

# First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

April, 2026



## Happy Easter!

Greetings, Sibling in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

As we emerge from the reflective season of Lent and enter the joy of Easter 2026, I write to you with a heart full of hope. Resurrection is not merely a historical event; it is a present reality that calls us to new life.

In April, I invite you to reflect on the hope we have in our Risen Savior. In John's gospel chapter twenty, starting in verse thirteen, the apostle John explained how Mary Magdalene was grief-stricken knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ died and was placed in a tomb. Unbeknownst to her, Mary Magdalene had this encounter with Jesus, but she did not recognize him. Mary Magdalene thought she was talking to the gardener, but in fact it was Jesus. He asked Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping? I would argue that Jesus asked us the same question: what troubles us today, and what causes us to weep as we look out into the world? Mary finally realized that it was Jesus talking to her when he called her name.

Surely, Mary's sadness turned to joy when she realized that Jesus was with her. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is also with us. He calls all of us by name, and he can turn our troubles, our weeping, and sadness into shouts of joy. Let our Risen Savior turn your doubts into shouts of rejoicing. Can you hear Jesus Christ calling you by name today? Let us be the gathered community that bears witness to this amazing love, joy, hope, and peace we have in our Risen Savior, who calls all of us by name!

Because he lives, we can face all our tomorrows, because he lives, hope is alive and flowing through us!

May the love and peace of Christ be with us always and forever.

Reverend Beverly Dukes, pastor

## Have a Blessed Day!



# ***PRAYER CONCERNS***

## **MEMBER PRAYER CONCERNS**

***Ongoing prayers for health and healing:*** Penny and Randy Millsagle, Maggie O’Bradovic  
Greg Greiman, Joanne Bartlett, Gary Czemske

***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***

Andrew Russel, brother of Helen Gesell  
Dave Morris  
Emily, granddaughter of Anne Boyd

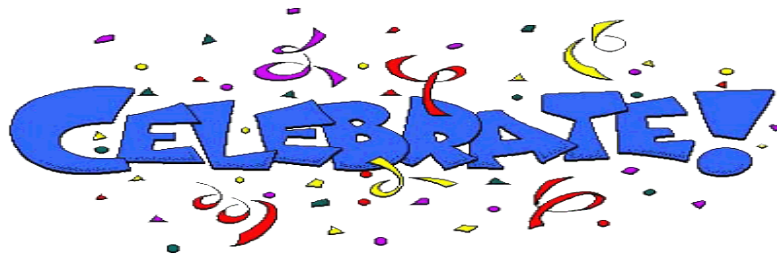


Reach out and let them know you care!!

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## ***From the Pastor's Desk***

\*If you are interested in church membership, please call the church office at 708/423-1170 for more information



*Happy Birthday to.....*

6th Gary Czemske 11th Matt Gesell 17th Helen Gesell

17th Erlinda Hasty 17th Kathy Leatherman 18th Robin Neumann

19th Dan Swallow

*Happy Anniversary to....*

April 29th Penny and Greg Greiman

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

AA, NA, Al-Anon, Alateen, Girl Scouts, 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!**

**Numbers From your Finance Committee**

**Your Finance Committee has presented a budget for 2026 showing anticipated income of \$98,174 and anticipated expenses of \$122,717. We have begun other years with an expected shortfall, and have still met our obligations. With diligent spending, your faithful and continued support, and God's guiding hand, we expect to continue the work we are called to do!**

# Rummage Sale

**Thursday, April 30th**  
**4pm - 7pm**

**Closed Friday**  
**for restock**

**Saturday, May 2nd**  
**8am - 2pm**

**Free Admission!**  
**\*Cash Only\***



**First United Methodist Church**  
**of Oak Lawn**  
**100th & Central**



All are welcome to help set up, help sell, shop or clean up! Donations of goods to be sold are appreciated, and can be accepted beginning Sunday, April 26th, or anytime during set up hours. **Set up hours** are as follows:

Monday, April 27th 11-8 Tuesday, April 28th 9-4 Wednesday April 29th 10-8

Thursday, April 29th and Friday, April 30th as needed.

**Sale hours:** Thursday, April 30 4-7 Saturday, May 2, 8-2

**Bag hours** (fill a bag for \$5, subsequent bags \$3) Saturday, Noon-2

**Clean -up** Saturday, May 2, 2-4

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WELCOMES YOU!!**

**Rachel Circle will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, April 14th, at church.**

**Debra Circle will not have a formal meeting in March, as we will begin setting up the UWF rummage sale on Monday, March 27th.**

**(See Rummage sale information elsewhere in this newsletter.)**

**All women, those in the church community and those beyond, are welcome at either meeting, for fellowship and study.**

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF OUR 2025 LOVE GIFTS.**

UWF began in 1869 as an independent missional arm of the Methodist Church, focusing on women's and children's health and education. We continue to carry on that work with annual gifts to a variety of missions. . This year we are happy to support the following four missions with a gift of \$400 to each.

**FEEDING AMERICA..a network of food banks across the US.**

**EMPOWERMENT:** a women run organization that makes sleeping bags that convert to coats or backpacks for the homeless for ease of storage during the day. Distributed in major cities across the US.

**NATIONAL VETERANS HOME...**a safe haven for vets facing homelessness, illness, and the effects of war time.

**VOLUNTEER OPTOMETRIC SERVICES TO HUMANITY...**an organization that provides free eye care primarily in Nicaragua

# **APRIL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

***April 5th EASTER! Resurrection Sunday***

***9 a.m with Fellowship following***

**Sundays: Worship! 9 am**

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

**Fellowship and "coffee and" following services.**

**Open to all!**

**Thursday, April 16th**

**Finance Committee 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 23rd**

**Roundtable, 6:45 p.m.**

**Rummage Sale**

**Thursday, April 30th, 4-7**

**Saturday, May 2nd, 8-2**

**Bag hours: May 2nd, Noon to 2**

There are many ways to tithe your time at First UMC! As Spring blows in and the shut up hours of winter fade away, our church is waking up to new opportunities. Where will YOU be spreading some love?

\*Help keep our Blessing Box a real blessing to those who visit. We need someone to visit the box 2-3 times a week and keep it straightened and well-stocked! Materials supplied.

Have a green thumb and an eye for beauty? We need some gardeners, master or otherwise, to weed beds around the front of the church and keep flowers and small bushes trimmed and inviting. We have tools!

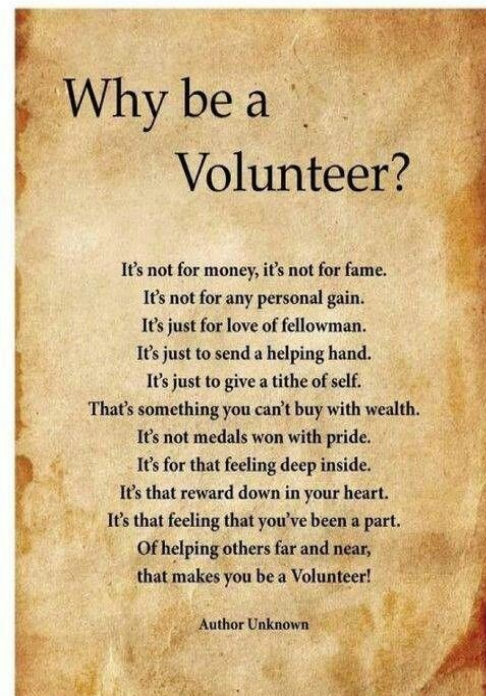
Want to garden with a goal beyond beauty? Join our Community Garden team and help provide fresh produce to local food pantries to help those in need. We need planters, weeders, waterers and harvesters. Times are flexible!

Want to help bring the beauty inside and give focus to our worship? Take charge of the vestments and banners displayed in the sanctuary, as well as dressing the altar for special Sundays and seasons.

Are you known as Mr (or Mrs) Fix-it? We have numerous small projects and repairs that keep our building humming along and being the amazing center of our worship and community that it is. Let us know your specialties so we can call on you when needed.

Love to garage sale and chat with the neighbors? We need you at our parking lot sales! 2nd and 4th Saturdays 8-2, to greet vendors and generally supervise.

What can you contribute to the Tender Loving Care of our faith community? Most likely we've missed a skill you are ready to share. Let us know where your heart is calling you to serve. Together we can accomplish great things to God's glory!



SAVE THE DATES!!

Rummage Sale April 30th and May 2nd



**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](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