



A Note from the Pastor

Grace

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV

A friend of mine from high school recently shared a story with me about a woman who had recently died. This woman just loved the movie "The Wizard of Oz" and had planned to have the song Some-where Over the Rainbow played at her funeral service. The day of her funeral arrived and when the time came in the service to play her favorite song, the person running the sound system punched in the wrong track number on "The Wizard of Oz" soundtrack CD. Instead of hearing the melodious tune of her favorite song, the speakers were filled with the celebrative song, "Ding Dong, the Witch is Dead." Unfortunately, things don't always go as planned.

Someone once described life to me as what happens to you while you are busy making other plans. Life just doesn't work out the way we always have it planned out to be. Actions and expectations of other people and changes in our own situation can quickly derail a trip, a promotion at work, or time with the family. Sometimes we promise something to someone else and life throws us a curve ball. Dates with our loved ones get rescheduled or cancelled altogether. Needed purchases for the home get pushed off. If this happens frequently enough we begin to feel "out of sync" with those who become disappointed with us for changing plans.

We are the benefactors of a covenant with God which started with Abraham in the Bible. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that God would be faithful if we remained in relationship with God. In the Old Testament alone, there are over 600 commandments designed to help us grow and stay in relationship with God. There are easy ones to keep such as "Thou shalt not kill" or "Thou shalt not steal." But what about the commandments that keep getting pushed to the side in our 24/7 culture like "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" or "Thou shalt have no other gods before me?" Many of us, myself included, have bad habits of working seven days a week or placing things such as TV time above spending time reading the Bible.

The Good News is that God does not expect us to be perfect. But God does expect us to be in relationship! We are called to do our best to follow God's plan for our lives and when we fall short, God covers us with his grace! Note, this is not a free pass to go out and do whatever we want to do. To live in relationship means to try to live in covenant together. It means to love. It means to forgive. It means that when life gives you a lemon, let God help you make lemonade.

I am not a perfect person. None of us are. But by the grace of God, we continue to be wrapped in the blanket of God's love and grace, and we are promised a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). I look forward to seeing you in church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob

The Messenger

United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
October 2026



UWF

Fall Harvest CELEBRATION

 **OCTOBER 17TH**
 **6:30 P.M.**
Everyone is invited for an evening of fun!

MENU

Cranberry Glazed Pork Chop
Mac & Cheese
Green Beans • Corn • Salad
Roll • Variety of Desserts

PROGRAM

HHS
Music Department

\$25.00 PER TICKET

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, October 7th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The program is "Pledge Service" Presented by Ruth Anne Beaty. **Hostesses are Mary Layton and Beverly McKenna.**

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.



FALL HARVEST CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 17th with a catered meal by Cammy Smith served at 6:30 p.m. followed by entertainment provided by the Havana High School Music Department. Menu for the buffet meal is cranberry glazed pork chop, mac & cheese, green beans, corn, salad, roll, a variety of desserts, tea & lemonade. Tickets for the buffet meal and entertainment are on sale now from members of the UWF and in the church office. Cost is \$25 for total evening. **Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, October 9.** If for some reason you miss the deadline for the total package and wish to enjoy the entertainment starting at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary, a **FREE WILL** offering will be taken to support the Havana High School Music Department.

CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF THE BIBLE IN A YEAR October 2026

10/1/2026	Jonah 2-4; Micah 1-3
10/2/2026	Micah 4-7; Nahum 1
10/3/2026	Nahum 2-3; Habakkuk 1-3
10/4/2026	Zephaniah 1-3; Haggai 1
10/5/2026	Haggai 2; Zechariah 1-4
10/6/2026	Zechariah 5-9
10/7/2026	Zechariah 10-14
10/8/2026	Malachi 1-4
10/9/2026	Matthew 1-4
10/10/2026	Matthew 5-7
10/11/2026	Matthew 8-9
10/12/2026	Matthew 10-12
10/13/2026	Matthew 13-14
10/14/2026	Matthew 15-17
10/15/2026	Matthew 18-20
10/16/2026	Matthew 21-22
10/17/2026	Matthew 23-24
10/18/2026	Matthew 25-26
10/19/2026	Matthew 27-28
10/20/2026	Mark 1-3
10/21/2026	Mark 4-5
10/22/2026	Mark 6-8
10/23/2026	Mark 9-10
10/24/2026	Mark 11-12
10/25/2026	Mark 13-14
10/26/2026	Mark 15-16
10/27/2026	Luke 1-2
10/28/2026	Luke 3-4
10/29/2026	Luke 5-6
10/30/2026	Luke 7-8
10/31/2026	Luke 9



OCTOBER USHERS

**Ken Beaty
Ruth Anne Beaty
Robert Williams**



**Havana FUMC
"Crochet 4 Christ"
October 17th
10:00 a.m.**

October Missions

Adult Mission Offering World Communion Sunday



Our October mission offering will be for **World Communion Sunday**. This is one of the six church special Sundays of the United Methodist Church.

World Communion Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic minority students and international students at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Through his sacrifice, Jesus offers us the bread of life. Please give generously on **World Communion Sunday**.

Children Mission Offering



Children's Mission Offering

The children's mission offering this month will go to UNICEF.

Every day, children die needlessly from preventable causes – and they don't have to. **UNICEF takes proven, low-cost methods that save children's lives** and makes them available regardless of income, ethnicity, or location.

By making a **tax-deductible donation** to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF today, you can provide children with:

- Lifesaving vaccines and insecticide-treated bed nets
- Emergency relief following natural disasters
- Educational opportunities and School-in-a-Box kits
- And much more

Sharing Our Blessings with Others for August 2026

Havana

Total Mission \$1,199.08

Adult Mission
UMCOR \$405.00

Children Mission
Lessie Bates Davis House
\$327.08

Liberian Scholarship \$250.00
MYF Mission Trip \$50.00
Roof Repair \$167.00

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

Community Food Pantry October Item: Canned Soup



*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
October 2026

OAKFORD BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



2026 Lemon Shakeup

*Thank
you*

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the lemon shake up stand at the Havana Oktoberfest possible this year!!

We will be able to send **\$513.35** to Water is Life for personal water filtration straws and put **\$4,620.15** in the general account.

2027 Newsletter Sponsors Reserve Your Month Now!

- You can do so in honor of a loved one, for a celebration or simply to support the ministry.
- Cost: \$60.00
- Contact the church office to reserve your month today!

**2026 West District
Charge Conference
Sunday, October 11th
4:30 p.m.
Rushville United
Methodist Church**

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.

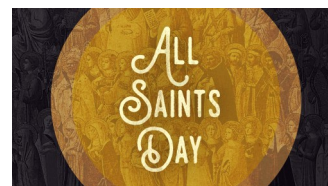
*Come worship, sing, share Communion,
enjoy a meal, and celebrate the unity of God's family with us!*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

- Psalm 133:1

All Saints Day Sunday November 1st



We will remember the saints of the church who have entered into God's eternal kingdom during worship on Sunday, November 1st

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Havana FUMC

Birthdays

Oct 1 Michael Hedden
 Oct 3 Joann Lynn
 Oct 5 George Caton
 Oct 6 Erik McDaniel
 Oct 7 Johnie Meisner
 Oct 8 Mike Friedrich
 Oct 8 Jody Coots
 Oct 9 Jame Hahs
 Oct 10 Michael Walker
 Oct 11 Bernie Sarff (1928)
 Oct 12 Malcolm Lozano
 Oct 12 Connie Montgomery
 Oct 12 Pat Thompson
 Oct 13 Annie Collins
 Oct 13 Christine Fleming
 Oct 14 Abby Pherigo
 Oct 14 Scott Blakeley
 Oct 14 Barbara Dunton
 Oct 14 Zoe Porter
 Oct 14 Haley Yetter
 Oct 15 Dru Bergman
 Oct 15 Drake Skaggs
 Oct 16 Josh Bohm
 Oct 17 Maddox Gamble
 Oct 18 Carter Bohm
 Oct 19 Bill Mitchell
 Oct 21 Randy Rutledge
 Oct 21 Brenda Wolters
 Oct 22 Cheyenne Byrd
 Oct 23 Robert Williams
 Oct 24 Cameron Lippert
 Oct 25 Jane Baar
 Oct 25 Victoria Oney
 Oct 26 Portia Brown
 Oct 26 Jill Friedrich
 Oct 27 Annette Brown
 Oct 28 Calvin Friedrich
 Oct 28 Chase Hughes
 Oct 29 Kaleb Walker

Anniversaries

10/03/1998 Mark & Christy Smith
 10/05/2002 Dennis & Cory Kramer
 10/09/2010 Ben and Rachel Daniel
 10/15/2011 Stevan & Heather Hofreiter
 10/16/1971 Craig and Janice Stephens
 10/19/1996 Don & Sue Clancy



Oakford UMC

Birthdays

Oct 3 Julie Cook
 Oct 5 Dana Bryant
 Oct 6 Sandy Smith
 Oct 7 Mark Lounsberry
 Oct 9 Karen Boensel
 Oct 9 Jame Hahs
 Oct 12 Lindsey Whitley
 Oct 17 Rod Rademaker
 Oct 18 Dawna Raikes
 Oct 19 Rod Shelabarger
 Oct 20 Susan Brauer
 Oct 23 Chase Gettings
 Oct 24 Drew Stone
 Oct 25 Mavis Brauer
 Oct 26 Hillary Duncheon
 Oct 26 Roszeta Monroe
 Oct 26 Mary Fontana
 Oct 29 Jerry Behrends
 Oct 31 Ronda Sidwell

Anniversaries

10/01/2011 Erik & Rose Raikes
 10/13/2018 Charles & Hannah Hobbs
 10/16/1993 Roy & Julie Cook
 10/18/2008 Rick & Alix Sherren
 10/28/1978 Rick & Karen Boensel
 10/30/1999 Gordon & Brenda Watkins
 10/31/1987 Kris & Carol Blake



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OCTOBER 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

SunCatcherStudio.com

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
10/05	6:30 p.m.	Mission Committee Mtg
10/06	4:00 p.m.	PEO Meeting
10/07	1:00 p.m.	UWF Meeting
10/11	4:30 p.m.	Charge Conference-Rushville
10/13	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Mtg.
10/15	1:30 p.m.	Cancer Support Group
10/17	10:00 a.m.	"Crochet 4 Christ"
	6:30 p.m.	Fall Harvest Celebration
10/27	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting

CHOIR

October 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th @ 6:00 p.m.

IGNITE (MYF)

October 11th & 25th @ 4:30 p.m.
Meeting @ Church

October 18th 4:30-5:30 p.m.
+ Supper (Location TBA)

Meet at Atwater Agency for Operation
Shoebox

Weekly Prayer Topics October 2026

- October 4 Pray for our Farmers as they harvest their crops.
"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38
- October 11 Pray for those who hunger.
"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat." Revelation 7:16
- October 18 Pray for Our Shut-ins.
"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." Psalms 145:4
- October 25 Pray for the church as it is being continually re-formed in the image of Jesus Christ.
"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of

Dr. J. "Donald" Graham who passed away on September 12, 2026 and Dorothy Turker who passed away on September 17, 2026.

OCTOBER



Give thanks for our pastor's faithful leadership and service.

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

October 4th: Emma Strauman
October 11th: Davis Snedeker
October 18th: Ella Strauman
October 25th: 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.

Newsletter Deadline
October 23rd



In Our Prayers

Havana: JoLynn Adkins; Beth Andrews; Lynn Coots; Graham and Kay Curtis; Patrick Dietsch; James Kleier Gray; John Intihar; Eric Parsons; Ashley Schaad;

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.....

IGNITE Youth Ministry (Formerly MYF) | Grades 5-12

Mission: Igniting faith, passion for service, Bible study, and prayer

Regular Schedule

2nd & 4th Sundays: 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM at church (snacks provided)
3rd Sunday: Off-campus event (times vary; check newsletter)
1st Sunday: No meeting (Family Night)

October Schedule

Oct 4: No meeting (Family Night)
Oct 11 (4:30–6:00 PM)
Church meeting
Oct 18 (4:30–5:30 PM + Supper)
Operation Shoebox
Atwater Agency
Oct 25 (4:30–6:00 PM)
Church meeting

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United Methodist Church
Havana/Oakford
October 2026

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First United Methodist Church
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Havana, IL 62644

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The Messenger

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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.

October Newsletter Sponsored by:



***The Congregation of the
Oakford United
Methodist Church
in celebration of our partnership
with the Havana First United
Methodist Church***