



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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Church Office: Mon -Thurs 9:00---4:00

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♦ JULY 2026 ♦

July at a Glance

July 2 - Church Office Closed
July 8 - 10:00 Witness Team
July 6- 9 6:00-8:00 Vacation Bible School
July 10 - 11:00 UWF Bake Sale
July 14 - 10:00 Book Discussion Group
1:30 Care Team Meeting
July 16 - 6:30 Finance Committee Meeting
July 20 - 5:30 Adult Ministries
July 27 - 6:30 Trustees Meeting

Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served on the first Sunday of the month. **Sunday July 5th.** 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 July to provide a meal and fellowship to anyone who would like to attend. Everyone is invited to come on Mondays, **July 13th and 27th from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.**



From the Office

Please coordinate with the office on any events or repairs going on at the church, so we don't have two things happening in one room. Thank you!

July Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship
Sundays 9:00

Holy Communion
July 5th 9:00

July Change the World

Thank You from United Women in Faith

A Few Notes To Remember

Change the World for July will be **donated to School Supplies**, which benefit students in the local area who cannot afford to purchase all the supplies necessary for school. Your donations make it possible for these students to have the necessary items to begin the next school year. Please consider donating your change into the jar outside the Sanctuary, as we "change the world" with each and every coin!

Thank you for supporting the United Women in Faith at Culver's Share Night on Tuesday, June 16. **Culver's gave us \$1,050 from sales, round up donations, and additional donations from generous givers.** We are so thankful for those of you who came out to eat, and a big thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.

- **VBS Volunteers:** If you are interested in volunteering to help with Vacation Bible school forms are available on the table outside the church office.
- **Roof Reminder:** For the next several weeks, the presence of construction equipment, may provide challenges to navigating our parking lots. Every effort is being made 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.
- **Donation Shopping Cart Reminder:** We are always accepting food items for Tri-County Food Pantry. Items most needed are: Hamburger Helper, peanut butter, canned fruit in syrup, canned chicken, white or brown rice, canned ravioli, and any kind of snacks.

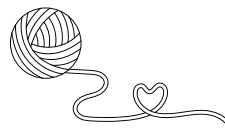
Change the World June Report

Through June 21, **we raised \$1,376.99 for the 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. Thank you so much for your generosity!



Book Discussion Group

Please join the church book club on **July 14** to discuss "The Dollmaker" by Harriette Simpson Arnow. 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.



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!

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 beckerjn71@gmail.com.

Questions about this study or our group can be directed to Janet Becker at beckerjn71@gmail.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 2026

	Month	Year to Date	Percent of Budget	Percent of Year
Income	\$25,247	\$145,474	37	42%
Expenses	\$28,256	\$145,614	37	42%
Net income	(\$3,009)	(\$140)		



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We need pies, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, breads, and other homemade baked goods for **Friday, July 10, 11:00-1:00 pm** for the “Lunch in the Park” Bake Sale by United Women in Faith. *We invite anyone from the church to drop off baked goods at 10:00 AM to Soldiers and Sailors Park.* A sign-up sheet is available outside the office.

The United Women in Faith held their Spring Salad Luncheon on June 13th in Cushing Hall. Twenty-two women were in attendance. After dining on the many salads that the women brought to share, there were several musical performances given by two members of the PHS choir department under the direction of Brandon Crawford. Mia Sluis played the guitar and sang and Scarlett Nichols played her flute. Thank you to all who came and thank you to Brandon and the girls for the entertainment.



OUR STORIES, HIS GLORY

Monthly Stories of God's Presence from our Congregation

When Pat and I met we both had accepted Christ as our Savior. (Romans 10:9-10). We were married on August 10, 1968 and took our vows to love, honor and cherish one another for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, till death do us part.

Christ gave us two commandments: to love God and love our neighbor (anyone you meet) as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40). This is the way I try to live. I Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us that love is kind and does not envy or boast.

Tithing is important to me. When we got married we gave a tenth of our meager paychecks to the church that Pat was raised in, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and I gave to the Foursquare Church that my dad was pasturing. Malachi 3:8-10. I finished up my bachelors degree at the University of Wisconsin Stout. We found a church there and began tithing to all 3 churches. Once I was employed as teacher we gave all of our tithe to the church we attended full time. We began tithing in 1968 until now. We have received so many blessings. We have learned that we cannot out give God.

I believe the Bible and what it says is true. I believe Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Paul Eddy



Zearing Scholarship Recipients

The 2026 Zearing Scholarship recipients were presented on Sunday, June 21 by John Hecker. The Zearing Scholarship was awarded to John Busard and Jack Orwig.



Both recipients were invited to speak of their gratitude and share their future plans.

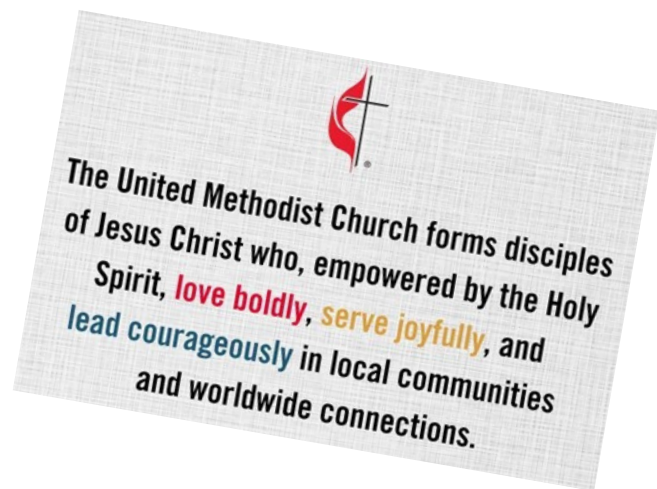




CHECK-IN/INFORMATION DESK
VOLUNTEER JEANY GEWIN HAS
A "CONVERSATION" ABOUT CHECK
IN WITH BISHOP DAN!



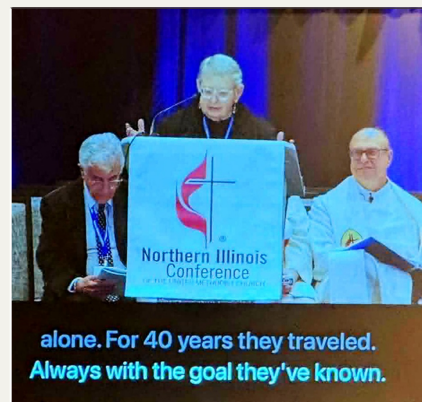
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
REV. DR. BRIAN GILBER



PROFESSIONAL BAND AND SINGERS ARE
ON DUTY AT ALL SERVICES AND ALL
PLENARIES.



JEANY AND LEAD SINGER
ANDREW JONES



READING BY MARCIA
PEDDICORD

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



JEANY AND AMY REINER



EUGENE WILLIAMS (LEFT), REV. VIOLET
JOHNICKER, AND
REV. FABIOLA GRANDON-MAYER



UNITED METHODISTS STAND FOR JUSTICE

NOTES ARE TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED AT EVERY SESSION. THE
CONGREGATION WILL RECOGNIZE MARCIA PEDDICORD SECOND FROM LEFT





FROM THE GREEN TEAM

“How to keep junk mail out of your mailbox by Leslie Horn Peterson (September 15,2025) Summarized from one5.com/how-to-stop-junk-mail

In 2024 the US Post Office found that 51% of all mail was junk. That is about 80 and 100 million trees cut down for something most people don't even want! And there are ecological costs to print and distribute this mail. Although paper recycling is among the highest of all goods, the rate for junk mail is much lower (around 36% at the last findings).

Five Steps to stop junk mail.

1. To stop credit card and insurance offers contact optoutperscreen.com. You can opt out for five years online, or you can print and mail a physical form to stop these mailings permanently.
2. Block catalogs, magazines, & marketing mailers. DMAchoice.org allows you to opt out of catalogs, magazines, and other marketing mail for a \$5 processing fee.
3. Find and slay even more catalogs. Another way to stop catalogs not in DMA is catalogchoice.org. It lets you stop individual catalogs.
4. Nix coupons. To cut out unwanted coupons, go directly to the biggest purveyors like Valpak, Save, and Mspark to remove your address from their registers.
5. Address the dregs. Do steps 1-4 to significantly reduce junk mail in three to four months. Then start looking closely at the unwanted promos for websites or phone numbers where you can ask to be taken off their mailing lists one-by-one. This applies to donor solicitations, political mailers, and member mail (think of things like Costo or an alumni association).



Photo Credit: Jannifer Powelson



Volunteers Needed Bureau County Senior Center

The Senior Center located at 16 West Marion Street, Princeton hands out free food on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 by the entrance. The food usually consists of some frozen meat, produce, and bakery products. There is usually enough for a few days. This food is for anyone. The food is mostly donated from Walmart. The Senior Center is looking for a volunteer to help bring the food to the Center from Walmart. This is at 11:30 AM every Monday and Wednesday. There are usually 25-30 boxes, some weighing nearly 50 pounds. If you are able and feel called to help, please contact Gary Patterson at 815-875-3767.

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 Harry Owens (Sue Moss' brother), Dave Caldwell (cancer), Jerry Hall (Seth Eddy's father-in-law – broken hip), Eleanor Hackerott (Anna Roadhouse's sister –health issues), Betty Sutliff (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), 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.



New Al Anon Meeting

Are you struggling with a loved one who has a drinking problem? Please try one of our meetings on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm. Come to New Hope Church of the Nazarene (30 N 6th St.) and use the door to the left of the main glass doors. There is no membership or fees, just fellowship and support. Please call 815-343-6453 for more information.

JULY

Celebrations

Birthdays

1	Kent Beams	14	Pat Anson	22	Ben Atkinson
4	Mary Jane Dolk		Mary Damon		Jim Crowley
5	Susie Bishop		Pat Eddy	27	Earlene Campbell
	Stephanie Johnson		Sharon Smith		Chelsea Merth
6	Birney Brown	15	Nancy Kautz	28	Jacob Bystry
7	Kathy Damon		Mary Thompson		Elizabeth Orwig
9	Rebecca Kautz-Hill		Jodee Zelenik		Susannah Tournear
	Jenna Loftus	16	John Busard	29	Marcia Hudson
10	Sue May	19	Vicki Cabral	30	Jennifer Merth
11	Myrna Roggy		Brenda Lund		
13	Kamden Wahlgren		Ruth Philippe		

Anniversaries

6	Robert and Jennifer Merth
10	J.D. and Shelley Orwig
15	Don and Mary Wooden
24	Clark and Joan Simpson
27	Tom and Pat Etheridge

July 2026 at First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July Change the World School Supplies			1	2 Church Office Closed	3 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	4 
5 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> with Holy Communion	6 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6-8 Vacation Bible School	7 2:30 Prayer Shawl Knitters Group 6-8 Vacation Bible School	8 10:00 Witness Team 6-8 Vacation Bible School	9 6-8 Vacation Bible School	10 Church Office Closed 11:00-1:00 UWF Bake Sale Lunch in the Park 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	11
12 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i>	13 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5 pm Our Table Meal 	14 10:00 Book Group 1:30 Care Team Meeting 2:30 Prayer Shawl Knitters Group	15 6:30 Finance Committee	16 6:30 Finance Committee	17 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	18
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26 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i>	27 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5 pm Our Table Meal  6:30 Trustees Meeting	28 2:30 Prayer Shawl Knitters Group	29	30	31 Church Office Closed 6:00 Princeton Board Games Group	

June MOMENTS



PFUMC
Church Picnic



UWF
*Salad Lunch
& PHS Musicians*





The First United Methodist Church of Princeton, Illinois

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.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

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**POSTMASTER:
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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