

# United Women in Faith

The Wood River United Methodist Church will be the site of the Prairie Rivers District (which is our district) biannual meeting on October 14,2023. Any woman is welcome to attend. The cost is \$8.00. This includes Lunch. Registration starts at 9:00 and it will be over around 3 pm. Please come and bring a friend. Registrations have to be in by October 7<sup>th</sup>. You may send your registration to Susie Powell. I want you to have time to put this in your planner and attend so am sending an early notice. Look forward to seeing you.

### A Special Note..

We want to thank everyone who assisted in the Garage Sale, donated to it or supported us with your gifts or presence. It is always good to see all the people coming and visiting with each other.

We also consider it a mission to be able to allow families to be able to afford to eat while searching for school clothes and articles for their homes etc. What a blessing to be able to help each other. The money we make also goes for missions.

Thanks again for your support.

## **Church Events**

- Sept 4 Labor Day, office closed
- Sept 6 Finance Committee, 6:00
- Sept 7 Rachel Circle, 1:30
- Sept 10 Alda Ad Council, following worship
- Sept 11 Ruth Circle, 1:30
- Sept 13 Ad Council, 7:00
- Sept 21 Sewing, 9:30
- Sept 24 Neighborhood Night Out 5-8 (Alda)
- Sept 28 UWF, 7:00

#### **Bloom Where God Plants You!**

I happen to be one of those people who get a lot of inspiration from nature and little things that I come across in the mundane of things. I recently visited a home where I found a rock near the entrance with the following words inscribed: "Bloom Where God plants you." This got me to wonder what this means.

Friends, here is the lesson I got from those five words I found on a rock in a friend's flower bed. You see, every summer, our farmers grow different types of crops. I understand that a good



farmer knows what is best in his/her region. So, they source the best-suited seeds for a better crop, and their hope is that what they plant will bloom and give them a good harvest.

Now, bringing that to our situation as believers, I believe that God knows each one of us very well. He knows the best environment for our thriving spiritually, and hence, he has placed us where we are today. For those who belong to our sister churches, Alda and Wood River, God knows that we can bloom and thrive here. For those who are not from these two churches or those in nursing homes and other such situations, let's bloom where God has placed us now, including the family, a career, a neighborhood, or a city.

God has provided what we need to thrive where he has planted us, but we sometimes fail to thrive because we don't make conscious decisions to utilize the resources provided. Like a farmer, a believer needs to water his/her spirit through prayer and fellowship. So, one has to find time for these in the midst of all other things that take a lot of our time. Prayer helps us to build our connection with our creator, while fellowship aids our connection with one another. Therefore, wherever you are, you can thrive if you intentionally find time for prayer and fellowship.

On the other hand, a plant cannot bloom if it does not get enough nutrients. For us Christians, the word of God is the fertilizer that makes us grow healthy and strong. Therefore, wherever God has planted us, there are many opportunities for getting the living word of God. So, what is the challenge? The challenge is that life has overcommitted us to other concerns of life such that even getting one minute to nourish our souls with the word of God or a day in a week for worship and bible study is difficult. Imagine you have one hundred acres of corn that fails to send its roots to get moisture and nutrients in the soil. I believe there might be a condition like that. What happens in that case is that all the corn in that huge field will be stunted, weak, and with little or no harvest.

This calls us to examine and figure out the condition that hinders the crop from utilizing plenty of nutrients. Likewise, as Christians, we must find what hinders us from the nutrients and moisture, which is the word of God, prayer, and fellowship. Like a farmer, we have to make a deliberate move of seeking help or doing something differently. So, wherever God has planted you, choose to enjoy the benefits of being there as a representative of Christ. I pray that your roots will be deep and widely spread to reach the moisture and nutrients necessary for thriving. Let us desire to grow and flourish as we plug ourselves into all that God has given us in our different situations. May you bloom where God has planted you, in Jesus' name. Amen!

#### **Pastor Geoffrey**

# Mary Bilslend — Parish Nurse

Fall is just around the corner and in our community, and school has started. The football team is practicing and games starting. The same goes for the volleyball girls. The colleges have started and many of our graduates are starting college. Change is all around us.

We know harvest is starting soon. With the joy of harvest go some other changes. It is important to look at the intersections in the country to make sure there is not a harvester coming thru the intersection. Sometimes, the harvesters are in a hurry or too tired to notice so be sure and allow the farmers the right of way and prepare to stop and wait for them.

It is important for the farmers to get enough sleep to function fully and take time out to eat and have breaks as needed to stay alert. There are many things that are dangerous with harvest so we need to be alert and pay attention and not go too fast so as to be dangerous and forego safety.

Please keep our farmers and their helping hands in your prayers that all may have a safe harvest.



#### **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The Wood River Methodist Church is starting a campaign to assist in supporting the food pantry with the back pack program. They are feeding over 70 youth this year with this program for over the weekend.

The next several weeks we are collecting Tuna to go home in the back packs to help feed the kids over the weekend. Money is also always welcome. You can drop off your donation on Sunday morning during church or the church is open usually Mon -Thurs 8:30-11:30 so you can drop it off then if you like. There is a box in the cloak room right off the front door to your left where you can place your food or on any table.

In September, we will collect fruit cups or cans of fruit. The cans must be the regular size, not the large, so the back packs aren't too heavy for the kids to carry home or too big.

In October, we will collect spaghetti sauce and spaghetti. We cannot use glass. These packs get thrown around so we are allowed NO GLASS. The metal cans are good with the sauce. Plastic can also be used.

November, we will collect Macaroni and cheese in the box.

December, we will collect pudding cups and regular size cans of vegetables. Kids like green beans, corn, peas and the more common vegetables.

You can imagine the cost of filling these back packs every week. They always include a gallon of milk and a box of cereal plus the meat dish, vegetable, pasta usually, fruit, snack bar or pudding, sometimes peanut butter and jelly for the meat dish. Lets help feed our youth. Put our words into motion.



# September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Neal Sidders	
3 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6 Bible Study 9:30 Finance Committee 6:00	Rachel Circle 1:30	8	9
Sara Garber Amber Klaasmey- er	Steve Arnett Keaton Shears			Neal & Rozella Sidders		
10 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00	11 Ruth Circle 1:30	12	13 Bible Study 9:30 Ad Council 7:00	14	15	16
Casey Almquist	Tracy Watts		Jessica Krolikow- ski	Mary Bilslend		Esther Rickert
17 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00	18	19 Alda Meet & Eat 12:00	20 Bible Study 9:30	21 Sewing 9:30	22	23
	Doug Barker Jeff Herber			John Willoughby Shanna Cramer Lila Morse Shane McIntosh		Phyllis Barker Jerry & Natalie Shears
24 WR Worship 9:30 Neighborhood Night 5-8 (Alda)	25	26	27 Bible Study 9:30	28 UWF 7:00	29	30
	Sue Mead		Jocelyn Rauert	Deb Fairbanks	Amy Earnest	Shelby Allan

Alda United Methodist Church ~ 202 E Pine St.

# Neighborhood Night Out

>Free Ice cream, floats and desserts!

>Prizes & Drawings! >Tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5







Sunday, Sept 24 5-8pm

We will have several baskets to auction off and also selling raffle tickets for a gas grill and grill kit.

Please come out and support your local church!

308-381-7008/308-380-8197

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Worship Committee is always looking for volunteers to lead worship & read scripture. Look for a signup sheet in fellowship hall.
- Birthday Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. If your birthday or anniversary is during that month, come receive a special blessing!
- If you know someone unable to come to worship service and would like a copy of the sermon mailed to them, let the office know.
- Most communication is done by email. If you aren't receiving any messages, contact the office to update
  your email address or check your spam folder.



# **Giving Report**

July: \$7,462.00

Aug: \$7,373.85 (includes online giving)

Monthly projected budget: \$11,634.00 (based

off the annual budget for 2023)

## **Attendance Report**

Aug 6: Community Worship, not recorded

Aug 13: 41

Aug 20: 33

Aug 27: 43



Scan code for online giving. You will need to create an account if it's your first time.