

# Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
NOVEMBER 2023

## UWF Fall Bazaar & More

The Fall Bazaar at the Wood River Methodist Church that is November 7, 2023 is in the planning stages. It will start at 8:00 with coffee, rolls and shopping and proceed all day with soup and pie with drinks starting at 11 am and going thru the evening. There will also be some crafts and other items for sale. At noon, there will be Chili and chicken noodle soup with various crock pots of other soups from our various cooks with many kinds of pie. In the evening, there will be what is left of the crock pot soups and there will also be Chili and chicken noodle soup with pie. Please vote and then join us for coffee, lunch, dinner, a snack or any other reason. Look forward to seeing you. The food is a good will donation. The crafts and new to you will be marked for sale.

## Fall Retreat Update

The United Women in Faith Prairie Rivers Fall District Meeting was held at the Wood River United Methodist Church on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> with 51 United Methodist Women in Faith present. I just want to take a moment to thank all who helped in any way with this event. You are such good supporters of us and we do so appreciate it and try to do the best we can with the gifts given to us be they be your time, talents or financially. Thank you all so much.

## Church Events

- **Nov 5 All Saint's Day**
- **Nov 7 Fall Bazaar  
doors open at 8**
- **Nov 19 Community  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
11-1**
- **Nov 19 Church  
Conference 3:00**
- **Nov 23 Thanksgiving,  
office closed**
- **Nov 25 Howe reserved  
fellowship hall**
- **Nov 26 Advent Begins**
- **Nov 26 Advent Bible  
Study 2:00**

## EMBRACING THE BEAUTY OF FALL: A SEASON OF CHANGE



As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, we find ourselves again on the edge of one of the most enchanting seasons of the year- Fall. The vibrant foliage, pumpkin-spiced everything, and the comforting aroma of bonfires are all telltale signs that the fall season has arrived. The truth is that though this time reminds me of the beckoning winter, I truly enjoy the beautiful shades of colors and, this year, the last warm days of the year. But then, what makes Fall so uniquely charming and cherished?

One of the season's wonders is seeing all the beautiful dark green bushes, especially on the roadsides, and the backyard slowly transformed into a collage of elegant combinations of colors. Miraculously, our surroundings metamorphose into a breathtaking tapestry of beautiful colors as trees prepare to shed their summer greens. This fantastic blessing of nature sometimes makes me stop on the roadside to capture these memories with my camera.

Also, Fall is not just a feast for the eyes alone. It is also for the taste buds because it brings an abundance of delicious flavors, from apple cider to pumpkin pie to cinnamon-spiced lattes and hearty soups. (If you want to experience this, please visit our Fall Bazaar on November 7<sup>th</sup>). Indeed, cooking and sharing Fall-inspired recipes with loved ones can be an excellent way to celebrate the season.

Then, as the weather cools, we all have an irresistible urge to snuggle indoors. So, this becomes a perfect time to bring out those soft blankets, light some candles, and create a cozy haven in our homes, while for others, it is time to rearrange their living spaces to make them even more inviting as the festive season approaches. But then, even though indoor coziness is appealing, embracing the great outdoors experience during Fall is essential. With the cooler temperatures, Fall offers an excellent time for hiking or going on scenic drives while one watches the changing leaves.

All this said, Fall's slower pace provides an excellent opportunity for us to introspect and personal growth. As our farmers finish harvesting and preparing fields for next season, God grants us another great time for gathering again in our worship spaces as we usher in the winter months as one big happy family of God. This reminds me of the psalmist's words in **Psalms 8:3**- "*I think about the heavens. I think about what your fingers have created. I think about the moon and stars that you have set in place.*" As this Fall fills our hearts with joy, may its unique charm encourage us to slow down, appreciate God's creation around us, including the presence of each other, and help us connect with God and our loved ones.

*I wish you all a remarkable Fall filled with joy, reflection, and unforgettable moments.*

Pastor Geoffrey.



# **Message from the Finance Committee...**

## **FINISHING UP 2023**

Hello everyone! As we promised to keep you updated on our financial picture, we are here to say that by the grace of God, the year 2023 has been incredible. We all can attest that the work of the Lord has gone on smoothly despite our little limitations on the way. As we look forward to 2024, we stand amazed by the goodness of our God, who has carried us through the past ten months of this year. As the leadership of this church, we thank God for each one of you for stepping in when we reached out at the beginning of the year. With you, we have done a lot of ministries within and outside of our church. Many have testimonies of God's healing when we were sick, comfort when we were low, and victory when we went through a rough stretch.

Early this year, we received some wonderful gifts, and we were able to pay \$3,000 towards our current year's Conference Mission Shares. Ever since, we have just been breaking even and have not made any additional Mission Shares payments. For 2023, the church needed almost \$10,000 monthly to cover expenses.

## **PREPARING FOR 2024**

As we prepare for the year ahead, the leadership feels encouraged by the effort each of you has given so far. Together, we will do ministry here more than ever before because we trust in a great God. Therefore, all we ask from each of us is to continue trusting in God that we can do all things through Him who gives us strength (*Phil 4:13*).

The budget for the year 2024 has already been drawn and shows that we must raise, on average, about \$10,500 per month, an increase from around \$10,000 per month needed in 2023. As you all know, inflation has hit everything from utilities to building insurance. The only item that decreased much is our Conference Mission Shares; otherwise, the budget would have been even higher.

At this point, we pray that you will consider the church for larger gifts around this vital season of Christmas to ensure we meet all our financial obligations this coming year. Yes, please don't forget the church! We count on your continued generosity.

**God bless you all and our church.**

***Steve Arnett - Finance Chair.***

***Geoffrey Iringo - Pastor***

## Mary Bilslend—Parish Nurse

Snow is just around the corner or may be here when this is published so here are some tips that may be of benefit to you to help on those road trips.



It is handy to have a large tote with lid that will fit easily in your car to hold the items.

Put some LED flashlights to supply light if stalled and if someone needs to walk for help so have more than one. Also, include extra batteries.

Include a snow scraper. This is a necessity in cold weather. A brush or broom also helps if it snows a lot

A five pound bag of sand, road salt or kitty litter can also help add traction if the tires spin a little.

A good snow shovel is a necessity.

Chemical hand and foot warmers are handy and keep away frost bite.

Include warm clothes and blankets. Add extra gloves hats and heavier coats if it becomes necessary to stay warm or walk.

Food that has a long shelf life and can tolerate change in temperatures. Something that does not need a stove or preparation other than opening a tin and include a can opener if needed. Include some water but be careful if you keep it in the car that it does not freeze and explode.

A pack of 30 min road flares are nice.

Spare wiper blades are nice if a bad storm affects the scrapers.

A Good first aid kit.

A small emergency tool kit that is well stocked.

Tire chains

There are apps that can turn your phone into a walkie talkie to get help and also good weather apps to keep you updated on the weather and roads.

Be sure the car insurance is up to date and supplies your needs in case of an accident, towing, and use of a car if your car is in the shop if needed.

Be sure your phone is charged and a car charger is also a great idea.

Stay safe and be prepared to go slow and check road conditions before you go. Go with God.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Worship Committee is always looking for Worship Helpers to greet and read scripture. Look for a signup sheet in the fellowship hall or an email from Signup Genius.
- Birthday Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. If you have a birthday or anniversary during that month, come receive a special blessing!
- In case you missed the email, the Youth Group meets every other Wednesday evening while providing a meal from 6:30-7. We are asking our church family for assistance in providing these meals. If you are interested in helping provide, contact Mel Frear at 308-379-3182, Anna Miller at 308-850-7677, the church office 583-2716 or there is a link at SignUpGenius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48ACAA28A6F94-45502529-youth>)
- Advent Bible Study will begin Nov. 26 and run for 4 weeks. (meet in person, on Sundays at 2:00) We will be reading "An Unlikely Advent" by Rachel Billups. If you want to be a part of the group, contact the office or pastor so we can get you a book ordered. Books run \$13.00 each.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

On Sunday, Nov 19, 11-1, all are welcome to join us for a Community Thanksgiving Dinner, here at the church. No obligation! Just good people sharing good food! If you would like a meal delivered (WR only) please call the church office (583-2716) by Nov 16.

## Giving & Attendance Report

Aug: \$7,373.85\*;  
Sept: \$6,647.35\*  
October: \$7100.35\*

\*includes online giving

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

Oct 1: 31

Oct 8: 40

Oct 15: 41

Oct 22: 33

Oct 29: 51



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

# November 2023



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

			1 Bible Study 9:30	2  Tom Babel	3  Dillon DeVore Carrie Powers	4  Michael Meguire
5 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 <i>All Saint's Day</i>  Steve Wheeler	6  Kim Thompson	7 UWF Fall Bazaar 8-7 (soup & pie)  Brian Earnest Faith Young	8 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30  Audrianna Earnest	9  Jane Rickert	10	11  Brad & Amy Earnest
12 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00  Larry & Peg Krause	13  Brenda Codner	14  Doug Beilby	15 Bible Study 9:30  Kadence Davidson Logan Brown Gillian Ogden Molly Ogden	16  Wilbur McCumber	17  Jessica Price	18  Mark & Brenda Codner
19 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Thanksgiving Dinner 11-1 Church Conference 3:00 Brad Desel	20	21  Blake Earnest Donna Duff Ron Miles	22 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30	23 Happy Thanksgiving! 	24	25  Justin Paulk Gary Quisenberry Allan Miller Allan & Joyce Miller
26 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00  Jacob Morse Jersey Allan David & Rhonda Sidders	27  Briar Burr	28	29 Bible Study 9:30  Preston Ammon	30  Jake Rickert Ben Rickert		

# \*Thanksgiving Word Search\*

Find the words below.

P J E F E I P N A C E P H D C T L W P A  
 Y P K B N T W L G P H D Y Y P W E L N P  
 P Q A N A Y T R H I K U R I F N V Q C I  
 Y C R A N B E R R I E S B E M I B P R P  
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 V K D O Y R S Y U A Q S Y I G I N E L H  
 Q L F F K U Q K B L Z R S T U F F I N G

NOVEMBER  
 HAM  
 POTATOES  
 THANKFUL  
 DINNER  
 PARADE

TURKEY  
 PUMPKINPIE  
 PECANPIE  
 MAYFLOWER  
 FAMILY  
 THANKFUL

STUFFING  
 CRANBERRIES  
 PILGRIMS  
 CORN  
 FEAST