



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

February 2010

Annual Stewardship Campaign “Seeing Through Eyes of Faith”

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Quick Takes:

- Volunteers are needed to help with snow removal in March using the church's snow blower - sign up today on the podium if you can help!
- Nobius meets Saturday, February 6 at 5:30 pm
- Ash Wednesday service will be offered on February 17 in Susannah 7 pm
- Scott Hotaling will be preaching and playing for worship on February 28
- Save the dates—March 5 @ 1 p.m. World Day of Prayer and March 7 @ 9:30 a.m. Scout Sunday

We've felt the pain of an economy in recession, and unemployment had touched our church family in some very real ways. Perhaps your retirement portfolio is down, too. But we've also heard the Good News of God's love and grace for us, and that Good News overrides the bad news for people of faith. Not suggesting that we ignore the world around us, you are invited to begin "Seeing Through Eyes of Faith" as part of this year's stewardship campaign. When financial times are hard, many people in our community seem to become more open to God's Good News! We need only open our hearts and see the opportunities all around us!

Stewardship goes far beyond our financial resources—what we give in the offering plate. It encompasses all we are and have! People of faith hear God's call to "feed my sheep" and respond to do what they can. People of faith are creative and resourceful with what they have, because, "seeing through the eyes of faith", they recognize the lasting value of what they do to share God's Good News! People of faith do their best, trusting in God.

Prior to Stewardship Sunday on February 21, we request that you hold your giving steady, at least consistent with 2009 levels, to both the church budget and the second mile campaign. New offering envelopes are ready for you to pick up for use in 2010, or you may continue to use previous years' envelopes. You will receive information about the 2010 Stewardship Campaign soon. Your 2009 giving statements are ready for pick-up at church, or will be mailed to you during the first week of February (they may be included with your newsletter). If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Denise.

Celebrating February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1	Paul Sharp	2/20	Bill Demetros	2/2	Paul & Elizabeth Feldmann
2/2	Ethel Pollitt	2/21	Corinne Fritze	2/8	Michael & Doreen Anthony
2/5	Arvis Knutson	2/23	David Britton	2/19	John & Karen Kelly
2/9	Coleen Lamphere	2/24	Jack Anthony		
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		



Stewardship Update

Many thanks to all those who faithfully made and fulfilled their pledges in 2009 for the regular budget and second mile campaign! There will be a stewardship focus in February and an opportunity to make a pledge for 2010. Until then, we are all asked to continue giving at the same rate as we did in 2009 for both the budget and second mile.

Our Giving by the Numbers...

Giving in January 2010 (four Sundays)	\$3,741.70
Total Giving for 2010	\$3,741.70

Standing in the Need of Prayer



Those in need of healing prayers:

Hemanshu Singh	Signe Howell	Wilma Bookless	Mary Pease
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Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Marilyn Oxby	Edna Kirchhoff	Margaret Jackson	Elois May
Arvis Knutson	Dorothy Schneider	Betty Moore	Pat Fritze
Virginia Densborn			

Remember in prayer ...

... our sisters and brothers in Haiti in the wake of the earthquake's devastation.

... all those standing for election in this month's primary.

United Methodist Women Launch 2010 Program in February

After a quiet, snowy January, the UMW begins its work again. Due to the election on February 2nd, our regular general meeting will be held Tuesday, February 9 at noon, when we'll gather for fellowship and lunch hosted by the Susannah Circle. Officers for 2010 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. In light of the Haitian earthquake and those in the U.S. living below the poverty line, the need is all around us. We are grateful to be able to help United Methodist organizations like Marcy Newberry through our Christmastime mitten tree and Red Bird

Mission through our annual seed collection, while also helping our neighbors living closer to us through organizations like Leyden Food Pantry.

Mission Team meets Thursday, February 4 at 9:30 a.m. for planning.

Aunt Libby Circle meets on Thursday, February 11 at 1 p.m. at the church hosted by Ruth.

Wesleyan Circle meets on Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Michaels home.

Susannah Circle meets on Tuesday, February 16 at noon at Joy Perry's home.

News from the Circles...

March 5th World Day of Prayer hosted by UMW

Our annual celebration of a World Day of Prayer will take place this year on Friday, March 5, at 1 pm in the afternoon in our sanctuary. The focus this year is on the West African nation of Cameroon, 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 Everything that Has Breath Praise God", which we will do 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.

The UMW will not have its general meeting in March so efforts can be concentrated on this international celebration and making visitors from neighboring congregations and our UM Cluster feel welcome.

Refreshments—coffee, tea, and finger foods—will be provided by UMW members for the fellowship time following the service hosted by the UMW in the parlor.



FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour		Primary Election all day in Susannah 6:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall		9:30 am UMW Mission Team Mtg.		5:30 pm Nobius
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		noon UMW General Meeting	7:00 pm Ad Council	1 pm Aunt Libby@church 7:30 Wesleyan Circle @ Carol's home		9:30 pm Money Matters 102 noon—5 Boy Scout Blue & gold dinner in Fellowship Hall
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Worship in Susannah 7 pm "An Evening for Friends & Lovers" in Susannah	Presidents' Day office closed	noon Susannah Circle @ Joy's home 6:30 Girl Scouts	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship in Susannah			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
9:30 am Worship in Susannah Scott Hotaling, preaching						

Money Matters 102 - Tracking Spending Offered February 13 “Where did all my money go?”

Money Matters 102 is a brand new seminar for anyone interested in learning strategies and receiving tools for better tracking their spending. Offered on Saturday morning, February 13 at 9:30 a.m., this seminar will give participants hands-on experience with several different methods for keeping track of the money coming in and going out of their accounts. Participants will receive a free copy of Quicken software to take with them through a generous donation from the Intuit Corporation and will learn to use this computer-based method of tracking their spending, among other strategies. This seminar will be helpful for people of all ages and income levels—it doesn't matter how much money you make or have, tracking spending is still key to financial stability long-term! Space is limited. Cost is \$5; scholarships are available!

The next session of the Money Matters 101 seminar for people who would like to better understand and manage their money will be Saturday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m. Watch for more details next month!

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

What would this life be without the important people with whom we share it—our friends and family! In celebration of the love we share with the important people in our lives, Pastors Denise and Randy are hosting “**An Evening for Friends and Lovers**” on Sunday, February 14 in the Susannah Room. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature coffee and dessert (Eli's Cheesecake, a favorite of ours). Randy will perform some of his favorite love-themed music, and Denise will share poetry and other readings that move the heart. The best part will be sharing an evening with our friends and church family that we love. Come and join your friends, and bring along the friends and lovers in your life. There is no cost. Please do RSVP by February 12 if you plan to attend. (This is a grown-up event.)

Spirituality of the Psalms After-Worship Bible Study

Often called the “Hymnbook of the Bible”, the Psalms offer us a unique look into the faith lives of our forebears in the faith. In practical terms, the Psalms function as the “voices of faith” of the actual believing community. The Psalms express centuries-old human emotion, yet sometimes they seem to be expressing what we feel today in response to life's circumstances. In just 150 chapters or “hymns” lies a rich treasure of writings about the ups and downs of a relationship with our living God.

In an after-worship study, Pastor Denise will share insights into these rich texts using a scheme created by noted Hebrew scriptures scholar Walter Brueggemann in his book, *Spirituality of the Psalms*. The study will meet on Sundays, February 7 and 14, after the worship service at about 10:45 a.m. Attendance at both sessions and bringing a copy of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible would be helpful but isn't required.

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

Save the Date

Scout Sunday is coming!

Sunday, March 7

9:30 a.m. worship

meeting in the sanctuary!

**Don't miss this opportunity to
welcome and thank our scouts!**