



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

February 2012

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Quick Takes:

- Nobius meets Sunday, February 5 at 11:15 am in the sanctuary
- Children's Sunday School meets on Sunday, February 5 after worship
- Scout Sunday will be February 5. All scouts are invited to bring their scouting friends and wear their uniforms to worship on that day!

Did you know...?

Our church paid our apportionments in full in 2011 for the first time in many years AND we were able to become a Rainbow Covenant congregation, as well, by supporting seven extra mission focus areas! Wow!

Lent begins February 22 with a host of special worship and service events!

This year, Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent) is on February 22nd. We will have a worship service with imposition of ashes at our church at 7 p.m., and there will be a noon worship service at River Forest UMC, 7970 Lake Street, River Forest, as an option for those who prefer not to go out at night. Our Lenten Soup suppers will take place again this year, and the first one, on February 28 at 6:30 p.m., will be at Neighborhood UMC, 1817-19 Washington Blvd in Maywood. Watch for more information on other Lenten offerings in the March newsletter!

Stewardship Campaign Begins February 12

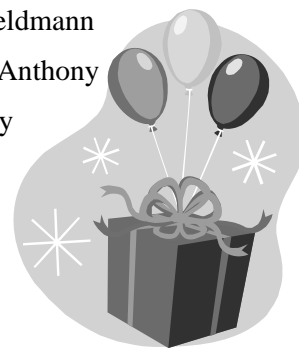
As has become our pattern these last few years, we plan to conduct our 2012 Stewardship Pledge Campaign during February. We are called to use everything at our disposal to live out our faith, and that includes our financial resources—but it also goes far beyond our money, extending into all the areas of our lives! Begin now to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in 2012. Our Walk of Faith will be Sunday, March 4. We'll bring our pledges forward to the altar during worship on that Sunday.

Prior to the stewardship campaign, we request that you hold your giving steady, at least consistent with 2011 levels. New offering envelopes for 2012 are available for pick-up if you need them. Final 2011 giving statements were mailed in January. Contact Pastor Denise with questions.

You are invited to *An Evening for Friends & Lovers* featuring friend/love-themed music and poetry on Sunday, February 12 at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary. Refreshments will follow. Come and bring your friends!

Celebrating February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1	Paul Sharp	2/20	Bill Demetros	Anniversaries
2/2	Ethel Pollitt	2/21	Corinne Fritze	2/2 Paul & Elizabeth Feldmann
2/5	Arvis Knutson	2/23	David Britton	2/8 Michael & Doreen Anthony
2/9	Coleen Lamphere	2/24	Jack Anthony	2/19 John & Karen Kelly
2/11	Doreen Anthony	2/25	Karen Biggs	
2/12	Elizabeth Janetas	2/26	Natalie Diblich	
2/13	Victoria Revere	2/28	Marilyn Eisfeldt	
2/18	Jackson Diblich	2/28	Jeri Lynn Fox	



Standing in the Need of Prayer



Those in need of our continuing prayers:

GiaBella Lopez	Wilma Bookless	Joe Balsis	John Memmen
Edna Kirchhoff	Arvis Knutson	Marilyn Oxby	
Louise Spain	Eve Gogonas		

Stewardship Update

Watch the weekly bulletin for more current reports of our financial stewardship as a congregation. Your faithfulness in giving is deeply appreciated!



Our Giving by the Numbers...

Monthly Giving for January 2012	\$3,730.00
Total Giving in 2011	\$43,765.76

World Day of Prayer Hosted Here March 2

Our annual celebration of a World Day of Prayer will take place this year on Friday, March 2, at 1 pm in our sanctuary. The focus this year is on Malaysia, with a worship service designed by the women of that nation as the framework for our time of prayer together. The theme for our service will be “Let Justice Prevail!”, which we will explore together through music, readings, drama, movement, and prayer. This is an event for both women and men, and it is designed to be ecumenical for people of all denominations in our community and the surrounding area. Invite a friend and come join in a spirit of prayer!



Ad Council Update from the January 22, 2012 meeting

This update is provided in lieu of minutes to keep members aware of Ad Council's work on behalf of our congregation. Attendance: Tom, Christine, Lona, Irene, Elizabeth, Bill, Jeri Lynn, Diane, Andrea, Mary Lou, Pastor Denise

Finance

- reviewed income and expenses; apportionments paid in full and Rainbow Covenant standing achieved; accepted the report of the treasurer and filed for audit
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter); annual campaign in February/March; Bill, Andrea, and Elizabeth will offer input on the stewardship focus and make a plan with Pastor
- audit of the books following GCFA guidelines is scheduled for February/March, per the *Discipline*

Trustees

- Andrea reported that the exterminator contract was paid in full for 2012, netting a 5% savings (refundable for unused portion if cancelled); reviewing copier lease vs. purchase options; completed replacement of electrical panels and added locks; added outlets in parlor area and outdoors; faucet problems in the bathroom off the parlor were noted, and it will be repaired/replaced; work continues on parsonage breezeway doors
- approved building use requests: Demetros for a family party; Cub Scouts Blue & Gold dinner (2/17 at 7 p.m.) and Pinewood Derby (3/17 at 10 a.m.)
- reviewed Pure In Heart space-sharing covenant; denied request for an additional rent reduction; unanimously approved reallocating the chapel space no later than June to serve as PIH pastor's office with items from the chapel being preserved for use elsewhere in the building (Andrea/Tom)

Nurture see attached Nurture calendar

SPRC

- Jeri Lynn reported that a meeting was being scheduled with the DS to begin appointment process

Pastor's Report provided report in writing (filed and posted with minutes)

The next meeting of Ad Council is Sunday, March 4 at 10:45 a.m.

United Methodist Women Launch 2011 Program in February

The United Methodist Women will meet for our first general meeting of the new year on Tuesday, February 7 at noon in the Parlor. We'll gather for fellowship and lunch hosted by the Susannah Circle. Officers for 2012 will be elected and installed; budget will be discussed and passed by the membership. February is also our annual pledge service—please consider what you'll give to support the international work of UMW for education, health, poverty, and disaster relief for women and children. There will be a lot of catching up to do, and we will plan for our future as a unit.

Please consider attending the Chicago Northwestern District UMW officer training on February 11 at Neighborhood UMC in Maywood. The day begins at 9 a.m.— contact an officer for a ride.

News from
the Circles...

Aunt Libby Circle meets on Thursday, February 9 at 1 p.m. at Elizabeth's home.

Wesleyan Circle meets on Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Carol's home.

Susannah Circle meets on Tuesday, February 21 at 1 p.m. at Lona's home.

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship—Scout Sunday 10:30 Coffee Hour and Children's Sunday School 11:15 Nobius	6	7 noon UMW General Mtg in the Parlor	8	9 1 pm Aunt Libby Circle @Elizabeth's 7:30 pm Wesleyan Circle@ Carol's	10	11
12 9:30 Worship w/Communion 10:30 Turnaround Church informational meeting 6 pm An Evening for Friends & Lovers in the sanctuary	13	14 1 pm Susannah Circle @Lona's	15	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	20 Presidents' Day office closed	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship with Rev. David Gregg preaching/playing	27	28 2 pm UMW Mission Team planning for WDP hosting	29			

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

**You've been hearing about
this—now come & learn more!**

**Our Vitality Team will share with us
their vision for our work as a
Turnaround Church after worship on
Sunday, February 12 in the Parlor!**

**Don't miss this opportunity to
learn about our new focus!**