



Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WOOD RIVER & ALDA UMC
OCTOBER 2023

Blood Mobile

The Red Cross blood mobile will be at the First United Methodist Church of Wood River on October 24th from 12 to 6 pm. To make appointments, please call Linda Thompson at 308-381-0588, go online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. As you know the need is great. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions of eligibility, call the Red Cross. They will be glad to answer any concerns you may have.



Church Events

- Oct 2 Bishop Visit, Pastor Jeff gone
- Oct 2 Ruth Circle 7:00
- Oct 4 SPRC 7:00
- Oct 4-6 Office Closed
- Oct 5 Rachel Circle, 1:30
- Oct 14 UWF Fall Retreat 9:00
- Oct 19 Sewing 9:30
- Oct 22 Alda Fall Festival & Soup Supper 5-7
- Oct 23-25 Pastor's Meeting in Kearney
- Oct 24 Blood Mobile 12-6
- Oct 26 UWF 1:30



GET YOUR NATURAL FLOWERS!



While looking for information on growing flowers, I realized there is much information about how to grow virtually all plants. It is also evident that many gardeners seek plants with pretty flowers, and others look for specimens with evergreen leaves. As such, this is informed by the fact that great floral displays give a yard eye-popping color in spring and summer, while the evergreen foliage offers a year-round constancy, providing beauty to the spaces.

Many people appreciate beauty, especially the fragrantly smelling and elegant-looking flowers. That is why some of us spend much money and time growing these plants in our compounds and homes. It sometimes includes going far and wide to get plants befitting our taste and style. Additionally, it takes a lot of work to keep them thriving and attractive to the owner and others. Indeed, for you to get that bouquet, someone spent time and resources to take good care of them.

I must admit that I am not against buying anything artificial, but an interesting phenomenon is happening where many people have chosen to cut corners on this issue of growing elegant-looking flowers. That is, clever people, have come up with the idea of having artificial flowers to cut on the need to keep watering and fertilizing the natural flowers. This idea is brilliant in many ways, but it takes away the elegant fragrance and beautiful sight of popping flowers.

Friends, when it comes to faith, we must be careful not to cut corners. Every believer is like a natural flower. We grow by constantly keeping an eye on feeding the spirit through the word of God. When the temperatures are too high outside, we have to hide in the shadow of the almighty God. But there is a problem where, just like the artificial flower that does not need much care, we have come to a place where some of us can live without any fellowship with other believers, are comfortable to go for weeks without feeding the soul with the word of God, and can brave the heat of life without finding time to get to the shadow of the Almighty through prayer. Like an artificial plant, they can go forever without being nourished.

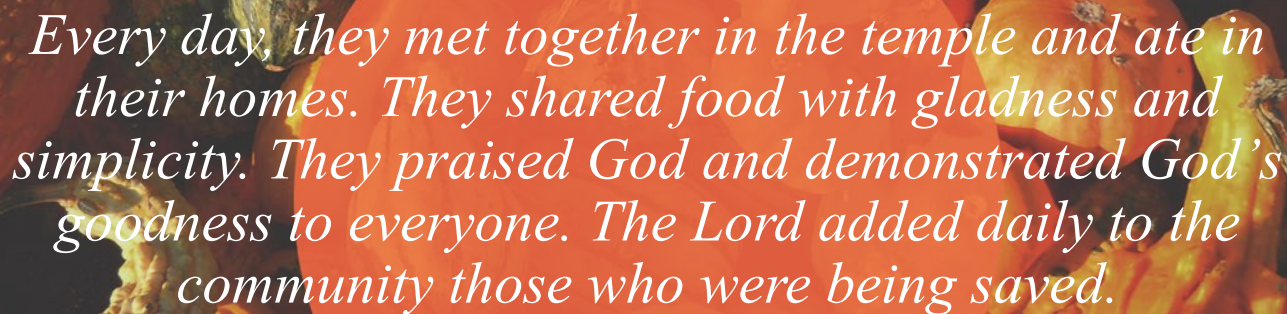
In John 15:5, Jesus says that he is the vine, and we are the branches, where those who remain in him bear much fruit. Artificial flowers and vines may look nice, but they cannot produce anything. In matters concerning our faith, let us not go for the cheap way of life. Let us get natural, seeking nourishment and tender care from our father. Let us get the faith that needs to be nurtured daily through the fellowship of others, reading the word of God, and nourishing the soul through ceaseless prayers. Any solid Christian you know has done the difficult work of nurturing their faith in all ways they know. May the Lord help us from this month to do what is necessary for the pretty flowers of our faith to bloom. **No more “artificial “flowers, no more cutting corners!**

Blessings!

Pastor Geoffrey.

Announcements

- * The Worship Committee is always looking for volunteers to greet and read scripture. Look for a sign up sheet in the entryway! Or a link at Signup Genius (sent out via email)
- * The Prairie Rivers District United Women in Faith is having their fall retreat on Oct. 14 starting at 9:00. Have reservation in by Oct. 8. All women are welcome and childcare can even be provided if requested.
- * Nov 5 will be the memorial service (All Saint's Day) and the dedication of the sound system and the round tables and chairs.



Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

Giving Report

July: \$7,462*; Aug: \$7,373.85*

Sept: \$6,647.35*

*includes online giving

Monthly budget: \$11,634 (based off the annual 2023 projected budget)

Attendance

Sept 3: 32

Sept 10: 28

Sept 17: 68 (baptism)

Sept 24: 34



For online giving, scan code. You will need to create an account if it's your first time.



Mary Bilsend—Parish Nurse

Halloween is coming. Are you prepared for your trick n treaters? Be sure to dress them in bright outfits that can be seen easily.

Plan to be out when the light is still good and be sure they have adults around to assist and observe.

Make them aware of the hazards of treats, traffic and individuals so all have a safe Halloween.

Make sure the treats you hand out are safe and appropriate for your age group of children.

Be sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. It is often cold or may be raining or snow. Be sure to be prepared. Hats and gloves may be necessary as well as snow shoes.

Covid is on the rise so be aware of the covid hazard in your area and neighborhoods you will be visiting.



October 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p> <p>Ken Fairbanks Miguel Rodriguez Doug & Jennifer Beilby</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bishop Visit, Pastor Gone Ruth Circle 7:00</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30 SPRC 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Rachel Circle 1:30</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p> <p>Koanne Heinrich Adam Hayes Todd & Michelle Thorpe</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>UWF Fall Retreat 9:00</p>
<p>15</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Alda Meet & Eat 12:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Sewing 9:30</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda Fall Festival & Soup Supper 5:00</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor's Meeting in Kearney</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Blood Mobile 12-6</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible Study 9:30</p>	<p>26</p> <p>UWF 1:30</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
	<p>Arturo Valdez</p>	<p>Adam Anderson Sydney Rohrich</p>	<p>Stan Bilslend Linda Sample Cary Voss George & Sue Mead Nohemi Arrespide</p>	<p>Ida Quisenberry Joyce Willoughby</p>	<p>Lori Rodriguez</p>	
<p>29</p> <p>WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p></p>				
<p>Cindy Arndt</p>	<p>Maggie Arnett</p>	<p>Doug Weber</p>				