November & December 2026

THE GLEN ELLYN REPORTER

News from First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn, IL

Pastor's Pen



Dear Church Family & Friends,

I am writing this newsletter on Oct. 20, and just two days ago, Laura and I visited the Morton Arboretum to view the changing colors of the leaves. We were hopeful as we pulled up to the entrance because there was one beautiful tree turning orange. But once we got past the visitor's center, there were only about 3 other trees that had turned colors. All the rest were green and looked the same way they did last month. There are more colors in the trees in my neighborhood than at the Arboretum, but I am sure it is just a matter of time. Laura and I will give the Arboretum another try in a week or so.

That being said, it seems strange to be writing a letter about Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, but this year seems to be going by very quickly.

4 dates to put on your calendar:

November 15 - Our Friendsgiving Dinner put on by Horeb Church will be in the Great Hall at 6 p.m. This is an annual event of fine fellowship and food as we join together to give thanks to God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

December 6 - Annual UM Prairie District Advent Concert at 3 p.m. This event promises to be even bigger than the previous years as I already have almost all of the performance slots filled. Also, churches new to the event have already communicated that they will join us for the first time. It doesn't hurt that our District Superintendent has been promoting this event at her church charge conferences and in the district-wide newsletter.

December 13 - Annual Choir Christmas Cantata in the morning and a special ballroom holiday dancing event later in the day in the Great Hall. Laura and I have been taking dance lessons from this group who work with the GE Park District, and they are going to offer a lesson and dancing from 4-7 p.m. at our church. I bet somehow there will even be some holiday treats available to give you energy for the dancing. ALL skill levels are invited, unless you are Fred and Ginger. (Did I just date myself?)

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. Pre-service Christmas hymns will begin at 7 p.m. I will also lead a Christmas Eve service at Faith UMC Lombard at 6 p.m. as another option for your family that evening.

This will be a busy time once again but also one that I look forward to enjoying as I soon will be listening to Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Andy Williams, and Karen Carpenter welcoming in the Advent season. I did it again, didn't I?

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Children & Youth Ministries

Pastor Laura, her son, and a friend attended the NIC Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Timber-Lee in East Troy, WI. Approximately fourty youth and adult leaders attended on a beautiful fall weekend (Sept. 25-27). Pastor Laura, Pastor Sharon Rice, and Ben Hallett each gave a message on the Three Simple Rules of John Wesley and how they are rooted in God's love for God, oneself, and neighbor. We had wonderful worship music, lots of fun free time, and bonfires. The next NIC fall youth retreat weekend will be Oct. 1-3, 2027 at East Bay Camp, a UMC camp in Hudson, IL near Bloomington/Normal.

November 1, after worship: College Student Care Packages

Help us collect items for College Student Care Packages!

When you go to the store, please pick up a few extra items (3 count) to share with our college students. Candy, sweet snacks, savory snack packets, granola bars, fidgets, and school supplies are some ideas of what we like to include in the care packages. Also a perfect use for leftover Halloween candy! We will pack the boxes after worship on Sunday, November 1.

Sleep Out Saturday (SOS): November 7, 4:30 p.m.

Join us to raise funds for Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program for families with children.

Youth and adult leaders from FCCGE and St. Mark's will join us to sleep in the courtyard in tents or cardboard box shelters, attend the SOS rally at COD, make snacks over the campfire, and watch a movie outside. We will wrap up with McDonald's breakfast and clean-up, departing for home around 7 a.m. This year it is NOT the time change weekend! Youth in grades 5 and up are welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Laura.
Below is our group link for donating to Bridge Communities. Thank you for your support!
https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/participant.html?Id=4660

Kids Above All Holiday Gift Drive

We will be supplementing sponsored youth for the Kids Above All (KAA) holiday gift drive by collecting $10-20 giftcards for middle through high school students, such as Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Five Below, Target, and/or Walmart. We welcome your giftcard donations to support youth in the KAA programs. The last day to turn in giftcard donations is December 13 in the morning so we can bring all giftcards to the KAA distribution center.
We will be volunteering in the distribution room in Des Plaines once again this year on Sunday, December 13, 12:30-2 p.m., heading there after worship. Please RSVP to Pastor Laura if you can join us for this volunteer shift. Thank you for your support!

Family Nativity Pageant

Children, youth, and family members of all ages are invited to participate in our no-rehearsal Family Nativity Pageant during worship on Sunday, December 6. That morning starting at 9:30 a.m., we will provide simple costumes and instructions. Contact Pastor Laura if your family can participate!

Voyage Youth Group

Voyage youth group, a joint youth group for St. Mark's & FCCGE, and FUMC is invited, continues most Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. November 4 at FCCGE, November 18 at FCCGE, November 25 at St. Mark's, December 2 at FCCGE, December 9 at St. Mark's, and December 16 at FCCGE. Voyage youth group is for 6^{th}-12^{th} graders and includes food, activities, small groups, and prayer.

Mission & Service

November: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

This United Methodist fund provides swift aid & long-term recovery after natural or human caused disasters like war & famine. Essentials provided include food, water, shelter, & hygiene kits. Visit https://umcmission.org/work/humanitarian-relief to learn more.

UMCOR

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.

December: DuPage PADS

DuPagePads

The DuPage PADS organization provides a safe place to sleep in their interim housing center, a converted hotel which can house 200 people. This location provides meals for people as well as job training, GED classes, and assistance for children. Local churches and organizations lend their support. Visit https://dupagepads.org/ to learn more.

Volunteering at DuPage PADS

On October 5, 13 members of FUMC and 2 from Faith church served meals to 200 or more people at DuPage PADS. All are eager to serve again.







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.

Pecans!



United Women in Faith will once again sponsor a pecan sale for your holiday baking and eating. Please sign up on the hallway bulletin board by November 25 and indicate which kind you would like - PIECES or HALVES. The price will once again be $12 for a one-pound package. These pecans are grown in southern Illinois, so we are supporting our Illinois farmers. This is a fundraiser for our Mission giving to women, children, and youth. We appreciate your support! Questions? Contact Sally at 630-725-8890.

Circle News

What are circles, you ask? Small groups of women who come together for fellowship, study, prayer, and support for one another and the church.

Hannah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All women are always invited to any Hannah Circle gathering! Watch bulletins or contact Barb Doppelt (b.k.doppelt@gmail.com) for details of any meeting.
November 10 – Meet at the home of Ann Robinson for a program led by Sara Johnson from the 2026 UWFaith program book.
December 8 will be a Christmas cookie exchange at the home of Elena Nichol.

Ruth Circle will meet **Thursday, November 19**, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Sally Grenzow in Wheaton. Devotions will center on the Gospel of John.
No date is set yet for a December gathering, but a holiday party is a possibility. Watch the Sunday bulletins.
Ruth Circle is open to any interested woman. Contact Sally Grenzow with questions: 630-725-8890.

Stitches for Mission

Stitches for Mission is undergoing a transformation: this important ministry will become a cottage industry of sorts. While we have enjoyed gathering as a group in the past, it is time to look to other ways to share our gifts. People around the country and the world are still in need of warmth and love.

The current stash of yarn, fabric, patterns and instructions, and sewing supplies is available to persons who would like to sew or knit items for donation. Anyone is also welcome to provide their own supplies. In the past the group has donated to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Leelanau Christian Neighbors, chemo caps, and prayer shawls within our own congregation. We plan to keep an ongoing list of donation sites and sharing opportunities. Please contact the church office or Jackie Anderson to indicate your interest in participating in the home-style "Stitches for Mission."



NOVEMBER: A month for reflection, giving thanks, and offering 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 2026 Gratitude Giving Guide
Week 1 – Family: For every sibling, child, grandchild, niece, or nephew, donate $1.00.
Week 2 – Shelter: For every home you have lived in, donate $.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	Northern Illinois Food Bank
DuPage PADS	UMCOR
Appalachia Service Project	Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Feed My Starving Children	Walk-In Ministry

...and many other causes!

Please return your offering on or before December 6 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 afresh on you. 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.

The United Women in Faith of First United Methodist Church
424 Forest Avenue
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Church & Social Action Committee



On September 13, the Church & Social Action Committee led a prayer vigil after worship to recognize the plight of immigrants. After the introduction below, we shared a litany and closed by singing “Let There Be Peace On Earth” with Pastor Dave playing guitar.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR PRAYER VIGIL
Today United Methodists throughout Northern Illinois are taking time to show that we welcome everyone who sojourns among us.
Leviticus 19:33-34 says, “when aliens live with you in your land do not mistreat them. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt.”

We are a nation of immigrants, migrants, and refugees.
We come from around the world; whether across national borders, state lines, or city boundaries.
We have arrived by various means; whether by boat, train, plane, or by foot.
We have arrived at different times; whether prehistory, the 17th century, or last year.
We have come for different reasons; whether economic, poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, earthquakes, or severe impact of climate issues.
We come speaking many different languages; as reflected by our peace pole.
We come with a moving van, a suitcase, or only the clothes that we wear.
We arrived as strangers only to become neighbors.

As United Methodists we firmly declare in our social principals that we are called to actively welcome the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us:

- Affirming the dignity, worth, and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence, and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support to them including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment, and other kinds of support.
- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.
- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees including minor children.

(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, The Political Community Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees)

Green Team Ministries

It's everything pumpkin season! Pumpkins are 90% water and through composting, all those nutrients can be retained and put back into our soil. Many locations are hosting Pumpkin Smash events on Saturday, November 7. It's a fun way to dispose of your pumpkins while keeping them out of landfills.

Here are the locations in our area (for more locations, visit SCARCE's website at https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins/):

- Glen Ellyn: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Hillside Parking Lot, 393 N. Main St Saturday, Nov 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Glen Ellyn: Community Gardens at Village Green Park, 130 S. Lambert Road Saturday, Nov 7, 9-11 a.m. (Glen Ellyn Park District)
- Wheaton: Commuter Parking Lot #9, Corner of W. Liberty and S. Carlton Saturday, Nov 7, 9 a.m-12 p.m. (Environmental Improvement Commission)
- Wheaton: DuPage County Campus, 421 N. County Farm Rd, Friday, Nov 13, 12-3 p.m. (DuPage County Environmental Committee)

There will be an additional pumpkin smash at SCARCE in Addison from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, November 28 for those decorative pumpkins that last through Thanksgiving.

Advent 2026 at FUMC

Be on the lookout for information on our social media and website for Advent events! Let's make this Advent a time of welcoming neighbors and friends to participate in events and worship with us. The season kicks off with our Annual Prairie Central District Concert on December 6.



Permanent Endowment Fund

We are proud to have supported the Glenbard West High School Choir and their guests, the Hadley Junior High Choir, as GWHS hosted their Fall concert at FUMC. Choirs not only love the sounds that flow through the space, but they also benefit from a grant subsidy to cover the rent from the church's Permanent Endowment Fund. We are grateful for the opportunity to support our community and are honored to welcome so many guests into our sanctuary.



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!

September 2026 Year to Date Financial Recap

	General Fund		
	Balance January 1, 2026	$5,113	
	Offerings and other income	$245,390	
	Transfer from Restricted Funds	$8,500	
	Expenses		$310,518
	Fund Balance September 30, 2026		**-$51,516**
	Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund		
	Balance January 1, 2026	$0	
	Offerings	$45,881	
	Transfer from Permanent Endowment	$25,000	
	Mortgage payments		$82,819
	Fund Balance September 30, 2026		**-$11,938**

Mission of the Month Donations **

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

January	People's Resource Center	$1,430
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	$1,590
August	Humanitarian Service Project	$1,695
September	Red Bird Mission	$1,458
December	Heifer International	$20

Year to date Donations

	Glen House Food Pantry	$1,280
	Bridge Communities	$875
	CROP Hunger Walk	$2,705
	UMCOR	$225

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