



A Note from the Pastor

Pale Blue Dot

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it." Revelation 2:17 NIV

On February 14, 1990, at the suggestion of astronomer Carl Sagan, NASA turned the camera on it's Voyager 1 spacecraft back towards earth to take a picture. The craft was over 6 billion miles away and was preparing to leave our solar system.

The picture showed the vastness of space. In the light of a ray from the sun, a pale blue dot can be seen. It is small. Seemingly insignificant. As a matter of fact, the size of the dot was smaller than one pixel. It would be easy to miss if one didn't know what they were looking for. However, this "pale blue dot" was an image of the earth. At the time almost 7 billion people called it home. This pale blue dot was teeming with life. This pale blue dot represented all known life in the universe. It represented all of the joys of life, as well as all the problems.

All of this was created by God in six divine days!

Have you ever felt insignificant? I know I have at times. It usually hits me during my prayer time when I wonder if God even knows who I am. Does He listen to what I am praying? Does God even care? When one looks at the picture of the pale blue dot it is easy to see that God has much to take care of.

Yet we have this verse out of Revelation 2:17 where we are reminded that we are given a white stone with a new name on it. Even in the midst of all that God has created, He still knows our name. After all you were important enough that God came down in human flesh and walked this earth to be with you! Names are not given to people, animals, and things that are not significant. Names are given to those which we treasure. God has given you a name. You are treasured by God!

In just a few weeks the tree leaves will begin to bring on their fall colors. The farmers will start harvesting the crops. The weather will turn cooler. School activities will fill our calendars. In the busyness of life let us remember God's significance in our lives. He will never forget how significant you are in His.

I'll see you in church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob



First United Methodist Church

101 S. Broadway • Havana, IL 62644

Youth Ministry

FALL 2026 UPDATE

JESUS AND ME (JAM)



JAM will be taking the Fall 2026 semester off as we re-evaluate the program.

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Please pray for the leadership team as we discern how we can best share Jesus Christ with our elementary-aged children.



IGNITE

YOUTH MINISTRY

GRADES 5-12

A New Name!

Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) is now **IGNITE** Youth Ministry!

 We want to **IGNITE** our Faith in Jesus Christ!

 We want to **IGNITE** our Passion to serve others in Jesus' name!

 We want to **IGNITE** our Interests in reading and understanding the Bible!

 We want to **IGNITE** our Desire to spend time with God in worship and in prayer!

IGNITE Kick Off!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

A NEW DAY & TIME!

With a new name comes a new day and time to meet!



2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

4:30-6:00 P.M.

AT THE CHURCH

IGNITE will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during the school year.



3RD SUNDAYS

We will plan an off-campus activity. Times and locations will vary.

Watch the newsletter for upcoming activity details!



1ST SUNDAYS

IGNITE will not meet on the 1st Sunday of the month so that youth may have a Sunday evening with their families.



SNACKS & DRINKS

A meal will not be part of most gatherings.

Snacks and drinks will be provided each week, unless otherwise specified.



Let's IGNITE Our Faith Together!

ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 5-12 ARE WELCOME!

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
September 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 their meeting on **Wednesday, September 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The program is "Havana Museum & Cultural Center" presented by Tami Davidage.

Hostess is Ruth Anne Beaty.

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.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Jerald Sarnes

who passed away on July 29, 2026 and Jean Huber who passed away on August 16, 2026 and Tony Osing who passed away on August 20, 2026.



Havana FUMC
"Crochet 4 Christ"
September 19th
10:00 a.m.

CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR September 2026

9/01/2026	Lamentations 5; Ezekiel 1-3
9/02/2026	Ezekiel 4-6
9/03/2026	Ezekiel 7-10
9/04/2026	Ezekiel 11-13
9/05/2026	Ezekiel 14-16
9/06/2026	Ezekiel 17-18
9/07/2026	Ezekiel 19-20
9/08/2026	Ezekiel 21-22
9/09/2026	Ezekiel 23-24
9/10/2026	Ezekiel 25-27
9/11/2026	Ezekiel 28-30
9/12/2026	Ezekiel 31-32
9/13/2026	Ezekiel 33-35
9/14/2026	Ezekiel 36-37
9/15/2026	Ezekiel 38-39
9/16/2026	Ezekiel 40-42
9/17/2026	Ezekiel 43-44
9/18/2026	Ezekiel 45-46
9/19/2026	Ezekiel 47-48; Daniel 1
9/20/2026	Daniel 2-3
9/21/2026	Daniel 4-5
9/22/2026	Daniel 6-7
9/23/2026	Daniel 8-9
9/24/2026	Daniel 10-11
9/25/2026	Daniel 12; Hosea 1-4
9/26/2026	Hosea 5-10
9/27/2026	Hosea 11-14; Joel 1
9/28/2026	Joel 2-3; Amos 1-2
9/29/2026	Amos 3-7
9/30/2026	Amos 8-9; Obadiah; Jonah 1

🎓 Congratulations! 🎓

**First United Methodist Church Mission
Committee 2026-2027 Scholarship Recipients**

**Prestyn Meyer
and
Alison Tibbs**

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart... and He
will make your paths straight."
Proverbs 3:5-6**

September Missions

Adult Mission Offering Gunner Lee Memorial

The Gunner Lee Memorial Fundraiser was established by **Kaley Meyer** and **Madison Hofreiter** after the tragic loss of their best friend, Gunner Lee, to suicide in March 2021.

Each year during Oktoberfest, they organize a raffle featuring a variety of donated baskets to raise funds for suicide prevention and mental health awareness. Proceeds support mental health and suicide prevention organizations, as well as the **Gunner Lee Memorial Scholarships** for high school students in Havana and Manito.

To date, they have raised **more than \$11,000** to support this important cause. As they prepare for their sixth year of fundraising, they continue to remind everyone of an important message:

You Matter

Children Mission Offering HAVANA SCHOOLS HYGIENE PROJECT

For the past several years, our youth group has partnered with the school social worker to provide much-needed hygiene products for students in the Havana School District.

The youth shop for items such as deodorant, body wash, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, socks, loofahs, and other personal care essentials. After the items are brought to the church and blessed, they are delivered to the school social worker, who distributes them to students throughout the district.

Your support helps ensure that local students have access to basic hygiene items while showing them the love and care of our church family.

SEPTEMBER USHERS

**Paul & Becky Morgan
Eric & Shavonne Parsons**



Sharing Our Blessings with Others for July 2026 Havana

Total Mission \$1,791.40

Adult Mission
Society of St. Andrew \$130.00

Children Mission
Heifer International Project
\$234.02

MYF Mission Trip \$1,010.00
Roof Repair \$85.00
UMCOR-Venezuela \$160.00
VBS Glasses \$172.38

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

Community Food Pantry September Item:



Canned Vegetables

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

(Box located outside of Sanctuary)

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
September 2026

2026 OAKFORD Blessing of the Backpacks



2026 HAVANA Blessing of the Backpacks



Get Ready for Oktoberfest

We need you.....

September 11th, 12th & 13th

The United Methodist Church Lemonade Shake-up stand will begin with prepping lemons at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th, and then setting up the stand early Friday morning.

As in the past years, the shifts run for two hours with a new shift set starting each hour so that they overlap. We are extra busy after the parade on Friday (6-8pm) and at lunch and dinner on Saturday. You can sign up in the church office, in the back of the sanctuary or by contacting Cathy Reavley at 309-582-6102.

We will donate 10% of our profits plus donations to Water is Life.

We have a lot of fun and do a lot of good at the same time. Please join us!!!!

2026 Mission Trip Quad Cities

Worked Café on Vine, Allure of Moline Nursing Home, Worked at Cornerstone Assembly of God Church, Daily Devotions and a fun night at Malibu Jacks.



September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Havana FUMC

Birthdays

Sep 1 Jennifer Brooks
 Sep 2 Reese Markley
 Sep 2 Kaleb Yetter
 Sep 2 Gresyn Tomm
 Sep 4 John Lynn II
 Sep 5 Roxann Raridon
 Sep 6 Faith Foster (1926)
 Sep 6 Angela (Vaughn) Johnson
 Sep 7 Dean Pfeiffer
 Sep 9 Wesley Boyd
 Sep 9 Debbie Yetter
 Sep 11 Kim Lippert
 Sep 11 Carol Himmel
 Sep 11 Colleen Wolters
 Sep 12 Donna Hahs
 Sep 15 Sue Meisner
 Sep 18 Jacob Yetter
 Sep 18 Jack Murray Miller
 Sep 19 Meghan Ray
 Sep 20 Joyce Onken
 Sep 21 Alex Morr
 Sep 21 Addison Stadsholt
 Sep 21 Brad Pherigo
 Sep 23 Cindy Friedrich
 Sep 23 Dianne Hills
 Sep 25 Corey Friedrich
 Sep 25 Logan Showalter
 Sep 25 Jason Stadsholt
 Sep 28 Melanie Dihora
 Sep 28 Pamela Pherigo
 Sep 28 Lori Siltman
 Sep 29 Becky Morgan

Anniversaries

09/14/1996 Scott & Whitney Schlueter
 09/28/1985 Tad & Debbie Yetter
 09/29/2007 Jason & Riki Layton
 09/30/2006 Eric and Jill Snedeker

Oakford UMC

Birthdays

Sep 4 Kyle Todd
 Sep 5 Nile Sanert
 Sep 6 Keri Smith
 Sep 7 Erica Schirding
 Sep 9 Beth French
 Sep 9 Kelleigh DeMonbrun
 Sep 12 Donna Hahs
 Sep 13 Leann Atterberry
 Sep 14 Rylee Boensel
 Sep 15 Brianna Todd
 Sep 15 Sarah Stone
 Sep 17 Tanner Lynn
 Sep 17 Tucker Lynn
 Sep 17 Stephanie Kelley
 Sep 18 Waylon Watkins
 Sep 21 Barb Shanle
 Sep 21 Eli Cory
 Sep 24 Bruce Shanle
 Sep 24 Deann Shelabarger
 Sep 25 Roy DeMonbrun
 Sep 26 Melissa McCandless
 Sep 29 Jacob Glick
 Sep 30 Jim Brauer



Anniversaries

09/01/2018 Daniel & Erica Schirding
 09/04/2010 Ryan & Brianna Todd
 09/06/1986 Jeff & Lori Lynn
 09/18/1982 Joe & Rhonda Sidwell
 09/23/1989 Charlie & Amy Todd
 09/24/1988 Brian & Dee Vaughn
 09/25/2010 Ross & Jeni Horn
 09/30/2000 Chris & Sarah Stone

Oakford UMC -Westward Road August 23, 2026



2026 West District Charge Conference Sunday, October 11th 4:30 p.m.

Rushville United Methodist Church

Report Deadline September 18th to
Conference office

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
September 2026

The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 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
09/01	6:00 p.m.	PEO Meeting
09/02	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
09/07	Labor Day	Church Office Closed
09/09		Deadline for Budget Request-Havana
09/10	5:00 p.m.	Lemon Prep
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Meeting
09/15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Mtg.
09/17	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
09/18	7:00 p.m.	IGNITE at the Ducks
09/19	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
09/20		IGNITE Movie Night

CHOIR

September 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
MYF

September 13th & 27th @ 4:30 p.m.

OKTOBERFEST

September 11th, 12th & 13th

JOINT Worship Service+

Havana First United Methodist Church
and Oakford Methodist Church
invite you to join us for a special time of
WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & FAITH!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
 10:00 A.M.
 KILBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTER

A SPECIAL DAY AS WE CELEBRATE
World Communion Sunday!

HYMN SINGING
 SPECIAL MUSIC
 HOLY COMMUNION

POTLUCK MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP!
Please bring a dish to share.
Table service and drinks will be provided.

RAIN OR SHINE!
The entire event is indoors, so weather won't stop the celebration!
 BRING A LAWN CHAIR for additional seating.

Come worship, sing, share Communion,
enjoy a meal, and celebrate the unity of God's family with us!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"
- Psalm 133:1

Weekly Prayer Topics September 2026

- September 6 Pray for your co-workers as we celebrate Labor Day this week.
"Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." Genesis 2:3
- September 13 Pray for world peace.
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27
- September 20 Pray for our church's leadership team.
"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10
- September 27 Pray for people who are struggling to make ends meet.
"And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10

Thank you to the Mission Committee on behalf of the Church for their financial support. I am very grateful to have received a scholarship. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Thank you,
Alison Tibbs

CONGRATULATIONS

Haley & Steve Gray on the birth of their first child, **James Kleier Gray**, who was born on August 11, 2026!!! Proud grandparents are Rod & Mary Yetter.

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

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.

Havana September Acolyte Schedule

September 6th: *Madelynn Snedeker*

September 13th:

Emma & Ella Strauman

September 20th: *Davis Snedeker*

September 27th: *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!!

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.***

***Office Closed September 7th
Newsletter Deadline
September 18th***



In Our Prayers

Havana: Jill Adkins; Beth Andrews;
Lynn Coots; Graham and Kay Curtis;
Patrick Dietsch; Rick Gosch; James
Kleier Gray; John Intihar; Eric Par-
sons; Ashley Schaad; Jerry Strauman;
Michelle Tibbs; Camille & Robert
Turk;

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 Coun-
try; Those Grieving; Those with Silent
Prayers; Those not as fortunate;
Students & Teachers returning to
school and.....

IGNITE

September Schedule

**September 13: IGNITE after Oktober-
fest teardown pizza party/kickoff.** All
youth are invited to help tear down the
church's Oktoberfest Lemon Shake-up
stand at the close of the festival. When we
are done, we will order Casey's pizza and
share in fellowship in the youth room of
the church. Times will be announced in
church and on the church's website.

**September 18: IGNITE at the Ducks! 7
p.m.** Join Pastor Bob and Juliana at the
Havana Duck's home football game as
they take on the Rushville-Industry Rock-
ets. Let's cheer on our team together!

**September 20: MOVIE THEATER
NIGHT!!!** We will travel to a movie thea-
ter for a show. It's too early to know what
will be playing or the times so watch the
usual places for more information. The
youth group will pay for admission. Bring
money for concessions!

**September 27: IGNITE at the church
from 4:30 to 6 p.m.** Join us in the Youth
Room on the third floor for a program,
snacks, and free time! We will also begin
designing a T-shirt for IGNITE based on
our new name!

The Messenger

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

The Messenger

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

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The Messenger

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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.

September Newsletter Sponsored by: Jody Coots

September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. In Honor and Memory of those who were no longer able to stay.

SEPTEMBER
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**
AWARENESS MONTH

