The Circuit Rider

Princeton First United Methodist Church
316 S. Church Street ✦ Princeton, IL 61356
princetonfirstumc.org

Pastor Michael Ray Hickok
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✦ JUNE 2026 ✦

A Word from Pastor Mike

At our Staff/Parish Relations Committee meeting on May 9, 2026, we made the decision to invite **Charlie Gebeck to assume the roles of Interim Chancel Choir Director and Interim Bell Choir Director.** He will continue as our Organist. We are blessed as a congregation to have such a talented and faithful musician as a part of our church family. Charlie will collaborate with the pastor and staff to provide vocal and instrumental music during the summer of 2026 and our choirs will participate regularly in worship this fall. Please welcome Charlie into these new roles and encourage singers and ringers to participate in rehearsals and worship.

At the same meeting, our **SPRC also decided to temporarily discontinue our Saturday worship, after June 6, 2026.** We are exploring ways to offer an evening worship experience that will strengthen our congregation and be faithful stewards of our resources. We will keep you apprised of our progress and any resumption of evening worship at our church.

On **Sunday, June 28, Rev. Arlene Christopherson, will be preaching and leading worship at our church.** Arlene is a Retired, United Methodist Elder, who served faithfully for many years in the Northern Illinois Conference. In addition to her ministry as a local church pastor, Arlene served as a District Superintendent, Director of Connectional Ministries, and Assistant to the Bishop. She and her husband Gary have a home on Lake Thunderbird. **At 10:15 on June 28, Arlene will lead a discussion on our United Methodist Response to Immigration in our nation.** Arlene has served on the Board of Directors of Justice for our Neighbors (JFON) and has unique insight into ways that Christians can offer love and support to our migrant population. We will hold our fellowship time with desserts and beverages in Cushing Hall that day, immediately following worship. We are grateful for Carol Byrd and Sherri Parker for hosting the discussion that Arlene will lead.

As we move into summer, we invite you to attend our worship each Sunday. We are aware that some of you may be traveling in the coming weeks and in that case, we encourage you to find a church to worship wherever you may be. We have many United Methodist Churches around the nation that will welcome you to visit. If you can't find a Methodist church, our Lutheran and Presbyterian brothers and sisters worship in similar ways to us. Please bring us any bulletins, newsletters, flyers, etc. from these churches. We are always looking for new ways to serve faithfully here.

May God in Christ bless you richly,
Pastor Michael Ray Hickok

June at a Glance

June 1 - 5:00 Our Table Board Meeting
June 7 - 10:00 Church Picnic
June 9 - 1:30 Care Team
7:00 Church Council Meeting
June 11 - 7:00 Staff Parish Meeting
June 14 - 9:00 Worship Graduate Recognition
June 16 - 5:00 Culver's Share Night
June 18 - 11:30 Red Cross Blood Drive
5:30 - Youth Group Barbecue & Games at the Parsonage
6:30 Finance Committee Meeting
June 21 - 9:00 Worship Zearing Scholarship Recognition
June 22 - 6:30 Trustees Meeting

Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served on the first weekend of June - **Saturday the 6th** and **Sunday the 7th.** If you prefer to take communion at home with the live broadcast, you are welcome to pick up a communion pack from the office during the week before.

Our Table

Our Table will meet twice in June to provide a meal and fellowship to anyone who would like to attend. Everyone is invited to come on Mondays, **June 8th and 22nd from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.**

June Change the World

Change the World for June will be donated to **Royal Family Kids Camp.** This is a specially designed camp for children ages 6-12 who are, or have been, in the foster care system or involved with the Social Services due to family induced trauma. The camp offers an opportunity for them to feel safe, have fun, and experience unconditional love. The camp is faith based and gives the children exposure to God's word, while giving them a sense of self-worth and accomplishment through projects they complete. They leave with new friends and treasured memories. For some it has proven to be a life-changing experience. Please consider donating your change into the jar outside the Sanctuary, as we "change the world" with each and every coin!

Church Picnic

This year's church picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 7** following worship. Adult Ministries will provide burgers, hot dogs, side dishes, cookies, drinks, and table service. Please plan on attending and kicking off the summer with good food and fellowship.

Change the World May Report

In May, we raised **$405.89** for the **Midwest Mission Distribution Center**, near Springfield, IL**.** This warehouse is a collection point for many types of goods and it produces a range of kits (i.e. health/hygiene, cleaning/disaster, birthing, personal dignity, and layette kits) for distribution throughout the United States and the world. Thank you for your generosity!

A Few Notes To Remember

- **Roof Reminder:** Many of you are aware that we replacing the roof of our building. For the next several weeks, the presence of construction equipment, may provide challenges to navigating our parking lots. Every effort is being made by our Board of Trustees and the Roofing contractor to minimize the disruption to our worship and activities. Please be alert and observe caution around the equipment. During the project, we encourage those persons with no mobility limitations, to park on the street and leave the closest parking for those who need it.
- **Pastor Mike Vacation: 6/22-7/5**
- **Updates and Events:** Be sure to like and follow the PFUMC Facebook page to be updated on events happening in our Church. Also download our very own PFUMC Church App from the App Store or Google Play Store

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School was so much fun this month! Our faith focus was "Jesus is the Good News" and we read stories from the Bible about the Ethiopian man hearing the good news and Timothy. The children enjoyed playing tag, sharing the good news with everyone by chalking on the sidewalks, and creating a special craft for our moms.

Children's Sunday School has ended and it will start back up in September!
The nursery will be available for all children 6 and under throughout the summer!

Amanda Noord, Children's Sunday School Director

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SAVE THE DATE

Are you ready to hit the slopes with God? Join us for 4 nights of crafts, Bible stories, snacks, and "snow" much fun at the First United Methodist Church of Princeton, Illinois!

VBS will be held July 6 - July 9 from 6-8pm. Any children entering preschool-5th grade may attend!

Register your child or grandchild online today by checking out our church Facebook page or scanning the QR code on the flyer right inside the church doors! Paper copies are available on the table in front of the church office.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for Vacation Bible School to help students travel from station to station! Please fill out a volunteer form found on the table outside of the church office if you are interested in helping! Students 6th-12th grade are welcome to volunteer as well!

ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Ecumenical Bible Study is doing a study titled "God of Creation". This Bible Study meets **every Monday at 10:00** am in the Conference Room. It's a "drop-in" group which means attendance every week is not required. The Ecumenical Bible Study is open to women of all faiths or denominations. If you have questions, contact Janet Becker at 815-866-1801 or beckerjnj71@gmail.com.

Questions about this study or our group can be directed to Janet Becker at beckerjnj71@gmail.com.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will be having their Culver's Share Night on **June 16 between 5-8 pm**. Help us fill Culver's with United Methodists! A percentage of the profits will be given to UWF Missions. See you there!

The United Women in Faith will be having their spring salad luncheon on **Saturday, June 13th at 11:00 am in Cushing Hall.** There will be special music presented by a couple of PHS chorus members under the direction of Brandon Crawford.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross will sponsor their next blood drive on **Thursday, June 18 from 11:30 - 5:30 pm in Cushing Hall.** Did you know that every donation can save up to three lives when given to someone in need? Consider signing up online: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive to reserve your time and help make sure enough blood is on hand when the need is great.

FILL THE TRUCK

The Northern Illinois Conference Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual "Fill the Truck" drive for its most needed items. These items become Home Care kits and Personal Dignity kits. **Items collected locally will be taken to the NIC Annual Conference June 15-16 in Schaumburg. There is a box located in the Narthex** with a flyer listing the items that they need. **The deadline for donations is 6/14**. Please help us fill the truck and thank you for continuing our support of Midwest Mission. See the attached flyer for more information.

Book Discussion Group

Please join the church book club on **June 9** to discuss "The Diary of Mattie Spenser" by Sandra Dallas. We will meet at **10:00 am** in the library.

Knitter's Group

Calling All Knitters and Crocheters! All skill levels are invited to come knit, crochet, loom or just chat on **Tuesdays at 2:30** pm in the conference room.

Princeton Board Games Group

This group meets on **Fridays** at **6:00 pm** in Cushing Hall. Everyone interested in learning more about modern board gaming and any player level is welcome to join this friendly group.

OUR STORIES, HIS GLORY

Monthly Stories of God's Presence from our Congregation

I was raised in the UMC and have been active in the church at varying degrees most of my life, so I don't really have a dramatic conversion story. Most of that time my relationship with Christ was in my head, but not so much in my heart. That changed in the spring of 2004 when I attended a Walk to Emmaus weekend. Grace was reexplained to me that weekend and the agape love that was shared moved that relationship from my head to my heart with a passion I had not previously had.

Since then, I have felt the Holy Spirit move in my life regularly, if not always quickly. I started attending Lay Servant Ministries classes in 2012 to understand my spiritual gifts and to develop those gifts so I could effectively put my passion to work. To no one's greater surprise than my own, God started developing my public speaking and leadership skills. Neither of these was ever remotely a consideration in high school or college. I then started to get opportunities to speak, both at Chrysalis and Emmaus weekends and as a Lay Speaker. God has been faithful to give me His words to speak and His calming presence to deliver them; at Princeton FUMC, at other churches around the Conference, and at Annual Conference last year. God has given me leadership opportunities in Walk to Emmaus, our local church, and the Northern Illinois Conference.

I am looking forward to the next opportunities that God has in store for me.

Thomas Newby
Lay Leader

Messages of Thanks

The family of Rich Mair would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards, memorial gifts, contributions to the funeral luncheon, kind words and the wonderful memories that were shared. A special thank you to Pastor Mike for his support and comforting words before, during and after the funeral service. A special thank you to Charlie Gebeck for his beautiful organ music and accompaniment on the piano. A special thank you to Ruth Denault and her crew for the lovely luncheon following the service. The church was an important part of Rich's life, and we are grateful to know he touched so many in a positive way. Thank you, *-Vicki and Family*

John and Jeany Gewin would like to express love and thanks to everyone in the faith family for prayers and support as we faced grief and health issues over the past few months! Food and visits and cards and smiles and hugs were all warmly welcomed and so very reassuring that God is always present among us. Please know that we are available should you need us. *-Jeany Gewin*

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 2026

Finance Committee Report for April 2026

	Month	Year to Date	Percent of Budget	Percent of Year
Income	$31,504	$120,227	37	33%
Expenses	$31,996	$117,359	30	33%
Net income	($492)	$2,868		

We are still ahead of budgeted income and behind on expenses, a very good place to be. Thanks to all members making this happen on both the pledges side and the expense control.

WORSHIP VIDEOS ONLINE

The Sunday worship videos are always available on PFUMC's youtube.com channel. Open the YouTube app on your device, or type www.youtube.com into your internet browser. Then search for 'Princeton IL First United Methodist Church'. When you see one of our videos show up on your screen, click on it. If that's not the one you want to view, simply click on where it says 'First United Methodist Church' under the video that's playing. Then you'll be able to see the whole selection of videos you can choose.

Worship Videos are live Sundays on the church's Facebook page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL PERSEVERANCE

On behalf of the PFUMC Finance Committee, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the people who have continued to contribute financially to the ministries of our church. Below are some of the ways in which you can give to the church.

1. Via mail – 316 S. Church Street, Princeton.
2. In the locked white mailbox by the main glass doors of the building.
3. Via your bank's on-line bill pay program. A physical check is then mailed to the church.
4. An automatic withdrawal (EFT/ACH) taken from your checking, savings or investment account. This can be done through your bank, or at our bank. **Contact Shelly Grabill for the bank information (i.e. routing number and acct. number).**
5. Through PayPal. Just visit our website (princetonfirstumc.org) and click on the 'giving' button. Then follow the instructions. You can set it up for a one-time use, or on-going. See Shelly if you have difficulties.

We continue to do ministry because of God's grace and your support.

PRAYER CORNER

Remember in your prayers…Family of Sandra Halberg, Family of Virginia Brayfield (Susannah Tournear's cousin), Betty Sutliff (health issues), Janel Goodale (health issues), Susannah Tournear (health issues), Pam Cochran (Jeany Gewin's friend – health issues), Marcia Hudson (health issues), Mark (Pat James' son in law – cancer), John Sayers (cancer treatments), Bob Parker (health issues), storm victims in our nation, those with cancer, or illness in our congregation, those awaiting tests/results, those recovering from surgery & treatments, the lonely, the homeless, refugees, immigrants, military personnel, health care workers, law enforcement, fire and emergency personnel.

****IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL OR AT A NURSING HOME, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND THEIR STATUS. MOST HOSPITALS/NURSING HOMES DON'T LET THE CHURCH KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS ADMITTED.**

Altar Flowers

If you're interested in providing flowers for the altar, let the church office know. Flowers are a beautiful part of God's creation, and people love seeing them in the Chancel area. You can order them from a florist, or pick them from your garden. Share the beauty with others as we worship God!

Treats for Social Hour

Volunteers are needed! The church provides the coffee, lemonade and water, but we rely on your baking skills/donations for the treats. Please consider signing up on the sheet outside the office, if you can provide treats of your choice. Thank you!

Donation Cart

If you have items to donate to Tri-County Food Pantry, please feel free to bring them in and drop them in the shopping cart located in Cushing Hall. The need is great, and all gifts are appreciated.

REMEMBERING PFUMC IN YOUR WILL

We never like to think about the time when we won't be here, but it comes for all of us. Thankfully, we know the next phase of our life is a joyful one – being reunited with loved ones and with God. But we will all leave behind both the 'stuff' of this life and a legacy. What better way to combine both than by including your church in your will. Hopefully you have wonderful people to leave gifts to as well, but if you include PFUMC in your will, you'll be ensuring important ministry will continue long into the future because of your generosity. See a member of the Endowment Committee if you have questions.

Congratulations Graduates

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mason Farrell, grandson of Randy & Sally Farrell and son of Justin & Regina Farrell, from Wiregrass Junior High. Mason will attend Wiregrass High School in the fall.

Paul May, grandson of Sue May and son of Justin & Rita May, from Ohio Grade School. Paul will attend Ohio High School in the fall.

Annabelle Schlender, daughter of Bryan and Elizabeth Schlender, from Logan Junior High. Annabelle will attend Princeton High School in the fall.

Evelin Sims, granddaughter of Larry and Deb Lawson, and daughter of Emmet and Hazel Sims, from Northbrook Middle School. Evelin will attend Mendota High School in the fall.

HIGH SCHOOL

John Busard, son of Carl Clemmons & Theresa Busard and James Busard, from Princeton High School. John will attend Illinois State University in the fall to study engineering.

Chloe Carroll, granddaughter of Veronica Carroll and daughter of Jonathan & Cheri Carroll, from Normal Community High School. Chloe will attend Heartland Junior College in the fall to study dietetics.

Jack Orwig, son of J.D. & Shelley Orwig and grandson of Les & Becky Orwig, from Princeton High School. Jack will attend Illinois Valley Community College in the fall to study business.

COLLEGE

Courtney Atkinson, daughter of Ben & Cindy Atkinson, from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Education. Courtney will be teaching 1st grade at Carl Sandburg Elementary in the fall.

Aidan Farrell, grandson of Randy & Sally Farrell and son of Scott & Patty Farrell, from University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Accounting.

Ryan Gewin, grandson of John & Jeany Gewin and Linda & the late Dr. Faber, and son of Russ & Jenny Gewin, from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Ryan has a job at a bank in downtown Chicago.

Alex Kniss, son of Dan & Cara Kniss and grandson of Paul & Pat Eddy, from DePaul University (Dec. 2025) with a Bachelor of Computer Science.

Reid Orwig, son of J.D. & Shelley Orwig and grandson of Les & Becky Orwig, from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Physical Education. Reid will be teaching physical education in Mt. Vernon, IL in the fall.

187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Fill the Truck

Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL

Sunday, June 14
10:00 a.m.-6:00p.m.

Monday, June 15
8:00 a.m.-12:30p.m.

*Times subject to change

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annualconference collection driveforMidwest Mission'sMostNeeded Items.

MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS A URGENT NEEDS FOR:

Home Care Kits
- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid

Adult Bicycles

Personal Dignity Kits
- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (no multipack)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz. (stick, roll on, or pump)
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

Ifyouprefer to make a financial contribution or a bulk purchase:
- Senda check or bring it to AC written to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section
- Give to Midwest Mission #50000150 through the online apportionment process.
- For competitive prices on Midwest Mission's bulk supply wish-list items, check the website below for a links

Midwest Mission will be on site to accept the above Most Needed Items and any Midwest Mission kits, bleacher lumber, retired firefighting gear (including jaws of life), treadle sewing machines, gently used hand tools. New or slightly used medical supplies, medical equipment, blankets and bicycles will also be accepted.

For questions email message with NIC Mission Challenge in the Subject Line to dnlpbrg@gmail.com.

Find out more at umcnic.org/2026MissionChallenge

MIDWEST MISSION
disaster relief • education • health • micro business

Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Practicing Hope

JUNE Celebrations

Birthdays

2 Roxana Noble
3 Scott Anderson
Pam Parker
4 Kannon McCarter
5 Dan Dace
Cal Gramer
Richard Philippe
6 Elaine Bolatto
Shirley Schroyer
7 Don Richards
8 Val Horras
9 Kathy Smith
11 Cindy Mansnerus
13 Brad Powelson
14 Vicki Mair
18 David Moss
19 Arline Crowley
Kendra Dolk Jones
21 Theresa Busard
22 Darlene Plumley
Tom Sneed
23 Kyle Chase
Bill Irwin
24 Joyce Linker
Lyle Lund
Gary Patterson
25 Shelley Orwig
28 Kaiden Wahlgren
30 Savanah Taylor

Anniversaries

3 Carl Clemmons and Theresa Busard
8 Bob and Marcia Hudson
Bryan and Elizabeth Schlender
10 Ed and Carol Pakosz
14 David and Amanda Noord
15 Jeff and Shelly Grabill
16 Jim and Denise Davis
Mike and Deb Vrana
20 Steve and Cindy Mansnerus
25 Greg and Sandy Steele
26 Doug and Sue Ray
28 John and Kelly Loftus
29 Jim and Sharon Smith

June 2026 First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Our Table Board Mtg	2 2:30 Prayer Shawl Group	3	4	5 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	6 5:30 Saturday Evening Worship *with Holy Communion*
7 9 am Worship *in-person or live-stream* 10:00 Church Picnic	8 10:00 Women's Bible Study **5 pm Our Table Meal** 	9 10:00 Book Discussion Group 1:30 Care Team 2:30 Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 Church Council	10	11 7:00 Staff Parish Committee	12 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	13 11:00 UWF Spring Luncheon
14 9 am Worship *in-person or live-stream* Graduate Recognition Annual Conference	15 10:00 Women's Bible Study Annual Conference	16 2:30 Prayer Shawl Group 5:00-8:00 UWF Culvers Share Night Annual Conference	17	18 11:30 - 5:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 5:30 Youth Barbeque & Games 6:30 Finance Committe	19 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	20
21 9 am Worship *in-person or live-stream* Zearing Scholarship Recognition Father's Day	22 10:00 Women's Bible Study **5 pm Our Table Meal** 6:30 Trustees Meeting	23 2:30 Prayer Shawl Group	24	25	26 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	27
28 9 am Worship *in-person or live-stream* Guest Leader: Rev. Arlene Christopherson 10:15 Discussion -United Methodist Response to Immigration in our Nation	29 10:00 Women's Bible Study	30 2:30 Prayer Shawl Group		Pastor Mike on Vacation June 22 - July 5th	**June Change the World:** Royal Family Kids Camp	

The First United Methodist Church of Princeton, Illinois

Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Worship (1st & 3rd Saturdays)	5:30 p.m.
Michael Ray Hickok	Pastor
Fallon Bush	Treasurer
Josh Bush	A/V Technology Director
Charles Gebeck	Organist
Shelly Grabill	Office Manager & Financial Secretary
Amanda Noord	Children's Sunday School Leader
Shelley Orwig	Youth Sunday School Leader
Tom Newby	Lay Leader
Elizabeth Schlender	Communications Director
Chris Rucinski	Nursery
Church Office	(815) 872-2821
Church General E-mail	office@princetonfirstumc.org
Church Website	princetonfirstumc.org

The First United Methodist Church of Princeton
316 South Church Street
Princeton, IL 61356

POSTMASTER:
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2026 Circuit Rider