

SEPTEMBER  
2022

**THE HERALD**

First United Methodist Church  
Dixon, Illinois

**Celebration Sunday**



**September 18th**

**See Details Inside**

# Celebration Sunday

## September 18th

### It's Time to CELEBRATE!!!!

Over the past year we have been celebrating our volunteers in ministry and mission by giving out **Just Say YES to Jesus** T-shirts. It is our church's way of saying thank you for stepping up and stepping out in your discipleship.

---

*By the way if you have volunteered to serve at church or in a mission or ministry in our community or beyond and you haven't received your shirt yet tell Pastors Tim or Young Sun, LeeAnn Brantner or Peggy Kingry and they will get you a T-shirt!*

---

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY, September 18th

1. Wear your **Just Say YES to Jesus** T-shirt
2. Be ready to have lots of Fun!!
3. Be ready to worship God!!
4. Be ready to eat!! We are having a Pot-Luck meal after worship.
  - a. The Worship Team is providing the meat, buns, drinks, and table wear.
  - b. Bring a dish to pass! Make it a salad or a dessert.
5. Be ready to play!! We will have games for the kids. **PRIZES!!!!**
6. Be ready to paint!! To commemorate and celebrate we are going to have 2 banners set out that you can paint! We will display them in our sanctuary!

**SO, MARK YOUR CALENDERS!!!! Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> is the day we celebrate!! First during our 10:00 am worship service. Then we continue our celebration with a Pot-Luck meal, games and fun activities!!!!**



## Green Notes

### **1 Corinthians 10:26 The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it.**

As you may know, the state insect of Illinois is the monarch butterfly. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the eastern population of monarchs decreased by 84% from 1996 to 2014. The monarchs are now classified as endangered-just two steps from extinction.

Some threats to monarchs included: habitat loss, pesticides, climate change, and illegal logging in the Mexican forests where the butterflies spend the winter.

Monarch butterflies and other pollinators are critical to the ecosystem. They fertilize plants that produce fruits and seeds. Here are some ways we can help:

1. restore natural areas
2. grow native plants that attract pollinators. Milkweed is important for monarchs, especially the larvae. Adults also like coneflowers and black-eyed susie. Since there are several types of milkweed, choose those native to our area. Some flower at different times. Research those native to Illinois and the best time and places to plant them.

Do **not** use tropical milkweed as it is invasive. Also avoid insecticide-treated plants. Free milkweed seeds are available at **[saveourmonarchs.org](https://saveourmonarchs.org)**

The monarch butterfly is the state insect of Illinois. Let's do our part to save these butterflies from extinction.

Remember: The world is in our hands. Go Green!

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

It is that time of year! Our local schools are back in session. Our college age youth are heading back to campus. Our Sunday School program, ***Powerhouse Kids*** starts back up on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are going to be relaunching our Middle School and High School youth program, ***Agape Youth***. Soon we will be hearing beautiful music from our Adult Choir and Bell Choir.

**September 18<sup>th</sup> we have our Celebration Sunday!** Celebrating our **Just Say *YES* to Jesus** volunteers in ministry and mission initiative. ***See announcement on page 2***

In October we will be sending a group of short term missionaries to help rebuild homes in Madisonville, Kentucky. One of the communities trying to recover from the devastating tornados that swept through Kentucky last October.

WOW! Sounds like were are going to be busy around Dixon First UMC. Does that mean we didn't do anything during the summer? NO!!!! We did slow down some during the summer months but our leadership of the church was busy.

Through our 202 Breakthrough Prayer we have been expectantly asking God to guide us into God's preferred future. On that foundation and in that cover of prayer, our Visioning Team worked hard throughout the summer. They took all the information gleaned and harvested from our Crossroads survey and our Church Assessment Tool and used it to fuel the visioning process provided by the book God Dreams to develop God's Beyond the Horizon Vision for Dixon First UMC. Here is our **Beyond the Horizon Vision** that will guide, form and transform our church for the next 5 years.

## **Our Beyond Horizon Vision (BTHV)**

Dixon First United Methodist Church is a community of faith that provides a caring place to thrive and flourish. Being a part of Dixon FUMC is being part of a family, not perfect, but a loving and caring place to call home.

Faith is a building block for life that is essential to flourish. If anything robs you of that foundation, you will discover the loss of faith will be devastating. You will realize this reality in moments of terror as tragedy overwhelms your life. Most of the time we live life on autopilot, but when struggles happen, we need a strong faith-based foundation that is unshakeable.

Over the next 5 years, our community of faith will be the compass for guiding hundreds of families into a loving and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. Through our discipleship

pathway, we will help them grow Jesus-Shaped lives that reflect Christ's values and not those of the world.

We want you, your family, and everyone in our community and the surrounding area to flourish. Come and join us as we journey together, seeking to make Christ our cornerstone, the anchor in the storms of our chaotic world. Our vision is to see our community, nation, and the world grow together into a loving relationship with God and our neighbor.

Our Mission Statement remains the same: **Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Faithfully Uplifting the Message of Christ.**

We will fulfill our mission by faithfully living into our **Beyond the Horizon Vision (BTHV)**. How do we do that? Great question! I am glad you asked!

**First our church leadership has to create our Ministry Plan.** Now that God has given us our **BTHV** our next step is to create a **Ministry Plan**. Our **Ministry Plan** will consist of 4 background Goals to accomplish over the next 4 years. Background Goals are qualitative and strategic goals that move us toward successfully accomplishing God's BTHV for our church. We will concentrate on 1 of these Background Goals each year. As we accomplish each goal we will move closer to fulfilling our **BTHV**.

**Our church family** Continue to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Through your participation in the mission and ministry of the church you are saying Yes to Jesus and shaping your life into the image of Jesus. Participate in a G2- Growth Group. Our groups will be returning to our sermon based topics this October. Our hope is to start at least 1 new group. Invite someone new to church. Walk with them being a guide and mentor so they can know the love of God found in a relationship with Jesus Christ and become part of our family. If we are to bring our world back into a loving relationship with God and neighbor each one of us has to be willing to be the hands and feet of God.

As I bring this letter to a close I want to invite you to attend worship throughout September as I talk in more depth about our new and exciting God given future.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Lin".



# MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

## MISSION TRIP REBUILDING HOMES



Kentucky Conference Tornado Relief

Hopkins County, Kentucky October 16 – 22, 2022

See Pastor Tim Mitchell for details Or call 815-284-2849



**MIDWEST MISSION**  
DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
midwestmission.org

Showing God's Love in a practical way by

**SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT**  
AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

**education • health • micro business • disaster relief**

Mission Opportunity for 2023! - Mark your calendar! - Join the fun!  
Help those who desperately need our help!

**June 26 – 30, 2023**

Our first informational meeting will be Sunday October 9 @ 11:30 am



We are excited to announce the 2022-2023 Power House Kids kick-off is scheduled for **Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 10:00.**

Children of all ages are invited to come. Parents drop their children off in the second floor Arena (Sunday School) Room prior to church and then pick them up after the service.

Pastor Tim or Pastor Young Sun will be presenting the lesson each Sunday like last year, guiding the children into a loving and life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. Volunteers each Sunday will be helping with activities, snacks and crafts. If you are interested in helping the children in our congregation build their Faith Foundation and you haven't already volunteered please contact Susan Mattes at [tsmattes@centurytel.net](mailto:tsmattes@centurytel.net) or call 1- 815-440-1815. Volunteers only are asked to assist once every 4 to 6 weeks. The activities, snacks and crafts are all prepared in advance so volunteers are only needed to assist during the Power House Kids sessions.

Pray for the Power House Kids program to grow the community of young Jesus-Shaped lives.

***"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14***

Greetings to the loving family in Christ of Dixon First UMC!

Can you believe it we are almost at the end of the summer looking forward to a new season coming soon with a great harvest of what we have planted in the spring? I feel like the summer began yesterday. But we are already moving toward the middle of August. Whenever I was looking back on the days and months of the year already passed by, I have always realized how much grateful I am for God's love and grace that God has poured over my life all through the moments that I have shared with the people that I love in Christ and all through the experience of God's loving presence among us.

This summer was especially flowing so fast for me with many valuable memories that could fill up the pages of my testimony of God's loving presence and guidance all through my life and call to the ministry. The first memory that allowed me to testify God's providence is the process of discerning our beyond the horizon vision that I was involved in with Pastor Tim and four members of our vision Team. While we were discussing the vision of our church as we call it "Beyond the Horizon Vision, I could witness the guidance of the Holy Spirit leading each of us to use our own spiritual gifts and contribute to the vision statement as the foundation of the ministries that we are planning for the next five years. As Paul proclaims in Roman 12:4-5, I could witness how we are, as the church, one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5 NRSV)

The second memory filled with God's loving presence and grace is of the sharing of our lives during the Bible study on Colossians that we have been doing with the book, *The Domino Effect*, on Wednesdays this summer. As we were reading and listening to the text of Paul's letter to the Colossians and sharing with one another a catching word or verse, or a message that we could hear from the text connecting it to any experience of our Christian life, I could witness how the Holy Spirit would guide and connect us to each other as one family in Christ leading us into the way of Jesus Christ in his love and humility through the Word of God that we were reading and reflecting on together in the Bible Study with our hearts open wide to God and one another. For example, Paul's message about "Christ in y'all" in Colossians 2:2-3 reminded us of the importance of the church as a community of faith where we can find one another in Christ and "be encouraged in heart and united in love," as J. D. Walt says, to stay together enjoying the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>2</sup> My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3, NIV)

In addition to these memories related to the ministries and the loving community of the church, Dixon First, God allowed me to witness the wonder and beauty of God's creation in my first trip to Utah to see the majestic view of mountains and Great Salt Lake and feel humble and grateful to God's amazing grace overflowing through the indescribable beauty of the nature. I was also experiencing God's loving care and peace

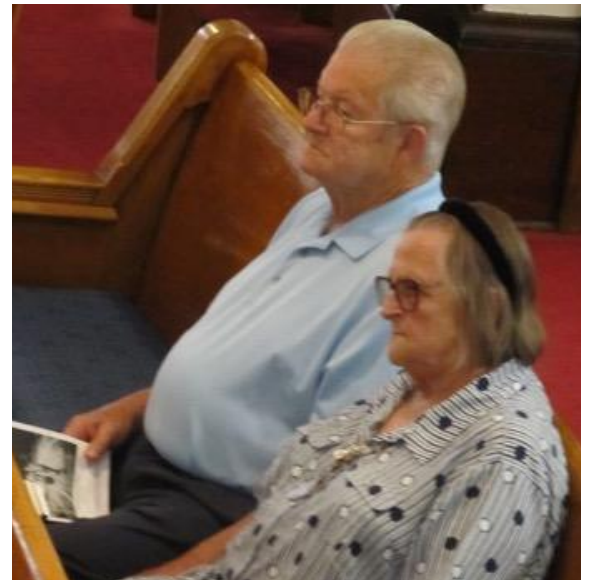


in my personal life when I was catching a summer cold with similar symptoms of COVID during my twin daughter and my son-in-law's visitation of my home for a week. Even in my illness, I was able to spend good time with them strengthened by the loving power of the Holy Spirit in feeding them with good food, visiting a beautiful state park near Dixon, and walking along the Rock River to see a flock of geese, pelicans, and ducks walking on the grass near the river, swimming on the river, or flying up and down through the river.

These memories are just small portion of the whole testimony of my witness to God's loving presence and guidance during this summer, which made me feel so much loved and grateful to God for all the abundant blessings overflowing through my life and ministries with the loving community of Dixon First.

May all of you have experienced the same way of loving presence and blessings of God during this summer that I have been testifying through this letter and may you all continue to lead a Jesus-Shaped Life through the coming new season ahead!

Blessings,  
Pastor Young Sun





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<div>SEPTEMBER</div>						
8:30am - Brooks Bible 8:30am - Jesus Seekers 10am - Worship	<div>Pastor Tim Vacation</div> 10am - Stach G2 - P 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	<div>Pastor Tim Vacation</div> 10am - Stach G2 - P 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	<div>Pastor Tim Out of</div> 9:30am - UMMW-C.R 10am - The Domino 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9:30am - Bazaar 3:30pm - Finance, cr		8am - UMM, Breakfast 5pm - Worship, C
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Brooks Bible 8:30am - Jesus Seekers 10am - Powerhouse Kids 10am - Worship	10am - Stach G2 - P 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	4pm - Prayer Team 7pm - Trustees, cr	<div>Pastor Tim Out of</div> 10am - The Domino 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9:30am - Bazaar 6:30pm - Worship comm	16	5pm - Worship, C
11	12	13	14	15		17
8:30am - Brooks Bible 8:30am - Jesus Seekers 10am - Powerhouse Kids 10am - Worship	10am - Stach G2 - P 1:30pm - First 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	9:30am - Martha Circle 7pm - Leadership Council	<div>Pastor Tim Out of</div> 10am - The Domino 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9:30am - Bazaar	23	5pm - Worship, C
18	19	20	21	22		24
8:30am - Brooks Bible 8:30am - Jesus Seekers 10am - Powerhouse Kids 10am - Worship	10am - Stach G2 - P 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	6pm - Staff-Parish	<div>Pastor Tim Out of</div> 10am - The Domino 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9:30am - Bazaar	30	
25	26	27	28	29		1
8:30am - Brooks Bible 8:30am - Jesus Seekers 10am - Powerhouse Kids 10am - Worship	10am - Stach G2 - P 4pm - Pastor Tim G2		<div>Pastor Tim Out of</div> 10am - The Domino 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9:30am - Bazaar		



