



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

January 2012

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Quick Takes:

- Nobius meets next on the first Sunday of February, 2/5 at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary
- We'll be taking down the Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 15. Please plan to stay if you can to help store our decorations away for next year.
- America's Potluck Sunday Supper is a time for people everywhere to gather to discuss, strategize and plan ways to work together to make our communities stronger and better. We will host a potluck dinner on Sunday, January 15 at 6 p.m. in the Susannah Room. Bring a dish and a friend as we dialog together.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

With a new year comes change. This is true for our congregation this year more than most. A change of pastors is coming for our church in July.

I have accepted a full-time tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Christian Education at the School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Many of you are aware I have recently completed my PhD in Christian education and congregational studies, and I'll graduate in May. I feel very blessed to have landed one of very few such positions in the nation, working in the field I love. Randy and I will relocate to Richmond, Virginia sometime this summer.

We have worked together as pastor and congregation for 5 1/2 years now, and there is much work ahead in the next six months! We are in the midst of a turnaround process which will grow to a congregation-wide effort very soon. There is work to be done in the church building and parsonage to continue to address deferred maintenance in both. There is planning and hoping and dreaming to do as our District Superintendent works with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee to discern the congregation's needs and hopes for its next pastor. There are study groups to lead, confirmations and baptisms to celebrate, a stewardship campaign to undertake, and leadership to nominate and elect. Our work will go on, largely unaffected by the upcoming transition. I am and will be on the job!

Randy and I are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this place. We will treasure your friendships always, and we covet your prayers in this transition time even as we will be praying for you.

Celebrating January Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|-----------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1/1 | Janice Short | 1/20 | Texie Van Dorn | 1/26 | Carrie Branam |
| 1/6 | David D. Pritchett | 1/22 | Rachel Sharp | 1/26 | Kathy Boelter |
| 1/7 | Michael L. Anthony | 1/23 | Douglas Kasza | 1/27 | Matthew Britton |
| 1/7 | Ken Michaels | 1/23 | Mark Hoiney | 1/30 | Grace Lattanzio |
| 1/9 | Lona Guyer | 1/23 | Michael Nowicki | 1/31 | Christine Kuhlman |
| 1/14 | Glenice May | 1/23 | Trent Pritchett | 1/1 | Pastors Denise & Randy 🕒 |
| 1/20 | Deborah Casas | 1/25 | Claudia Nuñez | 1/31 | Murel & Sylvia Chavez 🕒 |



Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of healing prayers:

GiaBella Lopez Wilma Bookless Joe Balsis John Memmen

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Marilyn Oxby Edna Kirchhoff Arvis Knutson Eve Gogonas Louise Spain

Thank You!

Your church staff sends a heartfelt thank you for remembering us at Christmas with lovely and generous gifts and words of appreciation! We look forward to continuing the journey in the coming year!

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 December 2011 | \$5,688.18 |
| Total Giving in 2011 | \$43,765.76 |

Ad Council Update from the December 11, 2011 meeting

This update is provided in lieu of minutes to keep members aware of Ad Council's work on their behalf. Present: Jeri Lynn, Bill, Lona, Irene, Diane, Andrea, Mary Lou, Pastor Denise, Abbi (guest)

Finance

- reviewed income and expenses, approved preliminary 2012 budget as present by Bill/Finance
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)
- audit of the books following GCFR guidelines is scheduled for February, per the *Discipline*

Trustees work previously approved is in progress; no additional report

Nurture see attached Nurture calendar

SPRC Jeri Lynn proposed compensation increases of 3.6% in line with social security COLA; approved

- Committee met briefly following Ad Council meeting to determine staff Christmas gift amounts

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

The next meeting of Ad Council is Sunday, January 22 at 10:45 a.m.

JANUARY 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 9:30 am Wesley Covenant Renewal Service, Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday School | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour/Undecorating 6 pm America's Potluck Sunday Supper in Susannah | 16 MLK Day office closed | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 7:00 pm Cub Scouts | 21 |
| 22 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Ad Council in Susannah | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30 am Worship with David Gregg preaching/playing | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

America's Potluck Sunday Supper
Sunday, January 15 at 6 p.m.
in the Susannah Room
Bring a dish to share!

Come share conversation with community neighbors about the needs/strengths of our area and strategize ways to work together to make our community better and stronger!