



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

# Sharon

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson



Debby recently asked me, “Why is November called November?” My response was, “Uh, I have no idea.” So I looked it up.

In the early days of calendars, before the Julian calendar (named for Julius Caesar, about 46 BCE) and the Gregorian calendar (named for Pope Gregory XII, 1582; the one we use today) there was the Roman calendar - the calendar of Romulus (about 750 BCE). In that earliest calendar, there were ten months and November was the ninth. Even after the months of January and February were added, November kept its name, coming from the Latin word, “novem” which means “nine”.

And now you know WAY more about November than you ever wanted to know.

But there’s more to November than that. It’s more than football and pumpkin spice and raking leaves and the first glimmers of frost.

November 1 is All Saints Day. It came about early in the church, maybe the ninth century, recognizing the need to commemorate and celebrate the lives of all the saints and martyrs. Then, about one hundred years later, the celebration was expanded to include All Souls Day on November 2, recognizing all the faithful who had not been martyred or canonized. (That includes us.)

At the other end of the month, the fourth Thursday, is the American celebration of Thanksgiving, which is my favorite holiday. There is little hype, little commercialization, little of the grand folderol which accompanies so many other holidays. It is a simple celebration of the bounty that has been given to us by God. We get together as we can to feast, to avoid dinner conversations of difficult topics, and nap. Not being a cook by anyone’s definition, I am not involved in the preparation of the meal but I am amazed and astounded by the hustle and bustle in the kitchen while I stay out of the way. After the meal, if I am allowed, I help with the clean-up.

There is a Thanksgiving task that does often fall to me. I am asked to help lead us in a time of reflection and thanksgiving. Not just asking, “For what are you thankful?” Those answers become habitual: food, family, health, whatever. Instead, be specific. What food? Which relative? Which event of health? Or even something else? I will always be grateful for, among other things, my daughter’s green bean casserole and jellied cranberry sauce right out of the can. And Debby and the way she takes care of me. And the fact that I haven’t had another heart attack.

For what or for whom, specifically, are you thankful? You’ve got a few weeks. Think about the blessings in your life. Then get in the practice of raising your eyes to the heavens and saying, “Thank you.” Even when its not November.

With prayers of celebration and Thanksgiving!  
Rev. Wally



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

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> Reformation Sunday 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	<b>30</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	<b>31</b> Reformation Day 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's Bible Study (Evening Class)	<b>1</b> All Saints Day 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Morning Class)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Weiner Roast
<b>5</b> Daylight-Saving Time Ends Holy Communion 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 2:00pm Church Conference at Laurel UMC (Springfield) 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	<b>6</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>8</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 3:30pm Worship Meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day
<b>12</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	<b>13</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>15</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	<b>20</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	<b>21</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 4:00pm Hanging of the Greens	<b>27</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	<b>28</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	<b>29</b> 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



20

Laverne Malone

19

Nathan & Jenna Doty

# 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:

#### November 5

- ♥ **T.A.G. Fund** offering
- ♥ **Christmas Care & Share:** NEW hats, gloves, scarves (infant-adult), Christmas stockings (can be homemade)

#### November 12

- ♥ **Christmas Care & Share:** NEW unwrapped gifts, stuffed animals, toys, puzzles, books, games (infant-17 yrs.)

#### November 19

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Gaston Ntambo**
- ♥ Children's Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastors**
- ♥ **Christmas Care & Share:** NEW toiletries, hygiene products

#### November 26

- ♥ **United Methodist Student Day** offering
- ♥ **Christmas Care & Share:** NEW wrapping paper, tape, Ziploc bags, large black garbage bags

#### All Month

- ♥ **Coats for Kids** (see drop-off locations on Narthex bulletin board)

# UNITING AS FAMILY ...



### Committee Meetings

#### **Worship**

Wednesday, November 8  
3:30 p.m.

#### Adult Choir Begins

Tuesday, November 21  
6:00 p.m.

Bring your calendars, and we will set the remaining practice dates together.



### Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 26  
4:00 p.m.  
Pizza, salad and dessert will be served afterwards!



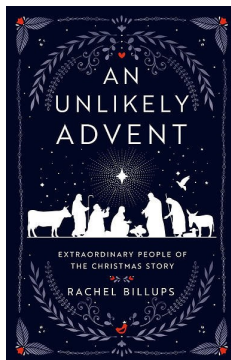
## Sunday, November 5

# MATURING IN FAITH ...



### Sunday School Classes

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



Coming in December ...

### *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups

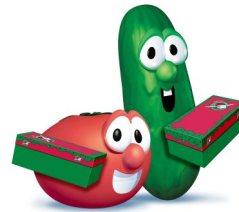
Martha Leeper will lead this Advent study during Sunday School time. Refreshments will be served. Join us!

CALLING OTHERS ...



**Scouting News**

- Troop 91/911 Meetings  
**Sundays**  
November 5, 12  
3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Pack 91 Meetings  
**Mondays**  
November 6, 13, 20  
6:00-7:00 p.m.



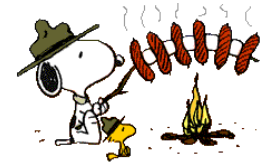
**It's Shoebox Time!**

Pick up a box from the Narthex, and fill it with gift items, love and prayers.

Return by **Sunday, November 12.**

You may Build-A-Box online by visiting the Samaritan's Purse website.

Questions? See Lori Leeper.



**WEINER ROAST**

Saturday, November 4  
5:30 p.m.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for items that can be donated. If you have lawn chairs and/or roasting forks, please bring them along.

*Hosted by the FUN Committee*

 **November** Serve the LORD with gladness!

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre	Mike Landacre
	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper	Evan Leeper
	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty	Nathan Doty
<b>Greeters</b>	Jarred & Lori Leeper	Nancy Carlyle & Mary Ferguson	RJ & Mandi Podeschi	Pat Dunn & Rosemary Jones
<b>Liturgist</b>	Tom Leeper	Mandi Podeschi	Ben Holmes	Lisa Landacre
<b>Nursery</b>	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper

Our Tithes and Offerings to God					
	9/24/23	10/1/23	10/8/23	10/15/23	10/22/23
Tithe	\$2,350.00	\$4,520.00	\$2,680.00	\$745.00	\$1,725.00
Loose Plate	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$21.50
S. School	\$13.00	\$11.00	\$13.00	\$11.50	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,393.00</b>	<b>\$4,571.00</b>	<b>\$2,693.00</b>	<b>\$881.50</b>	<b>\$1,746.50</b>
<b>Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00</b>					



**SHARON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

4363 W. Center St.  
Decatur, IL 62522

 **November**