



## *A Note from the Pastor*

### **Opportunity**

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

I do not remember the man's name. Thirty years ago, when I was the associate pastor serving the East Peoria First United Methodist Church, I led worship services at the South Side Mission. The man who played the piano for services at the mission grew up during the Great Depression. If I remember correctly, his family lived in an abandoned railroad box car down by the train yard.

When he was a child, he wanted more than anything to learn how to play the piano. As resources were scarce, his parents had very few funds to purchase a piano, let alone pay for lessons. But one day, his father ran across a discarded piano. There was just one problem. The reason the piano had been discarded was because only the black keys worked. Who would ever want to play a piano only using the black keys?

The man's father saw an opportunity to make his son happy, so he found a way to get the broken down piano home to his son. When the boy saw the piano, his heart jumped with joy! He began plunking the keys to the precious piano. He would learn to tap out by ear, melodies he knew. Eventually, he taught himself how to play that piano using only the black keys. He didn't care if the piano was new. He didn't mind that most of the keys didn't work. He only saw the joy that piano would bring him.

As we journey towards Christmas, let us keep in mind the Joy that God looks for in the world. It is too easy to get wrapped up in the brokenness of the world. We only have to turn on the news to see it. But rather look for the good in the people you encounter each day.

When God looked down on creation and saw our brokenness, he looked for the good in our world! He encouraged that good by sending a baby who was to be called "Emmanuel" God's presence with us! And then he showered the world with his love.

Because that man's father brought a broken down piano home to his son, many people at the South Side Mission who were experiencing life at it's lowest point, were filled with joy.

How is God calling you to be a blessing this year?

I'll See You In Church!

Pastor Bob

### ***JAM/MYF UPDATES***

January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 5:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

### **Looking Ahead**

February 12, 2026 Winter Jam 2026 Peoria, IL

Thank you to the youth for helping with the Toy Give-A-Way set up and to all the adults who make Wednesday nights possible!

# The Messenger



United Methodist Church  
Havana/Oakford  
December 2025  
Vol. 55 No. 12

# The Messenger



United  
Women  
in Faith

The United Women in Faith PURPOSE is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church. All women are invited to be a part of this Christian Fellowship.

**United Women in Faith** will meet Wednesday, January 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Prayer & Self Denial "The Future is now; Invest in our Children", Presented by Annabelle Glesenkamp & Myrna Rennison. No refreshments will be served.

*All women of our church and their friends are invited to join. This is a great organization providing a lot of excellent services to our church.*

## 2026 Newsletter Sponsors Reserve Your Month Now!

- You can sponsor a month in honor of a loved one, for a special celebration, or simply to support the ministry.
- Cost \$60.00
- Contact the church office to reserve your month today.

## **CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR January 2026**

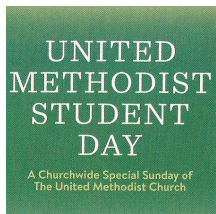
1/01/2026 Gen 1-3  
1/02/2026 Gen 4-7  
1/03/2026 Gen 8-11  
1/04/2026 Gen 12-15  
1/05/2026 Gen 16-18  
1/06/2026 Gen 19-24  
1/08/2026 Gen 25-26  
1/09/2026 Gen 27-29  
1/10/2026 Gen 30-31  
1/11/2026 Gen 32-33  
1/12/2026 Gen 34-36  
1/13/2026 Gen 37-39  
1/14/2026 Gen 40-41  
1/15/2026 Gen 42-44  
1/16/2026 Gen 45-46  
1/17/2026 Gen 47-49  
1/18/2026 Gen 50; Ex 1-3  
1/19/2026 Ex 4-6  
1/20/2026 Ex 7-8  
1/21/2026 Ex 9-11  
1/22/2026 Ex 12-13  
1/23/2026 Ex 14-16  
1/24/2026 Ex 17-20  
1/25/2026 Ex 21-22  
1/26/2026 Ex 23-25  
1/27/2026 Ex 26-28  
1/28/2026 Ex 29  
1/29/2026 Ex 30-32  
1/30/2026 Ex 33-35  
1/31/2026 Ex 36-38

## January Missions

### **Adult Mission Offering** **UM Student Day &** **Human Relations Day.**



In January, our special offering will support Human Relations. The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.



In January, our adult special offering will support Human Relations. The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

### **Children Mission Offering** **Back Pack**



This month's Children's mission offering will go to support the Back Pack Program. This program helps to provide students with the nutritional building blocks to thrive in school by sending home snack pack meals on Friday to last them through the weekend. It is hard to believe that some children only get meals while attending school, but it is a true fact.

### **Sharing Our Blessings** **with Others for** **November 2025** **Havana**

**Total Mission \$901.29**

Adult Mission  
UM Global AIDS Fund \$140.00

Children Mission  
Spero Family Services \$230.29

Capital Project Tree Removal  
\$150.00

Food Pantry \$20.00

JAM \$50.00

Toy Give Away \$311.00

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year to support our Mission Projects!!

### **Mary's Office Update**

Please notify the church office at: 309-543-4725  
or e-mail

**office@havanaumc.org**  
of any person or persons  
whom you would like placed  
on or removed from the  
prayer list.

**Newsletter deadline**  
**January 22nd**

**Mary will be on vacation**  
**January 14th-19th**

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## OAKFORD UMC 190TH CELEBRATION



### Community Food Pantry *January Item:* *Canned Vegetables*



*Please help us re-supply our Food Pantry by donating the above product.*

(Box located outside of Sanctuary)

### 2026 Havana Church Directories and 2026 Contribution Envelopes available December 28th Outside the Sanctuary on the bench!

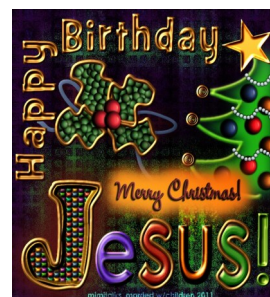
**Thank you to all the volunteers that worked endless hours on the Toy & Clothing Give-Away. Thank you to everyone that donated money, clothes and toys to this project. We served approximately 300 children and 140 families!!!**



Some of the volunteers pictured with Casey French from CASSCOMM receiving their donation check.

### Oakford United Methodist Church "Baby Jesus Birthday Party" Sunday, January 4th (following morning worship service)

Please bring a wrapped baby gift for children to open. Items are donated to Menard County families.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Havana FUMC

#### Birthdays

Jan 2 Ken Beaty  
 Jan 3 Joan Siltman  
 Jan 3 Ella Strauman  
 Jan 3 Kanye Mitchell  
 Jan 6 Tyler Rivera  
 Jan 8 Maggie Porter  
 Jan 9 Eli Hughes  
 Jan 10 Bailey Kruse  
 Jan 10 Catharine Reavley  
 Jan 10 Nicholas Williams  
 Jan 11 Fred Stadsholt  
 Jan 14 Andrew Peterson  
 Jan 16 Abigail Welker  
 Jan 17 Kimberly Braam  
 Jan 17 Gregory Daniel  
 Jan 18 Maggie Pedigo  
 Jan 19 Joshua Duel  
 Jan 19 Payton Schaub  
 Jan 21 Kathleen Brumbaugh  
 Jan 23 Greg Bearce  
 Jan 23 Sarah Bonnett  
 Jan 26 Addisyn Wherley  
 Jan 29 Myrna Rennison  
 Jan 29 Stuart Smith  
 Jan 31 Merle Fleming



### Oakford UMC

#### Birthdays

Jan 4 Leah Bahl  
 Jan 8 Tracy Anderson  
 Jan 9 Heidi Hiser  
 Jan 9 Nora Raikes  
 Jan 10 Rachel Schulte  
 Jan 13 Clyde Boensel  
 Jan 14 Zoe Laird  
 Jan 14 Zachary Laird  
 Jan 17 Jill Rademaker  
 Jan 18 Roy Cook  
 Jan 20 Grace Robinson  
 Jan 22 Mike Norris  
 Jan 24 Sarah Norris  
 Jan 28 Bob Bagby  
 Jan 29 Jim Taylor  
 Jan 30 Henry Raikes  
 Jan 30 Rich Sherren  
 Jan 30 Robert Sherren



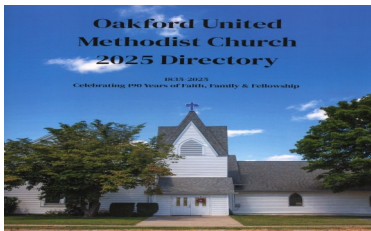
#### Anniversaries

01/07/1968 Bill & Roxann Raridon  
 01/16/1966 Richard & Carol Walker  
 01/22/1967 Merle & Sue Fleming

Lunch Bunch

**January 11, 2026**  
**Los Charros**

**RSVP to Church Office or**  
**Michelle Tibbs**



**2025 Oakford United Methodist**  
**Church Directory**  
**Cost: \$8.00**

**Available on Sunday mornings**

You may also mail payment to the church office at P.O. Box 227 Oakford, IL 62673. Please add \$2.50 for postage if you would like your copy mailed.

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# The Messenger

JANUARY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Upcoming Calendar of Events for Both Churches

### Every Sunday:

8:30 a.m. - Oakford UMC

10:30 a.m. - Havana FUMC

Day	Time	Weekly Events
01/07	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
01/12	6:30 p.m.	Ministry Team Mtg
01/15	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
01/17	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
01/25	7:30 a.m.	Oakford Church Council
	4:00 p.m.	enTrust Practice
01/26	7:00 p.m.	Havana Church Council

### Choir Practice

January 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th at 6:00 p.m.

### enTrust Praise Team Practice

January 25th at 4:00 p.m.

### MYF & JAM

January 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Church Office Closed  
January 1st



## JANUARY USHERS

Dean & Ramona Pfeiffer  
and  
Cathy & Sophia Reavley

## Weekly Prayer Topics

- January 4 Pray for all who are beginning new journeys, may God give direction and grace when we need to find our way back.
- January 11 Pray for peace in the world, that God may heal our divisions and allow us to heal.
- January 18 Pray for our schools. Pray for our students, teachers, administrators and staff.
- January 25 Pray for those experiencing health issues. How can I be a part of Jesus' healing presence?

## NEW BOOK STUDY

**BEGINNING**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH**  
**11:00 a.m.**

## FELLOWSHIP HALL

**"The Chosen"**  
**Season Two**

## January Acolyte Schedule

January 4th: Emma Strauman  
January 11th: Davis Snedeker  
January 18th: Madelynn Snedeker  
January 25th: Emma Strauman

If you are unable to Acolyte, please trade with someone and let the church office know either by calling or sending us an email!!

## Remember Our Shut-Ins



### **Arcadia Care at Havana**

609 N Harpham, Havana 62644

Colleen Wolters

### **Clayberg Nursing Center**

625 E Monroe St, Cuba 61427

Rosie Moore

### **Lodge at Manito**

1303 S. East Ave, Manito 61546

Bette Lynn Apt. 102

Shirley Lynn Apt. 109

Mary Lou Stephens Apt. 129

### **Independence Village**

1201 W Northmoor Rd., Peoria IL 61614

Portia Brown Apt. 327

### **At Home**

Beverly & Murray McKenna

629 E. Washington, Havana, IL 62644

Karen Short

PO Box 228 Oakford, IL 62673



Our thoughts  
and prayers  
are with the  
family and

friends of Carol McHenry who  
passed away on December 4,  
2025 and Daphne Clark Minor  
who passed away on December  
14, 2025.



## *In Our Prayers*

**Havana:** Lynn Coots; Kay Curtis; Debbie & John Duitscher; Nancy Elliott; Ann Funkenbusch; Kennedy Parsons; Jo Pedigo; Janet Roper; Kevin & Connie Roper; Shawn Sievers; Fred Stadsholt; Craig Stephens; Rosemary Watson; and.....

**Oakford:** John Bell; Ron Burn; Renee Downing; Lisa Johnson; Rodney King; Betty Lynn; Doug McGinnis; Carol McHenry Family; Greg Matthis; Katie Nichols; Carolyn Parker; Kennedy Parsons; Joe Rumler; Linda Sandidge; Karen Short; Scott Smith; Susan Upton; Tim Welch; Lisa Wilhoit; and.....

Bishop David Bard; Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai; The Church; Our Country; Those Grieving; Those not as fortunate; and.....

## **PRAYER LIST UPDATE**

*All prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 30 days. If you would like someone to remain on the list beyond that time, please contact Pastor Bob or the church office.*

*Thank you for helping us keep our prayer list current.*



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First United Methodist Church  
101 S. Broadway St.  
Havana, IL 62644

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101 S. Broadway St., Havana IL 62644

Church phone: (309) 543-4725

E-mail: [office@havanaumc.org](mailto:office@havanaumc.org)

Website: [havanaumc.org](http://havanaumc.org)

Rev. Robert Herath - Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: (309) 252-1136

E-mail: [revraherath@gmail.com](mailto:revraherath@gmail.com)

Mary Layton - Administrative Assistant

Published to keep the members and friends of Havana First United Methodist Church and Oakford United Methodist Church informed about its ministry within the world community. Please consider "sponsoring" a particular month by covering the mailing cost for that month. Sponsorship is \$60 per month.

***January Newsletter  
Sponsored by:***

***Richard & Carol Walker  
60th Anniversary  
January 16th***

