



# **The Glen Ellyn Reporter**

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

*March/April 2024*

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## **Pastor's Pen**

Dear Church Family & Friends,

I love this time of the year! Admittedly, we had a very mild winter and though we still have some time to go, I have loved feeling the warm sunshine again on my face. While I think some of my flowers may be popping up a little too early, I am glad to see them. Can I tell you how much I have missed the taste of fresh tomatoes from God's Garden on my Sunday afternoon BLT? Spring is just around the corner, the days are getting longer, and it will soon be time to plant. We even get to move our clocks ahead on March 10 to get an extra hour of evening sunshine so we can take walks after dinner in sunlight.

There is also a lot happening in the life of our church as Holy Week is early this year and takes place the last week of March. Palm Sunday begins the week on March 24. On Tuesday, March 26, we have a representative from "Jews for Jesus" presenting "Christ in the Passover" at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. The choir has been working on music for both our Good Friday evening Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. on March 29 and for our Easter morning service at 10:30 a.m. on March 31. I have also been told that we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the Easter service. I have not been to a good Easter Egg Hunt in a LONG time so I look forward to participating and believe there should be no age restriction. (Now that may only be MY opinion, but I still plan to wind up with some eggs.)

I hope you can join us this Easter Season to worship the One who rolled away the stone and rose from the dead to give us everlasting life!

Blessings!

Pastor Dave



# Children and Youth Ministries

## Community Vacation Bible School

**Community VBS 2024 priority registration is now OPEN for congregants of the host congregations.** On March 21, as long as we have adequate volunteers committed, registration will open to the wider community.

Community VBS  
Monday, June 24 - Friday, June 28  
\*\*NEW BEGINNING TIME\*\* 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
First Congregational Church  
535 Forest Avenue  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
Suggested donation: \$25 for first participant and \$15 for each additional participant per household



**Link for registration for participants AND volunteers:**  
<https://forms.gle/MzvpHZ3TTMYqqE767>

We continue last year's theme of "Operation Restoration: Mending God's World" which invites participants and volunteers to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between NEW Bible stories and MORE mending actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. Everyone will explore language and practices to mend God's world.

### FEATURES:

- \*\* Daily themes kids understand: feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest
- \*\* Multisensory activity centers: art, music, science & nature, service learning, games and storytelling

*Current host congregations: First Congregational Church Glen Ellyn, First United Methodist Church Glen Ellyn, & First United Methodist Church Lombard  
More congregations may still join us.*

## All Faiths Night at Kane County Cougars Game, July 12

It's hard to believe we are already talking about baseball, but it's time for us to reserve tickets for the Kane County Cougars All Faiths Night on July 12! The game begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends with fireworks and running the bases. We need to get a count of who would like to attend so we can reserve tickets - they are a steal at just \$8 each! **Please email Pastor Laura** at [student@geumc.org](mailto:student@geumc.org) **by Monday, March 18** to let her know how many tickets you'd like to reserve.

# Children and Youth Ministries

## Upcoming Youth Events

**Appalachia Service Project (ASP): June 15-22 (including travel).** More details will be coming soon. Youth and adult chaperones are encouraged to save the dates, as this is a life-changing mission trip you will not want to miss!

**Northern Illinois Conference Youth Retreat: September 27-29.** The Youth Retreat is held in Lake Geneva and is open to youth grades 6-12. More details will be coming as the weekend nears.

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## Experience Lent with First Church

How has Lent been for you thus far? Are you continuing along with business as usual, or are you opening your heart and mind to the spiritual renewal that can come during this season?

Join us for either or both of our Lenten studies, Christ in the Passover presentation by Jews for Jesus, and moving services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. Everyone is welcome at First Church!



 *Lent & Eastertide Events*

**3.6.24-3.27.24 (Wednesdays) | 7 p.m. - Lenten Book Study  
with Pastor Dave**

**3.7.24 - 3.21.24 (Thursdays) | 1:30 p.m. - United Women in  
Faith Lenten Study**

**3.24.24 | 10:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service**

**3.26.24 | 7 p.m. - "Christ in the Passover" Presentation by  
Jews for Jesus**

**3.29.24 | 7 p.m. - Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

**3.31.24 | 10:30 a.m. - Easter Service with Egg Hunt!**



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.

The **UW Faith Lenten Study** led by Sally Grenzow and Cheryl Peters is exploring the Lord's Prayer. The group continues Thursday afternoons, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Dining Room, through March 21.

### **Mark your calendars!**

**Soul Care/Spiritual Retreat** on Saturday, April 13, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Watch for details to come.

**Bake Sale** on Sunday, May 5, during First Cup time after worship. UW Faith members bring the treats; proceeds go to missions.

**General Meeting: Salad Supper** on Monday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room

### **Circle News**

United Women in Faith Circles are small groups of women that meet regularly. Circles welcome all women interested!

**Hannah Circle** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Next gathering: March 12 at Cheryl Peters's (322 Miller Ct., Glen Ellyn; 630-469-5267)

Program: "Travel the World – Part 2!" We had so much fun hearing about international travel in January that we ran out of time. LuAnn will share experiences visiting and traveling with a friend who lives in Switzerland, and we've invited Pat Alstrin to talk about a trip to Jordan.

The April meeting will be April 9 – details to come.

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

**Ruth Circle** will meet Thursday, April 11 (yes, that's a week earlier than usual!), from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the home of Sally Grenzow (2283 Hiram Dr., Wheaton; 630-725-8890).

***We are love in action. We are United Women in Faith.***

# United Women in Faith Prayer and Self-Denial

United Women in Faith invite the congregation to join us as we make ourselves aware of Climate Justice. As in previous years, you can contribute to the Prayer & Self-Denial Offering during Lent. Your gifts will support our Just Energy for All campaign. We continue to tackle the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting 100 percent clean, renewable energy and a just energy transition. This entails seeking sustainable solutions, equitable investments, and participation from frontline communities in decision making processes. The urgency of the climate crisis is calling us to make unprecedented change and action.

Consider these injustices that continue in the United States. The U.S. Energy Information Administration 8/22/2023 documents these examples. Communities of Color breathe in 40% more polluted air than White communities. The number one contributor to the climate crisis is greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels used for electricity, transportation and heat.

As God's people, we are called to give generously to help others. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 8:12 that all gifts are acceptable when given with a willing and eager heart. Please consider giving what you can, whether it be \$1, \$10, or \$100. Checks should be made out to UMW. Mark your giving envelope Prayer & Self-Denial. Please help UW in Faith make the world a cleaner, safer place to live. Thank you for your consideration.

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## Green Team Ministries

Do you get too much mail that you don't want? You could save some trees by using these resources.

Sign up with CatalogChoice at [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) and make an account. When you receive a catalog you don't want, enter its name in the site's database and decline it.

Do you get unsolicited credit card offers? Go [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com).

Cut down on junk mail (fliers and envelopes) by calling 1-888-5OPTOUT.

# 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.

## March Mission of the Month

**Teen Parent Connection:** This organization strives to help with the realities and responsibilities of teenage pregnancy. Physical needs and mentoring are offered to help young parents with their children. <https://teenparentconnection.org/>



## April Mission of the Month

**Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** This organization in IL and IA has staff and many volunteers who do a variety of tasks that help people around the world with health and disaster relief. <https://www.midwestmission.org/>



## Feed My Starving Children Packing Session

Wear your green and join us for our tradition of volunteering at Feed My Starving Children on St. Patrick's Day weekend! Join us on **Friday, March 15 from 5-6:30 p.m.** at 555 Exchange Court in Aurora. RSVP to Pastor Laura at [student@geumc.org](mailto:student@geumc.org).

## Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip

Want a great way to celebrate Holy Week? Join our trip to the MMDC **March 24-27**. We will leave for Chatham on Palm Sunday after church and return after lunch on Wednesday. Anyone age 11 and up is welcome to join us. There are a variety of tasks including assembling emergency bucket school kits and health kits, building desks, repairing bikes, sewing, and sorting new donations. For more information about the MMDC, go to [midwestmission.org](http://midwestmission.org). The cost will be \$120 plus shared transportation and food (around \$25). We will be staying in a dorm with 2 people per room, and cooking all our own food. **If you are interested, contact Martha Blumer ([mlblumer@yahoo.com](mailto:mlblumer@yahoo.com))**

# Mission & Service

## Crop Walk

May 5 is the date this year for the annual CROP Walk. This marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year that the CROP walk has been held. The event raises money and awareness for Church World Service. Locally, a percentage of monies raised goes to Peoples Resource Center, Glen House Food Pantry, and the DuPage Senior Citizen Agency. Last year, the total raised was \$25,000. Join a 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 help end hunger worldwide as well as in your community.

More information will come in a future newsletter as well as bulletin announcements.



## God's Garden

This year, we will once again be hosting a plot at the Glen Ellyn Lambert Road Garden. Last year we raised \$1000, which all went to the Glen House 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. More information will be coming soon. If you have questions, please see Lynne Nakashima.

## Food Drive Event for Glen House Food Pantry

Easter Sunday, March 31, will mark the resurrection of Christ who gave so much for us. Let us show that love by participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Food Drive for the Glen House Food Pantry. What better way to show our gratitude for the love of Jesus than to give to others?

Bags will be available on Palm Sunday for you to take home and fill with nonperishable goods that will be collected on Easter Sunday. Let us remember and pray for the many who are facing hard times and rely on people to show them love and goodness.

# Finance Committee

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to say THANK YOU for your financial contributions throughout 2023! We received over \$400,000 in offerings and income to support our 2023 general and debt reduction funds. You will see, on the 2023 Year End Financial Recap schedule, that our expenses during 2023 exceeded our receipts for the year. Accordingly, the Ministry Council, at its January 2024 meeting, approved the transfer of assets from the NIC Grant Fund to balance our expenses vs. receipts in 2023. We are in the process of developing a 2024 spending plan and will have more details to share regarding that plan in the next few weeks. We remain faithful, hopeful, and joyful about the opportunities for our church to continue to be good stewards of the resources that God has given us and to do what God is calling us to do as a congregation. Please reach out to myself or any member of the Finance Committee if you have any questions.

In Christ's Service,

Jeff Johnson  
Chair, Finance *Committee*

## December 2023 Year to Date Financial Recap

General Fund		
Balance January 1, 2023	\$0	
Offerings and other income	\$357,715	
Transfer from PDO	\$10,000	
Transfer from NIC Grant Fund	\$43,885	
Expenses		\$411,600
<b>Fund Balance December 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Debt Reduction (Mortgage) Fund</b>		
Balance January 1, 2023	\$0	
Offerings	\$56,836	
Transfer from NIC Grant Fund	\$53,589	
Mortgage payments		\$110,426
<b>Fund Balance December 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$0</b>

## Mission of the Month Donations

January	People's Resource Center	\$340
February	PATH	\$1,235
March	NAMI	\$265
April	Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$405
May	Teen-Parent Connection	\$310
June	DuPage Habitat for Humanity	\$450
July	Scarce	\$325
August	Humanitarian Service Project	\$150
September	Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	**
October	Metropolitan Family Services	\$435
November	Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans	\$360
December	Heifer International	\$440
<b>Year to date Donations</b>		
	Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	** \$2,345
	Umcors	\$500
	Six in One Offering	\$140

<b>Thank you for your faithful and generous support of all of our ministries!</b>
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