



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

January 2010

Worship Relocates to Renovated Susannah Room for the Winter Months

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2 Beginning on Sunday, January 3, our 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship service will relocate to the Susannah Room for the winter months. While the renovation will still be in-process for a few weeks, the space is being transformed into a warm, comfortable, and pleasant space for worship this winter. The timing of the renovation was prompted largely by the failing lighting in this most-used room in our building. Savings from not heating the sanctuary in the coldest months of January, February, and March will help with the cost. But beyond the financial benefits, we will also enjoy a more energized, intimate, and interactive worship time together as a side benefit. Come & see—bring your coffee mug and a friend!

Quick Takes:

- Children's Epiphany Play and Youth Brunch Benefit take place on January 3 after worship—come and support our young people!
- Nobius meets Saturday, January 9 & February 6, both at 5:30 pm in Susannah
- Many, many thanks to those who helped with demolition in Susannah: Ryan Horn, Herb Das, Nicole Kuhlman, Maggie Horn, & Stanley Das. Watch for more opportunities to help with painting and finish work!

Stewardship Campaign in February 2010

As was the case in 2009, we plan to conduct our 2010 Stewardship Pledge Campaign early February. Studies show that this timing takes the “pressure off” of conducting a hasty stewardship campaign in the fall or securing pledges for the new year during the Holiday season. This year, given the condition of the national and global economy, we hope things may be looking better in February than they did in the fall.

Early in the year, prior to the stewardship campaign, 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 for 2010 are ready for pick up after worship on the first Sunday in January. Final 2009 giving statements will be available in January.

Celebrating January Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



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 together 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 2009 (as of 12/20)	\$5,066.61
Monthly Giving Needed to meet our 2009 Budget	\$7,540.40
Total Giving in 2009 (as of 12/20)	\$61,628.46
Total Giving Needed to Meet our 2009 Budget	\$90,484.81



Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of healing prayers:

Pat Fritze Wilma Bookless Mary Pease

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

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

Remember in prayer the family of Marla Houtman (her late aunt Dorothy Kitzmiller was active in our congregation) who passed on Christmas Day.

United Methodist Women On Hiatus for January

The United Methodist Women have no General Meeting or Circle gatherings scheduled for January because of the possibility of inclement weather causing safety concerns for our members. Hopefully February will bring a temperature rise and energy increase with longer days and the promise of springtime renewal. The Mission Team will meet on Thursday, January 7, 2010, to confirm the material in the 2010 Yearbook and to make plans for hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5. UMC Cluster and Franklin Park churches are invited.

Reading Program News

The Reading Program for 2010 in underway!

You may want to use the break in regular UMW programming in the month of January to get a head start on your reading program books. Reading 4 books during the year is all that's required for credit. Pick up a book and a reading program brochure with a list of books and categories in the narthex.

United Methodist Women

collected hats, mittens, & scarves on the tree in the Parlor during the Christmas season. Thanks to all who shared the warmth! If you'd still like to participate, bring your items early in January. They will be donated to support the work of Marcy Newberry in the city.

Circles Report Charitable Giving

Aunt Libby Circle \$110 was sent to ChildServ, an agency of our United Methodist Conference
 Susannah Circle \$130 was donated to the Leyden Township Food Pantry
 Wesleyan Circle \$105 was given to Leyden Township Food Pantry; will also replace Parlor blinds

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

A new year brings with it new opportunities—but we cannot take full advantage of the good things coming to us in 2010 without letting go of whatever bitterness we might be carrying from the previous year or years. The process of 'letting go' can be a difficult one—but it is crucial!

Over a period of time, most of us experience both wonderful goodness and the bitterness of loss in balance, but there are times when a particular experience throws that balance out of whack—often for completely understandable reasons. Still, over time, we must allow that bitterness, pain, and loss to dissipate—we must let go of it or it will control us and rob us of the full experience of life's joy and goodness. It's a kind of forgiveness—of ourselves, of others, of life's circumstances.

I'd like to challenge you, as the new year begins, to consider what painful or bitter experiences you're holding onto that are getting in the way of life's joy—and let them go, for good!

JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Epiphany—Communion 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Children's Epiphany Play & Youth Brunch Benefit	4	5	6	7 9:30 am UMW Mission Team & World Day of Prayer Planning Mtg.	8	9 9:30—noon Money Matters 101 Seminar 5:30 pm Nobius
10 9:30 am Worship	11	12 6:30 Girl Scouts	13	14	15 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	18 MLK Day office closed	19	20 7:00 pm Nurture	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship	25	26 6:30 Girl Scouts	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship w/dialogue sermon 10:30 Coffee Hour						

Money Matters 101 Offered January 9

Our congregation will host the first seminar in a series on money management for our community. **Money Matters 101** is a 2 1/2 hour seminar for people who would like to better understand and manage their money. The seminar will take place on Saturday morning, January 9, from 9:30—noon at our church. The last year has been incredibly challenging for many people in our community (and around the world) as we all have sought to make sense of financial matters in changing economic times. This is an opportunity for us reach out to the community and demonstrate our care in this tangible way! Cost for this seminar is \$5 per individual or couple, and it is open to the public. Seminar presenter, Vicki Buresh, is a HUD certified housing counselor and brings decades of experience in the financial industry—in banking, mortgage lending, housing counseling, and debt counseling. Her fast-paced presentation offers tips and strategies everyone will find helpful! Watch for additional dates and times of this and other upcoming seminars. And bring your family, friends, and neighbors with you!

Ad Council Update from the December 13, 2009 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.

Finance

- received treasurer's report of expenses and income (posted outside church office)
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter); partial statements given in December

Trustees

- flat roof repairs completed 12/1 by Feze Roofing - cost \$1,500; gutter repairs on 12/10 by Classic Gutters - cost \$250; hired Mariusz Sarad for snow removal \$250/mo in Dec, Jan, Feb
- parsonage garage door opener chain broken - Charline suggested Triple A Overhead Door in Elmhurst; parsonage dryer replaced for \$314 (total \$424 with installation/kit/take-away)
- approved building use for Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall for monthly pack meetings, Blue & Gold dinner 2/13, and Pinewood Derby 3/13; made small space in kitchen cabinets for storage; Eagle Scout project (Memorial Garden at Elder end) for Scott Maas approved (Jeri Lynn/Andrea)

Nurture

- Evaluated past activities; noted upcoming Christmas eve services, Children's Epiphany Play/Youth Brunch Benefit, Scout Sunday March 7, hosting Cluster Lenten Soup Supper on Tuesday, March 16

SPRC (no report)

Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (filed and posted outside church office with minutes)

New Business

- Pastor explained the failing lights in Susannah, precipitating the need to complete renovations in this most-used room in the building before things get worse; money is not readily available to pay for the roughly \$5,000 cost, but cost savings from not heating sanctuary in Jan/Feb/March would defray half or more; after much dialogue and struggling with the issue, motion to proceed with renovations (Harnand/Mohini); Pastor will work with Jeri Lynn on cost & use volunteers as possible

The next meeting of Ad Council is postponed from January 6—please watch for more info.

January 2010

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

**Updated Church Directories
& 2010 offering envelopes are ready now!
Pick yours up after worship
or contact the church office.**

