



# **The Glen Ellyn Reporter**

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

*March/April 2026*

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## **Pastor's Pen**

Dear Church Family & Friends,

I am a 4-season kind of person, as I truly enjoyed getting in some downhill skiing and sledding over these past few months. While there were some scary moments doing both, we remained on our snow tubes and never fell while skiing.

I do struggle a bit, though, when we get a glimpse of warmth and sunshine, and then 2 days later, we have snow and freezing wind chills. I actually got to play 9 holes of golf with Jeff Nakashima on Ash Wednesday this year, and that is something that doesn't often happen while living in Chicagoland. That being said, 40-degree temperature shifts in 24 hours are also not really enjoyable. I can honestly say that I am ready for spring to arrive. How about you?

I am also ready to move toward Holy Week and Easter and sing the songs of our faith. We have a lot of church activities to participate in during March and April, and I invite you to join us for as many as you are able.

I also invite you to read and focus on the words of a hymn in our hymnal:

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices #304*

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring,  
Christ has brought us heaven's choirs; heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below,  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

Blessings this Lent and Easter Season,  
Pastor Dave

# Children & Youth Ministries

## **ASP Plant Sale**

We will have a plant/flower sale once again this spring as our ASP (Appalachia Service Project) Fundraiser. Order forms will be accepted through March 10 and are available after church on Sundays, on our website at <https://www.geumc.org/asp>, or can be emailed to you (please email Pastor Laura at [student@geumc.org](mailto:student@geumc.org) if you would like to receive an order form). Please return your completed order forms to the front desk at St. Mark's or via email or text to Cindy Glavin (whose contact information is on the form). Payment is due with your order. Plant pick-up is Saturday, May 2 at St. Mark's upper parking lot.



## **Spring Confirmation Class**

We are holding a Confirmation class this spring for 4 students! Our Confirmation class dates are Sundays after worship: March 8 and 22, April 19 and 26, and May 3 and 17. We will use the Confirm (United Methodist approved) curriculum. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 31. Please join us in celebrating and welcoming our Confirmands on that date!

## **Feed My Starving Children – The Collective Youth Group**

We will volunteer at Feed My Starving Children (555 Exchange Ct, Aurora) for the 5-6:30 p.m. shift, followed by going out to dinner at Cici's pizza nearby. Wear your green as a St. Patrick's Day preview! All ages (Kindergarten and up) are welcome. This is an event of The Collective joint youth groups of FUMC, First Congregational UCC, and St. Mark's Episcopal. Please note that an RSVP is required; contact Pastor Laura if you would like to attend.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

On Easter Sunday, April 5, immediately following worship, we invite our children and teens to an Easter egg hunt in the courtyard (weather permitting) or inside the church in the event of rain. Join us for eggs full of candy, stickers, and prizes!

## **Coming Up This Summer**

**ASP (Appalachia Service Project):** Our summer mission trip is in collaboration with St. Mark's and First Congregational UCC once again. Our dates (inclusive of travel) are June 6-13. ASP Registration is now live! <https://apps.skycog.com/reg/APPSERV/Join.asp>, and the group code is 16910.

**Community VBS (Vacation Bible School)** registration for volunteers and participants is now live. Our theme is Peace Camp: Peace Campers Choose Love over Fear. Community VBS will take place June 22-26, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, 535 Forest Avenue. Please register at the site noted below (for both students and volunteers) and share this information with friends and family so that we will once again have a strong beloved community learning, growing, and worshipping together at this year's Community VBS.

Register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWtwT9Ym0-n-qQN3OMl1EmtrlPzzgRyr0Xsn1Wnk4rQLHCyw/viewform>

# Children & Youth Ministries

## **January & February Activity Recap**

In January and February, we joined The Collective (joint youth group events for FUMC, First Congregational UCC, and St. Mark's) for Glow in the Dark Floor Hockey at First Congregational and a Valentine's Day meal and youth group at St. Mark's. To learn more about opportunities to assist with youth group, please contact Pastor Laura.

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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.

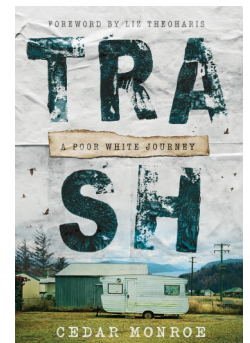
## **“Practicing Hope” study begins March 3—All are welcome, not just women!**

This is a United Women in Faith study but open to everyone! We will study Jesus' resurrection appearances and the example of early Christian communities to explore what it means to practice hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.

This 4-week study, led by Sally Grenzow and Cheryl Peters, will meet at church on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 p.m. beginning on March 3 and continuing March 10, 17, and 24. No book to purchase – just come and join us for discussions on a subject we all need right now: Hope!

## **United Women in Faith Book Group**

The book group will meet following worship on March 1 in the library to discuss *Trash: A Poor White Journey* by Cedar Monroe. “Activist and chaplain Cedar Monroe writes indelibly about and for poor white people: about unlearning the American dream, untangling from white supremacy, and working for liberation alongside other poor folks.”



On April 19 the book for discussion will be *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass.

## **Save the date! Monday, April 20, 6:00 p.m.**

All women are invited to a **Salad Supper and General Meeting** in the dining room at church. Bring a salad to share (but you'll be welcome even if you come without one). The program will be a speaker from DuPage P.A.D.S.: Michelle Rollins, Director of Corporate and Community Engagement.



United **Prayer and Self-Denial Offering**  
Women **The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children**  
in Faith

During this Lenten season, United Women in Faith, whose mission is to help women and children around the world, are encouraging you to designate some money to this special offering. Your donation will support National Mission Institutions (NMI), an umbrella organization that helps fund a wide number of agencies which aim to provide low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, and more. In many cases, these children and the NMI that serve them are particularly vulnerable due to recent changes in federal grants, placing many services at risk. State support has dropped and SNAP food cuts affect single mothers and parents with low income.



There are two NMI agencies in Illinois. Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana delivers residential treatment and resettlement support for unaccompanied minors. Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis provides early childhood education, employment & family support, and youth education & development.

Envelopes that are marked United Women in Faith are available for your donation with the Sunday bulletin or send it to FUMC with the check noted for UWF/Prayer & Self Denial. Put aside a few dollars each week and 100% of your donation will support the NMI programs.

Jesus emphasized care for the children. Matthew 18:5 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Thank you for your support of this offering!

### **Circle News**

United Women in Faith Circles are small groups of women that meet regularly to learn, pray, and support one another and the church. ***Circles always welcome any women interested!***

### **Hannah Circle**

Hannah Circle programs will continue for the next few months following lessons from the 2026 UWFaith resource "Mapping Our Way Forward." Our Tuesday, March 10 meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at Sara Johnson's home: 1201 Howard Circle, Wheaton (630-487-0187). On Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m., we meet at Elena Nichol's home, S23 Quail Run Court, Winfield (630-469-2238).

**Ruth Circle** Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, March 19, 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the home of Sally Grenzow, 2283 Hiram Drive, Wheaton (630-725-8890). Devotions will center on crosses. On Thursday, April 16, we will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Lisa Rivers, 17 E. Morningside, Lombard (630-476-6758).

**Martha/Sarah Circle** will meet Wednesday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m. at church.



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **Beyond our local church...**

#### **Assembly 2026: “Dream it! Believe it! Do it!”**

Assembly is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. It’s a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood. In 2026 it will take place May 15-17 in Indianapolis: register at [uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly).

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

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## **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.

**March – Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** This organization in IL and IA has staff and many volunteers who do a variety of tasks that help people in the US and around the world with health needs; disaster relief from floods, hurricanes, & tornados; and preparation of rice food bags. Ask Martha Blumer about it or visit <https://www.midwestmission.org/>.



**April – Walk-in Ministries:** The Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry is an ecumenical partnership of 15 congregations whose purpose is to assist Glen Ellyn residents who need financial assistance. Vouchers are available for gas, food, prescriptions, and rent. FUMC has an office to help walk-in people.

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## **God’s Garden**



Once again, we will be growing vegetables at God’s Garden at Lambert Park. Many hands are needed to make this a success. Please consider helping out watering, weeding, or harvesting during the summer. If there’s a vegetable that you haven’t seen in our bountiful harvest, let Lynne Nakashima know and we will try to fit it in our garden plot. It’s a blessing to see so many people assisting to help this Mission to help end hunger in DuPage County.

## Lent at First Church

There are many ways to get involved and renew your spirit during this Lenten season! Visit our website at <https://www.geumc.org/lent-2026> to learn more, and head over to our Events page at <https://www.geumc.org/events> to get more detail about all the wonderful things we have going on. Some events do require an RSVP, so please be sure to RSVP online if you are able to join.

Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors, too! We would love to welcome as many people as possible and share the love of Jesus.

A poster for Lent & Eastertide Events. On the left is a large black cross. In the top left corner is the logo for FUMC of GLEN ELLYN, which consists of a white cross with a star in the center and the text 'FUMC of GLEN ELLYN' to its right. The title 'Lent & Eastertide Events' is written in a purple cursive font at the top right. Below the title is a list of events in purple text: 2.15.26 | 11:30 a.m. - Mardi Gras Celebration & Potluck; 2.18.26 | 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service; 2.25-3.25.26 (Wednesdays) | 7 p.m. - Lenten Bible Study; 3.3-3.24.26 (Tuesdays) | 1:30 p.m. - UWFaith Lenten Study; 3.7.26 | 5 p.m. - Pastor Dave & Friends Concert & Supper; 3.13.26 | 5 p.m. - Feed My Starving Children Packing Session; 3.29.26 | 10:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service followed by Brunch; 4.3.26 | 7 p.m. - Good Friday Tenebrae Service; 4.5.26 | 10:30 a.m. - Easter Service with Egg Hunt! The background of the poster is a sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from orange to yellow to blue.

**FUMC of GLEN ELLYN**

### *Lent & Eastertide Events*

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## Green Team Ministries

### **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint**

Your carbon footprint measures the greenhouse gases generated by your daily actions. Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce it.

- Choose local foods and avoid food waste.
- Wash your laundry in cold water.
- Use reusable shopping bags.
- Use energy-efficient household devices and appliances.
- Keep your car tires properly inflated.
- Landscape with native plants and reduce grass turf.
- Avoid plastic.
- Walk, bike, or use public transportation.
- Opt for sustainable, well-made clothing.

# Community Concert

JOIN US FOR A

# COMMUNITY CONCERT

AND DINNER!

PERFORMANCES BY

**PASTOR DAVE  
& FRIENDS** | **7 MARCH 2026**  
5 PM CONCERT | 6 PM DINNER

Looking for a fun and free family-friendly event, complete with a delicious meal catered by Barones? Mark your calendars for an evening of great music and food just steps from downtown Glen Ellyn.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN  
424 FOREST AVE. | GLEN ELLYN, IL

[www.geumc.org](http://www.geumc.org) 630.469.3510

REGISTER HERE! →



## Permanent Endowment 2025 Update

Thanks to the generosity of those who have donated to the Permanent Endowment fund and strong financial stewardship of the Committee, \$121,887 in distributions from the fund's earnings were possible last year to support a variety of mission projects.

Those missions were: God's Garden, World Vision/Global, New Mover mailer program, National Back to Church marketing, Rummage Sale/Outreach, Community Outreach, Trustees/Building and Maintenance, Major Building Maintenance, Monthly Mission, and Mortgage debt reduction

If you wish to support the Permanent Endowment fund with your gift, please note that on your online donation or check. Thank you for your generosity so we can continue supporting our church, community, and world!

# 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!



## January 2026 Year to Date Financial Recap

### General Fund

Balance January 1, 2026	\$5,113	
Offerings and other income	\$23,163	
Transfer from Restricted Funds	\$1,000	
Expenses		\$41,448
<b>Fund Balance January 31, 2025</b>		<b>-\$12,172</b>

### Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund

Balance January 1, 2026	\$0	
Offerings	\$4,465	
Mortgage payments		\$9,202
<b>Fund Balance January 31, 2025</b>		<b>-\$4,737</b>

## Mission of the Month Donations \*\*

\*\* \$1000 per month is added to donations by a Permanent Endowment grant

January	People's Resource Center	\$1,230
December	Heifer International	\$20

### Year to date Donations

Glen House Food Pantry	\$10
Bridge Communities	\$75

<b>Thank you for your faithful and generous support of all of our ministries!</b>
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