



2026



Church Family and Friends,

Summer brings opportunities for fun, fellowship, and service. Times that we can use to nurture our relationships with the love and grace we have received from our Lord Jesus Christ. God calls us into relationship, not just with Him, but with all of His creation so that we can experience unity and peace in Him

During the month of July, I will be meeting with our high school students (and recent graduate) to prepare them for the decision to join the church. We will meet the first four Wednesdays in July at 3:00. I am also happy to meet separately with any adults interested in membership. Please contact me, if you are interested. We will receive new members on August 2.

Vacation Bible School will be July 19-23 at First United Methodist Church. We will be combining our efforts also with Zion United Methodist and the St. John's Lutheran churches. Please consider volunteering for this important mission project serving the youth in our local community.

We will again be participating in the Sweet Corn Festival Worship Service at 9:30 am August 9 at First United Methodist Church. This is your chance to worship with the broader community. We hope to make God smile by showing unity on this special Sunday. All of the area churches are invited to attend!

For fun, we will have a Family Picnic after church on August 16. Please plan to stay after church for this fun time of food and fellowship!

This past month your session studied Chapter 8, "Moving the Wind" in the book, Sailboat Church. It made us think about how we respond to the movement of the Spirit. We recognized how in the past we may have been guilty of following our own interests and preferences rather than moving with the wind of the Spirit. So, now with humility, as we face today's new challenges with we do so remembering.

- 1) God can bring good out of anything
- 2) God can use our weaknesses; and
- 3) God leads, and we follow.

As a church, we have been frequently told that in our smallness we are a very warm and friendly. We acknowledge this as a sign of the Spirit blowing through us and claim it as a strength upon which to build. We will be working on a statement of inclusivity for our website to let people know that they are welcome to join us in the joy of the companionship of the Spirit, the grace of Jesus, and the love of God.

By grace together,

Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor





Mission Focus for July and August Will begin July 5 through August 30

Marion Medical Mission!

Marion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa by providing all in need with a sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water.

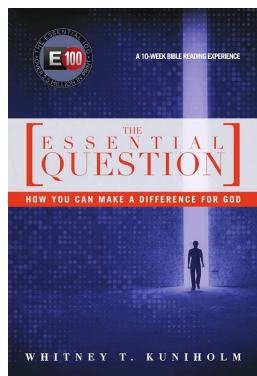
Marion Medical Mission began working in Africa in 1985, primarily working with hospitals and medical personnel. Since 1990, our focus has shifted to providing clean water to the extreme poor in remote areas of Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. However, we are still involved in several other education and medical projects in Malawi.

**100% of donations
go to building wells.**

Online Giving



Bible Study

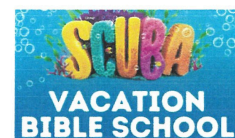


July 7, Tuesday's at 3 PM through
September 8, 2026.

The books are on the table in
Fellowship Hall.

Join us for Vacation
Bible School 2026

First United Methodist, Zion United
Methodist, St John's Lutheran, and First
Presbyterian invite you to



Where: First United Methodist
100 E 6th St, Mendota

When: Opening Day Picnic July 19th
5:30-6:30

Bible School July 20-23rd 5:30-7:15

Who: Any child preschool-6th grade

What: Lesson, Crafts, Games, Music,
and Snack

Church Picnic

August 16 following worship
there will be a "Family Picnic."
The church will provide the meat
& buns. You are asked to bring a
salad, side dish or dessert.



Remember your Prayer Warrior for
The Fourth of July!

You are blessed to pray for one
person throughout the year without
them knowing who is praying. You
can also leave a card or small
thoughtful gift on the table in
Fellowship hall.

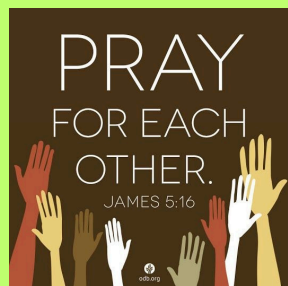
Evangelism & Outreach Committee

Register Here



The Dementia Caregiver Support Group Meets
with a certified Caregiver Coach. Anyone who
cares for someone with dementia is welcome.

The meetings take place at Zion United
Methodist Church, the first Thursday each
month, 1 to 2:30 pm Please call for information
at 815-538-2186



Micropantry

The Micropantry can use the following:

We are so fortunate to have a busy, very utilized Micropantry. God continues to provide food and paper goods for our recipients. One of the ways He provides is through your generosity, both in donations and in time and energy maintaining the pantry. One area where we are currently seeing an increased need is for protein sources. Some suggestions for donation:

canned tuna	canned chicken	Spam	Vienna sausages
canned pork	canned roast beef	canned salmon	tuna pouches
peanut butter			

We also have a temperature controlled cooler by the micropantry, so refrigerated or frozen meat can be donated.

Thank you for helping us feed His children!

Cans with pull tabs to open will be helpful to those who don't have can openers. Basic hygiene items are always needed: Shampoo, deodorant, soaps, shaving cream, razors, hand creams.

Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

**Pick up Date July 3 & 17
August 7 & 21**

If you can help pick-up, unload
or stock the food items
at 3 PM please sign-up.

Facebook Live Presenters

Please prayerfully consider taking the
opportunity to spread the word via
Facebook Live.

July

05 Andra Goy
12 Andra Goy
19 Joni Bratney
26 Peggy Etheridge

August

02 Joni Bratney
09 Sweet Corn Worship
16 Andra Goy
23 Joni Bratney
30 Peggy Etheridge



**Produce Sorting
July 14, Aug. 11, 12:30 PM**

If you are able to help sort fresh
produce. **Please sign-up.**

Facebook Live

If you are unable to attend worship in person,
you can watch worship live on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Coffee Hour

July

05
12 Second Sunday Breakfast
19 Jamie & Chuck
26 Ray & Faye

August

02
09 Sweet Corn Worship
16 Family Picnic
23
30



Second Sunday Breakfast

July 12

Please bring a dish to pass. We will
provide drinks and table service. If
you have questions, please contact
Joni Bratney.



Weekly Coffee Hour

Please consider hosting coffee hour at
9:45 AM. Bring a simple dessert, make
coffee, pour juice. Cheese and crackers are
supplied by the Fellowship Committee.
**The sign-up is on the wall outside the
kitchen.**



facebook
LIVE

*Volunteer
to host a
coffee hour!*



Session Highlights

June 16, 2026

Session met June 16 at the church. Pastor Laurie led a review of chapter 8 of Sailboat Church, then opened our meeting with prayer.

The agenda and minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Calendar: 1) Communion will be served July 5. 2) The gospel singing group The Himmels will be presenting a free concert at the Sublette Community Center June 26 at 7 PM. A freewill offering will be collected. 3) Session has been changed from July 14 to July 22 at 4 PM. During this meeting, Session will examine and vote on those wishing to join our membership. 3) During Worship on August 2, new members will be welcomed to our church. 4) An outdoor community worship service will be held at 1st United Methodist Church at 9:30 AM on Sunday, August 9. Everyone is welcome to attend. First Presbyterian Church will not have our regular 10:30 AM worship this day.

Clerk's Report: 1) We received a thank you from Laura Sutton and her piano students, thanking us for allowing them to hold their recital in the sanctuary. 2) We received a thank you from Presbyterian Missions Stewardship and Funds Development for our One Great Hour of Sharing donation.

Financial Report: 1) Income is higher than expenses this month. 2) By request from Peggy, having received a form from Vanguard, Joni made a motion to direct the Treasurer, Margaret Etheridge, and ruling Elder, Andra Goy, to sign as authorized persons for the Vanguard investment account, and to direct the Clerk of Session, Kim Van Rheenen, to certify the authorized persons with her signature. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed. 3) Session approved Peggy to act as interim financial secretary if Andra is not available.

Pastor's Report: 1) Pastor met with 4 friends of the church who are interested in joining our membership. 2) She met with two shut ins. 3) She will be teaching at the community VBS this July. 4) She will let MAMA know that she is willing to help with the community worship service August 9.

Maintenance and Property: 1) Regarding the water leak in the men's washroom – Gary contacted Mortenson Roofing who have previously worked on our roof. Mortenson's believe they have tracked the leak to the flashing on the back side of the chimney. They will remove and replace the sealant and replace some missing slates. They will be able to use the slate that was removed from the roof last time and saved for future use. 2) The air conditioning on the south side of the sanctuary is not working. This portion of the system is 25 years old. The portion that cools the fellowship hall is 30 years old. It is not functioning either. Session has authorized Gary to move forward with replacing the two A/C units. 3) We passed our annual backflow inspection. 4) Gary has seen the hand of God at work through his work with MASS. They've been blessed by their transport work of one of the victims of the recent tornado in Streator.

Christian Education: A new Bible study program has been chosen. We will begin our study of The Essential Question on Tuesday, July 7 at 3 PM. The study will run through September 8. There are flyers about the program on the table in fellowship hall. The study is based on the book of Acts.

Worship and Music: Bill has provided an updated pulpit supply calendar through the end of the year.

Mission Outreach: 1) Baby Bottles for Change will be collected on Father's Day Sunday. 2) Marion Medical Mission will be our next focus through July and August. 3) World Communion Sunday offering will be collected September 6 through October 4. 4) Andra has updated our website.

Fellowship and Parish Life: 1) People enjoy our time of fellowship and hosts are signing up. More hosts are always welcome. 2) On August 16, we will host a "Family Picnic" lunch following worship. The committee will provide the meat and buns, and the congregation is encouraged to bring a side dish to pass or a dessert. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our next regular Session meeting will be July 22 at 4 PM at the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Marie Van Rheenen, Clerk of Session



July Lectionary Readings

05-Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17. Song of Songs 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

12-Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112, Isaiah 55: 10-13, Psalm 65:(1`-8) 9-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

19-Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

26-Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Psalm 128, 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33m 44-52

August Lectionary Readings

02-Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15, Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33

09-Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Psalm 105:1-61, 6-22, 45b, 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

16-Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133, Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 16:13-20

23-Exodus 1:8:1-2:10, Psalm 124, Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

30-Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:6-21, Matthew 16:21-28

America 250 Wordsearch

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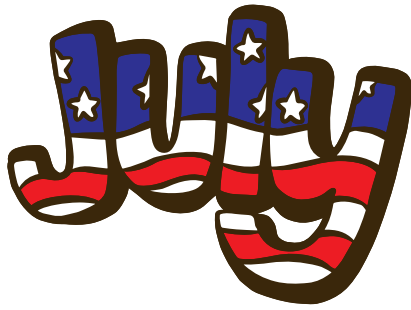
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Jefferson
Independence
Franklin
Fourth
Adams
America
Bell
Coin
Declaration
Flag

July
Livingston
Party
Philadelphia
Semiquincentennial
Sherman
Stamp
States
Two Fifty
United
USA





2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	3 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	4 
5 9:45 a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion 1 p Piano Recital	6 6p VBS Meeting First UMC	7	8	9 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30 Worship	13	14 12:30p Produce Sorting	15	16 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	17 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	18
19 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 5:30-6:30 VBS Family Picnic First UMC	20 6p VBS Meeting 	21	22 4:00p Session	23 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos 	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (Cathy Burke)	27	28	29	30 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	31 Office Closed	

VBS 5:30 to 7:15 PM



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion Receiving New Members	3	4	5	6 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	7 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	8
9 9:30a Sweet Corn Ecumenical Worship at First UMC	10	11 12:30p Produce Sortnig	12	13 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	14 Office Closed	15
16 9:45a Fellowship 10:30aWorship 11:30a Family Picnic/Meeting	17	18 September Newsletter Deadline	19	20 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	21 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	22
23 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	24	25	26	27 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	28 Office Closed	29
30 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	31					

**July**

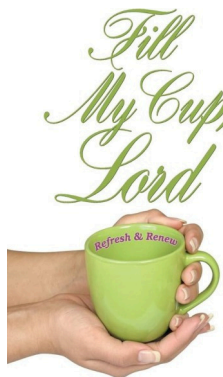
- 02 Howard Brauhn
- 04 Diane Truckenbrod
- 05 Nance Huss
- 11 Debra Dullard
- 15 Peggy Etheridge
- 18 Sandra Stanford
- 18 Andra Goy
- 27 Keagon Cox (13yrs)

Happy Anniversary**July**

10 Trenton & Jamie Stanford

Happy Anniversary**August**

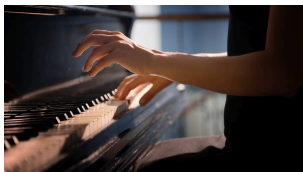
11 Bill & Joni Bratney

**Every Thursday****at 10 AM**

Come and gather with
us for tea,
coffee, hot chocolate
and conversation.

All are welcome.**Ushers****August**

- 08 Connor Dullard
- 10 LaVerle Carter
- 18 Mary Erbes
- 31 Shawn Christen

Pianists**July**

- 05 Peggy Etheridge
- 12 Peggy Etheridge
- 19 Jake Schmitt
- 26 Laura Sutton

July

- 05 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 12 Melissa & Ron Blum
- 19 Chuck & Betty Baumann
- 26 Bill & Joni Bratney

**August**

- 02 Carol Erwin, Kay Christen
- 09 Sweet Corn Festival
- 16 Sandy Rebholz, Faye Smith
- 23 Melissa & Ron Blum
- 30 Kevin & Andra Goy

Continued Daily Prayers

Art Beck
Bratney's daughter-in-law
Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary
Kenyan Partners Angie (Faye Smith)
Diane Moore Dixie Tonozzi (Ray Smith)
Finn (Pastor Laurie grandson)
Jason

Joe (Cindy's boyfriend)
John Pohl
Kelly (Gary & Debbie's friend)
Margina & Larry (Kay Christen)
Laura (Diane T's Neice)
Mike Boyle
Pam Schmidt

Pat Schmidt
Ray Smith
Sarah Arter
Sandy & Donald Schultz
Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen)
Tim recent cancer diagnosis (Tess)
Tim Sondgeroth

**Income and Expenses at
First Presbyterian
May 2026**

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$8,023	\$40,117
Income	\$10,414	\$43,195
Expenses	\$5,929	\$35,069
Reserves	\$-	\$-

2026 Per Capita \$45 per person

Presbytery	Synod	General Assembly
\$30.11	\$3.81	\$11.08

REVOLUTIONARY WARTIME POEMS

Resistance at Home: Voices We Often Do Not Hear

Not all Revolutionary voices came from soldiers or statesmen. Some came from homes, from daily routines, and from people whose names we will never know.

One anonymous poem, written from a woman's perspective during the tea protests, captures a quiet but powerful act of resistance:

"Farewell the Tea-board with your gaudy attire...
...For I'll fill it with water and drink out the same,
Before I'll lose LIBERTY that dearest name."

This is not a battlefield moment. The Revolution was not only fought with weapons. It showed up in everyday decisions. Women, who were often excluded from formal politics, still found ways to participate, influence, and document what was happening around them.

His Excellency General Washington

Phillis Wheatley

1753 –

1784

Celestial choir! enthron'd in realms of light,
Columbia's scenes of glorious toils I write.
While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms,
She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms.
See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan,
And nations gaze at scenes before unknown!
See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light
Involved in sorrows and the veil of night!
The Goddess comes, she moves divinely fair,
Olive and laurel binds Her golden hair:
Wherever shines this native of the skies,
Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.
Muse! Bow propitious while my pen relates
How pour her armies through a thousand gates,
As when Eolus heaven's fair face deforms,
Enwrapp'd in tempest and a night of storms;
Astonish'd ocean feels the wild uproar,
The refluent surges beat the sounding shore;
Or think as leaves in Autumn's golden reign,
Such, and so many, moves the warrior's train.
In bright array they seek the work of war,
Where high unfurl'd the ensign waves in air.
Shall I to Washington their praise recite?
Enough thou know'st them in the fields of fight.
Thee, first in peace and honors—we demand
The grace and glory of thy martial band.
Fam'd for thy valour, for thy virtues more,
Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!
One century scarce perform'd its destined round,
When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found;
And so may you, whoever dares disgrace
The land of freedom's heaven-defended race!
Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales,
For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails.
Anon Britannia droops the pensive head,
While round increase the rising hills of dead.
Ah! Cruel blindness to Columbia's state!
Lament thy thirst of boundless power too late.
Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side,
Thy ev'ry action let the Goddess guide.
A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine,
With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine.

Revolutionary Soldiers.

A glorious race they were—the, tried,
The true of ancient time—
Our glorious sires, who bled and died
For this our own free clime.

Oh! hallowed be each sacred name,
That fearless to the conflict came,
And freely on the battle plain
Poured out their blood like drops of rain.

Few are the sculptured gifts of art,
A Nation's love to tell;
And many a brave and gallant heart
Hath mouldered where it fell.

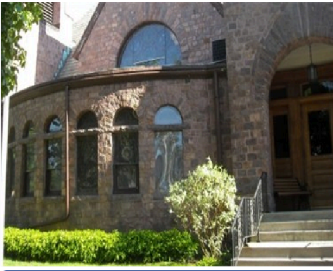
The spiry maize luxuriant waves
Its long green leaves o'er heroes graves;
And thoughtless swains the harvest reap,
Where our stern Fathers' ashes sleep.

But after years the tale shall tell,
In words of light revealed,
Who bravely fought—who nobly fell;
And many a well earned field.

Outspread beneath the Western sun,
Shall live with ancient Marathon,
And Trenton's fight, and Princeton's name,
Be linked with old Platea's fame.

But the surviving few who stand
A remnant weak and old—
Sole relics of that glorious band—
Whose hearts were hearts of gold.

Oh! honored be each silvery hair!
Each furrow trenched by toil and care;
And sacred each old bending form,
That braved Oppression's battle storm.



First Presbyterian Church

1003 5th Street

Mendota, IL 61342-1911

Website: www.fpcmendota.com

(815) 538-5603

Pastor: Laurie Walker (815) 274-3444



Label

In-Person and www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry

Fellowship will be at 9:45 AM
Worship will be at 10:30 AM
Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM

JULY



2026

