



The Glen Ellyn Reporter

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

January/February 2025

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Thank YOU for a wonderful Advent/Christmas Season at First UMC of GE, and thanks to all who participated in cantatas, concerts, and caroling as we sang and listened to the songs of our faith that tell the message about the birth of our Savior! Music is a very powerful way of sharing the good news of the Gospel, and we will continue into 2025.

Two of the artists/groups who performed at our church in December will be joining us at our Second Sunday Services on January 12th and February 9th. Both services begin at 6 p.m. with a catered dinner to follow.

Colion Greene played at our Prairie Central District Advent Concert on December 8th and will be joining us on January 12th. He is the pianist and choir director at Neighborhood UMC in Maywood, IL, and I consider him one of the finest gospel piano players I know. A few years before Covid hit, he and I were leading a southside gospel choir made up from many South Lake District UM churches, and we were having a blast! Maybe I can get him to teach us a few new gospel songs and get the sanctuary rocking a bit.

Evan Bruno had over 400 folks recently attend our church for the Anima concert on December 14th. He has offered to bring Anima—The Glen Ellyn Children's Choir to our February 9th Second Sunday Service to help us celebrate Black History Month and have the youth perform some gospel and spiritual selections. Since our Second Sunday Services are under an hour, we have talked about possibly splitting his group into two and having one also perform at our service in March. I will let you know more by the next newsletter.

Suffice it to say that you won't want to miss either of these events, and we will have a way for you to RSVP your dinner intentions for both nights so I can order the proper amount of food. United Methodists, food, and music sounds like a good time waiting to happen!

See YOU there!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Dave

Children & Youth Ministries

On Sunday, December 8th, we enjoyed a no-rehearsal Nativity Pageant featuring our children and youth families. From wisepeople and the star on the move to shepherds with their fuzzy-headed sheep, from Angel Gabriel to Mary and Joseph, you all were stellar. Thank you for helping us tell the good news of Jesus' birth.



THANK YOU to all who participated in service projects in November and December.



Thank you to Adam and Katelyn Manzke for making Sleep Out Saturday happen in their backyard on November 2nd. And thank you to all who sponsored them to raise \$1,035 to directly support the Transitional Housing Program for families with children through Bridge Communities.

On Friday, December 6th, seventeen of us packed meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. Along with other groups there that evening, we packed 90 boxes (19,440 meals) - enough to feed 53 children a daily meal for a year!



On Sunday, December 15th, nine of us volunteered at the Kids Above All Better Life distribution center in Des Plaines. We wrapped our donation of gifts for 7 teens living in the Downers Grove and Lisle group homes. Together with Faith UMC, Lombard, we provided over \$600 in gifts to these teens. Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Events

Feed My Starving Children (Aurora) packing shift with Faith UMC, Lombard on Friday, March 14, 5-6:30 p.m. Wear your green for St. Paddy's weekend and join us to pack meals for children around the globe. Please RSVP to Pastor Laura by Sunday, March 2nd to save your spot. We have 24 spots reserved.

SAVE the DATES

Our joint **ASP Summer 2025** trip in collaboration with St. Mark's and now First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn is confirmed for June 14-21. More details coming in late winter.

Community VBS (Vacation Bible School) is scheduled for June 23-27 at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn. We look forward to welcoming kids and volunteers. More details coming in late winter.



United
Women
in Faith

Women who come together to support one another, our local church, our worldwide church, and missions near and far... that's United Women in Faith! All women are welcome – no one has to be a member or a regular attender of this church to participate.

Save the date! Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.

All women are invited to **Brunch and a General Meeting** at the church (dining room). We will elect officers for 2025 and hear a speaker from Naomi's House, where their mission is "to help every woman who has suffered from commercial sexual exploitation find healing, freedom, and a fresh start." Their services support victims and survivors who have been trafficked and abused.

Circle News

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

Hannah Circle

In December we discovered through Biblical Christmas trivia questions that most of what we think we know about the story of Jesus' birth comes from our favorite Christmas carols! We loved tasting and exchanging Christmas cookies, and we brought approximately 30 (we never actually counted!) packages of diapers and feminine hygiene products for the Glen House Food Pantry.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. at Cheryl Peters's home: 322 Miller Ct., Glen Ellyn (630-469-5267). Program from the new UWFaith program book *Carrying Our Faith Forward*.

On Tuesday, February 11, we meet at LuAnn Burkamper's home: 4215 Black Oak, Lisle (630-624-3589).

Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, January 16, 1:30 p.m. at the home of Sally Grenzow: 2283 Hiram Dr., Wheaton, with devotions focused on the new year of 2025.

Thursday, February 20, meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Dolores Koopman: 540 Kensington, Glen Ellyn, with devotions focused on the meaning of love.

Martha/Sarah Circle will meet Wednesday, January 22, 10:00 a.m. at the church to continue our study of women hymn writers.

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

Green Team Ministries

We have a PLASTIC problem, but you can help alleviate some of it and keep yourself healthier. Take a glass or bottle with you so you don't use a plastic cup at restaurants. Don't buy bottled water—it contains more microplastics than tap water. Don't buy food that is packaged in PLASTIC (yes, this is difficult but work on it) and store your food in the refrigerator in glassware. Don't microwave in PLASTIC containers –it's not a good idea! Wash the PLASTIC containers you have by hand, not in the dishwasher where microplastics can leach into the water.

Unfortunately, no matter how diligent you are, microplastics and nano plastics are impossible to avoid because they are in the air we breathe, in the food we eat, and in our drinking water. By making the small changes listed above, you can work to reduce your own plastic usage.

Mission & Service

Missions of the Month

Thanks for your wonderful support of the monthly missions for 2024. And now we move to the 2025 missions. Check the hall bulletin board outside the library so you can read and see information about the mission. Thanks to Lynne Nakashima who continues to design these for us. Please be sure to indicate on your offering which mission you are supporting. We are helping others as Jesus taught his followers so long ago.

FUMC Monthly Missions for 2025

January – People's Resource Center: Responding to basic human needs, including food, computer access, emergency rent assistance, clothes closet, and more. All this help is free to DuPage County residents. <https://www.peoplesrc.org/>



February – P.A.T.H./ Bridge Communities: Provides free transitional housing to DuPage County families experiencing homelessness. Mentoring is offered so families can achieve self-sufficiency. <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/>

March – Walk-in Ministries: The Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry is an ecumenical partnership of 15 congregations whose purpose is to assist Glen Ellyn residents, members of the congregations of any Glen Ellyn church or faith organization, or DuPage PADS clients with a referral who are in financial crisis.

Mission & Service

April – Midwest Mission Distribution Center: This organization in IL and IA has staff and many volunteers who do a variety of tasks that help people around the world with health and disaster relief. <https://www.midwestmission.org/>



May – We Grow Dreams: Offers job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. You can support WGD with your donation and by going to the West Chicago Greenhouse & Garden Center to purchase plants for indoors, gardens, & flower beds. Ask Barb Doppelt about it. <https://wegrowdreams.org/>

June – Northern Illinois Food Bank: Supplies groceries to a network of 900 outlets across 13 counties that support food pantries, soup kitchens, and more. You can volunteer at the Geneva site when we arrange work times. <https://solvehungertoday.org/>



July – SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education): This organization stresses environmental education with innovative & hands-on programs for schools and organizations. <https://www.scarce.org/>

August – Humanitarian Service Project: Their mission is to alleviate the pain and suffering that poverty brings to seniors and children in DuPage and Kane Counties, without discrimination or exclusion for any reason. <https://hsp.agency/>



September – Teen Parent Connection: This organization strives to help with the realities and responsibilities of teenage pregnancy. Physical needs and mentoring are offered to help young parents. <https://teenparentconnection.org/>



October – Metropolitan Family Services: This organization gives low-income families access to job training, education, mental health services, career & family counseling, transportation, and childcare. <https://www.metrofamily.org/>



November – Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: The aim of this organization that serves 13 area counties is to end veteran homelessness and give support as needed. <https://www.helpaveteran.org/>

December – Heifer International: By giving animals and training to families in the U.S. and around the world, this organization endeavors to end hunger and poverty. <https://www.heifer.org/>



Church & Social Action Committee

We meet monthly by Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We would love to have you join us to work on social justice issues. Following are some of the issues we are exploring.

To join the Zoom meeting, please visit <https://www.zoom.us/join> and enter the following login credentials:

Meeting ID—895 8199 1832; Passcode—190535

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 19



Plan to attend with others from FUMC!

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the NIC's annual gathering on January 19, 3 p.m., at First UMC, Downers Grove. Rev. Danita R. Anderson, assistant to Bishop Dan Schwerin, will speak on "The Unfinished Agenda." The bishop will also offer remarks. The celebration will include prayers, testimonies, and music. Following will be a worship service and a light meal. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/nic-mlk-celebration-2025>.

If you would like to attend with others from FUMC, contact Cheryl Peters at cpeters322@gmail.com for carpool information.

Christian Nationalism workshop

In October, 18 people participated in a workshop on Christian Nationalism. A video resource from the Board of Church & Society of the UMC was shared as well as small group discussion of this timely issue. If you want to explore this issue, the book *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis is a good place to start.

Native American issues continue to be a focus of our group. A small group is doing research of both historical and current Native American presence in our area. In the coming year we plan to involve our congregation in learning about and experiencing Native American culture. Guest speakers and story tellers as well as field trips to local museums are being considered.

Revised Social Principles

At the 2024 General Conference of the UMC the Social Principles were updated. The Revised Social Principles aim to serve as a guide for what United Methodists agree are the most relevant social concerns throughout the world today. We would like to offer an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the new Social Principles in small group discussions. Watch for details to come.

Community Rummage Sale

This year's Community Rummage Sale, held on October 5, 2024, was another great success! Thanks to more than 70 volunteers (approximately 50 youth and 20 adults) representing Boy Scout Troop 45, the Glenbard West Choir, the Glenbard West Theatre, and FUMC, so much good was done for the community.

The vision for the rummage sale is simple – to give youth in our community an opportunity to experience the joy of serving while also providing for team building, parent involvement, and fundraising for local organizations. The sale is a community event where everyone is working *with* each other and *for* each other.

The sale brought in a profit of \$4,000, which was split among the four organizations who volunteered. In addition to those groups, several other charities were represented at the sale. The Glen House Food Pantry had a table set up to create awareness and collect donations, and they received a donation from the Glenbard West Theatre. Feed My Starving Children received a donation of both volunteer time and money from the Glenbard West Choir. The Epilepsy Foundation received donations, as well, in the form of items to resell or donate.

To stay up to date on the next sale and how you can get involved, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/communityrummagesale or our website at: communityrummagesale.com.



Little Lambs Learning Center



Registration for our Summer 2025 program opens January 1! The summer session runs from June 2 to August 22 (closed June 30-July 4). If you or someone you know has children between the ages of 2 and 4 and are interested in a wonderful, faith-based preschool program, please direct them to our website, <https://www.geumc.org/lllc>, to register.

Finance Committee

Have you tried giving through our online portal? It is a quick, convenient way to make either a one-time or recurring donation. We have a variety of funds set up in the portal, such as the General Fund, Building Fund, and ASP, making it very simple to designate where you want your donation allocated. The QR code to the right makes it even easier! Just open the camera app on your smartphone, scan the code, click the link that pops up, and your browser will route you to the portal. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and ministries!



November 2024 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund		
Balance January 1, 2024		\$0
Offerings and other income		\$296,152
Employee Retention Tax Credit		\$31,917
Expenses		\$333,572
Fund Balance November 30, 2024		-\$5,504
Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund		
Balance January 1, 2024		\$0
Offerings		\$47,864
Mortgage payments		\$101,223
Fund Balance November 30, 2024		-\$53,360

Mission of the Month Donations **

<i>** \$200 per month is added to donations by a Permanent Endowment grant</i>		
January	People's Resource Center	\$525
February	Bridge Communities	\$830
March	Teen Parent Connection	\$455
April	Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$855
May	We Grow Dreams	\$680
June	Habitat for Humanity	\$595
July	SCARCE	\$575
August	Humanitarian Service Project	\$330
September	Northern Illinois Food Bank	\$590
October	Metropolitan Family Services	\$482
November	Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans	\$470
Year to date Donations		
	Glen House Food Pantry	\$2,158
	PATH	\$875
	UMCOR Disaster Relief	\$4,360
	UMC Special Sunday Offering	\$50

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