

October 2025

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

Church Picnic Fantastic



Approximately 50 people gathered on September 7th to enjoy the annual church picnic at Flatwoods Park. Everyone brought a dish to share and the church provided chicken fingers for the main course. Great food, conversation, and fellowship was had by all. The weather was just beautiful for an occasion like this and the facilities at the park make it a great place to be.

Above: Jackson and Clio really know how to have a terrific picnic lunch.



Above: Digging into the huge array of food. There was plenty to satisfy everyone's appetite.

Right: Everyone enjoying the food, the stories, and friendship.





October Gold Can Offering Holiday Food Baskets

October's Gold Can Offering is to support the Holiday Food our church delivers to families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Each year we provide food for a nice holiday dinner along with extras. We will be asking for Turkey's for Thanksgiving and Hams for Christmas to add to the baskets. Over the years our church has made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of families.

Please consider giving to this mission of love.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35



The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

Trustees At Work

As we look around our church and talk about projects that need to be addressed, we are excited that we can do many of them. Also, we are eager to work with the stewardship committee to raise money to finance some of the upcoming projects. We will work to keep everyone updated during the coming months.

Star of David Windows. Money for this project is coming along. When the fundraising committee kicks off their activities the project should move faster. Currently, temporary vents are being installed to allow the roof to breathe. Also, the permanent vents are in the works and the cost of them is covered by present funds. Amen.

Rogers Hall and basement electrical challenges are soon to be addressed. Alexander Electric is contracted for this and work will start shortly. Alexander is waiting for materials that are slow to be delivered. This project has been financed by an anonymous donor. We look forward to circuits not tripping during bazaar dinners and chili cook offs.

New hearing assist devices have been ordered and will be in use soon. The complete sound system and video equipment is in need of completion. We are addressing this. Money is not the issue. We need outside expertise to complete. After that, we need a few tech oriented volunteers to learn how to work the system so that Trent has backup. If anyone is interested, please tell Jo Anne Bowen or Valerie DeWar.

As always there are things on the Church Angel list that can be done in house by church family angels. If you do not see the list on the table in back of the sanctuary, see Jo Anne and sign up for whatever your talents can accomplish. The trustees can use help in many ways. We are truly blest to be working for all of our church family.



Every year when the leaves begin their passage from green to their blazing colors, I sense a shifting in my soul. On the Autumn day before my father died in 1969, I was in the woods near my South Mississippi community. I came home from that outing to the news that Dad was slipping away, and indeed, he passed from this life at 11:00 the next morning. For many years after that, especially in seasons of personal change, I would have nightly dreams in which I was in those same dark but colorful woods. It was a signal, not always an easy one, that change was in the offing.

I love Carrie Newcomer's song about leaves, which has this as its chorus:

*Cause leaves don't drop, they just let go
And make a space for seeds to grow.
And every season brings a change,
A tree is what a seed contains,
To die and live is life's refrain.*

Faith is about navigating difficult change and welcoming new, holy shifts. Faith is about dying, and coming alive again. In our lives, and in the life of our church, we have discovered, and are continuing to learn, how to let go, and how to take hold of new things. I'm encouraged to be part of a faith community that is practiced in both, and is learning that that means in these very unique days. Blessings to us all as we do so together!



October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1 6:30p Lions 7:30p Choir Prac- tice	2	3	4 4p Blessing of the Animals
5 9:30am World Communion Sun- day Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	6 6p Trustees 6:30p Scouts	7 6p Pack Committee 6:30p Tigers & Wolves	8 6:30p Webelos	9	10	11
12  9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45a United Women of Faith	13   6:30p Scouts	14	15 6-9pm KDP Sorori- ty	16	17	18 9a Sewing Group
19 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	20 6:30p Scouts	21 6:30p Tigers & Wolves	22 6:30p Webelos	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Adult Sunday School	27 6:30p Scouts	28	29 7:30p Choir Prac- tice	30	31 	

Birthdays



Anniversaries

4 Dan Rarey
4 Nathan Hall
5 Art Collins
10 Bliss Felton
11 Jim King
11 JJ Smith
13 Anise Osborne

13 Jerry Pittsford
16 Tom Slabaugh
18 Shannon Taylor
20 Pat Caudill
22 Chris Fisher
31 Shelly Knust

4 Pat & Penny Caudill
7 John & Barbara Kleindorfer
14 John Barnes & Melinda Johnson-Barnes
29 Jim & Rita Chambers



The Christmas Cantata will be held on December 14th. Make sure and mark it on your calendar so you don't miss this awesome event.

Special Dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 5, 2025*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, *October 12, 2025*
- Columbus Day, *October 13, 2025*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 13, 2025*
- Canadian Thanksgiving, *October 13, 2025*

OCTOBER

The October birthstone is the opal. I recently learned that along with its ability to reflect different colors, it's a symbol of hope. October is the month of color; it's when you can practically walk across Brown county on the hoods of tourists' cars. Folks who aren't even religious will praise God as the artist. There is from God's palette another symbol, the rainbow, his signature in color on a covenant/promise to a new generation and its descendants. (That includes us, of course.). As long as this planet survives, there will be rainbows, and October's cloudless blue, Technicolor skies. And what had been shades of green becomes dazzling and awesome in its variety. And there is hope because He is "the God of hope..." and He keeps his promises.

— Dixie Richardson

Bible Quiz

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm, and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15)



UWF Doing Great Things

The women of the church have been busy this past month or so.

They continue to sew quilts for Midwest Mission; however, that project is ending, but don't worry, they will start another project, making diapers.

They also hosted a stuffed toy tying party a few weeks before the Fall Festival. All the volunteers tied over 1000 stuffys in preparation for the float. 5-13 gallon bags and 18- 55 gallon bags were filled in anticipation of the parade. The fun didn't stop, there was a group that came together to get the float ready on Friday night, 12 Sept.

Saturday, the 13th, the excitement was in the air as the float riders waited patiently to get going down the road (See float photos on page 7). It was a joy to see the kids line Temperance Street and cheer and wave to see if the riders would toss them a stuffy, I have to say it was also great to see the support from the church line the streets as well.

Thank you, Dan Rarey, for the use of your hay wagon again this year, and it didn't break down. Thank you Chris Kleindorfer, for pulling the float with your 1950 Ford Tractor. Thank you, RBB Family Store, for collecting all the stuffies. Thank you to all who showed up to decorate the float, ride on the float, and those who helped undecorate the float. Without the support of everyone involved, this would not have been made possible.

The Ellettsville Farmers Market is almost over for the year. Our last time we will be there will be the 27th of September. If you haven't had a chance this season to stop in and say hello, come on down on the 27th.



Fall Festival Float



Photos of our church float in the 2025 Fall Festival Parade. Thanks to Tracy Davis for coordinating the build and all those who assisted and those who rode the float in the parade.



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4, 4:00 PM

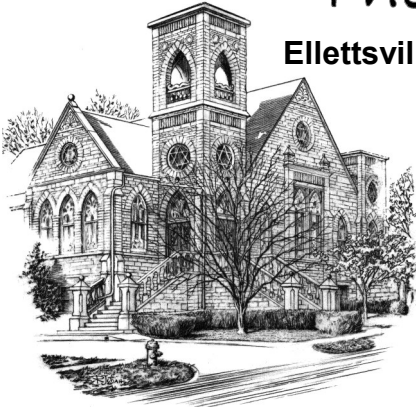
Lawn on West Side of the Sanctuary

Join us for a simple, fun time to celebrate our pets as gifts of God. This service is inspired by the gentle soul we know as St. Francis, who was known for his love for animals and all creation. You are invited to join us as we bless the animals who enrich our lives, and in fact, for all animals in creation. Let's gather on the west lawn. You are invited, if you prefer, to remain in your vehicle with your animals, and we will bless them as you drive through. There will also be a moment of remembering those animals who are not gone but are lovingly alive in our memories.

All are invited to bring furry and non-furry friends in carriers, cages, or on leashes (and a bag for any pet messes!). Your pets need to be up to date on their vaccinations and not have an aggressive history with other pets or people. You are welcome to invite friends and their pets, as well. If it rains, we will not hold the service that afternoon.

The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.



803 W. Temperance
P.O. Box 548
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Adult Sunday School	10:45am
Office Hours:	M, W, F 9am-12pm
Church Phone:	812-876-4792
Email:	efumchurch@bluemarble.net
Webpage:	http://www.efumchurch.org

October 2025

Grateful
to God

