

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

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



May 2025 The Joyful Church

This month is declared a joyful month to remind us that we are a joyful church that rejoices in every circumstance of life! I love our church because it embodies joy, as evident in our Sunday gatherings and during any church activities. As Nehemiah 8:10 says, "For the joy of the Lord is our strength!" I am grateful to serve a church that is filled with joy.

This month's sermon series will focus on the nature of joy in light of our contemporary situation and how we can live joyfully in spite of... Did you know that joy is the birthright of every child of God? Every believer should experience a conscious, conspicuous, continuous, and contagious joy. Any Christian who does not live joyfully is missing out on the privileges that come with their faith. Numerous passages in the Bible support this idea. For instance, Isaiah 61 describes the joyful life that God desires for His followers. This joy is not dependent on our circumstances; rather, it is a state of mind characterized by peace and stability, even amid life's challenges. Do you possess this joy—true joy, everlasting joy?

As part of our sermon series on joy, our virtual Bible study on Wednesdays from May 7 – June 11, 2025, will explore the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah recounts the rebuilding of Jerusalem and its walls. We will specifically focus on the themes of restoration, reconciliation, and rebuilding, which are central to the redemptive story. Restoration, Reconciliation, Rebuilding—that was not just the plan for Nehemiah; it was not just the hope of the people at that time that God would restore, reconcile, and rebuild them. It's the hope of every human being who has ever drawn breath, hoping for reconciliation, restoration, and rebuilding. These teachings are particularly relevant as we navigate the current global situation.

On May 11th, we will celebrate and honor our mothers during the worship service. We will acknowledge them in all the roles God has blessed them with—biological, surrogate, adoptive, foster, and more. We will also honor the women for whom "mother" may not be a noun but certainly applies as a verb, as they have truly "mothered" children with their love. We invite you to bring your families and friends to share this special day with us.

We extend our special congratulations to our birthday and anniversary celebrants! We rejoice with them and pray that God continues to bless them with many happy and healthy years.

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters experiencing health and other life challenges for healing and God's presence in their situations.

Let us always remember that "the joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10) in any situation!

Happy Mother's Day and enjoy it!

Your friend and Pastor, Amos

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS

Urgent prayers: Jack Turner

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

Our sympathies to the Neumann family on the death of Bart Stancampiano, the father of their Son-in-law Brad Stancampiano and father-in-law to Melanie Neumann Stancampiano. We also continue prayers for Robin's brother Richard.

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

Tim Wilson, Maggie O'Bradovic's son-in-law



SEND a CARD!



MAKE A CALL!



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY to.....

16th Ken Linderborg 25th Joanne Vitek

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to....

Lynn and Robin Neumann May 5th

Becky and Amos Oladipo May 9th

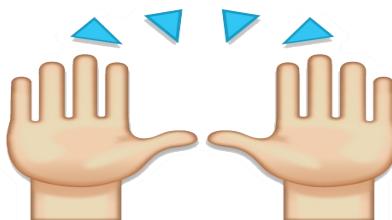
THANK YOU AND CELEBRATION FOR.....

A very successful Easter Bunny Bake Sale

A productive workday

A beautiful Easter celebration., including wonderful flowers (thank you, all who contributed)

a blossoming choir and organ music, as well as many faithful in attendance to hear the resounding news: Christ is Risen!!



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!**

MAY 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.

May 1 Rummage Sale 4-7 pm

May 3 Rummage Sale 8 am—2 pm

May 8 Finance Meeting

May 9 Friendship Fridays

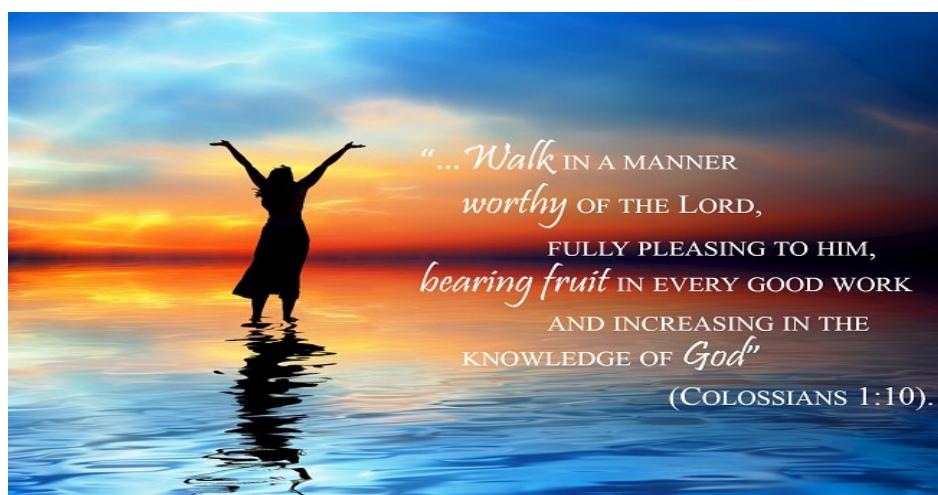
May 10 Parking Lot Sale 8 am—2 pm

And “Fill the Truck” event

May 11 Festival of the Christian Home

May 22 Roundtable

May 23 Flower Fundraiser Pick up



Rummage Sale

First United Methodist
Church of Oak Lawn
100th & Central

Thursday, May 1
4pm - 7pm

Closed Friday
for Restock

Saturday, May 3
8am - 2pm

**Free
Admission!
Cash Only**



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

THE UWF RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING!!

Sale dates are Thursday, May 1 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, May 3rd from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Set up hours are Monday and Tuesday, April 28 and 29, from 9—9. Set up hours on Wednesday the 30th are 9—4.

All hands are appreciated! We also need extra hands on Thursday, May 1, from 3:45 - 7, and on Saturday May 3, anytime between the hours of 8 and 4, for selling and clean-up. We are closed May 2nd for sorting and restocking. If you missed set-up you can bring items in on May 2nd. Also, we will have a “fill the truck” event on May 10th, where Items that didn’t make into the sale can be brought in to the truck to find new homes elsewhere.

REUSE—REDUCE—RECYCLE—RAISE FUNDS!

AND THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!...

...For a wonderfully successful Bunny Bake Sale.

Your contributions and purchases helped us raise over \$1000 dollars for missions and our general budget here at First.

Rachel circle will meet on Tuesday, May 13th, at 9:30 at the church. **Debra Circle** will gather on May 28th at 10 a.m. , at the church.



The Virtual Bible Study with Pastor Amos has switched to Wednesdays at 7 p.m., but has been on Spring Break:) The study will resume on Wednesday, May 7th, with a look at the Book of Nehemiah. The book focuses on the practical application of Nehemiah's concepts of reconstruction, restoration and reconciliation. This is one you won't want to miss!

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81653139195?pwd=SDNiRy9VY0pDcEtYRIQ4OFpHUFIkdz09>

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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