



The Glen Ellyn Reporter

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

May/June 2026

Pastor's Pen

March Madness (college basketball playoffs) may be over, but our spring schedule for youth events is still in full-court press mode!

We have been enjoying a spring Confirmation class with four youth in 8th and 9th grades. We will have 6 class sessions in total, along with participation in CROP Walk. We are using the United Methodist-approved curriculum, *Confirm*. We've discussed many topics, including our belonging to God and to Christian community, Church history from Jesus' time to the spread of Methodism in the US, Holy Communion and Baptism, our Social Principles, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, spiritual gifts, and more! Pastor Dave and I have joked that perhaps we should have a Confirmation mini-course for any interested adults in the congregation! Please join us in worship on Sunday, May 31 to celebrate our Confirmands and stay for a cake reception.

We are busy planning and preparing for both our ASP (Appalachia Service Project) summer mission trip and Community VBS (Vacation Bible School). We are working during Week One of ASP's summer schedule this year, so we will be on the early side, leaving June 6 and returning on June 13. For this, our congregation's 53rd trip with ASP, we have been assigned to Leslie County, KY. We were last there in 2008. We are once again partnering with St. Mark's Episcopal and First Congregational UCC, and, so far, we have 23 youth and adult leaders committed to the trip.

This year's ASP national theme is "Love Your Neighbor," based on Romans 12: 12-13. "*Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.*" Jane Cheema, Director of Spiritual Programs at ASP, writes "In a world that often feels hurried and divided, choosing to serve our neighbors—near or far—reminds us that kindness is powerful, connection is possible, and love is meant to be lived out loud."

Our Community VBS theme this year is a complementary one—"Peace Camp: Peace Campers Choose Love Over Fear." Community VBS will be Monday through Friday, June 22 -26 at First Congregational UCC, Glen Ellyn. There will be a strong emphasis on storytelling this year. Of course, we will have music for Gathering Time, led by myself and Pastor Dave (on Tuesday through Thursday), so come join us about 8:40 a.m. if you want to sing along!

After all this, you may not see me much in July. I'll be resting, joyfully singing VBS songs in my backyard hammock!

Blessings,
Pastor Laura

Children & Youth Ministries

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: ASP Plant Sale Pick-up at St. Mark's upper parking lot. ASP participants are asked to volunteer from 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday May 3, 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Nursery: Final Pre-K/K/1st Sunday School class for this program year. Our younger ones are invited to join us one Sunday a month for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade Sunday School class. We have a Bible lesson with lots of hands-on activities (songs, crafts, games, sensory bins, etc.). After May 3, we will take a break for the summer and resume in September.

Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.: ASP Training Workshop for youth and adults participating in the ASP mission trip. We will learn about the 3 S's of ASP: Sensitivity, Stewardship, and Safety, as well as rules and regulations.

Sunday, May 31 during worship: Confirmation Sunday. Join us as we celebrate our youth, Natalie Curran, Will Curran, Emma Galey, and Devon Schraegle, who will have completed Confirmation class. We will enjoy a reception with cake after worship.

Thursday, June 4, 6-7:30 p.m.: ASP Spirit Night family picnic at Churchill Woods Picnic Shelter

Saturday, June 6 to Saturday, June 13: Youth mission trip to ASP (Appalachia Service Project). Our team of 23 from FUMC, St. Mark's, & First Congregational UCC, will serve through home repair with ASP in Leslie County, KY.

Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.: Community Vacation Bible School held at First Congregational UCC (535 Forest Ave.). Our theme for this year is: **"Peace Camp: Peace Campers Choose Love Over Fear."** We continue to be in need of volunteers for before, during, and after VBS. We are also accepting donations of VBS supplies to help keep costs down. Please see eNotes or ask Pastor Laura for items that are needed.



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.

Twenty women enjoyed a delicious assortment of salads and desserts on April 20 at our spring **Salad Supper and General Meeting**. Erica Whelan, a staff member from DuPage Pads (formerly P.A.D.S. – Public Action to Deliver Shelter), presented the program. She highlighted the wide range of vital support services that Pads provides to positively change the lives of formerly homeless people in our county. UWFaith members helped Erica fill her car with donations for Pads clients.



United Circle News Women in Faith

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 will meet on Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Mary Holland's home, 10 Lakewood Circle, St. Charles (630-267-4321). Sara Johnson will lead a program from the UWFaith 2026 program book, *Mapping Our Way Forward*.

On Tuesday, June 9, Hannah Circle will meet at the home of Martha Scatterday, 27W121 Timber Creek Dr., Winfield (630-373-1007). We will decide at the May meeting whether we might have a potluck or cookout on June 9, so the time and details are still to come. We look forward to reports from several women who will have attended Assembly 2026 May 15-17 in Indianapolis.

No specific plans are made yet, but Hannah members hope to get together several times during the summer – out in nature, out for ice cream, doing a service project at church... Stay tuned!

Ruth Circle Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, May 21, 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the home of Sally Grenzow, 2283 Hiram Drive, Wheaton (630-725-8890).

Martha/Sarah Circle will meet Wednesday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. at church.

Neither Ruth nor Martha/Sarah Circles will meet during the summer.

United Women in Faith Book Group

On Sunday, June 14, the United Women in Faith Book Group will discuss "*The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*" by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. This book explores one of the most sought after and least understood elements of human nature – hope. We will meet in the church library following worship. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book.

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. We look forward to hearing from those who attended!

Summer Mission U – Save the dates!

Weekend event: July 10-12 at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon, IL.

One-day event: Date and location still to be determined.

Mission U will explore the theme "Experiencing Emmanuel," focusing on times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us." The two studies for adults are "A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel through Every Part of Our Lives" and "God with Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives." There will also be a study for children. Watch eNotes and bulletins for more information.

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.



May – We Grow Dreams: This West Chicago Greenhouse & Garden Center is the monthly mission for May. It is a nonprofit that offers job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. You can provide support by purchasing their beautiful plants for indoors, gardens, & flower beds or by making a monetary gift. Include a note with your donation in the offering plate, and know that monies collected support the center as they deliver their wonderful mission. To learn more, chat with Barb Doppelt (who volunteers alongside her son), or visit <https://wegrowdreams.org/>.

June – Glen House Food Pantry: We continue to actively support the Glen House Food Pantry in Glen Ellyn with our offerings and donating actual food items which can be placed in the basket at the Forest Avenue entrance. Be sure to mark your checks and/or cash with a note for the June monthly mission. This local nonprofit provides essential groceries at no cost to people at risk of hunger. And God's Garden helps to supply fresh food to the Pantry frequently during the summer & fall. Other churches in the area support this food pantry, too. Ask Lynne Nakashima & Mary Jane Chapman about details or visit <https://www.glenhousefoodpantry.org/>.



God's Garden



It's Spring!! We will begin planting by the middle of May. Tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, peppers, and herbs will be in the garden growing with the warm spring weather. Anyone still able and willing to help water and tend to the garden would be greatly appreciated; contact Lynne Nakashima at



lynnenakashima@gmail.com. Please stop by and visit the garden on Lambert Road. We are opposite the basketball courts.

Church & Social Action Committee

The United Methodist Church Northern Illinois Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) organized their third annual Springfield Advocacy Day for April 15, 2026. This year, three members of the Church and Social Action Committee—Martha Blumer, Nancy Calhoun, and Barb Skarha—joined with about 40 other church members (including a group from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference) at the Illinois Capitol. Our purpose was to advocate for public policy that aligned with the UMC Social Principles.



The three of us met with our state Representative Margaret DeLaRosa in the morning and our state Senator Laura Ellman in the afternoon. Our discussions focused on current legislation that addressed environmental concerns, food justice, support for immigrants, and youth education and empowerment.

In addition to these meetings, we also gathered with other people of faith to pray in the Capitol rotunda, toured the Capitol building, and ended the day with a vigil at the foot of the Lincoln statue on the steps of the Capitol. There we sang, chanted, and prayed for justice for all.

In these challenging times, we are grateful for the opportunity to join with others in meaningful dialog and action.

We thank those on our Church and Social Action Committee, led by Cheryl Peters, for their encouragement and support. Contact Cheryl if you are interested in learning more about the committee which meets the first Tuesday of the month via zoom.



The day ended at the Lincoln Statue, moving into a time of vigil and prayer. Photo by Fernando Fuentes.

Our closing prayer at the end of our vigil was a beautiful conclusion for this trip as well as a call to continue the work:

Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind,
and sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.
Amen.

Church & Social Action Committee

Vital Conversations on Immigration Study

Join the Church & Social Action Committee for a five-week study from the General Commission on Religion and Race. The course looks at the immigration issue as it is addressed in scriptural teaching and United Methodist principles.

We will meet on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in conference room 210. The first class will be Sunday, May 31, and the final class will be Sunday, June 28. Each class begins with a video followed by discussion questions.

Immigration is not merely a political issue—it is a theological and spiritual matter deeply rooted in our Christian faith. The United Methodist Church has spoken clearly on this matter. Our Social Principles affirm:

“We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees... We challenge policies that call for the separation of families... and we oppose the existence of for-profit detention centers for such purposes.”

- SOCIAL PRINCIPLES ¶163.G

Learn more at <https://www.r2hub.org/library/vital-conversations-on-immigration>.

Green Team Ministries

Simple things you can do to protect our EARTH...

- To eliminate some unwanted junk mail and save a few trees, go to www.dmachoice.org. You may also call companies to unsubscribe from their mailings or catalogs.
- Cut back, or better yet, eliminate pesticide use for your yard and weeds. Plant some native perennial plants that don't need to be watered as much as expensive annual plants.
- Decide not to add any items to the landfill. Use real cups, plates, and silverware, cloth napkins, and reusable water bottles. Reusable bags for your groceries are sturdier and less polluting than the plastic bags from grocery stores.
- Styrofoam is terrible stuff and is difficult to recycle. Take your own container to the restaurants that use it and encourage them to use another type of takeout container.



Little Lambs Learning Center



Little Lambs
Learning Center

Little Lambs has experienced lower enrollment this school year, and we are hoping to boost numbers for the summer and fall. The program is open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are accepting children ages 18 months to 5 years. Registration for both summer and fall

2026 is open! Please visit our website (geumc.org/lllc) or contact Stephanie (pdo@geumc.org) for more details.

Memorials Committee

The memorials committee is pleased to announce that they are again able to offer a few college scholarships this year. Applications for church scholarships are available via e-mail (office@geumc.org) or by picking up a physical copy at the church office. These scholarships will be awarded to deserving students who are members of First United Church of Glen Ellyn and are currently attending college or will attend in the fall. To apply, the applicants must fully complete the application form legibly and on time. **They need to be returned to the church office either by mail or email no later than June 15, 2026.** These scholarships are made possible by the generosity of those who have made memorial gifts to the Scholarship Fund.

Easter at First Church



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!



March 2026 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund

Balance January 1, 2026	\$5,113	
Offerings and other income	\$89,343	
Transfer from Restricted Funds	\$3,000	
Expenses		\$110,555
Fund Balance March 31, 2026		-\$13,100

Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund

Balance January 1, 2026	\$0	
Offerings	\$12,986	
Mortgage payments		\$27,606
Fund Balance March 31, 2026		-\$14,620

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
December	Heifer International	\$20

Year to date Donations

Glen House Food Pantry	\$30
Bridge Communities	\$225

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