

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

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



June 2025

Part to Meet Again

***There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)***

Five years ago, I stepped into the pastoral leadership of this great church. It was indeed a challenging time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I began by building pastor-congregation relationships through telephone contacts and experimental worship services through Zoom. The response was incredible as members responded positively during these virtual services. Then, God wiped the pandemic from our nation, and we were able to assemble again in the sanctuary. The virtual experience, however, had a negative impact, as many members did not return to the church. This led to our continuous virtual service to this day.

As I reflect on our time together, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have consistently supported the church through your presence in the fellowship of believers. I also thank many of you who are working behind the scenes. The church had great programs that would have increased the membership, but the expected results are not visible. The seeds have been planted (and continue to be planted); we continue to pray that God will increase the harvest.

Just as the preacher says in Ecclesiastes 3:1, it is time for me to move into another mission field as I retire on June 30, 2025. I will continue to pray for the growth of the church and for the love of God to be continually manifested among you. As this chapter comes to an end, I have had several people say, "I'm not going to say 'goodbye' because that just sounds so final." Yes, it does, and yes, it is. But not when you consider what it really means. The word "goodbye" is a contracted form of the phrase, "God be with ye." To say "goodbye" is to entrust someone to God's care once they are no longer in your presence.

In the Christian vocabulary, there's a word that carries with it some of the same meanings. It's a word we use a lot when we pray: Amen. Amen means "right on" or "let it be so". It's the exclamation point at the end of a sentence that affirms the truth of what's been said and commends it to God, so I am putting Amen at the end of this note because, in some ways, it is the end of the conversation, at least one between you and me. It feels like there's still so much more to be done and so much we have left undone, but we'll have to turn that over to God and trust that the dialogue will be picked up by your next conversation partner. I can't wait to hear the stories that will be written about your future. And until that happens, I am able to say with confidence, trust, faith, and so much love, goodbye and amen.

Your friend and Pastor, Amos

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS

Urgent prayers: Marilyn Stefanko, Darlyne Turner, Florence Fullilove

Ongoing prayers for health and healing: Joanne Bartlett, Donna Heinz,
Penny Millslagle, Gary Czemski, Phyllis Hogan

Prayers of Thanksgiving: Monica Russel's procedure was successful.

Our sympathies to Maggie O'Bradovic on the death of her son-in-law, Tim Wilson., in early May.
Our sympathies also to the Turner family, on the passing of Jack Turner on May 27th. Please keep these families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

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



SEND a CARD!



MAKE A CALL!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to.....

8th Kalapo Alabi 9th Lynn Neumann 10th Brandon Koschnitzki
13th Vivian Wells 21st Hannah Santoro

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to....

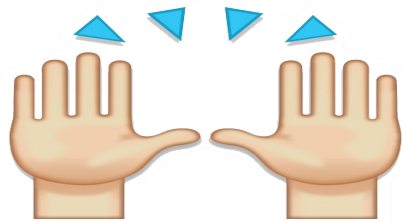
29th Marty and Ken Linderborg

THANK YOU AND CELEBRATION FOR.....

Our garden got planted and IS GROWING!

A very successful UWF Rummage Sale

Continued interest and attendance at our community parking lot sales.



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!**

JUNE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sundays: Worship! 9 am

Kids study 9 am Adult study 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship and “coffee and” following services.

June 14th Parking Lot Sale

June 15th Father's Day and Pastor Amos' last Sunday

Farewell luncheon to follow services

June 26th Roundtable

June 28th Parking Lot Sale



RETIREMENT Party

Pastor Amos & Becky

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

First United Methodist Church
10000 S. Central Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL
Following Worship

Please bring a food dish to share
RSVP To: Joy at 708-423-1170

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE!

Dear members of our church community,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. 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>

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 that you do.

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



CAN I STILL USE PAY PAL?

Yes, for a period of time, your gifts and pledges can still be sent through Pay Pal.

We believe our Vanco platform, introduced above, will be easier for users to access and navigate. The processing cost to the church will be a little less costly.

Finally, the Vanco system will fully integrate with the Church Windows accounting system we use, providing us real-time reports and simplifying our book keeping. If you have any questions, please email our treasurer

Ken at klinderborg@ameritech.net.



FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

A huge “thank you” to all who helped set up, contributed to, bought from or helped clean up the Spring Rummage Sale. It was a success, with a profit over \$2000! Thank you for your support!

Rachel Circle will be gathering at noon at church on Tuesday, June 17th.

They are ordering Jimmy Johns subs, and adding a homemade taco salad and dessert to the menu. Members outside of Rachel circle are welcome to join in the fun. Please contact Bonnie Bergman if you plan to attend.

Debra Circle is working on scheduling a gathering. Watch your texts for announcements.

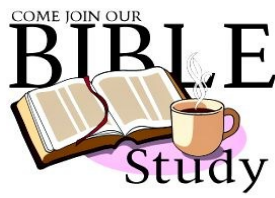
ODE TO A PASTOR

In May, World Pastor’s Day was celebrated. The following was written for that day, and found it’s way to many pastors. Pastor Amos asked that we share it. It is a good reminder, especially in this season of pastoral changes, of all that a pastor is and can be!

“No one knows: *What a pastor hears *What they see *The secrets they must keep
 *The temptations they encounter *The tears they shed *The sorrow they endure
 *The loneliness they manage *How they accommodate those who pretend they love them
 but destroy them from behind. *How they try to live more than human. *The discrimination they
 must not react to *The accusations to which they remain mute *The expectations they strive
 to cope with *They are alive for God and yet they live for us.

A PASTOR and THE PASTORHOOD no one can fully understand. So, all you can do is pray for them. Wish them well and endeavor to understand them. Work to make them happy, for an unhappy Pastor is a disaster to the Church of God.

****Respect your Pastor **Pray for your Pastor **Encourage your Pastor **Celebrate your Pastor**
 God bless you as you honor your Pastor.



Virtual Bible study with Pastor Amos continues with a look at the Book of Nehemiah. The book focuses on the practical application of Nehemiah's concepts of reconstruction, restoration and reconciliation. The study continues through June 11th.

This is a gathering on Zoom....the link for all sessions is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81653139195?pwd=SDNiRy9VY0pDcEtYRIQ4OFpHUFlkdz09>

By Phone, Dial 1 312 626 6799, then Meeting ID: 816 5313 9195#, then Password: 740463#



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 SCHEDULE

Children's Sunday School

9:00 am-10:15 am, during worship

Adult Sunday School

10:15- 11:30 a.m. following worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Oak Lawn

Ministers: All members of the faith community Pastor: Amos Oladipo

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

Church Office: (708) 423-1170, Website: www.FirstMethodistOakLawn.org

Pastor Amos Oladipo 773/600-9799 Find us on Facebook!

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