



The Glen Ellyn Reporter

*Newsletter of First United Methodist
Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois*

November/December 2024

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The Holiday Season is right around the corner and our church staff had a meeting recently to discuss all of the events that we have planned for our calendars for November and December. I would like to highlight two of those events:

Our Second Sunday service is going to change a bit. It will still be on the 2nd Sunday of the month but with a few adjustments.

November 10 will feature a concert at 6 p.m. with a pizza & salad dinner following. Each year for the last 3 years, my band Steal Rhythm has played at Pierogi Fest in Whiting, Indiana. Two of the original members from my band, which I formed in 8th grade, are traveling up to Glen Ellyn to join me on stage. Rich "Friar" Heier is coming from St. Louis and is the best banjo, mandolin, dobro, steel guitar player that I know. He has played at every UM church that I have served and will be thrilled with the venue here at First UMCGE. Alex Orsag is my bass player coming from Indiana, and he and I stood up in each other's weddings more than a few decades ago. Brad Stein, who has been here before, will be joining us on drums as we are going to include a Beatles set, and I will be preaching my Beatles sermon. What is a Beatles sermon you ask? Join us to find out and invite a friend, especially if they have ever listened to a Beatles song.

December 8 is also a Second Sunday of the month, but we will be having our combined UM Advent Concert at 3 p.m. in OUR sanctuary. Just today I received a confirmation from a UM church that wants to join us along with a member of theirs who wants to perform. I also saw that our District Superintendent has posted a page on Facebook that says: Prairie Central District Advent Gathering at First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn, Sunday Dec. 8th at 3 p.m. Already 14 Pastors have expressed interest and some have committed to attending as I write this newsletter in late October. Wouldn't it be FANTASTIC to have over 300 UM members from many area UM churches join together to sing *Joy to the World* in our sanctuary as we get the Advent Season off to a great start?! Can I get an AMEN??

May you and yours be thankful and blessed this Holy-Day Season!

Pastor Dave

Children and Youth Ministries

Sleep Out Saturday, November 2

Our Youth will once again participate in Sleep Out Saturday. On Saturday, November 2 our youth and adult chaperones will sleep outside on the church lawn.

All families are invited to join us in the evening beginning at 5 p.m. for games in the gym, board games, dinner, snacks, and then a campfire with S'mores.

Youth in 5th grade and older are invited to stay the night in the Courtyard. We have tents or large cardboard boxes available if youth prefer to build their own shelters.

Parents are asked to pick up their children by 7 a.m. on Sunday, November 3.

Money raised from the event will **support families in the Bridge Communities**

Transitional Housing Program, funding the housing, employment training, mentoring, and case management, plus tutoring and summer camps for kids. You can donate via our online team link

<https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/participant.html?Id=4468>

or drop your donation off at church, marked Sleep Out Saturday. Checks can be made out to Bridge Communities.

Thank you for your support!

Kids Above All Holiday Gift Drive

Starting in late November, we will be collecting gifts for teens living in a group home with Kids Above All. Please consider picking up an item to help Kids Above All make the holidays special for the children, youth, and young adults they work with—all of whom have experienced trauma.

More details coming soon on what gifts are needed. Thank you for your support yet again this holiday season!

Packing Shift at Feed My Starving Children

Friday, December 6, 5-6:30 p.m. at the Aurora location (555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL). Share some holiday cheer with children around the world in need of nutritious meals by packing with us at Feed My Starving Children. Open to volunteers from age 5 (with accompanying adult) and up! Please RSVP to Pastor Laura at student@geumc.org.

Children's Christmas Pageant

On **Sunday, December 8 during worship**, we will hold our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us to re-enact the story of Jesus's birth and sing familiar Christmas carols. Simple costumes will be available upon arrival. We will have a brief run-through in the Sanctuary during Sunday School hour (9:30-10:15 a.m.) on December 8.

Little Lambs Learning Center

We are blessed that the Little Lambs program continues to do well. We are fortunate to have enough teachers to operate in 2 classrooms where we provide a fun, safe learning environment for toddlers and preschoolers. Our enrollment is open and there are still spots available in both classrooms. If you know of anyone who may be interested in our program, please have them contact Stephanie Herlien at pdo@geumc.org.



First Cup Café

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AGAIN! Summer is over and fall activities have started, so it's fun to touch base with friends to see what's new! Please consider signing up to host for a First Cup Coffee Hour! It doesn't take a lot of people to handle the set-up, and all that's needed is just a little something to nibble on while visiting. We'll sometimes use the Narthex as our gathering place, sometimes the Great Hall. So feel free to get a friend or two to help out and sign up for a first Sunday. The sign-up sheet is next to the liturgist sign-up as you enter for worship, or you could contact Heidi Shierry at office@geumc.org or Karen Littlefield at GLKL66@sbcglobal.net.



Mission & Service



Our group, coordinated by United Women in Faith, had a great time serving in two different sessions at Northern Illinois Food Bank. We packed the equivalent of thousands of meals to feed those in our area who struggle with food insecurity.



United Women in Faith



NOVEMBER: A month for reflection, giving thanks, and gratitude!

We invite you to join United Women in Faith in a November Gratitude Offering.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Freely you have received; freely give.

- Matthew 10:8

Your November Gratitude Giving Guide

Week 1 – Family: For every child, grandchild, niece, or nephew, donate \$1.00.

Week 2 – Shelter: For every warm home you have lived in, donate \$0.50.

Week 3 – Friends: For each time you talk/write/think of a friend this week, donate one dime.

Week 4 – Faith: For all the “take for granted” love and blessings you receive: Priceless!
Donate what you are able.

100% of all offerings received will be added to the money United Women in Faith at First Church give as “Love Gifts” at the end of the year. Love Gifts have been given to such missions as

The Pastors Fund

DuPage PADS

Appalachian Service Project

Feed My Starving Children

Northern Illinois Food Bank

UMCOR

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Walk-In Ministry ...and many other causes!

*Please return your offering on or before December 8 by placing it in the Sunday offering plate or mailing it to the church. **If you write a check, please make it to United Women in Faith, not to the church, and be sure to indicate that the offering is for “November Gratitude.”***

Thank you for your gratitude and generosity! Please join us in prayer:

We thank you, gracious God, for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day, and every day. We give you praise and thanks. Amen.



United
Women
in Faith

All women are welcome at United Women in Faith activities – no one has to be a member or a regular attender of this church to participate!

November is a month for **Thanks** and **Giving**. United Women in Faith is sponsoring a November Gratitude Offering – see the separate article on the previous page.

We're selling pecans! Illinois-grown, family-farmed fresh pecans will be available to order starting on November 3. They're great for holiday baking, snacking, or freezing for another season. Order 1-pound bags of either whole pecans or medium pieces for \$12 a bag. Sign up on the women's bulletin board in the hallway or contact Sally Grenzow (630-725-8890 or grenzow@gmail.com) to reserve your pecans. We expect delivery in early December.

Save the date!

The Village Vocal Chords will present a holiday concert on Monday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. What a festive way to get into the holiday spirit! Bring friends! Tickets will be \$10, available in advance or at the door.

Circle News

United Women in Faith Circles are small groups of women that meet regularly. Circles welcome all women interested!

Hannah Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

November 12 at Sara Johnson's (1201 Howard Circle, Wheaton; 630-487-0187) Program from the UWFaith 2024 "Food, Fellowship, Faith" series.

December 10 at LuAnn Burkamper's (4215 Black Oak, Lisle; 630-624-3589): We'll bring Christmas cookies to exchange and also diapers and feminine hygiene products to donate to the Glen House Food Pantry. Watch for details closer to the date.

Martha/Sarah Circle is meeting Wednesday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the church dining room. Everyone is invited to join us for socializing and discussing women hymn writers. No meeting in December.

Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, November 21, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Sally Grenzow (2283 Hiram Dr., Wheaton; 630-725-8890). They will not meet in December.

We are love in action. We are United Women in Faith.

Green Team Ministries

There are lots of great ways to Go Green this fall and winter. Keep this tips and hints in mind over the next couple of months, particularly if you do some deep cleaning while you're inside with the chillier weather.

Pumpkin Smash

Did you know that composting pumpkins...

- Avoids landfill greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing organics (currently, landfills are the 3rd largest producers of [methane](https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases) in the U.S.! See more at <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>)
- Produces a useful, nutrient-dense soil amendment. Pumpkins are 90% water, which is great for our soil but is [not so good in our landfills](https://leachate.co.uk/main/what-is-leachate/) (get more info at <https://leachate.co.uk/main/what-is-leachate/>)



You can find a Pumpkin Smash for your pumpkins online in various nearby towns. Better yet, bring them to the Glen Ellyn Village Green Community Gardens on Lambert Road on November 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. That's the location of God's Garden, and the pumpkins will feed the soil for next year.



Go Green Glen Ellyn

Check out their new website for information about activities and ideas to help the environment. Visit <https://www.gogreenglenellyn.org/> to learn more.

Staples

Staples has many good recycling possibilities. You can take these items to the Staples store on Roosevelt in Glen Ellyn—computers, monitors, cables, ink & toner, flash drives, hard drives, keyboards, pens, markers, phones phone cases, mice ,webcams, tablets, printers, routers, shredders, camcorders, MP3 players, batteries, calculators, GPS devices, and gaming consoles.

Music Ministry

Mark your calendars for our Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata during 10:30 a.m. worship on December 15. They will present *What Sweeter Music; A Festival of Carols* by Mark Hayes. What better way to celebrate the holiday season than with beautiful music?

Mission & Service

Missions of the Month

Thank you for going beyond your regular giving and supporting the monthly missions. Each Mission of the Month organization is featured throughout their respective month on the bulletin board outside the library and in eNotes, as well as in the mission moment during worship.

November Mission of the Month

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: Our special offering for the month of November is for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. This organization strives to reduce veteran homelessness in the DuPage area & collar counties by 50% within the next 5 years. They are located in Wheaton and continue to support veterans and their families with counseling so joblessness, homelessness, poverty, and/or mental health issues are eliminated in their lives. Visit their website, www.helpaveteran.org, to learn more.



December Mission of the Month

Heifer International: The special offering for the month of December is for Heifer International. Over 80 years ago Dan West, a farmer & fellow church leader, rallied his church community to support a new way to help those in need. West suggested giving families in the U.S. and around the world animals, like chicks, goats, and cows, so they could support themselves with steady sources of food, earn reliable incomes, and send their children to school. Training is always provided to help the people be successful with the animals. More information is available online at www.heifer.org.



God's Garden

God's Garden is officially closed. It was a very successful season. The success of the garden depended on many people who pitched in to water and harvest our vegetables. We hope you know that they were tended with love. Thanks to Pastor Dave, Laura Price, Mary Jane Chapman, Sarah Johnson, Chris Cizek, Cheryl Peters, and Juna and Nicholas Talbot for their faithful work. We collected \$1550 for the Glen House Food Pantry over the course of our growing season. In addition, several hundred pounds of fresh vegetables were given to them. Thank you, again.

Finance Committee

September 2024 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$0	
Offerings and other income	\$237,608	
Expenses		\$278,357
Fund Balance September 30, 2024		-\$40,749

Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund

Balance January 1, 2024	\$0	
Offerings	\$39,314	
Mortgage payments		\$82,819
Fund Balance September 30, 2024		-\$43,505

Mission of the Month Donations **

** \$200 per month is added to donations by a Permanent Endowment grant

January	People's Resource Center	\$525
February	Bridge Communities	\$830
March	Teen Parent Connection	\$455
April	Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$805
May	We Grow Dreams	\$680
June	Habitat for Humanity	\$595
July	SCARCE	\$570
August	Humanitarian Service Project	\$330
September	Northern Illinois Food Bank	\$590

Year to date Donations

Glen House Food Pantry		\$1,663
PATH		\$725
UMCOR Disaster Relief		\$25
UMC Special Sunday Offering		\$50

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of all of our ministries!

