

THE

KOINONIA

August 2011

First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

RECLAIM THE DAY.

HOPEFEST 2011

**Together let's make
Sunday, September 11th a day of HOPE.**

Join our team as together we honor the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks with a day of solemn remembrance and HOPE-affirming volunteer action across our community.

The day's activities will include a morning ecumenical prayer service, a celebration of our local first responders, Salvation Army disaster recovery seminar, the Advocate Lutheran General KIDS Fair, LifeSource blood drive, CPR training classes, Park Ridge Youth Campus work project, food pantry collection... and more! Whether it's just one hour or the whole day, it's your chance to embody HOPE by giving back to your community!

Find out out how you can help! For a schedule of events and locations, volunteer sign-up, and donation opportunities, visit us online at

WWW.HOPEFEST.NET

HOPEFEST 2011 is a community outreach event of
First UMC Park Ridge • First UMC Des Plaines
New Hope UMC Norwood Park, Chicago



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

RETHINKCHURCH®

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

Who Are We?

*“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.”
Ephesians 5:1-2a*

Throughout the past couple of months, we have been reading and studying the scriptures, and listening to sermons that help answer the question of identity. Identity was something which the early followers of Jesus wrestled with and that question of identity extends to us today. What does it mean that we say we are the body of Christ? What makes the Christian community, and more specifically, the people of the First United Methodist Church different? Who are we? What does it mean to be the community of faith? We have experienced several answers: We are missionaries. We are students. We are listeners and doers. We are welcoming. We are humble. We are kingdom-minded.

My husband, Adrian and I have experienced who we are in another very profound way as we have experienced the premature birth and subsequent death of our daughter, Halle Grace. The community of faith were the words when no words would come. You have been the arms open and extended. You have been strength and comfort in the midst of despair and angst. You have carried us in faith when our faith has wavered. Who are we? We are indeed the people of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, being the presence of Christ to the world—to those who are hurting, those who are hungry, those who are rejoicing. We are not protected from experiencing life, the good or the bad, and we walk through life not alone, but together.

After Halle died, leaving our arms and going to be with God, Adrian and I had a choice about whether or not to attend worship. No one would have expected me to come. My absence would have been forgiven and understood. Yet, as Adrian and I reflected, there was nowhere else we would rather have been. We needed to be held in community. We needed to hear the words of scripture read and experienced raised voices in song and praise. More than any of the sermons or scripture that have sought to shed light on who we are—we have experienced who we are. We are the people of God. Adrian and I are so thankful to be a part of this community of faith. We love you and thank you for being Jesus to us.

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:

Wyrta Heagy, Bette Bonney, Jean Brown, Audrey Fritz and Jean Dempsey (Alice Crawford’s mother). Prayers for **all US servicemen and women which includes Paul Bartel, Christopher Abbot** (Ginnie Flynn’s brother-in-law) and **Joe Ingraham** (Pastor Rich’s nephew). If you have friends or family whose names should be listed here, please contact the church office at *office@parkridgeumc.org*

Prayers and Sympathy to:

Carol, Mario, and Allison Verre for the loss of Carol’s father, Larry Burns. Pastor Rich presided at his funeral held in Niles on July 22.



The family of Doris Ritts who died on July 1, 2011.
The memorial service for Doris was held on Thursday, July 7.



The family of Helen Mae North who passed away on July 1, 2011.
Helen Mae had been living in Luther Village in Arlington Heights.



Norm and Pat Gates for the loss of Norm’s sister Betty Veitch, July 15.
The memorial service was held at First UMC on Saturday, July 23.



Carol, Adrian, and Katie Hill and their family for the loss of Halle Grace on July 22. The memorial service was held at First UMC on Thursday, July 28.

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR (Sunday, July 24) The rose is for Halle Grace. She was born on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 6:33 am at Advocate Lutheran General. She weighed 1 lb. 13 oz. and measured in at 13.4 inches long. She was with us just more than two days. From Carol and Adrian:

“On Friday evening at 11:00 pm Halle Grace's pain all went away as she departed this world and went to be with God. We are aching. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. We continue to depend on the grace of God for each breath as we try to cherish the moments we got with our Halle. Thank you for your care. We love you.”

Memorial gifts in honor of Halle Grace Hill may be made to First UMC, Park Ridge or Mary Lou’s Place, a shelter for women and children run by the YWCA. 1215 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60201

**Spiritual Growth Opportunities
over the Summer:**

Don't let your faith take a vacation!
Nourish your spiritual growth by taking
advantage of these opportunities:

- * **9:00 am Sunday School** Discussion Group Continues! While the other Adult Education classes are on break for the summer, you can still attend the class at 9:00 am, facilitated by Leah Cozad. The current study is the power of prayer.
- * For CHILDREN: **Live B.I.G. One Room Sunday School** at 9:00 am. NEW curriculum for the kids, which focuses on 3 truths:
 - * God is a great BIG God, God loves us with a great BIG love, and We are part of God's great BIG world! Come and explore new crafts, new songs, and new games as we learn more about God!
 - * Summer months are a great time to practice a NEW Spiritual Discipline: morning prayer walks, daily devotions, quiet meditations, or weekly fasts are all good ways to stay in touch with God.

On break for August-

Wednesday morning Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 7th.
Youth Sunday School will participate in Hopefest on September 11th and get back to class on Sunday, September 18th.
Scripture and Song will meet again on Monday, September 12th

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP:

- * 9:00 **Outdoor Worship** on 1st Sundays
- * **Special Musical Groups** and Arrangements every week during the summer at 10:30 am
- * Conversations continue regarding the **Sunday morning worship schedule for the Fall!**
Want to take part?
Contact John Prueitt.



Adult VBS ~

While our children were learning to care for God's creation in their VBS program, adults were simultaneously engaged in a study of the Bible and Ecology.

Dr. John Darr, Prof of New Testament at Boston College, led an interesting series of studies on the Bible and Ecology, starting with the two creation accounts in Genesis 1-3. He showed how other parts of the Hebrew Bible (the Psalms and Wisdom literature) and the teachings of Jesus build upon and engage in dialogue with themes from these creation stories.



On the last evening, we were treated to a panel of environmental specialists—members of our church—who shared how their work intersects with environmental concerns. A huge thanks goes out to these environmentalists:

Roger Crawford (Kaiser Aluminum), Julie Greve (Park Ridge Park District), John Morell (retired Arborist for Park Ridge), Hillary Sopata (Interior Design) and Jim Vander Kloot (Environmental Protection Agency).

Prayer Squares Requested

We have a request for 400 prayer squares to be presented to local persons who are trained as “first responders” in cases of disaster. First responders are those who are first on a scene in case of accident, fire, terrorist threat, and other events.

A prayer square is a square of knitting or crocheting that will fit in a pocket... 4 to 6 inches on a side...that has been made with love and prayers. All are invited to participate in this ministry. Squares can be placed in the box in the parlor.

If you need yarn or have other questions, contact Marilynn Fisher or Dorothy Silver. For more information about HOPEFEST contact Al Bartel or Alice Crawford.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

They will meet Mondays, August 1
August 15 and August 29
at 1:00 pm in the Parlor.



Contact Dorothy Silver or
Marilynn Fisher
for more information.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS

August 7 Worship committee
August 14 Susanna Circle
August 21 Susanna Circle
August 28 Welcoming Committee

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

Can you give a ride?

If you are willing to give rides to members who no longer drive, please contact Helen Billings at (847) 759-8978 or call the church office.

We are particularly interested in making it possible for all of our members to attend Sunday morning services.

First UMC Food Drive - First Sunday of each Month Groceries for Humboldt Park Food Pantry

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to First UMC on the first Sunday of the month. It may be left in the bins at the Grant Place entrance. Once a month OUTREACH volunteers take the donations to our sister church in the city to replenish the cupboards of their Food Pantry. Many are in need and our gifts are put to good use. Many Thanks!

HUMBOLDT PARK MEALS MINISTRY

Sunday, August 21

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.
Contact Ruth Paul with questions.

**All Means All
LGBT* Inclusion Team Update**

Since January the All Means All Team has organized a variety of educational opportunities for our congregation, including a film discussion of *For the Bible Tells Me So* and a Sunday morning adult study class, *Radical Hospitality: Rethink Inclusion*.

For fall, we are planning a Monday evening class led by Pastor Bob Campbell—currently scheduled to begin September 19—that will coincide with a sermon series on inclusion designed by FUMC pastors. Team members are also willing to meet with individuals – to listen to concerns and answer questions.

Do you want to know more about the All Means All – LGBT Inclusion Team and what it means to become a reconciling congregation? If yes, check out the [longer article](#) on our church website or talk to any member of the All Means All Team – Katy & Ed Hansen, Lisa Campbell, Vernelle Casper, Alice Crawford, Pat Gagliardi, Maureen Kozial, Jim Lane, Catherine Peterson, Linda Ritts, Lisa Shewfelt, or Jennifer Sterling.

* LGBT = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

Media Help at 10:30 am NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to take one Sunday each month to press “spacebar” on our media presentation for worship. Our media team has grown slim, and we need a few more people who are willing to help carry this ministry of the church.

To volunteer and get on the schedule, email Pastor Carol at carol@parkridgeumc.org.

**Summer Gardeners
bring your fruit & vegetable
donations on Sundays.**

Mike Guidotti will deliver your fresh garden produce to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry. Mike has placed a basket in the Grant Street entry to collect contributions. You may bring these on Sunday, he will empty the baskets every Monday.

Did you know that millions of American homeowners grow more food in their backyard gardens than they can possibly use? Did you also know that one out of six Americans need food assistance, but many cannot get fresh produce from their local food pantry. Consider sharing your crops with our local pantries.

**Blood Drive
New Opportunity**

On May 1st our blood drive at First UMC, collected 29 pints of blood. This works to save the lives of 87 people! Part of the mission of blood banks is to create regular donors ~ because the need is ongoing. As people learn the great value in donations and that the procedure is so well-done, the hope is for a routine of giving for our community.

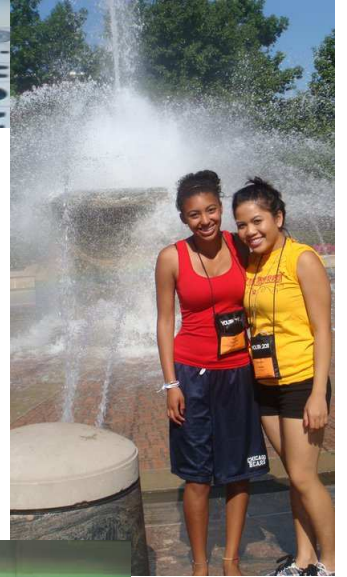
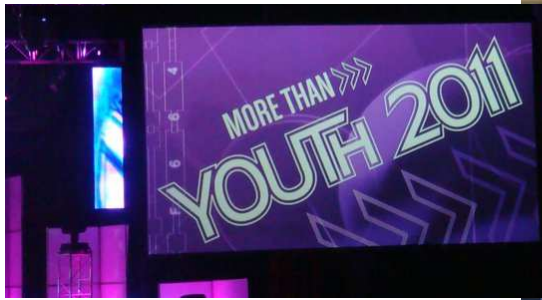
***Please plan to donate again
at Hopefest on September 11***

There will be two stations:

Maine East High School

New Hope UMC, Norwood Park

(7115 W. Hood Avenue, Chicago)





Youth News



...making disciples and having a blast!

Youth Spotlight

Youth 2011

Our group joined with youth from Eduson Park UMC, Centennial UMC in Rockford, and Humboldt Park UMC to experience Youth 2011. We were a part of a group of 3,700 people who got to praise God and grow in faith together. We packed food to feed children and even built a wall for Habitat for Humanity! What a great week at Purdue!

August Events

NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING AUGUST!!



**Saturday,
August 20th:
Youth Trip to**

Six Flags! All rising 6th graders—rising seniors are welcome to attend as we spend the day at Six Flags. Email Pastor Carol if you plan on attending. If we have a group of 20 people, then we will get a reduced rate. Otherwise, purchase your own ticket and meet at church at 9 am to drive to Gurnee.

What's Next?
So, now that summer's almost over and the mission trips have already been taken, what's a First UMC Youth to do?

The first answer that August is really our month of Sabbath. We will have youth programming full force in September, but August is your chance to catch your breath, spend some quiet time with God, and prepare for another year of school and life. There is no youth Sunday School throughout August and no weekly youth group. However, just so we don't lose our connection, we will have a trip to Six Flags and a Dream Team meeting to make our plans for 2011-2012.

Happy Birthday to:
August 19—Bridget Johnson

Belated July Birthdays:

July 2—Danielle Brunner

July 7—Jenna Wear



Mission Dinner: Saturday, October 1

Our team from Arizona and our group from Purdue will share stories and pictures with Stockholders, family, and friends. Come from 6—8 pm!

**Sunday, August 21—
Youth Dream Team**



Mtg. Calling all YOUTH, all PAR-ENTS of youth, all youth VOLUNTEERS!! We will meet from 5—7 pm in the Parlor to look at the calendar for 2011-2012. Please bring your school calendars and any other plans so we can make great choices for the year!



Food for Thought:

This year is a year of rebuilding our youth program. We need to focus on engaging our middle school youth—perhaps with some dedicated events for this age group. There is no confirmation this year. How do we engage Sr. and Jr. High separately & adequately?

August 2011

Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 am

First UMC Park Ridge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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Senior High Mission Trip - Arizona																																																																																																															
7 8, 9, 10:30 AM Worship 9, 10:30 AM Adult/Youth groups H.P. Food Pantry Collection	8 1:00 PM Scripture & Song - Balcony 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	9 7:00 PM Council on Ministries - Parlor	10	11 7:00 PM Christian Care Givers - Parlor* 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study - Library 7:00 PM Toast-Masters - Fireside	12	13 9:00 AM H.P. Food Delivery																																																																																																									
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14 8, 9, 10:30 AM Worship 9, 10:30 AM Adult/Youth groups	15 <i>Koinonia info due</i> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 7:15 PM All Means All - Library 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	16 7:00 PM Trustees mtg - Parlor 7:00 PM Welcoming Cmte - Balcony	17 10:00 AM Traditional Worship meeting - of fice 7:00 PM Finance - Library	18 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study - Library	19	20																																																																																																									
21 8, 9, 10:30 AM Worship 9, 10:30 AM Adult/Youth groups 11:45 AM SPRC - Library 1:30 PM Humboldt Park Meal	22 1:00 PM Scripture & Song - Balcony 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	23 7:00 PM Disciple-ship Meeting - Parlor	24	25 <i>Koinonia mailed</i> 7:00 PM Toast-Masters - Fireside	26	27 8:30 AM NIC Stewardship seminar - livestream, sanctuary*																																																																																																									
28 8, 9, 10:30 AM Worship 9, 10:30 AM Adult/Youth groups 5:00 PM Cub Scouts - Jorgeson + Kitchen	29 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	30	31	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">July</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">September</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			July							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							September							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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Weekly Events: Monday - Boy Scouts 7:30 pm / Fridays + Saturdays - Teen Center 7pm



Count on ME!

I will register to volunteer for Hopefest at
www.HOPEFEST.net

The day's events include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commemorative ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing in choir at Bethany Terrace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LifeSource Blood Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter writing to military personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Campus work project | <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you gifts for First Responders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvation Army Disaster Relief Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CPR training | <input type="checkbox"/> Avenues to Independence work project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KIDS Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Closing celebration |

See more information about these projects and join the excitement at
www.HOPEFEST.net