

“The Reminder”

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

December 2025
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Hi again.

It is hard to believe Christmas is right around the corner. One of the great things about Christmas is the stories. This year I would like to share with you a story entitled “Where’s the Baby Jesus?” by Jeannie S. Williams. This story always brings tears to my eyes and causes a lump in my throat. If I have shared this story with you before, I am sorry. Each year I read this story to remind me of the reason for the season: God giving his only Son, a time of rejoicing, a time for giving, and a time for remembering. Enjoy “Where’s The Baby Jesus?”

“Last December found me filled with the holiday spirit and doing some extensive, elaborate decorating. Our home was part of a Christmas open house tour sponsored by the women of our church to raise money for a local charity. During the tour one person noticed the small nativity scene on my desk and admired its simplicity and loveliness. After examining it more closely, she noticed the empty manger and asked, “Where’s the baby Jesus?” her question brought back memories of the year I purchased the broken nativity setting.

I was very bitter and disheartened that year because my parents, after thirty-six years of marriage, were getting a divorce. I could not accept their decision to part and I became depressed, not realizing they needed my love and understanding then more than ever. My thoughts were constantly filled with childhood memories: the huge Christmas trees, the gleaming decorations, the special gifts, and the love we shared as a close family. Every time I thought about those moments, I’d burst into tears, being sure I’d never feel the spirit of Christmas again.

My children were afraid there wouldn’t be any snow for the holidays that year, but two days before Christmas it began to fall. Beautifully and quietly, it came during the morning, and by evening it covered everything in sight. I needed to go into town to buy some ribbon and wrapping paper, but I dreaded the idea. Even the new-fallen snow stirred memories of the past.

The store was crowded with last-minute shoppers – pushing, shoving, and complaining as they grabbed from shelves and racks not bothering to put unwanted articles in place. Christmas tree lights and ornaments dangled from open boxes, and the few dolls and stuffed toys reminded me of neglected orphans who had no home. A small nativity scene had fallen to the floor in front of my shopping cart and I stopped to put it back on the shelf. After glancing at the endless check-out line, I decided it wasn’t worth the effort and had made up my mind to leave when suddenly I heard a loud, sharp voice cry out.

Sarah! You get that thing out of your mouth right now! But Mommy! I wasn’t puttin’ it in my mouth! See, Mommy? I was kissin’ it! Look, Mommy, it’s a little baby Jesus! Well, I don’t care what it is! You put it down right now! You hear me? But come look, Mommy, the child insisted. It’s all broken. It’s a little manger and the baby Jesus got broke off! As I listened from the next aisle, I found myself smiling and wanting to see the little girl who had kissed the baby Jesus. I quietly moved some cartons aside and peeked through the space between the shelves.

She appeared to be about four or five years old and was not properly dressed for the cold, wet weather. Instead of a coat she wore a bulky sweater several sizes too large for her small, slender body. Bright colorful pieces of yarn were tied on the ends of her braids, making her look cheerful despite her ragged attire. I continued to watch as she clutched the little doll to her cheek, and then she began to hum. Tears slowly filled my eyes as I recognized the melody. Another memory from childhood, a familiar little song: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. She had stopped humming and was softly singing the words. Reluctantly I turned my eyes to her mother. She was paying no attention to the child but was anxiously looking through the marked-down winter coats displayed on the bargain rack near the end of the counter. Like her daughter she was rather shabbily dressed, and her torn, dirty tennis shoes were wet from the cold, melting snow. In her shopping cart was a small baby bundled snugly in a thick, washed-out, yellow blan-

Pastor Mark’s message continued on page 11

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.
- ◆ We continue to offer our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook Live.
- ◆ Follow us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fairviewcenterumc) at Fairview Center UMC.



Fairview Center Church

United Women In Faith News:

December: Baby Shower for Baby Jesus. We will be collecting diapers for Loving Bottoms located in Galesburg and various items for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Some items currently needed at MMDC are Baby gowns, Onesies and Sleepers (size 0-6months).

Monday, December 8th: Mary Circle meets at 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Jan Sprout.

Lesson Leader: Susan Higbee

Lesson: "The Greatest Gift: How Are You Defining & Living Love?", pg 82.

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

On November 18th the Quilters sent the following items to Midwest Mission Distribution Center with Edith and Merlin Ray.

62 baby washcloths, 30 receiving blankets, 2 bedding sets (twin size), 14 'Cover Then With Love' quilts, 54 small feminine pads, 27 large feminine pads.



Fairview Center Church Men's News:

Sunday, December 21st: Men's Devotional Group will meet at 8:00 a.m. Donuts and coffee will be served.

Fairview Center Church

Head Usher Schedule

December: Adam Martin

Thought for December:

The most beautiful things in life are not things.

They're people and places, memories and pictures.

They're feelings and moments and smiles and laughter.

December Events:

Saturday, December 6th: Plonka Terrace Christmas Party at noon.

Sunday, December 7th: Holy Communion Sunday, Christmas program practice after morning worship.

Sunday, December 14th: Christmas Program during worship service.

Wednesday, December 24th: Candle light Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:30 p.m.



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

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 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 - November & December (regular print)

UPPER ROOM - November & December (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.

Birthday Blessings

1. Logan Olson
2. Jim Moore
Christina Shimmin
3. Macy (Sprout) Helmeid
4. Betty Moore
Jackson Place
Matthew Shimmin
6. Ashley Fuhr
Dorothy Long
7. Chad Long
9. Clint Smock
10. Brian Higbee
11. Nate Studer
12. Brandon Slater
14. Sue (Sprout) Endsley
Nancy Kuhnkey
15. Chris Sprout
16. Lynne Denison
Aiden Martin
Sue Ray
17. Megan May
18. Adam Sanberg
19. Mitch Olson
20. Karen (Sprout) Mansfield
21. Ada Kunkle
Pam Slater
Joy Talley
22. Rev. Mark Canada
24. Lauren Higbee
25. Nichol Brown
Bella K. Wavering
26. Bergen Perry
Dana Poole
Robert M. Sprout
27. Ellie Robinson
Megan Robinson
28. Lane Newman
29. Nicholas Brokaw
Nancy Carlson

Anniversary Blessings

1. John & Sue (Sprout) Endsley '93
6. Lynn & Dorothy Long '80
9. Travis & Misty Stecher
20. Lowell & Dee Long '63
27. Ed & Donna Smock '69
30. Larry & Nancy Inman
31. Hank & Kari Shimmin '94

Let's celebrate!

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!



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

Kelly Long 12.03.1989

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!

Thank you Fairview Center Church

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

Thank You for all of the lives you have impacted!

Dear Fairview Center Church,

Thank you for your generous gift! May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet and heart of Christ.

In His service,
Midwest Mission Family



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Fairview Center Church-

Did you know your gift is multiplied? For **every \$1 spent, \$4 of humanitarian aid** is sent through Midwest Mission to touch hearts and change lives! Your gift allows us to have the resources needed for volunteers to assemble the many Midwest Mission Kits and projects sent. It's beautiful to see the excitement in the eyes of children in the communities served by those same volunteers, as they initially open their Student Kits and sit in a Midwest Mission Desk for the first time.

Your donation of orthopedic braces and casts, slings, medical supplies, 11 Cover them with Love Quilts, 13 knitted baby hats, 54 baby wash cloths, 18 receiving blankets, 30 large feminine pads, 43 small feminine pads, and 6 two-handled bags allows these experiences to happen. We thank you! Your generosity brings hope and empowerment to people around the world and around the corner.

Witnessing God's love being shared in practical ways through your generosity is an incredible blessing. Your gift, along with so many others partnering together, helped us reach three million people in 2024! That doesn't even include the ripple effect. And did you know that in our 25 years in ministry, because of support like yours, more than \$85 million worth of humanitarian aid in the form of supplies has reached those who need help in times of disaster and difficulties?

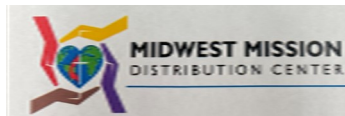
Thank you for making giving a part of your worship experience. God is blessing others through you and it matters! When you give in his name, a mom is able to send her children to school, a teacher is able to express how to read and write and the students have the resources to better learn.

Midwest Mission works because you serve and give with the heart of Jesus! Thank you for being part of our extended family and allowing us to steward your prayerfully considered gifts.

Be blessed,

Chantel Corrie

Executive Director, Midwest Mission



I'd like to thank Blake Burns for organizing the Thanksgiving breakfast. You did a great job! And thank you to all the men who helped and to all of YOU for attending. It was well attended and great food. A special thank you to Kelsey Crain for her presentation of her year's reign as Turkey of the Year. Great job, Kelsey! A big congratulation goes out to our new Turkey of the Year, Jayden Kunkle!

Curt Shimmin, Men's President

Thank you to all who helped on November 7th at the Church Women United luncheon. It was GREATLY appreciated for ALL the help that was given. We thank you!

Sandy Shimmin, President United Women in Faith

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

Invite to join First United Methodist Church Prayer Shawl Ministry

The First United Methodist Church prayer shawl ministry invites you to join us to create prayer shawls to share with those in your church family who might need to feel God's love and healing.

Our group meets on the first and third Sunday's from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. in the chapel at First United Methodist Church, 221 East Broadway. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, we can help you. We have extra crochet hooks, knitting needles, and yarn to get you started. Any prayer shawls that you create can go back to your church to share with others.

If you have any questions, you can contact Joy Boostrom at:
jboostrom62@gmail.com



**“Unity is strength...
When there is teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things can be achieved.”** Mattie Stepanek



After Sunday service on November 9th, a great turnout of helpers stayed and helped put the 704 shoeboxes into cartons.



Thank you Stephenie and Tina for the pictures!



Sunday, November 16th was a B-U-S-Y day at Fairview Center Church!

The morning started off at 8:00 a.m. with a DELICIOUS Breakfast cooked by the Men's Devotional Group.

Breakfast casseroles, breakfast pizza, biscuits and gravy, juices, and coffee were on the menu.

Following the breakfast the crowd was on the edge of their seats to hear Kelsey's presentation of the 42nd winner of the Turkey of the Year award.



A BIG Crowd was in attendance for the breakfast and award presentation!

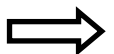


Pictured is Kelsey Crain, the out-going Turkey of the Year winner, posing for the last time with the coveted award.

Kelsey's presentation included an adorable slide show of her celebrating her anointment as the 41st winner of "Turkey Of the Year". She included several pictures taken throughout the year wearing the "Turkey Hat/crown." Events included attending the Iowa Football Bowl game in Nashville, a girls' trip to St. Louis, a News Years celebration just to name a few. In each picture Kelsey is proudly wearing her 'crown'!



Reluctantly, Kelsey relinquished the title and announced her pick of the next "Turkey of the Year" winner. **Without further ado, the 42nd Turkey of the Year Winner is...**



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

...Jayden Kunkle Named The 42 “Turkey of the Year” winner!

Unfortunately, Jayden was unable to attend the ceremony.

Hopefully the Church Mouse can get an official picture of Jayden wearing the “Turkey Hat” along side the coveted “Turkey Feet Trophy” and include the photo in an upcoming Newsletter.



Kelsey proudly holding up a Turkey Trophy that will be awarded to Jayden along with the Hawkey decorated Turkey Feet Trophy!



704 Shoeboxes have Been Packed, Put Into Cartons, and Loaded In The Trailer!



After church service on November 16th, we had a BIG crowd stay to help load the 45 cartons into the trailer. Each of the cartons had 15 OCC Shoeboxes in them. Later in the month the trailer will take the cartons to the drop-off center at Immanuel Baptist Church in Monmouth. All the cartons delivered to Immanuel Baptist Church from the local churches/organizations will go on a semi to a processing center.

Thank you to everyone who helped in this year's OCC Shoebox event!

“Helping others isn’t a chore; it is one of the greatest gifts there is.”

Liya Kebede



M&M Christmas Story

As you hold these candies in your hand and turn them, you will see....

The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3.
They tell the Christmas story it's one I'm
sure you know.

It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

E The E is for the East where the star
shone oh so bright.

m The M is for the Manger where the
baby Jesus slept that night.

3 The 3 is for the Wisemen bearing gifts,
they say they came.

W W is for Worship, Hallelujah
Praise to His name.

So as you eat these candies or share them
with a friend, remember the Spirit of
Christmas and never let it end!
Merry Christmas



Jesus is Born

Praise the Lord,
He sent His son,
The one who'll save,
Every man.

Christ the King,
FOREVERMORE",
Be our guide,
And our light.

Christ the King,
The Son of God,
Lead us through,
To the right path.

Christmas day,
The day you're born,
Sent to the world,
To protect us all.

Credit: 365 Greeting.com

*"for to you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior,
Who is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:11



Cryptic Carols

All the clues relate to popular
Christmas carols. Can you
name the carol?

1. Summon the entirety of believers.
2. Delight for this planet.
3. 288 hours of yuletide.

Church Mouse Was at it Again!

Enjoy the Christmas Edition Of: The Youth Responded!

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

Delaney: Cookie day with the Sprout family.

Nolan: Going to grandma and grandpa's house.

Emma: Making waffles on Christmas morning.

Cohen: Waking up and going to grandparents.

Cameron: Putting all the ornaments on the tree.

Ada: Going to South Carolina to spend time with family.

Jayden: Going to South Carolina.

Owen: Going to grandma's.

Mason: Going to my grandma's house and opening presents.

Laikyn: Family dinner at my grandma's house.

Abby: Going to my grandma's house and being a big back.

Carsyn: On Christmas Day I have my grandparents come over and we have breakfast and open gifts.



FYI...big back is slang for a person who eats a lot.

What is your favorite Christmas cookie?

Delaney: Waffle cookies.

Nolan: Sugar cookies

Emma: Sugar cookies.

Cohen: Chocolate Chip cookies.

Cameron: Sugar cookies.

Ada: Sugar cookies.

Jayden: Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Owen: Sugar cookies.

Mason: Sugar cookies.

Laikyn: Peanut Butter Blossom cookies.

Abby: Peanut butter cookies with a Hershey's Kiss in the middle.

Carsyn: Sugar cookies with Hershey Kiss.



What is your favorite Christmas Song?

Delaney: "Last Christmas" by Wham! and "Silent Night" by Taylor Swift

Nolan: "Jingle Bells"

Emma: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Cohen: "Jingle Bell Rock"

Cameron: "Jingle Bells"

Ada: "Carol Of The Bells"

Jayden: "Last Christmas"

Owen: "White Christmas"

Mason: "Last Christmas"

Laikyn: "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree"

Abby: "Underneath The Tree" by Kelly Clarkson

Carsyn: "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"

Pastor Mark's message continued from page 1

Mommy! The little girl called to her. Can we buy this here little baby Jesus! We can set Him on the table by the couch and we could... I told you to put that thing down, her mother interrupted. You get yourself over here right now, or I'm gonna give you a spankin'. You hear me, girl? But, Mommy, exclaimed the child. I bet we could buy it real cheap cause it's all broken. You said we ain't gonna get no Christmas tree, so can't we buy this here little baby Jesus instead? Please, Mommy, please? Angrily the woman hurried toward the child, and I turned away, not wanting to see, expecting her to punish the child as she had threatened. A few seconds passed as I waited tensely, but I did not hear a sound coming from the next aisle.

No movement no scolding. Just complete silence. Puzzled, I peered from the corners of my eyes and was astonished to see the mother kneeling on the wet, dirty floor, holding the child close to her trembling body. She struggled to say something but only managed a desperate sob, and the little girl seemed to understand her despair. Don't cry, Mommy, she pleaded. Wrapping her arms around her mother, she nestled her head against the woman's faded jacket and avidly apologized for her behavior. I'm sorry I wasn't good in this store. I promise I won't ask for nothin' else! I don't want this here little baby Jesus. Really, I don't! See, I'll put him back here in the manger. Please don't cry no more, Mommy!

I'm sorry, too, Honey, answered her mother finally. You know I don't have enough money to buy anything extra right now, and I'm just crying because I wished I did, it being Christmas and all, but I bet Ole Santa is gonna bring you them pretty little play dishes you been wantin' if you promise to be a real good girl, and maybe next year we can get us a real Christmas tree. How about that! Let's go home now before Jackie wakes up and starts cryin', too. She laughed softly as she hugged her daughter and then kissed her quickly on the forehead. The little girl was still holding the doll in her hands. She turned to put it on the shelf, glowing with anticipation. The possibility that Santa might bring her a set of dishes was all she needed to be happy once more. You know what, Mommy, she announced excitedly, I don't really need this here little baby Jesus doll anyhow. You know why? Cause my Sunday school teacher says baby Jesus really lives in your heart!

I looked at the nativity scene and realized that a baby born in a stable some 2,000 years ago was a person who still walks with us today, making his presence known, working to bring us through the difficulties of life, if only we let him. To share in the glorious wonder of this holiday celebration and to be able to see God in Christ, I knew one must first experience him in the heart. Thank you, God, I began to pray. thank you for a wonderful childhood filled with precious memories and for parents who provided a home for me and gave me the love I needed during the most important years of my life, but most of all thank you for giving your Son. Quickly I grabbed the nativity scene pieces and hurried to the check-out counter. Recognizing one of the sales clerks, I asked her to give the doll to the little girl who was leaving the store with her mother, explaining I would pay for it later. I watched the child accept the gift and then saw her give baby Jesus another kiss as she walked out the door.

Once again, the Christmas season will be approaching. Christmas, a time for rejoicing, a time for giving, a time for remembering! The little broken nativity scene I purchased that evening graces my desk every Christmas. It's there to remind me of a child whose simple words touched my life."

God sent His Son to live in our heart! May God's wonderful love fill you with warmth and peace. And may you fill someone else's life with love, warmth and peace.

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Mark



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Pastor Mark Canada
Parsonage address: 1493 90th Street, Monmouth, Illinois 61462
Pastor's Cell: 815-531-9081
email: ubnmission2@gmail.com

Last Month the Church Mouse was found:

On the east entryway table.

The Church Mouse wishes you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas Word Game

How well do you know the songs that our youth picked
as their favorite Christmas Song? (page 10) In the lyrics
below, the missing words contain the letters found in the
words: **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



“Once bitten and twice _____” (one of Delany’s songs)

“Radiant beams from _____ holy face” (one of Delany’s songs)

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

“_____, the Lord.” (Emma’s song)

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Right within your _____ “ (Carsyn’s song)