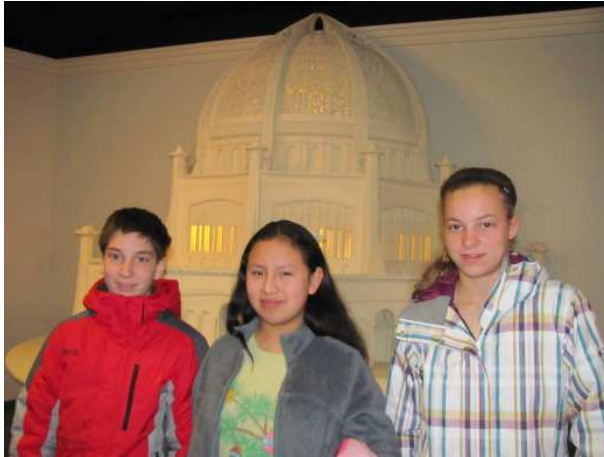


THE KOINONIA

May 2011

First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Illinois



Honoring Our Confirmands

Congratulations, Confirmation Students:
Courtney Richardson, Chris Smail, Jenna Wear, Eddie Wendling, and Kevin Woroch!

These five eighth grade students have spent every Wednesday evening since September with Pastor Rich and Pastor Carol learning about and discussing our faith. They have taken trips to a Synagogue, the Bahai Temple, Trinity United Church of Christ, and Willow Creek Barrington Campus. They have wrestled with questions of our faith around the Bible, our Faith, Jesus, and Heaven.

Classes included hands on exercises, group games, and a dvd. Check out our website for a sample video lesson! Some of the class sessions included: Why does the Bible contradict itself at times? Can it be proven that God exists? Why did Jesus go to Hell? Can someone lose their salvation? Did Jesus know he was God? Who was John Wesley and why should I care?

Confirmation 2010-2011 will conclude with a **Confirmation Retreat** May 13-14 held out at the Log Cabin in Skokie. Following this retreat, the students will decide whether or not they are ready to be confirmed. All the Confirmands will be celebrated at the end of the year Confirmation Banquet on Saturday, May 21 at 5:30 pm.

Confirmation Sunday is May 22. The students will choose the worship service in which they would like to be confirmed. All the students will be prayed for and blessed by the congregation at all three worship services that Sunday.

Confirmation classes will not be held next year, and in 2012-2013, we will have a combined class of 8th and 9th graders.



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

“Remember your baptism, and be thankful.”

That phrase was not a part of my church heritage growing up. My home church in Akron, Ohio was originally part of the Evangelical Reformed denomination but withdrew and became an independent evangelical church sometime in the early 1900's. By the time I was baptized by immersion as a sophomore in High School, the church had moved away from infant baptism to believer's baptism, the view that one should be baptized only after one has made a conscious decision to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

So when I started attending Libertyville United Methodist Church in the mid-1980's, infant baptism was a whole new thing to me. Then when I started jumping through the hoops toward ordination in the UMC, I had to not only rethink my views on baptism but defend my new views as well. Obviously I was successful in that!

Along with infant baptism, I had never encountered the process and ritual of confirmation until I joined the Methodist Church. One of the first things I was asked by the Staff Parish Committee when I interviewed for my first appointment as a Methodist Pastor was:

Will you teach confirmation class?

“Of course,” I replied. “I look forward to that!”

And I'm a bit proud to say that every year for the past 13 years I have led, or helped lead, confirmation classes in the four Methodist churches I have served. In fact, I'd say it has always been a highlight of ministry, learning with 8th grade young people who are exploring their Christian faith and Wesleyan heritage. Confirmation offers them a conscious decision to confirm—make their own—the baptismal vows made on their behalf by their parents, sponsors and church the day they were baptized as infants. (Some confirmands who have not yet been baptized are both baptized and then given the opportunity to confirm their baptismal vows on confirmation day.)

And so I look forward to Sunday, May 22nd as this year's confirmands confirm their baptismal vows and faith in Jesus Christ. Please plan on joining Pastor Carol, me and our confirmands as they take this major step in their faith journey. And together, let's celebrate as we too remember our own baptisms and are thankful!

Pastor Rich



[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, Wyrta Heagy, Bette Bonney, Mike Koziol and all US servicemen and women which includes Paul Bartel. Our sympathy also to the families of our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Memorial services have been held for John Kerin, Sr, Bill Schmunk, Bill Sayre, Barbara Mayer (mother of Susan Shinall) and Albert Van der Kloot. If you have friends or family whose names should be listed here, please contact the church office office@parkridgeumc.org.

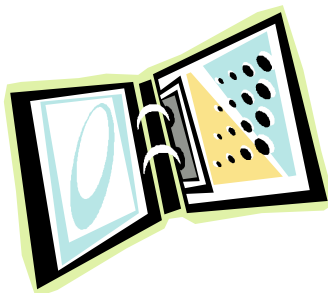


Do you know a Graduate?

On Sunday, May 29, 2011 First UMC will honor all our graduates – high school, college, graduate school, and beyond. Please give information including name, institution, degree/certification, and post graduation plans to Pastor Carol. This information could be emailed to carol@parkridgeumc.org OR written down and placed in her box. Thank you for helping honor our graduates! Don't forget to be in church as we lift up our students on MAY 29!!

Admin Council News

If



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.

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.

THE LATEST VERSION OF THE WEBSITE IS HERE!

Because people and events are always in a state of change, websites are re-worked to try to communicate their information and energy!

See Pastor Carol and Pastor Rich in the welcoming video!

Find your groups and keep up with the mission of others.

Help us to keep the fresh news posted and the pages current.

Send the links to your friends and invite them to join us!

<http://www.parkridgeumc.org>



Got plants to donate?

Dig 'em up, label with plant name, and bring them to one of these potting dates. We'll pot them for you!

No donations, please, of plain green hosta, native orange daylily, or iris with unknown bloom color as these are abundantly available.

Please join us for our final potting days! Come for an hour or several hours – whatever fits your schedule. We will be working rain or shine!

Saturday, April 30 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Sunday, May 1 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Questions? Just call!

Donna Darr 815-370-7211 (cell)

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

UMW Mite Box

Our United Methodist Women are still collecting for the “Mite Box” offering ~ as in “every little bit helps”. This money will be dispersed in June to local charities. Contribute your coins or you may make a check out to “UMW” with “Mite Box” in the memo line and send it to the church office or to Connie Bruce. Many thanks.

Wanted - Used Garden Items for Plant Sale



The Plant Sale team will be selling used garden related items at the plant sale.



Clean our your closet or garage by donating decorative pots, vases, garden tools or other garden related items.

Donations can put in the collection box in Jorgeson from May 1 - May 6th.

Items should be clean and in good condition.

The Bible as Story: a 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!

Our first three weeks have helped the group to see the Bible as a unified story.

You are welcome to join us for this introduction to the Bible (Bible 101) Wednesdays through May at 8:30 am 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!



**You are invited to the
UMW LUNCHEON
On Thursday, May 12
At 11:30 am**

**We will meet in the church parking lot and travel to the
CHICAGO BOTANICAL GARDENS in Glencoe.**

(Please note that this is an hour earlier than usual.)

**We will EAT LUNCH together and
TAKE A TOUR BY TRAM.**

(No heavy-duty walking required.)



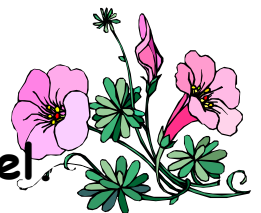
**Weather permitting, we will eat outside. You may bring
your own lunch or purchase a lunch from the cafeteria.**

(Inside seating is also available.)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED...

so that we know how many cars to have available.

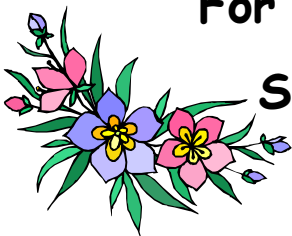
**We have Botanical Garden Society members among us, so
there will be no entrance fee.**



For more information, contact Lorie Bartel.

Send reservation info to Lorie as well.

bartelsan@aol.com 847-696-4135



Mothers for Mission

Remember or honor a loved one on Mothers’ Day this year by making a donation to the HIPPY Program of ChildServ.

ChildServ's mission is to help Chicagoland's at-risk children and their families build, achieve, and sustain better lives. The HIPPY program (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) offers home-based early childhood education for targeted three, four and five year old children, working with their parent(s) as their first teacher.

Family Educators support the parents in their interactions with their children through home visits. With their help, the parents work with their children using carefully developed materials, curriculum and books designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development. The goal is to help these at-risk children be ready for kindergarten.

Please fill in a form and place it with your donation marked “ChildServ” in the offering plate Sunday or mail / bring it to the church office.

(Forms will be in the Sunday worship bulletins or may be found at Grant Place entry.)

**First UMC Food Drive -
First Sunday of each Month**

Our canned food donations provide a direct connection between our church and the people in **Humboldt Park** who are hungry. We also use gifts of money to shop for groceries still needed to complete our effort.

Let your giving and generous hearts be touched by those in need.

*Let’s fill those bins at the Grant entry
beyond capacity!*

**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.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our Marvelous Methodist Players will present

THE CURIOUS SAVAGE

By John Patrick

Friday, June 3, at 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 4, at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 5, at 1:00 pm

The story centers around kindly Mrs. Savage and her greedy stepchildren, who have her committed to “The Cloisters” sanatorium, hoping to get their hands on \$10 million that her husband left her. With the help of her new found friends at the Cloisters, Mrs. Savage leads her stepchildren on a laugh-filled chase!

MORE CHURCH EVENTS

Page 7

Health Loan Closet

Thank you!

First UMC hosts a lending closet of items that are useful for those who have lost some of their mobility for one reason or another. Knee surgery is a common event that sends people here. Last month several people received this benefit ~ one was a 17 year old who had broken a hip.

What is most common is the **Thanksgiving expressed by each person or family member!**

Thank you First UMC.

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.

There is no group on May 30, Memorial Day.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS

May 1 Garden Committee
May 8 Lydia Circle
May 15 UMW Board
May 22 Lydia Circle
May 29 Lydia Circle

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

Planning a summer garden?

Consider cultivating extra rows of veggies that may be donated to local food pantries at harvest time. Deck gardening with one of those "Topsy Turvy" planters? Add an extra pot.

And... let's have some sun!



Morton Arboretum Walk

On Sunday, May 22nd our Church will sponsor an Arboretum walk at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL.

Millenium Oak - 250 years old

Our guide will be our very own John Morell. John has an incredible knowledge and some interesting stories to tell. We will meet in the church garden on Grant Place at 1:30pm and travel by car for this memorable trip to the Arboretum. Please sign up on the sign up sheet at the Grant Place entrance.

The Morton Arboretum was listed in 2007 as one of the AIA Illinois 150 Great Places in Illinois

<http://www.mortonarb.org/>

HUMBOLDT PARK MEALS MINISTRY

Sunday, May 15

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.

First United Methodist Church

Plant & Garden Sale

Saturday, May 7, from 8am—Noon

Featuring seasoned
perennials,
Mother's Day gifts,
Hanging Baskets,
Handmade garden gifts.
Entrance is FREE.



Proceeds support Youth & Mission Work

418 W. Touhy Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
847-825-3144
www.parkridgeumc.org



Youth News



Weekly Youth Sunday School 10:30 am

May Events

May 1 - Fan the Flame Retreat ends

We should return from Wesley Woods at noon. Youth Group for all youth will meet from 5—6:30 pm.

May 7 - PLANT SALE 8 am - noon

All youth are expected to participate in selling plants and helping people to their cars, selling concessions, etc.

May 8 - NO YOUTH GROUP

Spend the evening appreciating your Mom!
Happy Mother's Day!



May 13 - 14 Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation students will be in Skokie on their retreat from 5 pm Friday until 4 pm Saturday. Keep them in prayer! More details handed out in Confirmation Class!

May 15 - Youth Group 5:00-6:30 pm

All youth are encouraged to come to youth group, where we will continue to get ready for summer with games and Bible Study and activities!

May 22 - Youth Group 5:00-6:30 pm

Mystery Trip!! We will be taking a mystery trip!
Be sure you are here on time so we can pile into cars and head out to our surprise destination!



May 29 - Youth Group 5:00-6:30 pm

Scrapbooking the year - We will take a look at this past year's worth of memories, growth, and giving thanks for all God has done!



Youth Spotlight

Sarah Kerin

Sarah Kerin is one of our busiest youth! Sarah is a junior at Maine South High School. She participates on the Swim Team and the Water Polo Team, as well as works part-time at the new Crepe shop! Sarah brings sunshine and humor to every situation, helping make even the most stressful situations enjoyable. God is using Sarah in mighty way! We love you!!

Youth 2011—July 13-17, 2011 at Purdue University

Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to a GLOBAL gathering of United

Methodist YOUTH!

Youth 2011 is going to be an experience to last a lifetime! With concerts, games, mission work, and THOUSANDS of youth, you will have a BLAST!

This trip will replace our middle school trip for 2011. We will stay in the dorms at Purdue University, eat meals there, and attend large group sessions together. Don't worry, it's not going to be boring! Cost is \$200 per person, and you can sign up by giving Chill a \$100 deposit.

YOUTH 2011

Are you game for loud music, great effects, and speakers that get teenagers? Then, this is for you! We will meet at FUMC at 8 am on July 13 and will return by noon on July 17. For more information, read our website info or ask Chill!

Happy Birthday to:

May 23—Shawn McLaughlin



Don't Forget -

Sunday, May 22—Confirmation

Sunday, May 29—Graduate Sunday



April showers
(& some dedicated volunteers)
Bring May flowers
and plants.



Our first Plant Sale in 2010 was a terrific success!

Cool temperatures —Warm Welcome !

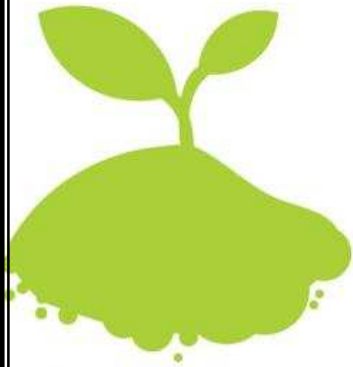
May 2011

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

First UMC Park Ridge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																									
1 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups H.P. Food Pantry Collection 8:00 AM Blood Drive - Jorgeson* 1:00 PM Allegro Music - Student Recital* 1:00 PM Potting crew - garden	2 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	3	4 Pastors Planning Day 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor 10:15 AM Trad worship plan	5 7:00 PM Play practice - Jorgeson	6	7 Plant Sale - Jorgeson & Garden 9:30 AM Play Practice - Fireside																																																																																									
8 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups	9 1:00 PM Scrip- ture & Song -Balcony 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	10 Staff Planning Day 7:00 PM Council on Ministries	11 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor	12 10:30 AM UMW Board - Library 11:30 AM UMW to Botanic Gardens 7:00 PM Toast- Masters - Fireside 7:00 PM Play practice - Jorgeson	13 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Confirmation Retreat</div>	14 8:30 AM MAP Team - Parlor 9:00 AM H.P. Food Delivery 9:30 AM Play - pull out stage- Jorgeson 9:30 AM Play Practice - Fireside																																																																																									
15 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups 1:30 PM Humboldt Park Meal 5:00 PM Boy Scouts - Jorgeson	16 <i>Koinonia info due</i> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	17 7:00 PM Trustees mtg	18 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor	19 7:00 PM Play practice - Jorgeson 7:30 PM BSA Troop #1 Plan- ning - Parlor	20 6:00 PM Staff Gathering - Library 6:00 PM Uhlig/ Recital - Sanct & Parlor	21 9:30 AM Play Practice - Fireside 6:00 PM Confirmation Banquet - Parlor																																																																																									
22 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups Confirmation Sunday 1:00 PM Velasco Photo Workshop - Parlor or Jorgeson* 1:30 PM Arboretum Tour Grant Place*	23 1:00 PM Scrip- ture & Song -Balcony 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - Jorgeson 6:30 PM Lydia Circle 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	24 <i>Koinonia mailed</i> 10:00 AM Esthe- Priscilla Circle Parlor 10:30 AM Staff Meeting- Library 7:00 PM Susanna Circle	25 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor 7:00 PM Miriam Circle - Offsite	26 7:00 PM Toast- Masters - Fireside 7:00 PM Play practice - Jorgeson	27	28 9:30 AM Play Practice - Fireside																																																																																									
29 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups Graduate Sunday	30 Memorial Day Play - Curious Savage set up in Jorgeson 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">College Mission Trip</div>	31 Play - Curious Savage set up in Jorgeson	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>April</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>June</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>				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	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



THE

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)!!