

Windows of Faith



First United Methodist Church
200 E Maple Street
Fairbury, IL 61739
Office phone 815-692-2543
Pastor Paul's Cell 309-253-3379
www.fairburyumc.org
November, 2023

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I thank my God in all remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:3-11

Thanksgiving is manifested by the fundamental awareness of being gifted, blessed with life. We do not earn, create, or cause ourselves to exist. God's love for us is the solid foundation.

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; (a talent was more than fifteen years' wages for a laborer) and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; (the denarius was a day's wage for a laborer) and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'" Matthew 18:23-35

Praise and thanksgiving to God for his goodness, forgiveness, and love! God's Holy Spirit, keeps me keenly aware of the amazing grace of God in his forgiveness – and the love of Jesus, his Spirit puts within to make possible our forgiveness of one another.

Thanksgiving springs forth from God's love for us and his desire to save us to the uttermost by grace through faith in Jesus; and empowers our giving and thanks.

Nancy and I bless the Lord and thank you for the gifts of love and kindness for our Birthdays, Pastor Appreciation and for including our ministry staff, retired Pastor's/spouses in your appreciation - thank you!

Thanks and praise to God for saints who have gone before us. We give thanks in the abundance of the goodness of life which God creates, and we remember God called creation **good!**

Harvest reminds us that Jesus who began a good work is bringing it toward completion. Jesus invites us to partner with him, and his church, in sharing the new life of the gospel. Every day, we are privileged to choose to love others as Christ first loved us, to invest in those in our areas of influence.

We greatly appreciate your faithfulness in prayer and thanksgiving. God's Word calls us to bless others, especially, widows, orphans, and the poor. Pray for peace and leadership of all nations, especially Israel, the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia. Seek the power of God's Holy Spirit! Adore God, ask for God's saving mercy, give thanks and make supplication – for God's kingdom, others and our own needs in ministry. Seek and serve the least, lost, and lonely; offering them Jesus Christ! Pray and practice the love and mercy of God! Blessing, honor, and praise, be to God over all!

In Jesus,

Pastor Paul



November Birthdays

10 - Jessica LeBlanc
13 - Pam Krominga
14 - Jennifer Whitfill
14 - Robin McPherson
16 - Will Barsema
18 - Craig Monson
26 - Marcia Scherr
27 - Lolita Dunahee
28 - Ann Champion



November Anniversaries

6 - Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schahrer
7 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Friedman



December Birthdays

1-Adrianna Cottrell
1-Sharon Monroe
6 - Wayne Kurth
7 - Sue Myers
8 - Roger Brown
9 - Darcy Atkins
12 - Jack Henkle
13 - Karen Munz
15 - Ron Monroe
16 - Allison Kaisner
16 - Shay McDonald
20 - Daren Friedman
20 - Keith Dunahee
22 - Lori Schahrer
26 - Dave McWilliams



December Anniversaries

3 - Mr. & Mrs. Jay McDonald
16 - Mr. & Mrs. Dick Barsema
15 - Rev. & Mrs. Paul Wier
21 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Scherr



Please keep the following people in your prayers: Henry Yedinak, Jordan Broquard, Beth Hays, Jane Wiebers, Lexi Worth, Axel Riordan, Allan Meiss, Marie Francoise, Jade, Devin, Steve Vaughan, Marilyn, Roger Scherr, Beth McCleary, Dean Lassiter, Stephanie Friant

United Women in Faith News

Exec. Comm. - Tues., Nov. 14, 2:00 p.m.

Mary Martha - Thurs., Nov. 16, 1:00 p.m.

SOS - Thurs., Nov. 16 6:30 p.m.

United Women in Faith Update

Fall is in the air. The cooler temperatures, leaves turning, harvest, bonfires, and all things pumpkin fill our senses. Take in the beauty and enjoy this wondrous season the Lord Jesus has given us. Fairbury United Women in Faith reaped such a bounty with the rummage and bake sale in July. Thank you again to everyone who made this possible! More generous donations were able to be made. This month donations were made to the Hope Center (formerly Hope Pregnancy Center) in Pontiac and Chaddock located in Quincy, IL. Our vision to "turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world" is coming to fruition. Praise God!

Our newest member, Lynn the Librarian, has provided a "News Note" to share this month. She states: "The library is always open! We have added seventeen new books this summer." One of the books she is recommending for women is 50 Women Every Christian Should Know by Michelle DeRusha. Stories of Hildegard of Bingen, Susanna Wesley, and Mother Teresa are just a few of the women included in the book. These women are inspiring and hopefully enticing you to consider "Where is God calling you to go forth without fear?"

Lynn recommends for men the book, Halftime by Bob Buford. This book speaks of a life of significance, that really mattering is yours for the taking! "Change the first half of your life from career to contribution now!"

Everyone is encouraged to check out the library and check out a book! You will be blessed.

Psalm 107:37 "They sowed the fields and planted grapevines and reaped an abundant harvest."



Bryce Beyers, Dailen Loveless, Nathan Masters, Daniel Schweizer, Micah Schumacher, Benjamin Wier



Evenglow Lodge, Pontiac-

Mary Lu Haab Bob Billington

Donna Billington

Fairview Haven Nursing Home-

Stan Weeks Ken Broquard

Marge Mishler John Tollensdorf, Sr

Serenity Villa, Fairbury-

Karen Hildreth Joyce Crews



Communion will be held at Fairview Haven on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the activity room. All are welcome!

Let us take especial care, sisters, to pray to him for them, and not be negligent. To pray for those who are in mortal sin is the best kind of almsgiving—a much better thing than it would be to loose a Christian whom we saw with his hands tied behind him, bound with a stout chain, made fast to a post and dying of hunger, not for lack of food, since he has beside him the most delicious things to eat, but because he cannot take them and put them into his mouth although he is weary to death and actually knows that he is on the point of dying, and not merely a death of the body, but one which is eternal. Would it not be extremely cruel to stand looking at such a man and not give him this food to eat? And supposing you could loose his chains by means of your prayers? You see now what I mean. For the love of God, I beg you always to remember such souls when you pray. —From *Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila

When a man gives up self, his past sins will no longer oppress him. It is enough for the good of life that God lives, that the All-perfect exists, and that we can behold him. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” said the Divine, making excuse for his murderers, not after it was all over, but at the very moment when he was dying by their hands. Then Jesus had forgiven them already. His prayer the Father must have heard, for he and the Son are one. When the Father succeeded in answering his prayer, then his forgiveness in the hearts of the murderers broke out in sorrow, repentance, and faith. Here was a sin dreadful enough surely---but easy for our Lord to forgive. All that excuse for the misled populace! Lord Christ be thanked for that! That was like thee! -- From *Creation in Christ* by George MacDonald



The Annual Charge Conference will be held Sunday, Nov. 12 at 4:00 p.m. at our church.



I want to thank you for your prayers and notes of encouragement during this time. I am so blessed to be part of our faithful congregation.

God IS good ... all the time,
Beth



We will observe All Saints Day on Sun., Nov. 5, during worship.



Join us for Hanging of the Greens following worship on Sunday, Nov. 26th!



Daylight Savings Time ends! "Fall Back" on Nov. 4!