



A Note from the Pastor

New Creations

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5.17

The Gospels are filled with stories of Jesus' healing miracles. He healed a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. Bartimaeus had his sight restored. The Gerasene Demoniac had his life restored after Jesus cast out the many demons who had taken over his life. And the people with leprosy were healed of their disease.

But when the Gospels were written, not much thought was given to following up with each person as to how their lives were changed after their encounter with Christ. For instance, I would have liked to know the reactions of their family members when they arrived home after being healed. Did they rejoice? Were they skeptical? I would imagine there were all kinds of reactions. In Jesus' time, people just did not become healed from leprosy or blindness. People were often powerless against the demons in their lives. This is why these actions of Jesus are truly miraculous!

Often, we read these stories in the Bible almost as fairy tales. They may have happened back then, but what does the science say? Could these miracles still happen today?

For me, the miracles of Jesus are less about the "wow factor" and more about restoration. The healing Jesus offered each person restored them to health and their family. It opened new opportunities for each person to more fully participate in God's abundant creation. I truly believe God still heals today and that each act of healing is a miracle in itself. I know because I experience God's healing each day.

As a church we carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ in the communities where we are located. We often refer to the church as Christ's hands and feet. We are to be in the work of healing and restoration of the people around us. We exist to bring life changing change in the lives of people, our siblings in Christ!

So where in your life do you need restoration or healing. Where can you help bring healing to the lives of those around you? I invite you to be in prayer with me as we discern God's will and direction for our churches as we seek to be agents of positive change in our communities. Then let us work together to bring about that change!

I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob Herath

Lent Activities

March 1		Second Sunday in Lent
March 8		Third Sunday in Lent
March 15		Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22		Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29		Palm Sunday/Choir Cantata "Come Walk With Me"
April 2	7 p.m.	Maunday Thursday Communion Service at Oakford
April 3	7 p.m.	Good Friday Service at Havana
April 5	7:30 a.m.	Oakford Sunrise Service at Cemetery
		Oakford Sunrise Breakfast at the church following
	8:30 a.m.	Oakford Easter Morning worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Havana Breakfast in the fellowship hall
	10:30 a.m.	Havana Traditional Easter Worship Service



United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
March 2026



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, March 4th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program "Eye Care" will be presented by Cassy (Roat) Rhinehart, Optometrist. Members should bring assigned items to fill Easter Baskets. The hostess is Myrna Rennison.

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.

UWF Scholarship

The Havana United Women in Faith are offering two \$500.00 Scholarship to HHS graduating seniors for college or technical school education beyond high school. Application forms may be picked up from the Counselor's office. Deadline to submit an application is **May 1, 2026**.



SPONSOR AN EASTER LILY

Celebrate the joy of Easter by sponsoring a lily for \$10.00.

You may sponsor a lily **in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or with a personal message.**

All sponsors' names will be recognized in both the church bulletin and the newsletter.

Proceeds will support the **Youth Mission Trip**.

CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR March 2026

3/1/2026 Deut 2-3
3/2/2026 Deut 4-6
3/3/2026 Deut 7-9
3/4/2026 Deut 10-11
3/5/2026 Deut 12-14
3/6/2026 Deut 15-17
3/7/2026 Deut 18-20
3/8/2026 Deut 21-23
3/9/2026 Deut 24-26
3/10/2026 Deut 27-28
3/11/2026 Deut 29-30
3/12/2026 Deut 31-32
3/13/2026 Deut 33-34; Josh 1-2
3/14/2026 Josh 3-5
3/15/2026 Josh 6-7
3/16/2026 Josh 8-10
3/17/2026 Josh 11-12
3/18/2026 Josh 13-16
3/19/2026 Josh 17-19
3/20/2026 Josh 20-22
3/21/2026 Josh 23-24
3/22/2026 Jdg 1-3
3/23/2026 Jdg 4-5
3/24/2026 Jdg 6-7
3/25/2026 Jdg 8-9
3/26/2026 Jdg 10-12
3/27/2026 Jdg 13-15
3/28/2026 Jdg 16-18
3/29/2026 Jdg 19
3/30/2026 Jdg 20-21; Rut 1
3/31/2026 Rut 2-4

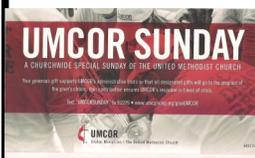
Mary's Office Update

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
March 20th**

March Missions

Adult Mission Offering UMCOR



A special offering for UMCOR will be taken during the month of March.

When you give to the UMCOR special offering, you support the **operating activities** of our worldwide relief agency, enabling it to assist churches and communities in times of disaster. The offering ensures that 100 percent of every designated gift made through UMCOR for disaster response and other critical needs goes directly to address those needs.

Children Mission Offering



The Children's Mission offering for the month of March will support Chaddock Residential Ministries. Chaddock is committed to offering hope and healing to children ages 8 to 21, by providing innovative services in caring settings. Our traditional residential services include three distinct programs:

- Traditional Residential Treatment
- Group Home
- Independent Living Program



MARCH USHERS

*Ken & Ruth Anne Beaty
Lori Siltman Nichols*

Sharing Our Blessings with Others for January 2026

Havana

Total Mission \$406.10

Adult Mission

UM Student Day \$90.00
UM Human Relations Day
\$30.00

Children Mission

Back Pack Program \$286.10

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

OAKFORD UMC PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

**Saturday, March 21st
8:00—11:00 a.m.
Oakford Village Hall**

Menu:

**Sausage, All you can Eat
Pancakes, Coffee, Orange
Juice, Milk or Water**

**Adults (12 and over) \$10.00
Children (Under 12) \$6.00
Under 6 Free**



The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
March 2026

MYF/JAM UPDATES

March 2026

- Mar 4 5 p.m. JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity
- Mar 11 5 p.m. JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity
- Mar 18 5 p.m. JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity
- Mar 25 5 p.m. JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity

Community Food Pantry

March Item:



Please help us re-supply our Food Pantry by donating the above product.
(Box located outside of Sanctuary)

The Chosen Study - Season 2 Mondays at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

March 2 Episode: Matthew 4:24

Title: The Meek and the motherload

Read: Matthew 5:5, Mark 15:40, 1 Corinthians 1:27-35, Matthew 4:24, Matthew 5:44-48, Psalm 37:21-22, Matthew 5:38-42, Matthew 6:31-33, Matthew 19:29-30, Psalm 3:3, Luke 1:50-52, Luke 14:7-11, 1 Peter 5:5, Exodus 14:13-14, Proverbs 20:22, Luke 18:1-8, Romans 12:17-21, Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 8:29-30, 1 Peter 2:21-23

March 9 Episode: The Perfect Opportunity

Title: Those who hunger and the ones who cease

Read: Matthew 5:6, Matthew 10:1-5, 2 Timothy 2:22-26, John 5:2-9, John 1:14, John 6:35, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Isaiah 51:6, John 4:13-14, Matthew 6:19-21, Mark 13:31, Isaiah 58:11, Joel 2:25-26, Matthew 11:28-30, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 16:11, John 14:27, Romans 15:13

March 16 Episode: Spirit

Title: The Merciful and their Mandate

Read: Matthew 23:23, Matthew 18:23-35, Psalm 86:15, Romans 5:8, Romans 8:38-39, 2 Peter 3:9, Deuteronomy 31:8, Psalm 23:1-4, Matthew 28:20, John 14:16-17, John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:12-17, 1 Peter 4:8, Jude 20-23, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, 1 John 3:2

March 23 Episode: Unlawful

Title: The Pure in Heart and sights unseen

Read: Mark 3:1-6, Ephesians 1:17-19, Psalm 19:1-2, Job 12:7-10, John 1:1-3, Romans 1:20, Colossians 1:16, Matthew 18:20, Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Exodus 14:14, Psalm 23:1-3, Psalm 46:10, Matthew 11:28-30, John 14:1-3, 1 John 3:1-3.

March 30 Episode: Reckoning

Title: The Peacemakers and what they pursue

Read: John 6:5-13, Matthew 5:21-6:15, Isaiah 52:7, Ephesians 2:13-18, 1 John 2:28-29, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 25:34, Romans 8:15-17, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 29:11, John 1:12-13, Romans 8:28.

HELP WANTED JANITOR POSITION

Clean church building weekly, provide reasonable maintenance of building and equipment. 15 hours per week, flexible hours. Applications available at First United Methodist Church
101 S. Broadway, Havana, IL
Monday-Thursday 8-11 a.m.



Help us keep the church clean. Sign up sheet available in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office!!!!

- Clean the Sanctuary
- Clean Bathrooms
- Clean the Kitchen
- Take Trash Out
- Sweep the Fellowship Hall after JAM/MYF

Lunch Bunch

March 15, 2026
Bernadotte Café

RSVP to Church Office or
Rich Walker 309-840-0575

Thank You

The family of Karen Short wishes to express our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the Oakford Methodist Church family for the support and comfort during the decline of our mother's health and following her death.

We especially want to thank everyone that assisted with her funeral services and contributed to the wonderful funeral lunch. Mom was very blessed to have such a wonderful supportive church family.

Thank you.
Diane, Barb and Susan

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Havana FUMC

Birthdays

Mar 2 Brenda Dudley
Mar 2 Michael Fleming
Mar 4 Eric Coots
Mar 5 Clayburn Mitchell
Mar 5 Annabelle Procarione
Mar 7 Oliver Eugene Myers
Mar 8 Lisa Thompson
Mar 10 Simon Tincer
Mar 12 Maggie Eakle
Mar 12 Eric Parsons
Mar 12 Chris Silva
Mar 13 Harley Curless
Mar 14 Tara Morr
Mar 14 P.J. Dietsch
Mar 15 Jennifer Bonnett
Mar 15 Aimee Turner
Mar 17 Michael J. Fleming
Mar 17 Emlyn Grace Daniel
Mar 18 Emily Eakle
Mar 18 Laura Waterworth
Mar 20 Rachel Daniel
Mar 22 Andrea Byrd
Mar 23 Owen Bohm
Mar 24 Haleigh Ray
Mar 24 Kelsea (Schaeffer) Anderson
Mar 24 Corey (Hills) Burgess
Mar 25 Jennifer Duel
Mar 25 Taylor Sarnes
Mar 26 Kent Johnson
Mar 26 Erin Smith
Mar 27 Carolyn Johnson
Mar 28 Lisa Dietsch
Mar 28 Patrick Dietsch
Mar 29 Gavin Southwood
Mar 31 Sue Fleming



Oakford UMC

Birthdays

Mar 2 Weslyn Whitley
Mar 3 Allen Thomas
Mar 3 Zilan Yucetas
Mar 5 Geoff Atterberry
Mar 8 Kelsey Taylor
Mar 8 Jacob Lounsberry
Mar 8 Judy Anderson
Mar 10 Logan Cowin
Mar 11 Lloyd Lounsberry
Mar 14 Holly Fitzgerald
Mar 18 Gordon Watkins
Mar 18 Madeline Jo Schulte
Mar 19 Harris Schirding
Mar 20 Larry Lynn
Mar 20 Cathie Smith
Mar 20 Becky Duncheon
Mar 23 John Kaylor
Mar 24 Melanie Duncheon
Mar 24 Maggie Atterberry
Mar 26 Aaron Smith
Mar 27 Bret Claussen
Mar 29 Kristin Sidwell
Mar 30 Simon Brauer
Mar 31 Nancy Brooks



Anniversaries

03/08/2025 Mark & Lori Nicholas
03/13/2011 Jamie & Jodi Skaggs
03/07/1970 Harley & Kay Curless
03/21/1998 Jason & Georgine Bastien
03/28/1982 James & Melanie Daniels

Anniversaries

03/14/2020 Dustin & Kristyn Watkins
03/16/2002 Doug & Sarah McGinnis
03/20/1966 Bryce & Roszeta Monroe
03/23/1985 Rusty & Brenda Pratt
03/31/1984 George & Julie Atterberry

FIRST RESPONDER SUPPER

March 9, 2026

The Oakford UMC will hold our Annual First Responder Supper on Monday, March 9, 2026. We will deliver food and support to the Fire Station. If you want to help support our First Responders, contact Sarah Norris and/or Deann Shelabarger

The Messenger

**United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
March 2026**

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Weekly Events</u>
03/01	2:00 p.m.	Eagle Scout Court of Honor and Reception
03/02	6:30 p.m.	PEO Meeting
03/04	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
03/08	9:50 a.m.	Puppet Practice
03/09	6:30 p.m.	Ministry Team Mtg Oakford First Responder Supper
03/15	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Bunch-Bernadotte
03/19	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
03/21	8:00 a.m.	Oakford Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
03/23	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Mtg
03/29	10:30 a.m.	Easter Cantata and Palm Sunday Service

Book Study

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th at 11:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at 6:00 p.m.

enTrust Praise Team Practice

March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

MYF & JAM

March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at 5:00 p.m.

March Acolyte Schedule

March 1st: Madelynn Snedeker

March 8th: Emma Strauman

March 15th: Davis Snedeker

March 22nd: Madelynn Snedeker

March 29th: 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!!

Weekly Prayer Topics

March 1	Please pray that God's fruit will be produced in the ministry of our churches. "God wants you to bear fruit. If you don't produce good fruit, then you'll be chopped down like a fruitless tree and made into firewood." Luke 3:9
March 8	Thank God that His love always flows to the lowest point. "So who can separate us? What can come between us and the love of God's Anointed? Can troubles, hardships, persecution, hunger, poverty, danger or even death? The answer is, absolutely nothing." Romans 8:35
March 15	Pray that Jesus is given all the glory. "For all that exists originates in Him, comes through Him and is moving towards Him, so give Him the glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:36
March 22	Pray for our church staff and volunteers that they will continue turning to God in all that they do. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.
March 29	Pray that the cross of Christ is lifted up in all that we do. "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." John 12:32



The Chancel Choir under the direction of Kate Badger will lead **worship on Sunday, March 29th, 10:30 a.m.** This year's Cantata is titled "*Come Walk With Me*" Through the Passion and Resurrection of Christ by Pepper Choplin.

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
Shirley Lynn Apt 109
Mary Lou Stephens Apt. 129

Independence Village
1201 W Northmoor Rd., Peoria IL 61614
Portia Brown Apt. 327

Jean Huber
4101 West Iles Ave.
Springfield, IL 62711

At Home
Beverly & Murray McKenna
629 E. Washington, Havana, IL 62644



In Our Prayers

Havana: Ken Beaty; Lynn Coats; Ann Funkenbusch; Buddy Hedden; Carol & Robert Himmel; Janet Roper; Sara Williams

Oakford: Skylar Horn; Rodney King; Doug McGinnis; Katie Nichols; Tim Welch

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

**2026 Newsletter Sponsors Available
July & September**

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 spot!!

COMMUNITY INVITE
Boy Scout Troop 126 cordially invites you to attend the **COMMUNITY EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR** for
Mason Dietsch, PJ Dietsch, James D. Griffin, Micah Adams, Carter Henderson, Zach Marshall
Sunday, March 1, 2026
2:00 pm
Havana First Methodist Church
101 S Broadway
Havana, IL 62644
Havana First Methodist Church
101 S Broadway
Havana, IL 62644
EAGLE SCOUT COMMUNITY COURT OF HONOR



Havana FUMC
“Crochet 4 Christ”
March 21st
10:00 a.m.

The Messenger

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Havana, IL 62644
Permit #4

(Put Address Label Here!)

The Messenger

Published by:

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

Church phone: (309) 543-4725

E-mail: office@havanaumc.org

Website: havanaumc.org

Rev. Robert Herath - Pastor

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

E-mail: 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.

March Newsletter
Sponsored by:

Sue Meisner
Friend in Christ

Remember to change
your clocks
MARCH 8TH

