



**November 2011**

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107*

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I propose we make November a season of gratitude rather than simply a month which contains one day for thanksgiving. I challenge you to do it with me. Begin and end your day in gratitude. This is an exercise that all ages can do: parents, children, and grandparents. Take a piece of paper, a journal, or diary, and each morning write down something or someone for which or whom you are grateful. Do the same thing as you close your day.

DAY

GRATITUDE

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | AM | I am grateful for a good night's sleep.               |
|   | PM | Wow! Challenges can be accomplished!                  |
| 2 | AM | I am grateful for health insurance.                   |
|   | PM | I am grateful for a good novel.                       |
| 3 | AM | I am grateful for a genuinely funny friend.           |
|   | PM | I am grateful for parents with expectations.          |
| 4 | AM | I am grateful for opportunities presented.            |
|   | PM | I am glad I can be helpful.                           |
| 5 | AM | I am grateful for grandkids who call me each morning. |
|   | PM | I am grateful for my sister.                          |

You get the picture. This exercise can then be lifted as a prayer of thanksgiving, "I thank you God for..." Research has demonstrated that those who bookend their days in gratitude are healthier and happier. Can you imagine the impact on our common life together if we practice this together?

Let me know how you are doing.

*Pastor Bonnie*



**Did You Know We Are On Facebook?**



If you are on the internet, chances are you have a Facebook account. Did you know that First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights has its own page? Visit facebook.com, search for FUMCAH, send a friend request and you'll be able to get updates on our latest events and programs.

## November Worship Celebrations

### Worship Series Continues Once Upon a Time: GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

November 6 <sup>th</sup>	ALL SAINTS DAY A Cold Cup of Water	Matthew 23:1-12
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	CONSECRATION SUNDAY It's Worth Everything!	Matthew 13:44-45
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY	



## CONSECRATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13

YOU ARE INVITED!

Immediately following regular morning worship on that day, we will convene upstairs in the Metropolis Ballroom for a wonderful brunch.

There is no charge to attend, and all are welcome!  
We just need to know that you intend to be there.

If you haven't already, please RSVP to the church office at 847-255-5112 by November 8.  
Thank you.

## Children Programs

### J.A.M. WITH US!

It's not too late for children from preschool through eighth grade to join the fun – and serve their church – at J.A.M.! There are vocal choirs for all ages, puppetry, bell choir, and the Church Mice (who experience a variety of church-related activities). Sandwiched in the middle is our fellowship dinner for children and their families. Want to help with J.A.M.? This year we have added supervised child care for children of our helpers. You can find out more about J.A.M. and download the registration form at [www.fumcah.com](http://www.fumcah.com), or call Lynn Mikels (847-255-5112). She would love to tell you more about it!



### CROSSROADS

Crossroads is our church fellowship group for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends. Strike up some fun with us on Sunday, November 6, at Rolling Meadows Lanes on Kirchoff. Meet us at the bowling alley at 1pm. After we bowl, we'll go across the street to McDonald's for a snack. As always, friends are welcome!

# Youth Programs

## YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT

Hey, sixth graders to seniors! Join us for the Wolves hockey game on Saturday, November 19. We will meet at the church building at 6pm to leave for the game. Bring \$20 to cover tickets and transportation, and extra money if you plan to eat or buy anything at the game. Please sign up no later than Friday, November 4. Invite a friend or two for a great time. Sign up today; seats are limited! Parents, if you are interested in sponsoring, let Pastor Tedd know at [t.steele@fumcah.com](mailto:t.steele@fumcah.com).



## ASP

Expressing our faith in service—that is what Appalachia Service Project is about. Youth who will be 14 or older next summer are invited to participate in ASP. We will have our first preparatory meeting Sunday, November 13, at 6pm. Whether you are ready to sign up or want to find out what ASP is all about, come join us. If you are a parent with questions or an adult ready to volunteer, join us. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of ASP is encouraged to attend.



## YOUTH GROUP ON THE MOVE

Come to experience another style of worship on Sunday, November 6. Youth group will be traveling to Urban Village Church in Wicker Park for their Sunday evening worship. Sixth graders to seniors are invited to attend. Meet at the church building at 4:15pm. There will not be youth group on the campus that evening. Parents, it would be great if you wanted to come along as drivers. If you are planning on attending, please let Tedd know at [t.steele@fumcah.com](mailto:t.steele@fumcah.com).

# Adult Programs

## UMVEST

is a faith based investment club designed to help members learn. We own a wide range of stocks. Every meeting we review stocks and evaluate potential purchases. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. Since the church has been under construction we have been meeting in members' homes. This club is an excellent way to learn about investments. Call Tony Manos at 847-670-9763 for more information.



United Methodist Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

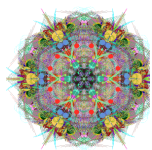


Go to [www.schwansfundraising.com](http://www.schwansfundraising.com) and use Campaign ID# **36928** to purchase food and Gift Cards. It's easy!

Pre-Order by Thurs Nov 3, 2011  
Pickup & Pay on Sat Nov 5, 2011 - from 10 am - 1 pm  
at 1903 E. Euclid using cash, checks, credit/debit  
Help us reach our \$3,000 goal!

**Proceeds benefit the missions and ministries of United Methodist Women**

## Adult Programs



### KALEIDOSCOPE


November Kaleidoscopes feature mission-related themes. On Sunday, November 6, we welcome Lauren Jernigan of Water Missions International. This agency works to provide portable water treatment equipment in isolated, poor areas of the globe. Their mission is to change lives through sustainable water systems. There is no Kaleidoscope on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the day of our Stewardship Banquet (see you there!). Kaleidoscope returns on November 20 as we welcome Rev. Greg Gross. Greg is a staff member of The Center on Halstead and strong supporter of the Project Tariro in Zimbabwe. Project Tariro is a holistic program to assist those living with HIV/AIDS. For several years in Zimbabwe, the death rate was 3000-4000 people each month and the life expectancy dropped to 34 years. Thankfully, people now have some access to medication and statistics are improving. Greg returned to Zimbabwe in October 2011; join us to hear his inspiring story. Concluding our month, on November 27, we welcome Stanley Campbell from Rockford Urban Ministries. He will share information on the Ministries and bring items from JustGoods, a fair trade store sponsored by Rockford Urban Ministries.

Kaleidoscope meets on Sunday mornings at 10:40 in the Rehearsal Studio on the second floor of the Metropolis.



### COMMONGROUND GAME NIGHT

On Saturday, November 12, at 5:30pm, grab your kids and your favorite game for the Commonground game night at church. We'll order pizza and play board games in the parlor area at FUMCAH. We will arrange for babysitting for the kids at the church. They'll play in the preschool rooms and have pizza together as well. A TBD fee will be collected to pay for the sitters, pizza, drinks, and paper products. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Contact Jennifer Jones at 847-431-2672 or [jenniferj54@comcast.net](mailto:jenniferj54@comcast.net), or Wendy Dunnington at 773-972-4188 or [wdunnington@email.com](mailto:wdunnington@email.com) if you have any questions and/or to RSVP by November 7. Please include the ages of your children so we can arrange for enough sitters. Remember to bring along your favorite game. Hope to see you there!

 Please mark your calendars for the Commonground Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3. Start looking for that perfect White Elephant gift!



### BIBLE IN A YEAR

In what order would you place the Ten Commandments if you were listing them by importance? Why? In what sense is something a sin if it wasn't intentional? If you are part of the Grand Sweep (Reading the Bible in a Year), and you started in early October, you are getting into the book of Exodus and considering questions like these. Grand Sweep participants who were interested in a discussion group have been contacted. If you did not receive information or have decided you would like to join a group, please contact Lynn Mikels or come to our first Sunday morning group meeting, November 6, 11am, at Peggy Kinnane's restaurant – across the street from the Metropolis.

# Expressions of Gratitude

## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Chapter II Circle, UMW, & other contributing members of the FUMCAH family,

This summer—with your generous support—I traveled to West Africa to teach a girls' arts program in Sierra Leone. Over the course of two weeks, we drew, wrote, danced, climbed a mountain, and chased a pesky local hen from the classroom repeatedly. Each of the girls wrote up a traditional Sierra Leonean story, then worked with me one-on-one to polish their spelling and English grammar. At the end of the program, students received a full scholarship for the coming school year.

The Creative Arts Initiative girls also received a message: You can do it. During the program, we worked on setting realistic goals. We talked about career possibilities. We improved English language skills. We discussed the country's all-too-pervasive gender inequality. And—most importantly—we asked the girls to think creatively. Sierra Leone has severe development challenges ahead, and it's going to take a new type of thinking to turn things around. These smart, sassy ladies are exactly what the doctor ordered.

So: thank you. Your generous donations are actively building compassion and peace abroad, tackling poverty from the roots up. They're also helping build my life by enabling me to use my skills for work I am passionate about. Traveling to Sierra Leone to sing, write, and work with teenagers was an incredible gift.

I look forward to presenting my experiences next time I'm in town. If you're interested in supporting CAI or traveling to Sierra Leone, please get in touch with me at [kestandefer@gmail.com](mailto:kestandefer@gmail.com).

Thank you again for continuing the UMC's long commitment to Sierra Leone.

Best,

Kati Standefer



## HERE'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT PARTNERS IN CARING

*"I thank God every day for my Partner-in-Caring. I don't know how I could have made it through the past year without her!"*

*"As a man, it was difficult and awkward reaching out for help. But I'm glad I did. It sure is a lot easier having a Partner-in-Caring volunteer to talk to."*

*"I'd encourage anyone going through a tough time to consider a Partner-in-Caring volunteer. They listen and help me discern a way forward."*

If you are interested, speak with Lib Alston, Referrals Coordinator, or one of the pastors.

**Why struggle alone?**



**THE WILL FAMILY** would like to thank all of the people who gave their time for Bill's memorial service.

Particular gratitude is extended to the women of UMW who organized, baked, set up, served, and took down the reception, the ushers, Jeannie Workman, Pastor Bonnie, Pastor Lynn, and the congregation that gathered to help remember and pay tribute to a remarkable man and his extraordinary life. With heartfelt gratefulness and appreciation we thank you for your service, support, and kindness.

Cathy Laatsch

## November Mission of the Month

### SUPPORT THE WORLD HUNGER/POVERTY PROGRAM

The November Mission Project is to contribute to the World Hunger/Poverty program. Eight hundred million people suffer from chronic malnutrition; 35,000 people, mostly children, die daily from the effects of inadequate food and poverty.

Years of drought in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti have escalated, causing widespread hunger and, in two regions of southern Somalia, famine.

According to the United Nations, today's drought is the worst the region has seen in half a century and has left an estimated 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. It has provoked acute malnutrition and death, especially among children and other vulnerable populations.

Somalia, where relief efforts have been hampered by ongoing violence and war, has seen tens of thousands of its weakened citizens flee to neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia. The Somali population in three refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya, has increased by more than 30 percent in recent weeks, to 400,000 people.

Nearly half the Somali population—3.7 million people—is estimated to be in crisis, the UN said; most—2.8 million—can be found in the war-torn southern part of the country, where the violence has impeded the work of food agencies for more than a year.

If the effects of the drought are not checked, famine could spread to the rest of southern Somalia within two months, the UN underscored.

As you enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner, think about all those who never have enough to eat. Make a generous contribution to this Mission.

## United Methodist Women

### UMW CIRCLE GROUPS

- CALLED TO GROW:** Thursday, Nov 10, 9:30am, home of Laverne Mason (co-host Nancy Duel).  
**CHANGING TIMES:** Tuesday, Nov 8, 9:30am, parlor (sharing space with Horizon).  
**CHAPTER II:** Monday, Nov 14, 7:30pm, Circle leader will advise location.  
**DAUGHTERS OF EVE:** Contact Stephanie Sutton.  
**FAITH:** Wednesday, Nov 2, 7pm, parlor.  
**HORIZON:** Tuesday, Nov 8, 9:30am, parlor (sharing space with Changing Times).  
**REVISED EDITION:** Monday, Nov 14, noon, parlor.



## Holiday Bake Sale Recycled Christmas Schwan's Quality Food

**Sat Nov 5, 2011 9am – 3pm**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**1903 East Euclid, Arlington Hts IL 60004**  
**Gently used Holiday décor, linens,  
ornaments, clothing and serving ware**  
**Home-baked goods and Schwan's food**

**Proceeds benefit the missions and ministries of United Methodist Women**

## Community News

### BAPTISMS

Carter Joseph Page , August 21, 2011

Son of Joseph and Lisa Page

Brianna Kay, September 18, 2011

Daughter of Steve and DeAnna Klockenga

### MARRIAGE

Susan Krawczyk

to David Caton,

September 10, 2011

### DEATHS

Allen G. Wolkey, September 20, 2011

Grace P. Swim, September 22, 2011

Donna Drake, October 3, 2011

## Financial Report Through September 2011

September Revenue: \$51,432

September Expense: \$54,935

YTD Revenue: \$515,649

YTD Expense: \$512,469

Apportionments Paid: \$43,799 of \$56,313

Building Fund Receipts to date: \$1,852,500

Our Annual Apportionments for 2011 has been 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*

### CONSIDER AN IRA GIFT!

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may make a charitable gift directly from your IRA, tax-free!

The Pension Protection Act, with a few limitations, will most likely end on December 31, 2011, so don't delay! Check with your tax advisor for specifics.

To make a gift, simply contact your IRA administrator to donate a charitable gift. The check should be made out and sent directly to First United Methodist Church, with your name in the memo line. Please let Melinda Kirby know (847-255-5112 or [m.kirby@fumcah.com](mailto:m.kirby@fumcah.com)) that the check will be arriving .

Thank you for your generosity!

### RAINBOW CIRCLE



It is common for we Christians to speak of ourselves as "children of God" or to refer to our "church family." It is also common for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people to speak of one another as "family." One way we reveal mutual friends as gay is to say that they are "family." It connotes a friendly inclusion.

Rainbow Circle invites LGBT Christians to join us the first and third Wednesday of each month (November 2 & 16) at 7pm at the Parsonage, just west of the church. If you would like to meet for coffee to ask questions or get to know me first, I would enjoy that chance. Please phone and let's get together.

*Sue Laurie, 773-984-0351*

*Inviting LGBT People Into Christian Community*



**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 Contact Information

Church Office: 847.255.5112

Fax: 847.255.2986

Website: [www.fumcah.com](http://www.fumcah.com)

**Reverend Bonnie Beckonchrist**

*Lead Pastor*

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**Melinda Kirby**

*Business Manager*

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**Reverend Tedd Steele**

*Pastor of Youth & Young Family*

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**Joyce Hawley**

*Administrative Assistant for Ministry & Mission*

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**Reverend Lynn Mikels**

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**Cheryl Salas**

*Communications Coordinator*

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**Jeannie Workman**

*Music Director & Organist*

[j.workman@fumcah.com](mailto:j.workman@fumcah.com)

**Maureen Edmondson**

*Preschool & We-e Care Director*

[fumcps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fumcps@sbcglobal.net)

**Francy Bearden**

*Music Ministries Coordinator*

[f.bearden@fumcah.com](mailto:f.bearden@fumcah.com)

**Deadline for December Newsletter Submissions:**

**Thursday, November 10**

**E-mail to [c.salas@fumcah.com](mailto:c.salas@fumcah.com)**