

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



May, 2026

Dear Sibling in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

As we enter May, we are fully immersed in the season of Eastertide—fifty glorious days to celebrate the resurrection that changed everything. The spring landscape around us, with flowers blooming and trees filling in, acts as a living metaphor for this season. Just as the Earth returns to life after Winter, our church, too, is experiencing new life after Easter.

This May, I invite you to focus on **"Living Our Faith"** in a tangible, active way. Our Wesleyan roots call us to follow Jesus and grow in Christian perfection through love and grace. In the post-Easter lectionary texts, we see that the Risen Christ shows up in ordinary places—in gardens, in locked rooms, on the road, and around shared meals.

A New Vision for Our Future

On May 1, 2025, The United Methodist Church officially unveiled a new guiding vision statement, inviting us to be a church where we **"love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously"** in our local communities. As we look toward the summer, let this vision encourage us to embrace joy and hope, meeting Jesus in our neighbors and in our service to the most vulnerable.

May Highlights & Opportunities

Christian Home Month: Throughout May, we celebrate the family, however defined, as a center for faith formation. I encourage us to practice the tenets of faith 365 days a year within our homes.

Native American Ministries Sunday (May 4): We honor the contributions of Native Americans in our church and community, accepting a special offering to support mission work.

Graduation & Heritage: Later in the month, we will honor our graduates and celebrate Heritage Sunday (May 18), looking back on our journey with God while looking forward.

Preparation for Mission: As we move toward summer, let us pray for our upcoming Annual Conference sessions, as we walk together by grace.

As we walk through May, may we talk to those we meet with the excitement of our resurrected Lord. Christ is risen, and he is calling us to make disciples and to be the light of Christ in a world that needs hope.

Be strong in the Spirit (Ephesians 3:16)!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Beverly Dukes, pastor

First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

PRAYER CONCERNS

URGENT PRAYERS:

Jackie McEllen, Helen Gesell

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Penny and Randy Millslagle,
Greg Greiman, Joanne Bartlett, Gary Czemske
Donna Heinz, Kaylee Koschnitzki

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

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING: *Jean Krolak is home and doing well!*

FRIENDS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED OF PRAYER

Dave Morris

By phone, email or snail mail....



let them know you care!

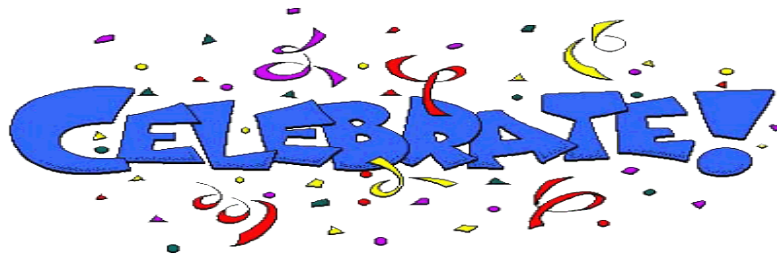
From the Pastor's Desk

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

DON'T FORGET!!!

***May 16th, 9:30 a.m., Garden Planting Day!, weather permitting
All hands welcome !***

***May 22, Flower, herb and vegetable sale pick-up! 6-8 p.m.
9800 S. Menard, Oak Lawn***



Happy Birthday to.....

16th Ken Linderborg 22nd Ellijah Czemske 25th Joanne Vitek

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!**

From your Finance Committee ...

TIME IS MONEY!

One could take an argument about this statement in many directions, but in the viewpoint of the Finance Committee in the church setting, time can indeed be money: your time providing the church services that we might otherwise have to pay someone to do! Some obvious examples at First are the filling of the musical, secretarial, bookkeeping and IT needs by people who give their time and save us significant funds. However, not all the needs are in areas that require significant amounts of time to save us real dollars. Landscape help, minor plumbing repairs, small maintenance issues, painting needs all pop up regularly. Members who offer their time and skills to these projects help us save money, keep our budget in balance, and free up funds to cover the things we cannot do, or, more importantly, the programs, assistance and opportunities we hope to bring to our community both within and without our walls. Where can you give your time? (Call the office when you find time on your hands and are willing to put it to good use!)

MAY 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.

***Rummage Sale Open 4-7 Thursday, April 30th
(Accepting late donations on May 1, 10-2)**

**Rummage Sale Continues Saturday, May 2nd, 8-2
Bag hours: May 2nd, Noon to 2**

***Parking Lot Sale, Sat. May 9, 8-2**

***Rachel Circle, Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 am**

***Finance at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21**

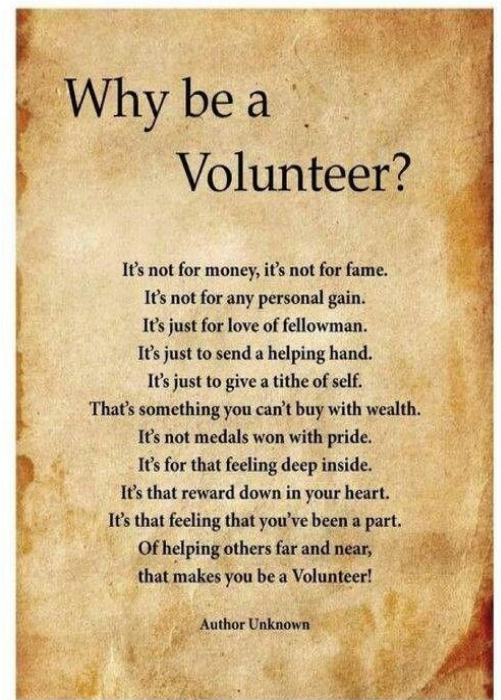
***Parking Lot Sale, Sat. May 23 8-2**

***Debra Circle Wednesday, May 27th 10 am**

***Roundtable at 6:45 on Thursday May 28th**

**Celebrating Native American Ministries, May 4
and Heritage Sunday, May 18th**

You may have noticed a message from our Finance Committee elsewhere in this Newsletter. They, too, are thinking about the ways in which we can all lessen the burden on our Church building and community, and how to maximize our resources. YOU are one of them! What can you do to help? Call the office to share your skill sets and interests. We look forward to having you on board!



*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!

TREASURE HUNTING SEASON!

Rummage Sale: April 30, May 2 (Emptied some more closets?
Bring the booty in on Friday, May 1st. 10-noon We'll restock
for Saturday! Help keep useable goods out of landfills!!)

AND

Join us at parking lot sales, beginning May 9th from 8-2.
Multiple vendors, and treasures waiting to be found!!



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!

E-mail Office: fumcoffice1@att.net Rev. Dukes: bdukes03@gmail.com

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