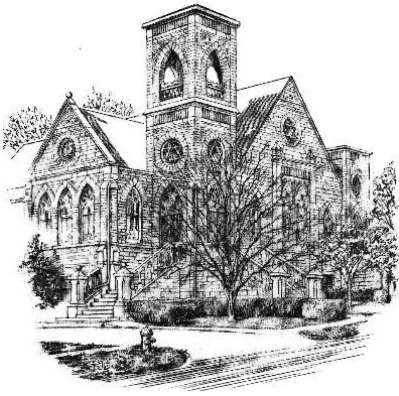




2026

OCTOBER

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

It's Picnic Time!

Save the Date: Annual Church Picnic beginning after church on Sunday, October 4th in the large pavilion at Flatwoods Park. Please bring a dish to pass. Chicken tenders, beverage and table service will be provided. In addition to a wonderful time of fellowship and 'good eat'in, there will be fun and games for people of all ages. Kids aged 2 to 92 can enjoy taking a whack or two at the piñata and participate in a number of other planned activities. This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, kids, and grands to come experience a fabulous gathering that will happen come rain or shine! Hope to see you all there!



A Letter from Christ



Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."

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Just take a trip to one of the large hardware stores and you will be reminded by large battery-operated ghouls that Halloween is just around the corner. But October 31 has another significance for Christians. On that date in 1517, the German reformer Martin Luther nailed a document to the door of a church in Wittenburg, Germany. The treatise included 95 “theses” in which Luther delineated ways he believed the Catholic Church had departed from the Gospel. Many historians trace the Protestant Reformation to this moment. The Methodist churches have a strong connection to Luther, because on May 24, 1738, John Wesley heard the preface to Luther’s “Epistle to the Romans” read at a meeting in London. Wesley wrote that as he listened, his heart was “strangely warmed”, for like Luther, he realized that grace transformed the Church and the soul.



During October, we at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church will have our hearts warmed by grace as well. Worship will focus on the ways, in stories of both Testaments, that God has led people of sacred faith. In our stewardship emphasis, we’ll honor the ways our discipleship calls us to deep generosity. In Communion on World Communion Sunday on October 4 and in our picnic, we’ll experience the power of sharing table with each other. In our Blessing of the Animals, we’ll celebrate the grace of God in all creation. In Sunday School for Adults and Children, and in missional endeavors, we’ll live out Jesus’ call to serve. In all, may our hearts be strangely warmed, and may our lives continue to be transformed by grace.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BLOOMINGTON
219 W. STREET
CHARGE CONFERENCE

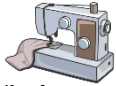
The annual Charge Conference for Ellettsville First United Methodist Church will be held, along with that of other area churches, at Bloomington First United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 24, at 4:00 PM. The primary purposes of the annual Charge Conference are to review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church, and to adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church's Leadership Council. All are welcome to attend.

The Conference also affords an opportunity to connect with those from other local UMC congregations from the Southeast District. This follows the more recent pattern of having multiple congregations (Charges) hold their meetings simultaneously. In this year’s charge conference, the following congregations will be participating: Arlington, Bloomington First, Ellettsville First, Bloomington St. Mark’s, Bloomington Arlington, Bloomington Korean UMC, and Bloomington Crossroads. All are welcome to attend.



October 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
September 2026	November 2026			1	2	3
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S					
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 6 7					
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	8 9 10 11 12 13 14					
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	15 16 17 18 19 20 21					
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	22 23 24 25 26 27 28					
27 28 29 30	29 30					
4 9:30a Communion Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 12p Annual Church Picnic at Flatwoods  Picnic	5 6p Trustees 6:45p Arrows of Lights 6:45p Troop 1119 6:45p Troop 119	6 6:45p Pack Committee 6:45p Webelos 6:45p Bears	7 Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 1-4p Memorial Gathering (Rogers Hall)
11 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	12 6:45p Troop 1119 6:45p Troop 119	13	14 Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17  8a-2p Sewing Group
18 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	19 6:45p Arrows of Lights 6:45p Troop 1119 6:45p Troop 119	20 6:45p Webelos 6:45p Bears Wolves	21 Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 11:30a Finance Committee	26 6:45p Troop 1119 6:45p Troop 119	27 6:45p Lyons	28 Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31



Star of David Windows Update

Many of you have been asked by members of the community whether our church is planning on bringing back the Star of David windows. As you know, the answer is a resounding yes. These windows have long been noted as a striking part of our building's appeal. The National Register of Historical places has noted that our building "exemplifies Romanesque Revival architecture", and that there "are oculus windows of the Start of David inset at locations under the four primary gables and on the sides of the towers."

Our church committed last year to a restoration of these windows, and that work is nearing completion. Work to place the windows is set to begin soon. Thanks to your generosity, we have received 24,874 dollars of the 42,000 dollar cost of the project. Thanks also to the Trustees for shepherding this restoration. We are deeply grateful, and ask that you prayerfully consider whether you are able to contribute at this time. You might also ask if there are those you know in our community who might be able to join in this venture. We are excited that this physical witness to our church's ministry will be overlooking our community once again.



Church Financial Report

Through August 30th



Income	
Actual	Budgeted
\$98,815	\$103,095
Expenses	
Actual	Budgeted
\$102,901	\$103.095
Star of David \$24,821	



Bible Quiz



Psalms 103 (ESV) begins: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his _____." What should we "not forget"?

- A. goodness
- B. kindness
- C. gifts
- D. benefits

Answer: D (Psalms 103:2)

Special Dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2026*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, *October 11, 2026*
- Columbus Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Canadian Thanksgiving, *October 12, 2026*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2026*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2026*

Trustee News

Your trustees have been very busy. In fact, it is difficult to keep up right now. We would like to move faster and have what we do more visible, but that does not always happen. Several things have our attention at the present time.

The Star of David Windows are nearing completion and will hopefully be in before the end of October. If all goes smoothly it will be a two-day process. We look forward to the end of this project. Everyone has been very supportive.

The bats are showing up more frequently lately. They are beginning to focus on their winter lodgings. Hopefully, that will be the bat house outside and not the church. We will have them removed and redirected after the windows are finished.

We are gearing up for repairs in the sanctuary and hallways as the months get cooler. This inside work will be highly visible and somewhat inconvenient. However, it is needed structurally and aesthetically. We can all accept the traffic changes for a short time. This is one project that many of you have discussed with us. We have had our attention on more timely issues, and we also have to wait for the availability of workers.

The parsonage at 815 W. Temperance is almost ready for rent. This project was a perfect example of the domino effect: one problem solved created at least one or two more to work on. Professionals were timely, but we still have been at the mercy of their schedules. The result has been quite satisfactory. We should be finished and the rent sign out by the time you read this newsletter. We have contracted with Choice Realty to manage the property. While this affects the income from the rental, it also frees the trustees to focus on other matters, and the rent will be more structured.

As always, we are here to serve our church family, and we strive to be responsible stewards of all the material goods our church is blessed to have. With welcome ideas and energy for help with some housekeeping issues. All of us are responsible for keeping God's house in order.

Christian Education

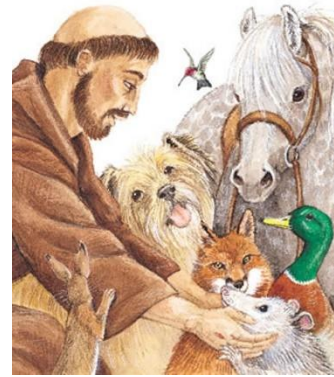
We are thrilled to report that the Children's debut in church was well received by all who watched their musical witness declaring, "Jesus is our rock, and He rolls our blues away!" Afterwards, the kids voted unanimously to participate in a special Christmas program which, as of this writing, is scheduled for the second Sunday in December, our monthly family worship Sunday. Mark your calendars and be certain to attend what is going to be a very special holiday service!

As our SCS continues to evolve and grow, we need volunteers to serve in several capacities: (1) nursery coordinator and adults to staff the nursery for children 3 yrs and younger and (2) teachers willing to volunteer to lead and/or assist with classes. Please prayerfully consider what ways you might support this vital ministry. Contact Connie Frink by calling or texting (812)662-4575 or emailing csf430@gmail.com. An organizational meeting will be scheduled sometime during the month of October; however, the exact date and time are yet to be determined.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 18, 4:00 PM

Join us for a simple, fun time to celebrate our pets as gifts of God. While not St. Francis' actual feast day, the service is inspired by this gentle soul, 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. We'll gather in the parking lot near the entrance to the church. 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). Please ensure that your pets are 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.

If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Moore.

Stewardship Season Begins October 4



Stewardship season begins at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church. On that day, and on each Sunday in October, members of the stewardship team will present "testimonies" in worship. These presentations will offer ways in which they understand the call to faithful generosity and the strengths of the church's ministry. Watch for a letter for them, and a card in that mailing in which they will ask you to prayerfully consider your estimate of giving to the ministry of our church in 2027.

Nurturing Thoughts by Marge Clark

As I sit staring at the computer while racking my brain on what to write, I ask God for the words to put something together. I was in Michigan for three months. I didn't write or do much and upon returning I felt guilty. Since my return home, I changed that mindset. I did do something. I rested, especially my brain. Sometimes we need to step back, take some breaths and reset our life. Some may call it laziness, but is it really. When you are God focused, you look for signs that God is listening. The cooing of a mourning dove above your head, the monarch butterfly that flies by, your dog lying in the sun with her eyes closed. Those are signs. At least for me. God talked all summer. As October begins, so begins the changing season. Slow down, do chores with intention and you will see the signs. God sent me a beautiful swallowtail butterfly yesterday that landed for a brief moment on a flower in my backyard.

May October bring you God's signs that you are loved.



SILENCE & SOLITUDE

Quick Guide ♥

BE STILL. DRAW NEAR. ABIDE. ♥

Be still,
and know
that I am
God.

Psalms 96:9

HOW TO PRACTICE ♥

-  **CHOOSE A QUIET PLACE**
Find a place where you can be alone and free from distractions.
-  **SET A TIMER**
Start small—3 to 5 minutes. You can work up to 10–15 minutes over time.
-  **BEGIN WITH PRAYER**
Invite God into this time. See the opening prayer on the right.
-  **TAKE A FEW SLOW BREATHS**
Allow your body and mind to slow down. You don't have to force anything.
-  **SIT WITH GOD WITHOUT PERFORMING**
You don't need the perfect prayer, the perfect words, or the perfect mindset. Just be present before the Lord.
-  **NOTICE YOUR THOUGHTS**
Thoughts will come. That's normal. Notice them without judging or getting frustrated.
-  **GIVE EACH THOUGHT TO GOD**
Offer your worries, plans, fears, distractions, and even joys to Him. You might pray, "Father, I give this to You."
-  **RETURN GENTLY TO STILLNESS**
When your mind wanders, come back to a simple phrase like, "Be still," "Draw near," or "Lord, I'm here."
-  **END WITH PRAYER**
Close your time with the prayer on the right.
-  **OPEN YOUR BIBLE**
Read slowly and let the silence prepare your heart to receive God's Word.

THE SANDWICH PRAYERS ♥

BEFORE SILENCE

Begin Prayer

Father,
I am here before You.
Quiet my heart and
help me draw near to You.
Amen.

AFTER SILENCE

End Prayer

Father,
help me hear You through
Your Word today.
Shape me into the person
You want me to be.
Amen.

HELPFUL REMINDERS ♥

- ♥ You are not trying to empty your mind.
- ♥ You are not trying to achieve a feeling.
- ♥ Wandering thoughts are normal.
- ♥ Simply return your attention to God.
- ♥ The goal is not perfection but presence.
- ♥ God is already with you, and He delights in this time with you.

The silence is not the destination.

Jesus is.





The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.

803 W. Temperance St.
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 2026

