

THE **KOINONIA**

April 2011

First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

Holy Week Triduum Service



This year, we will offer worship experiences on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday at 7 pm each evening. These three services will not be three separate services, but instead they will all complete one ongoing worship journey—The Triduum. Together we will travel through these important days, experiencing the story of old made new in our midst. Through special musical pieces, drama, sacraments, and even a firepit one evening, our congregation will experience Easter anew after making this voyage. You won't want to miss it.

Childcare will be provided. If you, or your family, are interested in participating in any part of this Triduum Service, please contact Pastor Carol.

Also, on Good Friday we will have a Family Worship service in the sanctuary at noon. This will include stations for telling the story in a way appropriate for children. Afterward we will prepare the cookie baskets for our homebound folks.



Easter Worship 2011

Easter Morning Worship Services will be held at 8, 9, and 10:30 am on April, 24. An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will take place at 10 am. Special Music, Baptisms, and the Resurrection will make these worship services particularly meaningful!

**We are a multi-generational Christian community welcoming all,
offering spiritual growth and opportunities for compassionate service.**

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' ¹⁷He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. John 21:15-17

As many of you know I grew up in the house of a United Methodist minister and a very faithful father. However, that didn't mean that it was assumed that I would live a righteous life or even have a faith. Both of my parents talked to me about their faith and their belief in Jesus from the time I was a very young child. I knew that Jesus, God's Son, Savior of the world, was the Savior in my parents' lives. I have grown and continue to grow in my understanding of Jesus as my Lord. When I was a teenager, there were certainly times when I read scripture and depended on Jesus walking with me through the halls of high school, where even though I had many friends, I didn't always feel like I fit.

As I continued into college, I felt Jesus challenging me around my identity, who I saw myself becoming and who He wanted me to be. While I was inclined towards politics, I really believe that Jesus kept nudging me towards the religion department, where I felt my soul sing. As I have grown into adulthood and served God through parish ministry, I have continued to depend on Jesus being by my side, offering comfort, challenge, and a reminder of His call. I see myself as a partner in ministry with Jesus, though not because I have opted to be a clergy person. I am a partner with Jesus because I am his follower. Being his disciple means that even when I know I have messed up or fallen short, I still hear him asking, "Do you love me? Then feed my sheep."

As we are deeper into Lent and closer and closer to Easter, I ask all of you – what is your relationship with Jesus? Is there one? Do you LOVE him? How has it evolved over the course of your life? How do you understand the cross? How do you understand the fact that he got off that cross? These are not insignificant events in Jesus' life or in our relationship with him. What better time to stop, pray, and think about our own relationship with Jesus than now. Today. This moment.

I pray you have a blessed and meaningful rest of Lent and Easter season. It is a joy for me to continue to learn about Jesus from each of you and the ministry you are doing in Jesus' name.

Blessings,
Pastor Carol



[Rev. Rich Darr, Th. D.](#)
Lead Pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068
(847) 825-3144 Fax: (847) 825-3149
Email: office@parkridgeumc.org
www.parkridgeumc.org

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 am, 9:00 am & 10:30 am
Children's Sunday School 9:00 am



[Rev. Carol Hill](#)
Associate Pastor

Our Love and Prayers Go Out To:

Helen Pinney, Bill Schmunk, Bill Sayre, Wyrta Heagy, Bette Bonney and all US servicemen and women which includes Paul Bartel. If you have friends or family whose names should be listed here, please contact the church office office@parkridgeumc.org.

Congratulations on Elders Orders Pastor Carol!

Our entire church celebrates with Pastor Carol as she has recently passed her Elders Orders in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church!!

In one sense, this is the final step in a long and arduous ordination process of following God's call to ordained ministry as an elder. In another sense, it is the beginning of a new phase of ministry. All of us at First UMC Park Ridge are proud of you, Pastor Carol, and look forward to your ordination at Annual Conference this June. And of course we look forward to the celebrations that follow!

Admin Council News

The Administrative Council has begun collecting minutes from the various committees and placing them in a notebook kept in the office for anyone to look at.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Rich or Dorothy Silver.

Note that minutes from the Trustees are in a separate book.

FUMC Finance Committee Update

At the February Ad Council meeting, the 2011 balanced budget was approved at \$462,000 for revenues and expenses. The budgeted expenditures breakdown as follows:

Staff Parrish - \$220K

Building Recurring Expenses - \$128K

Building Fund Expenses - \$60K

Apportionment - \$15K

Office / Other Expenses - \$25K

Ministries - \$14K

If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Rocky Daehler at 847-334-5073 or rdaehler@yahoo.com.

Trustee News Phase One of flood control at the Delphia parsonage is completed. Phase Two is being planned and will cost \$9,500. Donations will be gladly received. Checks should be marked "Delphia Flood Control". Contact is Dave Dyer.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Late last year we announced that there would be a vacancy in the Director of Christian Spiritual Formation position. In anticipation of this vacancy, a search committee was formed. This committee was chaired by our Lay Leader, Alice Crawford, and included representation from the Staff-Parish Committee, the pastors and the Christian education team. The search was progressing with several potential candidates identified. However, at the last Administrative Council meeting, a decision was made to not fill this position for budgetary reasons.

Not filling this critical role required some rebalancing of responsibilities by our pastors. As a result, Pastor Carol will reduce her preaching and worship responsibilities to focus on discipleship (including Christian education). Pastor Rich will focus on preaching, worship coordination, outreach/visitation and stewardship.

We are hopeful that the financial situation will change in the near future so that we can work toward filling this position. We appreciate your understanding and support during this time of transition.

SAVE THE DATE:



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FOR CHILDREN AND
ADULTS!**

JUNE 20—24, 2011

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 12.

Calling all potters!

**The Second Annual FUMC
Plant & Garden Sale
will be Saturday, May 7.**

Starting April 9th we will be potting every weekend. Everyone is invited to be a part of this fun fundraising effort. Bring your willing hands (also gardening gloves and a trowel if you have them) and our experienced **Power Potters** will provide beginners with on-the-job training.

The first potting times will be
Saturday, April 9 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, April 10 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Please sign up at Grant Place Entrance or
call Katy Hansen.**

847-825-1847 (home) 847-533-1537 (cell)

**Ministry Action Plan
Visioning Update**

Thank you so much for the responses we have received from the yellow questionnaires you have filled out—both individually and as ministry areas and committees regarding the future direction of our church.

Your input is being reviewed and analyzed by our MAP Visioning Team who will then present their findings to Council on Ministry, Church Council, committees and the entire church for further input and direction.

The goal is to establish a three year Ministry Action Plan (MAP) focusing on three or four ministry areas that will have our entire church moving in the same direction.

~MAP Vision Team

First UMC's Got Talent !!



Many Thanks for everyone's support at last month's Youth Talent Show and Chili Supper. Together we raised \$861!!



Chili Chefs Extraordinaire:

Congratulations to Kate Kerin, Alice Crawford, and Amy Lane for award –winning chili!



**UMW invites you to
The Spring Salad Bar**

"Thank you" Lunch

Program by Eric Berman

Songs of WWII

Thursday, April 14

12:30 pm



**Come listen to and sing along
with some oldies but goodies!!**

\$8/member, guests complimentary

Hostesses are the UMW Board

Easter Sunday Supper

Interested in serving an Easter Sunday Supper meal to the underserved? Our church is joining St. Matthews Church in providing the Easter dinner for the Sunday Supper Ecumenical Ministry at St. Paul's Catholic Church. St. Matthews will cook; we will deliver, serve, and clean up. We need about 12 people. Look for the signup sheet at Grant Place or contact Lorie Bartel 847-696-4135.

Planning your summer garden?

Consider cultivating an extra row of vegetables that can be donated to local food pantries at harvest time. Stay tuned for more information.

Cookie Donations

We would appreciate homemade cookies for the Easter baskets for our homebound members and friends. We need 12-15 dozen. You may drop these off at the church office by Friday, April 22 at noon.

**Blood Drive— Here at First UMC
Sunday, May 1, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
LifeSource is the sponsor.**

Give the gift of life and donate blood. One pint of donated blood will help save the lives of three people. Sign up on Sundays or contact Judy Mendoza 773-467-0273. You may also register through Life Source's web site at www.lifesource.org. If you have questions of eligibility, contact LifeSource at 847-803-7921.



A mission team from our church helped package over **5000# of bread** last month when it visited the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Thanks, Team!

This bread is distributed by the GCFD to local pantries, shelters, and school programs, including the programs supported by our sister church, Humboldt Park United Methodist.

That's a lot of bread and it was a lot of fun.

The Pascal Candle

Have you ever wondered what the large white candle next to the podium on the right hand side of the sanctuary is? It's called a Paschal Candle and symbolizes the risen Christ. This candle is to be lit on the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening before Easter Sunday. The Paschal candle then burns at all services through Pentecost. It may also be lit for baptismal and funeral services (to symbolize resurrection). The Paschal candle in our sanctuary is given annually by Mrs. Helen Billings in loving memory of her late husband Don.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

will meet on the
1st & 3rd Mondays
of the month
at 1:00 pm
in the Parlor.



Contact Dorothy Silver or
Marilynn Fisher
for more information.

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
REFRESHMENTS**

- April 3 Outreach
- April 10 Esther- Priscilla
- April 17 Youth Group
- April 24 Prayer Shawl Ministry

Served 10:00-10:30 am in the Parlor.

Thank You



Many thanks to all who participated in the 24-hour Prayer Vigil leading in to Ash Wednesday worship services.

The unbroken chain of volunteers helped all of us focus on this Lenten time of anticipation. God bless you all!



Cub Scout Pack 1 invites you to an "All You Can Eat" Pancake Dinner on Saturday, April 9, at the Original Pancake House, 106 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge.

\$5 cost per person and all proceeds benefit Pack 1, chartered by our church.

Contact Rocky Daehler for tickets or pay at the door.



HUMBOLDT PARK MEALS MINISTRY

Sunday, April 17

Cook at 1:30 pm
Deliver at 4:00 pm

Volunteers are still needed to cook (here) and serve (at HP).



Sign ups sheets are at the Grant Place entrance.

The Bible as Story: a new study with Pastor Rich

Ever feel like you don't know much about the Bible?
Or how the "Old" Testament relates to the "New" Testament?
And how in the world do all those hundreds of different stories in the Bible relate to each other much less the Bible as a whole? What exactly makes the Bible one book?
If you've ever asked these kinds of questions and if you'd like to get to know your Bible better, then Pastor Rich's study—*The Bible as Story*—is for you!
So please join us for a six week introduction to the Bible (Bible 101) starting Wednesday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m. in the parlor.
We'll be using a 6th grade level Bible in order to cover lots of ground quickly.
Cost is \$15. All are welcome!

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



FOR ADULTS

*It's not too late
to join a class!*

Session 4: March 6 - April 17

8:00 am – Faith Story Writing Revisited, led by Donna Darr

Donna will be returning to continue her fascinating exploration of writing our faith stories, using Elizabeth Andrew's *Writing the Sacred Journey* and other materials. New and returning participants welcome.

9:00 am – Discussion Group, led by Leah Cozad

Come and learn about the disciples! Each week the discussion will be focused on one of Jesus' twelve disciples with the presentations rotating. All will enjoy reading scripture and revealing a little more about the twelve men.

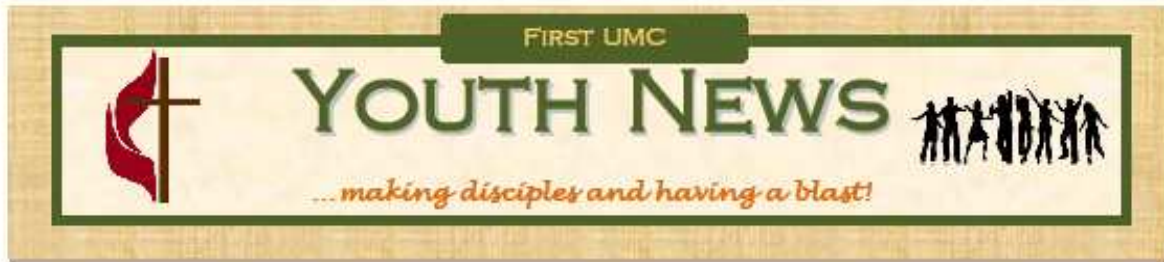
10:30 am – Radical Hospitality: Rethink Inclusion

Members of the All Means All: LGBT Inclusion Team lead a study based on biblical principles such as hospitality, love of neighbor, and the interconnect- edness of all God's creation—and what these might mean to us as Christians and as United Methodists. Class also features a showing of the animated documentary *Fish out of Water*.

Childcare will be available at 9:00 and 10:30.

All classes will be held on the first floor of the church.





Bridget is one of the newest members of youth group at First UMC, and she is incredible! Most recently appearing as a spooky storyteller in the Talent Show, Bridget is always willing to lend a helping hand and participate! She is a 6th grader with a wonderful sense of humor and a heart full of compassion for others. Thanks for being so fantastic, Bridget!

YOUTH MISSION TRIPS GEARING UP!

Teeec Noc Pos, Arizona
 It's time to sign up and start helping with the fundraising for our summer mission trips 2011. Our High School trip will be headed west to Arizona, where they will be joining a few other youth groups to do some work on a Native American reservation. This may even be complete with a stop at the Four Corners! Participants should all have paid their \$100 deposit and gotten their stock certificates to start selling!

We raised \$850 at the Youth Talent Show! Thanks everyone for your hard work!

Middle School Mission Trip
 Our Middle School Mission Trip is being reconsidered. Due to time and scheduling complications, we are still trying to get this trip on the calendar. The Conference Mission Trip will NOT be happening this year so it will just be our group wherever we go.

Happy Birthday to:
 April 19 - Courtney Richardson
 April 24 - Kyle Richardson

FAN THE FLAME RETREAT
 You won't want to miss this retreat! See Chill for details and forms!

WEEKLY YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

April Events

April 3

Youth Group from 5 – 6:30 PM
 Jesus, Who!? Come to youth group as we begin a new series exploring who Jesus was and what he did. Dinner will be served!

April 10

Youth Group from 5 – 6:30 PM
 Jesus, Who!? Continues as we take a field trip to continue to reveal who Jesus was...mystery trip!

April 13

Sticker Shock!
 Help place stickers on alcohol reminding adults that it is against the law to serve a minor. Time and meeting place TBA.

April 16

Feed My Starving Children
 Come to church at 8 am to load up and go to Schaumburg to help feed the hungry! Awesome project!

April 17

Youth Host Coffee Hour
Youth Group from 5 – 6:30 PM
 This is our last week to wrestle with Jesus' identity. Dinner is provided!

April 24

Happy Easter!
 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

April 29 – May 1

District Fan the Flame Retreat

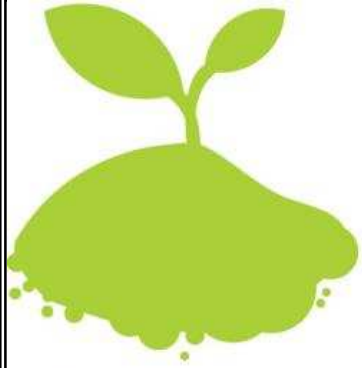


Parlor volunteers in action !



District Lay Academy - UMW as hosts—Warm Welcome !





TREE

NEW

THE GREEN VBS™

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

JUNE 20–24, 2011

For Children—Pre-K through 5th grade children will enjoy their classes and rotation through various stations as they examine the parable of the Sower and what that means about being good stewards of God’s creation. We will plant seeds, engage in recycling, and learn about Jesus!

For Adults—Those adults who are not volunteering to lead the Children’s VBS are invited to participate in their own study about Faith and Ecology. **Dr. John A. Darr**, theologian and professor from Boston College, will join our own Dr. Richard Darr as they co-lead adult classes on the Bible and our Earth.

What to do NOW?

1. Save the Date!
2. Volunteer to help with teaching, decorating, crafts, music, and MORE! (Sign up with Pastor Carol)
3. Bring in your Recyclables! We are collecting the following to become our decorations: cardboard rolls from toilet paper and paper towels, cereal boxes, egg cartons, yogurt cups, plastic fruit baskets, gardening catalogs, and seed packets (of any kind)!!