

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

It's official—I've reached the age where a night out sounds like a lot of fun, until it's time to leave the house. Suddenly, *Dateline* or *60 Minutes* looks pretty appealing. Maybe you can relate.

But here's what I've noticed: whether or not we go out, we all love the invitation. An invitation means someone thought of us. It feels good to be included—whether it's a party, a wedding, a sales pitch, or even church.

Barna Group research shows something remarkable: if invited by a trusted friend or family member, 82% of unchurched adults would attend church. That's a huge number! But here's the staggering part—73% of those same adults say they've never been invited. Not once.

That should give us pause. It means that, for many, the barrier isn't resistance to faith—it's simply the absence of an invitation.

And as we look at Jesus' invitation to come, I want to challenge each of us to invite someone each week. Did you know that most salespeople will tell you it takes asking ten people before one says yes? (When I worked in sales, I tracked my "no to yes" ratio. My best was one in seven!) It is my prayer that inviting someone to hear the Good News of Jesus will become an easy and natural part of our daily conversations.

So who can you invite? People are longing for connection—they just need someone to ask. Let's Say Yes to bringing others to Jesus. We have good news to share! Let's not keep it to ourselves!

Would you come to church with me this week?

Pastor Candace

WHAT: FIRST CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES

WHEN: SATURDAY 5:30PM
SUNDAY 8:30AM, 9:45AM SUNDAY 11AM

WHERE: CELEBRATION CENTER 1701 W 32ND STREET THOMPSON SITE 916 THOMPSON BLVD

WHY: GOD'S THROWING THE CELEBRATION, AND YOU'RE INVITED TO A LIFE THAT OVERFLOWS WITH JOY!

YOU'RE INVITED



WoW SIGNUPS

If you are interested in **signing up** for any of the WoW classes, you may scan the QR code, or fill out an information sheet (located in the lobbies of both the Celebration Center and the Thompson Site) and drop it in one of the joy baskets after the weekend service you attend, or bring your form to the church office. Sign-up sheets are also available in the lobbies of both locations if you'd rather leave your information that way! (For a detailed description of each class, handouts are available in the lobbies, church office, and by scanning the QR code below.)



Sermon Series September 7-28 "You're Invited"

God's throwing the celebration, and your name is on the guest list! In this series, we'll discover how Jesus invites us into grace, forgiveness, belonging, and a new life that overflows with joy.

Join us for weekend worship!

HEARTBEATS

♥ You may drop off your donations for **Operation Christmas Child** in the marked OCC collection receptacle at the Celebration Center (near the Children's Check-In Station in the lobby.) **Items must fit in a shoebox!** Items needed for September are:



♥ Mary Meehan will be leading a seven-week **women's Bible study** entitled "Job: A Story of Unlikely Joy." The group will meet on Mondays, beginning September 8th, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the Bible classroom at the Celebration Center. Come and bring a friend!

♥ **Carpenter's Kids Preschool** is hiring substitute teachers! They are looking for reliable and loving individuals to assist with children ages 3-5. This would be on an on-call/as needed basis. You must be available between 8:15 A.M. - 3:15 P.M. MWF, and 8:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. Thursdays. Applications are available in the church office.

♥ The **deadline for submitting Newsletter articles** is 12 noon on the Thursday before the newsletter mailing.

Next Newsletter:
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

♥ **Office Hours:**
9 A.M. —4 P.M. (M-F)
Closed for lunch 12—1 P.M.

Care & Connections



"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY YOU WILL FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST."
— GALATIANS 6:2 (NRSVUE)

JOIN US AS WE COMMISSION OUR CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM—TO GO FORTH AND SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH PRESENCE, COMPASSION, AND HOPE.

COMMISSIONING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH AT OUR 11 A.M. SERVICE.

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS MINISTRY, EMAIL: WECARE@FIRSTSAYYES.COM

Community Challenge Blood Drive



Thursday, September 18th
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Friday, September 19th
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
916 Thompson Blvd.

First Church is competing to recruit the most blood donors for the fifth annual Community Challenge Blood Drive. First place gets \$3,000 for their nonprofit!

Appointments are preferred. Book your appointment today at savealifenow.org/group, enter **Group Code: EH4K**. For additional details contact Haleigh Mullins at (660) 596-7688 or haileigh.mullins@centralbank.net.
Medical eligibility questions? Call 1.800.688.0900

Join us to donate and choose your **limited-edition T-shirt** to take home.
While supplies last.



Community Blood Center



Central Bank

DAYS TO DREAM: A MINISTRY OF INCLUSION

At First Church, we believe that every person is created in the image of God. **Days to Dream** is a ministry designed especially for adults with developmental disabilities, offering a space to celebrate God's love through friendship, worship, and shared meals.

Each month, participants come together for fellowship, encouragement, and special events that remind us of the joy of living in God's family. The ministry is open to all adults in Sedalia and the surrounding communities.

Days to Dream meets at 1:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month in the EYESee Theater on the campus of the Celebration Center. The ministry is led by Karen Cairer, whose heart for inclusion and care helps make every gathering a true celebration.

We invite you to spread the word, join us, and experience the joy of this community that reflects God's love in action. For more information, contact the church office (660)827-2993.

HALF-NIGHTER

September 12 | 7pm-12am

@ Celebration Center, MPACT Room
1701 W 32nd St, Sedalia



Grief Gathering

Are you going through a difficult time after the loss of a loved one?

You are not alone!

Session Details:

- 8 sessions
- Starts Sept 8th 2025
- Mondays, 5:30-7:30
- Celebration Center, Gathering Place

Leader Contact: Susie Howe
susie@firstsayyes.com

We will be using the text The Grief Guidebook by Gary Roe.

To sign up or ask questions, call: Church Office
660.827.2993

Starts Sept 8

The next United Women in Faith meeting (UWF)

will be held
Tuesday, September 9th
at 1:00 P.M. at the Thompson Site.
We hope to see you there!

WOW STARTS SEPTEMBER 3RD

JOIN US FOR 12 WEEKS OF SWEET BIBLE LESSONS THIS FALL!

6PM-7:30PM IN THE FRIENDSHIP HALL

OPEN TO STUDENTS PRESCHOOL THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

BIBLE LESSONS BASED ON CANDY BARS

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

QUESTIONS? EMAIL MADISON.WESTERMIER@FIRSTSAYYES.COM OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 660-827-2993

WE CELEBRATE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN

If your birthday is not listed, please let us know so it can be added!

Birthdays (September 7—September 20)

Ruth Ferguson, Mya Schimek, Penny Coerver, Linda Kratzer, Briara Jackson, Mary Beth DeMotte, Susan McMannama, Steve Rucker, Linda Davis, Vickie Fidler, Dan Wilhoit, Brett Benbrook, Leonard Creek, Dana Weathers, Aaron Willadsen, Bill Sturges, Lindsey Triplett, Sara Vansel, Christopher Homan, David Neher, Kathy Garrison, Debbie Steele, Annie Mills, Bob Wiley, Steve Luckey, Betty Wendt, Laura Ezell, Cheryl McBride, Katreena Haslag, Jeff Spalding, Doris Crider, Brenda Arnold, Phoebe Hruska, Nathan Brock, Brett Barth-Fagan, Kendall Lane, Deacon Vanderpool, Don Wilson, Steve Newland, Dayna Davis, Cindy Cramer, Brooklyn Lamar, Carolyn Walters, Megan Cunningham, Andrew Riley, Jen Schimek, Zaiden Zullig, Kim Wallenburn, Al Sturges, Ronald Claxton, Justin Bryan, Kaitlyn Neth, Ginny Zinck, Jaden Twenter, Kennedy Ditzfeld, Elena Lemings, Linda Sundry, Mary Lou Creek, Blaire Riley, Judy Maggard, Rebecca Kolsky, Barbara Knight, Alisha Schroeder, Mary Johnson, Amy Woolery, Lilly Logan, Athena Wallace, Bill Dale, Terrica Sanders

FIRST STEPS

Attendance

August 23/24
Worship 466

August 30/31
Worship 440

(We report giving on a monthly basis.)

Our Family:

Prayers:

Our hearts go out in Christian love and sympathy to:

~Shirley Neff and family, due to the death of her husband, **Bill Neff**, on August 20, 2025

Congratulations:

~to **Cole and Morgan Renick**, parents of baby **Elodie Star**, born on August 21, 2025. The proud grandparents are **Brian and Pastor Candace Fowler**.

~to **Coleman Fowler and Kaelyn Teague**, who were united in marriage on August 23, 2025

Craving connection and purpose?

You weren't made to do college alone. Come hang out with other students for real talk, good food, and a reminder that you are deeply loved by God.

We meet Wednesdays at noon in the Cyber Cafe in front of the Library

Follow us!

GL00: SEND A TEXT TO 833-834-1305 WITH MESSAGE SAYING: C3

FACEBOOK: C3 CHRISTIAN CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

INSTAGRAM: C3_CHRISTIAN_CAMPUS_CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church
Office: 1701 West 32nd Street
Sedalia, MO 65301

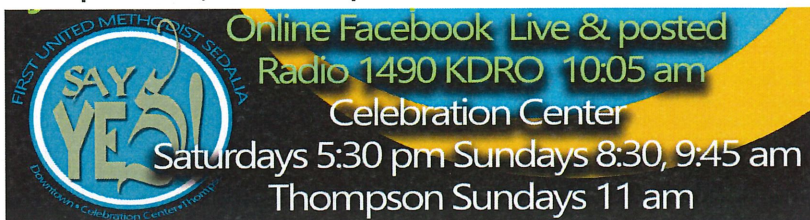
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First United Methodist of Sedalia

Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St Phone // 660.827.2993

Thompson Site, 916 Thompson Blvd Phone // 660.851.2815



www.firstsayyes.com

Email us at email@firstsayyes.com

 First United Methodist Church of Sedalia

 @firstsayyessedalia

*Let us run with endurance the race that
is set before us, looking to Jesus!*

THE AMAZING RACE

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS STARTING
SEPTEMBER 3RD

SIGN UP HERE:
FIRSTSAYYES.COM/SIGNUP

