



# A Note from the Pastor

## Saints and Sinners

*“Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master’s servants. He didn’t go down to his own house.”  
2 Samuel 11:8-9 CEB*

Most of us are familiar with the story of King David and Bathsheba. We remember how David was on the rooftop of the palace and saw Bathsheba bathing. Even though she was married to Uriah, David was so enthralled with her that he had an affair with her and she became pregnant with his child. David tried to cover up the affair by having Uriah called home from battle to give a status report and encouraged him to go home and be with his wife. But Uriah stayed at the palace, and King David then planned for Uriah’s murder to cover up David’s sins.

At face value, this story is about the fall and redemption of Israel’s favorite king. David sinned before God. He broke four of the 10 commandments. Thou shalt not covet, steal, murder, or commit adultery. The prophet Nathan confronted David concerning what he had done wrong, and although there were consequences, David repented and remained king. God forgave him.

But the question for me is Uriah. He was a faithful soldier in King David’s army. He was so devoted to his king that instead of returning to his home, he slept at the entrance to the palace. In this story, Uriah does nothing wrong, and yet, he loses everything. Where is his justice?

The older I get the more I realize how imperfect this world we live in is. Regardless of how right or justly we live our lives, bad things still happen to good people. That is the price we pay for “free will.” However, although God doesn’t promise us the “perfect” life, He does promise that we will not live life alone. God is with us. That is what Emmanuel means. To live as a Christian doesn’t mean that bad things will stop happening to us. It means that when they do, God walks with us, and we can depend upon His strength to carry us through just as I know God was with Uriah.

Our witness to the world, then, is one of hope and courage. It is a reminder that when one is going through the struggles of life, whether it is cancer, the loss of a job, family/ marital problems, you name it, we do not walk alone. We do not have to rely on our strength alone. God is with us, willing to even carry us if we need.

I’ll see you in church!

Pastor Bob

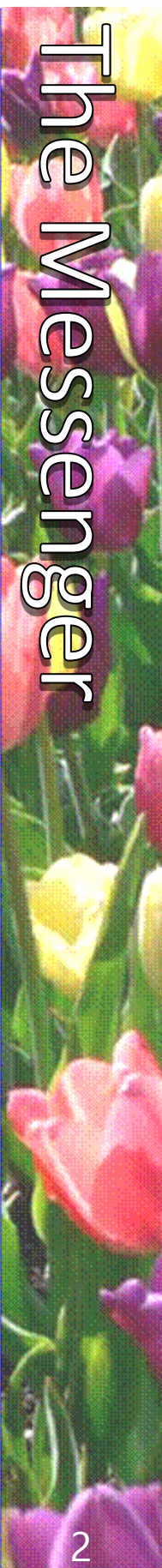


United Methodist Church  
Havana/Oakford  
May 2026

**2026 Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**June 4th - 6th**  
**Peoria Civic Center**  
**Theme "Rivers of Grace: Loving Boldly"**

**The event features worship, legislative sessions, and the commissioning/ordination of clergy.**

**Michelle Tibbs will be recognized on Friday, June 5th details TBA**



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, May 6th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "China Painting" presented by Carol Kolves. The hostesses are Judy Hofreiter & Sharon Daniel.

*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.*

***Havana Baccalaureate***

Sunday, May 3rd At 5:00 p.m.  
Assembly of God Church

***Havana High School Graduation***

Sunday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m.

***PORTA High School Graduation***

Friday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

**JAM/MYF SCHEDULE**

**May 6th 5:00 p.m.** Dinner, activity & Michelle Tibbs night (filming crew will be here to record Michelle for Annual Conference presentation)

**May 13th 5:00 p.m.** Dinner, activity, Year-End Pizza Party and Sundae Bar (Last night for the school year)

**MISSION TRIP**

**July 30th-August 2nd**  
Quad Cites - Camp Milan

**CHRONOLOGICAL  
READING  
OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR  
May 2026**

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

## May Missions

### Adult Mission Offering

#### PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

A CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL SUNDAY OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In May our special offering will support United Methodist Peace with Justice. Your contribution encourages living a gospel of peace. The United Methodist Peace with Justice Sunday offering makes a difference through ministries in the United States and around the world.

### Children Mission Offering Liberia Scholarship

This months mission offering will go to the Liberia Scholarship Fund. We have been supporting 30 students (\$200 for each student) at the Tubman Gray United Methodist School in Liberia for several years. Each scholarship provides for school uniforms, supplies and teacher salary assistance. You may make a one time gift of any amount, give \$200 for a scholarship or make a pledge and give what you can through the year.



### May USHERS

Mike & Phyllis  
Hedden  
Robert Williams

### Sharing Our Blessings with Others for March 2026

#### Havana

Total Mission \$1,186.34

Adult Mission  
UMCOR \$196.00

Children Mission  
Chaddock \$295.34

Easter Lily Sponsorship (MYF  
Mission Trip) \$95.00  
MYF Mission Trip \$100.00  
Roof Repair \$500.00

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

### Community Food Pantry May Item: Jello



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

(Box located outside of Sanctuary)

### IMPORTANT DATES

- May 5th Michelle Tibbs Night at MYF
- 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



United Methodist Church  
Havana/Oakford  
May 2026



## Graduate Recognitions

### Havana

#### **College/University**

**Alison Tibbs** Daughter of Eric & Michelle Tibbs

Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Patricia Gillmore** Niece of Rich & Carol Walker

Metro State University, BS in Business  
Communication

**Mahayla Byrd** Granddaughter of Rich & Carol Walker

Peoria Technical Institute, Dental Assistant

### **Havana High School**

**P.J. Dietsch** Son of Patrick Dietsch, Grandson of Scott & Lisa Dietsch

**Karsyn Layton** Daughter of Jason & Riki Layton

### **Havana Jr. High School**

**Alaina Miller**, Daughter of Brad & Tiffany Miller

**Laikyn Showalter**, Daughter of Ben & Lindsey Showalter

**Claire Hofreiter** Daughter of Stevan & Heather Hofreiter

*The Lord will guide you always.  
For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

*We apologize if we left someone off the list. Please let us know and we will include them in the July issue.*



## Graduate Recognitions

### Oakford

#### **College/University**

**Justin Brooks** Son of Jerry & Nancy Brooks  
DePaul University, Chicago

Masters in Physics

### **Porta High School**

**Bren Bailey**, Son of Bart & Becky Bailey

**Clayton Hoke**, Son of Chad & Jill Hoke

### **Havana High School**

**Jayden McGinnis**, Son of Doug & Sarah McGinnis

### **Woodgrove High School**

#### **Purcellville, VA**

**Luke Shelabarger**, Son of Rod &

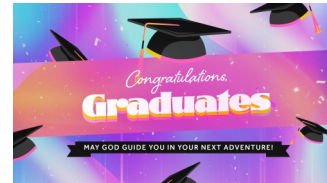
Lilly Shelabarger and Grandson of Deann Shelabarger

### **Havana Jr. High School**

**Haylie McGinnis**, Daughter of Doug & Sarah McGinnis

*The Lord will guide you always.  
For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

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## MICHELLE TIBBS

### **RECEIVES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS CONFERENCE**



Michelle has faithfully served our church in many ways over the years. She is a dedicated **MYF leader**, serves as our **Treasurer**, leads the **Puppeteers**, assists with **sound and video each Sunday** and in many more ways.

Michelle, we thank you for your time, your talents, and your unwavering commitment. You are a true blessing to all of us.

**Join us at Annual Conference in Peoria on Friday, June 5th for the presentation!!!  
More details to follow.**

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Havana FUMC

### Birthdays

May 3 Haley Jenkins  
 May 3 Prestyn Meyer  
 May 3 Eric Tibbs  
 May 4 Linda Gren  
 May 6 Darin Lounsberry  
 May 7 Emma Strauman  
 May 9 Mahayla Byrd  
 May 10 Mason Bohm  
 May 11 Larry Montgomery  
 May 11 Amy Thornton  
 May 13 Lynn Coots  
 May 15 Aaron Coots  
 May 15 Dakota Engledow  
 May 16 Christy Smith  
 May 18 Beth Friedrich  
 May 18 Tammy Hofreiter  
 May 19 Eric Snedeker  
 May 20 Brock Jenkins  
 May 21 Brandon Tibbs  
 May 22 Eden Yetter  
 May 24 Tara Schaub  
 May 24 Mike Hills  
 May 25 Jerry Eakle  
 May 26 Melody Lynn  
 May 26 Bill Raridon  
 May 27 Ella Kramer  
 May 27 Jack Turner  
 May 28 Shavonne Parsons  
 May 29 Sharon Daniel  
 May 29 Jasa Price  
 May 31 Brian Walker

### Anniversaries

05/02/1970 David & Rita Badger  
 05/02/1987 Mike & Lisa Friedrich  
 05/04/2019 Murray and Bev McKenna  
 05/11/2002 Darrell & Andrea Byrd  
 05/12/2001 Nathan & Stephanie Montgomery  
 05/18/1962 Ed and Cathy Haage  
 05/18/1985 Gerald & Ginger Herrman  
 05/22/1976 Bill & Kim Mitchell  
 05/24/1992 Eric & Tara Morr  
 05/28/2005 Josh & Crystal Bohm  
 05/31/1969 Fred & Brenda Stadsholt



## Oakford UMC

### Birthdays

May 3 Colton Nelson  
 May 4 Sally Treseler  
 May 5 Jeff Lynn  
 May 7 Megan Smith  
 May 10 Hailey Blair  
 May 10 Heather Brooks  
 May 11 Darian Whitley  
 May 11 Larry Smith  
 May 14 Bren Bailey  
 May 14 Brittanie Hull  
 May 17 Rose Raikes  
 May 19 Jill Kaylor  
 May 19 Sue Shoemaker  
 May 21 Elizabeth Brauer  
 May 27 Ron Jackson  
 May 29 Andrew Brauer  
 May 30 Dustin Watkins  
 May 30 Brittany Henry  
 May 31 Dalton Whitley



### Anniversaries

05/28/2022 Cole & Tracey Chalmers  
 05/30/1981 Neal & Sarah Norris

**The Chosen Study**  
**Season 2**  
**11 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**May 4th, 11th & 18th**



**Havana FUMC**  
**"Crochet 4**  
**Christ"**  
**May 16th**  
**10:00 a.m.**



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



**MAY 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 Worship**  
**10:30 a.m. - Havana FUMC Worship**

Day	Time	Weekly Events
05/03	10 a.m.	enTrust Praise Team Practice
05/05	6:30 p.m.	PEO Meeting
05/06	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
05/09	11-1 p.m.	MYF Cook out at Farm & Home
05/11	6:30 p.m.	Ministry Team Mtg
05/16	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
05/17	9:50 a.m.	Puppet Practice
05/21	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
05/23	11-1 p.m.	MYF Cook out at County Market
05/26	7:00 a.m.	Havana Church Council Meeting

**Book Study**  
 May 4th, 11th & 18th at 11:00 a.m.

**Choir Practice**  
 May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th at 6:00 p.m.

**MYF & JAM**  
 May 6th & 13th at 5:00 p.m.

**Weekly Prayer Topics**  
**May 2026**

- May 3      Pray for our college students as they begin their season of final exams.  
*Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much **study** wears the body. Ecclesiastes 12:12*
- May 10     Pray for our mothers.  
*She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Proverbs 31:26-27*
- May 17     Pray for our Graduates  
*My son, do not forget my **teaching**, but keep my commands in your heart, Proverbs 3:1*
- May 24     Pray for those serving in our armed forces.  
*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your **protection** over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11*
- May 31     Pray for those who grieve.  
*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not **grieve** like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13*

**2026 Havana First United Methodist Church**  
**MYF Mission Trip Calendar**

- Sunday, April 26 2 p.m. Youth/Parents/Guardians Meeting in the church Fellowship Hall (mandatory). Those unable to attend need to schedule a time with Pastor Bob to cover the material. (309)252-1136 or revraherath@gmail.com
- Saturday, May 9 11-1 Fundraiser MYF serving Ribeye steak sandwiches with peppers and onions at Farm and Home Supply
- Saturday, May 23 11-1 Fundraiser MYF serving Pork Chops at County Market
- Saturday, June 20 11-1 Fundraiser MYF serving Pork Chops at County Market
- Saturday, July 25 11-1 Fundraiser MYF serving Ribeye steak sandwiches with peppers and onions at Farm and Home Supply
- Thursday, July 30 through Sunday August 2 MYF Mission trip to the Quad Cities. Accommodations will be at Camp Milan

## 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

*If you are a shut-in and would like your name and address listed please call the church office to be added.*



## May Acolyte Schedule

May 3rd: Madelynn Snedeker  
May 10th: Emma Strauman  
May 17th: Davis Snedeker  
May 24th: Madelynn Snedeker  
May 31st: 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!!



## *In Our Prayers*

**Havana:** Beth Andrews; Ken Beaty; Lynn Coots; Sonia Kelly; Ashley Schaad; Brian Taylor; Camille & Robert Turk;

**Oakford:** Rodney King; Doug McGinnis; Katie Nichols; Scott Smith; Tim Welch

Bishop David Bard; Bishop Kennetha 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.*



## **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  
May 22nd**

**Church Office Closed  
Monday, May 25th**



# The Messenger

United Methodist Church  
Havana/Oakford  
May 2026

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

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## The Messenger

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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.

## *May Newsletter*

*Sponsored by:*

*Mary Layton Family*

*Congratulations Kaleb & Kate Layton  
October 4, 2025*

