

THE GLEN ELLYN REPORTER



News from First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn, IL

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family & Friends,

While we used to wait until after Labor Day for schools to start, they are already back in session. Summer is winding down and folks are trying to get back into the swing of the new school year. We will be having our Fall Kick-Off Sunday on Sunday, September 13. Sunday School and Choirs will be returning, and we are going to be having a few summer treats after the service that day. I won't get into specifics but I am hoping for a cherry or orange-flavored treat. Pastor Laura has more information about this if you want to ask her.



I also want you to put 2 special dates down on your calendar: September 20 and October 25, both with events happening at 7 p.m.

September 20: A special evening worship service with Rev. Dr. James Shannon speaking and special gospel/praise choirs performing. Pastor Shannon is from Peoples Community Church in Glen Ellyn and is a board member, along with myself, of our Interfaith Prayer Breakfast (which will take place on October 28 this year). He will speak on his encounters with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Alabama and other prominent figures in the Civil Rights Movement. I have enjoyed sitting in his office and listening to stories of the history that he has witnessed. He will share some of these stories from our pulpit, and the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of Coretta and Dr. King is not something to be missed. You may want to invite a friend.

October 25: In September, Dirty Dan & The Boyzz are going to be inducted into the Illinois Rock & Roll Museum's Hall of Fame along with Survivor (*Eye of the Tiger*). You can still find videos on Youtube of Meatloaf introducing Dirty Dan's band back at the Chicago International Amphitheater in the late 70s where he also opened for Aerosmith, Mott the Hoople, Sammy Hagar, etc. He is a friend, and I recently saw him open for Danny Seraphine (the original drummer for Chicago) at the Arcada Theater in St. Charles. I asked him if he would be willing to play at our church in Glen Ellyn sometime in 2026 and he said YES! After making many phone calls and herding cats, the end result is that my band, STEAL RHYTHM, is going to open for his band for a rockin' concert on Sunday, October 25 at 7 p.m. with ice cream sundaes to follow in the Dining Hall. We will take a freewill offering, and 50% will go to the Glen House Food Pantry. There is talk of having the 2 bands do an encore together of AMAZING GRACE! Wouldn't THAT make for a great video to be shared?

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Children & Youth Ministries

Kickoff Sunday - September 13, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School resumes for the program year! Join us for Youth Sunday School (5th grade and up) in the Dining Room on Sundays from 9:30-10:15 a.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month we will hold Sunday School in the Nursery for PreK through 2nd Graders.

NIC Fall Youth Retreat - September 25-27

Our congregation is excited to participate in the NIC (Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church) Fall Youth Retreat for middle and high school students from September 25-27 at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy, WI.

Cost: \$180, with a \$50 non-refundable deposit

Theme: "Love Does" based on 1 Corinthians 13:13 and Wesley's 3 Simple Rules

The Youth Retreat will feature programming from Friday at 7 p.m. through Sunday at 11 a.m. Youth can look forward to three modern worship and teaching sessions, small-group discussions, devotional time, two campfires, and a variety of activities including fishing, zip-lining, axe throwing, and access to the science center, creating a fun and faith-filled weekend of connection, adventure, and spiritual growth.

Youth and adult chaperones, register here by September 7:

<https://niumc-reg.brtapp.com/2026NICFallYouthRetreat>



Voyage Youth Group

Voyage Youth is a joint youth group (6th-12th grades) of St. Mark's Episcopal and FCCGE, and FUMC youth are always invited to attend!

Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m: September 16 (FCCGE), 23 (St. Mark's), 30 (FCCGE); October 7 (FCCGE), 14 (St. Mark's), 21 (FCCGE), and 28 (St. Mark's).

Youth nights include food, activities, small groups and prayer.

FCCGE is located at [535 Forest Ave, Glen Ellyn](#).

St. Mark's is located at [393 N Main St, Glen Ellyn](#).

Save the Date: Sleep Out Saturday

This year's Sleep Out Saturday takes place November 7, 5 p.m.-November 8, 7 a.m. FUMC will host youth and adult chaperones from St. Mark's and FCCGE for sleeping outside in the Courtyard. We plan to attend the rally at COD, play games, and make treats over the campfire.

Donations benefit Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program.

Mission & Service



September: Red Bird Mission

This Appalachian mission has been supported by the UM Church for many years. It is in an isolated, rural distressed area with chronic poverty, lack of jobs, and poor housing. The mission has a school, helps people with their health issues, has a food program, and works on improving homes. United Women in Faith had a speaker recently that talked about the important work that volunteers and churches do to support this mission. JoAnn & Fred Foss and their daughter, Pam Manzke, traveled there some years ago to do mission work so ask them about it.

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.

October: Metropolitan Family Services



This organization gives low income families access to job training, education, mental health services, career & family counseling, transportation and childcare. Services also include a domestic abuse shelter. Talk with Pat Alstrin or Michele Tews about the good work this organization does in our community.

Little Lambs Learning Center

Little Lambs starts again on September 8! Spots are still available for families seeking a nurturing, flexible program for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

Unlike a typical preschool, Little Lambs offers four hours of learning, play, growth, and confidence-building in a caring environment. Families can choose the days that work best for their schedules, making it easier to find the right fit.



Little Lambs Learning Center

Little Lambs is also seeking substitutes. If you enjoy working with children and would like an occasional opportunity to earn extra money, please contact Stephanie to be added to our sub pool:
pdo@geumc.org.



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 always invited – no one has to be a member or a regular attender of this church to participate in any UWFaith activity.

United Women in Faith Sunday at FUMC – September 20

United Women in Faith will lead the service. Our guest speaker will be Erica McIntosh, a Certified Lay Speaker and active member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Carol Stream. She serves St. Andrew as Chair of Stewardship and Finance and shares her love of music through the chancel choir, bell choir, and praise band. She is currently pursuing certification as a Certified Lay Minister and serves on the Northern Illinois Annual Conference Planning Committee as a representative of United Women in Faith. Most recently, Erica led the Practicing Hope study at Mission u. Beyond the church, Erica is a wife, mother, and foster parent who seeks to live out her faith through service, hospitality, and care for others. Her message for us will be “I Can Do It.”



Circle News

Hannah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Any woman interested is always welcome at Hannah meetings!

September 8: We will meet in the dining room of the church.

October 13: meet at the home of Cheryl Peters, 322 Miller Ct., Glen Ellyn

Need information or a ride? Contact Barb Doppelt at b.k.doppelt@gmail.com or call/text 630-272-7577.

Ruth Circle will be studying the Gospel of John during the fall meetings. All women are invited to join our meetings and the study of this fourth synoptic gospel. Read the whole book and take notes and questions.

Thursday, September 17, at 1:30 p.m., we will meet at the home of Sally Grenzow, 2283 Hiram Dr, Wheaton (630-725-8890).

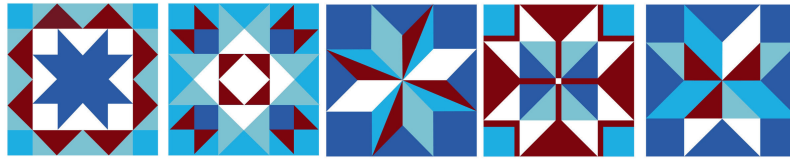
Thursday, October 15, 1:30 p.m., meet at the home of Lisa Rivers, 17 E Morningside Ave, Lombard.

Questions? Contact Sally Grenzow.

Martha/Sarah Circle will meet on the last Wednesday of September (Sept. 30), at 10:00 a.m. in the church dining room. Contact: Pat Alstrin (630-363-6949).

United Women in Faith Book Group

On Sunday, October 18, the United Women in Faith Book Group will discuss Highway of Tears by Canadian journalist Jessica McDiarmid. The book is a “true story of racism, indifference and the pursuit of justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.” Meet in the library following worship. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book.



General Meeting: Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.

General meetings are sponsored by United Women in Faith but open to anyone, including your friends. Our guest speaker on October 19, Erin Fairhead, will present the program: "The History of American Quilts," including information on the development of quilts and quilting in the United States. You are welcome to bring a quilt to display – label it with your name, the pattern name, and when it was completed, if you know. This will be a fascinating program, so come and bring a friend! We will have a very short business meeting and serve refreshments.

Beyond Our Local Church

Prairie Central District Annual Celebration, Saturday, September 19

Crystal Lake: First Church, 236 W. Crystal Lake Ave., Crystal Lake, IL

8:30 Check-in & Breakfast Fellowship

9:30 Program Events & Worship

Let's help with their mission collection: Socks for Toddlers to Teens (socks will be donated to Kids In Need of McHenry County)

Look for a Box for Socks at our church or bring sock donations to a circle meeting no later than Friday, September 19. Our women who attend the gathering will deliver them!

If you would like to attend the district celebration, please register via Google form <https://forms.gle/zQbwRHgZT8N7EbfU9> or return the form via email or USPS mail.

United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual Celebration

All Together in Perfect Harmony: Nurturing Communities with Love

Save the date – Saturday, October 24

This one is close by: Downers Grove FUMC, 1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove
Details to come.

Fall Kickoff Sunday

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday, September 13 for our Fall Kickoff! Sunday School resumes and Chancel Choir returns to start off our program year. We'll even have a sweet treat in the courtyard after worship to fellowship and celebrate the start to another wonderful season at First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn. See you there!



Church & Social Action Committee

Three members of the Church & Social Action committee (Martha Blumer, Elena Nichol, and Barb Skarha) recently were privileged to participate in the Illinois Pilgrimage coordinated by the Northern Illinois Conference Commission on Religion & Race, Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Global Ministries, and other partners and sponsors. In total, approximately 30 people from the Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers, and Wisconsin Conferences participated in this exciting and inspirational trip across 4 days in June.



- Day 1 was comprised of a visit to several south side Chicago locations including the Pullman National Historical Park, the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Obama Presidential Center, the historic Greenstone United Methodist Church, and Humboldt Park UMC which has a ministry focus on new immigrants (with which St. Thomas UMC had partnered for several years).
- Day 2 included an overview of North Central College's role in civil rights activities, the Lincoln-Douglas debate site in Ottawa, and the El Paso IL Voting Rights Museum.
- Day 3 focused on Abraham Lincoln's legacy with visits to Lincoln's Presidential Library, the Springfield African American History Museum, and his grave site at Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- Day 4 began with a Methodist worship service in East St. Louis, IL and a delicious lunch provided by church members, then travel to the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site to explore the indigenous history of the region.

To quote Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai in a post-trip message (7/3/26), "Throughout our trip, we highlighted the ways in which our democracy and our way of life have been founded upon principles of equality, shared participation and common wisdom. These are values that comport with our Christian faith. Indeed, the trip used the book *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny* as a primary focus. As the book notes, 'The equality that democracy seeks reflects our conviction that all people are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27).' The broad participation democracy requires honors our belief that God "so loved the world" that divine grace extends to all people (John 3:16). The shared wisdom democracy assumes recognizes that each person, as an image-bearer of God, has insights to contribute to the common good."



Green Team Ministries



The Village of Glen Ellyn is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan to guide priorities and decision-making from 2026 through 2030. We strongly encourage you to contact Village leadership and let them know that environmental sustainability is important to you!

Here's a suggested email (provided by Go Green Glen Ellyn), but feel free to write in your own words.

I support the Village's recent additions of climate resiliency, as well as other actions to reduce our environmental impacts, to the 2026-2030 strategic plan. Environmental sustainability is important to my quality of life in Glen Ellyn because _____ (Insert your reason here)_____.

Additionally, having an overall sustainability plan for the Village of Glen Ellyn is important in order for the Village to take steps to reduce environmental impacts and create a community that is safe and healthy for all residents. I also encourage Village leadership to prioritize finalizing a Village sustainability plan with measurable goals.

God's Garden

God's Garden started off in June with a great promise for a bountiful harvest. Then came July with record rainfall and record heat. The Garden suffered tremendously. Our tomato plants didn't flower and the peppers mildewed on the stem, but we still were able to give some vegetables to the Glen House Food Pantry. We estimate that we will be able to donate close to \$600 to the Food Pantry, as well. Many thanks to Chris Cizek, Cheryl Peters, Sara Johnson, Dave and Laura Price, as well as four members from the Faith Church who were weekly waterers and garden tenders. Those many hands made the garden work much easier. Let's hope that next year brings us more seasonal weather to help our garden grow so we can continue to provide a food ministry to our neighbors.

Community Rummage Sale - Fall 2026

Donation Drop off dates and times:

Sunday, September 20 from 12-5 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, September 21- 24 from 3-7 p.m. Please note that items must be delivered during these times.

Sale Date and Time – One day only – Saturday, September 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information and a list of charities and groups participating and benefiting from this Community Wide Event, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/communityrummagesale or on our Websites at www.CommunityRummageSale.com or www.geumc.org.

Interested in volunteering and/or allowing us to place a Yard Sign in your yard for a few short weeks? Please email Jason Tews at jasonmtews@gmail.com or sign up in the Narthex.



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 below 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!



July 2026 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund	
Balance January 1, 2026	\$5,113
Offerings and other income	\$196,571
Transfer from Restricted Funds	\$7,000
Expenses	\$245,334
Fund Balance July 31, 2026	-\$36,650
Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund	
Balance January 1, 2026	\$0
Offerings	\$32,953
Mortgage payments	\$64,415
Fund Balance July 31, 2026	-\$31,462

Mission of the Month Donations **

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

January	People's Resource Center	\$1,230
February	McKee House Preservation	\$1,400
March	Midwest Mission	\$1,335
April	Walk In Ministry	\$1,687
May	We Grow Dreams	\$1,277
June	Glen House Food Pantry	\$1,420
July	SCARCE	\$1,365
December	Heifer International	\$20

Year to date Donations

Glen House Food Pantry	\$385
Bridge Communities	\$525
CROP Hunger Walk	\$2,705
UMCOR	\$25

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