



The Glen Ellyn Reporter

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

March 2023

Pastor's Pen

As you may recall from last month's *Glen Ellyn Reporter*, Rev. Bross challenged us at our January Ministry Council meeting. One of those challenges was to name our "why." The Why Working Group has been meeting to do that. I asked Nancy Leguizamon, Jason Tews, Karen Littlefield, and Sara Johnson to join me in discussing our "why." We began meeting on Thursdays via Zoom in February. We're identifying many of our congregational important values: Fellowship and Mission being two which have bubbled up in the conversation multiple times. We hope to have our work ready to share with the congregation on Easter Sunday, April 9.

There are many significant conversations yet to be had about our why and our what. I'll be putting together a What Working Group soon. In the meantime, I hope you will pray for the continued working of God's Spirit among us. I see the conversations happening as a response to the leading to the Holy Spirit. I hope we can all see the work and presence of God among us. I do. It's hard to keep focused on our ultimate why, Jesus, when so many situations fuel our propensities to worry and fret.

It often takes seeing things from a different perspective before we see them clearly. I will find myself fretting over things about which I didn't need to fret because I didn't see things clearly. The same is true here, as well. If you'll look, you will see the Holy Spirit moving among us and through us. To paraphrase Isaiah: God is doing something new among us. Do you perceive it? Are we being distracted from what God is doing, and would have us do, here and now in this place? God is leading us; will we follow?

Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Confirmation

Join us on Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday, for Confirmation! We have the pleasure of confirming Adam Manzke and Katelyn Manzke this year. Adam and Katelyn will serve us Holy Communion that morning as their first act as newly professed members of the congregation. Join us as we celebrate this important milestone in their lives. This gives us a chance to fulfill the congregational promise we make at the baptism of a child: to surround them with love and support until they are able to profess the Christian faith for themselves. Come join this celebration of God's amazing grace.

Lenten Wednesday Night Fast and Conversation

During the pandemic, we adopted a fast instead of a meal for our Wednesday night Lenten gatherings. We're continuing that tradition again this year.

We're inviting folks to observe a fast for their evening meal on Wednesdays during Lent. Of course, if you can't do something like this for medical reasons, please do not. Rather, there are other ways to participate in the fast. Fasting is intended to help connect the spiritual with the physical.

We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. On Wednesdays, March 1, 8 and 15, we'll read and discuss *Faith & Conflict: Reflections on Christian Faith's Impact on the Rise of the Holocaust* by Eugen Schoenfeld, a retired professor of sociology from Georgia State University. This book is available on Amazon and in new and used bookstores.

On Saturday, March 18 we are joining with the congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church to visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois. We'll leave from Southminster that morning at 9:15 a.m. There is a \$15 cost for this visit. We'll have lunch together afterward for those who can.

We'll conclude our Lenten journey together by reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winning author who tells much of his own story in this book. This Lent, we are examining one of the most horrible events in human history, the Holocaust. We need to look carefully and learn deeply from these events. We must look at the ugliness of hatred in order to combat it in ourselves and our communities. There is no better time than while we prepare for the celebration of God's ultimate victory, life over death, love over hate. Join us.

We're Back! The Annual Community Rummage Sale

Donation Drop off dates and times: Sunday, March 12, 12-5 p.m. and Monday-Thursday, March 13-16, 2-8 p.m. Please note that items must be delivered during these times.

Sale dates and times: Friday, March 17, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. & Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Special BAG DAY times to close out the sale from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday only.



For more information and a list of charities and groups participating and benefiting from this Community Wide Event visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/communityrummagesale. Information will also be forthcoming on our website, www.geumc.org.

If you are interested in volunteering for sorting or on the sale date, please email Jason Tews at jasonmtews@gmail.com. Please also let Jason know your address so he can place a yard sign in your yard, or you may take home a sign from church.

Children and Youth Ministries

Vacation Bible School 2023: Operation Restoration



Monday, June 26—Friday, June 30, 2023
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn,
535 Forest Avenue

Participants: Age 4 through rising 5th graders
Volunteers-in-Training: Rising 6th through 8th graders

Volunteers: Sr. high school/college/adults of all ages

At Operation Restoration, kids explore the Bible and discover new ways to care for God's creation and for one another. Your kids have been given the power to feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to help repair all that has gone wrong in the world. They'll learn more about their mending powers at Operation Restoration VBS!

Initial registration is limited to the first 60 participants. After that, we will use a wait list system and open up additional spots as we receive more small group leader "Village Chief" volunteers.

Don't wait! To register (both participants and volunteers), visit <https://forms.gle/py5LG983Rx9HKJ8u9>.

Friday, March 17, 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Get out your green attire and join us on St. Patrick's Day to **pack meals at Feed My Starving Children** (555 Exchange Ct., Aurora, IL 60504). Minimum age to volunteer is Kindergarten. Meals are sent to FMSC's in-country partners in various places around the world to provide a stable source of nourishment to enable kids to thrive. The meals packed at our packing session in the fall were sent to South America and to Poland to feed Ukrainian refugees. Please RSVP to Laura at student@geumc.org to save your spot.



Sunday, April 9, after worship

Join us Easter Sunday for worship, followed by an Egg Hunt for the kids! Weather permitting, the egg hunt will take place in the outdoor courtyard.

Church & Social Action Team

UMCOR Responds to Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Thousands have been killed in both Turkey and Syria after the recent earthquakes, and deaths continue to rise as rescue crews seek survivors in collapsed buildings. The humanitarian response is struggling to ramp up to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather.

UMCOR's longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), has multiple offices and project sites in Turkey. In IBC offices, people fill the halls as they seek shelter, warmth, and a hot meal. UMCOR has released initial solidarity grants to IBC and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (working in Syria) to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. UMCOR staff members are also in touch with other partners in the region. Read more by visiting <https://umcmission.org/mission-priority/humanitarian/umcor-response-to-earthquakes-in-turkey-and-syria/>.

Please join UMCOR in prayer for the many people affected by these devastating earthquakes, including the rescue crews seeking survivors and those caring for the injured and displaced. Support relief and recovery efforts for this and other international disasters by donating online at <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-641-umcor-international-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx>.

If you would rather donate through First Church, you may make out a check (or let Jason Tews know that you want to give online) to First UMC and designate in the memo line "Advance #982450" or "UMCOR for Syria and Turkey."

Just a reminder that 100% of your gift will go to providing aid because the administrative costs are already paid for through apportionments.

Finance Committee

January 2023 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund		
Balance January 1, 2023		\$0
Offerings and other income	\$32,402	
Expenses		\$29,741
Fund Balance January 31, 2023		\$2,662
Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund		
Balance January 1, 2023		\$0
Offerings	\$4,216	
Mortgage payments		\$9,202
Fund Balance January 31, 2023		-\$4,986

Mission of the Month Donations

January	People's Resource Center	\$315
February	PATH	\$75
December	Heifer International	\$100
Year to date Donations		
	Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	\$110

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

Mission & Service

March Mission of the Month

The month of March has been designated by the Mission committee for giving to NAMI - National Alliance on Mental Illness. This organization in DuPage County offers peer support by listening, sharing experiences, offering resources and hope to individuals with mental illness. If you have questions about the organization, please talk to Nancy Leguizamon. She is a peer counselor for NAMI and would be happy to tell you more about the programs offered by the organization.



CROP Walk 2023

May 7th is the 2023 date for the annual CROP Walk. This yearly event raises money and awareness for Church World Service. Locally, a percentage of monies raised goes to Peoples Resource Center, Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and the DuPage Senior Citizen Agency.



Last year we raised \$25,000! Join the group from FUMC and consider walking the 3 mile route.

Walk if you can. If you can't walk, please consider donating. If you can't donate, please pray for the groups to end hunger worldwide as well as in your community.

More information will come in the newsletter and bulletin.

God's Garden

This year once again we will host a plot at the Glen Ellyn Lambert Road Garden. Last year we raised \$750, all of which went to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Many pounds of produce were also picked and donated to the Pantry. To make the garden grow, volunteers are needed to plant, water and tend the garden. It need not be a huge commitment to you. Remember, many hands make light work. More information will come in the newsletter and bulletin.



Food Pantry Drive

Easter Sunday, April 9, will mark the 2nd year that we will celebrate a Food Pantry Drive as well as the resurrection of Christ. What better way to show our gratitude for the love of Jesus than to give to others? Please drop off your donations to Church on Saturday morning, April 1 from 10 to 12 or bring them to Church with you on Easter Sunday.

United Women In Faith

A Call to Prayer and Self Denial



United
Women
in Faith

*Because we believe...
that racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus
Christ...
We commit ourselves as individuals and as a
community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in
deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-
determination of every person and group of
persons.*

—Charter for Racial Justice

“The journey toward justice is not over.”

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope, and love into work on behalf of women, children, and youth in every corner of the world. As an annual part of our action, United Women in Faith invite people to participate in A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

This yearly event is a faith-filled time when we assemble with lifted hearts and hands to celebrate selfless giving for a common cause and spiritual communion with God. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial’s 2023 offering will support the ongoing racial justice work of United Women in Faith. One hundred percent of this offering goes to the focus projects for this year.

In Luke 4:18–19, Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He invites us to imagine a world that is radically different—a world where the incarcerated are set free, where the blind can see, and where we all live together in “the year of the Lord’s favor.” Let us all, not just the women of United Women in Faith, continue to imagine this and transition from imagining to acting through prayer, advocacy, service, and giving.

If we do not pray and work for change, then who will?

Please return your offering to the church by mail or in the offering plate by Easter Sunday, April 9. You may use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. **Checks should be made out to UMW** (Our group’s name has changed but our banking is still under UMW.) Please write “Prayer and Self Denial” on the memo line. Thank you for your offering!

Ruth Circle

The United Women in Faith Ruth Circle meets on the 4th Thursday of the month in member's homes. We recently met at the home of Dolores Koopman and did a study on one of the named women of the Bible. The next meeting will be at the home of Sally Grenzow on March 23rd from 1:30-3pm. Please contact Sally if you have any questions. Any woman is welcome to join in the study and fellowship.

Green Team Ministries

If Mother Earth has a protector, it is Kay McKeen. As founder and executive director of SCARCE (**S**chool & **C**ommunity **A**ssistance for **R**ecycling and **C**omposting **E**ducation), McKeen is an enthusiastic proponent of civic responsibility and leads a dedicated staff and volunteers on a mission to foster a more sustainable future.



From her first experiences teaching children about recycling to directing an army of volunteers as they rescue books, collect educational supplies and reduce waste, McKeen urges everyone to take care of the planet with practical remedies, like reusing, recycling, and repurposing items.

For more than 30 years, the award-winning environmental education nonprofit has provided innovative and hands-on programs for schools and organizations through the Reuse Center in Addison. In addition, SCARCE assists the broader public through community-wide events and programs, such as holiday lights recycling, legislative advocacy, and solar energy initiatives.

Stop by the center any day and find staff stacking shelves filled with donated books, science equipment, and art supplies. Teachers can explore and purchase reusable items for pennies on the dollar. SCARCE-ly Used Books and Records is a treasure hunter's dream, offering gift ideas and bargain-priced novels, DVDs, CDs, and more. You can donate your unwanted items at SCARCE. Go to the website info@scarce.org and see what they will take off your hands. Funds received support recycling initiatives.

Education is central to the SCARCE mission. Housed at the Reuse Center, an inspirational and airy classroom welcomes elementary school students ready to learn about worms and composting, as well as graduate students exploring methods used to purify, transport, store, absorb, and treat our water resources.

Go to info@scarce.org to learn more about what you can recycle and where you can recycle. One specific example: old prescriptions/medications shouldn't be flushed, so check the towns that will accept these items. You don't want to pollute your drinking water!

The GREEN Team encourages you to reuse, recycle, and repurpose your belongings!

Parents' Day Out

The date published in February's *Glen Ellyn Reporter* for the DuPage Area Moms' Resale Event was inaccurate. The in-person sale will take place on Saturday, March 11. A portion of the proceeds benefit our PDO program.



RESALE

DuPageAreaMoms.org
Dupage Area Moms is a 501(c)3 organization

ITEMS YOU CAN EXPECT TO FIND
Spring/Summer Boys & Girls Clothing Sizes 0-18 & Girl's Jr 00-7
Shoes, Swimwear & Swim Gear
Toys, Books, Movies & Games
And MUCH More!

DUPAGE AREA MOMS
EST. 2014
TOGETHER WE ARE MORE

CONTACT INFO
www.DuPageAreaMoms.org
(630) 909-9283
DuPageAreaMomsResale@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook @DAMResale
Instagram @DuPageAreaMoms

A portion of the proceeds funds a scholarship at College of DuPage!
DuPage Area Moms is a 501(c)3 organization

DuPage Area Moms Spring/Summer Children's Clothing & Toy Resale

ONLINE RESALE February 21-25, 2023
Opens 7am February 21, 2023
Closes 10pm February 25, 2023
www.DuPageAreaMoms.org
Pickup Purchases March 11, 2023 at IN-PERSON RESALE
Shipping not available
7am-11am & 12pm-1:30pm

IN-PERSON RESALE SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
NEW LOCATION!
First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn
424 Forest Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
7am – 11am (full-price sale) \$1 admission
12pm – 1:30pm (half-price sale, select items) Free admission

- Payment Methods – All major credit cards (3.5% processing fee added) and cash (IN-PERSON Resale only)
- IN-PERSON shopping; bring a laundry basket, large shopping bag, or folding shopping cart.
- No personal strollers/wagons allowed on sale floor. Infants in front carriers are allowed.

Community Information



This Office Has A Great View!

The Village Links of Glen Ellyn - Grounds Dept is looking to fill staff positions to help us deliver amazing playing conditions to our golfers in 2023.

- Don't have experience working on a golf course? We offer on the job training!
- Don't want to work long hours? We are flexible with scheduling!
- Want to play golf for free? Employees have the benefit of free golf with a cart!
- We also offer meal & drink discounts, competitive pay and you get to be outdoors in a fun work environment.

Contact us via the QR code, phone number or email address listed below to find out more info or to apply for one of these positions.

**must be at least 17 years of age at time of application*



Andrew Cross
630-469-2077
across@villagelinksqolf.com


Village Links
Glen Ellyn