



A Note from the Pastor

Expecting the Unexpected!

“He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come see the place where he lay.”

Matthew 28:6 NRSV

I have frequently pondered what it must have been like on that very first Easter morning. The women had gathered the spices to embalm their teacher and friend. On Friday they witnessed his crucifixion. They saw the pain and agony as Jesus hung on the cross. Soldiers and others hurled insults at him. They spat upon him. They cast lots for his clothing. The women saw Jesus die. There was no question about it.

Jesus was quickly laid in a fresh tomb. There was no time to prepare his body for burial. The Sabbath was quickly approaching. Joseph of Arimathea secretly volunteered his new tomb for the burial.

The women were worried about who would remove the heavy stone which sealed the entry to the tomb. They were expecting to finally prepare Jesus’ body for its permanent burial. They had forgotten what Jesus had prophesized to them. They forgot his promise that the Son of Man would be raised from the dead on the third day.

I cannot even imagine what went through their minds as they approached the tomb. Matthew tells us that there was a great earthquake. The stone was rolled away. The guards became like dead men as they feared for their lives. Yet, the angel gave the women the unexpected news...”Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” (Matthew 28:5-6 NRSV)

To the women’s amazement, they entered the tomb to find that there was no need for their embalming spices and oils. The tomb was empty! Now what were they to do?

The angel then instructed them. “Go quickly and tell his disciples, he has been raised from the dead!” (Matthew 28:7) When you have good news you have to tell someone. The angel told the women to share the news with the disciples. The disciples shared the news with the world. How exciting! How Amazing! God is still at work in the world!

As spring unfolds and signs of new life appear in the flowers blooming and the trees begin leafing out, I pray that each of us will find the love of God in unexpected places. Just as the women found joy in the empty tomb, may we find joy in living each day with God.

And when we experience the joy, let us heed the advice of the angels. “Go and Tell” so that the whole world may know the grace and love of God.

May God bless you and yours this Easter season, and fill your life with the joy of Jesus Christ!

I’ll see you in church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob

Lent Activities

- | | | |
|---------|------------|---|
| April 2 | 7:00 p.m. | Maunday Thursday Communion Service at Oakford |
| April 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Good Friday Service at Havana |
| April 5 | 7:30 a.m. | Oakford Sunrise Service at Cemetery |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Oakford Sunrise Breakfast at the church following |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Oakford Easter Morning worship Service |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Havana Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall |
| | | Havana Traditional Easter Worship Service |

The Messenger



United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
April 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, April 1st at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program "Mason District Hospital Specialty Clinics and Women Health" presented by Jennifer Stephens and Kaitlyn Fields. The hostess is Phyllis Hedden.

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.



GRADUATION SUNDAY May 17th

Please notify the church office by May 1st to share the graduation news of those in your family who will be graduating from 8th grade, High School, College, or Trade School. We want to celebrate with you, their accomplishments.

CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR April 2026

- 4/1/2026 1 Sa 1-3
4/2/2026 1 Sa 4-7
4/3/2026 1 Sa 8-9
4/4/2026 1 Sa 10-13
4/5/2026 1 Sa 14
4/6/2026 1 Sa 15-16
4/7/2026 1 Sa 17-19
4/8/2026 1 Sa 20-21
4/9/2026 1 Sa 22-24
4/10/2026 1 Sa 25-26
4/11/2026 1 Sa 27-30
4/12/2026 1 Sa 31; 2 Sa 1-2
4/13/2026 2 Sa 3-5
4/14/2026 2 Sa 6-8
4/15/2026 2 Sa 9-11
4/16/2026 2 Sa 12-13
4/17/2026 2 Sa 14-15
4/18/2026 2 Sa 16-18
4/19/2026 2 Sa 19
4/20/2026 2 Sa 20-22
4/21/2026 2 Sa 23-24
4/22/2026 1 Kgs 1-2
4/23/2026 1 Kgs 3-4
4/24/2026 1 Kgs 5-7
4/25/2026 1 Kgs 8
4/26/2026 1 Kgs 9-10
4/27/2026 1 Kgs 11-12
4/28/2026 1 Kgs 13-14
4/29/2026 1 Kgs 15-16
4/30/2026 1 Kgs 17-18

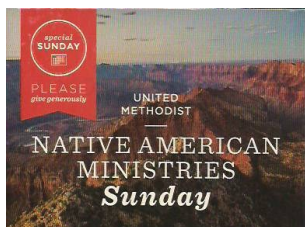
UWF Scholarship

The Havana United Women in Faith are offering two \$500.00 Scholarships to Havana High School graduating seniors for college or technical school education beyond high school.

Application forms may be picked up from the Counselor's office.

April Missions

Adult Mission Offering



In April, our special offering will support Native American Ministries. Your gift empowers local spiritual development and edu-

cates Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. It supports Native American ministries within the annual conference. It provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology approved by the University Senate (related to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) and strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural and urban congregations, ministries and communities (related to the General Board of Global Ministries).

Children Mission Offering



The Children's Mission offering for April will support the Spoon River Pregnancy Center. Life can be

difficult, but our goal is to lighten some of the load. We are staffed by volunteers who have received extensive training in peer counseling techniques: listening, caring, and sharing....to help equip, empower, and encourage men and women to:

- *Build healthier relationships*
- *Develop effective parenting skills*
- *Make life affirming choices*

ALL SERVICES ARE OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE.....

Contact them at 309-435-7130 or 121 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520



APRIL USHERS

*Eric, Jill,
Madelyn & Davis Snedeker*

Sharing Our Blessings with Others for February 2026

Havana

Total Mission \$674.90

Adult Mission
Golden Cross \$160.00

Children Mission
Fulton/Mason Crisis Center
\$314.90

Toy Give Away \$100.00
UMCOR ICE Relief \$100.00

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



Our thoughts and prayers are with the

family and friends of Steve Wilcoxon who passed away on February 26, 2026.

****In Loving Memory of
Daphne "Duck" Dawn Minor****
March 1, 1973 – December 14, 2025

**Graveside services will be held at
11:00 AM on April 11, 2026, at
Oakford Cemetery.**

Friends and family are warmly invited to gather at Oakford Hall immediately following the service for food, conversation, and a time to remember and celebrate Daphne's life.

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United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
April 2026

**JAM/MYF Schedule
April 2026**

April 1 5 p.m.
JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity

April 8 5 p.m.
JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity

April 15 5 p.m.
JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity

April 22
NO JAM/MYF School Concert

April 24 6 p.m.
Movie Night at the Parsonage

April 29 5 p.m.
JAM/MYF Dinner and Activity

The Chosen Study - Season 2

**11 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

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.

***Next Newsletter deadline
April 17th***

Lunch Bunch

**April 19, 2026
Los Charros
Mexican Restaurant
RSVP: Ruth Anne Beaty**

**Community Food Pantry
*April Item: Pudding***



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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 10th Mother's Day Celebration**
- **May 17th Graduation Sunday**
- **May 24th Memorial Day Remembrance**
- **June 4-6th Annual Conference at Peoria Civic Center**
- **June 21st Father's Day Celebration**



OAKFORD FIRST RESPONDER MEAL

Pictured are B.J. Sutton, Village of Oakford Fire Chief and Deann Shellabarger, Oakford UMC church member.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Havana FUMC

Oakford UMC

Birthdays

Apr 1 Linda Vaughn
 Apr 2 Kristi Darling
 Apr 3 Steve Marshall
 Apr 3 Avery Skaggs
 Apr 4 Jill Hills
 Apr 5 Benjamin Brooks
 Apr 6 Ginger Herrman
 Apr 7 Russell Thomas
 Apr 8 Connie Atchison
 Apr 10 Shirley Lounsberry
 Apr 11 Cindy Jenkins
 Apr 11 Sara Williams
 Apr 14 Ruth Anne Beaty
 Apr 14 Christy Ray
 Apr 15 Graham Panich
 Apr 18 Brad Lynn
 Apr 19 Rick Otto
 Apr 19 Mark Smith
 Apr 21 Kay Curless
 Apr 21 Carley Davidsmeier
 Apr 22 Ian Walker
 Apr 23 Lisa Friedrich
 Apr 23 Hank Smith
 Apr 25 Ansleigh Friedrich
 Apr 26 Frankie Hofreiter
 Apr 26 Dennis Skaggs
 Apr 27 Abby Oney
 Apr 28 Heather Roskelley
 Apr 28 Victor Oney
 Apr 29 David Paxton Olson
 Apr 29 Megan Fletcher
 Apr 30 Gerald Herrman

Anniversaries

04/04/1987 Fred & Christy Ray
 04/07/1966 Gale & Linda Vaughn
 04/07/1986 Russell & Joyce Thomas
 04/08/2006 Brad & Pam Pherigo
 04/11/1970 Johnie & Sue Meisner
 04/13/1969 Greg & Susie Bearce
 04/14/1991 Larry and Sue Smith
 04/17/1993 Brad & Melody Lynn
 04/18/1997 Robert & Carol Himmel
 04/23/1983 Scott and Lisa Dietsch
 04/24/1993 Tony & Kimberly Lippert



Birthdays

Apr 1 Daniel Schirdings
 Apr 2 Ray Horn
 Apr 2 Ross Horn
 Apr 2 Nicole Force
 Apr 4 Gene Gronewald
 Apr 9 Emily Laird
 Apr 9 Jared Lynn
 Apr 9 Joe Sidwell
 Apr 13 Amelia O'Brien
 Apr 14 Cole Chalmers
 Apr 14 Janet Brown
 Apr 15 Carol Blake
 Apr 15 Parker Henry
 Apr 15 John Ramsey
 Apr 17 Clayton Hoke
 Apr 17 Kathy Pratt
 Apr 18 Melissa Cory
 Apr 21 Lane Stribling
 Apr 23 Heidi Farris
 Apr 25 Josie Hoke
 Apr 25 Thomas Raikes
 Apr 26 Tommy Cory
 Apr 26 Reagan Schulte
 Apr 27 Danny O'Brien
 Apr 28 Ashleigh Smith



Anniversaries

04/03/1993 Bob & Kerry Bagby
 04/04/2009 Mike & Julie Norris
 04/05/1986 Jim & Lisa Taylor
 04/12/1980 Tyler & Barb Lakin
 04/27/1985 Bill & Debbie Whitley



Havana FUMC
"Crochet 4 Christ"
April 18th
10:00 a.m.

APRIL 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		

Upcoming Calendar of Events

for **Both** Churches

Every Sunday:

8:30 a.m. - Oakford UMC Worship

10:30 a.m. - Havana FUMC Worship

Day	Time	Weekly Events
04/01	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
04/02	7:00 p.m.	Maunday Thursday Service @ Oakford UMC
04/03	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service Havana FUMC
04/06	6:30 p.m.	Mission Committee Mtg
04/07	6:30 p.m.	PEO Meeting
04/14	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Mtg
04/16	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
05/18	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
04/19	9:50 a.m.	Puppet Practice
04/26	7:00 a.m.	Oakford Church Council Meeting
04/28	6:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting

Book Study

April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

April 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th at 6:00 p.m.

enTrust Praise Team Practice

April 5th at 10:00 a.m.

MYF & JAM

April 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th at 5:00 p.m.
April 24th at 6:00 p.m. Pizza & Movie Night at the Parsonage

April Acolyte Schedule

April 5th: Davis Snedeker
April 12th: Madelynn Snedeker
April 19th: Emma Strauman
April 26th: Madelynn Snedeker

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

- April 5 Pray for a spirit of peace to pour upon our congregation. "Worrying does not do any good; who here can claim to add an hour to his life by worrying." Matthew 7:8
- April 12 Pray for the poor. "All you who are poor, you are blessed for the Kingdom of God belongs to you." Luke 6:20
- April 19 Pray for those who are struggling with mental health issues. If needed, pray for those who still need to get on the right medication. "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7
- April 26 Pray for those needing restored physical health. "For I am the Lord who heals you..." Exodus 15:26

PARKING UPDATE

TBK Bank is asking that vehicles **not park near any entrances or by the ATM at any time**. They are fine with us using the parking lots, provided it is **after 5:00 p.m Monday-Friday**.

The church has **two parking lots on Main Street** available for your convenience. Please feel free to use those lots when attending church events.

TBK Bank has always been a good neighbor to our church. We appreciate their partnership and ask everyone to respect their updated security measures.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Trustees

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

EverTrue Concordia Village

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; Harley Curless;
Sonia Kelly; Ashley Schaad; Jamiah
Vorties;

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

Bishop David Bard; Bishop Ken-
netha Bigham-Tsai; The Church;
Our Country; Those Grieving;
Those with Silent Prayers; 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.*



Easter Lily Sponsors

In Memory of Twyla & Harry Sauer by Jody Coots

In Memory of Harriett & Ed Coots by Jody Coots

In Memory of Larry "Bear" Layton by Mary Layton and Family

In Memory of Loved Ones by Beverly and Murray McKenna

In Memory of Edwin Stephens by His Loving Family

In Memory of Austin Rauch by Eric (Scot) & Michelle Tibbs

In Memory of our Parents by Richard & Carol Walker

In Memory of our Grandparents by Richard & Carol Walker

The Messenger

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

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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:

Jame & Donna Hahs

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers and memorial gifts in memory of our mother, Elouise Hahs. She loved attending Oakford and Havana Churches. Havana was her second church home. She loved you all very much.

