

“The Reminder”

Fairview Center Church
1495 90th Street, Monmouth, Illinois 61462

January & February 2026

“These are the words of the Lord: Take your stand and watch at the crossroads; enquire about the ancient paths; ask which is the way that leads to what is good. Take that way, and you will find rest for yourselves. But they said, “We refuse.” Jeremiah 6:16.

Hi again.

I know I say this every year, “It is hard to believe we are starting another year!” There I said it. 2025 was, to say the least, a very interesting year for Fairview Center Folks. We made the difficult decision to leave the United Methodist denomination. This decision was not made lightly. Much prayer and discussion went into the decision making process. There was a great deal of uncertainty in how the Conference would react. Then a miracle happened, the Conference opened a door for Fairview Center. Even though a door was opened, we as a church still had concerns, primarily it was a trust issue with the Conference. I know for me, this was a major concern. As the process unfolded details were slim and the Conference never reached out to me about anything. For Tina and I, this has been a lesson of trusting God as Abraham and Sara did. I believe my faith in God is better for the experience. Now, here we are entering a new chapter in the life of Fairview Center Church. Where do we go from here? Hopefully, the exit process has been completed as you read this.

Each New Year I return to Jeremiah 6:16; “There are the words of the Lord: Take your stand and watch at the crossroads; enquire about the ancient paths; ask which is the way that leads to what is good. Take that way, and you will find rest for yourselves. But they refused.” In a very literal way Fairview Center has done just that. We went to a crossroads, looking for the path that would lead to what is good in the eyes of God. We took that path and now we are hoping we can find the promised rest. The last three words of this verse break my heart, ‘but they refused.’ Many are and have abandoned the ancient paths of Holiness that lead to rest and to God.

As Fairview Center Church begins a new chapter in their long history, how do we stay on the path that leads to rest and to God? I believe there are four ways to stay on the path or as Jesus put it; “Enter by the narrow gate. Wide is the gate and broad the road that leads to destruction, and many enter that way; narrow is the gate and constricted the road that leads to life, and those who find them are few,” Matthew 1:13-14. The first way is to develop a habit of prayer. “Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain the habit of prayer,” Romans 12:12. To deepen our prayer life, pray. To borrow from an old Nike commercial, Just Pray! Don’t prepare to pray. Just pray. Don’t read about prayer or ways of praying. Just pray. Don’t listen to podcasts or lectures on prayer or engage in discussions about prayer. Just pray. Posture, tone, and place are personal matters. Select the form that works for you. But don’t think about it too much. Don’t be so concerned about wrapping the gift that you never give it. It is better to pray awkwardly than not at all. If you feel you should only pray when inspired, that is okay. Just make sure you are inspired every day to pray.

The second habit is study: “But he who looks into the perfect law, the law that makes us free, and does not turn away, remembers what he hears; he acts on it, and by so acting he will find happiness,” James 1:25. This next part may be a little gross, but it was all I could come up with. Let’s say you are at a buffet, like Golden Corral. You fix your salad, you choose your entrée, however when you go to get your veggies, you see a pan of what looks like pre-chewed vegetables. Gross right? The point I am trying to make is: some folks prefer to swallow what others have chewed. Totally gross, but more common than you might imagine, especially with God’s Word. Such Christians mean well. They listen well. But they discern little. They are content to swallow whatever they are told. No wonder they are not growing.

The third habit is giving: “Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there, you’ll have it ready, and I won’t have to make a special appeal,” 1 Corinthians 16:2. (The Message) We do not give for God’s sake. We give for our sake. “The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives,” Deuteronomy 14:23. How does tithing teach us? Consider what we do when we write a check. First, we enter the date. Already you are reminded that we are a time-bound creature and every possession we have will rust or burn. Best to give it while we can. Then we enter the name of the one to whom we are giving money. If the bank would cash it, we would write to God. But they won’t, so we write the name of the church or group that has earned our trust. Next comes the amount. The moment of truth. Remember, we are more than a person with a checkbook. We are David, placing a stone in the sling. We are Peter, one foot on the water, one foot in the boat. We are a little child in a big crowd with a sack lunch the Teacher needs, but it’s all we have.

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.
- ◆ We continue to offer our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook Live.
- ◆ Follow us on [facebook](#) at Fairview Center Church.

Fairview Center Church

2026 Head Usher Schedule

- January - February 8th: Jared Kunkle
- February 15th - March : Dan Green
- April - May 10th : Tom Jenks
- May 17th - June: Craig Long
- July - August 9th: Chad Long
- August 16th - September : Brian Postin
- October - November 8th: Blake Burns
- November 15th - December : Adam Martin

Fairview Center Church

Fairview Center Women’s News:

Monday, January 12th: Mary Circle meets at 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Alyce Jenks

Lesson Leader: Kay Jenks

Lesson: “ Light for our Path ”, page 5.

Monday, February 9th: Mary Circle meets at 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sandy Shimmin

Lesson Leader: Alyce Jenks

Lesson: "Connected in Our Roots", page 17.

THANK YOU to all who donated to the Baby Shower for Baby Jesus. These items go to Loving Bottoms Diaper bank or Midwest Mission Distribution Center and I know they are most appreciated and needed. Thank you! - Sandy



Sunday, December 21st, Sandy (FCC Women’s Group President) made a surprise presentation to Velda. Velda was gifted a special pin for all her sewing talents. Velda is a master at making BEAUTIFUL pillow case dresses that are sent in OCC shoeboxes and to MMDC. We Thank Velda for sharing her talents with so many!

Fairview Center Church Men’s News:

Sunday, January 18th: Men’s Devotional Group will meet at 8:00 a.m. Donuts and coffee will be served.

Sunday, February 15th: Men’s Devotional Group will meet at 8:00 a.m. Donuts and coffee will be served.

February 18th: Ash Wednesday. The men’s group will sponsor a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. Everyone bring your table service and either a salad or dessert to share. At 7:00 p.m. the Ash Wednesday worship service will be held.

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

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
 Heidi Brown
 Charlie Burns
 Donald Canada
 Russell Carlson
 Mindi Allbee-Diemer
 Jane Dolieslager
 Glenn Evitts
 Diane Hawk
 Bonnie Inman
 Carol Jenks
 Matthew Kuehn
 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 VanSlike'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 - January & February (regular print)

UPPER ROOM - January & February (large print)

OUR DAILY BREAD - December/January/February (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.

January Birthday's

1. Francis Pearsall
2. Brandon Kuhnkey
Alexandra Perry
4. Kimberly Long
5. Wyatt Peterson
Sarah Talbott
6. Travis Stecher
7. Janie Dickey
Marc Peirce
8. Peyton Martin
9. Drew Endsley
11. Chelsey Procino
Kathy (Bruyn) Tate
12. Bobby Conard
George Mohr
Sarah Ray
Chris Sipes
13. Courtney Tate
14. Emma Anderson
15. Tom Jenks
16. Madison Long
Cathy Robinson
17. Kim Cridelich
19. Andrea Ryan
Haley E. Slater
Sydney Tate
20. Brandon Clark
David Jenks
Marianne Peirce
Carrie Ray
Donald Spears
21. Alicia Ferry
Phil G. Kuhnkey
23. Krista (Jenks) Burns
24. Dawn Elliott
27. Matthew Brokaw
Megan Clark
29. Peggy Sprout
30. Tootie Jahde
31. Carsyn Long
Matthew Shoemaker



January Anniversaries

2. Steve & Kim Cridelich '88
12. Ed & Sandy Folkerts



HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY!



"See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!"

- 1 John 3:1

Rachel (Jenks) Kunkle 01.05.1986

Craig Long 01.22.1962

Amber Postin 01.23.1983

Stan Jenks 01.24.1954

Aidan Jenks 01.30.2005

Thought for January:

New Year
New Month
New Chapter
New Blessings
New Hopes

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

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

Thank you!

February Birthday's

- 2. Diane Long
- 3. Barry Stewart
- 4. Melinda Perry
Sam Perry
- 6. Dorothy Gaines
Kevin Miller
Jennifer Slater
- 7. Shane Sipes
Maurice Sprout
- 9. Jim Slater
Carol Totten
- 12. Justin Long
- 13. Eldon Sipes
- 14. Chris Lowe
Julie Martin
- 15. Daniel Inman
- 16. Audrey Parrish
- 19. Shannon (Sipes) Tanner
- 23. Tab Conard
- 24. Lindsay Long
- 25. Russell Stewart
- 26. Bonnie Teske
- 27. Rev. Robert Taylor
- 28. Heather Shimmin
Steve Shimmin



Thought for February
 "Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life".
 -Jackie Chan

February Anniversaries

- 1. Craig & Kimberly Long '86
- 12. Dean & Angela Millizer '20
- 21. Dan & Kristi Green '04
- 23. Mark & Carol Parrish '80
Ed & Cathy Robinson



- Cohen Long 02.07.2010
- Brenton James Davis 02.10.2019
- Ava Faith Gambetta 02.19.2019
- Andrea (Jenks) Kozak 02.19.1984
- Adam Crain 02.20.2000
- Jayden Kunkle 02.23.2014

Fairview Center Church

January Events:
Sunday, January 4th: Holy Communion Sunday

February Events:
Sunday February 1st: Holy Communion Sunday
Sunday, February 15th: Tina will provide Blood Pressure screening 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. before morning worship and following morning worship for heart health month.
Wednesday, February 18th: Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service. Meal at 6:00 p.m. and service at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you Fairview Center Church

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Fairview Center Church,

Your gift to Midwest Mission matters....maybe even more than you realize! Your recent donation of 62 baby washcloths, 30 receiving blankets, 2 twin bedding sets, 14 Cover Them with Love Quilts, 54 small feminine pads, and 27 large feminine pads to our ministry allows life change to happen. We are reminded, especially right now, how much difference each person's contribution makes. We were able to send a shipment to Jamaica, only three days after Hurricane Melissa brought unprecedented devastation and catastrophic damage to those in her path.

Because you and others give to Midwest Mission, we are able to swiftly move into action when disasters hit. We know for those in Jamaica, and in other areas we serve, the help has to be ongoing. It is never a sprint, always a marathon. The devastation will take years of healing, helping and providing hope and empowerment. We can't always plan for disasters in advance, but God always knows timing. He multiplies your gifts and allows us to steward them in the best ways possible to make the biggest impact today and tomorrow.

Your support is not a simple monetary gift; it is a vote of confidence in our mission to show God's love in practical ways and to partner together to turn resources into humanitarian aid. We cannot thank you enough for choosing to partner with Midwest Mission. We cannot do it without you! We are grateful for you!

Be Blessed,

Chantel Corrie, Executive Director



Dear Support Partner,

We are so thankful for your prayers and financial support. Supporters like you enable us to keep serving the Lord. God has blessed us through individuals like you have enabled us to serve the Lord full-time for 54 years. Yes, we are getting older, but God has gifted us with health, strength, and energy. Some have asked us if we are going to retire, and we sense God wants us to keep reaching out and helping internationals. We will retire when our strength and ability no longer allow us to continually serve Him.

God says there is a time to sow and a time to reap. This has been a year of sowing. Although one young lady of Hindu background is steadily following the Lord after many years of sowing. God has brought many Muslims into our lives. They are god fearing people, but they are dutifully following the wrong God. We have been praying for God to give them dreams and visions. I have been praying that God would give this one family all the same dream or vision at the same time. They are so devout and so close knit that I desire that God would not bring division in the family. **Would you join me in that prayer.**

May we continue to be amazed that God, the infinite, almighty creator of the universe was willing to humble Himself and become a man, who gave his life for us.

Merry Christmas!

We know we cannot do this alone and appreciate so much your prayers and support in being able to share the good news with the people God brings our way.

In Him, *Ben + Joyce*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your gracious gift to Friends of West Africa Theological Seminary. Your \$500 gift does so much to advance the Kingdom message with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the student scholarship program and other ministries of WATS. We could not accomplish this without friends like you who partner with us.

With deep gratitude,

Polly Heffernan

Administrative Director, Friends of West Africa Theological Seminary





Photo submitted by Tina



On Wednesday, November 19, Tina, Pastor Mark, Jennifer, and Herb unloaded the trailer of OCC shoebox cartons at Immanuel Baptist Church in Monmouth.

From here the cartons will be loaded in a semi and taken to a processing center.

As we get word of where our 704 shoeboxes have been sent we will share the information in our upcoming newsletter.

Kelly's Joke Corner:

1. First I threw away the outside and I cooked the inside. Then I ate the outside and threw away the inside. What did I eat?
2. I'm the rare case when today comes before yesterday. What am I?

ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 8

Can you spot the Church Mouse?



Here are the answers to last month's trivia questions:

Merry Christmas Word Game

The bold, underlined words in the lyrics below are made with the letters contained in the words

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Cryptic Carols

All the clues relate to popular Christmas carols.

1. Summon the entirety of believers. **O Come All Ye Faithful**
2. Delight for this planet. **Joy To The World**
3. 288 hours of yuletide. **12 Days Of Christmas**

“Once bitten and twice **shy**” (one of Delaney’s songs)

“Radiant beams from **thy** holy face” (one of Delaney’s songs)

“In a one-horse open sleigh, **hey!**” (Nolan and Cameron’s song)

“**Christ**, the Lord. “ (Emma’s Song)

“Jingle bells **chime** in jingle bell time “ (Cohen’s song)

“One seems to **hear** words of good cheer “ (Ada’s song)

“This **year**, to save me from tears” (Jayden and Mason’s song)

“**May** your days be merry and bright “ (Owen’s song)

“Mistletoe hung where you can see, every couple **tries** to stop “ (Laikyn’s song)

It just wasn't the **same** “ (Abby’s song)

“Right within your **heart** “ (Carsyn’s song)



Church Members from various workplaces take time to volunteer!

Julie and Rachel were out representing their business, LMP Agency.

Stan and Pastor Mark were representing Fairview Center Church.

Kelsey works for WRAM/WMOI and was supervising the event. At the end of Stan and Pastor Mark's "FREEZING" shift, Kelsey interviewed them on the radio.

LITERALLY, FREEZING for Food!

Wednesday, December 3rd was a cloudy, windy, 31° day but it didn't stop Stan, Julie, Rachel, the Church Mouse, Pastor Mark, Kelsey and Brian (below, second from left) from volunteering their time to participate in WRAM/WMOI 'Freezing For Food'. This food drive is in its 25th year and the food and monetary donations go to help the Jamieson Community Center and Roseville Helping Hands food pantries. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful church members to help out our community in a time of need.



Brian was out Freezing For Food as a representative from his workplace, Compeer Financial.



Answers to Kelly's jokes found on page 7.

1. Corn on the cob.
2. A dictionary.