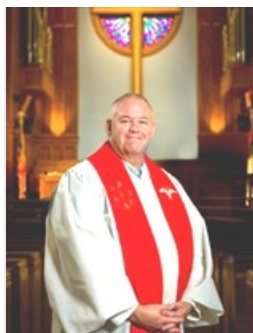


# Tidings



Union United Methodist Church

February 28, 2019



Steven Covey, who passed away in 2012, wrote a book that was popular in business and Christian circles entitled, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. I have a copy of his book on my shelf. One quote that has stuck with me since I read that book was "keeping the main thing, the main thing." The great Charles Spurgeon once said, "If Christ is anything, He must be everything."

Sometimes we talk about church stuff and we talk about doing this or that. Our culture hits us from every direction trying to capture our attention for this thing or that thing. What would happen if we began each thing we did in the church with this question, "Do I love Jesus more than this?" Because whatever we do, whatever we are, whatever

we stand for as a church or as a Christian, that is THE question I think we must ask ourselves. Does what we do shed light on Jesus? Does what we say enhance our understanding of Jesus?

The main thing is Jesus.

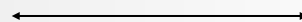
Jarrid Wilson writes: "If Jesus is really who you call Lord, then shouldn't he be the very person we talk most about, and live most for? Idols come in various shapes and forms. And we must learn to love Jesus more than anything else in the world, no matter how important or awesome these "other" things might be to us."

Psalm 16:5 says this, "You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands."

Lent is coming soon. Lent is the season of self-reflection and introspection. It is also a time to reflect on the fact of what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the center, the main thing, the whole of our being His followers.

Where are those places where Jesus needs to be more front and center in your life? Where are those places where we as a church might make Jesus more front and center?

*Harvey*



## Lenten Worship Series

The season of Lent will be here soon. Here's the Lenten sermon series we will be having for our weekly Wednesday night services at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The service will follow our weekly Lenten dinners at 5:15 in McKinley Hall each Wednesday night beginning on March 13. Here is the list for the theme, "I Am" Sayings of Jesus:

- 3/13 - Speaker, Harvey Gaither; scripture, John 6:35; the sermon, "I Am the Bread of Life" (Crosswalk will lead worship)
- 3/20 - Speaker, Joe Scheets; scripture, John 8:12; the sermon, "I Am the Light of the World"
- 3/27 - Speaker, Ed Weston; scripture, John 10:9; the sermon, "I Am the Door"
- 4/3 - Speaker, Bob Edwards; scripture, John 15:1; the sermon, "I Am the True Vine"
- 4/10 - Speaker, Roger Knox; scripture, John 10:11; the sermon, "I Am the Good Shepherd"

Please join us each Wednesday in Lent as we prepare ourselves for the cross and empty tomb!

2  
Greeters  
1st Time Visitors  
Lenten Dinners

3  
UMW  
MOMSCoNECT  
Kids on the Go

4  
Journey

6  
Music Tidings

Every Tuesday, 9:30 am  
Prayers and Perspiration  
McKinley Hall

Second Wednesday 10:30 am  
United Methodist Women  
McKinley Center  
(no meetings January, June, July, and November)

Third Wednesday 5:30 pm  
United Methodist Men  
Krause Room

Every Thursday 9:00 am  
Ruth Circle Quilters – Stitchers  
Krause Room

Junior Church  
(Kindergarten – 4th Grade)  
Junior Church is held during  
the 9:00 am worship service

Each Wednesday  
Horticulture  
8:00 am, Coffee  
Grimm and Gory  
324 E. Main, Belleville  
9:00 am, Church

### Lenten Dinners

5:15 - 6:15, McKinley Hall

March 13: tba  
 March 20: UMW  
 March 27: Choir  
 April 3: Seekers Class  
 April 10: Nurture Committee  
 Lenten service follows dinner  
 Sanctuary, 6:30-7:15

### First Time Visitor, March

#### Primary Team

March 3 Dick Frette & Jerry Sauerwein  
 March 10 Kent & Susan McVety  
 March 17 Dan & Laura Nollman  
 March 24 Marlene Frazer & Sue Davis  
 March 31 Jolene Wallis & Gail Piersol

#### Alternate Team

Don & Connie Stein  
 Jerry & Lisa Koerkenmeier  
 John & Linda Gray  
 Dick Frette & Jerry Sauerwein  
 Kent & Susan McVety

**This is how God showed His  
 love among us: He sent His  
 one and only Son into the  
 world that we might live  
 through Him.**

1 John 4:9



### From the Horticulture Club

You may look out the window and think it's winter time, but we believe spring is just around the corner. That means that soon on Wednesdays, after a pastry and coffee, we will get busy on the church grounds. We invite anyone to join us for pruning, planting, fertilizing, mulching, etc.--and all in the spirit of glorifying God. If it sounds like a lot of work, remember our rule: "you can sit down anytime you want to."



### THE SECOND MONDAY BREAKFAST GROUP

**March 11**

West Main Café  
 1601 West Main Street, Belleville

We need your reservations, so please  
 call Sheri, 233-6375 or  
 e-mail her at [sheri@unionumc.org](mailto:sheri@unionumc.org)

### Tidings

Union United Methodist Church  
 721 East Main Street  
 Belleville, Illinois 62220  
 618-233-6375

Thel Lemons, Editor  
[chefthel@aol.com](mailto:chefthel@aol.com)

Pastor: Rev. Harvey Gaither

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 The copy deadline is generally on the  
 second and fourth Mondays, 10:00 am.

Contributors may attach copy to email  
 or place it in the editor's mailbox in the  
 church office.

### Upcoming *Tidings* deadlines (10:00 am):

March 11, 25

April 8, 22

## Union UMC Fine Art Series Presents **McKendree University Concert Choir**



**Saturday - March 9 - 7:30 P.M.**

Union United Methodist Church  
 721 East Main St. - Belleville

A free-will offering will be taken - reception to follow concert

### Greeters, March

	Narthex	Welcome Center	East Main
Mar 3	Shirley Whitcotton	Bill & Joan Juergens	Joe & Janet Lanis
Mar 10	Colleen Krause	Don & Connie Stein	Dan & Laura Nollman
Mar 17	Mary Beth Lee	Jerry & Margaret Turner	Roger & Cindy Knox
Mar 24	Barb Cleland	Gary & Marvin Lee	Carl & Karen Buehler
Mar 31	Jenny Johnson	Jim & Thel Lemons	Jerry & Lisa Koerkenmeier

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are welcome to come join us any time. We would love to see new faces.



March 1st—we host *Church Women United*. A noon luncheon and meeting in the Krause Room

March 8—Elizabeth Circle entertains the residents at Four Fountains.

March 13—**Executive Meeting**, 9:30 am in Room 407.

**General Meeting**, 10:30 am in McKinley Fellowship Hall. Elizabeth Circle will have the program as well as prepare and serve our lunch.

March 20—UMW will prepare and serve the Lenten meal.

*My thought:*

Ceremonies are different in every country, but true politeness is everywhere the same.



**MOMsConnect (Infant - 5th Grade)**

*Moms with young children: it is hard to find time for yourself. If you have children ages 0 - grade 5, we have created that time for you!*

**2018 – 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month**

**(September – May)**

**5:15 - 7:45 pm**

**March 13** – Spring Spa Night

**April 10** – Teacher Gifts

**May 3** – Children's Ministry Floor Project

Friday Night 5:30-9:00 pm; childcare at church available and dinner will be provided for the children.

*MOMsConnect can RSVP on Facebook at MOMsConnect at Union for the monthly meetings. Please let us know if you are coming and how many children will be coming.*

**Granny's Attic  
and Rummage Sale**



Saturday, August 17  
8:00 - 12:00

Sponsored by UMW to  
support our many missions

*Judy Brindley and Julie Altman, co-chairs*

**March 3 is the next SCRIP order!**

MOMsConnect is so blessed to have sold almost 700 gift cards during the busy holidays months - Amazing! We wanted to thank the congregation for all of your support.

Updated order forms can be found at the Welcome Desk, church office, and on the church's website under MOMsConnect. All orders are collected (check or exact cash) between 10:00-11:00 at the Welcome Desk. Gift cards will be delivered on March 10. Please visit [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) for a full list of retailers or email Amy Perez at [perezfamily618@gmail.com](mailto:perezfamily618@gmail.com) with questions.



**Kids on the Go - (1st - 4th Grade)**



KOTG will be going to the Kids Light Conference on Saturday, March 30. This year's theme is Brave. We will leave the upper parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return at 1:45 p.m. The cost this year is \$12.00 per child/\$18.00 per adult. I will need the money, waiver and your RSVP to Donna by Sunday, March 3 at [donna@unionumc.org](mailto:donna@unionumc.org) or call/text me at 618-719-7315. Hope you can join us.

**KIDS ON THE GO FUN!**

Last Friday, we had our KOTG lock in. We went to the Lincoln Theater to watch a movie, had snacks and played games. Everyone had a blast! Thank you Miss Becky for staying the night with us!

**MOMsConnect Fun**

At our February meeting, we made Valentine's Day cookies and decorated them. The children had a great time! Next month, we will be doing a Science Experiment – "Parting the Red Sea" – Exodus 14.





**JOURNEY UMC**  
**DR. JOE SCHEETS**  
 900 NORTH STATE STREET  
 FREEBURG, IL 62243  
 618-710-0224      WWW.JOURNEYUMC.ORG

*Continuing the Journey  
 What's Happening in Freeburg*

It's an absolute joy being the part time, retired, interim pastor of Journey Church. They're a great group of people and I'm learning a lot.

The Journey Praise Band did a song in worship yesterday that was new to me. I've since listened to it online, and I gotta be honest: I prefer the Live-in-Freeburg version.

Part of the song says this ----

*If you're scared that you don't matter  
 If you're lost and need to be found  
 If you're looking for a Savior  
 All you gotta do is turn around*

--- Is it really that simple? According to Scripture it is: "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

The song, Turn Around, recorded by Matt Maher, goes on ---

*Well I won't say, that you will never fail again  
 But there is grace to wash away your every sin*

--- Love that honesty! Love that hope! Anybody not need some of God's *grace to wash away your every sin?*

And then there's this ---

*You don't need to move  
 Love has come to you  
 All you gotta do is turn around  
 You don't have to take the broken road  
 You can turn around and come back home*

---- For details, see Luke 15:11-32

And welcome home!

I'll see you in worship if not before. You're bringing somebody with you, right? Yours in Christ,

Dr. Joe Scheets

Every Week

Sunday, 9:30 am	Worship
Sunday, 6 pm	Junior High at Union
Sunday, 6 pm	Senior High at Journey

Congratulations, **Alex Petraborg**, for being awarded The Racial Harmony Award for Whiteside Middle School 2019.



**Get Your Carbs Here!** All are invited to a Youth Missions Fundraiser Pasta Dinner, Silent Auction & Concert! Wow, that's a mouthful and yours will be too on March 23 beginning at 5 p.m. at Journey Church, Freeburg. The meal

will include appetizers, your choice of spaghetti or fettuccine, breadsticks, salad, beverage, and dessert. You'll be able to bid on the enticing items in the silent auction, and enjoy a concert by the Journey Praise Band, which will include a sing-along. Tickets are \$20 and are on sale now through March 15. Don't delay! Seating is limited. Get yours early from Becky Keiser.

*Would you like to provide a basket for the silent auction and/or a dessert? Call our Senior High Youth Director Sandy Merrill at 618.789.3151.*



Boy Scout Sunday and Pancake Breakfast, February 17

**A Lenten Study—Tuesdays at Two**

This is for you if you've wanted a chance to study and experience a deeper faith, or as an old song says, just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, if you please. *Dr. Joe invites you to bring your Bible and join him and others on Tuesdays at Two*, in the Krause Room, March 12- April 16. Each lesson stands on its own, so you can come as your schedule permits. No need to pre-register. This is for you.

## Name That Tune



### Rock'n Roll For Mission

Union UMC and Aldersgate Fellowship Group are hosting a fun music trivia night, **Name That Tune**, on Friday, April 5 in McKinley Hall. Proceeds will benefit the Marion Medical Mission, a local non-profit organization. We'd love to have the whole congregation participate with us, whether you'd like to get a table together and come play, donate an item to the silent auction, or give cash towards the purchase of a well. With trivia about song titles and artists from the 1950's to the 1990's, there will be fun for all ages!

Marion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters in Africa by helping them gain access to clean drinking water. Since 1985, they have built over 35,000 wells and provided more than four million people with a sustainable source of clean water. In 2019, Marion Medical Mission is planning to install an additional 3,000 wells (at a cost of \$450 for each well) and we hope to

raise money to help make that goal a reality.

Admission of \$20.00 includes a light dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the game will start at 6:15 p.m. Feel free to bring snacks, but please, no alcohol. Because this is a fundraiser, the prizes will be more about bragging rights than financial gain. Sign up for a table of 8, or, we'll seat you with fun new friends! Complimentary childcare will be available, if requested by April 1.

Tickets will be available between services and in Union UMC's church office through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Donations of auction items must be dropped off at the church office by March 27<sup>th</sup>. And remember, "You Don't Have to Be a Star" to "Walk Right In" and join friends for "Good Times" "All Night Long"!

## Financial Update

As we continue forward into 2019, the Finance Committee wants to ensure we remain transparent on where we stand financially throughout the year. There are two areas to address in this report - 2019 budget adjustments and current pledge status. Between September 2018 and January 2019, the Finance Committee adjusted the proposed budget five times due to changes in personnel staffing and debt retirement. At the September Administrative Council meeting, the council approved a budget of \$934,341, which was a 1.16 percent increase over 2018. Due to personnel changes, the committee made changes to the budget and took an adjusted budget of \$930,616 (an increase of 0.75 percent over 2018) to the Admin Council in November 2018 where it was approved.

In December 2018, the three loans we incurred during our extended renovation projects were refinanced. Since we are considered a business under banking rules, we have to refinance every three to five years. We finished a five year period, but the bank would only do a three year loan on this next cycle. The finance rate had also gone up in that period, so the final cost of the loans went up \$33,740 for the year.

In January, the committee made another change to the budget to add \$33,740 to the debt retirement line. In addition, they found \$16,500 of reductions they could make so the final overall budget now stands at \$935,676, an increase of 1.30 percent, which is very close to the original budget submitted in September. Due to other income such as Rayhill Trust, Day Care rent and utilities and Journey church expenses payable to Union, the Union portion of the budget went up 3.76 percent. This is partially the result of receiving approximately \$20,000 less from Journey Church when pastoral support was changed. This new, updated operating budget will go before the Admin Council at the end of March for official approval.

The pledges we received from 145 families reflects 65 percent of the budget for 2019. I have previously stated that our historical standard for a successful stewardship campaign is to reach 72-75 percent of the budget through pledges. By that standard, we are approximately \$60,000-65,000 short of that goal, which may affect Finance Committee decisions later in the year. We will continue to keep you updated as we progress through the year.

In addition to the Union budget, the committee also monitors the budget for Journey Church. They had a very tenuous 2018 and are working hard to improve in 2019. Their budget was reduced 41.85 percent from the 2018 budget. The committee will continue to closely watch monthly giving trends and keep members up to date on the current status.

If you have any questions about our financial status, contact Pastor Harvey, Keith Dintelmann, Chairman of the Finance Committee, or me.

Dick Frette  
Church Treasurer



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Belleville, Illinois 62220  
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UNION UNITED METHODIST  
FINE ARTS SERIES

Presents

The McKENDREE COLLEGE  
CONCERT CHOIR

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 7:30 pm

*Come and enjoy an evening of music from various  
time periods and cultures.  
There will be a freewill offering, and a reception  
will follow the concert.*



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, March 6, 6:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir Anthem -  
"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"- Brahms

Rev. Gaither's sermon:  
"Washed and Dried", Psalm 51

Jubilation Hand Bells will ring

## MUSIC TIDINGS



"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my  
soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I  
will sing praises to my God while I have  
being." Psalm 146: 1-2

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9 am - Sanctuary Choir Anthem - "Light Everlasting" -  
Olaf Christiansen

Rev. Gaither's sermon:  
"Broken Yet Whole", 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Jubilation Hand Bells will ring the prelude

Communion

11 am - "Crosswalk"

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9 am - Sanctuary Choir Anthem -  
"To Thee, O Lord, Do I Lift Up My Soul" - Kalinnikoff

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "Giving Up Control", Mathew 4:1-11

11 am - "Crosswalk"