



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF FRANKLIN PARK  
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# The First News

March 2010

## Scout Sunday Celebrated March 7

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Calling all Scouts—boys and girls, young and not-so-young—wear your Boy Scout or Girl Scout pins, badges, or uniforms and come celebrate Scout Sunday on March 7 during our worship service at 9:30 a.m. We will recognize all scouts, and celebrate especially the work of the scouting groups meeting in our building or closely-related to our church.

Our church hosts a Girl Scout troop that meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. twice a month in our building. This troop provides valuable

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## World Day of Prayer Worship Service March 5 at 1 p.m. at First UMC of Franklin Park

The United Methodist Woman of our church are hosting the annual World Day of Prayer worship service on Friday, March 5 at 1 p.m. This year, our prayer and worship was planned by the women of Cameroon and focuses on the rich culture and varied terrain of this West African nation. The theme this year is “Let everything that has breath praise God!” Readings, hymns and songs will be both familiar and new to us as we are reminded that Christian worship around the world is both like our worship and unique to its context. A special offering will be taken to support the World Day of Prayer committee’s program of grants to women in the focus country of Cameroon this year. All people, women, men, and children are welcome to this day of prayer followed by action.

### Quick Takes:

- Sunday morning worship continues to meet in the Susannah Room through March with the exception of March 7, Scout Sunday
- Nobius meets March 13 and April 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- Leadership Development Committee (nominating) will be working in March—please respond willingly as they call you
- Youth group is planning a meeting in March—watch for more info!

## Stewardship Focus: Seeing through Eyes of Faith

**This month, our congregation is preparing for and making our 2010 pledges of giving to the church. Prior to making your 2010 pledge, we ask that you continue at least the same level of giving as 2009 for the budget and second mile. Thank you for your faithfulness!**

When financial times are good, it is easy to give a small portion of our financial resources to God’s work in the world through our local congregation, conference, and the United Methodist Church. We do it almost without thinking. And maybe that’s a problem.

When finances are tighter, deliberations about how to use our financial resources become more serious. Some members have lost jobs; retirement investments have declined in value. We think more carefully about how we spend our money. And maybe that’s a good thing in the midst of the bad news!

As you consider carefully the pledge you will make to support the work of this congregation in the coming year, please be aware that your church leaders are considering carefully all church expenditures. The 2010 budget includes even further expense cutting. The dollars you give do the most they can to help others and spread good news, even in financially tight times! Thank you for your giving!

### Our Giving by the Numbers...

Monthly Giving for February 2010 (as of 2/14)	\$ 2,612.00
Total Giving in 2010 (as of 2/14)	\$ 6,853.70

## Standing in the Need of Prayer



### Those in need of healing prayers:

Mary Pease                      Hemanshu Singh                      Pat Fritze                      Signe Howell

### Those in need of our continuing prayers:

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

The family of Betty Moore, especially her daughter, Peg Granger, on Betty’s passing February 5 at the age of 101 years.

The work of the leadership development committee (nominating) in preparation for our special church conference.

The people of Haiti and all those working to bring aid and begin rebuilding after the devastation of January’s earthquake.

## Celebrating Birthdays in March

3/1	Don Clark	3/11	Mary Lou Stefanski
3/1	Tami Ericksen Idelman	3/12	Vi Hermanson
3/2	DeLyle Densborn	3/15	Stanley Das
3/3	Michael Hoiney	3/17	James Biggs
3/4	Diane Pritchett	3/18	Alexzandra Kasza
3/5	Pamila Singh	3/20	Barbara Yager Collins
3/6	Cathy Lutzke	3/23	Manisha Singh Elfering
3/6	Dan Pritchett	3/28	Malini Massey
3/7	Katherine Balsis	3/30	Grace Ann Nelson
3/9	Barbara Spain	3/31	Wilma Bookless
3/10	Griffin Ericksen Idelman	3/31	Joan Clark



## From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

*"Let everything that has breath praise God!"*

In March, we gather for a time of informed prayer followed by prayerful action as part of the international World Day of Prayer movement. This service is held annually on the first Friday of March. The point is not that somehow God hears us differently when we concentrate our praying efforts. God is very much aware of the struggles and challenges of the Cameroonian people—the focus of this year's day of prayer—and is with these beloved children of God always. The point of a service like the World Day of Prayer is when something in us changes. We become aware of the needs of these people who live so far away and seem so removed from our situation. And we begin to consider what we can do to help. That's why this day was envisioned to be a day of informed prayer followed by prayerful action.

One of the ways I can already feel this service changing me is hearing about the passion with which Cameroonian worship services invite participants to come honestly before God with all that's joyful and painful in their lives. Worship is described as a whole person experience—people sing with full voices; they move their bodies; there might be weeping or dancing or reverent swaying with eyes closed. The theme of this year's World Day of Prayer service, "let everything that has breath praise God", is descriptive of a way of thinking about how we might praise God, even when there are things that trouble us. As long as we have breath, we have much to praise God for! Today, and every day I have breath, I pray for the wisdom to use it to praise God!

*(Continued from page 1)*

service to our congregation through things like leaf raking, and to the community through food drives and service at Loaves and Fishes.

A Cub Scout pack began meeting in our building last fall on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. once a month. The Cub Scouts also use our building for special events, such as their Blue & Gold dinner and Pinewood Derby. In good scout form, the Cub Scouts always leave our space in better condition than they found it. The Nowickis and the Riordans have been involved with this group, though all are in the Boy Scout troop now.

Finally, we'll celebrate the Boy Scout troop to which several boys belong who have done Eagle Scout projects in our building, including Mike Zito who built the new ramp to the lower level and Scott Maas who will create a memorial garden outside the Elder end of the sanctuary. Come, meet the scouts and their families, and join in saying "thank you!"

## United Methodist Women News

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, March 5 at 1 p.m. in our sanctuary. We have invited our cluster churches and the Franklin Park area churches to join us as we pray with other Christians around the world on this day. This year's service was created by the women of Cameroon, West Africa. A fellowship time with coffee and cookies will follow the service. There will be no general meeting of UMW in March so we can focus on this event.

**United Methodist Women** are collecting vegetable and flower seeds for Red Bird Mission in Appalachia. Watch for sales on vegetable seeds and buy early. As a guide, if you can supply ten seed packets, please buy nine of vegetable seeds and one of flower seeds. Families use these donations primarily for food. Please place your donations in the boxes provided in the lobby. The goal for shipping seed packets is April 1.

**Aunt Libby Circle** has its next meeting on Thursday, March 11 at 1 p.m. at Doris's place.

**Wesleyan Circle** meets Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Diane's house.

**Susannah Circle** meets on Tuesday, March 16 at noon at Joy's home with Pat leading.

**UMW Mission Team** meets on April 1 at 9:30 a.m. to plan for the general meeting on April 6.

## Tuesday Cluster Soup Suppers Highlight Lent

**Cluster Soup Suppers** take place again this year on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. throughout Lent. Each Tuesday, we gather at a different Cluster congregation to enjoy fellowship over a simple supper of delicious soup, bread, and dessert. After supper at about 7 p.m., our focus turns to study. Join us at:

- February 23 Neighborhood UMC, 1817-19 Washington Blvd, Maywood
- March 2 Elmwood Park UMC, 3000 N. 77th Court, Elmwood Park
- March 9 First UMC, Oak Park, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park
- March 16 First UMC, Franklin Park (**we host!**) - watch for sign-ups to help
- March 23 Cornerstone UMC, 171 N. Cuyler, Oak Park
- March 30 River Forest UMC, 7970 Lake St., River Forest

**Holy Week Worship Services** offer a times of worship and reflection. On Palm Sunday, March 28, we will gather for brunch and a special church conference after worship. Maundy Thursday worship April 1 will be held at River Forest UMC, 7970 Lake Street. The Good Friday Cantata will include a mass choir from cluster congregations on Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at First UMC, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park. And don't miss Easter Sunday worship in our sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 4!

## Ad Council Update from the February 10, 2010 meeting

Minutes of December 13, 2009 meeting accepted. Andrea/Mary Lou

### Finance

- reviewed budget to actual expenses/income for 2009; accepted proposed 2010 budget (Bill/Jeri Lynn); discussed options for addressing proposed deficit for 2010; motion by Jeri Lynn, seconded by Mary Lou, to draw \$3,688.55 of interest income over the \$250,000 principal from the Daum Fund, moving it to Charter One checking account; motion passed
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter); stewardship emphasis will be in March; pastor will draft a plan with worship emphases, letter, and dates for pledging for review

### Trustees

- continued tabled projects until next month
- noted work completed on Susannah with much gratitude to the many people who have helped

### Nurture

- reviewed Nurture calendar (posted) - Ash Wednesday, Evening for Friends & Lovers, Scout Sunday, Palm Sunday brunch & special church conference, hosting Soup Supper 3/16, etc.

### SPRC

- Mary Lou reported that staff review with Agnies was completed; recommended increase included in 2010 budget; at it's 1/17 meeting, the committee hired Rev. Randy Creath as Minister of Music

### Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (filed and posted outside church office with minutes)
- welcoming new members (Riordans) on 2/14; taking vacation 2/21 for about 10 days

Motion by Bill to adjourn. Meeting adjourned on consensus.

**The next meeting of Ad Council will be Wednesday, March 10, at 7 pm.**

# March 2010

**Sun**      **Mo**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**  
**n**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 am Worship/Scout Sunday 10:30 Coffee Hour		6:30 pm Soup Supper @ Elmwood Park UMC 6:30 Girl Scouts		1 pm Aunt Libby @ Doris's 7:30 pm Wesleyan @ Diane's	1 pm World Day of Prayer (sanctuary)	9-noon TOPS group in Fellowship Hall eve Wedding-sanctuary
<b>14</b> 9:30 am Worship with Communion	<b>8</b>	6:30 pm Soup Supper @ First UMC-Oak Park	<b>10</b> 7 pm Ad Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7 pm Cub Scouts Pack Night in Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Money Matters 102 noon Pinewood Derby 5:30 pm Nobius
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour	<b>15</b>	noon Susannah @ Joy's 6:30 pm Soup Supper @ First UMC—Franklin Park (we host!)	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Nurture	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Brunch & Special Church Conference	<b>22</b>	6:30 pm Soup Supper @ Cornerstone UMC - Oak Park	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Money Matters 101
	<b>29</b>	6:30 pm Soup Supper @ River Forest UMC	<b>31</b>			

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

Money Matters 102 is a seminar for anyone interested in learning strategies and receiving tools to better track their spending. Offered Saturday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m., this seminar gives participants hands-on experience with several methods for keeping track of money coming in and going out of their accounts. Participants receive a free copy of Quicken software to take with them through a generous donation from Intuit and will learn to use this computer-based method of tracking spending, among other strategies. This seminar will be helpful for people of all ages and income levels—regardless how much money you have, tracking spending is key to long-term financial stability! Space is limited. Cost is \$5; scholarships 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. Come, and invite friends!



### Make a Gift for Easter Flowers to Adorn the Sanctuary to Celebrate the Resurrection!



**Gifts must be received by March 28 for inclusion in  
 Easter Sunday bulletin!**

Please find enclosed my gift of \$5 toward Easter flowers for the sanctuary.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of/In Honor of** (choose one) \_\_\_\_\_

(you may also order by calling the church office 847.455.5858 or emailing the pastor: revdlj@att.net)  
 Make checks payable to First UMC. Gifts in excess of cost will be donated to the church budget.

### Newsletter Order Form

As good stewards of church resources, every effort is made to limit mailing costs by having the newsletter available for pick-up at worship no later than the first Sunday of the month. We mail newsletters not picked up after the first Sunday to members/friends living within reasonable driving distance of the church. If you'd like to have your newsletter mailed automatically, please indicate that preference below. A \$10 donation will help defray mailing costs for newsletters. Or help save even more and receive the newsletter by email - FREE!

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, please mail the newsletter to me each month (donation enclosed)!**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please email me the newsletter for FREE (indicate email below)!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ (in case we have questions or need clarification)

MARCH 2010

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

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# **Special Church Conference**

**to elect leadership  
and consider issues related  
to our endowments**

**Sunday, March 28,  
after worship with brunch.**