



A Note from the Pastor

Music To My Ears!

"Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the end of the earth!" Isaiah 42:10
NRSV

Several years ago I drove to my college Alma Mater, Illinois Wesleyan University. The school was in the process of tearing down Shean Library at the time. The library was built in the 1970's in the heart of the campus to be a center of knowledge for the campus community.

It was a beautiful, but melancholy evening for me. I had spent much, okay, some of my time there studying for exams and researching class projects. I remembered gathering with friends to study. It was sad to see this building go. Change is difficult sometimes!

The library was torn down for two reasons. First, a newer, larger library replaced Shean Library a few years prior. Second, the ground was needed to build a new classroom building to meet the needs of new students. It will be up to date, with all of the latest technology. With change comes new opportunities!

Isaiah was writing to a people in exile. The world they knew had been torn apart. The Hebrew people could not worship in their own temple for they had been exiled to a foreign land. Change was hard for them. But the prophet Isaiah reminded them of God's presence, and the hope that one day they would be able to return to their country. It would be a different land than the one they left years before, but it would also continue to be a land of opportunity. They would rebuild! Even with change God promises hope!

Change threatens us every day. It can be as simple as the price of gasoline going up 20 cents, to having to change where we live. The most important change, though, is the change within our heart!

When we hold on to God's promise, we recognize who God is calling us to become. We begin to learn to sing a new song. God's song! We see the opportunities God has provided, and we sing praise to God for what He is doing in our lives! The Good News is that God meets us where we are, but he does not leave us there. God is working a change in us every day, because he sees opportunities in us. To me, that is music to my ears!

I'll see you in church!
Pastor Bob

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
August 2026



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 have a **"Ladies Summer Fun Night"** on **Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We have planned an evening of food, bingo, prizes, laughter, and fellowship!!!

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.

United Women in Faith - Ladies' Summer Fun Night

August 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.



FOOD BINGO PRIZES LAUGHTER FELLOWSHIP

CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR August 2026

8/1/2026	Isa 31-34
8/2/2026	Isa 35-37
8/3/2026	Isa 38-41
8/4/2026	Isa 42-44
8/5/2026	Isa 45-48
8/6/2026	Isa 49-51
8/7/2026	Isa 52-56
8/8/2026	Isa 57-60
8/9/2026	Isa 61-64
8/10/2026	Isa 65-66; Jer 1
8/11/2026	Jer 2-4
8/12/2026	Jer 5-6
8/13/2026	Jer 7-9
8/14/2026	Jer 10-12
8/15/2026	Jer 13-15
8/16/2026	Jer 16-18
8/17/2026	Jer 19-22
8/18/2026	Jer 23-24
8/19/2026	Jer 25-27
8/20/2026	Jer 28-29
8/21/2026	Jer 30-31
8/22/2026	Jer 32-33
8/23/2026	Jer 34-36
8/24/2026	Jer 37-39
8/25/2026	Jer 40-42
8/26/2026	Jer 43-45
8/27/2026	Jer 46-48
8/28/2026	Jer 49-50
8/29/2026	Jer 51
8/30/2026	Jer 52; Lam 1
8/31/2026	Lam 2-4



Congratulations!

**CONGRATULATION UWF
2026 Scholarship winners
*PJ Dietsch and Alyssa Blakeley***

August Missions

Adult Mission Offering



Our August Adult Mission Offering will go to support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend relief and recovery to people in need in the United States, Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. Our work with affected communities helps them build the capacity to meet the needs generated by an emergency. Our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity.

Children Mission Offering

The **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** is a United Methodist Community Center whose mission is to improve the quality of life for residents of all ages by providing quality early childhood development services, comprehensive youth services, individual and family support services, services to older adults, and housing economic development services which will help move individuals and families out of poverty.



A big heartfelt thank you to Mom's church family!

You helped our family through this difficult time during mom's passing. The funeral service, the music, the food and fellowship and those working behind the scenes were so appreciated. Thanks for being there for our family, we truly felt your love and kindness!

God Bless you all.....
The family of Ann Funkenbusch

Sharing Our Blessings with Others for June 2026

Havana

Total Mission \$1,905.81

Adult Mission
Liberia Scholarship \$545.00

Children Mission
Cunningham Children's Home
\$303.01

MYF Mission Trip \$507.80
Roof Repair \$480.00
UMCOR-Venezuela \$20.00
VBS \$50.00

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

Community Food Pantry

August Item: Canned Tuna Fish



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

(Box located outside of Sanctuary)



August USHERS

Melody Lynn
Rich Walker
Robert Williams

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2026 OAKFORD VBS Highlights

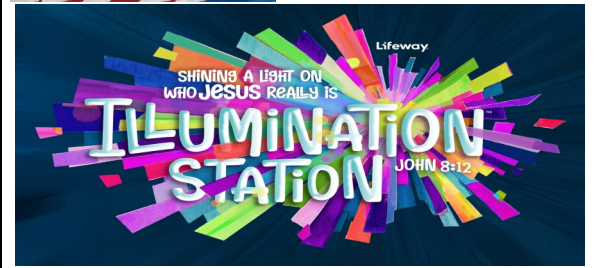


Get Ready for Oktoberfest

*Save the date
September 11th, 12th, & 13th*

We need your help.....

2026 HAVANA VBS Highlights



**OAKFORD & HAVANA
Sunday, August 9th**



**Blessing
of the Backpacks**

**Bring your Backpack to
Worship**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Havana FUMC

Birthdays

Aug 1 Nate Turner
 Aug 2 Madison Walker
 Aug 3 Teri (Vaughn) Markley
 Aug 4 Pastor Carol
 Aug 5 Sadie Rhinehart
 Aug 6 Rod Yetter
 Aug 6 Juliet Lozano
 Aug 8 Madison Hofreiter
 Aug 8 Tiffany Southwood
 Aug 9 Hugh Friedrich
 Aug 10 Steve Waterworth
 Aug 13 Kate Badger
 Aug 13 Fred Ray
 Aug 14 James Lozano
 Aug 15 Allison Lozano
 Aug 17 Gale Vaughn
 Aug 18 Sandra Collins
 Aug 18 Paul Morgan
 Aug 21 Andee Brown
 Aug 22 Dominic Gamble
 Aug 23 Kim Brewer
 Aug 23 Jackson Stadsholt
 Aug 25 Ryleigh Clements
 Aug 25 Melanie Daniels
 Aug 26 Graham Curtis
 Aug 26 Owen Walker
 Aug 26 Cindy Welker
 Aug 27 Rick Bearce
 Aug 28 Richard Bonnett
 Aug 29 Polly Hofreiter
 Aug 31 Tad Yetter
 Aug 31 Kayla (Johnson) Miller

Anniversaries

08/10/1998 Mike & Michelle Walker
 08/17/1969 Frank & Judy Hofreiter
 08/19/1989 Dean & Ramona Pfeiffer
 08/23/1980 Dru & Vanessa Bergman
 08/24/1974 Robert & Sara Williams



Oakford UMC

Birthdays

Aug 2 Jennifer Pavlisin
 Aug 4 Pastor Carol
 Aug 5 Bart Bailey
 Aug 5 Doug McGinnis
 Aug 8 Emma Stone
 Aug 8 Katie Stribling
 Aug 9 Tucker Hamblin
 Aug 9 Lilly Shelabarger
 Aug 11 Charlie Todd
 Aug 14 Christopher Kelley
 Aug 15 Tom Robinson II
 Aug 16 Jillian Lounsberry
 Aug 17 Nicholas Laird
 Aug 17 Audrey Brown
 Aug 18 Brett Brown
 Aug 19 Kerry Bagby
 Aug 19 Amari Clark
 Aug 19 David McHenry
 Aug 19 Reese Ann Claussen
 Aug 21 Trevor Cook
 Aug 26 Devin Whitley
 Aug 27 Kay Higginbotham
 Aug 28 Rev. Dennis Smith
 Aug. 29 Carmen Jackson



Anniversaries

08/02/1997 Bruce & Barb Shanle
 08/02/1980 Andy & Susie Winkelmann
 08/03/1985 Roy & Kelleigh DeMonbrun
 08/14/2008 Tracy and Judy Anderson
 08/16/1968 Rev. Dennis & Sandy Smith
 08/17/1970 Larry & Cathie Smith
 08/24/1974 Allen & Janice Thomas

2026 West District Charge Conference

Sunday, October 11th

4:30 p.m.

Rushville United Methodist Church

Report Deadline September 18th to Conference office

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
 Havana/Oakford
 August 2026

The Messenger

AUGUST 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
08/03	6:30 p.m.	Mission Committee Meeting
08/05	6:30 p.m.	UWF Ladies Summer Fun Night
08/09	8:30 a.m.	Blessing of the Backpacks Oakford
	10:30 a.m.	Blessing of the Backpacks Havana
08/10	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting
08/15	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
08/20	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
08/25	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting

MYF Mission Trip

July 30th, 31st, August 1st & 2nd

October 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Joint Worship Service at
Kilbourne Community Center

Weekly Prayer Topics August 2026

August 2	Pray for families struggling to purchase back to school supplies for their children. <i>"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along." Galatians 2:10</i>
August 9	Pray for our children and youth as they return to the classroom this week. <i>"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6</i>
August 16	Pray for our public school teachers as they lead their first full week with students of the new school year. <i>"Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more." Proverbs 9:9</i>
August 23	Pray for Community leaders. <i>"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:1-2</i>
August 30	Pray for our Congregation's leaders. <i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6</i>



Havana FUMC 2026/2027 Scholarship Application Available Now!!!!

For the second year, the Helping Hands Committee is offering two \$500 scholarships to any UMC member, family member or regular attendee pursuing their second year and beyond of college or technical school.

Applications may be picked up at the church office or by request to any committee member. Also available on our website at:

<https://havanaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/HUMC-Helping-Hands-Scholarship-2026-Final.pdf>

Please submit the application to the Church office by **August 3, 2026.**

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.

August Acolyte Schedule

August 2nd: Emma Strauman
August 9th: Davis Snedeker
August 16th: Madelynn Snedeker
August 23rd: Emma Strauman
August 30th: Davis 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!!



In Our Prayers

Havana: Beth Andrews; Lynn Coots; and Kay Curtis; Rick Gosch; Jonathan Hahs; John Intihar; Sonia Kelly; Eric Parsons; Kenny Reavley; Ashley Schaad; Lori Siltman-Nichols; Gerald Sarnes; Camille & Robert Turk; Our Country; Those Grieving; Those with Silent Prayers;

Oakford: Rodney King; Doug McGinnis; Rev. Murriel; Brenda Nance; Katie Nichols; Scott Smith; Tim Welch; Bill Whitley;

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

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated money, supplies, and their time to make this year's **Vacation Bible School** a success! Over four days, we welcomed **36 children, 4 youth leaders, and 13 adult leaders and helpers**, making VBS a wonderful week of learning, laughter, and growing in faith.

We truly could not do it without your generous support. Thank you for sharing God's love with our children and our community!

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
August 21st**

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
August 2026

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First United Methodist Church
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Havana, IL 62644

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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.

August Newsletter

*Sponsored by:
Vicky Harbison*

*In Remembrance of
Joe & Vicky's Wedding
Anniversary on August 17th
and
1st Grandchild Birthday on
August 17th*

