



*Sharing Christ • Uniting as family • Maturing in faith • Calling others*

# Sharon

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson



*Let the river run  
Let all the dreamers wake the nation  
Come, the New Jerusalem  
Silver cities rise  
The morning lights the streets that lead them  
And sirens call them on with a song.*

Those are the opening words to “Let the River Run,” a 1988 song by Carly Simon. It was kind of a big deal, winning a Grammy, a Golden Globe, and an Oscar. Her words lean on the strength of Walt Whitman and the spiritual hope of William Blake. *There is more to life than quiet resignation. There is victory, power, and grace. And (I might add) there is also the love of God.*

As I sit here and write this it is the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. It comes around regularly, just like the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. That regularity, that part of transcendent design might lead some to believe that history is a circle, repeating itself over and over. I think that’s short-sighted. Just as the concept of “karma” flat-out denies the presence of God’s grace and forgiveness, so, too, does the concept of history repeating itself deny the activity of God every day.

Yes, absolutely, there are some things that repeat themselves. A sunrise. The blooming of flowers. The fascination with snow. The joy of a good meal or a well-played symphony. Still, there are breakthrough moments that shine like a lighthouse on a foggy coast, Pieces of brilliance that make us sit up and take notice of life. An unexpected friendship. A God-revealed understanding. Witnessing an act of compassion and kindness. Or, more simple but no less startling and important, the taste of a good piece of watermelon in February.

Life seems to be a combination of both the routine and the unexpected. And yet, the river of God runs through it all, doesn’t it? Tying all of the incredibly diverse currents into one stream, all travelled by us, always with God. Let us rest comfortably in what we know and let us trust God in what we don’t.

*Let all the dreamers wake the nation*

With prayers for peace and grace,  
Rev. Wally



*Visit us on the web at [sharondecatur.org](http://sharondecatur.org)*

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	<b>26</b> 9:00am - 11:30am STELLAR VBS	<b>27</b> 9:00am - 11:30am STELLAR VBS	<b>28</b> 9:00am - 11:30am STELLAR VBS	<b>29</b> 9:00am - 11:30am STELLAR VBS 2:00pm - 3:15pm Women's AM Bible Study 6:00pm - 7:15pm Men's & Women's PM Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:00am - 11:30am STELLAR VBS	<b>1</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park
<b>2</b> Holy Communion 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Joint Committee Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30am - 10:45am Women's AM Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Meeting 6:00pm - 7:15pm Men's & Women's PM Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park
<b>9</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 5:45pm - 6:30pm Ice Cream Truck Event	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:30am - 10:45am Women's AM Bible Study 6:00pm - 7:15pm Men's & Women's PM Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park
<b>16</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30am - 10:45am Women's AM Bible Study 6:00pm - 7:15pm Men's & Women's PM Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am - 10:00am "Walk 'n Roll" at Cresthaven Park
<b>23</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

10 RJ & Mandi Podeschi  
23 Evan & Tori Leeper

5 Martha Leeper  
14 Jennifer Hosler  
14 Tori Leeper  
20 Mark Hosler  
20 Sean Hosler  
26 Theresa Sunderland



# SHARING CHRIST ...



### ★A friendly reminder:

Please make any donation checks out to **Sharon United Methodist Church** and name the receiving ministry in the memo.

### Missions Offerings

Reach out to those in need in our community and world by participating in the following offering opportunities:

### July 16

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Gaston Ntambo**
- ♥ Children's Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastors**

### Thru July 16:

#### ♥ SV Backpack Program

- Expo black chisel-tip dry erase markers (brand-specific)
- Elmer's glue sticks Large (0.77 oz.) (brand-specific)



*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

*Matthew 25:40*

# UNITING AS FAMILY ...



- Nathan Doty*
- Janet Hirst*
- Ben Holmes*
- Sarah Holmes*
- Joni Simms*



Starting July 1, join us for a rockin' walking group that will begin meeting on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at Cresthaven Park. We will plan to walk 2 miles (or approximately 35-40 minutes), but if you are led to walk more or less, feel free! It will be a great opportunity for fellowship and expanding

friendships within our church family and beyond. Please contact Lori Leeper or Jenna Doty with any questions. We hope to see you there! (We will not meet the week of July 24)

### Committee Meetings

#### **Worship**

Thurs., July 6, 2:00 p.m.

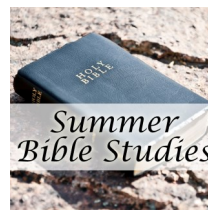
#### **Ad Council**

Wed., July 12, 6:30 p.m.

# MATURING IN FAITH ...



- Nursery**  
Lisa Landacre
- Elementary**  
Lori Leeper
- Jr. High-College**  
Mike Landacre
- Wesley**  
Mandi Podeschi
- Good News**  
Martha Leeper



### Thursdays

July 6, 13, 20  
Tom & Martha Leeper's home/farm office

### **Women:**

*A Woman Who Doesn't Quit: 5 Habits from The Book of Ruth*  
by Nicki Koziarz  
9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

### **Men:**

*Everybody Always*  
by Bob Goff  
6:00 p.m.

CALLING OTHERS ...



**Scouting News**

- Troop 91/911 Meetings **Sundays** (July 2, 23) 3:30-5:00 p.m
- **Joint Committee Mtg.** July 2, 5:00 p.m.
- Cub Scout Meetings **No meetings until August.**



**VBS**

**JUNE 26-30**

**9:00-11:30 A.M.**

**Kids ages 3 yrs. to completed 5th grade**

Register online at [www.sharondecatur.org](http://www.sharondecatur.org)



Sunday, July 9  
5:45-6:30 p.m.

Sharon UMC Parking Lot

The Ice Cream Truck will be here, and there will be **no cost** for the treats, thanks to the Sharon UMC Evangelism committee.



**Serve the LORD with gladness!**

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre
	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper
	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty
<b>Liturgist</b>	Jarred Leeper	Mandi Podeschi	Ben Holmes	Lisa Landacre	Martha Leeper
<b>Nursery</b>	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper

Our Tithes and Offerings to God				
	5/28/2023	6/4/23	6/11/23	6/18/23
Tithe	\$1,462.00	\$3,320.00	\$1,990.00	\$677.00
Loose Plate	\$70.00	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$20.00
S. School	\$0.00	\$6.00	\$18.00	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,532.00</b>	<b>\$3,346.00</b>	<b>\$2,029.00</b>	<b>\$707.00</b>
<b>Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00</b>				



**SHARON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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Decatur, IL 62522

