

September 2025

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” John 11:39a. Then they removed the stone. John 11:41.

Hi again;

While Tina and I were on vacation, I helped my little brother with a landscaping project that involved covering a steep hill with river rock. The day we worked on this project the heat index was well over a 100, which made it seem like we moved about 10 tons of rock with a rake and shovel. Truth be told it was only four skid steer buckets full. Lamar Shepard & Son’s Mulch did give Neil and I hats. As I tossed the last softball sized rock out of the bed of Neil’s truck, the word of Jesus came to mind from John 11, “Take away the stone.”

John reports Jesus asking for help. At first glance this seems a little strange, the idea that Jesus requested help moving a stone. Oftentimes, we are the ones asking Jesus to help us move stones from our lives. I have rarely thought about the folks who moved the stone from Lazarus’ tomb. Why didn’t Jesus move the stone himself?

In the miracle raising of Lazarus, Jesus reveals His love, care, and divinity by raising His dear friend Lazarus from the dead. In the midst of this great miracle, almost buried within the text, Jesus includes others in two simple tasks that often go unnoticed. These two tasks surround the narrative that culminates in the raising of Jesus’ friend, Lazarus, whose name literally means, “God helps.”

The image of these men removing the stone and unbinding Lazarus has left me with a thought I can’t shake: “Couldn’t Jesus have done that Himself? Just by giving the word, couldn’t Jesus have commanded the stone to roll away? Couldn’t He, who by His word opened the eyes of the blind and calmed the sea, have moved a simple stone? Obviously, Jesus could have, but it’s as if before the power of God was unleashed through Jesus, He asked for assistance. Silently, and without urging, some person or persons helped remove a stone and unbind a man who was not free. What witness is there for us in their actions?

When I think about this scene and Jesus’ request, I wonder what “stones” Jesus might be asking me/us to remove before the power of God is unleashed in my/our life or the lives of others? These “stones” may come in many shapes and sizes, and we may remove them ourselves or with the help of others, but they prevent us from experiencing the new life Jesus wants to give. We must always look at the stones in our own lives first before we go about removing “stones” for others. What “stones” or impediments may God be calling you to remove? In my own life some of these stones have been attitudes toward others, ignorance of the Scriptures, Church teaching, and sin.

As I grow closer in my walk with Jesus, He has a way of pointing out areas in my life where these stones cause me to stumble. Thankfully, Jesus doesn’t point them out all at once, so I’m not totally blown away or discouraged. Jesus has also used others, both friends and foes, to help move the “stones” in my life.

There are many impediments that need to be removed before people can respond to God’s call in their lives. How can folks respond to God if they have “stones” of ignorance? Perhaps they have no idea God even exists. Can God use us to teach them about God’s presence? Can a person read about God in the Bible if they are illiterate? Can a person poor and malnourished experience the fullness of life? Stones of hunger. This is certainly no small or insignificant task. There are many ways we can help move these “stones” and help unleash the power of God. They may not seem as miraculous as raising a person from the dead, but in God’s eyes they are. Raising a person out of despair or loneliness can bring the light of Christ into a dark place.

When we approach our days and our lives with this missionary “stone moving” mind-set, faith becomes exciting because we have a mission. We are helping, like those who helped remove the stone from Lazarus’ tomb, to allow Jesus to bring new life. I am confident that God alone can accomplish anything, but throughout the Scripture God uses ordinary people to help continue God’s mission. What a privilege! Are we up to the challenge of moving stones?

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Mark

Mission Statement:

God’s Servants - John 13:1-11; **Celebrating Christ** - Luke 15:11-32;

Sharing His Love - Matthew 22:34-40; **Making Disciples** - Matthew 28:16-20

If you have an article, story, or picture to share in the Newsletter, please send it to: fairviewcenter@gmail.com

No later than the **20th** of the month.

Thank you!

As we continue to broadcast our Worship Service on Facebook Live, there are limitations on what can be streamed. There may be times that the sound will be muted on Facebook Live during the service because it is not legal to rebroadcast certain elements that are copyright protected or may be muted due to confidentiality issues. The sound will return once that part of the service has concluded.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

PLEASE JOIN US!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP

- ♦ Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
- ♦ Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
As the weather permits, our Worship Service will be held in the Pavilion.
- ♦ We continue to offer our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook Live.
- ♦ Follow us on  at Fairview Center UMC.

Please take a look at the small bulletin board in the Educational hallway to see current newsletters from: Strom Center, Henderson Settlement, and Galesburg Rescue Mission.

There are lots of great books to read!



Visit our website: [fairviewcenter.org](http://www.fairviewcenter.org)

Fairview Center United Methodist Church



United Women In Faith News:

Monday, September 8th: Mary Circle 12:00 p.m. Salad Buffet.

Decorations: Kay Jenks Lesson Leader: Alyce Jenks

Lesson: "What is Faithfulness to You?", page 64.

Please bring a salad to share.

September 12th: Church Women United Love Tea celebration day.

1:30 p.m. at Gerlaw Christian Church. Theme: "Splashes of Joy in Song and Praise".

Saturday, September 20th: West District UWF Annual Fall Meeting.

Registration/Breakfast treats - 9:00 a.m. Worship/Meeting - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Program: "The Faithfulness of God" by Teri Tippey.

We will be collecting "gift cards" for the **Love Gifts** for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House AND Cunningham Children's Home. Gift cards in any amount for Amazon, Visa, McDonald's, Walmart, Family Dollar, and Dollar General, **Thank You!**

Sunday, September 21st: UWF Sunday and Blanket Sunday.

Speaker: Fanny Crosby (Tina Canada). Children's message and Blanket Sunday presentation: Kay Jenks.

Quilters: Fairview Center UMC Quilters meet every Tuesday from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Alyce Jenks' home.



United Methodist Men's News:

Sunday, September 21st: UMM Devotional Group will meet at 8:00 a.m. Coffee and treats will be served.

Fairview Center United Methodist Church

Head Usher Schedule

August 17th - September: Brian Postin

October - November 9th: Blake Burns

November 16th - December: Adam Martin

Upcoming Faithful Followers

Get-Togethers:

Date & Host

September 20th: Curt & Sandy Shimmin

October 18th: Carol Magnuson

November 16: Darliss Page

Prayers & Concerns

Fairview Center is....**Prayerful!** In this world today, I think everyone would agree with me that there is a lot of prayer needed. Do I hear an amen? Please continue to pray for our country and its leaders, our military and their families, those who struggle with poverty and the homeless, Christians under persecution, our state and local government leaders, the lonely and disheartened, our elderly, healthcare providers, and those who have not experienced the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. During worship, we have also been praying for a number of people. Please continue to pray for:

Those affected by the COVID virus; political and civil unrest in our country; those battling cancer-families & caregivers; students, parents, and school personnel; and those with unspoken concerns.

Please help us keep this prayer and concern list up-to-date. Please let us know of a misspelled name. Also, let us know if someone has returned to good health. We want this list to be accurate and current. Send information to: fairviewcenter@gmail.com Thank you!

Jay & Alice Benoit
 Josie Blake
 Ellie Brummet
 Heidi Brown
 Charlie Burns
 Donald Canada
 Russell Carlson
 Jessika Dell
 Mindi Allbee-Diemer
 Jane Dolieslager
 Glenn Evitts
 Diane Hawk
 Bonnie Inman
 Carol Jenks
 Matthew Kuehn
 Austin Loving
 Becky Marshall
 Raquel Mercer
 Jim McCrary

Emily Ray McIntyre
 Mike McNall
 Dana Moon
 Lindsay Murdock
 Kenny O'Brien
 Steve Rennison
 Craig Rima
 Blaine Robinson
 Lana Schiefer
 Eldon Sipes
 Lane Sipes
 Elaine Slaughty
 Russell Stewart
 Barbara Goff Thomas
 Russell Trulson
 Raven Vank
 Owen Wyatt
 Joyce, Julie VanSike's mom

The homeless, afraid, and lonely.
 Those with unspoken concerns.
 Those devastated world wide by severe weather.
 Senseless violence throughout our country.
 Senseless violence throughout the world.



**If you have immediate need to prayer,
 please call Pastor Mark
 at 815-531-9081.**

New devotionals are available:

UPPER ROOM - September & October (regular print)

UPPER ROOM - September & October (large print)

OUR DAILY BREAD - September/October/November (regular print)

These publications can be picked up on a table located in the Education Wing Hallway or on the table located inside the west entryway. If you would like one delivered to you, please send an email to: fairviewcenter@gmail.com or call the church at 309-734-2300. Tell us which devotional(s) you would like and the best time for them to be delivered.

BIRTHDAYS

2. Kenneth Higbee
4. Linda Howver
Ben Kuefler
5. Judy Wilming
6. Abby Green
7. Montgomery Dolieslager
Cameron Smock
8. Carrie (Burns) Elliott
Josh May
10. Cheryl (Long) Kuppler
Patty Procino
Aiden Smock
Jennifer Talley
11. Ava Faith Gambetta
13. Emma Green
15. Tina Canada
Evan Kettmann
Derek Perry
16. Cindy (Long) Pepmeyer
17. Parker Stecher
18. Aaron Crain
19. Tricia (Jenks) Place
21. Lisa (Tate) Olson
Michael Procino
22. Erin (Miller) Elliott
24. DeAnn Ciadella
Koleson Crain
Joyce Talley
25. Molly (Henson) Dawson
Jill Henson
Michael Stewart
26. John Frost Jr.
Hannah Kozak
Kelly Long
Donna Smock
Trace Tate
27. Milo Sprout
29. Landon Burns
Erin (Peirce) Ogden
30. Jenna Procino
Bill Slater Jr.



ANNIVERSARIES

1. M/M Michael Procino
2. Adam & Baylee Crain '23
5. Rick & Stephenie Gambetta '05
6. Brian & Amber Postin '08
20. Blake & Krista Burns '03
23. Chris & Dorothy Gaines '78

SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS



*"See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God."*

1 John 3:1

Madeline Poole 09.24.1995

Aaron Crain 09.27.1996

Happy heavenly birthday to all our family and friends.

*"Your life was a blessing,
your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure."*

- Renee Wood

Birthday Blessings

Please notify the church office of any names which need to be added, corrected, or removed.

Thank you!

Thank you Fairview Center United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring for our community through Jamieson Community Center. Your gift of \$1,050 will support our general fund and we are truly grateful.

In recent years, more individuals and families have turned to Jamieson Community Center for support, many for the very first time. Month after month, we continue to see a steady rise in the number of people relying on our programs to meet their basic needs. This growing demand reflects the challenges many in our community are facing, and we anticipate the need will only deepen in 2025 as proposed changes to federal nutrition assistance programs, such as SNAP, begin to take effect. As economic pressures mount, we're preparing to serve even more families with the compassion and care they deserve.

In 2024, we spent an average of \$30 per person served at our JCC food pantry. So far this year, we've served more than 700 families in our community. Our food pantry at JCC is open to all Warren County residents. Families with children may visit once a week, and households without children can come twice a month, though our average family visits less than once per month. At our Recharge Teen Center food pantry registered teens are free to get food as often as they would like. One father, who shares custody of his two sons, visits just once a month. He told us, "Thanks for being here. I don't know what I would do if it weren't for this place." Your support makes moments like this possible.

When basic needs are met, our entire community becomes stronger and healthier. Thank you for lifting our community through connection, compassion and service.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mowen, Executive Director



*Another Thank You was received from JCC for the \$456.78 that was from the Penny March Money that VBS designated to be split between JCC and the Teen Recharge Center.

"A Good Person Is A Gift To The Whole World"

Heidi Willis

Dear FCUCM,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blankets we received through Lindsay Long. As we try to make our way through the loss of our son, Matt, these blankets are a sweet comfort.

Dwight & Pam Foutch

Amanda Foutch & boys

Chris & Mary Foutch and boys

Dear FCUMC,

Just a note to thank you for thinking of us. Lowell is working hard to help rid of the cancer. Lots of medicine.

He goes to a radiologist on the 25th of June. We've already been to the cancer center. Day by day. He enjoys watching the Cubs play. Especially when they win.

Dee

Thank You So Much!

Thank you for your recent generous donation to Recharge Teen Center! Your donation is such a blessing to RTC! You are helping make sure kids have access to a multitude of programs and activities!

From the Staff and Teens at Recharge Teen Center



Dear Friends of Fairview Center United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Franklin Graham and the staff of Samaritan's Purse, thank you for partnering with us to save lives, ease suffering, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through your faithful giving and prayers. We are promised in Acts 1:8 that Jesus' disciples "*shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witness to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" May God be glorified as we help carry the gospel message to millions of people in need.

Thank you again for entrusting us to extend the impact of your resources to further God's Kingdom, and for your compassion for those in need.

In Christ,

Angie Eddins

Partnership Manager, Church Engagement



FYI! If you are not able to attend church service in person, you may view our church service live on Facebook.

Thank you Fairview Center United Methodist Church

Dear FCUMC,

I am deeply grateful for your gift sent to Samaritan's Purse from FCUMC for our Operation Christmas Child project. Your Partnership helps make it possible for us to share God's love with children around the world.

Millions of gift-filled shoeboxes have been distributed to children around the world this year, and we praise God for every person who packed a box, prayed, and volunteered to make it happen. Each gift is an opportunity for a child to hear the Gospel, and we pray that many of them will come to know God's greatest gift - His Son, Jesus Christ. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name"* (John 1:12).

Our teams are preparing now for the upcoming season, and we would appreciate your continued prayers. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Fairview Center UMC,

Welcome to the 25th Year of ministry at Midwest Mission! Your donation of 2 large bags, 1 small bag and 1 box to Midwest Mission is a gift that, along with others, allowed us to reach 3 MILLION people in 2024, plus the ripple effect that spills over, You helped to lift people up from crisis situations and position us to create a new vision for the next 25 years!

We are grateful for you, for your belief in our work, and your investment in our mission. We look forward to another year of serving and changing lives together. Thank you for embracing the spirit of giving, for fueling our mission, and for standing with us in our quest to create a world where resources are transformed into humanitarian aid for the benefit of all.

We are so grateful for your trust in how we continue to steward the gifts you share with us.

In deepest gratitude,
Chantel Corrie, Executive Director



To the Fairview Center Church Family:

I am so grateful for the following:

- Pastor Mark for his service.
- Ed and Donna for organizing, implementing and overseeing the luncheon;
- Those who set up the basement for the luncheon after Tom's funeral and who cleaned up afterwards;
- Those who brought in wonderful delicious dishes for the luncheon,
- Those who worked hours in the kitchen to serve the family a delicious meal,
- Those who gave so generously to the memorials in honor of Tom;
- Those who shared wonderful memories of Tom...

For these and other blessings that "those" (You!) bestowed on Tom and me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, I truly hope you realize that you are living examples of Jesus' love and service bestowed so generously on others in the community.

God bless each and every one of you.

And I will add a very important P.S.:

We are so blessed by the prayer you lifted up. They were felt every day of Tom's journey. My prayer: that GOD BLESSES YOU right back, tenfold!!.

1 Corinthians 1:4: "I thank my God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus."

Judy Gilliland

Thought for September:

**A Bible that's falling
apart usually belongs to
someone who isn't.**

Charles Spurgeon

iPod? iPad? Try iPray...God is listening!

Here are the address of our two current college students, Aidan Jenks and Landon. Burns. Thought you may want to have their addresses to drop them a Birthday, Christmas, Good luck with finals, or thinking of you card!



Aidan Jenks
809 W Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

Landon Burns
1109 W Main Street
Apt 326B
Peoria, IL 61606



Spirit Wear Sunday!

July 20th was designated as "Spirit Wear Sunday" by Pastor Mark. Take a look at the inspirational messages that our members wore to church. Thanks Tina for the great pictures!



If you would like to view the Newsletter in color then visit our website! fairviewcenter.org



Accepting the VBS Penny March check for Jamieson Community Center was Melissa Johnston, Public Relations Coordinator for JCC.

This year's VBS and Penny March money totaled \$913.55.

The money was divided equally between Jamieson Community Center's Food Pantry and Recharge Teen Center.

Pastor Mark delivered the checks July 2.



Accepting the VBS Penny March check for Recharge Teen Center was Amy Rogers, Teen Center Coordinator.

HELPING FEED THE COMMUNITY

HELPING AREA STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO SUCCEED IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

60 Backpacks Collected!

We surpassed our goal!

For 5 weeks, FCUMC collected backpacks for the S.T.A.R.S. Program sponsored by Jamieson Community Center. This program provides 200 area students, grades k-8, with backpacks filled with school supplies.

Pictured are the 60 backpacks that were collected. A GREAT variety of sizes, colors, and styles were purchased by our church members,

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped support this important program.

Thank YOU note from Jamieson Community Center:



Dear FCUMC Friends,

Thank you for lifting our community through Jamieson Community Center. Your donations of backpacks will support our S.T.A.R.S. fund and we are truly grateful.

Thank you for lifting our community through connection, compassion and service.

Nancy Mowen, Executive Director





70th Wedding Anniversary

Celebrating:

7 Decades

840 Months

3,652 Weeks

25,568 Days

613,632 Hours

36,817,920 Minutes

Of memories, love, laughter, and
happiness together.



On Sunday, August 3rd, the family of Russell & Maxine Stewart hosted a 70th Wedding Anniversary celebration in the Pavilion. A HUGE crowd came to wish Russell & Maxine a happy anniversary. Many treasured memories were shared by their friends and family.

It was a beautiful celebration for such a special couple!

Russell & Maxine on their
Wedding Day. The couple
were married at Kirkwood
United Methodist Church on
July 31, 1955.

*And now these three
remain: faith, hope,
and love. But the
greatest of these is
love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

*Picture submitted by
Wendy Brokaw*



Pictured with Russell & Maxine are their children Dean, Ron, Wendy (Brokaw) and Kenny.

Your 70 years together are an inspiration to all who know you!