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Elder Training: Larry Criswell - From Sailboat Church: Ch 4: Our Boat, The Church.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

The Deacons Report dated April 12, 2026 was reviewed.

Note – Deacons planned & coordinated the Retirement Luncheon for Pat Althiser (along with the ladies of faith, Yates City), which took place on April 26th. There were 68 people present, including 14 from Pat's family.

Clerk's Report

The minutes from the April 9, 2026 Session Meeting were reviewed. Approved.

Correspondence was read: Thank you from Great Rivers Presbytery for paying the 2026 Per Capita. Thank you from the Maness family.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for April 2026 was reviewed. Approved.

It was noted that the farm check has been received.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla shared a printed report which listed her monthly ministry activities. She has been very busy with her normal duties as well as a few extra things. On April 19th we recognized the New 2 U volunteers from our congregation (plus 2 people who help on our assigned days). With coordination from Peggy & Gene Gibson, key chains were ordered and lists of present and former volunteers were compiled and contacted and gifts were presented during worship. Pastor Marla also hosted, along with Gene Gibson, Calie Stalter and Marty Tarter, a special Blessing of the Bikes on April 25th. Along with the Ministerium, a Community Prayer Breakfast for the National Day of Prayer was held at our church on May 7, 2029 with 69 people attending. Nineteen from FCA and Elmwood H.S. This was a blessing for everyone involved. Communion was served to 16 members of the congregation on May 3, 2026.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox

No changes.

Finance: Chair – Emily Roberts

High School scholarships will be coming out this month.

Worship: Chair: Calie Stalter

The committee met on April 19, 2026. Discussed Mother's Day and Father's Day plans. 5th Sunday for May, but no plans were made. Memorial Day is also Pentecost Sunday and we will be changing the paraments.

Church Life: (Christian ED/Membership) Co-Chairs – Marty Tarter & Calie Stalter

Membership: Planning has begun on the 170th Anniversary of our church.

Christian Ed: The Adult Sunday School continues their study of Acts.

Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

*Beginning Balance as of 4/01/2026 = \$4,562.46.

Deposits: \$232; \$104; \$44

Spent: \$300 (Annie May gift); \$150 (Camp Big Sky – Sara Cane); \$200 (Abby Segal – birthday)

Ending Balance as of 4/30/26 = \$4,292.46.

Christian Outreach: (Missions/Marketing/Evangelism) Co-Chairs – Marty Tarter & Brandy Stevens

No report.

Building and Grounds: Co-Chairs – Larry Criswell & Gene Gibson

Will have the parking lot drain cleaned out. Landscaping will begin some time toward the end of June by Hoerr's. Shelving for the Deacon's storage room should be completed this weekend.

Brandi will be contacting Automatic Fire Sprinkler LLC to schedule the mandatory testing and repairs.

Ratify Electronic Votes:

E-votes taken on April 13, 2026:

- * To advertise Pat Althiser's Retirement Celebration & Luncheon in Weekly Post for 2 weeks at \$49.50 per week.
- * To advertise Blessing of the Bikes in Weekly Post for 1 week at \$100.
- * To advertise National Day of Prayer in Weekly Post for 4 weeks at about \$100.
 - Note: Adult Sunday School has offered to pay the full advertising cost for NDOP. (Thank you Adult SS!)
- * To allow our Church Administrative Assistant, Brandi Teel, to have a day off (fully paid and not charged against her vacation time) to be with her husband in the hospital.

A motion was made to approve these requests. Seconded. Approved.

Session will be on hiatus in June and July.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:55 p.m.

The next session meeting is August 13, 2026 with Devotions & Prayer by Brandy Stevens.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Moderator,

Anita Asbell,
Clerk of Session
(bdt)

Rev. Marla Bauler