



THE FIRST EDITION – BLANDINSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



CHURCH, COMMUNITY, AND AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

- June 6-8, Friday-Sunday – Sodbuster Days --- Good Hope
- June 7, Saturday – 36th Annual AJK Memorial Golf Tournament – Tee off: 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – Twin Oaks
- June 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 23 – Blandinsville-Hire Library Summer Reading Program – 10:00 a.m.
- June 12-14 – Thursday-Saturday – Burlington River Days
- June 13-15 – Friday-Sunday – Industry Pinhook Days
- June 14, Saturday– Flag Day
- June 14, Saturday – Silvie’s Ride Against Child Abuse
- June 14, Saturday – Tink’s Café Block Party on Main Street – Live Music from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Food Trucks open at 4:30 p.m. Drawing. Honoring Blandinsville-Hire Fire District.
- June 14, Saturday – Raritan Fire Department Golf Tournament – Twin Oaks – 8:00 a.m. Registration
- June 15, Sunday – Father’s Day
- June 15, Sunday – Snake Alley Art Fair – 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Burlington, IA
- June 18 & 19 – Blandinsville Clean Up Days – Village residents only – **NO** yard waste, tires, hazardous chemicals, paints, large appliances, propane tanks, TV screens or computers. See village newsletter for more information.
- June 20, Friday – 2025 Jefferson Street Cruise – 4:30-7:00 p.m. – Burlington, IA – 3rd Friday through October
- June 21, Saturday – Church Clean Up Day – 9:30 a.m. – Inside and Outside
- June 22, Sunday – Mission Sunday and Donut Sunday (if someone signs up)
- June 22, Sunday – An Afternoon w/Kelsey Grammer – 2:00 p.m. -- Legacy Theater, Carthage
- June 26-June 29 – Macomb Heritage Days
- June 28, Saturday --- West Prairie Post-Prom Event – Twin Oaks

A MESSAGE FROM YOUTH PASTOR LAURA WILHITE: Summer Youth Group (grades 5th through high school) starts on Sunday, June 1, 2025, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Laura has plans to make summer activities exciting and enjoyable. Come join the fun. The end of the school year celebration for the Youth Group took place on Sunday, May 18. The group of seven energetic kids enjoyed a snack, a birthday party, and most of all fishing where they caught sunfish and bass.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRITTANY THOMPSON: Brittany was named the new West Prairie High School Assistant Principal for the 2025-26 school year.

2025 GRADUATES

Kenson Welsh is an 8th grade graduate from West Prairie Junior High. Kenson is the son of Steve and Tiffani Welsh. His siblings are Kentlee and Kendrick. His grandparents are Mitchell and Sandy Welsh, and Mitch and Brenda Melvin. His hobbies are farming, working with his cows and hunting. Kenson is a member of the Blandinsville Blue

Ribbons 4H Club, FFA, and the West Prairie Trap Team. He also helps with teaching a *Sunday School class* at LaHarpe Christian Church.

Mason Whitman graduated from 8th grade at West Prairie. His parents are Alan and Jolynn Whitman. His grandparents are Janet and Dave Whitman and Kenny and Anita Brown. He plays baseball and basketball.

Ryan Yeoman, graduated from 8th grade at West Prairie. His parents are Mylyn and Sam Yeoman. His siblings are Jhon Reyes and Mable Yeoman. Grandparents are Philip and Patricia Yeoman and Manuel and Merly Jusay. Ryan loves to cook, bake, read and listen to podcasts. He would like to go to NYC pastry for college.

Braylon Soule, son of Terence Soule and Crystal Soule and grandson of Cindy Soule, is a graduate of West Prairie High School. He enjoys archery and playing video games. His future plans are undecided.

Arianna Soule is the daughter of Terence Soule and Crystal Soule and granddaughter of Cindy Soule and is an 8th grade graduate of Western Prairie. She enjoys playing volleyball and pitching on her school and summer softball teams.

Trystan Canterbury is a West Prairie High School graduate and plans on joining the Marines. His mother is Crystal Fowler. His grandmother is Barbara Adams.

Kameron Cramer is a West Prairie High School graduate. He is the son of the late Eric Cramer. His grandparents are Becky and the late Dennis Cramer. He plans on continuing his education.

Macy Powell, West Prairie High School graduate, is the daughter of Brett and Michele Powell and granddaughter of Ben and Pat Powell. She will attend Illinois State University in the fall.

Landon Thomas McPeak, West Prairie High School Graduate, is the son of Preston and Kelly McPeak. He is currently working at Old School Body Shop in Blandinsville.

Tyson Carnes is an 8th grade West Prairie graduate and the son of Willie and Kayla Carnes.

Linkin Dodds is a West Prairie High School graduate. He is the son of Britany and Nathan Stanberry. He is job hunting.

Paige Kitch graduated from West Prairie High School. She is the daughter of Tiffany and Fred Kitch. She will attend Blackhawk College to become a veterinarian technician.

Mickey Kitch graduated from West Prairie High School. He is the son of Steve and Jessick Kitch. He is planning on getting his CDL license.

Kade Markham graduated from West Prairie High School. His parents are Heather and Kevin Markham. He is in the process of looking for a job.

Milo Rodeffer, 8th grade graduate, is the son of Jennifer and Neal Rodeffer.

Gammon Shipman, 8th grade graduate, is the son of Chris and Mandy Shipman.

Madelin Grummel, 8th grade graduate, is the daughter of Jenna Rummel.

Skyler Martin, 8th grade graduate, is the daughter of Tyler and Kobi DeWitt and Mike Martin.

Kaden Little is a West Prairie High School graduate and the son of Erik and Jenny Little.

Reagan Weaver is a WIU graduate in Agriculture. He is the son of Travis and Sherrie Weaver.

Peyton Kreps is a WIU graduate. He is the son of Brian Kreps and Mable Kreps and grandson of Keith and Wendy Kreps.

Madeleine Grummel graduated from 8th grade. She is the daughter of Jenna and Craig Grummel. Her grandparents are Regie Despain and Lisa and Rick Kluge. Her great grandparents are Neal and Marilyn Moore.

If we have missed anyone, have incorrect information, or you have something to add (grandparents, activities, future plans), please let us know. This information will be included in the next newsletter if received.

BLANDINSVILLE-HIRE LIBRARY: FINDING MARGARET FULLER by Allison Pataki is a book that I would recommend. *It is historical fiction based on the life of Margaret Fuller who was a strong advocate for women's rights. The book mainly covers her life beginning in the 1830's to the end of her life in 1850. She was a talented writer who became associated with many of the great writers and famous individuals of the time – Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott (as a child), Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Edgar Allen Poe, Horrace*

(Donna Jean Owsley), one half-brother (Gerald Lee Shoemate), one stepsister (Myrna Louise Kaegi), and her beloved horse ("Cookie").

PATRICK "PAT" BRANIFF, 59, of Blandinsville passed away at his home on Monday, May 5, 2025. He lost his fight with pancreatic cancer. Pat was born in 1965 in Carbondale, IL, to Beverly Braniff and Larry Braniff. He moved to Forest Park, IL, in his childhood where he lived into his adult life. He worked for the Public Works of Forest Park for 33 years. He retired and returned to the area in 2022 and purchased his mother's property in Blandinsville. He loved gardening and took pride in making an area look its best – personally and professionally. He enjoyed hunting and slow pitch softball. He was an Eagle Scout, Boy Scout troop leader, and coach for all his children's sports. Pat is survived by his mother Beverly Braniff of Macomb; children Cassie Braniff of Blandinsville, Liz (Austin) Hale of Lemont, IL, and Evan Braniff of Lisle, IL; his brother Shawn Braniff of Sellersburg, IN; half-sister Erin Rehm of Honolulu, HI; stepsister Jacque Wilson of Macomb; stepbrother Darren Wilson of Morning Sun, IA; and his partner Michelle Beckmann of Blandinsville. He was preceded in death by his father and his maternal paternal grandparents.

CHURCH SHEDULE – JUNE 2025

| DATE | ELDERS | SPEAKERS | MUSIC | OVERHEAD |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| June 1 | Randy Killip | Aaron | Jody Little | Taylor Thompson |
| June 8 | Gary Smith | Aaron Baker | Jody Little | Dave Hunt |
| June 15 | Greg James | Aaron Baker | Jean Dougherty | Glade Mason |
| June 22 | Monte Mason | Jim Richardson | Jody Little | Dave Hunt |
| June 29 | Taylor Thompson | Aaron Baker | Anna James | Monte Mason |
| DATE | WORSHIP LEADER | GREETERS | NURSERY | DEACONESS |
| June 1 | Mary Killip | Dave & Tresa | Paula Snowden | Pat Hainline |
| June 8 | Gary Smith | Marilyn & Neal | Tresa Hunt | Laurie Smith |
| June 15 | Anna James | Russell Oliver | Jan Thompson | Laurie Smith |
| June 22 | Monte Mason | Perry Hamm | Roxanne Mason | Amy Ruebush |
| June 29 | Taylor Thompson | Randy & Mary | Kayia Mason | Amy Ruebush |

PLEASE HELP: Let Mary know when you are not available to serve in one of the above areas so she will not schedule you for that date. If you cannot serve, please find a substitute. Thank you.

ELDERS AND BOARD MEETING: Monday, June 9-- Elders – 6:30 p.m. – Board – 7:00 p.m.

WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday, June 2 -- 7:00 p.m. Come join the group and help plan church events.

Please contact Mary Killip at 309-337-8032 or by mail at P.O. Box 235, Blandinsville, IL 61420, if you have newsletter items or know of someone who would like to receive a newsletter.



Greeley, Frederic Chopin. It covers her life as she travels from Boston, to New York, to Europe, to the fight for freedom in Italy. It is a book about a strong woman ahead of her time in thoughts and goals. Mary Killip

BLANDINSVILLE-HIRE LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. – June 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 23 – *No program on July 16* – “Passport to Adventure – Week 1 – “Dinosaurs Before Dark; Week 2 – “The Knight at Dawn”; Week 3 – “Mummies in the Morning”; Week 4 – “Pirates Past Noon”; Week 5 – “Night of the Ninjas”; Week 6 – “Afternoon on the Amazon”.

BLANDINSVILLE-HIRE PARK – The \$600,000 grant received by the park district is slowly moving forward. *There are* forms to be completed, bids for work to be done, and time to get things in place before work can start. It is estimated that work will begin sometime in March or April 2026 and be completed sometime in 2026. Approved grant projects include electrical upgrades, an ADA parking spot, an ADA access walking path, an ADA water fountain with pet station, new playground equipment and a new pickleball court. Park Board members are Carroll Hickenbottom, President; Mary Killip, Secretary/Treasurer; Paula Snowden, Vice President; and Noel Duncan, Member.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES

Please be in prayer for Laurie Locke, Duane Chipman, Antonia Aguirre, Mary Evans, Kieran Woods, Jeramiah Byers, Otto Pinto, Kelvey Hamm, Lisa and Stephen Molzhon, Kim Walters, Gisele Hamm, Caylea Shinall, Makenzie Hawkins, Jennie Terrell Brush and family, Cindy Soule, Donnie Little, Ed Hunt, Brad Hunt, Kevin Kleinkopf, Jeremy Hamm, Laura Twaddle, Erin Thilyaw, Jim Olson, Jim Meriwether, Kathy, Alan, and Michelle Driskell, Mike Rawleigh, Hudson Thrapp, Jason Siegworth, Michelle Bixler, Jerri Stevens, Tim Hamm, Mike Baker, John Fowler, Fred Thie, Kara Hunt, Ruth Dildine, and Joanne Dela Cruz. Be in prayer for our nursing home residents and the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones. Remember the health care workers, caretakers, fire fighters, police officers, and our armed forces members and their families. Pray for the individuals who have lost their homes, family, and friends in fires and other disasters. Pray for our community, state, country, and the world. Pray for peace, acceptance of all, and love for one another.

IN MEMORY

RON BREWER, 73, of LaHarpe passed away at his home on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Ron was born on November 8, 1951, in LaHarpe, the son of Kenneth and Betty (Howe) Brewer. He married Penny Collins-woodside on April 3, 1975. She preceded him in death on April 17, 2019. He was affectionately known as RB to friends and family. He raced motorcycles and then went to stock car racing. RB owned and operated Ron Brewer Construction for over 30 years. He was the owner of RB's Pit Stop in LaHarpe for almost ten years. He loved the social part of this. He enjoyed playing cards with the guys. RB is survived by one daughter Karri Brewer-Wallace of LaHarpe; one grandson Bryce (Kahlen Seitz) Marsden of LaHarpe; and one granddaughter Myah Wallace at home. He is also survived by his girlfriend Carol Wilson of LaHarpe; two sisters Sarah (Ken) Foxall of Macomb and Donna Newlan of Dallas City; one brother Terry Brewer of Dallas City; one brother-in-law Tom Maynard of Pontoosuc; and Amanda Donaldson who he considered as one of his own; his granddog Waffles and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his son Greg Brewer, his parents, his in-in-laws Owen and Louise Collins, one stepson Jerome Woodside, one sister Mel Maynard, and one brother Kevin Brewer.

DOROTHY L. WISSLEAD, 91, of LaHarpe, passed away on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Oak Lane Nursing and Rehab in Stronghurst. She was born on November 13, 1933, in Rozetta Township, Henderson County, the daughter of Earl and Rose Sly McPeak. She married J. Dale Wisslead in Blandinsville on April 5, 1952. He preceded her in death on June 26, 2007. Dorothy was a devoted farm wife, mother, and grandmother. She was known for her boundless energy, sweet spirit, and love of the simple things in life. She was a wonderful cook, loved the outdoors, took pride in her yard and garden, and enjoyed bonfires and picnics. She is survived by three sons Jim (Pam) Wisslead of Sciota; Gregory Dale (Debra) Wisslead of LaHarpe; Brad Wisslead of Bloomington, IL; one daughter-in-law Terry Wisslead of East Peoria, IL; *nine* grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, one son (John Dean Wisslead), two brothers (James E. McPeak and Kenneth Lloyd McPeak), one sister