



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

Sharon

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson



January of 2024. How about that?

Recently I went looking for some wisdom, some words of direction. It's a brand new year, all shiny and new and just out of the package - and, as usual, I am just not sure what to do with it.

There are all kinds of wise words in the Bible but nothing that really connects to the arbitrary day we have established as the beginning of a new year, preceded by amateur night frivolities and the consequential effects of the next day.

I looked, then, to some of the great thinkers of all time - the internet is a great help that way. Unfortunately almost everything I found were platitudes similar to this one —

“No matter how hard the past, you can always start again.” Buddha

While that is certainly true and it's good to be reminded from time to time, it and all the other “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” sentiments from so many other people seem to completely miss that fact that sometimes life is hard and we can't just simply divorce ourselves from ALL of the events that have made us who we are. I am, as we all are, a product of our present and our past, growing, stumbling, succeeding, failing - and then growing some more. Look back a few paragraphs and refer to the comment about consequential effects. We are the sum of the consequences of our lives and it would be wrong for me to just draw a line in the sand, step over it, and say, “Okay, I'm different now.” No. I'm not.

I'm not different, but what I am, what we all are is sacred children of God, set apart to do God's work, to love God's creations, and to grow in God's grace. Sometimes we're good at that. Sometimes we're not. But, by that love and grace of God, we're getting better, building upon everything we've learned.

May 2024 be a year of light and learning, of God's love and grace.
Rev. Wally



Visit us on the web at sharondecatour.org

January 2024

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	1 New Year's Day	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	3 9:00am Worship Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	4	5	6 Epiphany							
7 Holy Communion 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings	8 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	9 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters	10 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates	11	12	13							
14 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages	15 Martin L. King, Jr. Day 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's PM Bible Study	17 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	18 9:00am - 10:30am Women's AM Bible Study 5:30pm Ad Council Leadership Event @ Millikin University (dinner included)	19	20							
21 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	22 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	23 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's PM Bible Study	24 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	25 9:00am - 10:30am Women's AM Bible Study	26	27 Pack 91 Pinewood Derby							
28 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 911 Meeting	29 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting	30 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:30pm Women's PM Bible Study	31 11:00am - 12:00pm Pilates 6:00pm - 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	1 9:00am - 10:30am Women's AM Bible Study	2 Groundhog Day	3							

11 Bill & Shirley Walker

- 8 Sharon Parks
- 10 Sean Johnson
- 11 Stan Lehn
- 13 Mike Landacre
- 14 Nathan Doty
- 17 Joni Simms
- 18 Andrew McDowell
- 19 Linda Wilson
- 22 Tracy Albert
- 24 Joshua Leeper
- 25 Don Mulch



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:

January 7

- ♥ T.A.G. Fund offering

January 14

- ♥ Advance Offering for **Human Relations Day**

January 21

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Gaston Ntambo**

- ♥ Children’s Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastors & D.S. Salary Support**

All Month

For Midwest Mission:

- ♥ Adult toothbrushes (single, no multipacks)
- ♥ Bars of soap (3-4 oz.)



“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 ...



Committee Meetings

Worship

Wednesday, January 3
9:00 a.m.

Ad Council

Thursday, January 18
5:30 p.m. at the Millikin University Alumni Office.

*A light supper will be served. This meeting will include ministry planning for 2024.

Start the New Year in Sunday School!

Nursery

Lisa Landacre

Elementary

Lori Leeper

Jr. High-College

Mike Landacre

Wesley

Mandi Podeschi

Good News

Martha Leeper

Prayer Chain

If you are not currently a member and would like to join, here’s how:

1. To join the **text chain**, text @sumcprayer to the number 81010 and follow the prompts.
2. To join the **phone chain**, please talk to Beverly Carmean (422-7115 or 433-1242)

MATURING IN FAITH ...



For Women:

For His Glory: Living as God’s Masterpiece

(A Study of Ephesians)
by Marian Jordan Ellis

PM Session:

Tuesdays, Jan. 16-Feb. 27
6:00-7:30 p.m.

AM Session:

Thursdays, Jan. 18-Feb. 29
9:00-10:30 a.m.

Member book: \$15



Sign up now at the Narthex table!

For Men:

In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus

Through the Holy Land
by Max Lucado

Wednesdays:

January 17, 24, 31
February 7, 15 (Th.), 21

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Member book: \$15

CALLING
OTHERS ...



Scouting News

- Troop 91/911 Meetings:
Sundays
(January 7, 21, 28)
3:30-5:00 p.m.
- ★ **Joint Court of Honor
& Committee Mtg.**
January 21, 3:00 p.m.
- Cub Scout Meetings:
Mondays
(January 15, 22, 29)
6:00-7:00 p.m.



Serve the LORD with gladness!

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
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	Jarred & Lori Leeper	Nancy Carlyle & Mary Ferguson	Pat Bales & Jan Gulick	RJ & Mandi Podeschi
Liturgist	Tom Leeper	Mandi Podeschi	Jarred Leeper	Lisa Landacre
Nursery	Jenna Doty	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre	Cindy Landacre
Acolyte	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper	Joshua Leeper

Our Tithes and Offerings to God					
	11/26/23	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23
Tithe	\$1,905.00	\$3,846.00	\$2,781.00	\$1,330.00	\$1,977.00
Loose Plate	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$199.00
S. School	\$11.50	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$18.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,936.50	\$3,896.00	\$2,826.00	\$1,403.00	\$2,176.00
Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00					

SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2024 Leadership

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chair	Tom Leeper
Recording Secretary, Church Historian	Mandi Podeschi
Trustees Chair	Evan Leeper
Finance Chair	RJ Podeschi
PPRC Chair	Mike Landacre
Lay Leader	Lisa Landacre
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jarred Leeper
Church Treasurer	Jan Gulick
Financial Secretary	Pat Bales
Church School Superintendent	Martha Leeper
MEOW Chair	Mike Landacre
Worship Chair	Lori Leeper
Memorials Secretary, Prayer	Bev Carmean

FINANCE

Chair	RJ Podeschi
Pastor	Rev. Wally Carlson
Council Chair	Tom Leeper
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jarred Leeper
Lay Leader	Lisa Landacre
Treasurer	Jan Gulick
Financial Secretary	Pat Bales
Trustee Chair	Evan Leeper
PPRC Chair	Mike Landacre
Auditor	Jarred Leeper

Trustees

2024	2025	2026
Bev Carmean	Connie Albert	Nathan Doty
Evan Leeper (Chair)	Ben Holmes	
	Debbie Johnson	

S/PPRC

2024	2025	2026
Pat Bales	Diane Malone	Lea Carls
Mike Landacre (Chair)		
Lisa Landacre (Lay Ldr.)		

Nominations & Leadership

Rev. Wally Carlson - Chair

2024	2025	2026
Lisa Landacre (Lay Ldr.)	Cindy Landacre	Linda Thornton
	Tori Leeper	

WORSHIP

Lori Leeper, Chair
Pat Bales
Bev Carmean
Jan Gulick
Lisa Landacre
Martha Leeper
Rev. Wally Carlson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Martha Leeper, Chair
Lisa Landacre
Mike Landacre
Jarred Leeper
Lori Leeper
Tom Leeper
Mandi Podeschi

MEOW

Mike Landacre, Chair
Cindy Landacre
Jenna Doty
Mandi Podeschi

SMALL GROUPS

Tom & Martha Leeper



**SHARON UNITED
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4363 W. Center St.
Decatur, IL 62522



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