



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

November 2009

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Money Matters 101 to Debut November 7

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

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Hymn Sing and Improvisations Concert Set for Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary

Many of us have favorite hymns—ones that have helped us through difficult times or remind us of joyful moments in our lives. We'll share some of those favorite hymns together at a Hymn Sing and Improvisations Concert on Sunday afternoon, November 15 at 3 p.m. in our sanctuary. Pastor Randy has just completed a CD of piano improvisations on favorite hymns, some of which he will share with us. Then we'll join in singing those beloved hymns together.

Pastor Denise will introduce the hymns, telling stories of their origins and sharing some of our stories of how each hymn became a favorite. If you have a story you'd be willing to have told about your favorite hymn, what it means to you, and why it is important to you, please share that information in writing (email is OK) with Pastor Denise by Sunday, November 8.

Our UMC Cluster congregations are invited to join in this inspiring afternoon. Pre-release copies of the piano hymn improvisations CD will be available that day for just \$10. Come and bring a friend!

Quick Takes:

- We celebrate **All Saints Day with Communion on November 1.**
- **Youth Group meets for pizza/planning at 11 a.m. on November 1**
- **Nobius meets on Saturday, November 21 at 5:30 pm**
- **United Methodist Student Sunday will be celebrated November 22 featuring some of our talented youth and young adults**
- **Advent begins on November 29 with communion in worship.**
- **Confirmation will be celebrated in worship on December 6 along with communion**



Photo by Nicole Kuhlman.

Knot Much Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays @ 11 a.m.

In October, more than a dozen gathered after worship for a Knot Much focused on cupcake creations. Projects this month look ahead to the Christmas season, with ornaments and other handcrafts. Come and join in the fun on Sunday after worship, November 8 and 22, at 11 a.m. in the Susannah Room. Knot Much is intergenerational, designed for adults, as well as older children and youth. Remember, if someone asks what you're doing on Sunday after worship, tell them "Knot Much" and invite them to join you!

Did you know...?

our church now hosts a local group of Cub Scouts for their monthly Pack meetings. We've hosted a Girl Scout troop for several years — now dozens of boys and their families find a safe and friendly place to gather in our Fellowship Hall. Our facility is a wonderful tool to share God's love—here's one more way we can do that!

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 October 2009	\$3,728.80
Monthly Giving Needed to meet our 2009 Budget	\$7,540.40
Total Giving in 2009 to this point	\$50,204.35
Total Giving Needed to Meet our 2009 Budget	\$90,484.81

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those in need of healing prayers:

Elois May Barb Horn Joyce Demetros Hemanshu Singh
James Javier, brother of our substitute musician, Joni Javier

Those in need of our continuing prayers:

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

Remember in prayer this month those who are homeless and under-housed, hungry and undernourished, stressed from financial woes, lonely and alone, abused and neglected, and in need of hope and a future.



Celebrating November Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Dedication of Rebuilt Ramp November 8

Following worship on Sunday, November 8 at about 10:40 a.m., we will gather for a time of thanksgiving and dedication of our rebuilt ramp at the Emerson Street entrance of our building. This event was rescheduled from October 18. We'll have an opportunity to thank Mike Zito, for whom this was an Eagle Scout project, other Boy Scouts/leaders who worked on the project, and our Conference Committee on Disabilities who provided grant funds in support of the project. A reception will follow in the Susannah Room. Plan to stay, say thank you, and help welcome our friends! Mike's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held on the afternoon of December 5 at our church.

Money Matters 101 Seminar...

(Continued from page 1)

money. The seminar will take place on Saturday morning, November 7, 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, brings decades of experience in the financial industry—in banking, mortgage lending, housing counseling, and debt counseling. Her presentation will be helpful and fun. Watch for additional dates and times of this and other upcoming seminars. And bring your family, friends, and neighbors with you!

United Methodist Women Meets, Plans Christmas Party

The members of the United Methodist Women of our congregation have much to celebrate! Six members attended the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting, held at First Korean United Methodist Church in Wheeling. An interesting meeting was followed by a delightful lunch of Korean foods. The afternoon session included worship in dance by two Korean groups, concluding with communion at which District Superintendent Rev. James Preston presided.

Several UMW members visited Edna Kirchhoff at her home to honor her 100th birthday, which was celebrated on October 31. Happy Birthday, Edna! We pray that the coming year brings you good health and true happiness.

We also salute our indomitable Signe Howell who, at 99 years of age, flew to California to attend the wedding of a grandson. Linda Wright, Signe's daughter, made the trip with Signe, transporting with her decorations for the rehearsal gathering.

The November meeting of the UMW will be Tuesday, November 10 at noon. There will be a selection of hot soups for lunch, hosted by the Mission Team. Lona Guyer will bring current information on UMW Social Action projects. Please note this is a week later than our usual meeting.

News from the Circles...

Aunt Libby Circle meets November 12 at 1 p.m. at Elizabeth Feldmann's home

Wesleyan Circle gathers November 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Karen Kelly's home

Susannah Circle meets on November 17 at noon at Mary Lou Stefanski's home

United Methodist Women
Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 12 at Villa Brunetti. Tickets are \$18, available from Ruth, Joy, Diane or Daisy (purchase by Dec. 6). Punch reception at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be at noon, with musical entertainment starting at 1 p.m. All women are welcome, whether or not they are active in UMW.



Carol Michaels planted this lily last Easter near the windows on the north side of the sanctuary—and last week it bloomed!

Ad Council Update from the October 18, 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. Attending: Lisa, Taylor, Bill, Andrea, Diane, Mary Lou, Lona, Charline, Mohini, Jeri Lynn, Elizabeth, Pastor Denise

Minutes approved (Bill/Mary Lou)

Finance

- received treasurer's report and nine-month report of expenses and income; spending under budget to accommodate giving which is nearly \$2,000 below pledged amount and less than expenses
- stewardship report (see article elsewhere in this newsletter); noted need for fall special offerings

Trustees

- Trustees working on updating maintenance records for church and parsonage—ongoing project
- Pastor securing estimates for downspouts and flat roof repairs to be completed before winter; will obtain additional estimates for parsonage shower repairs; having Sears out for warranty repairs to icemaker; clothes dryer is not drying consistently—pastor will get estimates for repair and replacement for Trustees call-around vote by the end of October
- noted building use request by Illinois Association of Mortgage Brokers (Jeri Lynn) was approved by Trustees since last meeting; Cub Scout Pack 158 meetings for 2009-10 need a home; they will complete a request; mood was favorable toward approving this

Nurture

- Bill reported on Nobius, Sunday School, Children's Sabbath, Ramp Dedication, Knot Much, Community Thanksgiving Service, Confirmation (see Nurture Calendar)

SPRC

- (no report this month)

Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (filed and posted outside church office with minutes)
- securing estimates on pre-winter repairs, launching Money Matters 101 seminar, planning All Saints November 1, Ramp Dedication November 8, Hymn Sing November 15 afternoon, UM Student Sunday with dialogue sermon November 22, confirmation December 6, setting up computer lab, hosting youth group pizza/planning November 1, planning Signs of Life photo exhibit for Lent
- asked each Ad Council member to note their topic interests, day/time for Adult Education offerings

Old Business

- Franklin Park Day of Caring (community service projects, etc) planning, will bring proposal to a future meeting
- noted Eagle Scout project possibility for Scott Moss to do a Memorial Garden (before May 2010) and more in the works

Meeting adjourned (Lona/Taylor)

The next meeting of Ad Council will be Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m. in Susannah.

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Worship w/ communion 10:30 Coffee Hour 11 am Youth Group Pizza/Planning	2	3	4	5	6	7 9:30 am Money Matters 101 Seminar 2-4 pm Girl Scout Leaf Raking
8 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Ramp Dedication and Reception 11 am Knot Much	9	10 noon UMW Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	11 7:00 pm Ad Council	12 1 pm Aunt Libby Circle @ Feldmann's 7:30 pm Wesleyan Circle @ Karen Kelly's	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour 3 pm Hymn Sing & Improvisation Concert	16	17 Noon Susannah Circle @ Mary Lou's 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	18 6:30 pm Nurture Committee	19	20	21 5:30 pm Nobius
22 9:30 am Worship/UM Student Day 11 am Knot Much	23	24 7 pm Community Thanksgiving Service	25	26	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship	30					

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

Many of you will understand what I mean when I say that there are times in our lives when changes come gradually, almost unobservably slowly. There are other periods when change seems to invade our lives, leaving no stone unturned. Whether you prefer one or the other depends on how you feel about change, I suppose, but I think we would all admit that sometimes we prefer the slow kind of change, and sometimes it can't come fast enough.

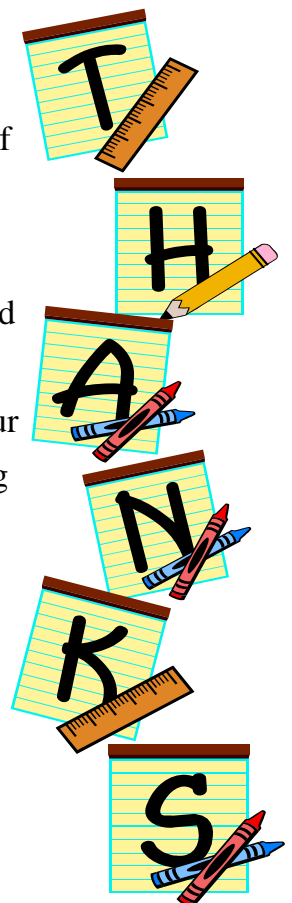
What brings all this to mind is an update I received on the recovery progress of James Javier, our substitute musician Joni Javier's brother. Some of you recall that James was struck by a car when he was out for a run one Saturday in September. He suffered massive brain trauma and injury. Every day since then, I have received an update on his progress so we could be in prayer for him. Some days, the only change is that he opened his eyes or lifted his hand. Right now, Joni pleads with God for change in her brother's condition—for her, just now, change can't come fast enough. At the same time, she mourns the changes the accident caused.

Our congregation is in the midst of change—in our program, in our facility, in our finances, in our worship. Individually, we also experience change—in our health, friends, abilities, finances, families, etc. In the same year when some stopped driving, others earned their first drivers' licenses. In the same year when some sold homes, others purchased their first homes. Some retire while others begin careers. So is the cycle of life. In most cases, change is not, by itself, a good or bad thing. Change just is. Whether it's good or bad depends on the situation—and on how we receive it.

As Christians, who might well be called 'people of change', it might seem odd that we are often so opposed to it. Indeed becoming a person of faith involves change—transformation from the inside out. God made us incredibly adaptable in our minds and bodies, able to assimilate all sorts of changes. Will you join me in praying for courage to use our God-given gifts of adaptability in the coming year?

Our District Superintendent Rev. James Preston challenged us at our Church Conference to hand-write & send 10 thank-you notes each week.

Will you join me this week and take the time to express your gratitude to someone you appreciate this week?



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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

**Invite your neighbors & friends as
we give thanks together at a**

**Community
Thanksgiving
Service**

Tuesday, November 24

7 p.m.

in our sanctuary