



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

Sharon

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson

 September



See? I am doing a new thing.

Isaiah 43:19a (NRSVUE)

I have remarked recently to our liturgists, as we stand and look at the Bible before the service starts, how often God says something to the point of, “Pay attention! I’m doing something new!”

And it never fails to make a notch in my brain that we don’t really pay attention.

Every so often we are privileged to spend some time watching our grandson near Chicago or our grandchildren in Indiana. At those times I am reminded how much I don’t see or hear, how much I miss in the world around me - just because I am not paying attention. To see a squirrel or a red cardinal might not seem like a big deal to us but it certainly is to someone who is not used to seeing them. To smell tomatoes on the vine might seem commonplace to any of us who garden but to someone who is three years old that scent can either be wonderful or awful - but it’s noticed one way or another. And airplanes. (I’ll confess to this one.) The idea that one of those great, huge contraptions can fly up into the air and fly so fast is a magical thing to some young people (and me!)

The Broadway and movie star, Billy Porter, has remarked that sometimes people get upset because they feel that life is changing when, in fact, it has already changed. While I understand what Mr. Porter has said, I find myself thinking that “changing” and “changed” are not mutually exclusive. Yes, life has changed. I like the comfort of air conditioning and the convenience of microwave ovens and automobiles. I would not want to go back to a time when we did not have those. But I think there are more changes to come - there are ALWAYS more changes to come.

Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about the universe bending towards justice. I agree with that and pray for that. I would also say that the universe is always bending towards faithfulness, too. If faithfulness can be defined as loving God and loving one another, I think we are continually moving in that direction. By and large, cultures and societies are learning compassion, care, and concern for others. Not everyone, to be sure, but more and more people are opening their hearts and minds to those who might be different. Sometimes the differences are large, sometimes trivial. Still, to borrow an image from Jesus, those who are embracing that compassion and care are a light to the world. God’s light to God’s world.

Pay attention. God is doing something new. God is always doing something new.

With prayers for peace and grace,
Rev. Wally



Visit us on the web at sharondecatur.org

September 2023

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	28 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	29 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	30 6:00pm PPRC Meeting	31	1	2 9:00am - 10:00am Walk 'n Roll at Cresthaven Park							
3 Holy Communion 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	4 Labor Day	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting	6	7	8	9 9:00am - 10:00am Walk 'n Roll at Cresthaven Park							
10 Heritage Sunday 8:00am - 8:45am Breakfast Potluck 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	11 Patriot Day 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	12 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	13 3:30pm Worship Meeting	14	15	16 9:00am - 10:00am Walk 'n Roll at Cresthaven Park							
17 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	18 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's Bible Study (Evening Class)	20	21 9:00am - 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Morning Class) 6:00pm Finance Meeting	22	23 First Day of Autumn 9:00am - 10:00am Walk 'n Roll at Cresthaven Park							
24 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	25 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's Bible Study (Evening Class)	27 6:00pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	28 9:00am - 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Morning Class) 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting	29	30 9:00am - 10:00am Walk 'n Roll at Cresthaven Park							

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|----|-------------------|----|------------------------|--|
| 5 | Connie Albert | | | |
| 14 | Jarred Leeper | 15 | Monte & Linda Thornton | |
| 25 | Tom Leeper | 17 | Ben & Sarah Holmes | |
| 28 | Nancy Carlyle | | | |
| 28 | Jessa Leeper | | | |
| 30 | Margaret Shepherd | | | |



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:

September 3

- ♥ Special offering for **YSEF** (Youth Scholarship & Education Fund)

September 10

- ♥ Special offering for **Dove, Inc.**

September 17

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Gaston Ntambo**
- ♥ Children's Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastor and D.S. Salary Support**



"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 ...



Upcoming Meetings

Ad Council

Tuesday, September 5
6:30 p.m.

Worship

Wednesday, September 13
3:30 p.m.

Finance (Budget)

Thursday, September 21
6:00 p.m.

Ad Council (Approvals)

Thursday, September 28
6:30 p.m.

Heritage Sunday

September 10

- ◆ **Breakfast Potluck** served at 8:00 a.m. Bring a dish to share!
- ◆ **Rev. Wally** will speak on how hymns and music have shaped our UM heritage.
- ◆ **Congregation members** may share stories and memories of how hymns and music were

part of the church where they grew up.

- ◆ A special offering will be taken for **Dove, Inc.**
- ◆ **Invite** someone to join us!



MATURING IN FAITH ...



Nursery
Lisa Landacre

Elementary
Lori Leeper

Young Adults
Mike Landacre

Wesley
Mandi Podeschi

Good News
Martha Leeper

For women:

Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More
by Melissa Spoelstra

- ♥ Evening Class: Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Sept. 19-Oct. 31
- ♥ Morning Class: Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m. Sept. 21-Nov. 2
- ♥ Study Book - \$20. Sign-up at the Narthex table.
- ♥ Martha Leeper will lead this study.

For men:

Horizontal Jesus
by Tony Evans

- ♥ Wednesdays, Sept. 27-Nov. 1, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- ♥ Jarred Leeper will lead this study.



CALLING OTHERS ...



Scouting News

- Troop 91/911 Meetings
Sundays
September 10, 17, 24
3:30-5:00 p.m

Joint Committee Mtg.
September 10, 5:00 p.m.

- Cub Scout Meetings
Mondays
September 11, 18, 25
6:00-7:00 p.m.



Looking for a way to stay active and keep moving? Check out our fitness class options for all:

Pilates: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Bring a yoga mat and water. Cost is \$5/session.

Walk 'n Roll: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. at Cresthaven Park. Wear your walking shoes!



EVERY DAY
I WILL
BLESS YOU
AND PRAISE
YOUR NAME
FOREVER
AND EVER.
PSALM 145:2

September

Serve the LORD with gladness!

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Ushers	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre
	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper
	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty
Greeters	RJ & Mandi Podeschi	Nancy Carlyle & Mary Ferguson	Jarred & Lori Leeper	Pat Dunn & Rosemary Jones
Liturgist	Jarred Leeper	Lisa Landacre	Mandi Podeschi	Ben Holmes
Nursery	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre
Acolyte	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper

Our Tithes and Offerings to God					
	7/23/23	7/30/23	8/6/23	8/13/23	8/20/23
Tithe	\$1,910.00	\$490.00	\$4,170.00	\$2,335.00	\$825.00
Loose Plate	\$97.00	\$34.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
S. School	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$19.00	\$15.00	\$17.00
TOTAL	\$2,015.00	\$524.00	\$4,214.00	\$2,375.00	\$862.00
Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00					



**SHARON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

4363 W. Center St.
Decatur, IL 62522

 **September** 

SHARING CHRIST, UNITING AS FAMILY, MATURING IN FAITH, CALLING OTHERS