

THE

KOINONIA

March 2011

First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

Water in the Wilderness Lent 2011

This Lent, you are invited to spend 40 days considering the ways that God's grace is like "water in the wilderness." In worship, we will journey alongside Jesus as he is encountered by several persons who are in the middle of one sort of wilderness or another. We will consider our own life circumstances and how we have experienced or may currently be experiencing thirst and need.

Together, we will drink deeply of the living water offered in Christ. As we conclude our journey, we will join together for 3 evenings of worship as we move through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Easter may just seem a little different this year because of these 40 days. Individuals of all ages are invited to participate in the following ways:

- Prayer Vigil leading up to Ash Wednesday
- Ash Wednesday Worship at noon or 7 pm
- Lenten Small Groups
- Meaningful Worship each week
- Healing, Mealing, and Revealing Experiences on Wednesdays for all ages (March 16 - April 13)
- Holy Week Triduum Worship Service at 7 pm Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

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

SAVE THE DATE OF 9/11 FOR HOPEFEST

Were you moved or inspired? Major David Dahlberg of the Salvation Army was our guest speaker on Love Sunday in February. He is Director of the Emergency Disaster Center in Elk Grove Village and is responsible for the Salvation Army's response to disasters in Chicagoland and northern Illinois. One of his responsibilities is to train volunteers, many from churches, to assist in times of disaster. The Lily Foundation awarded Salvation Army more than a \$1 million grant to fund this training. Name any of the major disasters in the lower 48 states in recent years, and Major Dahlberg was likely somewhere on the scene. As he shared in his sermon, he was responsible for staffing the Salvation Army's response to the 9/11 tragedy in New York City. For 8 months his teams worked in this disaster ministry 24/7 serving those who worked in the rubble of Ground Zero.

This coming 9/11, a Sunday, is the 10th Anniversary of that tragic day. And our church, along with New Hope UMC and First UMC of Des Plaines will be partnering with the Salvation Army and other local community organizations to **reclaim 9/11 as a day of hope.** We will also invite members of our communities to work with us. Hence we have named that event **Hopefest.** (Thanks to Lisa Campbell for this suggestion!) We will not hold services at church that day; our worship service that Sunday morning (and afternoon) will be just that...service in our communities. **All ages** will be able to participate in a wide variety of ministries, and at the end of the day we will all gather in one location for a service of celebration.

In addition to partnering with the Salvation Army, we are making plans to host blood drives with Life Source, CPR training with Lutheran General hospital and local Fire Departments, engaging in hands-on projects at the Youth Campus, conducting food drives for local food pantries, letter writing to service men and women, and a commemoration service with Park Ridge first responders (police, firefighters, EMTs). In these and other ways, we can reclaim 9/11 as a day of hope. So **SAVE THE DATE**, and plan to participate in Hopefest! And keep your ear to the ground for more information that will be coming your way.

Excited to be with you in this journey!

Pastor Rich



Rev. Rich Darr, Th. D.
Lead Pastor

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Email: office@parkridgeumc.org
www.parkridgeumc.org



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. Prayers and sympathy for the family of **Charles Schultz** who died February 18. If you have friends or family whose names should be listed here, please contact the church office at office@parkridgeumc.org.

An Update Letter from Susie Loughner, Mom to “Emily, the Amazing”

Susie wrote, “the people of First UMC literally kept us alive for the first 10 months of Emily’s life. We were well fed at least 3 nights a week. Pastor Linda, the Parish nurse, and the FUMC family truly made a world of difference in our ability to care for Emily!

We are now members of Loveland UMC in Loveland, OH, near Cincinnati. Susie, Al and Emily.

Dear Friends at First UMC Park Ridge,

This note was sent out to people who know our Emily and are interested in how she is doing at this point. As you all were so very important to her early days, I'd like to share this with you also. Please feel free to post it so members of the congregation can catch up on how Emily the Amazing is doing.

Emily is celebrating her 10th birthday today (1/24/2011). It's a big day--she says she's now "double digits". We've actually been celebrating all weekend... To finish out the celebration, she will have a girls swim party at our local rec center in a few weeks...

To see the entire letter, please contact Sue at office@parkridgeumc.org or phone 847-825-3144

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

On February 9 the Administrative Council passed the 2011 budget. It assumes higher levels of giving and lower expenditures, but is in keeping with the trends of the last 5 years and is well within our ability to attain. Here is an overview of the main categories of the 2011 budget compared to actual contributions and expenditures for 2010. Questions or comments can be directed to me or to Rocky Daehler, Chair of Finance.

-- Dorothy Silver, Chair of Administrative Council

CONTRIBUTIONS	2010	2011
Operating	357,600	365,000
Building Fund	30,200	36,000
Use of Church	61,000	61,000
Total	448,800	462,000
EXPENDITURES		
Ministry	13,600	14,000
Staff-Parish	228,500	220,000
Building Recurring	131,000	128,000
Building Fund	49,800	60,000
Office	29,000	25,000
Apportionments	36,300	15,000
Total	488,200	462,000



ALL means ALL LGBT Inclusion Team

For the Bible Tells Me So Follow-Up:

You might have caught the recent “chew and view” showing of the video *For the Bible Tells Me So*. On Sunday, February 13, about 35 people gathered for the viewing and engaged in thoughtful conversation afterwards. The movie itself was moving, but so too was the open and honest conversation that followed.

As one member expressed,

“It felt like we were BEING church. We spoke and listened and wrestled, all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

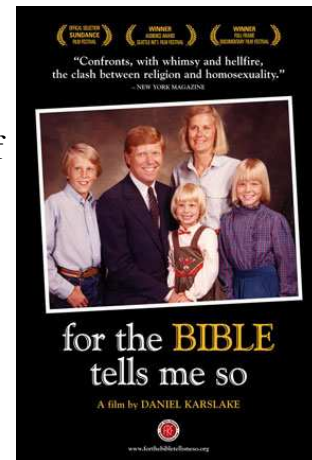
Another member commented that he was glad not everyone was of the same mind, but we were respectful and honestly discussed what it truly means to be hospitable.

The United Methodist Church’s official stance has done real damage to people’s lives, and we, as the church, need to strategize around what we do about this. Participants on this day told their own stories and experiences, asked some really important questions about the implications of taking a more explicitly open stance, and managed to push all of us theologically.

If you missed this showing, or wish to view it again with family or friends, the All Means All: LGBT Inclusion Team is offering additional options:

- * Contact Katy Hansen to borrow the team’s copy—and let her know if you’d like to watch it with your church small group or circle (with or without team facilitation). The DVD is also available for rent or purchase through Netflix and the iTunes store.
- * See www.forthebibletellsmeso.org for discussion guides and other resources.
- * Join the 10:30 Sunday School class (Rethink Inclusion) starting March 6 to learn more about the biblical principles explored in the film.

The All Means ALL: LGBT Inclusion Team will continue to provide opportunities for our congregation to gather and discuss sexuality and hospitality. You can expect more Bible Studies, guest speakers, and classes. We encourage everyone to speak honestly and lovingly about how we proceed. For more information about the work of this committee or how to be involved, contact Katy or Ed Hansen at edkatyhansen@comcast.net



PRAYER VIGIL to prepare for Lent

Our congregation participates in a twenty- four hour prayer vigil prior to the Ash Wednesday evening service. This year the vigil will be from
7:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday, March 8, through
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 9.



Each participant is asked to sign up for an hour's time. More than one person can share the hour. Praying can be done at home or in the Prayer and Meditation Room near the Grant Place West doors on the first floor. Devotional reading and journaling materials will be available as well as Bibles. A temporary door code will be given to those who come to the church during the wee hours. Sign up for the Lenten Prayer Vigil during coffee hour or call Alice Crawford, 847-692-

You are invited to the UMW Luncheon
on Thursday, March 9,
at 12:30 pm in the Parlor.
Our speaker will be from

The
Harbour Inc.

The Harbour, Inc. group creates a safe haven for teen and pre-teen girls who live in difficult circumstances and have no where else to turn.

Come listen to some of their success stories.

Hostesses are the UMW Board.

Lunch and program \$8/person.



<http://theharbour.org/>



INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULTS

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 interconnectedness 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.



THANK YOU!

To ALL who helped in any capacity with Lay Academy!

It was a tremendous success!!

The background of the entire page is a stage scene. At the top, there are four stage lights hanging from a rig. On either side, there are red curtains with gold-colored tie-backs. The central area is white, serving as a backdrop for the text.

**First UMC's
Got Talent!**

March 6, 2011

**Talent Show, Chili
Supper, Sing-a-long, and
MORE!**



Tickets:

\$10 per person

\$30 households of 3+

**Proceeds support
Youth Missions 2011**

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.

It is not too late to add your donation to the

Love Sunday offering

of February 13th.

Just write your check to the "UMW"
with "Love Sunday" in the memo line.

This money will go to local organizations,
including Harbour, Inc.

World Day of Prayer

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be
Friday, March 4, at 10:00 am
here at FUMC.

This is an annual global event,
focusing on one area of the world each year.

A simple lunch will follow the
worship service.

**Humboldt Park Social Services
FOOD PANTRY**

Many thanks ... for the ongoing
support for those who need this boost to
their family budgets and well-being.
Your donations of food and dollars
make a very real difference as they
offer both sustenance and a sense of
God's care in the world.

Donations of non-perishable food items
are best received the first Sunday and
will be delivered the following Saturday
of each month. **Leave your donations in
the baskets by the Grant Place door.**
Or even better, leave a check in the offer-
ing plate clearly marked "Food Pantry."

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
REFRESHMENTS**

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| March 6 | Admin Council |
| March 13 | Boy Scouts |
| March 20 | Miriam Circle |
| March 27 | Miriam Circle |

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

HUMBOLDT PARK MEALS MINISTRY

Sunday, March 20

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 UMC

YOUTH NEWS

...making disciples...and having a blast!



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



CELIA PETERSEN

Celia Petersen, a sophomore at Maine South High School, is one of the leaders in our youth group. Volunteering to lead small groups and participating fully - it's always more fun with Celia around! Celia is a model, she plays the bass and bass guitar, and enjoys filmmaking. Celia hopes to attend Columbia University for their film school and hopes to continue her modeling career.

WEEKLY YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

March Events

March 6

First UMC's Got Talent!
On Sunday, March 6, ALL YOUTH will be helping to raise money for our summer mission trips by performing in our Church Talent Show! We will have a chill supper and we will serve our audience! Invite your friends - cost is \$10 per person!


March 12

Give Back For Lent
We will join with the District Youth in helping others! Meet at church at 11:15 am and we will return at 6:30 pm. We will spend the day giving back!



March 13

The Game of Life: Charades
Is faith just a game? Are we hiding our true identity behind a mask? Come for youth group as we act out together! 5 - 6:30 pm



March 20

The Game of Life: Hide & Seek
From the beginning of time, humans have been hiding from God - let's explore how we stop hiding and just find God. 5 - 6:30 pm

March 27

Mystery Trip
Youth group is a surprise! Come from 5 - 6:30 to find out what's going on...



GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SIMPSONS

Beginning at the end of February, our youth Sunday School classes will begin a new series on "The Gospel According to the Simpsons." In this series we will take a look at the popular tv show The Simpsons and find elements of the gospel message that might otherwise go unnoticed. Friends are welcome.



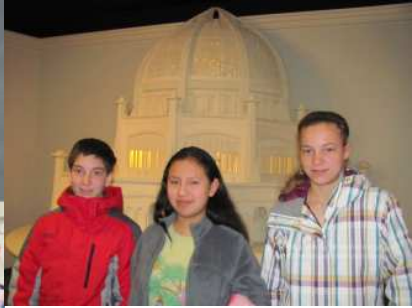
REMINDER: All youth must attend 10 youth events in order to be eligible to attend summer mission trips 2011.

Happy Birthday to:
March 8 - Joey Gagliardi & Sarah Thomas
March 16 - Dan Lewis
March 19 - Chris Smail
March 29 - Ethan Smail



SACRIFICE FOR LENT

Many people will choose to give something up for Lent: facebook, chocolate, broccoli, etc. Others may choose to add something - like praying the Lord's Prayer every day or reading the Bible. We have opportunities all the time to improve our relationship with God, but Lent is a special time when we, as Christians, especially focus. What will you do? Think of something to do and see how it changes you!



College Students Lead Worship

Bear and Packer Fans ... share the Love



March 2011

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

First UMC Park Ridge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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6 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups H.P. Food Pantry Collection 11:45 AM New Member Class - Parlor 5:00 PM Boy Scouts - Jorgeson 5:00 PM Talent Show	7 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 4:45 PM Uptown Condo Officers -Meditation Room 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	8 10:30 AM Staff Meeting- Library 6:30 PM Toast- masters - stud- ents (Fireside) 7:00 PM Council on Ministries	9 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor 6:30 PM Worship Team - Parlor 7:30 PM Jubilee Rehearsal	10 10:30 AM UMW Board - Library 12:30 PM UMW Luncheon - Parlor 7:00 PM Toast- Masters - Fireside	11 10:00 AM World Day of Prayer - Sanctuary & Jorgeson 6:00 PM Pack 201 Scout Dinner - Jorgeson	12 8:30 AM MAP Team - Parlor 9:00 AM H.P. Food Delivery 12:00 PM District Youth: Give Back for Lent (offsite)																																										
13 *SCOUT SUNDAY 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups 5:00 PM Youth Group - 3rd floor	14 1:00 PM Scrip- ture & Song -Balcony 4:45 PM Uptown Condo Officers -Meditation Room 7:00 PM Lydia Circle 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	15 <i>Koinonia info due</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting- Library 6:30 PM Toast- masters - stud- ents (Fireside) 7:00 PM Trustees mtg	16 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor 6:00 PM Healing Mealing, Revealing 7:00 PM Finance Mtg 7:30 PM Jubilee Rehearsal	17 7:30 PM BSA Troop #1 Plan- ning - Jorgeson	18 6:00 PM Staff Mtg	19 2:00 PM Organ Historical Soc/ Zumsteg 5:30 PM Confirmation trip to Willow Creek																																										
20 8, 9 & 10:30AM Adult/Youth Groups 11:45 AM SPRC mtg 1:30 PM Humboldt Park Meal 5:00 PM Youth Group - 3rd floor	21 9:30 AM World Day of Prayer Planning - Parlor 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Parlor 4:45 PM Uptown Condo Officers -Meditation Room 7:30 PM Fam. Anon. - Parlor	22 <i>Koinonia mailed</i> 10:00 AM Esther Priscilla Circle Parlor 6:30 PM Toast- masters - stud- ents (Fireside) 7:00 PM Susanna Circle	23 8:30 AM LIFE Group - Parlor 6:00 PM Healing Mealing, Rev eal- ing - Parlor 7:00 PM Miriam Circle - Offsite 7:30 PM Jubilee Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM Toast- Masters - Fireside	25 4:00 PM Twice as Nice set-up - Jorgeson/Parlor	26 8:00 AM Twice as Nice Sale - Jorgeson/Parlor																																										
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Spring Break																																																

Weekly Events: Monday - Boy Scouts 7:30 pm / Fridays + Saturdays - Teen Center 7pm

First UMC's GOT TALENT!

Do you have a talent you've been hiding?

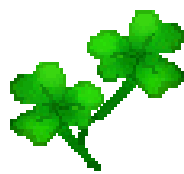
We'd love to have you participate in the Talent Show
on **March 6th!!**

Please contact Pastor Carol with your contact information
and your act information!

ALL AGES are invited to participate!

This dinner and talent show will benefit the youth mission trips
for 2011.

Talented Chili Chefs are needed too!



**WELCOME
MARCH...**

a little less snow

a little more daylight!