



Watseka First United Methodist Church
*'Welcoming Neighbors of All Ages to Experience God,
Share Hope, and Be Changed by Christ's Love'*

The Evangel

Volume 53, Issue 9

October 1, 2025

Greetings to the people of Watseka First!

We are now entering a very busy season and it has been no exception in church life! As I write this, the church is preparing for the Fall Rummage Sale, the Food Pantry is busy each day, Sunday School has been underway for the past few weeks, the choir is busy practicing and singing (glad they're back!) And dare I say it: the holidays are just around the corner (Yes, I am already thinking about Christmas!) It is a busy but fun and rewarding time, especially in our church.

I want to encourage each of us today that as we are embracing this busy season, to make sure we take the time to slow down and savor God. I am someone who gets caught up in her to-do list very easily, becoming overwhelmed by deadlines and things that I need to get done each day and each week. It's easy to forget about spending time and savoring the Lord as we begin our busy days. Psalm 27:4 says this: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." Just imagine what it will be like to dwell in the house of the Lord... "to dwell" means to remain for a time, to live in a place, or to keep the attention directed. Someday, we will dwell in the house of the Lord, but we can dwell with the Lord today and tomorrow and beyond. What a gift from God, to have this opportunity in the here and now!

So if you don't have a regular practice already, I encourage you to think about setting aside time each day to savor God's presence, through prayer, daily scripture reading, devotionals, etc. Spend time slowing down and savoring God's love which lights us up and draws us closer to Him.

In His Saving Grace,
Pastor Ashley



Filling a Shoebox– An Opportunity to Participate in Global Missions

Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse (president is Franklin Graham, Billy's son), involves filling a shoebox to be delivered to a needy child in another country. These cardboard shoeboxes will be available from Diann Peabody or Carmen Spenn after October 10. People fill the shoeboxes for a boy or for a girl of various ages. Examples of items going into a shoebox are personal care items, writing paper, pencils, pencil sharpener, coloring books, small toys, small stuffed animals, crayons, clothing, school supplies, shoes or flip-flops, sewing kits, tool kits.



Once the boxes are filled, they will need to be returned to Diann by November 2. The boxes will then be sent on to national collection centers before being shipped to other countries around the world. Pastors in these countries distribute the boxes to children with a message about Jesus. For questions or information about this opportunity to participate in global missions, please contact Diann Peabody at 217-493-7692 or diannpeabody@yahoo.com.

Photos from Welcome Potluck For Pastor Ashley



Food Pantry Update -

The Food Pantry hosted the September Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" meeting on September 3rd with many people in attendance. Awareness was stressed that September was Hunger Action Month.

The Food Pantry was blessed once again by the Food Drive of the Cissna Park FFA members who collected over 12,000 pounds of food. The food was shared between Cissna Park Food Pantry and the Watseka Area Food Pantry. Fantastic Job by the Cissna Park FFA members!!

Once again preparations are being made for our Thanksgiving Bag giveaway to our clients. Filling of the bags is Sunday, October 12th, after church service. Distribution begins on October 16th then through to Thanksgiving thus covering the six-week cycle.

In August we served 167 households- 351 adults and 120 children. This number is triple compared to the number served in 2021!



Special items for October are soups, broth, and crackers. However, all donations are gladly accepted.

Delivery from Eastern Illinois Foodbank is Tuesday, October 7th at 8:00am. The Midwest Foodbank run is Friday, October 10th. The trailer should arrive back at the Fellowship Hall around 11:30am. All volunteers are so much appreciated!

Business After Hours Photos



October Birthdays

10-10 Darla Holden
 10-11 Marcia Butzow
 10-15 Natalie Petersen
 Keith Ralph
 10-16 Mary Jane Day
 10-18 Jewell Eilts
 10-20 Annette Elliott
 10-24 Jeffrey Petersen
 10-27 Traci Overacker
 10-30 Matha Burger
 10-31 Dianne Thomas



October Anniversaries

10-6-2001 Kim & John Onnen
 10-12-1996 Nancy & James McKenna
 10-25-1997 Janet & James Bunting



October Radio Broadcast Support -

Oct. 5: John & Joan Cook In honor of Logan's 7th birthday

Oct. 12: Dave & Sherry Klinefelter in honor of their grandchildren Addison & Hackson

Oct. 19: Jim & Donna Price in honor of their daughters

Oct. 26: Carol Drew in memory of what would have been their 50th anniversary

Greeters/Ushers & Liturgist for October

Oct. 5: Martha Howe & Dorothy Koonce

Oct. 12: Eiley Smith, Roger & Eileen Burns

Oct. 19: Dianne Thomas, Julie Carey

Oct. 26: Doug & Tammie Warner

October Liturgist: Diann Peabody

WFUMC General Fund Report: August 2025 General Fund Income & Expense Summary

	August	Y-T-D
Income	\$11,288.06	\$112,570.90
Expenses	-\$15,829.01	-\$124,977.08

These figures do not include \$7,910.00 due for 2025 Y-T-D conference apportionments.

Thank you for your monetary support which allows us to share Jesus' story and love, fulfilling the mission and vision of our church.

Super Senior Birthdays

From the Member Care Team—

These Super Senior folks are celebrating birthdays in October.

Keith Ralph October 15 (99 yrs)
 c/o Cheryl Lietz
 1411 Brookside Garden Dr.
 Wilmington NC 28405

Matha Burger October 30 (87 yrs)
 P.O. Box 172
 Watseka IL 60970-0172

Dianne Thomas October 31 (82 yrs)
 819 W. Lafayette, Apt. 70
 Watseka IL 60970

Religious Materials Being Collected

Do you have religious books or materials that you are no longer using? Love Packages in Butler, Illinois (near Litchfield) is a small organization that ships religious materials to many poor countries around the world. Bibles (new or used), tracts, reference books and commentaries, Christian books (hardback and paperback), and daily devotionals are examples of materials accepted.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church and put them in the chapel classroom by October 13. If you have questions, please contact Diann Peabody at 217.493.7692. Information about Love Packages is found on the website <http://www.lovepackages.org>.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith group will be **meeting on Thursday, November 6 at 1:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Jennifer Ingram, representing the Veterans Assistance Committee of Iroquois County, will be presenting the program. In her position, Ingram helps veterans, spouses/widows, and dependents find any available benefits that may be available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The UWF group will also be packing 100 personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission. These kits, including a hand towel and washcloth, toothbrush and soap, shampoo, deodorant and lotion, are sent to places of disaster—flooding, tornadoes, and the frontlines in Ukraine. Everyone is welcome to attend the program and participate in the mission project.

Watseka First United Methodist Church
301 South Fourth Street
Watseka, IL 60970



"Go Make Disciples of All Nations" Matthew 28:19

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Church Email: office@watsekaumc.org or
firstumcwatseka@gmail.com
Rev. Ashley Clifton Email: ashleyncifton@gmail.com
7:00 p.m. Radio Broadcast on WIBK, 96.9FM and
www.wibkradio.com
Online Giving at <https://bit.ly/2SlvyCr>



**First United Methodist
Church Watseka**



First UMC Watseka

**Our Mission: Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Our Vision: To welcome neighbors of all ages to experience God, share hope,
and be changed by Christ's love.**

October Church Calendar

***Calendar is subject to change. For an up-to-date Calendar please see our online calendar at <https://www.watsekaumc.org/church-calendar>.**

Sunday, Oct. 5	9:00am– Men's Breakfast 10:30am- Sunday Worship Service
Tuesday, Oct. 7	8:00am– Food Pantry Delivery
Thursday, Oct. 9	6:00pm– Set-Up for Thanksgiving Bags
Friday, Oct. 10	11:30am– Food Pantry Delivery
Sunday, Oct. 12	10:30am- Sunday Worship Service 11:30am– Food Pantry Packing Thanksgiving Meals
Monday, Oct. 13	Columbus Day- Church Office Closed
Sunday, Oct. 19	10:30am- Sunday Worship Service
Monday, Oct. 20	6:00pm– Ad Council Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 21	7:00pm- Holy Stitches Meeting (Church Parlor)
Friday, Oct. 24	2:00pm– Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, Oct. 26	10:30am- Sunday Worship Service

