

United Methodist Messenger

A publication of the United Methodist Church of Gibson City, Illinois

September 2011

Volume 30, Issue 9

Rally Day—Celebrating Our Stories! September 11, 2011

Rally Day is a time to remember, rejoice and renew. We will do that this year in a celebration of stories. There is a fabric of faith that holds our life stories together, and threads of grace that run through all our lives. On



Rally Day 2011, we will take time to remember and share some good stories, rejoice in how God works in our lives, and renew ourselves to sharing the essential story of God's love for all.

Please join us for the following on Rally Day:

9:00AM Sunday Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School For All Ages

11:15 AM Picnic in the Park, hosted by the Covenant Council. You are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. Beverages, table service and hot-off-the-grill hamburgers, brats and hotdogs will be provided. You are also welcome to bring lawn chairs and games.

Fabric of Faith

We invite your help with a special project in preparing for Rally Day worship on September 11th.

For our worship setting that weekend, we want to collect items made of fabric that represent your story—something special to you or representative of your life (you personally or your family). This could be an item of clothing (like work clothes) or a special blanket or a quilt or ??? It can be big or small, fancy

or plain. We will see how these pieces from our lives come together on Rally Day. Please safety pin a little note to it that includes your name and why you chose that item. Examples are currently displayed outside the sanctuary. Please bring your item of fabric to the church by Wednesday, September 7th. Contact Barb Horsch with any questions. Thank you! Items can be picked up any time after the 11:00 service on September 18th.



.....AT A GLANCE

3—Mission Cook Out at County Market

4—No Sunday School

5—Office Closed—Labor Day

10—No Saturday Night Light Service

11—RALLY DAY

14—Sprouts, Kids' Choir & Jr High Youth Group Resume

19—Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip

21—Senior High Youth Group Resumes

23—Potato Bake

24—Weiner Roast hosted by The Family Fellowship Team

28—Fellowship of the King Resumes (5:15 pm)

RSVP Deadline for Corn Maze Trip (Oct 2)

** Additional information on the above happenings can be found within this newsletter.

Kevin Boesen—Pastor

Megan Thompson—Associate Pastor

Barb Horsch—Connection Coordinator

April Rotramel—

Administrative Assistant

Pam Gee—Church Custodian

Beverly Nagle—Organist

Ruth Davis—Choir Director

Verna Buck—Saturday Pianist

Phone 217-784-5452, Fax 217-784-5543

Saturday Night Light Worship 5:30PM

Sunday Traditional Worship 8:45AM

Sunday School 10:00AM

Sunday Emerging Worship 11:00AM

Office phone 217-784-5452, e-mail gcumc@sbcglobal.net

Pastor's cell phone (217) 249-5453, Associate Pastor's cell phone (217) 418-8354



From the Pastor's Pen

From the Pastor's Pen

“And after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.” (1 Kings 19:12c-13a)

Our children are busy with the school year that has started. The school work and all the extracurricular activities can be consuming. Many of us continue the hectic pace with our jobs as we begin to shift gears for the changing seasons. The farmers and agriculture related businesses are preparing for what the harvest will bring. Our church finds itself at Rally Day, the beginning of a new Sunday School year, and as you read you will see that there is a great deal of other activities that could challenge our schedules. We try to discern how we will use the gifts that God has given us. It is so easy to become distracted and overwhelmed with all of this along with the world situation for what it is. There continues to be war, famine, disease, earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, droughts and hurricanes pummeling the earth, and political unrest worldwide and locally.

This can be overwhelming and frustrating. It can cause us to want to point the finger to blame someone else or perhaps even to run and hide or get lost in the wilderness. This is what Elijah, the great prophet of God, did. He reached a point where he could not see God past the circumstances.

I encourage all of us to take time and listen to the silence in this time of change and new beginnings. God has never stopped working in our world. How will God lead us out of the world's chaos and into mission? God's direction brings peace and assurance.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Kevin

New Beginnings in September Adult Musical Groups

Come and enjoy a great time with an adult musical group. Each group would welcome anyone!



Sanctuary Choir—Practice begins on September 7th at 7:30PM in the Red Room. Everyone is invited to be a part of this ministry! This group sings during the 8:45 AM worship service every Sunday from September—May.

Chime Choir—Practice began on August 31st and is held every Wednesday evening at 6:30PM in the basement. You do not need to be able to read music to be a part of this group—no music experience is necessary! This group plays during the 8:45 AM worship service on the 3rd Sunday of each month from September—May.

Praise Band—Practice continues September 7 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary on Wednesdays. This group leads worship during the 11:00 AM service.

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Do you remember where you were when _____ happened?

There are certain historical events that are burned into our identities. Things like the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the assassination of JFK, the Berlin Wall ceasing to divide a city are all events that have found their way into our collective memory. In just a few weeks, we will be remembering the events of September 11th, 2001.

Do you remember where you were when the news went out, when the planes hit the towers, or the pentagon, or crashed into that field? Do you remember watching the towers come down? I do. I remember that day. I'm sure you do, too.

But what about children who have no memory of that day, of the fear and grief and uncertainty and remembrance that Sept. 11 brings? How do we, as people of faith, teach our children about what happened? How do we answer questions they might have after seeing the images on TV or on-line? How do we answer these questions for ourselves?

The quick answer to these questions is that there is no easy answer. But there is prayer, and there is God, our God, who has personally experienced pain, suffering, grief, and death.

In the Old Testament, our God walked with people who were slaves, with people who had lost their homes. God was with those who had lost their sons and fathers and friends in fighting. Our God walked with people who were uprooted from their homes when conquering forces came through. Our God walked with people who felt there was no hope left, telling them through the voices of the prophets that in God, there is always hope.

In the New Testament, our God put on flesh and blood, and in the words of the Message, "moved into the neighborhood" as Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, we hear story after story of healing after a life time of sickness and pain, we have promises that those who mourn will be comforted, and knowledge that what happened on the cross, the pain and suffering that took place there, and the resurrection afterwards, is evidence that death no longer is the end, but rather a new beginning.



So how do we respond to questions about September 11, 2001 when children ask? The General Board of Discipleship has published "Forty Days of Prayer for Children." This resource includes scripture, activities and

prayers for families to share in together. A few examples are below; if you are interested in more resources, stop by the office or contact me and I will email you the link for the on-line packet.

Your Sister in Christ

Pastor Megan

From "A Peaceful Remembrance of September 11, 2001: Forty Days of Prayer for Children"

Scripture

Love: Deuteronomy 10:19, Matthew 22: 35-40, 1 John 4:7-10
Justice and Mercy: Psalm 67:1-4, Proverbs 31:8-9, Micah 6:6-8, Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 15:12-14
Compassion and Peace: Proverbs 19:17, 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 7:12, Ephesians 4:32

Ideas for activities with children:

Wrap a shoebox in colorful paper, cut a slot in it, and let children use it to hold written prayers.
Have children write a prayer to share on Sept. 11th.

Prayers:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
-St. Francis of Assisi

God, sometimes I look around me, and I see scary things. I try my best to be brave and strong but it is not always easy. Help me to remember that you are the greatest protection I will ever need. Thank you for being by my side and in my heart. In Jesus name, Amen.

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September Birthdays



| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Joan Bedel | 2 | Marjorie Davis | 14 | Katherine Dengler | 23 |
| Bob Link | 3 | Susie Dueringer | 14 | Tammy Shanley | 23 |
| David Littlefield | 3 | Ethan Freehill | 14 | Edith Stoltz | 23 |
| Dana Martin | 3 | Wayne Snyder | 14 | Glenn Riddle | 24 |
| Lila Rankin | 4 | Andrew Fancher | 15 | Kaeleb Carr | 25 |
| Joel Hood | 5 | Samantha Endsley | 16 | Melissa Jamison | 25 |
| Ashley Willoby | 6 | Danielle Jones | 16 | Mary Rhodes | 25 |
| Jared Clark | 9 | Kevin Knerr | 17 | Bob Miller | 26 |
| Kay Bell | 10 | Rick Ertel | 18 | Bonnie Dewey | 27 |
| Mark Sauer | 10 | Karleigh Kietzman | 18 | Flo Wilson | 27 |
| Roger Main | 11 | Julie Boesen | 19 | Douglas Poe | 28 |
| Aleka Seneca | 11 | Merle Jones | 19 | Doug Schultz | 28 |
| Tom Borton | 12 | Libby Shields | 19 | Kent Steinman | 28 |
| Emily Spangler | 12 | Fran Davis | 20 | Brandon Boma | 29 |
| Gail Anliker | 13 | Lauren Pool | 20 | Jordan Nagle | 29 |
| Carey Davis | 13 | Kathy Bennett | 21 | Craig Kummerow | 30 |
| Megan Moody | 13 | Tim Shields | 21 | | |
| Lucas Clinton | 14 | Leigh Ann Day | 23 | | |



Stats and Such for August YTD 2011

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Giving YTD (budget) through Aug 28 | \$ 173,991.80 |
| Giving Goal YTD (budget) through Aug 28 | \$ 236,600.00 |
| Giving Goal (budget) each week | \$ 6,760.00 |
| *Other Giving YTD through Aug 28 | \$ 55,103.82 |

| Weekend | Sat | Sun | Sun | SS | Offering |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|----|------------|
| August 7 | 11 | 124 | 25 | | \$4,236.00 |
| August 14 | 14 | 142 | 30 | | \$6,714.00 |
| August 21 | 17 | 128 | 16 | | \$4,545.00 |
| August 28 | 15 | 146 | 23 | | \$3,525.00 |

*Includes giving for the following missions: Bereavement Meals, Memorials, Designated Giving (Handyman Fund, Cookouts at County Market for Missions, Special Offerings, etc.), Mission Socks, Opportunity School, Organ Fund, Elevator Fund, and Youth Mission Trip. It also includes Interest Income.



September Anniversaries

| | Day | Years |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Robert and Shirley Peeken | 1 | 60 |
| Phillip and Jodi VanSwol | 7 | 15 |
| Doug and Rhonda Eckerty | 10 | 23 |
| Mike and Jennifer Arsenault | 11 | 18 |
| Ty and Kara Royal | 12 | 19 |
| Tom and Sue Briggs | 15 | 48 |
| Doug and Gayle Hager | 20 | 59 |
| Kent and Julie Steinman | 28 | 15 |
| Brad and Rachael Baird | 30 | 5 |

September Mission Socks will benefit the
Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

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Prayers for the People

Join us in the sanctuary each Monday morning at 9:00 for prayer. Every member of our congregation is prayed for by name. The following people are in need of our prayers:

Teresa Beckman
Joyce Bennett
Marian Boog
Verna Buck
Janice Christensen
Rolph Christensen
Mildred Davis
Ed Eagleson
Rick & Jean Ertel

Jennifer Fancher
Grace Hanley
Ruth Harris
Donald Hiner
Bill Hunter
Hailey Jamison
Mary Lou Kelley
Imogene Loy
Phil & Malinda Lutz

Bob & Bettie Main
Warren Meinhardt
Mark, Angela and Kailyn Overman
Judy Peters
Thelma Probus
Heather Reum
Dixie Thomas
Don Williams
Harold Young

Births, Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths

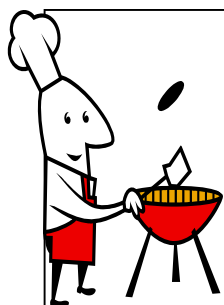
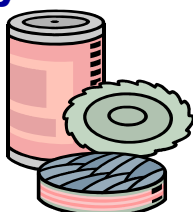
Grace Steidinger was dedicated on August 14th , 2011

Erma Hoover passed away on August 23, 2011

Current Food Pantry Needs

sugar
saltine crackers
canned meat
chicken helper
juice

pancake mix
tea bags
cleaning products
hygiene products



Cook Out County Market Saturday, September 3th

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Workers, dessert bakers and eaters will be needed!!

From the Web Corner

It's that time of year again- the new school year has just begun, and church activities that were suspended over the summer will resume. This means our Facebook page will be busy, and our website pages will be undergoing some major updating!

Craig will be happy to include your small group's, Sunday School Class', Choir's, etc. information on the website, and Susan will do the same with the Facebook page. Please submit the information you want published- including Sunday School or Bible Study curriculum or theme-and we'll see to it the world knows of the exciting opportunities we have at GC UMC for growing in the image of Christ. And remember to send us your pictures! We can share those, too!

| Annex | Manor (G.C.) | Asta Care | McLean |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Verna Buck | Frances VanSwol | John R. Bell | Bill Loy |
| Doris Young | Ella Mae Miller | Area Nursing Home Residents | |
| Imogene Graff | Thelma Probus | | |
| Zella During | Judy Peters | | |

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Thanks

Thank you to all who made the 50th Celebration of Ministry such a very special morning. We have lots of pictures to remember all that took place.

Also, a Thank You for your prayers during Tom's gastric bypass surgery and recovery. He is now on the eating program he will have for the rest of his life (almost anything in small portions).

Love, **Phil, Malinda, Tom & Ellen**

Glenn and I would like to thank our church family and friends for all the prayers, food, visits, cards, and concern since my knee surgery and his open heart surgery. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring place. God bless all of you.

Glenn & Marsha Riddle

I wish to express my love and affection for my Methodist friends for all the cards, phone calls and food since my recovery from colon cancer. I am cancer free thanks to my faith and all your prayers.

Lorene Edwards

Fellowship of the King September 28 at 5:15 PM

Our weekly Fellowship of the King meals will resume on Wednesday, September 28 at 5:15 PM. Come and enjoy a meal and great fellowship!



Midwest Mission Distribution Center Tuesday, September 19th 6:30 AM



The next Midwest Mission Distribution Center trip will be on September 19th. The group will leave the church parking lot at

6:30AM. If you are interested in participating please contact Kim Fisher at 249-3505 for details. A signup sheet is posted outside the office door.

Potato Bake & Bake Sale



The Gibson City United Methodist Church will host a potato bake on Friday, September 23 from 11 am until 1 pm. Meal served will include ham, baked potato, coleslaw, pudding (chocolate or vanilla),

brownie, and a roll. Tickets are \$8.00 and all proceeds will be donated to local missions. Meals will be served (or be picked up) in the Fellowship Hall and we will also offer delivery service. Please see the church office, Glenn Riddle, or a 10:10 class member with questions or to purchase tickets. If you are interested in baking items for the bake sale, please have them to the church by 8:30 on September 23rd. If you would like to donate toward the Potato Bake, the following donations are being accepted: \$30—for Ham, \$10—Potatoes, \$10—Coleslaw. Thank you for your donations!

Weiner Roast & Hay Rack Rides

The Family Fellowship Team will be hosting a Weiner Roast at the Sharp Residence on September 24th starting at 5PM. Food and drinks will be provided by the Family Fellowship Team. Please come and join in the fun! For directions or more information, please contact the church office.



Satellite Class

The members of the Satellite Class invite you to join them on Sunday morning as they explore and experience God's Word. The format generally includes a time for fellowship, announcements and/or transaction of class business followed by study time and discussion that is facilitated by the viewing of a Biblical based DVD or video. We are starting a new 12-week series "God is Closer Than You Think" authored by John Ortberg. Opportunity is provided to view and discuss each topic twice. We would be delighted for you to join us in Christian Fellowship in studying God's Word.

DISCIPLE

Disciple Classes to Begin in Fall

Are you interested in taking Disciple I, II, III or IV class this fall?

Disciple I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study is the foundation course - a survey of the entire Bible - and must be taken first. This class covers about 85% of the Bible, providing an understanding of what the Bible says, what it means to be a Disciple of Christ, and what the Bible means to you personally.

The remaining courses, in-depth studies of certain books, may be taken in any order following Disciple I:

Disciple II - Into the Word, Into the World: Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts

Disciple III - Remember Who You Are: Old Testament prophets, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah, and the letters of Paul

Disciple IV: Writings, especially Psalms and Proverbs, the Gospel of John, and Revelations, in addition to several other books.

Would you like to learn more about Disciple Bible Study? Please contact Barb Horsch for more information.



You are invited to a Combined Youth Fellowship Outing with the American Lutheran, First Christian, First Presbyterian & United Methodist Churches.

This event is open to all junior high and senior high youth.



Hardy's Reindeer Ranch in Rantoul

- Sunday, October 2nd
- Meet at American Lutheran Church at 4:00 for pizza
- Bring \$7.00 to go through corn maze
- Permission Slip must be filled out
- RSVP deadline is noon on Wednesday, September 28th

Adult drivers are needed!

RSVP to Karen Christensen at kewc49@hotmail.com or (217) 379-1573



Wednesday Youth Fellowship!

We're starting off another year of activities for young people on Wednesday nights!

Starting **September 14th**, Sprouts (3rd-5th grade) will meet from 3:30-5:00 to talk about the ways that we Love God (through worship and devotions) and Love Others (through justice and kindness). Come join us in Sprouting out!

Also starting **September 14th** is a newly re-launched Junior High Group! We'll be meeting from 6:00-7:00, learning how God's stories are important to us through conversation, projects, and games. All 6th- 8th graders are welcome to join us! (There will be a supervised room for homework from 3:30-5 starting September 28th)

Kid's Choir is growing up! It's not going to be just a choir anymore! Starting **September 14th**, we will act out stories of our faith in skits and dramas as well as making joyful noises unto God! Join us from 5-5:30 for K-Motion!

The Senior High Youth Group will start up on **September 21st**, the week after homecoming. We'll meet from 7:30-9ish to talk, pray, have some fun and generally try to figure out together what it means to be a Christian in High School.

Any questions about the Wednesday Youth Fellowship? Want to help out? Contact Pastor Megan at (217) 418-8354 or gcumcassoc3@sbcglobal.net.



LIVE B.I.G. Theme for September:
THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY™.

THE B.I.G. Idea: We believe that stories in Genesis help us understand God's plan for God's people.

- Classes from preschool - 8th grade study the same theme each week.
- No Sunday School on September 4th for children
- Classes officially begin on September 11th.

A parent or guardian must complete a Registration Form for each child attending Sunday School. The form provides teachers with emergency information, child's allergies, birthdate, and contact information for the family. A Registration Table will be set up on September 11th in the Fellowship Hall. (The form is also available on the church website and may be completed and dropped off at the registration table.)

Are you ready to "J.U.M.P." in to *Children's Ministry*!?

(J.U.M.P.! "Jesus Use Me Please")

There are different levels of involvement in Children's Ministries"

- Gathering time helper - serve or bring a special snack (9:45-10:00),
- Decorate bulletin boards
- Greet & Welcome kids to Sunday School (9:45 - 10:00)
- Volunteer to substitute

NEW: GC UMC Kids in the News - Bulletin Board – Need 2-3 people willing to find articles in local newspaper about 'our kids' and put on Bulletin Board in North Hallway.

For more information about *opportunities* with Children's Ministries, contact a member of CM Committee: Judy Eckhoff, Laura Hazen, Cathy Walker-Steidinger, Jean Bielfeldt, Donna Douglas, Joan Boesen or Laynie Shields.

September 2011

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Wednesday Night Activities</p> <p>4:00 PM Sprouts (begins September 14th) 5:00 PM Kids' Choir (begins September 14th) 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group (begins September 14th) 6:30 PM Chime Choir (continues September 7th) 7:30 PM Praise Team (continues September 7th) 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group (begins September 28th) 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir (begins September 7th) 8:30 PM Jake's Boys (continues September 7th)</p> | | | | <p>1 5:30 PM Mission Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Trustees</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3 10:00AM-2:00PM Mission Cookout at County Market</p> <p>5:30 PM Saturday Night Light</p> |
| <p>4 Communion Sunday</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>8:45 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School (Adults Only)</p> <p>11:00 AM Emerging Worship</p> | <p>5 Labor Day—Office Closed</p> | <p>6 9:00 AM Monday Prayers</p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM Communion/Manor</p> <p>1:45 PM Communion/Annex</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> | <p>10 10:00 AM Wedding</p> |
| <p>11 9:00 AM Combined Worship</p> <p>10:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 AM Picnic in the Park</p> | <p>12 9:00 AM Monday Prayers</p> <p>5:30 PM SPRC Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Covenant Council Meeting</p> | <p>13 9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting</p> | <p>14 7:00 PM Pie Night at the Manor</p> | <p>15 Newsletter Articles Due</p> | <p>16 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> | <p>17 10:00AM Wedding</p> <p>5:30 PM Saturday Night Light</p> |
| <p>18 Mission Sock Sunday</p> <p>8:45 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Emerging Worship</p> | <p>19 6:30 Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip</p> <p>9:00 AM Monday Prayers</p> <p>6:45 PM Children's Ministries</p> | <p>20 9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 PM Memories & Reflections</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 7:00 AM Potato Bake Preparation</p> | <p>23 11:00 AM Fall Potato Bake</p> <p>5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> | <p>24 10:00 AM Wedding</p> <p>5:30 PM Saturday Night Light</p> <p>5:00 PM Weiner Roast & Hayrack Rides</p> |
| <p>25 8:45 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Emerging Worship</p> | <p>26 9:00 AM Monday Prayers</p> <p>7:00 PM ACT Board Meeting</p> | <p>27 9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> | <p>28 9:00 AM Prepare Newsletter</p> <p>12:00 PM Corn Maze Trip RSVP Deadline</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p> | |

United Methodist Messenger

Worship Information for September

| | September 4 | September 11 | September 18 | September 25 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Liturgist | Kent Bielfeldt | Lisa Farmer | Mick Kingsley | Kim Fisher |
| Greeters West | Tom & Kathy Bennett | Virgil & Faye Rosendale | Virgil & Faye Rosendale | Bob & Bettie Main |
| Greeters South | Marilyn Verkler & Dorothy Shields | Kent & Jean Bielfeldt | Kent & Jean Bielfeldt | Deonna Sauer |
| Acolytes | Erin Arsenault & Audrey Boss-Maxey | Kaitlynn Kietzman & Alison Davis | Ethan Freehill & Spencer Hazen | Micah & Jonah Moody |
| Sound Room 8:45 | Joel Hood | Lonnie Engel | Kim Fisher | Steve Hawthorne |
| Projection 8:45 | Darren Eckerty | Taylor Engel | Meaghan Sharp | Danielle Eckerty |
| Projection 11:00 | Jessica Schultz | James Fairfield | Jeremy Steidinger | James Fairfield |
| Nursery 8:45 | S. & J. Schultz | S. & J. Schultz | S. & J. Schultz | S. & J. Schultz |

Head Usher for September is Doug Eckerty.

Church Website: www.gcumc3.org

We're on Facebook! Our page name is "Gibson City UMC"

United Methodist Messenger

Gibson City United Methodist Church
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Gibson City, IL 60936

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