



January 2012

Inside this Issue: page #

Worship Celebrations	2
After Worship	
Music Ministries	3
Announcements	4
You are Invited	5
UMW	
LGBT	
Adult Programs & Events	6
Youth Programs & Events	
Children Programs & Events	7
Preschool/We-e Care Registration	
Missions	8 & 9
Among Our Folks	9
Thank You...	10 & 11
Financial Corner	11

Perhaps we have all experienced it: the voice from the back seat asks, "Are we there yet?"

"No," we reply, "it will take us four hours." Ten minutes later that back seat voice asks, "Are we there yet?" "No, dear, I told you it will be several hours." And the exchange goes on and on until you think you'll scream. What a relief when we are able to respond, "Just ten more minutes and we'll be there, so get ready we are about to arrive!"

Your building committee is grateful for your months of patience. We wish we could confirm our arrival time but at this writing there are still a few unknowns. As in all renovation projects, you encounter the unexpected and in some cases get detoured down streets you didn't intend to go. All in all, we, along with you, are excitedly anticipating our return to the Euclid Avenue campus and a renovated building full of updated systems with pleasing and functional new designs.

Much like we provided for our temporary relocation, by mid January you'll receive a Reentry Guidebook aimed at answering your questions, providing directions, and giving explanations. We hope you'll find it helpful.

If you've been among those who have been away for a while, you've been missed! So, please hear this invitation to "get ready," for soon we'll be saying, "we are about to arrive!" Stay tuned.

Pastor Bonnie

Worship Celebrations

Light for the Journey

January 8th EPIPHANY: "Led by the Light; the Wise Ones Follow"
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

January 15th "Jesus is The Light"
Isaiah 42:1-9, John 1:1-13, Matthew 4:12-16, John 8:12

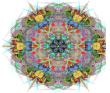
January 22nd "We are the Light"
Matthew 5:14 (Sermon on the Mount)

January 29th "The Light Leads Us Onward"
Exodus 13:21-22 (Pillar of Fire), Psalm 27



After Worship

KALEIDOSCOPE



At Kaleidoscope, we encourage adults to discover the ever-changing ways that faith meets life. In January, our guest speakers include:

January 8th - Rev. Greg Gross, who will share about his recent trip to Africa and Project Tariro. This community program helps people in Zimbabwe who are living with HIV/AIDS.

January 15th - Lynndah Easterwood Leahy from Escorted Transportation Service, who will enlighten us about this valuable service provided to seniors in the Northwest Suburban area.

January 22nd - Rev. Lisl Heymans Paul will enlighten us about ministry to immigrants, focusing on a new initiative in the United Methodist Justice for Neighbors.

January 29th - Rev. C.J. Hawking of Arise Chicago will suggest ways we can support workers rights and collective bargaining in the Chicago area.

Music Ministries



*Music deepens our prayers,
lends a connection to life in the Spirit,
and adds fullness to living.*

Music fosters the art of listening . . . to God.

*In the New Year, we welcome your participation
in the music ministries of the church.*

Francy and Jeannie hope to hear from you!

For adults

Family of God Hand bells -
Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm

Chancel Choir -
Thursdays, 7:30-9pm

For high school

Sound Foundation -
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm



For children - J.A.M. choirs on Wednesday

Cherub Choir (Age 3-5) 5-5:45pm

Grace Notes (Gr. K-3) 5-5:45pm

Jesus Ringers (Gr. 4-8) 5-5:45pm

Saints & Singers (Gr. 4-8) 6:15-7pm

Announcements

HOSPITALIZED? WE WANT TO KNOW...

Our Partners-in-Caring members include hospital callers that make visits on Saturday and Sunday. In the past, both pastors and lay persons have been able to check the clergy file at the hospital reception desk to be informed of any Methodist members' hospitalizations. However, as Northwest Community Hospital enforces the full compliance of the HIPAA law, hospitals will no longer be authorized to provide that information to us. If you would like us to respond to you or your loved one's pastoral needs, it is imperative for you to get that information to us yourself. Call the church office at 847-255-5112 or email us at friends@fumcah.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT

The 2012 Church Council Planning Retreat will be held immediately following worship (from 10:45am-4:15pm) on Sunday, January 29th. Vital congregations set goals by which they will do their work. Don Mendenhall of Emergence Life Coaching will once again facilitate our process of celebrating what we have accomplished while looking ahead at what God is calling us to do in this New Year. Lunch will be served. Watch for the time and location in a future enote. Email Jim Abdnor at abnrfam4@wowway.com to confirm your participation. (FYI: There is no football that day!!!)

HEARING ENHANCEMENT DEVICES AVAILABLE



Are you "hearing challenged?" Don't miss out on a great opportunity to enhance your hearing with an assistive hearing device. We will provide the receivers. You may either use our "public" headsets for free or purchase one for your exclusive use. The headset is \$9 or a "loop" for your "t-coil" technology hearing aid is \$54. If you want to place an order, please come to the church office to "try before you buy."

You are Invited

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND AMERICA'S SUNDAY SUPPER

Miraculous things can happen around the table. This month, FUMCAH will be one of hundreds of hosts from across the nation for America's Sunday Supper. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we will gather in the youth center at 5:30pm on January 15, for a light soup and salad supper followed by video and discussion on a key issue in America - education. What is the status of educational progress and reform in our area? How might our church support quality education for all? This is truly a church family supper, as children, youth and adults all gather together. There will be child care available for non-participating children during the discussion. Pre-registration for dinner is required. Forms are available at the church or on Sundays at the Metropolis. A free-will offering will be collected to defray the cost of dinner.

UMW

UMW CIRCLE GROUPS

- CALLED TO GROW:** Thursday, January 12, 9:30am, home of Gerry Will
1208 E. Miner St., Arlington Heights
- CHANGING TIMES:** Tuesday, January 10, 9:30am, parlor.
- CHAPTER II:** Contact circle leader.
- FAITH:** Contact circle leader.
- HORIZON:** Monday, January 9, 9:30am, parlor.
- REVISED EDITION:** Monday, January 9, noon, parlor.

LGBT



RAINBOW CIRCLE

Rainbow Circle invites gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender persons into Christian community. Meetings for study and fellowship are the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:00pm @ the parsonage, 1803 E. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights. For more information or questions, please contact Sue Laurie at 773-984-0351.

Adult Programs & Events

A HOPEFUL EARTH: FAITH, SCIENCE, AND THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

"There really is a crisis underway, and those of us with a religious bent really are called to stand up for the planet God gave us."

Bill McKibben

Join our **Women's Bible Study** this winter as we consider where our faith intersects with scientific knowledge. Using the book, *A Hopeful Earth*, written by United Methodist Bishop Sally Dyck, we will read words of scripture, such as the temptations of Jesus, and apply them to choices we make about our faithful living on this planet. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm at the church on Euclid. You may purchase the book for \$10 at the January 7th meeting or buy it on your own.

PROGRESSIVE PILGRIMS

Beginning in January, the Progressive Pilgrims Wednesday night study group will consider, *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's So Good About the Good News?* by Peter Gomes. Gomes was Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School, and challenges Christians to focus less on what Jesus would do than on what Jesus would have ME do. Books are available on Amazon for about \$6.00. The Progressive Pilgrims invite you to "come and be scandalized" with them. Watch for the time and location in a future enote.

Youth Programs & Events

MINUTE TO WIN IT

Let your competitive side show and come join us for a night of fun games. We will replicate the challenges of the TV show, Minute to Win it. Do you have what it takes? Sunday evening, January 29, 6:00-8:00; for youth, sixth grade to seniors. Pizza and pop will be provided. Bring a friend or two; you won't want to miss out!

Children Programs & Events

CROSSROADS

Jump into fun at our first Crossroads event of 2012! On Friday, January 6, we will meet at church at 6:45 for pizza, then go to Pump It Up in Schaumburg for two hours of jumping around. Pick up will be at the church at 9:40pm. Cost of the event is \$7.00 per person and everyone must have a signed Pump It Up permission form. These are attached to the registration forms at the church office. Please register by January 4th. Friends are always welcome! Parents please note: a couple of chaperones would also be most welcome. Please give Lynn Mikels a call at 847-255-5110 if you can help out.

J.A.M. WITH US!

Do not catch cabin fever - join J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) for plenty of exciting winter activities. J.A.M. is our Wednesday program from 5-7pm, for preschool through middle school children. Activities include vocal choirs, puppetry, bell choir, the very eclectic Church Mice and, of course, our delicious fellowship dinner. You can sign up for the components of your choice by downloading a registration form from our web site or by contacting the church office. Bring a friend!

Preschool/We-e Care Registration

The First United Methodist Preschool/We-e Care programs will begin accepting registrations for the 2012/2013 school year the week of January 15, 2012. (Class placements will be made at the end of January.) Preschool classes are offered for children ages 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4/5 years. Preschool hours are 9:00 to 11:30am beginning in September. We-e Care classes are offered for children ages 16 months to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ years. We-e Care hours are 9:30-1:00pm, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning in October. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call (847) 255-5119.

Missions

FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES

invites you to our Fourth Annual Benefit Organ Concert, featuring Arlington Heights organists, at 4pm on January 29, 2012 in the Chapel of St. John the Beloved at the Lutheran Home, 800 West Oakton Street.

Participating organists are from St. James Parish, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, Chapel of St. John, and St. John UCC. The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to support the work of Faith Community Homes.

Faith Community Homes is a non-profit organization providing living assistance to families in Arlington Heights. In addition to temporary housing, volunteer mentors help with finding healthcare, budgeting, education, and job improvement.

MISSION PROJECT FOR JANUARY JOURNEYS FROM PADS TO HOPE

The Mission Project for January is Journeys from PADS to HOPE. This is the umbrella agency which provides help to the homeless and nearly homeless in our community. PADS sites, such as FUMCAH, provide shelter and meals to the homeless ("guests"). The Journeys office (and HOPE center) is located in Palatine on Northwest Highway between the postal distribution center and Hwy 53, across from the racetrack.

Journeys also offers mental health counseling, job counseling, laundry facilities, two clothing closets (one for everyday clothes and one for clothes suitable for interviews), small storage lockers, and some basics such as a telephone answering service and a mailing address. For the nearly homeless, there is a non-perishable food closet. A visiting nurse comes once a week to give TB tests, immunizations, provide prescriptions, and to diagnose and refer clients to the hospital as necessary.

This year, the HOPE Center is providing help for more clients than last year. As the weather worsens, we expect the numbers to increase. Unfortunately, there are now a few families in our sites due to foreclosures.

Missions

JOURNEYS FROM PADS TO HOPE (continued)

Funding for Journeys this year has greatly decreased over last year. There is a real need for financial help in order to keep serving all who use our services. Please contribute generously to this very important program.

The Mission Commission suggests that in addition to a monetary donation, your family bring the following to church: waterproof gloves, hats, and underwear or socks (not tube socks) to replenish the closet at the HOPE center.

Among Our Folks

New Members

Sandy Latimer, *October 30, 2011*

Mark & Kim Fletcher, *October 30, 2011*

Barry & Jean Wood, *October 30, 2011*

Baptisms

Sofia Louise, *November 20, 2011*
daughter of Brian and Carolyn Turcotte

Emily Elizabeth, *December 22, 2011*
daughter of Colin and Erin Purser

Congratulations!

Courtney Heath received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Western Michigan University

Thank You...

I want to thank you all for supporting me as we welcome the newest member to our family. Hopefully by the time you receive this, our third child will have been born. I will be on family leave for the month of January. This will be a great time for my family and me. We are deeply grateful for the support of this congregation. It is truly a gift.

Blessings,
Pastor Tedd

Thank You...

FROM MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Thank you to all of those who delivered "Meals-on-Wheels"!

In a note from Chris Guth, Assistant Director of Senior Disability Services of Wheeling Township, she wrote, "our program not only helps the homebound, the disabled, and the economically challenged of our community, but it also assists those who may have just had a knee or hip replacement and don't have family around to help them. Whatever the reason, we could not run this successful program without over 350 volunteers who delivered over 16,5000 meals."

She also asked if anyone would want to be a substitute driver to fill in occasionally for regular drivers. If you would like to be a substitute, please call Russ or Marlys Guilford at 847-392-5512 or Chris Guth at 847-259-7730.

We wish to thank the following people from our church who, while delivering food, also provided a loving word, caring attitude, and a brief visit: Lib & Bob Alston, Lois & Harry Anderson, Suzanne & Bill Bible, Jean & Lauren Fryk, Linda & John Hall, Marilyn & Ron Reed, Mary Jane & Bob Robertson, and Terry & Frank Scott.

FOR HELPING THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

The Haiti Sewing Workshop met four times, from August through November, to create dresses made from pillowcases and shorts made from t-shirts for the children of Haiti. A total of 32 people, plus the Horizon circle and a Girl Scout Troop, volunteered to sew, iron, cut, pin, design, and make pockets. Many others donated pillowcases, t-shirts, elastic, bias tape, decorative notions, money, and sewing machines to help the cause. Through all of your efforts, we are able to send 140 dresses and 49 shorts to the children of Haiti. Many thanks to all who participated in some way to make this such a successful and enjoyable experience!

Gail Becker

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY EDUCATION COMMISSION GRANT

The Children and Family Education Commission (CAFE) is the recipient of a \$500 grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Northern Illinois. The grant will be used to launch a parents' night out program for families with special needs children.

Thank You...

FOR CAFE GRANT (continued)

CAFE members envision this as a wonderful outreach to our community and are currently researching the best way to develop this program. The increased accessibility from our Phase I construction will enhance this ministry. If you would like to get involved, please contact Lynn Mikels at 847-255-5112.

Financial Corner

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 2011

November Revenue:	\$58,881	Apportionments Paid:
November Expense:	\$54,935	\$68,827 of \$68,827
YTD Revenue:	\$645,714	Building Fund Receipts to date:
YTD Expense:	\$635,908	\$1,875,793

Our Annual Apportionment for 2011 was set at \$75,084. We encourage the use of our electronic funds transfer; forms are available in the church office. You may also mail in your contributions.

Thank you in advance for keeping your pledges and contributions current!

Melinda Kirby
Business Manager



PLANT SEEDS TODAY FOR A LEGACY TOMORROW

January is a time for resolutions, setting goals toward which to strive, making plans for tomorrow. Often this is the month that people review their wills, change insurance plans and make corrections, deletions, and additions in their address books. We want to encourage people throughout our congregation, no matter your age, to make estate planning a priority. As Disciples of Christ, we are responsible for being good stewards over the treasures God has given us, not only while we are here, but after we have gone. You can plant seeds now that will grow a legacy for tomorrow. There are many instruments folks use: a fixed gift of a certain amount, a percent of their estate, a charitable gift annuity from which you continue to benefit until your death, assigning the church as life insurance beneficiary, etc. Our Endowment Committee or the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Foundation can assist you. Call Melinda Kirby in the church office at 847-255-5112 for more details.



**First United
Methodist
Church**

1903 E. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights
Illinois 60004

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

PRST STD
Non-profit
US Postage
PAID
Palatine P&DC IL
Permit No. 593

Ministry Team

First United Methodist Church
1903 E. Euclid Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Church Office: 847.255.511
Fax: 847.255.2986

Website: www.fumcah.com
Email: friends@fumcah.com

Reverend Bonnie Beckonchrist
Lead Pastor
b.beckonchrist@fumcah.com

Melinda Kirby
Business Manager
m.kirby@fumcah.com

Reverend Tedd Steele
Pastor of Youth & Young Family
t.steele@fumcah.com

Joyce Hawley
Administrative Assistant for Ministry & Mission
j.hawley@fumcah.com

Reverend Lynn Mikels
Pastor of Faith Formation
l.mikels@fumcah.com

Cheryl Salas
Communications Coordinator
c.salas@fumcah.com

Jeannie Workman
Music Director & Organist
j.workman@fumcah.com

Maureen Edmondson
Preschool & We-e Care Director
fumcps@sbcglobal.net

Francy Bearden
Music Ministries Coordinator
f.bearden@fumcah.com

Deadline for February Newsletter Submissions:
Thursday, January 12
E-mail to c.salas@fumcah.com