



The Glen Ellyn Reporter

Newsletter of First United Methodist
Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois

November/December 2025

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family & Friends,

The choir has started working on their Christmas Cantata, and today I saw workers from the Village of Glen Ellyn starting to put up Christmas lights on the trees downtown. While it will be weeks before they turn on the lights and many weeks before we sing the Cantata in church, it is time to start preparing for the upcoming season and to put some dates on your calendars.

While most of us haven't even planned out our Thanksgiving meal, let me share a few dates in November to keep in mind.

On Sunday, November 16 at 5 p.m., we have been invited by the Horeb Congregation to join them for a Thanksgiving meal in our Great Hall. For those of you who attended last year, you will remember eating some fantastic and authentic Indian food and having a great time of fellowship. They will also help us the following Sunday on November 23 as we start to "Hang the Greens" in our sanctuary for Advent, as November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent is the time for preparation for the birth of our Savior, and we also have a lot planned for December:

Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. we will be hosting the Prairie Central District Advent Concert with many other United Methodist churches joining us in song, service, and Scripture as we celebrate Advent and our connection.

Dec. 14 will be our annual Christmas Pageant in morning worship, with packing gifts for Kids Above All after the service. In the evening, Rick "Elvis" Saucedo will be returning at 7 p.m. to do his Elvis Christmas show. How many churches get to take a photo of Elvis singing Christmas Carols by the Christmas tree in their sanctuary?

Dec. 21 will be the choir's Christmas Cantata in the morning, and December 24 will be our Christmas Eve Service with Hymns and Carols sung at 7 p.m. and the service starting at 7:30 p.m. (There will also be a service starting at 6 p.m. at Faith UMC in Lombard as another option.)

Our Chapel is currently being restored, and it is my hope to be able to serve hot cider, hot chocolate, and cookies in there before we do our annual Christmas Caroling (date and time TBD).

I look forward to these "preparations" and hope that you can join us for many as we "Celebrate the Reason for the Season"!

Holy-Day Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Children & Youth Ministries

Some highlights from the past couple months in Children & Youth Ministry include:

Pastor Laura attended the NIC Fall Youth Retreat at Lutherdale Camp in Elkhorn, WI. Forty-five youth and adult leaders attended on a beautiful fall weekend (September 26-28). We heard from keynote speaker Uli Widmaier about the importance of Sabbath and how it brings us closer to God and to one another in community. We had wonderful worship music, lots of fun free time, and a grand bonfire with hot dogs and s'mores. We are looking to move the retreat weekend into October next fall in hopes of avoiding Homecoming conflicts at various high schools so that we can welcome more participants.

On Friday, October 18, 23 attendees from FUMC and Faith UMC joined to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. In total for our shift, all volunteers packed 18,792 meals—enough to feed 51 children for an entire year!

We also packed and shipped out college student care packages full of snacks and supplies for 5 of our college students.

Upcoming Events:

Sleep Out Saturday on Saturday, November 1

We are hosting youth from St. Mark's & First Congregational Glen Ellyn (FCCGE) for Sleep Out Saturday this year. We will attend the rally held at 6:30 p.m. at COD which will feature music, speakers from Bridge Community, a soup & bread meal, and giveaways. We'll have an evening full of fun activities, gym games, and a bonfire with s'mores before we tuck in for the night in tents or cardboard shelters outside in the courtyard.

This activity is part of The Collective—shared youth group events for FUMC, First Congregational UCC of Glen Ellyn (FCCGE), and St. Mark's Episcopal.

You can support Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program now through our group's fundraising link. Thank you for your support!

<https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/participant.html?Id=4560>

Youth Group Friendsgiving at St. Mark's: Wednesday, November 19 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Youth in grades 6-12, join us as we gather at St. Mark's for a Friendsgiving meal and youth group games. This activity is part of The Collective—shared youth group events for FUMC, First Congregational UCC of Glen Ellyn (FCCGE), and St. Mark's Episcopal.

Kids Above All holiday gift drive:

We are once again sponsoring holiday gifts for a number of teens in group homes through Kids Above All. We welcome your monetary donations in order to purchase gifts from their wish list!

On Sunday, December 14, immediately following worship, we will head to Des Plaines to volunteer in their Toy Room/Distribution Center. Please RSVP to Pastor Laura if you are able to volunteer from 12:30-2:30 p.m. that Sunday.

Children and Youth Nativity Pageant:

Calling all shepherds, sheep, and angels! We will hold our no-rehearsal Nativity Pageant for worship on Sunday, December 14. Families are invited to arrive that morning at 9:30 a.m. to briefly go over blocking and grab a simple costume. Please RSVP to Pastor Laura if your family would like to participate.

Middle School Christmas Lock-In: Sat., December 13 at 5 p.m.-Sun., December 14

Middle schoolers (6-8th grades), join us for a Christmas-themed Lock-In at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. This activity is part of The Collective—shared youth group events for FUMC, First Congregational UCC of Glen Ellyn (FCCGE), and St. Mark's Episcopal.

Senior High Christmas Lock-In: Saturday December 20 at 5pm-Sunday, December 21

Senior high schoolers (9-12th grades), join us for a Christmas themed Lock-In at FCCGE. This activity is part of The Collective—shared youth group events for FUMC, First Congregational UCC of Glen Ellyn (FCCGE), and St. Mark's Episcopal.

Ongoing Children and Youth Ministry events:

Sundays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Children/Youth Sunday School

Join us for our combined children and youth Sunday School class in the Dining Room. We are working through a new-to-us curriculum called *Follow Me. Follow Me* is published by the PC(USA) mainline Protestant denomination. This curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

Sundays during worship: Children's Church

Following the Time for Young Christians message, we exit the sanctuary for snack and class time with a Bible story, crafts, games, songs, and fun. We are using the United Methodist *Grow Proclaim Serve* curriculum, starting with stories from the book of Genesis. We return to the Sanctuary towards the end of worship (in time for Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month).

The 2nd Sunday of each month, 9:30 a.m.: PreK/K/1st Sunday School

Join us the 2nd Sunday of the month for our younger ones-PreK/K/1st graders Sunday School class, where we offer a Bible lesson with lots of hands-on activities (songs, crafts, building, sensory bins, etc.). Remaining fall dates: November 9 and December 14. We are using the United Methodist *Grow Proclaim, Serve* curriculum on the topic of Being Caretakers (of creation, of our resources, of ourselves, and of others).



United Women in Faith

We are..... a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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!

We invite you to purchase **pecans for your holiday baking**. They are native Illinois grown and will be available at the beginning of December. A one-pound bag of halves or pieces is \$12.00. This is a fund raiser for UWFaith Mission giving to support women, children, and youth, and we appreciate your support! The sign-up sheet will be posted on the hallway bulletin board starting November 2, or call Sally Grenzow to order: 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!

November 11 – Meet at the home of Ann Robinson for a program led by Cheryl Peters: “Practicing Hope.”

December 9 will be a Christmas cookie exchange at the home of Elena Nichol.

Martha/Sarah Circle will meet Wednesday, November 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room. They will not meet in December.

Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, November 20, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Sally Grenzow in Wheaton. Devotions will center on Thanksgiving. Any woman is welcome to join the gathering. Ruth Circle will not meet in December.

Coming in 2026:

From United Women in Faith, Northern Illinois Conference: Save the date for **Winter Mission u!** Mission u will be via Zoom, meeting two days a week for the weeks of Jan. 11 and Jan. 18. Opening worship will be Jan. 11 and closing worship will be Jan. 25. Specific schedules TBD. Two studies will be offered: *Practicing Hope* and *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*.

To register, contact uwfaithnic@gmail.com or the Registrar at NILUMW.registrar@gmail.com.

United Women in Faith Assembly 2026! It's a once-every-four-year gathering that will uplift your soul, strengthen your faith, and bring you together with an unstoppable sisterhood. May 15-17 in Indianapolis. Early registration fee of \$365 is available through November 30. Register at: <https://assembly.uwfaith.org/ereg/index.php?eventid=821058&>.

United Women in Faith Gratitude Offering

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 Gratitude Giving Guide

Week 1—Food: For all grocery, convenience stores, restaurants, & dining halls near you, donate \$0.50.

Week 2—Family: For every sibling, child, grandchild, niece, or nephew, donate \$1.00.

Week 3—Friends: For each time you talk to, write to, or think of a friend this week, donate \$0.10.

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, Appalachian 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 8th 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, with “November Gratitude” noted in the memo.**

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 on you afresh. 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.

Little Lambs Learning Center



Little Lambs
Learning Center

Little Lambs Learning Center's mission is to provide quality child care in a Christian setting in order to nurture in each child an attitude of love and respect for themselves as persons, to be concerned for others, to have a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them, and to experience the joy of learning for

its own reward. Little Lambs accepts children ages 18 months - 5 years. Parents can choose one or two days a week, and registration is open! Please visit our website or contact Little Lambs director, Stephanie for more information: pdo@gemuc.org.

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.

November Mission of the Month

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: This organization strives to reduce homelessness in the DuPage area & collar counties by 50% within the next 5 years. MSHV is located in Wheaton and continues to support veterans and their families with counseling so joblessness, homelessness, poverty, and/or mental health issues are eliminated in their lives. More information can be found at www.helpaveteran.org.



December Mission of the Month



Heifer International: This organization was started over 80 years ago by Dan West, a farmer and church leader. He rallied his church community to support a new way to help those in need. West suggested giving families in the U.S. and around the world animals, like chicks, goats, and cows, so they could support themselves with steady sources of food, earn reliable incomes, and send their children to school. Training is always provided to help the people be successful with the animals. More information can be found at www.heifer.org.

Volunteer with First Church



The **Northern Illinois Food Bank** says: "Ensuring all our neighbors have access to the food they need to thrive is a community-wide effort." You can help!

Our church has two dates set up:

Tuesday, November 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (12 spots)

Wednesday, November 19, 1:00-3:30 p.m. (12 spots)

Sign up by contacting Cheryl Peters at cpeters322@gmail.com or 630-469-5267. You can also sign up on the sheet posted on the United Women in Faith bulletin board. EVERYONE age 8 and up is welcome.

God's Garden

God's Garden is now closed for business! It has been a spectacular year with so many vegetables provided to so many people. We collected \$1575 for the Glen House Food Pantry. This represents an increase of \$75 from last year. In addition, we donated hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables over the course of the season. This year, the garden crops were on display and available for purchase after church at FUMC, as well as at Faith United Methodist Church. We also brought the garden's bounty to the picnic at Faith Church, allowing people to become acquainted with this outreach ministry at FUMC. There was also a booth set up at the Rummage Sale, and pumpkins were for sale in September at the Little Lambs Learning Center.

Thank you to all who helped! Cheryl Peters, Sarah Johnson, Mary Jane Chapman, Chris Cizek, Pastor and Laura Price were wonderful "waterers," providing much-needed irrigation to the garden, allowing us to have a bumper crop. Thank these people when you see them. They provided an invaluable service!!

Please keep us in mind for helping next year. If you have 1 ½ hours a week to spare, it would be greatly appreciated to have some extra help to water, weed, and/or harvest the garden.

Green Team Ministries

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.*

Tips to Reduce Your Impact on the Earth's Resources:

- Decide not to add any items to the landfill. Use real cups, cloth napkins, reusable bags for groceries, and reusable water bottles.
- Do not let water run while doing tasks. Use cold or warm water rather than hot when washing clothes; rinse in cold water.
- When not in use, turn off lights, TV, computer, and appliances.
- Use microwave, toaster oven, and/or slow cooker rather than the oven/range. Take a shower rather than a bath, and shower less often.

Glen Ellyn Pumpkin Smash—Saturday, November 8 from 9-11 a.m. at Village Green Park, 130 S. Lambert Rd.

Don't trash your pumpkins—smash them instead! Come to Village Green Park and be part of our pumpkin composting initiative. Let's work together to divert as many pounds as possible from landfills.

Before smashing, weigh your pumpkins and ensure they are free of decorations and candles. Please note that painted pumpkins cannot be accepted. You have the option to drop off your pumpkins and leave, or if you'd like to participate in smashing, please bring a baseball bat or shovel. The nutrients from the smashed pumpkins will be added to our community garden soil, fostering sustainability and waste reduction.

Finance Committee

September 2025 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund

Balance January 1, 2025	\$0
Offerings and other income	\$265,858
Employee Retention Tax Credit	\$17,895
Transfer from Restricted Funds	\$45,488
Expenses	\$331,574
Fund Balance September 30, 2025	-\$2,333

Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund

Balance January 1, 2025	\$0
Offerings	\$45,002
Mortgage payments	\$82,819
Fund Balance September 30, 2025	-\$37,817

Mission of the Month Donations **

** \$200 per month is added to donations by a Permanent Endowment grant

January	People's Resource Center	\$513
February	Bridge Communities	\$548
March	Walk In Ministry	\$813
April	Midwest Mission	\$413
May	We Grow Dreams	\$736
June	Northern Illinois Food Bank	\$573
July	SCARCE	\$743
August	Humanitarian Service Project	\$513
September	Teen - Parent Connection	\$538

Year to date Donations

Glen House Food Pantry	\$1,210
PATH	\$675
UMCOR Disaster Relief	\$1,891
PADS	\$100
Various United Methodist Recipients	\$260

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

Permanent Endowment Grants

Permanent Endowment still has funds to disburse for 2025, and the committee is currently accepting applications for review. You can obtain an application from the bulletin board in the hallway or by emailing the church office at office@geumc.org. Completed applications should be returned to Anita Hoekstra at anitahoek@aol.com.