

# *First* United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



October, 2026

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we welcome the crisp and beautiful days of October 2026!

A wonderful shift in pace hangs in the air this time of year. As the leaves turn and our community settles into autumn routines, our life together as the Church shifts right along with them. This month, I want to invite us to reflect deeply on what it means to be an active, serving body of Christ—not just inside these walls on a Sunday morning, but out in the neighborhoods we are called to love.

## **Walking in Active Faith**

As we journey through the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, our denomination is called to turn our hearts towards the hope we have in Christ. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians reminds us that a true life of faith is never passive; our faith moves us to action, our love compels us to serve, and our hope in Jesus gives us the endurance to keep going.

The ministry of the Church does not belong to one person; it belongs to *all* of God's people. Whether through quiet acts of compassion, leadership, generosity, or prayer, each of you plays a vital role in making disciples of Jesus Christ. This month, I encourage you to thank a fellow church member whose quiet faithfulness has blessed your life, and to ask God how your own hands and feet can serve our neighbor.

## **Looking Across Our Lake South District**

### **Dates to Remember This Month**

**October 3:** Monthly Go To Meeting (Everyone 10:30 am to noon)

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 964 1732 9893 Passcode: 081053

**October 3 & 10:** Laity Academy (Faith UMC) located at 15015 Grant St., Dolton Illinois on Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

**October 4:** World Communion Sunday—we will gather at the Lord's table to celebrate our unity with Christians across the globe.

**October 11:** Pastor Appreciation Day—though I am endlessly humbled to serve as your pastor, I want to thank you for the profound grace, love, and partnership you extend to me and my family every day.

**October 18:** Laity Sunday—celebrating the ministry of all baptized believers.

**October 19:** Annual Charge Conference 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**October 20–24:** The denomination-wide Leadership Gathering in prayer.

Thank you for the gift of being your pastor and for the vibrant, compassionate way you embody Christ's love in our community every day. Let us continue to walk this road together, anchored in God's grace

In Christ's steadfast love,

Rev. Beverly Dukes, Pastor

First United Methodist in Oak Lawn, Illinois

# ***PRAYER CONCERNS***

**URGENT PRAYERS:** Bonnie Bergman, Aaron Burch

**ONGOING PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:** Penny and Randy Millsagle,  
Greg Greiman, Joanne Bartlett, Gary Czemske  
Janice Fox Thompson,  
Arthur Vazquez, Helen Gesell

**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

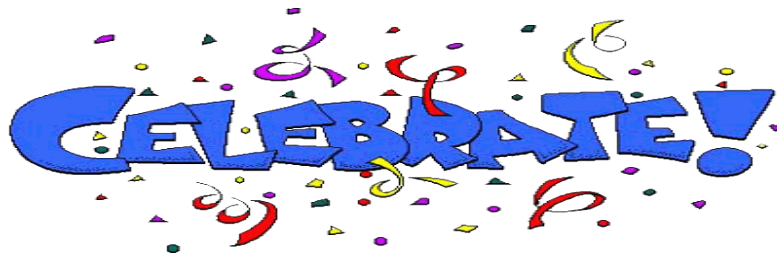
By phone, email or snail mail....



let them know you care!

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

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



Happy Birthday to.....

10th David Czemske    13th Joanne Bartlett    14th Shelby Bohannon

14th Monica Russel    14th Joan Wyma

...

Happy Anniverary to.....

2nd Helen and Pete Gesell

20th Joan and Harry wyma

Thanks to all who helped organize our Back to Church celebration. The weather did not cooperate with our plans for being outside, but "Fellowship Hall" worked out just fine, and truly brought our community together in a great time of worship and fellowship.

Also, our new portable sound system, obtained with a very small portion of grant monies, worked beautifully and opens up possibilities for more outdoor events.

# ***OCTOBER CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS***

**Sundays: Worship! 9 am**

**Adult Sunday School 10:15**

**Fellowship and “coffee and”**

**Sunday, Oct. 4 World Wide Communion Sunday 9 a.m.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 6th, in person Bible study 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 10 Pumpkins arrive! 10 a.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 10 Parking Lot Sale 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Sunday, Oct. 11th, Pastor Appreciation Sunday**

**Sunday, Oct. 11– Saturday, Oct. 31 Pumpkin Patch!**

**Sunday, Oct. 18, Laity Sunday**

**Monday, Oct. 19th, Charge Conference 5-6 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 24 Craft Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 24, Parking Lot Sale 10 a.m. -2 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 27th in person Bible Study 6-7 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 31st, Parking Lot Sale 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**



**First United Methodist Church  
OF OAK LAWN**

# THE PUMPKIN PATCH

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FALL FRIENDS FAITH COMMUNITY**

**Pumpkin Patch  
October 11 thru 31**  
Monday - Friday 11 am - 7 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 7 pm  
Sunday Noon - 7 pm

**Bake Sale**  
plus Dawn's Famous  
Pumpkin Bread  
Available

**Pumpkin Cafe**  
Weekends Only  
Noon - 4 pm  
Offering tasty options  
for purchase.

**Craft Fair  
October 24th**  
10 am - 4 pm

**Daily Activities:**

- Scavenger Hunt & Games for **Free**
- Tractor Rides **\$1**
- Build a Family Scarecrow **\$15**
- Daily Bake Sale
- Popcorn **\$1** (after 3:30)
- Free Great Photo Opps!

Proceeds fund community outreach programs for food justice, hunger relief, programs for youth/adults and addictions, Christian education and community for all ages and abilities. *Thank you!*

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OAK LAWN**  
100th Street & Central | (708) 423-1170 | [FirstMethodistOakLawn.org](http://FirstMethodistOakLawn.org)

Check our Facebook page for activity updates!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**

Our Pumpkins will soon be on their way. By the time you read this, we will already have begun putting up tents, mowing the grass, decorating, and generally readying our patch for thousands of beautiful pumpkins. We also need some beautiful faces to smile at our guests. There are tasks available for all ages and abilities, from turning and selling our pumpkins, and decorating our patch, to counting the day's receipts, calling in reports, or baking for our sweet table! Please contact Marty Linderborg to sign up for sales and reporting times, or let us know you are willing to help with some of the non-scheduled jobs.

We are asking that all hands be on deck at 10 A.M. on Saturday, October 10, when our pumpkins arrive! We want to greet them properly and see them settled in :) Be sure to come for this fun-filled day. Welcome our pumpkins! It will be a blast !!

*Marty, Patch Coordinator*

## PARSONAGE REJUVENATION!

As you know, our parsonage has been in need of some TLC. Now, while the building is empty, is the time to catch up on some much needed maintenance. We are looking for members, or friends of, who can help with some simple drywall, small plumbing projects, and outdoor maintenance and landscaping. If you, or someone you know, would like to give a hand on such projects; or if you know of reasonably priced workmen for such projects; please contact Marty Linderborg.



### 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

Adult class at 10:15 Sundays

### BIBLE STUDY in PERSON

The 1st and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6 P.M. at the church!

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!

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