



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

November 2011

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Quick Takes...

- Nobius meets Sunday, November 6 at 11:15 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School meets at 10:45 on Nov 28

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend our annual

Church Conference—November 19 at 2 pm

Our Church Conference for this year has been scheduled for Saturday, November 19 at 2 p.m. in the Parlor. SPRC will meet prior to the church conference in the Pastor's office. The Rev. Preston Price, retired elder in our Conference, will be with us in leadership. Church Conference gives us an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on where we've been over the last year together. Reports will be offered by several ministry areas, and we'll share in worship and song together. Please come and participate in this look back over the year together!

Gratitude Night Dinner Offers a Thanksgiving Fellowship and Worship on November 20

Thanksgiving is coming—and you are invited to celebrate with your church family at a soup supper on Sunday, November 20 at 6 p.m. in the Susannah Room. Several varieties of soups will be provided—you are invited to bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share. We will also share in a worship experience around the tables, a celebration of gratitude with worship, scripture, and song around the tables. This is a terrific opportunity to bring friends and family—all are welcome! Please sign up in back of the sanctuary on Sunday, or call or email Pastor Denise. Come celebrate God's goodness to us, our congregation, and our community!



Beautiful flowers and grasses in our Meditation Garden—courtesy of Cody and Tom Riordan, along with neighbors and friends who donated plants and tended them!



Celebrating November Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/2 Ila Jameson	11/10 Edith Pfundt	11/23 Herbert Das
11/3 Violet Pazdell	11/11 Lynda Racutt	11/29 Abigail Pritchett
11/4 Linda Sharp	11/15 Joyce Demetros	<u>Anniversaries</u>
11/5 Donna Gallano	11/16 John Shragel	11/18 Erwin & Vi Hermanson
11/8 Dolores Watz	11/18 Lyn Janeteas	11/19 Earnie & Evelyn Moore
11/9 Nicole Anthony	11/18 Michael Oxby	

UMW gathers at River Forest on November 10; Christmas Luncheon planned for December 11

The United Methodist Women will join with the River Forest UMW on Thursday, November 10th for their World Thank Offering observation at noon. We will meet to carpool to River Forest at the Elder side parking strip at our church at 11:30 a.m. The regularly scheduled November 1st UMW general meeting has been cancelled so we can join with River Forest for their potluck luncheon and program.

Aunt Libby Circle visited Edna Kirchhoff at her son's home to celebrate her 102nd birthday at the end of October—congratulations and best wishes for the coming year, Edna!

The Mission Team will meet on Thursday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor to close out the business of the year and update information for the 2012 Yearbook.

On Saturday, December 11, we will enjoy our annual Christmas Luncheon at Villa Brunetti. An ensemble from East Leyden High School's choral program will entertain. Tickets will be \$20 (choice of three entrées) and can be purchased from Circle chairs or Treasurer Diane Pritchett.

Mission Team meets for planning on December 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Aunt Libby Circle will not meet separately in November

Wesleyan Circle gathers November 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Karen's home.

Susannah Circle meets on November 15 at 1 p.m. at Ethel's home.

News from the Circles...



Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

Mary Pease Marilyn Oxby Edna Kirchhoff

Arvis Knutson Margaret Jackson Louise Spain

and the family of Virginia Densborn who passed in October

Holiday Giving: In Lieu of Christmas Cards

As we have for the last few years, the Nurture Committee is suggesting to members and friends of our congregation that we bring one Christmas card for the bulletin board at church. Then, it is suggested, we donate the money to the church that we would have spent purchasing cards and postage to send individuals cards to everyone. In past years, these donations totaled in the hundreds of dollars, used to assist in purchasing things like Jewel gifts cards for Leyden Township families in need. Please consider joining in this effort. Just send or bring one Christmas card to the church office—your card will be posted along with others, bringing greetings to our congregation as we enjoy them all together!

Ad Council Update from the October 23, 2011 meeting

This update is provided to keep members aware of Ad Council's work. Please thank your elected lay leadership and encourage and support them! Present: Jeri Lynn, Andrea, Diane, Irene, Tom, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Lona, Pastor.

Minutes were approved on consensus.

Finance

- stewardship report (see article in this newsletter); giving statements will go out in November
- received treasurer's report of expenses/income to date in 2011; expenses on track, giving down

Trustees

- completed church projects: replaced 11 squares of sidewalk at Schiller/Emerson corner through Village 50/50 program, boiler turned on—minor repairs needed, Community Garden clean-up underway—working on mulching/composting; replacing windows in parsonage breezeway doors
- approved building use by Mohini Das on November 19 (consensus)

SPRC

- Staff reviews will take place Nov 3 or 4; SPRC will meet to set 2012 salaries on Nov 6 at 12:30

Nurture

- see attached nurture calendar (posted with minutes)
- advised advertising Gratitude Night in the neighborhood with postcards/ads/yard sign
- Advised one Christmas eve worship service late; Christmas day worship "Carols and Coffee Cake"

Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (posted with minutes)

The next meeting of Ad Council will be held on Sunday, December 11, after worship (light lunch available).

Stewardship Update

Monthly Giving in October \$ 3,382.00

Total Giving in 2011 to date \$ 34,204.58



*Give thanks to God for God is good...
God's love endures forevermore!*

Thanksgiving 2011

Dear Friends:

It does us good to count our blessings. It is very good for us to give thanks. When we give thanks, it is nearly impossible not to realize just how full of blessings our lives are. It is easy to feel that our resources are scarce and to hold onto them tightly. Until we give thanks, that is. Giving thanks changes us, changes our hearts.

If we stop to reflect for even a moment, we recognized just how blessed we are. God truly does provide for our needs. We enjoy abundance in many ways – an abundance of love in our lives, an abundance of joy in our relationships with friends and family, an abundance of hope for tomorrow, and an abundance of grace that is sufficient to our needs. In the things in life that really matter, we are wealthy beyond measure.

At Thanksgiving, I would invite you to make a thanks offering, an extra gift to the church beyond your regular giving as an expression of gratitude for the many ways in which God has blessed you this past year, and out of gratitude to God that we as a church family continue to be blessed to share God's love in this place.

You may make your thanksgiving offering using the enclosed envelope during the regular offering any Sunday in November. Our Thanksgiving offerings will be used to spread the good news and help people in need, "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," through our Conference's *Harvest 2020* initiative. Please do what you can.

You may recognize the verse at the top of this letter is part of a song. The leader sings the verse: "Give thanks to God for God is good!" and the response is given: "God's love endures forevermore!" Indeed God's love endures, in the face of trials or ease, in the midst of little or abundance. Won't you join me in taking a few minutes each day during this Thanksgiving season? Let gratitude change your heart and your perspective!

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 8:30—5:30 pm Turnaround Church Tune-Up Workshop in Aurora
6 All Saints Day 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:15 Nobius	7	8	9	10 11:30 am UMW meets to carpool to River Forest UMC for noon potluck meeting 7:30 pm Wesleyan Circle @ Karen's	11	12
13 9:30 Worship with Rev. David Gregg preaching/playing	14	15 1 pm Susannah Circle @ Ethel's 7 pm Nurture	16	17	18 7 pm Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall	19 2 pm Church Conference in Parlor 6-10 pm Family Party in Susannah
20 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 6 pm Gratitude Night Dinner/Worship	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Office/School Closed	25	26
27 9:30 Worship - Advent 1 10:30 Children's Sunday School	28	29	30	December 1 9:30 am UMW Mission Team Mtg in Parlor		

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

This serves as official notice of our
Annual Church Conference
Thursday, November 19
2 pm
in the Parlor

Save the Date!
Bring your neighbors & friends as we give thanks together!
Gratitude Night Thanksgiving
Potluck Dinner & Worship
Sunday, November 20, 6 p.m. in the Susannah Room
A variety of soups provided—bring salad, bread, or dessert to share!