

# *First* United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

August, 2025



“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—

Hebrews 10: 24-25



Every believer is commanded to be plugged in to a local church. —David Jeremiah

August, the time of lazy summer evenings, chasing fireflies, vacations, sleeping in, and absorbing the last long days of sunshine. And, for some, especially our littles, the anticipation of a new beginning, a fresh start, new friends and new challenges.

August, in the church, follows much the same pattern. Our Sunday School classes and circles have stepped down for the summer, enjoying that slow pace of the season. Our newsletter is a tad thinner this month as we rest in anticipation of Fall activities. Even as we take a step back, though, the leadership team is beginning to look ahead at the coming year, which will once again begin with the retelling of the Good News! We will make a fresh start, face new challenges, build relationships with our new pastor, and meet new friends who cross our path, either as new members or as someone we serve.

The operative words in the paragraph above are OUR/WE. You perhaps remember the old song “I am the church, you are the church, WE are the church together.” The church is not the building at 10000 S. Central, though it gives the church a place to gather. The church is not the lawn, gardens and parking lot though they give us great spaces to be making connections with our parking lot sales and Pumpkin Patch. The church is not the pastor’s preaching, good though it be, unless it lands in open hearts and minds. The church is not even measured by the number of people on our rosters, nor by the gifts that they give.

The real measure of a church is the faith of its people in their Lord, and their ability to live that faith in support of one another, and in service to those around them. And that, more than the building and grounds, the funds or the numbers on the rolls, requires an active and involved I, You, We!

If you are part of the “we”....AMEN! We see you, we value you, and we praise God for your role in our ministry. If you haven’t been with us for a while, go ahead and enjoy the last days of summer, but plan on stopping in and seeing what God has in store for us. It’s gonna’ be great! IN THE HOUSE OF GOD, EVERY MEMBER HAS A PURPOSE AND EVERY MEMBER IS VALUED!

# ***PRAYER CONCERNS***

## **MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS**

***Urgent prayers:*** Penny Millslagle, Leon Dukes, Jr.

***Ongoing prayers for health and healing:*** Joanne Bartlett, Gary Czemski, Phyllis Hogan,  
Randy Millslagle, Harry Wyma, Linda Sarracino

***Prayers of Thanksgiving:*** Donna Heinz is back among us on Sunday mornings!

**PRAY FOR THOSE IN SERVICE:** Loretta Caplinger, Air Force,; Christine Boyd, Army  
; Scott Boehn, Marines; Keith Danalewich, Navy

## **FRIENDS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED OF PRAYER**

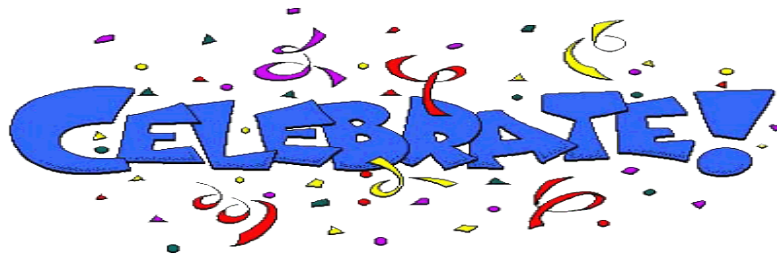
John Vendel, son of Jeanette Vendel      Dave Morris      Mary Vitek, mom of Joanne  
Reem, daughter of Paul Galuszka      Emily, granddaughter of Anne Boyd

SEND a CARD!



MAKE A CALL!



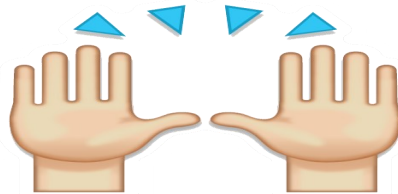


HAPPY BIRTHDAY to.....

3rd Marty Liderborg   5th Steven Cole   5th Donna Sylvester  
15th Karen Santoro   15th Bola Alabi   23rd Jean Krolak  
29th Barb Gehring   30 Ray Miranda

THANK YOU AND CELEBRATION FOR.....

Thanks to all who worked hard on the Cruise Night. Despite the weather, Church members and volunteers showed up and had a great evening of Fellowship.



### ***WHO'S AT CHURCH?***

AA, NA, Al-Anon, Alateen, Jazzercise, Fit Your World, Friendship Fridays, Compassion Word Ministries, our food pantry guests and more! Many groups utilize our facilities and, although not all are directed by us, they become an extension of our community by helping us to be visible, and by reflecting values we hold as Christians, such as the importance of self-care; control of substances that can harm our physical bodies; creativity; acquiring knowledge and growth; and helping those less fortunate. We invite you to be aware of these various programs, and, if you should meet their members here, extend your hand in Christian fellowship and recognize them as part of our community. **Invite them to church, an event, or a circle meeting. Let them know their presence is a blessing!**

## AUGUST CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Sundays: Worship! 9 am**

**Sunday School is on summer recess.**

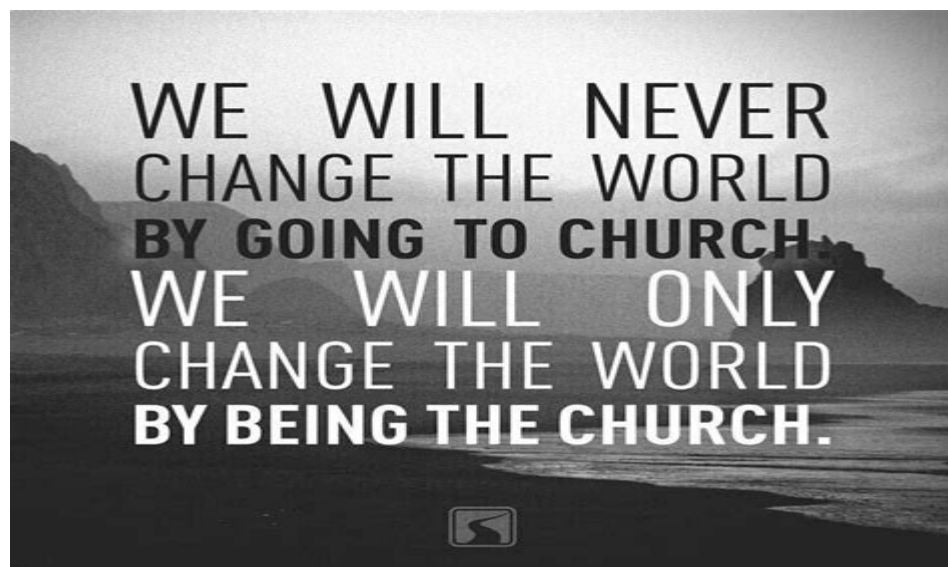
**Fellowship and “coffee and” following services.**

**August 10th Backpack Blessing**

**With Ice Cream Treats!**

**August 23rd Parking Lot Sale**

**August 28th Roundtable**



## UPDATED NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE!

Dear members of our church community,

We continue to appreciate your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions are essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

Our new Vanco giving platform is fully operational. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZWMY> OR go to [firstmethodistoaklawn.org](http://firstmethodistoaklawn.org), and click on “donate.” This will take you directly to the donation page. Select which category your donation is for, click on the photo and follow the prompts.

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all your gifts.

*You can also access our Vanco giving page  
via this QR code >>*



**(Our Pay Pal platform is now disabled.)**

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**Pastor Dukes is on a leave of absence to care for her husband Leon, who underwent hip replacement surgery the last week of July. During her absence, services will be conducted by church leadership. Please plan to be in church and support our faith community and its leaders. If pastoral assistance is needed please contact the church office or Marty Linderborg. Pastor Dukes will return to the pulpit on August 24th.**

## FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Circles are taking a summer break.



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. in person worship in our sanctuary

And available via Zoom in real time  
and on Facebook Live

(Contact the church for Zoom links)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Is on summer break.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Oak Lawn

Ministers: All members of the faith community Pastor: Beverly Dukes

Contact us: 100th and Central, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Church Office: (708) 423-1170, Website: [www.FirstMethodistOakLawn.org](http://www.FirstMethodistOakLawn.org)

Find us on Facebook!

E-mail Office: [fumcoffice1@att.net](mailto:fumcoffice1@att.net) Rev. Dukes: [bdukes03@gmail.com](mailto:bdukes03@gmail.com)

Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church Bishop Dan Schwerin Rev. Dr. Audrea Nanabray, DS