

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



November 2025

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

The Psalmist in Psalm 34, verses 1-2, tells us, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad." This reminds me that in every situation, we can still praise His Holy Name. Praising God for God's goodness is even more magnified as we move into November and prepare for and participate in our annual "Thanksgiving Dinners and Celebrations." Even though God is good, let us not forget those who will be lonely during this time, those who will have SNAP benefits cut off, and those who suffer in silence. Let's continue to help out, volunteer, or donate to ministries that seek to be a blessing to those in our midst who are suffering from food insecurities, unemployment, and homelessness, to name a few.

We are thankful for all who volunteered their time and resources to our annual "Pumpkin Patch" and "Trick-or-Treat"; both were a success and continue to be an excellent means for us to stay in relationship with our residents and our surrounding community. Our connectional "Bible Study" will continue until November 25, 2025. It has been my pleasure to co-facilitate this "Bible Study with Rev. Amos Oladipo. We are now studying the book of Nahum. All are welcome to participate in this outstanding, life-giving Bible Study. Additionally, we just concluded our "Annual Charge Conference with district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Nanabray, which was also a success.

In our Lake South District, our district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Nanabray, will continue to offer monthly "Go Team" training sessions beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Zoom link for this ongoing event is: Meeting ID: 964 1732 9893, Passcode: 081053. Our next meeting is on November 1, 2025. Our Northern Illinois Conference offers Teaching Tuesday through the Office of Congregational Development. Our next session is on November 4, 2025. Holly Adams of the British Methodist Church will be discussing "Reclaiming Evangelism." Secondly, the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal will be offering "Safe Gatherings" training on November 1, 2025.

We join in the joy of those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this month, praying that God will grant them many more years of joy, peace, and good health. Our prayers are also with those who need healing and those facing various life challenges. Let's continue to support one another in prayer and check in on each other.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Beverly Dukes, Pastor

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS

Ongoing prayers for health and healing: Joan Wyma, Penny and Randy Millslagle, Joanne Bartlett, Gary Czemski, Phyllis Hogan, Maggie O'Bradovic.

Prayers of Thanksgiving: Lettie's Uncle Omar is safely home after an illegal ICE detention.

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

Dave Morris

Emily, granddaughter of Anne Boyd



SEND a CARD!



MAKE A CALL!



Happy Birthday to.....

7th Anne Boyd 8th Cassidy Dawson 17th Donna Cole
20th Darlene Turner 26th Karen Linderborg

Thanks and celebration!

- * An AMAZING African Day celebration, especially the praise songs which closed our time together!
- * Another successful Pumpkin Patch, both financially and in the beauty of Fellowship with the community around us!!

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!**

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sundays: Worship! 9 am

Kid's Sunday School 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:15

Fellowship and “coffee and” following services.

Bible study Tuesdays 7-8 pm via Zoom

Finance meeting, Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

November 23rd, Commitment Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 30th, Hanging of the Greens

Followed by Potluck Luncheon





Open hearts. Open minds. Open futures.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Come Join Us:



Fall Season: Weekly Bible Study on The Prophets: Jonah, Micah and Nahum

When: Tuesday @7:00pm to 8:00pm

Beginning: Sept. 9, 2025 thru Nov. 25, 2025

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81653139195?pwd=SDNiRy9VY0pDcEtYRlQ40FpHUFlkdz09>

Meeting ID: 816 5313 9195 ... Password: 740463

Facilitators: Rev. Amos Oladipo, pastor
(Grace United Protestant Church in Park Forest)

Rev. Beverly Dukes, pastor
(Morgan Park UMC & First UMC in Oak Lawn)

NEWS FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE!

This is the time of year when we anticipate what our expenses for the next year will be, and assess how we will end this year. As we enter a season of Thanksgiving, and focus on our response to gifts received, we ask you to join us in making sure your current pledge is up to date, and begin to meditate on what gifts you may offer up in the coming year. Currently, our financial picture reflects a strong commitment to pledged giving. Thank you to all for your faithful giving. Commitment Sunday for 2026 will be November 23rd. We look forward to your continued faithfulness.

You can access our Vanco giving page

via this QR code >>



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WELCOMES YOU!

Rachel Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. at the church.
Debra Circle will gather at the church on Monday, November 17th, at 7 p.m.
(Please note this is one week before our usual meeting, so that we may avoid the holiday week.)

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE WELCOME AT EITHER CIRCLE...or both!...

FOR “FELLOWSHIP AND ...” COME AND SEE WHAT WE’RE ABOUT!

United Women in Faith
Cookie Bonanza is on the way!
Saturday, December 6th
9:00AM – 12:00PM
First UMC, Oak Lawn
10000 S. Central



Cookie Contributions Welcome!
Cookie monsters welcome to buy!
\$12 a box

Hanging of the Greens!!

Join us to decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, Nov. 30th, immediately following church. Following decorating, we will share in a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to share and join the fun!



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

9 a.m. age 3 through grade school
Adult class at 10:15

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

Find us on Facebook!

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