

# *The Glen Ellyn Reporter*

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

*October 2023*

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## Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Fall is upon us and I must admit that it is one of my favorite seasons of the year. Being back in this area, Laura and I are looking forward to taking walks through Cantigny and the Morton Arboretum while viewing the changing colors of the leaves. Bike rides, apple picking, and camp fires in the fire pit while strumming my guitar are all on my upcoming agenda.

Two agenda items like I would like you to put on your October calendar are:

October 12—Annual Church Conference for Glen Ellyn UMC. SPRC committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 210 and then ALL church members are invited to join us at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room to meet with our District Superintendent as we discuss the past and future year in the life of our church. This will be a great opportunity to discuss vision and direction for the upcoming year and also an opportunity for questions. We might not have all the answers but at least we can be on the same page in seeking solutions.

October 22—Open House at the church parsonage, 1604 Wilmette St., Wheaton IL 60187 from 2-4 p.m. We will serve some drinks and snacks and give everyone a chance to tour the parsonage. A lot of work has been done to the parsonage recently and over the years, and I would like to give you the chance to see those changes. It will also give us a chance to get to know each other better in a more relaxed and informal setting. We have even been able to set up my father's pool table in the sun room which we have not been able to set up in the last two parsonages because of lack of space. So I will even be open to shooting a game or two with anybody who would like to play. I told you it was going to be more relaxed and informal. I hope you can join us for both events!

P.S. Save the date December 3 at 3 p.m. on your calendar and I will tell you more about the UM Advent event in the next newsletter.

Blessings!  
Pastor Dave

# Church & Social Action Committee

## Becoming The Beloved Community: Talking About Race in America

Saturday, October 28, 2023 ■ 9 AM – 1 PM

First United Methodist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL

A conversation to begin, re-focus, or deepen your  
anti-racism journey.

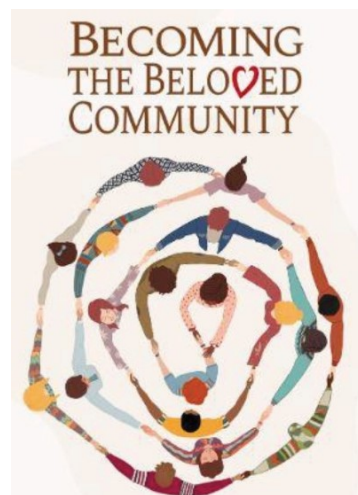
*Sponsored by the First UMC Church & Social Action Team*

### Our Focus:

- Understanding systems that underlie, support and nourish racism, from individual to institutional to policy, and their far-reaching consequences
- Exploring the harm of racism for ourselves and others

### Our Approach:

- Information-sharing and small group discussions
- Respectful and safe sharing about our own experiences
- Seeking common ground, not calling others out
- Connecting to the hurt and harm of racism on a human level
- Professionally facilitated



In-person workshop at First United Methodist Church

424 Forest Ave, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dr. Richard R. Guzman, facilitator, is professor emeritus at North Central College where he taught writing, literature, race/ethnicity, and social change, and is active in his family's foundation, Emmanuel House. He serves as a consultant on anti-racism initiatives for the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church and headed the committee that produced the Becoming the Beloved Community workshop.

Pre-registration is required no later than October 16.

Register at: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=763875&>

There is a registration fee of \$20.00, which includes light breakfast and lunch.

Have questions? Contact us at (630) 469-5267

*This workshop was developed by the Anti-Racism Task Force of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.*

# Children and Youth Ministries

## College Student Care Packages

Help us collect items for College Student Care Packages, and join us on October 15 after worship to pack them! When you go to the store, please pick up a few extra items (14 count) to share with our college students. Candy, sweet snacks, savory snack packets, fidgets, and school supplies are some ideas of what we like to include in the care packages. We will have refreshments in the Great Hall after worship for anyone who can stay a bit and help pack.

## Sleep Out Saturday Fundraiser for Bridge Communities

Saturday, November 4 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, November 5 at 7 a.m.

Youth in grades 5 and up are invited to join us as we construct sleeping quarters from tents and/or cardboard.

We will play games and make s'mores over the bonfire while learning about Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing program for unhoused families with children in DuPage County.

You can donate to support Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing program via our Youth Group's weblink: [https://](https://www.bridgecommunities.org/Sleep-out-Saturday/participant.html?Id=3351)

[www.bridgecommunities.org/Sleep-out-Saturday/participant.html?Id=3351](https://www.bridgecommunities.org/Sleep-out-Saturday/participant.html?Id=3351).

Alternatively, please see Pastor Laura if you'd like to donate via check or cash.



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## Memorial Scholarship Committee

If you'd like to aid members of our church in completing their college education, there's a new way to help!

Last month, our Scholarship Committee awarded \$7,800 to 11 students, with most of the money coming from funds already designated as "Memorials." Grants ranged from \$500 to \$1000+ – not a large amount for any student. Now, however, anyone can donate money to this cause monthly or occasionally via our church's giving site. Go to "Memorials: Scholarship Fund" at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2GY/home>. Every donation helps. Contact Pat Alstrin with any questions.

# Mission & Service

## Fall Food Drives for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry

October 15 will mark the date of our 2nd annual food drive for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Please pick up a bag the week before, fill it with non-perishable foods, and return it to Church on October 15. The Pantry has moved to a new location and is busy stocking their shelves. With the holiday season swiftly approaching, the need is there to meet the needs of the many people who frequent the Pantry. Thank you to those who filled bags for the Food Pantry in September. It would be most kind and generous if you would give one more time this year. Last year the Pantry distributed 866,000 pounds of food. The need is great to conquer hunger in DuPage County. Thank you.

Our September 24 drive was a great success! The pantry shared that the collective donations provided 320 pounds of food to restock the pantry's shelves. Let's try and beat that number in October so we can continue doing our part to "make hunger history!"



**Glen Ellyn**  
Food Pantry, Inc.  
*We moved!*

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry relocated to its new headquarters at 55 N. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL., on Aug. 7. The nearly 100-year-old former parsonage of Faith Lutheran Church has been completely transformed to a full pantry and warehouse. The move to a larger, dedicated building, is necessary to support the growing number of neighbors who live, work, or go to school in DuPage County and who rely on the Pantry for groceries and services.

**How can you help? Visit [www.GlenEllynFoodPantry.org](http://www.GlenEllynFoodPantry.org) to learn about making a donation, contributing groceries, volunteering and spreading the word.**





# Mission & Service

## October Mission of the Month

Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) has been around since 1857 in the greater Chicagoland area. MFS's mission has always been to provide the services needed to empower the families to learn, earn, and thrive in the community in which they live. Over the years, Metropolitan Family Services has reached out to help the very young and the old, with the end goal of helping families and individuals obtain a brighter future. MFS is an agency that helps families make sure their children (birth to three years of age) get a solid foundation. They have services for a professional to come into homes to partner with parents to help their children learn, grow, and thrive. MFS also has preschool programs for children birth to three, again giving the children a solid educational foundation and a support to the parents who have children enrolled. There are many ways you can support MFS: you can volunteer, attend a fundraising event, donate to Treasure House in Glen Ellyn, donate financially, and follow on social media.



metropolitan<sup>™</sup>  
family services

## God's Garden

God's Garden is wrapping up. There were many vegetables that were sold on Sunday mornings after our church services, and many items were also given to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. At this time, we have \$825 that will be given to the Food Pantry. There are still some items which should make our total even higher. Surely the clients of the Food Pantry are most appreciative. Thank you all for those that bought items each Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the "fruits" (or vegetables) of our labor. A big thank you goes to Cheryl Peters, Laura Antonelli, Jocelyn Cameola, Mary Jane Chapman, and Karen Littlefield. Your faithful service allowed our plants to grow and thrive this summer!! Thank you also to Laura Price who gifted us with the

lovely sign to mark the entrance to our garden. Thank you also to the Boy Scouts who brought the fencing over and set up the garden in May. Many hands make light work.





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.

In October:

General Meeting (for all women!): “Winds of Change” - Monday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. We all inevitably face changes, like it or not! One recent change was UMW becoming United Women in Faith. Let's take a look at how we respond to change.

We hope we can arrange rides if you don't drive at night. Watch for more information as the date approaches.

Pecan Sale: Illinois-grown, family-farmed fresh pecans will be available to order beginning October 29; the sign-up sheets will be posted on the hall bulletin board. Order either pieces or whole pecans, \$12 per 1-pound bag. We expect delivery in early December, subject to shipping availability.

*Save the date!*

Village Vocal Chords concert: Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A festive way to get into the holiday spirit! Bring friends! Tickets will be \$10, available in advance or at the door.

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



## Green Team Ministries

Here is a great idea for when your pumpkins have served the purpose of being a jack-o-lantern. You can recycle them in a good way by taking them to a Pumpkin Smash event. Composting them this way avoids landfill greenhouse gas emissions and, because pumpkins are actually 90% water, they help to produce a useful, nutrient-dense soil addition. So go to the Village Green Community Garden Plots in Glen Ellyn, 130 S. Lambert Rd next to the Village Green Baptist Church, where God's Garden is located. This is sponsored by the Glen Ellyn Park District on Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. This is an easy way to do something good for our environment!

Another wonderful, meaningful action you can take to help our environment is to refuse straws when you go to restaurants and drive through eateries. They aren't recyclable and jam up the recycling process machines. You can take your own reusable water bottle and show others that you are concerned about the environment.

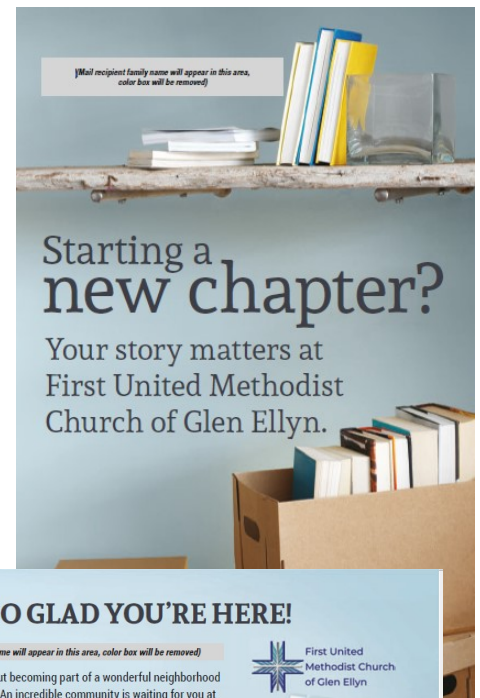
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## Outreach & Communications

We are in the midst of an exciting time at First Church! Thanks to grants from the Permanent Endowment Fund, we are able to reach out to our neighbors in new ways. We are doing social media advertising that helps people who may have never known we exist find our faith community.

Beginning in October, we will be mailing a personalized postcard to all new families who move into the area within a few mile radius of the church., inviting them to join us for worship, Sunday School, and PDO. As you see new faces, be sure to greet guests and help them feel welcome.

It is important to remember that as folks see our ads or receive our postcards, they are most likely going to do research about our church before they make the decision to attend worship or one of our events. Please take a few minutes to like and follow our Facebook and/or Instagram pages; like, comment on, and share our posts; and review our church on Google by visiting [https://g.page/r/CfXxH9g2QL4\\_EB0/review](https://g.page/r/CfXxH9g2QL4_EB0/review). These small efforts have a huge impact!





# Finance Committee

## August 2023 Year to Date Financial Recap

### General Fund

Balance January 1, 2023	\$0	
Offerings and other income	\$219,545 **	
Expenses		\$312,028
Fund Balance August 31, 2023		-\$92,483

### Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund

Balance January 1, 2023	\$0	
Offerings	\$36,304	
Mortgage payments		\$73,617
Fund Balance August 31, 2023		-\$37,313

## Mission of the Month Donations

January	People's Resource Center	\$340
February	PATH	\$810
March	NAMI	\$265
April	Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$355
May	Teen-Parent Connection	\$310
June	DuPage Habitat for Humanity	\$450
July	Scarce	\$325
August	Humanitarian Service Project	\$150
December	Heifer International	\$100

### Year to date Donations

Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	\$565
Umcors	\$450
Six in One Offering	\$20

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

\*\* \$31,576 Permanent Endowment grant to be received for Building Maintenance