



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF FRANKLIN PARK  
9857 SCHILLER BLVD FRANKLIN PARK, IL 60131  
847.455.5858  
WWW.FRANKLINPARKUMC.ORG

# The First News

May 2011

## Special Church Conference set for May 15

### Inside this issue:

Prayer List, Stewardship

Birthdays, Ad Council news

UMW News

Pastor's column

Calendar

Our Special Church Conference has been set for Sunday, May 15, following worship in the sanctuary. We will convene for our annual election of church officers and leadership—the culmination of much prayer and discernment by our leadership development (nominating) committee chaired by Pastor Denise. We anticipate the meeting will be relatively brief. Coffee hour refreshments will be provided for those who attend.

## Newly Elected Ad Council meets May 22

After worship on Sunday, May 22, members of our existing Ad Council and those who are newly elected will meet in the Susannah room to take care of pressing business, order our work, and plan our next steps. Andrea and Diane have graciously agreed to plan a light lunch. Please plan to attend this Ad Council meeting if you have been serving this past year, or if you agree to serve and are elected to Ad Council at our Special Church Conference on May 15.

## Movie Night May 15 features “Up!”

On Sunday evening, May 15, at 5:30 p.m., we will gather in the Parlor for a special Movie Night together featuring the heartwarming animated movie, “Up!” Lest you think animate movies are for kids—also true for this one—”Up!” includes some very grown-up ideas themes as well. This movie is appropriate for all ages. Please come and enjoy the movie, popcorn, snacks, and beverages, and feel free to bring a friend.

### Quick Takes:

- Our Ad Council has decided that we will not have our beverage booth at Railroad Daze, June 11-12, this year.
- Children's Sunday School meets once more on Sunday May 8 @10:45
- Nobius meets May 21 at 5:30 p.m., then will take a hiatus for the summer while Vespers resumes
- Graduates of all levels will be recognized in worship on May 22—please let the Pastor know about graduations of church members by May 8 so we can honor them on that day

**This month as we make our 2011 pledges of giving to the church's mission, consider this: giving is not something we do because the church needs the money. That's not to say the church doesn't need money to pay the bills, but that's not the best reason to give and to pledge your giving. The best reason to give is because it's good for your spiritual health! Giving enables us to let go of some of that which possesses us, freeing us up to follow God with our whole selves!**



## **Stewardship: What Would God Have Us Do?**

Our pledge campaign is underway with the Walk of Faith on Sunday, May 1 in worship. If you haven't gotten on board yet with your pledge, please consider joining your sisters and brothers in Christ in this important activity. When we pledge, we say to one another with our actions that we are committed to this ministry God has for us in this place. We could just give whatever works week by week. Making a pledge says "you can count on me" to leaders/parishioners.

In the last week, you received a statement of your giving thus far in 2011, along with a pledge letter, church budget for 2011, and a pledge card. Beginning Sunday, May 1st, we will bring our pledges to the altar and offer ourselves and our gifts. Please prayerfully consider what God would have you do with your financial resources, and prepare your heart to give your best for God's work.

## **Stewardship Report**

### **Our Giving by the Numbers...**

Monthly Giving for April 2011	\$ 4,288.00
Total Giving in 2011 to date	\$14,808.00

## **Standing in the Need of Prayer**

**Those in need of healing prayers:** Bob Diederich (recovering from hip replacement), Diane Pritchett and family at the passing of her mother

**Those in need of our continuing prayers:**

Marilyn Oxby	Dorothy Schneider	Arvis Knutson	Signe Howell
Virginia Densborn	Edna Kirchhoff	Mary Pease	
Margaret Jackson	Louse Spain		

Please pray for the students and staff of Maple Park Academy, the alternative high school we host in our building, as they complete their school year this month.

Please pray for the victims of the cluster of tornados in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia at the end of April, particularly as recovery and rebuilding continue.

## Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries in May

5/7	Erwin Hermanson	5/27	Tony Tarasuik
5/7	Kyle Boelter	5/29	Sandra Hoiney
5/7	Heather Kelley DeBaun	_____	
5/8	Ann Hurmence	5/6	John & Susan Shragal
5/11	Harold Elwardt	5/6	Sanjai & Malini Massey
5/11	Luke Pritchett	5/16	Don & Joan Clark
5/15	Archana Das	5/19	Darrick & Stephanie Chen
5/20	Ina Gale	5/21	James & Carrie Branam
5/20	Barbara Horn	5/21	DeLyle & Virginia Densborn
5/23	Sal Stanfa	5/22	Harnand & Pamela Singh



## Ad Council Update from the April 10, 2011 meeting

This update is provided to keep members aware of Ad Council's work. Please thank your elected lay leadership for their work, and encourage and support them!

Minutes were approved as corrected (Andrea/Lona).

### **Finance**

- stewardship report (see article in this newsletter); pledging May 1st, w/2nd mile for parsonage
- received treasurer's report of expenses/income to date in 2011; expenses on track, giving -\$2,700

### **Trustees**

- window install after Easter (problem with glass on install); UMF loan approved to pay balance
- painting of doors in progress, purple doors at end of hall will need to be redone
- Conference architect report is in the works—will have in hand by next meeting
- Tom Riordan will start work on parsonage doors, bathrooms, etc., in May; second mile gifts will help with the cost of these projects

**Nurture** (see nurture calendar posted with minutes); Turnaround Boot Camp \$175 for 4 people to attend June 4-5, Baptism May 1st, Confirmation class continues with Cody and Justin

### **Pastor's Report**

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

### **New Business**

- motion not to do Railroad Daze soda fundraiser June 11-12 (Diane/Lona); passed
- Special Church Conference to elect leadership May 15 after worship
- Pastor brought the idea of using the lawn area along the alley for a community garden using the remaining \$600 from the UMF grant in 2009; produce grown will be given away in shares to those who need it; volunteers will help, Mariusz will coordinate and lead this project (he does our sidewalks in the winter and will take care of our landscaping this summer); motion to proceed with community garden project (Andrea/Diane), passed

**The next meeting of Ad Council will be held on Sunday, May 22, after worship** (with Diane and Andrea responsible for light lunch fare).

## United Methodist Women Observe Call to Prayer & Self-Denial

The UMW will observe our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial at the General Meeting on Tuesday, May 3 at noon in the Parlor. Hostesses for the luncheon will be the Wesleyan Circle, and we hope all members will make a special effort to attend the last meeting before our summer break. The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial invites your donations, either in your “blue box” or in a small envelope (make checks payable to “United Methodist Women” with “call to prayer” in the memo).

Our May meetings are the last ones before we go on summer break. Enjoy the summer—it’s a great time to pick up a couple of books and participate in the Reading Program! And save the date for our UMW School of Christian Mission to be held at Judson University on July 14-17. More information will be shared about the School as it becomes available.

When the UMW resumes meeting in the fall, we will gather for an evening Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. A special invitation is extended to those for whom daytime meetings are difficult—come and share!

**Aunt Libby Circle** will attend “Heaven Can Wait,” East Leyden H.S., Thursday, May 5, 7 pm

**Wesleyan Circle** meets next on Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Sue Szymanski’s house.

**Susannah Circle** meets on Tuesday, May 17 at 1 pm at Linda & Signe’s home.

### From the Pastor’s Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

This month, we’re going to try something new as a congregation. I’d like to think that doesn’t surprise you very much any more! Our Ad Council and Trustees approved last month the creation of a community garden using a portion of our church lawn that hardly anyone notices. Some day soon, we will till the south lawn between the church building and the alley and begin the process of planting nutritious vegetables and fruits. We will invite community leaders, neighbors, school staff, etc., to help us identify families in need of a share of what we grow—people who, for whatever reason, are unlikely to have access to fresh fruits and veggies. And, as things in the garden grow and ripen, we’ll donate what we grow to people who need it.

“Who is going to do all the gardening?” you might ask. Volunteers, people who need to earn community service hours, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, novice gardeners, experienced gardeners—maybe even you! Might you be willing to invest a couple of hours per week at your leisure to tend the garden? Or would you be willing to help plant? Could you work the garden hose when we need to water? Maybe you or someone you know is in need of a share of the fresh fruits and vegetables our garden produces? I invite you prayerfully to consider how you can invest yourself in this garden of and for our community.

Little by little, one step at a time, we will watch our garden grow together this summer. People in our community need fresh produce. What are you willing to do to help?

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship with Baptism & Communion 10:30 Coffee Hour/Confirmation	<b>2</b> 6:30 Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> noon UMW Meeting in the Parlor	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7 pm Aunt Libby Circle outing East Leyden Drama	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Fellowship Hall Window Installation</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School afternoon—FH window install.	<b>9</b> <b>Fellowship Hall Window Installation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30 Wesleyan @ Sue Szymanski's	<b>13</b> 6 pm wedding rehearsal & dinner	<b>14</b> 4 pm Wedding 6-10 pm Reception in FH
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Special Church Conference 5:30 pm Movie Night: "Up!"	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1 pm Susannah Circle @ Joy's	<b>18</b> 11 am Maple Park Community Lunch & Awards	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Nobius
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship with Recognition of our Graduates 10:30 Cake Reception 10:45 Ad Council in Susannah	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Maple Park Last Day of School Year	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship with Fifth Sunday United Voices for Children Offering	<b>30</b> Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>31</b>				

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

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**Are you  
GRADUATING  
this spring ...**

from **kindergarten, junior high,  
high school, college, graduate  
school, or a trade program?** Our  
congregation will **recognize** our  
graduates **with gifts and cake** on

**Sunday, May 22.**

Please share names of grads with  
the Pastor or the church office

**no later than May 8.**