



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF FRANKLIN PARK  
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# The First News

April 2010

## Holy Week Opportunities Abound

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Special opportunities during Holy Week for worship, reflection, and celebration begin with:

The final **Cluster Soup Supper** will take place on Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. hosted by River Forest UMC, 7970 Lake Street in River Forest. We'll enjoy a simple supper of delicious soup, bread, and dessert. After supper at about 7 p.m., we'll enjoy one more study session led by Pastor Char.

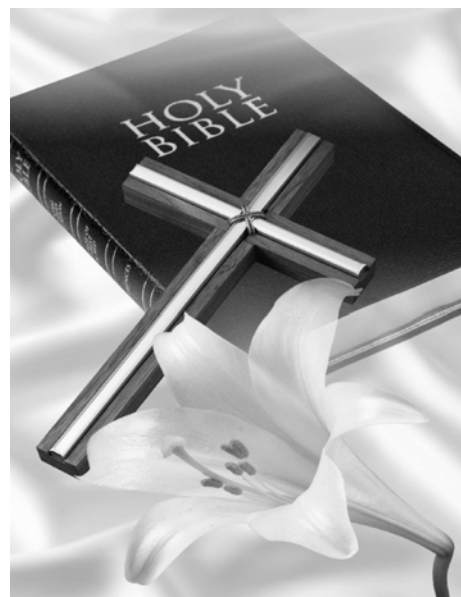
**Maundy Thursday** commemoration on April 1 will be held at River Forest UMC. The evening will include scripture, music, drama, and communion.

On **Good Friday**, a massed choir from cluster congregations will present selections from Dubois' "Seven Last Words" on Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park. A freewill offering will be taken for Haiti Relief efforts through UMCOR.

And don't miss **Easter Sunday** worship! We worship in our sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 4! Come and celebrate the joy of resurrection with communion, hymns, and readings! The worship service will be followed by a fellowship time with coffee and refreshments. If you've missed a couple of Sundays, or more than just a couple, Easter is a great time to get back in the habit! Grace abounds—come and see!

### Quick Takes:

- Invite friends to Easter Worship with Communion on April 4!
- After worship study group begins after Easter on Sunday, April 11.
- An Eagle Scout project will create a lovely memorial garden outside the Elder Street end of the sanctuary building on April 9-11. Offer a word of thanks that weekend!
- Nobius meets April 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- Native American emphasis Sunday is April 25 with guest preacher, Adrienne Trevathan



## Stewardship Report: Seeing Through Eyes of Faith!

Many, many thanks to everyone who has already turned in their pledges for 2010, either at the Walk of Faith on Sunday, March 28, or afterward through the offering or in the mail! Your gifts matter—they make a difference! By Seeing Through Eyes of Faith, we are able to gain a new perspective on God’s call in our lives to be stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. Thank you for stepping out in faith, alongside sisters and brothers in the congregation, and making your pledge to make our ministry possible in 2010!

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2010, you may mail your pledge card to the church or bring it with you on Sunday morning. Extra pledge cards are available at church in case you need one. And if you need a new supply of offering envelopes, please see the Pastor after worship or contact the church office.

### Our Giving by the Numbers...

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Monthly Giving for March 2010 (through 3/21) | \$ 3,329.00 |
| Total Giving in 2010 to date                 | \$11,371.70 |

**This month, as we make our 2010 pledges of giving to the church budget, we also pledged to the Second Mile Campaign which pays off the loan on the parsonage roof repairs made in summer 2007. To date, nearly \$5,500 has been given to pay down the loan. Please consider a pledge or special gift to help pay off the loan in full in 2010!**

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

### Those in need of healing prayers:

Carol Michaels      Pat Fritze      Mary Pease  
 Linda Wright, on the passing of her husband, Chuck  
 the family of Betty Moore

### Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Marilyn Oxy      Dorothy Schneider      Arvis Knutson  
 Margaret Jackson      Virginia Densborn      Elois May  
 Signe Howell      Edna Kirchhoff

Please pray for the work of newly elected leadership as the new Ad Council convenes on April 14, and the new Nurture/Outreach/Witness Committee meets sometime during April.



## Celebrating Birthdays in April

|     |                   |      |                           |
|-----|-------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 4/3 | Alison Horn       | 4/11 | David Pritchett           |
| 4/3 | Ruth Tressa       | 4/11 | William Kirchhoff         |
| 4/3 | Mike Pritchett    | 4/11 | Daniel Kirchhoff          |
| 4/3 | Tom Riordan       | 4/23 | Norman Maggio             |
| 4/7 | Daisy Riebeling   | 4/28 | Sarah Pritchett           |
| 4/7 | Dorothy Schneider |      |                           |
| 4/7 | Shelley Boelert   | 4/9  | Glenn & Sandra Hoiney     |
| 4/8 | Ashima Singh      | 4/12 | Robert & Judy Casey       |
| 4/8 | Jenee Tarasuik    | 4/13 | Hemanshu & Ashima Singh   |
| 4/8 | Karen Kelly       | 4/14 | Harold & Charline Elwardt |
| 4/8 | Ruth Mackeben     | 4/25 | Dan & Doris Britton       |



## From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

In preparing for our special Church Conference on March 28th, Ad Council had a long conversation about our financial future as a congregation. Over the last few years, the expense side of the church budget has been reduced and streamlined. This is due, in part, to the reality that the income side of the church budget has also decreased gradually over time. As a Council, we reminded ourselves of the importance of stewardship as a matter of faithfulness to God's call in our lives. A deliberate stewardship emphasis, with a clear message from the pulpit about the spiritual implications of giving, was our first step. Ad Council realized, in real dollars, we faced a larger problem of having the resources to do the ministry God is calling us to in the coming years. Convinced of the importance of the ministry God's calling us to in this place, we asked we could fund it.

As individuals and families, we have savings or investments—a rainy day fund, if you will—to draw on when times are especially challenging or unexpected needs arise. The church, too, has savings or “rainy day funds”. Ad Council next began to look at those funds, recognizing that it is quite unmistakably “raining”. That led us to ask for legal consultation about our options for borrowing from our savings and endowments. A call to our Northern Illinois Conference chancellor (or attorney) was our next step.

In a call with our conference attorney, we learned that a new law regarding institutional endowments took effect last June. The new law (760 ILCS 51/) allows, in certain circumstances, for an institution to appropriate, through a deliberate process, both principal and proceeds of its endowed funds for immediate needs, regardless of the language of the restrictions placed on those funds. Through a Listening Meeting on March 21st and additional Listening Meetings yet to be scheduled, we will learn more about this process, and carefully and deliberately consider if it might offer options for our congregation at this time. Please take the time to listen and learn about this. Another special Church Conference will be scheduled in May or June (with ample and specific notice given) to consider next steps. Will you join me in learning more and in praying for discernment?

## United Methodist Women Plan Salad Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 6, the United Methodist Women will enjoy a Salad Luncheon at noon, followed by April's general meeting. The program will be a book review. Come and bring a salad for the potluck!

Five members attended the District UMW meeting in Skokie on Saturday, March 20, and gained training which will be an inspiration to our membership in the future. The District Spring meeting is scheduled for April 17 (further details will be available at the General Meeting).

Please plan ahead for the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program at the May 4 general meeting. This is a lovely time of encouragement and sharing. See your Circle chair for a "little blue box".

**Aunt Libby Circle** has its next meeting on Thursday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at Wilma Bookless's.

**Wesleyan Circle** meets next on Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Lattanzio's house.

**Susannah Circle** meets on Tuesday, April 20 at noon at Lorraine Egerton's home.

**UMW Mission Team** meets on April 1 and again on April 29 at 9:30 a.m.

**United Methodist Women** are collecting vegetable and flower seeds for Red Bird Mission in Appalachia. Watch for sales on vegetable seeds and buy early. As a guide, if you can supply ten seed packets, please buy nine of vegetable seeds and one of flower seeds. Families use these donations primarily for food. Please place your donations in the boxes provided in the lobby. The goal for shipping seed packets is mid-April.

## Reading the Bible: What? So What? Now What?

Many of us know that Pastor Denise teaches graduate courses at Garrett-Evangelical, our United Methodist seminary in Evanston, Illinois, but have you ever wondered *what* she teaches? Here's an opportunity to satisfy your curiosity. This spring, Pastor Denise will teach a modified version of her "Teaching for Biblical Faith" course, focusing on how we understand and use the Bible in our lives of faith. Together we will explore how we can tell **what** the Bible is saying to us. We will consider what it means that the Bible teaches what it teaches—the **so what?** part. And we will wrestle with the implications of the Bible's teachings for our daily lives—that's the **now what?** aspect of the study. There will be readings to prepare ahead of time, so it is important to sign up. This study will be offered as an after-worship group beginning April 11 on Sunday mornings for an hour, convening about 10:50 a.m. in the Susannah Room. It will also be offered on a weekday—please indicate your preference for which day on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Copies of the readings will be provided.

## Ad Council Update from the March 10, 2010 meeting

This update is provided in lieu of minutes to keep members aware of Ad Council's work on their behalf. Please thank them for their work, and encourage and support your Ad Council members. Minutes were approved (Bill/Jeri Lynn).

### Finance

- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter); stewardship emphasis for a month in March; pledge Sunday (walk of faith) scheduled for March 28; Easter special giving letter will begin with Easter Sunday and continue through April
- received treasurer's report of expenses and income to date in 2010; reviewed budget versus actual expenses/income for 2009; long-term cash flow to fund ministry needs is an issue now

### Trustees

- Motion by Jeri Lynn/Bill, approved unanimously, to authorize establishment of a payment-deferred, non-interest-bearing loan of \$30,000 from the principal of the Daum account held at the UMF; scheduled a Listening Meeting to review this, in advance of special Church Conference; directed Pastor to review this with the conference chancellor
- **note: Bishop and DS advised that this matter should be announced more specifically, cannot be discussed at 3/28 special Church Conference; conference chancellor explained changes in the law indicating a different process—see Pastor's article on p 3**
- Church Mutual Insurance review of property indicated (1) replace exit light in front of sanctuary, (2) fill in holes created when pews were removed in sanctuary, (3) use tie-downs on all TV carts. The potential presence of toxic mold was also noted in the area on the south side of stage in fellowship hall necessitating mold abatement and hygienic testing before policy will be renewed. Pastor will contact an advisor in an Oak Park congregation with expertise in these matters for guidance.
- Memorial Garden—Eagle Scout project for Scott Maas, will take place 4/9-11 (rain date the following weekend); motion by Jeri Lynn/Bill to approve up to \$300 from memorials for supplies
- approved building use request by TOPS group (training local group leaders); use of Susannah on an occasional basis in exchange for food pantry donations (Jeri Lynn/Bill)

**Nurture** (see nurture calendar posted with minutes); noted that World Day of Prayer was attended by 42 women/men, and \$385 was collected in the offering for grants in Cameroon

### Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (filed and posted outside church office with minutes)
- working with Nominating/Lay Leadership committee on a slate of leaders for election 3/28
- Money Matters series continues with monthly offerings of 101 and 102 (free Quicken)
- hosting Soup Supper as a congregation next Tuesday; soup donated; encouraged sign-up for other donations of food and help; Pastors Denise & Randy will lead art/music themed program
- final repairs and electrical inspection next week on Susannah Room project; painting continues

### New Business

- Franklin Park's Railroad Daze will be June 4, 5, and 6 this year; our involvement not yet known
- Pastor Denise will work with committee chairs as needed to complete conference forms; narrative reports for a church conference book are welcome but not required by the *Discipline* from committee chairs & groups within the church; book will be available after special church conference

**The next meeting of Ad Council (newly elected members) will be held on Wednesday, April 14, at 7 pm.**

# April 2010

**Sun**      **Mon**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**

|  | <b>Sun</b> | <b>Mon</b>  | <b>Tue</b>                   | <b>Wed</b>   | <b>Thu</b>   | <b>Fri</b>                                     | <b>Sat</b> |
|--|------------|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|------------|
|  |            |   |                              |  | <b>1</b><br>9:30 am UMW Mission Team<br>7 pm Maundy Thursday @<br>River Forest UMC | <b>2</b><br>7 pm Good Friday<br>@ First UMC-OP | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>4</b><br>9:30 am Easter Sunday<br>Worship with Communion<br>10:30 Coffee Hour | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br>noon UMW General Mtg<br>6:30 pm Girl Scouts           | <b>7</b>                     | <b>8</b><br>1 pm Aunt Libby @ Wilma's<br>7:30 Wesleyan @ Grace's | <b>9</b><br>Eagle Scout Project—<br>Memorial Garden                                | <b>10</b>                                      |            |
| <b>11</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:50 After Worship Study                        | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b><br>7 pm Ad Council | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br>5:30 pm Nobius                    |            |
| <b>18</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 Coffee Hour<br>10:50 After Worship Study   | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br>noon Susannah @<br>Lorraine's<br>6:30 pm Girl Scouts | <b>21</b>                    | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>                                      |            |
| <b>25</b><br>9:30 am Worship/guest preacher<br>10:45 After Worship Study         | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>                    | <b>29</b><br>9:30 am UMW Mission<br>Team meeting                 | <b>30</b>  |  |            |

# Miscellanea...

We are not collecting rummage at the church and no rummage sale is planned for this year. Please donate your gently used clothing (no underwear or swim wear) to the St. Paul’s UCC Share Wear room. Just give them a call at 847.678.8500 to arrange to drop off your donations in the mornings.

### Some items on our building wish list:

- a four-foot fiberglass step ladder (ours has a stress-fracture)
- volunteers to bring cookies or other treats for Coffee Hour—please see Doris Abel to choose a week to bring them
- two or three white cloth napkins for communion (no-iron, please)
- nine-volt and AA batteries for clocks, smoke alarms, and wireless mics
- volunteers to tend the hostas (primarily weed them once a month in the summer) between the sidewalk and church parking lot
- tea lights (bags of 10, 25, 50, or 100, unscented)
- rechargeable dustbuster-style vacuum for quick clean-ups
- a second Mr. Coffee style 10-12 cup coffee maker for Susannah

### Newsletter Order Form

As good stewards of church resources, every effort is made to limit mailing costs by having the newsletter available for pick-up at worship no later than the first Sunday of the month. We mail newsletters not picked up after the first Sunday to members/friends living within reasonable driving distance of the church. If you’d like to have your newsletter mailed automatically, please indicate that preference below. A \$10 donation will help defray mailing costs for newsletters. Or help save even more and receive the newsletter by email - FREE!

**Yes, please mail the newsletter to me each month (donation enclosed)!**

**Please email me the newsletter for FREE (indicate email below)!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ (in case we have questions or need clarification)

APRIL 2010

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

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Are you  
**GRADUATING**

**this spring ...**

from **kindergarten, junior high,  
high school, college, graduate  
school, or a trade program?** Our  
congregation will **recognize** our  
graduates **with gifts and cake** on

**Sunday, May 23.**

Please share names of grads with  
the Pastor or the church office

**no later than May 9.**