October 2026

Carillion

Our Vision statement:

To live by Faith

To Be known by Love

To Be Voice of Hope

Office: 235-8430

Pastor Ben Morris

Notes from the Pastor

"I am the light of the world" John 8:12

October is one of my favorite times of the year. The air turns cooler, the leaves begin to change, and there is something beautiful about watching one season slowly give way to another.

But there is on part of this season that I do find difficult: the loss of light.

The sun rises a little later each morning and disappears a little earlier each evening. Before long, the days that seemed almost endless during the summer become noticeably shorted. I find that I notice it—not simply on the clock, but in myself. There is something about diminishing daylight that affects me.

Perhaps that is one reason the biblical image of light speaks so powerfully to me at this time of year.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, we hear these words about Christ: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Notice the promise isn't that there will never be darkness. Scripture is honest about darkness. There are seasons when the path ahead seems uncertain, when our spirits are weary, and hope seems a little more difficult to find. But God's promise is that darkness does not have the final word. The light continues to shine.

Perhaps this change of season offers us an invitation to pay attention to the places where we find that light. We find it when we gather for worship and hear again the promises of God. We find it in Scripture and prayer. We find it around a table, in a conversation with a friend, in an unexpected act of kindness, or in the opportunity to serve someone who needs us. Often, Christ's light reaches us through one another.

This is the space where Jesus enters our lives and makes and interesting turn.

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). But he also looks at his disciples and says, "Your are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

That means our calling isn't simply to search for enough light to make it through the darker seasons ourselves. We are called to reflect the light we have received.

As the days grow shorter this October, perhaps we can ask two questions: Where am I seeing the light of Christ? Where might Christ be asking me to carry that light for someone else?

We cannot stop the seasons from changing or the days from growing shorter. But we can stay close to the One whose light continues to shine. And together, we can help that light shine a little more brightly in our churches, our homes, and our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben.

October 14

Missions

10:00 a.m.

Leadership Team

1:00 p.m.

October 18

Day by Day Meal

5:30 p.m.

October 25

Charge Conference

12:00 p.m.

Celebrate Our Community

Every month we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of those who call First United Methodist Church their spiritual home. We celebrate community fellowship with one another. Be sure to greet those who are celebrating this month. Please don't assume we know all of the birthdays and anniversaries among us. Call the church office and let us know your special milestone dates, too!

BIRTHDAYS

5	Eldon Pomplun	14	Rachel Blackburn-Knox
7	Matthew Faust	15	Mark Wortman
10	Millie Jorgensen	31	Bennett Anderson
	Peggy Paull		
	Ann Tulip		

ANNIVERSARIES

9	Taylor & Alex Anderson
14	Andy & Dede DeWitt

Thank you for your gifts to First United Methodist Church!

Together, we share in God's work of love and service within our community. We invite you to consider a way of giving that feels right for you, knowing that every gift makes a difference. Thank you for giving as part of our shared ministry!

- **Automatic Withdrawal:** Vanco offers automatic, electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your checking or savings account. You can pick up a form in the church office.
- **Mail:** Your contribution to church at 700 W. Linwood Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901
- **Offering Plate:** You can bring your tithes and offerings to church services.
- **Online:** https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YS9T **or by using the Vanco App!**

There are people who will benefit for generations as we give together.

Offering Our Prayers

We are honored to join hearts with those who are grieving, sick or hurting among us. Please pray for those listed below. We'd love to pray with you, too. Contact Ann Tulip (920-379-9055) or Church Office (920-235-8430) to be added to the prayer chain. We would also love to pray for you during our Sunday service. Please submit your brief request by phone, mail or email at office@firstumcoshkosh.org by Monday of each week. We will compile them for the community prayers during our recording Sunday morning.

Prayer & Praise Requests for the Month

- Margaret turned 11 on Monday.
- Karl & Lynda Olsen—For a safe an uneventful birth of our great grandson who is due any day now.
- Continued prayers for Ukraine and people of Nepal.
- Pray for peace and kindness.
- Lynda Olsen—Thanks for praying for our newest great grandson—Thomas Karl born Wednesday, September 2nd was 7lbs. 4oz. Perfect in every way.
- Teresa Mize who is healing from gall bladder surgery.
- Andy DeWitt's PSA results came back undetectable. Good News!
- Daphne—Still need prayers for Dan, the chemo has been tough.
- Pray for family members who feel estranged from each other, that they can find their way back.
- Margaret—Pastor Ben was the main character in the Actuary.
- OASD students and especially North Students
- Daphne—Still need prayers for Dan, he has his 5th chemo on Thursday and PET scan on Tuesday.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Glenn Christman (Pastor Nancy Green's brother)
- Brad Green
- Judi Weinert

Fill the Collection Box

Please drop them off in the collection box in the Narthex.

Men's and Woman's Deodorant
Paper Towels
Shoe Laces—shoe and boot, various lengths
USB C Charging Cables
Powdered Coffee Creamer
Snack Food/Applesauce and Fruit Cups
Laundry Detergent
Cleaners—Window, Floor, and Toilet All Surface
Dryer Sheets
Garbage Bags—All sizes, wastebasket up to 55 gallon
Popular Condiments: Mayo, Hot Sauce, Ranch Dressing Parmesan Cheese
Hair Brushes
Reuseable Water Bottles
Backpacks
Umbrellas
Coffee
Belts
Sugar
Sugary Cereal
Juice

Specialty Spooktacular Food Drive

Gluten Free Snacks, Gluten Free Baking Items, Gluten Free Pancake Mix, Sugar Free Canned Fruit, Sugar Free Jam, Sugar Free Snacks, Low Sodium Canned Vegetables, Low Sodium Pasta Sauce, Coconut Milk, Almond Milk, and Oat Milk

Day by Day shelter meals for 2026

Please mark your calendars and as we get near these dates, Contact Mike Thomas if you will be able to assist with providing a meal at the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

1. Sunday, October 18th 5:30 p.m.
2. Sunday, November 15th 5:30 p.m.
3. Sunday, December 13th 5:30 p.m.

We have two batches of Stew in the freezer at church and also the meat for the next batch that we will likely prepare in December.

A Generous Life — Beginning November 1

Join us beginning Sunday, November 1, for A Generous Life, a four-week stewardship series exploring how God's generosity shapes the way we live and give. An accompanying devotional will be available digitally, with printed copies available in the church office.

The Fatal Truth: Fact-Finding Report on Israel/Palestine

Presented by Rev. Mark Klaisner
When: Sunday, Nov. 1 | 2:00 PM
Where: First United Methodist Church, 700 W Linwood Avenue Oshkosh

Join Rev. Mark Klaisner as he shares firsthand observations from his June 2026 travel to Israel and Palestine with the Society for Biblical Studies. He will reflect on his visits to the West Bank and Gaza, shedding light on the tragic and complex realities on the ground. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Buy Scrip Cards

Scrip cards are like any other gift card. Give them away as gifts or use them yourself when you shop. Our church benefits by earning a rebate on each card; some as high as 10%. The cards you order are available the following Sunday. "Scrip Table" in the hallway by the display case on Sunday morning to pick up an order form. Then bring back your filled out form by Sunday, November 1, 2026

Fellowship Hour

Please sign up to host a Fellowship Hour. If no one sign up there will be no fellowship hour that Sunday. It's easy and we need your help to keep it going. The sign-up sheet is on the Information Table in the Narthex.

Stewardship
What Are We Growing?

This spring, I planted seeds in a raised garden bed in our backyard. That may not sound particularly noteworthy, but for me it was a bit of an adventure. I grew up in Milwaukee suburbs and am pretty "citi-fied." Gardening has never really been part of my life, and I certainly wouldn't describe myself as someone who knows what he's doing.

Still, I decided to start somewhere.

I planted tomatoes, squash, zucchini, and a few other things. I watered. I pulled weeds. I tried to pay attention to what seemed to be working and what wasn't. And then I waited.

The last part may have been the hardest.

You don't plant a seed one afternoon and come back the next morning to find a tomato waiting for you. Growth takes time. For a while, there isn't much to see at all. Then a small plant appears. It gets a little bigger. Eventually there are flowers, then tiny vegetables, and finally something ready to harvest.

By late summer, I was brining tomatoes, squash, and zucchini into the house. And what surprised me most was the abundance. There was enough to share with others.

All of that came from deciding to plant a few seeds even though I wasn't entirely sure what I was doing.

There is something in that experience that reminds me of stewardship and the ministry of the church.

Much of what God accomplishes through us begins with someone simply being willing to start. Someone gives for the first time. Someone volunteers even though they have never done that ministry before. Someone invites a neighbor. Someone agrees to teach a class, serve a meal, visit someone who is lonely, sing in the choir, help with children or youth, or make a financial commitment to the church.

Often, we don't immediately see what grows from those seeds.

Ministry requires patience. The impact of a gift, an invitation, or an act of service may not be visible tomorrow—or even next month. But over time, something begins to grow. A child discovers that church is a place where they are loved. A person begins to understand God's grace in a new way. A family finds a place to belong. Someone who was helped years ago becomes the person helping someone else.

And very often, what grows becomes larger than we imagined.

Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but Go gave the growth" (1Corinthians 3:6). That is a pretty good description of stewardship. We plant. We tend. We share what God has entrusted to us. And we trust God with what grows from it.

You don't have to be an expert to plant a seed.

And when we faithfully plant and tend that God has placed in our hands, we may discover that there is not merely enough for us, but an abundance—blessing that can be shared with others in ways we never anticipated.

So perhaps this stewardship season is a good time to ask: **What are we planting today? What is God growing among us? And who might be blessed by harvest?**

A New Chapter for Our Church Bazaar

Our Christmas Bazaar at First United Methodist Church has a long history. For more than 50 years, many things about the Bazaar have changed. But its purpose has remained the same: bringing people together around the Christmas season while raising funds to support the mission and the ministry of our church.

This year we are writing another chapter in that story. For the first time, we are inviting local crafters and artisans to participate in the Bazaar.

Many of the familiar traditions will still be there, including our bake sale, handmade crafts, vintage Christmas decorations, and pre-made soup starters. But alongside them will be new faces and new creations as we invite artists and crafters from throughout the community into our building.

The purpose behind it all remains unchanged. The funds raised through our church's Bazaar activities continue to support the mission of our church. This year we will also collect canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry.

As we prepare for Saturday, November 7,. We hope you will help us spread the word—especially to crafters and artists you may know. Vendor applications are being accepted through October 12. For vendor information, contact David Schuhart at (920) 312-3011 or eldoor@aol.com. Details about the Bazaar are also available on our website, firstumcoshkosh.org.

First United Methodist Church Bazaar & Craft Sale

Date:
November 7th, 2026
Time:
10:00 to 4:00

This year's Bazaar will include a **Bake Sale**, **BBQ Lunch**, **Vintage Christmas Decorations**, **Pre-Made Soup Starters**, **Handmade Crafts** and now **Craft Vendors**. Everything that people who have been to our Church Bazaar are accustom to seeing. **We are opening up the space for Craft Vendors and Artisans.**

In addition, we are **collecting can goods and non-perishable food items** at the entrance for the **Oshkosh Area Food Pantry**. Help out one can good at a time so there will be plenty for all! We are also looking into having a local Youth Choir perform as well on the day as well.

*All donation and funds collected at the Church Bazaar go to missions for outreach to the community!

700 W. Linwood Avenue
Oshkosh WI 54901
www.firstumcoshkosh.org

Last year as part of our stewardship campaign we invited those who had been collecting loose change over the past year as part of our "Thank Offering" during stewardship season. Almost $700 was raised! We split this amount between Day by Day Shelter and the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry.

Our "Thank Offering" will be collected this year on November 22nd. Please bring your jars or any loose change on that day!

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	**2**	**3**
				9:00 a.m. Quilters		
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship **10:30 a.m.** Worship				9:00 a.m. Quilters		
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship **10:30 a.m.** Worship			10:00 a.m. Missions 1:00 p.m. Leadership Team	9:00 a.m. Quilters		
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship **10:30 a.m.** Worship 5:30p.m. Day by Day Meal				9:00 a.m. Quilters		
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship **10:30 a.m.** Worship 12:00 p.m. Charge Conference				9:00 a.m. Quilters		

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Change Service Requested

The Carillion is published monthly for the members and friends of First United Methodist Church,
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