



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FRANKLIN PARK
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The First News

October 2011

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Quick Takes...

- Thanks to each person who helped make the Blessing of Animals and Block Party such so wonderful & welcoming!
- Our congregation will participate in the Turn Around Church check-in workshop on November 5, sponsored by our Conference. You are invited! See Pastor Denise for more information!
- Save the dates for Nobius—now on first Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Upcoming Nobius worship services will be on November 6 & December 4!
- Plan ahead to join in our “adopt a family” drive at Christmas — read more in the November newsletter!

World Communion Sunday, Children's Sabbath Provide Special Worship Focus in October

As a congregation, we will remind ourselves of the global nature of Christ's church and of our call to care for those we often overlook during worship in October. Here's a preview:

World Communion Sunday is on October 2, when we will celebrate the world-wide nature of the Church in worship at 9:30 a.m. Our United Methodist World Communion offering will be taken. Invite your neighbors to join in this diverse service of worship & communion. **Children's Sabbath**, a focus on our special responsibility to the children of the world, will be observed in worship on October 16 at 9:30 a.m. This is a special focus of our UMW, and members of our UMW will lead in worship as we advocate for children: “Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue.”



Our own **Lona Guyer** was honored for her years of leadership and service by the Chicago Northwestern District United Methodist Women at their Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 24 in our sanctuary. Blessings, Lona, and thank you!



Celebrating October Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/1 Doris Britton	10/19 Mike Anthony	<u>Anniversaries</u>
10/4 Karsen Idelman	10/20 Emily Gallano	10/1 Fred & Ruth Mackeben
10/6 Craig Short	10/26 Adrianna Bickley	10/8 Manoj & Archana Das
10/10 Ryan Horn	10/27 Cassadi Revere	10/17 Michael & Diane Pritchett
10/10 Steven Shragal	10/29 LaDawn Ferris	10/20 Sumit & Maddie Wishard
10/13 Brian Revere	10/31 Edna Kirchhoff	10/28 Bill & Joyce Demetros

United Methodist Women Host District Meeting, Sponsor Children's Sabbath

On Saturday, September 24, the United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Franklin Park hosted the Chicago Northwestern District UMW Annual Meeting. Nearly 25 of the District's churches were represented among the 69 attendees. The District UMW budget for 2012 was presented and officers were elected, among other business conducted. Music and dancing by children from two of our churches was a highlight of the worship time. Doris Abel and Joy Perry received certificates for their participation in the Reading Program. Many thanks to this quarter's UMW president Charline Elwardt and all those who helped organize the continental breakfast and hospitality!

The October General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at noon in the Parlor. Aunt Libby Circle will host the luncheon and Ruth Tressa will present the program. Children's Sabbath will be observed in worship on Sunday, October 16. This is a special focus of the UMW and is meant to educate grown-ups about the needs of children so that they may advocate on behalf of children.

Our regular UMW meeting scheduled for November 1 will be cancelled so that our members might attend a special potluck luncheon and World Thank Offering service at River Forest UMC on Thursday, November 10. Please save the date on your calendar and watch for more information in the November newsletter regarding a time to meet to carpool to River Forest. You will also want to pay special attention to filling your blue World Thank Offering box this month as we will be collecting this offering next month at River Forest.

- Circle News:**
- Aunt Libby Circle** will meet October 13 at 1 p.m. at Elizabeth Feldmann's home.
 - Wesleyan Circle** gathers October 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Charline Elwardt's home.
 - Susannah Circle** meets on October 18 at 1 p.m. at Joy Perry's home.

Get Your Fresh Holiday Greens - Fundraiser for Boy Scouts

During mid-October through early November, Cody Riordan will be selling Christmas Wreaths and other fresh home decorations to help raise funds for his Boy Scout Troop. The money raised will enable his troop to provide scouting opportunities for the young men in the troop throughout the year. Cody will have a brochure and order form available at Sunday services. The delivery will be at the end of November, and the Riordans will even deliver your purchase to your home. Please consider supporting Cody and his troop as they continue to instill important values and disciplines in the young men from the community. See Cody or contact the church office for more information.

Ad Council Update from the September 22, 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, Bill, Pastor. Minutes were approved on consensus.

Finance

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

Trustees

- completed church projects: paint new doors/frames, paint sanctuary altar exit door/frame and shed doors, replace FH lights, upgrade electrical in Wesley Hall and classrooms, paint classroom walls and clean carpets, acquired small convection oven for parlor area, scraped and re-painted church sign; deferred projects: painting Emerson & Schiller entrances, painting main church entrance area, adapt classroom windows for AC, re-tile NE room behind stage, upgrade chairs & buy carts
- motion to replace final exposed electrical panel outside kitchen at Emerson St side passed (Bill/Andrea)
- repairs to parsonage ongoing, including retrofitting new windows in doors, bathroom upgrades, etc

SPRC

- no meeting or report this month

Nurture

- see attached nurture calendar (posted with minutes)

Pastor's Report

- provided report in writing (posted with minutes)

New Business

- motion to change registered agent for our Corporate Annual Report filing with the State of Illinois to reflect change in chair of trustees to Andrea Hubley passed (Diane/Irene)
- motion to use Memorials funds to purchase used electric piano and rolling case for \$1,200 from Randy Creath (Andrea/Bill)

The next meeting of Ad Council will be held on Sunday, October 23, after worship (light lunch available).

From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. Denise Janssen

Have you seen (or tasted!) the bountiful produce from our Community Garden? Did you notice how good the repainted church sign looks (thanks to Tom Riordan and our confirmands)? Isn't it great to have beautiful liturgical banners that adorn our sanctuary and enhance our worship experience (thanks to Carol and Ken Michaels)? Don't you love a little coffee or juice and a bite of something sweet at Coffee Hour after worship (faithfully provided/prepared by Mohini Das and Doris Abel)?

We are blessed with faithful servants who give of themselves graciously and enhance our life together as a congregation significantly! So why is it we have such a hard time thanking God, and one another, for what's good? Why is it so much easier to see what still needs to be fixed or replaced than to see all the good things we've been doing?

Saying "thank you" and praising the things we appreciate about each other may be simple things, but they do make a difference—as anyone who has ever been on the receiving end will attest! And writing a simple, hand-written note really is easy and doesn't take much time.

So who can you thank or praise today? Take a minute, jot a quick note or email, and invest yourself in celebrating what's good about our congregation and members.

And thank you to each one of you for the many ways in which you live out God's love and grace in our congregation, our community, and our world! Thank you for gifts small and large, for graciousness that is seen and unseen! Thank you for allowing your preferences and desires to take second place, at least sometimes, to our church's mission: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Stewardship Update

Our Giving by the Numbers...

Monthly Giving for September 2011	\$ 3,128.58
Total Giving in 2011	\$30,822.58



Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those especially in need of our prayers:

Lona Guyer	Arthur Goetz	Marilyn Oxby	Edna Kirchoff
Arvis Knutson	Margaret Jackson	Virginia Densborn	Louise Spain

OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Fifth Sunday 9:30 am Worship with Rev. David Gregg preaching/playing—Nothing But Nets special offering	31					1
2 9:30 am World Communion Sunday Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 a.m. Nurture meeting	3	4 noon UMW Meeting in Parlor	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 Worship with Rev. David Gregg preaching/playing	10 Columbus Day - office closed/no school	11	12	13 1 pm Aunt Libby Circle @ Daisy's 7:30 pm Wesleyan Circle @ Charline's	14	15
16 9:30 Children's Sabbath Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	17	18 noon Susannah Circle @ Lona's	19	20	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Ad Council	24	25	26	27 9:30 am UMW Mission Team mtg in Parlor	28	29

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REV. DENISE JANSSEN, PASTOR

Save the Date!
Bring your neighbors & friends
as we give thanks together
Gratitude Night
Thanksgiving Potluck
Dinner & Worship
Sunday, November 20
at 6 p.m.
in the Susannah Room