



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

July 2010

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Summer Worship in Susannah in July & August

With what's typically the hottest part of summer ahead of us, Summer Sunday Worship is shifting to the Susannah Room on the lower level. As you are no doubt aware, this room continues to be renovated, including paint, colorful banners, and sound absorbing installations coming in July to improve acoustics appreciably. The more casual atmosphere of the Susannah Room affords an opportunity for worship to take on a different feel. We'll sing a greater variety of music and sermons will be more interactive. We'll use the large screen television again, which makes it possible to project liturgy and song lyrics, and show video clips sometimes, too. Bottled water will be provided—or bring your coffee in a travel mug, if you prefer. Come on down to the Susannah Room for worship this summer—where the air is cool and the welcome is warm!

Tuesday Vespers Begin July 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Worship isn't just for weekends anymore—this summer, our congregation will begin a new Vespers worship service on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The service will be on the lawn at the Elder Lane end of the building, near the new Memorial Garden—bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy the beautiful summer evenings in the glory of God's creation! Vespers are an ancient and traditional worship form used in the evening—simple, peaceful, and about 30-40 minutes in length. We'll share scripture, pray, sing, gather our offerings. Stay connected to your church family through Tuesday Vespers when you're away on the weekend, or simply come and bring a friend to enjoy this gentle and grace-filled worship time together!

Quick Takes:

- Our Community VBS marketplace will have an adapted schedule this year—watch for more info via postcard in July and in the August newsletter.
- Nobius is on hiatus until September—watch for fall dates in the August newsletter.
- The Susannah Room will get a coat of paint, likely during the first week of July—see Pastor Denise if you'd like to help.
- Sunday school is on summer vacation—children are most welcome in worship!



Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries in July

7/7	William & Lynda Racutt	7/1	Cassidy Kasza	7/18	Roger Branam
7/12	Mike & Marilyn Oxby	7/2	Doris Abel	7/18	Lisa Anthony
7/14	Rudy & Mary Lou Stefanski	7/2	Earnie Moore	7/21	Manoj Das
7/19	Arthur & Barbara Goetz	7/4	Barbara Goetz	7/21	Sophia Kasza
7/21	Harold & Barbara Nimmer	7/5	Michael Kuhlman	7/24	Andrea Hubley
June Anniversary Omitted in Error (So sorry for the oversight!!)		7/9	Daniel Brian Pritchett	7/24	Karyn Pritchett
6/21	Jorge & Debbie Casas	7/11	Charline Elwardt	7/26	Heidi Graham Mason
		7/11	John Kelly	7/28	Dwight Guyer
		7/15	Joy Perry	7/29	Evelyn Moore
		7/16	Eve Gogonas	7/30	Irene Riordan
		7/17	Stephanie Chen	7/31	Jorge Casas



Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of healing prayers:

Pat Fritze Virginia Densborn

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Mary Pease Edna Kirchhoff Margaret Jackson Marilyn Oxby
Signe Howell Arvis Knutson

Stewardship Update

Our Giving by the Numbers...

Monthly Giving for June 2010 (through 6/20) \$ 4,014.45

Total Giving in 2010 through 6/20 \$ 25,733.78

**Summer vacation
season is here! Please
don't let your giving
take a vacation!**

Summer, Fall Outreach and Witness Events Planned

Do you have neighbors with children who need a church home? Do you have a friend who loves his or her pet and also would benefit from the care of a community of faith? We all know people who need a church home: they need the support of others on the journey with them; they want to work together to help others in our community and world; they are members of a congregation where they no longer feel at home and need to make a change. Your relationship with someone is the single best reason why you should invite them!

Sometimes you just need an event to invite someone to attend with you. Our Nurture-Outreach-Witness Committee is planning several such opportunities this Summer and Fall. This summer's **Tuesday Vespers** on the lawn is a gentle, simple worship service—because it's on the lawn, guests may feel more willing to give it a try. Our congregation will host a **free Block Party** with food, games, a Moon Walk, and music on Sunday, September 12 from noon to 2 p.m. on our lawn. The next Sunday, September 19, we worship outdoors at 9:30 a.m. and it's "bring your pet to worship Sunday". We will offer a **Blessing of the Animals** for pets and the people who love them. Invite and commit to attending these yourself to welcome those others invite.

Please save these dates and begin to pray about who you might invite. Rather than decide for them, ask God to help you open your mind and heart to invite them. It is the job of every member of our congregation to show hospitality and let God's love do the rest. Just because someone is Catholic or their first language is something other than English doesn't mean that they wouldn't be interested in our congregation - resist the urge to decide they wouldn't be interested. Take a risk! Invite a person with whom you have a relationship. Just invite.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

Whether our congregation has a future or not is a question of faithfulness ...

Recently our congregation has been having a conversation, attempting to discern whether we will appropriate resources from our endowed funds—something that is now permitted in extraordinary circumstances under Illinois law. This conversation has been frustrating at times as we see illustrated poignantly how different the values we hold can be at times. It has been healthy for us, too, as we become more clear about what is important for us as a congregation going forward.

But it has had a side effect—it has led to rearranging deck chairs. That old euphemism, referring to the futility of the actions of those on the Titanic as it sank, also reflects something true of congregations like ours. If we don't have a mission we're committed to together, then whatever we do, including whether we have a full-time pastor or a part-time pastor, or whether we worship in this building or somewhere else, is just rearranging deck chairs. Mission is what makes a church alive—not pastors or buildings. Our DS reminded us of the mission of the United Methodist Church: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. That mission isn't dependent on pastors or buildings—that mission is possible for us with God's help, and it's a mission worth doing! Pastors and buildings are important tools, but they are not mission. The real question for each of us is "will you commit to this mission, together?" Can we move beyond deck chairs?

Celebration of Freedom Offering Collected in July!

Independence Day is a celebration of freedom in this nation. But freedom isn't something only Americans know. Whatever the nation of our birth or citizenship, as Christians we experience the great blessing of freedom in Christ. This year, July 4th falls on a Sunday. We'll be celebrating freedom in worship that day in a variety of fun ways. Plan to join the celebration on Sunday, July 4!

In addition, you are invited to participate in a special offering in gratitude for freedom! The "Celebration of Freedom" offering will be taken on Sunday, July 4 and throughout July, if you're away on the holiday weekend. Our nation is 234 years old this year—perhaps you'll consider a gift that recognizes this number in some way: ten cents for every year would be \$23.40; twenty-five cents/year = \$58.50; a dollar/year = \$234. Maybe you would base your gift on your own age (58 years you've enjoyed freedom = \$58). Put "Celebration of Freedom" on the memo line of your check, or note it on your envelope. You decide on the gift that's right for you, but please plan to participate in this special offering in July! All funds received will go to help pay the church insurance, due in July.

Ad Council Update from the June 9, 2010 meeting

This update provided to keep members aware of Ad Council's work on their behalf.

Finance

- received treasurer's report (filed and posted outside church office with this summary)
- received stewardship report; monitored income/expenses to date with budget expectations

Trustees

- received a presentation & proposal by Jim Howard, a rep from Northern Illinois Conference insurance program, Assurance, which increases coverage and reduces premiums by 8%
- deferred action on tuckpointing/repairs beside stage pending appropriation of funds
- Pastor reported that parsonage internet costs will decrease by a little more than half for six months, beginning in June, as an incentive to stay with Comcast
- approved building use requests on consensus from GSA for a two-day conference (\$200) and (retroactively) from the Bolivian Consul for consular assistance to Bolivians in this area

Nurture

- reported on upcoming events: VBS, Tuesday Vespers, Mission Trip to Louisville, etc.

SPRC (no report)

Pastor's Report

- Pastor reported in writing on her work this month (see posted report)
- Pastor reported on a Bowling Event to Support a Cub Scout Family in Crisis, and asked for Ad Council approval to promote this event; it was approved (Jeri Lynn/Mary Lou)
- sound absorbing material will be added to Susannah in July to improve the room's acoustics

Old Business

- Pastor reported that Railroad Daze net income after expenses was \$1,626.45

New Business

- discussed Special Church Conf on 7/7 at 6:30; Ad Council mtg with DS 6/17 at 6:30

The next meeting of Ad Council will be Wednesday, August 11 at 7 pm in Susannah

JULY 2010

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

				1	2	3	
4	9:30 Worship in Susannah with Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9	10
			6:30 pm Vespers	6:30 pm Special Church Conference in Susannah brief trustee mtg follows			
11	9:30 Worship in Susannah 10:45 After Worship study	12	13	14	15	16	17
			6:30 pm Vespers				
18	9:30 Worship in Susannah 10:30 Coffee Hour	19	20	21	22	23	24
			6:30 pm Vespers				
25	9:30 Worship in Susannah	26	27	28	29	30	31
			6:30 pm Vespers				

Remember: Special Church Conference July 7 @
6:30 p.m. in Susannah (details in June newsletter)

July 2010

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

Tuesdays in July & August

Vespers

a weekday worship experience
on the Elder Lane lawn, near the
Memorial Garden

Starts July 6

6:30 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair and a
friend or neighbor!