

OCTOBER

Upcoming Dates:

October 5th – Holy Communion

*October 13th – Pie & Reflections with
Pastor Al from 2:00-3:00 p.m.*

November 9th – Charge Conference



Children's 
CHURCH

Exciting News: Children's Church will be continuing!

We're excited to announce that starting this summer, we will begin offering **Children's Church** during our worship services. Following the Children's Message, kids will be invited to head up to the 3rd floor for a special time of learning and fun as they explore Bible stories designed just for them.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out!



Our Mission

Knowing
Christ,
Sharing His
love,
Helping others to know Him.

Minister:

Pastor Al Coffin
319-899-4945
cofinal2010@gmail.com

Youth Director:

Elly Stremsterfer
641-919-7840
ellystrem@gmail.com

SPPR: Carrie Brownlee

Facebook: Fairfield First United
Methodist Church

Website: FairfieldMethodistChurch.org

Email: FUMCFairfield-First@gmail.com

Weekly Radio Broadcast:

Sunday at 10:35 am,
1570 AM – KMCD

Prayer Link: Email or phone the
church office 641-472-4303,

fumcfairfieldfirst@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

12 I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

14 “Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

We are in a very uncomfortable place in our nation right now. Everyone is on edge. Everyone seems to be required to choose a side ... to make a choice between left and right. The passage from Joshua above came at a tipping point in the history of God’s people. The older generation (those born in Egypt) had passed away in the wilderness and a new people, hardened and made strong by their journey, were poised to finally reap the promise made to their father Abraham.

This was a defining passage of scripture for our faith tradition. And it’s so quotable. But it’s still just a PART of a larger story. For instance, would it surprise you to learn that not ALL of the tribes decided to cross the Jordan with Joshua? Reuben and Gad had a lot of cattle and they had already found land that seemed pretty near perfect for cattle. So they stayed on the eastern side of the Jordan River. They sent their fighters to help with the conquering part of the operation but after that was done, according to Moses, “*after that you may return and be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel, and this land [on the eastern side] shall be your possession before the LORD.*”

In our current situation, the perception that it's all about left or right is very compelling. It’s so simple that way. Everyone is either one thing or the other and everyone picks a side and then agrees with everything that side believes. But the reality is both more complex but also ultimately simpler than that false choice.

Neither we nor the Israelites were required to choose between one thing or the other, not ultimately. Like Joshua told the people on the banks of the Jordan River that day, the voice isn’t about crossing or not. It’s not a matter of choosing east or west, left or right. There’s really only ONE choice ... “*we will serve the LORD.*”

We don’t get to separate ourselves into two or ten or twelve tribes. Jesus explained it quite clearly for us:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Matt 22:37-38)

If we can’t do THIS, it doesn’t really matter whether we’re on the left or the right; we’ve missed the mark. Whichever side of the line we think is OURS, the folks on the other side are also beloved children of God. And Jesus has told us to love those guys, too. Maybe especially.

See you on the road,

Pastor Al



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In cooperation with



Fairfield First
United Methodist Church



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Let us know if you can use free food items
even if not listed here.



- Canned Fruit
- Prunes
- Fresh Fruit
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Potatoes
- Tuna

- Fettucine Pasta
- Rice
- Eggs
- Milk
- Butter
- Black Beans
- Frozen Meat

MANNA for Fairfield

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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AT FAIRFIELD FUMC OCTOBER 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students.

Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access training. Last year, over \$360,000 was raised to advance these educational initiatives:

Fifty percent of the funds collected go toward scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students of color pursuing ordained ministry.

Thirty-five percent of the funds collected provide grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. The In-Service Training Grants support the recruitment, training, and retention of people of color in leadership roles across all levels of church ministry.

Fifteen percent of the funds collected support leadership development among partner churches and communities in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and communities of color in the U.S.

One of the beautiful things about The United Methodist Church is that, together, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own. Together, we invest in a more inclusive, globally representative church leadership.





An Update on Our Stewardship Campaign

October is usually the month when we begin discussing our stewardship campaign. The Finance Committee is very thankful for all the monetary contributions made by the congregation during this calendar year.

After much discussion and the discovery of new information about stewardship campaigns, the committee decided to adjust the timing of our current campaign. Committees are currently preparing their 2026 budgets, and the Finance Committee will then compile these to create a comprehensive budget for the church for 2026. This will be shared with the congregation, and donors can prayerfully decide how much they want to give to support our budget and beyond. We will launch our stewardship campaign in early 2026. We also recognize that stewardship to the church means more than just financial giving. We pray that you will continue to support our church through your prayers, your presence, your witness, and your service. Thank you!

Join us for a Fall Filled Afternoon!

On **Sunday, October 12th**, right after our worship service, we invite families to stay for a Fall Fun Day at church. It will be a relaxed time to connect, laugh, and celebrate the season together. We'll have stations for all ages:

- **Pumpkin Painting or Carving** – Pick a pumpkin and make it your own with paint, markers, or carving tools.
- **Fall Craft Table** – Put together a simple seasonal craft to take home.
- **Outdoor Game** – Join a fall-themed game that gets everyone moving.

After the activities, we'll enjoy **pizza for lunch** as a church family.

Please **RSVP to Elly** so we can plan enough pumpkins, craft kits, and food. We look forward to celebrating fall with you!





Hannah, Ruth & Guild Circles have combined and we are now Faith Circle. We will continue to meet in September, October and November on the second Thursday of the month. We will also meet in March, April & May. We meet at 12:00 in the Community Room.

**Save
the
Date!**



Hangings
of the
Greens

*Join us after worship on
Sunday, November 23rd
to decorate the church!*



Ingathering



The Missions Committee would like you to prayerfully consider participating in the annual Ingathering by purchasing items for “Personal Dignity Kits” listed below. We have been CHALLENGED by our circuit churches to meet a goal of 10% beyond last year’s number of kits...
LET’S DO IT - AND BEYOND!

MIDWEST MISSIONS INGATHERING KIT

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Hand Towel – No kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth – No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush – No Multipacks
- 1 Bar Soap – 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo – 12.5 – 19 oz. (Please seal with packing tape, if possible)
- 1 Deodorant – 2-3 oz – stick or roll-on
- 1 Lotion – 8 -10 oz. (No pumps)
- 1 1-gallon Resealable Plastic Bag

Place all items in the resealable plastic bag.

Add a \$4 donation (cash, please) per kit for carrying bag, toothpaste and shipping.

All kit items MUST be NEW.

Kits should contain ONLY the requested items in the requested size.

Please return all kits to the church no later than October 26, 2025.

Thank you so much for supporting the Ingathering and helping people in their times of crisis!!!

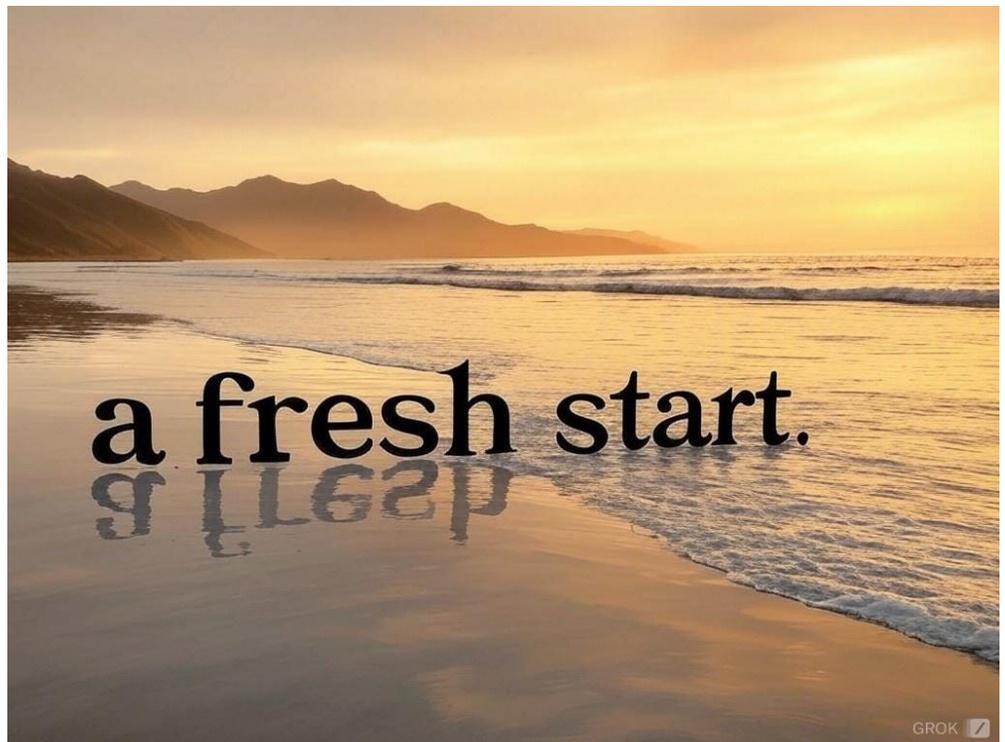
HELP US FILL “FRESH START BASKETS”!!!

The Missions committee is happy and excited to announce our newest opportunity for all of us here at FUMC to put our Love into action. We will be collecting items to fill our “**FRESH START BASKETS**”. Fresh Start is a facility located in Des Moines, and it is one of the places that is supported by Women at the Well.

Women at the Well is a United Methodist Ministry that has been in existence for about 17 years. It is a prison ministry whose congregation is located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, Iowa.

Women at the Well offers a number of different ministries designed to encourage the spiritual growth of its members, assist them when they transition back into the world beyond the razor wire, and to assist those of us who already live outside the walls to better understand the hurts and hopes of the women who reside within the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women.

The “**FRESH START BASKETS**”, when they are filled, will be taken to the “Fresh Start Women’s Center”, a Women’s Residential Correctional Facility. The women that stay there have to abide by the same rules as the women in prison do, with the exception that they are allowed to leave the center to go to their job locations. They must be able to hold down a job in order to stay. Women at the Well help these women in a couple of ways. First, they have a weekly worship service/Bible study on Tuesday nights. Second, Women at the Well help these women when it comes time for them to integrate back into society. They present them with a new laundry basket full of much needed personal items and clothing crucial for a “Fresh start” in life. When a woman is released from this correctional facility, she is given only the few items she came in with. These laundry baskets are truly a blessing to them as they are facing a new and challenging chance at life and striving to become productive citizens of society.



Items needed as women are released for their “fresh start” are as follows:

Laundry Baskets
Dishes (hard plastic)
Silverware (hard plastic)
Glasses (hard plastic)
Clear Plastic Water Bottles (can be tinted)
Shower Curtains
Shower Slippers
Bathroom Towels
Paper Towel
Cleaning Supplies
Laundry Soap
Bath Soap
Toothpaste
Other Toiletries
Undergarments (all sizes)
Winter Hats and Gloves
Gently Used Coats
Sweatpants & Sweat Jackets (can be gently used)

You may bring one item, a few items or many items – you are not expected to fill a basket by yourself. The missions committee members will store all items in a designated room and be responsible for filling the baskets. Please bring your items to the church and place them inside the office during office hours (Monday – Thursday, 1 P.M. – 4 P.M. or on Sunday mornings.) We will be doing this indefinitely, so stay tuned for occasional reminders and updates.

Jesus emphasized that helping others is essential, viewing it as an act of Love for the Lord and a way to serve our God directly!

Let's put our Love into action!

Ready, Set, Go!!!

Angie Lamb - Missions Committee



*-you're
-invited-*

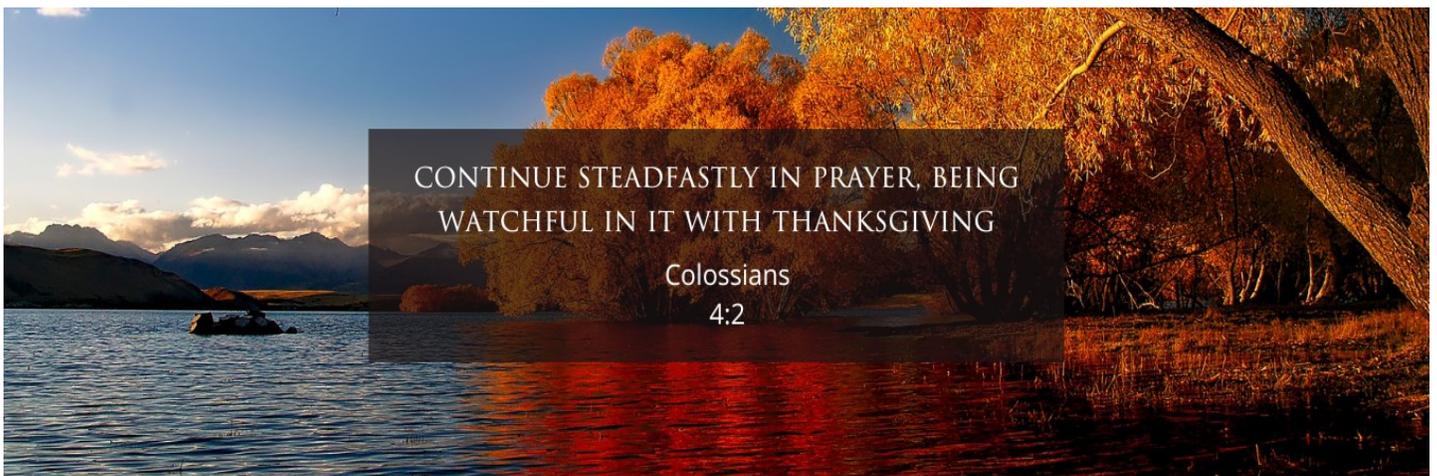
To Pie & Reflections with Pastor Al

Second Mondays of the month from
2:00-3:00 p.m. in the coffee area outside
the sanctuary.

Each week, from the back of the bulletin, ready the lectionary passages listed and answer the questions. Then once a month, let's chat about it with Pastor Al.

*Our next chat is Monday,
October 13th at 2:00 p.m.*

Pie will be waiting and the coffee
will be on!



Birthdays

Jane Topel	10/1
Leah Canfield	10/4
Allison Wagner	10/4
Jessica Lamb	10/4
Judy Buttery	10/5
Jonathon Edgeton	10/5
Aaron Marcellus	10/7
Pete Tollenaere	10/7
Mark Brownlee	10/7
Paul Megrath	10/9
Drew Stever	10/9
Gavin Stever	10/9
Philip Miller	10/10
Shannon Morrissey	10/11
Melanie Norton	10/12
Danielle Breen	10/13
Delaney Breen	10/13
Charles Drobny	10/13
Sharon Brown	10/14
Juliet Dodge	10/14
Timothy Buch	10/19
Sandi Dimmitt	10/19
Matt Nelson	10/22
Samantha Cromrie	10/25
Frazer Jones	10/25
Emily McIntyre	10/27
Stacie Hootman	10/27
Ralph Hickenbottom	10/28
Joyce Fulton	10/31
Benjamin Huff	10/31

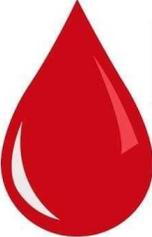


Anniversaries

***Do you have
contact information to update or add?
Contact our
Membership
Secretary***

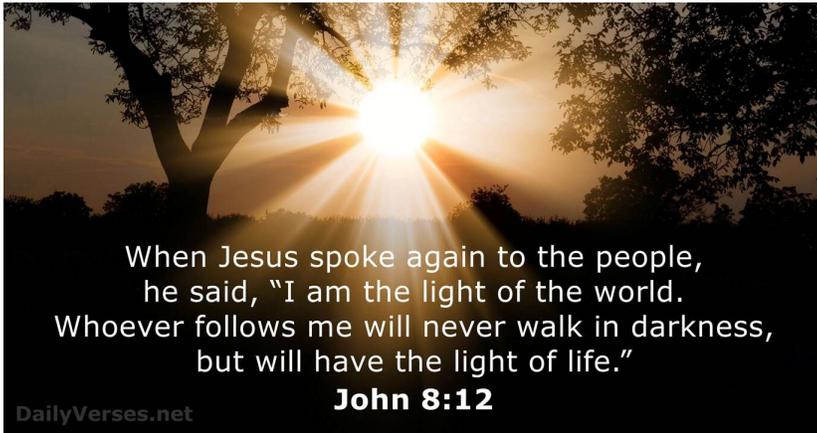
James & Deb Billingsley	10/1
Greg & Claudette Dorrell	10/5
Mark & Betty Mayer	10/10
Linn & Mary Vehslage	10/10
Jeff & Pam Koontz	10/12
Paul & Amy Megrath	10/12
Larry & Janet Miller	10/16
Claude & Lorelee Brown	10/24





Blood
Drive

Mark your
calendars!
Monday,
November 3rd



When Jesus spoke again to the people,
he said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

DailyVerses.net

As we step into fall, the world around us begins to shift. The mornings are cooler, the evenings come quicker, and the daylight fades sooner with each passing week. While fall brings the beauty of harvest, colorful leaves, and a natural slowing down, it also ushers in longer nights and shorter days. This

change can weigh on our hearts and minds, making it easy to feel tired, restless, or even discouraged.

The darker months remind us how much we depend on light...not only to see where we are going, but also to feel warmth and hope. In the same way, our lives depend on the light of Christ. John 8:12 reminds us, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* Even as the seasons change and daylight slips away, God's light remains constant, guiding us through uncertainty.

This is the time of year when distractions often pile up. School schedules, work demands, holiday preparations, and busy routines can pull us away from time with God. Yet, fall is also an invitation to slow down and be intentional about where we place our focus. Just as farmers gather their harvest, we are called to gather our hearts and center them on Christ, who sustains us through every season.

When the nights feel long and the days seem heavy, let us lean into prayer, scripture, and fellowship. Gathering together as a church family, encouraging one another, and holding fast to God's promises helps us remember that we are never walking alone. His presence is not dimmed by the darkness of the season.

As we transition into this new season, may we challenge ourselves to seek God's light daily. Whether through a quiet morning devotion, a kind word to a neighbor, or pausing to thank Him for the beauty of His creation, let us fix our eyes on Him. The world may darken around us, but with God, our hearts can remain full of light.

~Elly



Today

< > October 2025



Month ▾



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:35am Worship Services - In-per: 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD-Bonnie Banse 9am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Finance Mtg: CR 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>Oct 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm 1 Communion to Addington 6:15pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Feast of St Francis of Assisi</p>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:35am Worship Services - In-per: 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD-Bonnie Banse 9am Women's Bible Study 6:05pm SPPR: CR 	<p>7</p> <p>Food Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 8:30am WIC 7pm Ad Council: CR 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 8:30am WIC 12pm Hannah Ruth Circle 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:35am Worship Services - In-per: 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD-Bonnie Banse 9am Women's Bible Study 9am ☑ Questers 6pm Mission Mtg 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 8:30am WIC 8:30am Foster Care Review Board; 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:35am Worship Services - In-per: 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD-Bonnie Banse 9am Drive Thru Meal Prep 9am Women's Bible Study 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Christian Ed 6:30pm Confirmation 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am WIC 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am DCOM-order Pizza & serve
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:35am Worship Services - In-per: 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD-Bonnie Banse 9am Women's Bible Study 10:15am Ladies of Hope Meeting 10:30am WIC 6:30pm Worship Committee 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 8:30am WIC 5:15pm Finance Mtg: CR 6:30pm Trustees: CR 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir Practice 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Walking DVD 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am WIC 	<p>Nov 1</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>



LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD,
FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

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October
Herald 2025

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