Pastor’s Letter

Do this in remembrance of me. Luke 22:19

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the Last Supper, Jesus called his disciples to remember him in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the wine. For over two thousand years, the church has remembered Jesus in the common elements of bread and wine. After everyone has received the sacrament, we offer this prayer:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This prayer establishes a cycle of receiving and giving God’s grace through Jesus Christ. As we come and remember the Lord, we receive God’s grace and are sent out into the world to share it. The bread and wine we present to Jesus are powerful symbols of the grace we receive (wheat and grapes) and the grace we share (bread and wine).

The primary way we share God’s grace in Jesus Christ to the world is the apportionment. The apportionment has an interesting history. It began when the Methodist movement in London bought The Foundry, an old, burned out cannon factory. This became Methodist “Central” in London that provided services to the poor including healthcare and micro-lending. The Foundry required renovation, so the early Methodists took out a loan. Mr. Wesley did not like them having debt so he began asking the Methodist societies for a penny a week to pay off the debt. After the debt was paid off, the “asking” or apportionment continued and it supported circuit riders and preaching houses. Throughout its history, the apportionment has assisted the poor in all parts for the world and helped to support ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

In November, the finance committee will be highlighting key aspects of the modern apportionment during Sunday services. This will culminate on November 25 with the visit of the Reverend Rich Havard, campus minister at UIC. His ministry is one that we support through our apportionment dollars. Our goal and challenge for November and December is to raise an additional $13,000 for First Church’s 2018 apportionment.

Please give generously to the apportionment as an important and significant way to join together in remembering Jesus.

Christ’s Servant,

The Reverend Joseph A. Johnson
The Visitor

Social Justice

Prayers for individual immigrants who are facing deportation, for immigrant children who are separated from their families, and for those facing extended waiting periods in immigrant centers were said at the Monthly Prayer Vigil sponsored by the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) on October 5 at 7:15am at the Broadview Immigration Processing Center. A small group from First Church attended this early morning venture. Pastor Joe, Anne Mathias, and Ruth Zervas participated in the Prayer Vigil along with 50-60 others who were not deterred by the pouring rain, including a group from DePaul University and a local high school. Every Friday morning, people of faith gather together to provide public witness to the injustices of our immigration system. The first Friday of the month is specially designated as a prayer vigil.

NOVEMBER 10

Join the NIC General Conference Delegation to talk about the One Church Plan and the future of The United Methodist Church.

Commission on a Way Forward
Council of Bishops
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday, November 10 at 9:00 am
Elgin District Meeting
Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL

Interested in attending? Please contact the Church Office.

A Note from Anne Mathias: Thanks again to all who supported the Refugee One Winter Warmth Drive. And just in time . . . as winter temperatures are here!

It took 2 photos and an SUV filled to the brim to contain all the coats, mittens, and boots donated by our congregation and neighbors.

The volunteers at Refugee One who received the donations were thrilled. While there are very few new refugees arriving this year, those who have already settled in the Chicago area will very much appreciate this helping hand as they rebuild their lives.

NOVEMBER 6: VOTE

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Youth Group being BOLD

Corn Maze!

Jonamac Orchard
Youth Group Trip to Malta IL for Fall Fun on October 21

Hay Ride!

Plus Apple Cider Donuts.

It was a great day!
We all had a good time getting to know each other better.

Sleep Out Saturday on November 3 & 4

First Church Youth will again host this overnight event on our church lawn to support Bridge Communities. On this date, we will be joining more than 1,500 teens, children and adults who will spend the night sleeping outside in tents, cars or cardboard boxes, to raise awareness about homelessness in our community.

NOT too LATE to VOLUNTEER or to JOIN US as a SLEEPER or a SPONSOR or BOTH.
Call Lisa Rogers 630-279-4470 NOW!
All proceeds will go to Bridge Communities’ Transitional Housing Program.
For more information about the event or to make a donation visit the Youth Group Sleep Out Saturday webpage at https://www.bridgecommunities.org/group81

YOUTH BREAKFAST MINISTRY
Wesley Hall was abuzz on Saturday morning, October 20, as our Youth prepared and served a free breakfast to more than 80 of our Clothing Center guests. This outreach program will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month through April. Volunteers are always needed. You are welcome to join our young people in this important ministry. Contact Lisa Rogers if you’d like to sign up!
The Young Center for Immigration Children’s Rights** will be receiving $259.27 – thanks to our generous congregation and the work of our Sunday School classes. That’s a lot of pocket change that our Trick or Treaters collected at Fall Fest on Sunday, October 28. Check out the photos of the children (and even a few adults!) to see their fabulous costumes. It was a Fall Fellowship Feast, too, with good food, fun games, and plenty of conversation. Huzzah to Lisa Rogers for creating such a fun event.

Special thanks to Lisa and to Anne Mathias who have helped our children and our whole congregation understand what it might be like to have to leave your home and to look for acceptance in a new homeland.

Thank you to the Member Growth and Care team: Tracy Meehan, Kelley Hook, Ruth Zervas, Dena Vincent, and Chris Squier for helping with this event.

** The Young Center is an organization that works for the rights of detained minor immigrants. Our contribution will go toward legal fees and supplies for the children while they await their fate in our country. For more information go to: [https://www.theyoungcenter.org/](https://www.theyoungcenter.org/)

**EARN. SAVE. GIVE.**

Commitment Cards are Due

Many thanks to all the Hosts of our Home Gatherings and to the Facilitators who led the gatherings.

**Special Stewardship Celebration at Fellowship Time on November 11.**
First Church Library

Treasures on the Lower Level

The Library was pleased to partner with GreenMan Theatre in October by attending their inspiring production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and by reading Anne’s diary for a book discussion led by Ruth Zervas. If you didn’t have time to read the book in October, we encourage you to read it in the coming months. The Elmhurst library has several copies.

**READING AHEAD FOR FEBRUARY.** *If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty* by New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas is part history and part rousing call to arms. It is steeped in a critical analysis of our founding fathers' original intentions for America. In 1787, when the Constitution was drafted, Ben Franklin was asked what the founders had given the American people. "A republic," he shot back, "if you can keep it." More than two centuries later, Metaxas examines what that means and how we are doing on that score. This book also tells us the story about the impact of Wesleyan ideas on the intentions of the founding fathers. Lola Hotchkis will be leading the discussion on **Sunday, February 3, at 3:30 pm in the Library.** No need to buy the book. The Elmhurst library has a copy and there are many copies available from our partner libraries through LINKin.

**The Children’s Christmas Tree**

How are blue and white paper light bulbs, an old plastic evergreen tree, and you related? That’s easy, of course. Put the three together, and you have nearly 85 happy children who are smiling and squealing and feeling so very joyful.

Yes, yes, yes, it’s time for the Children’s Christmas Tree to appear in the Narthex. Please plan to take a name or two from the tree beginning on Sunday, November 25. Wrapped gifts must be at church by the 10:30 worship service on December 9. For those of you who like to contribute, but hate the shopping, please allow our youth to scour the stores for the perfect presents by placing a check or cash in an envelope marked Youth Shopper by the tree.

If you like to purchase your own gifts, the process is fairly easy. Take a name from the tree. You will find each tag has a twin. Take one and write your name and phone number on the back. Leave that one in the basket and take the other one home with you. The child’s age, clothing size, and gender are listed below the child’s name to assist you with the shopping. Our guidelines recommend that you purchase something warm and wonderful (clothing) and something fun (a toy or game.) A suggested price range for the gifts range from $35-$45 for each child. Once again, the children of **Lord’s Lambs Ministry** in Pembroke Township and **Bethany Pastor UMC** in Chicago will benefit from your generosity. All that’s left is to put on your shopping shoes and bring on the smiles of some very grateful children.

Call Carolyn Heiney (630-834-1426) with questions.
Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi—the law of prayer is the law of belief

During our fall study of Christianity’s family tree, many expressed interest in learning how to pray using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) of the Anglican Communion. With the assistance of Our Saviour’s rector, The Reverend Shireen Baker, and the use of some of their BCPs, First Church will be able to participate in the tradition of Morning Prayer at 8:45 am on Sundays beginning December 2. Please join Pastor Joe in the Aldersgate Room for this weekly service of prayer during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons.

The Public Action to Deliver Shelter Season has Begun

First Church is again partnering with Bethel United Church of Christ and Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish to be support churches for PADS. We will be at the same site in Medinah IL but the name of the church is now Jubilee Community Church. We provide a hot meal, a safe place to sleep, a breakfast, and a bag lunch for approximately 40 people who have no home. Volunteers are needed for all shifts from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am. If you have other questions about participating in this local hands-on ministry, please contact our church PADS Coordinator, Marlene Stratton (630-953-2454).

Our first overnight is November 3 & 4.
IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER.
Contact Marlene ASAP!

OUR NEXT PADS WEEKENDS in 2019 are: January 5-6 and March 2-3

Clothing Center

HANG WITH US!

HOST A FELLOWSHIP HOUR.
CALL CHURCH OFFICE FOR DATES

SIGN UP for ALTAR FLOWERS
Strengthen & Grow

Sunday Morning Adult Study Series ~ 9:15 am in Aldersgate

through November 25
Transforming Evangelism

November 4: Integrating Works of Piety & Mercy into Evangelistic Practices
November 11: Sharing & Embodying God’s Word
November 18: Relational Evangelism within the Wesleyan Tradition
November 25: Wrap Up: What will we do differently?

Lunch & Wreath Making Event
Follows Worship on November 25.
Look for ADVENT ADVENTURE!

Coming up in December
Light of Lights: Devotions and Study for Advent

An invitation to commit to the practice of daily prayer. This collection of meditations from The Upper Room is arranged to coordinate with the themes of the four candles on an Advent wreath: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Beginning December 2, this 4-week series will bring focus and peace to your hectic pre-Christmas season.

What Kind of Disciples are We?

ALL MEMBERS COME TO OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 13, 7:00 pm, in the SANCTUARY

Exploring our Possibilities and Ordering our Lives for Ministry
with our District Superintendent, Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath
Birthdays

Nov. 1  Marge Blasius
Nov. 1  Dorothy McAnamay
Nov. 2  David Maki
Nov. 2  Brad Metz
Nov. 3  Frank Toohey
Nov. 4  Stephanie Carbonetti
Nov. 4  David Hachmeister
Nov. 4  Ellen Maki
Nov. 5  Shahe Bagdasarian
Nov. 6  Ted Hatmaker
Nov. 7  Jennifer Hagstrom
Nov. 7  Marilyn Thompson
Nov. 8  Phil Knoeppel
Nov. 8  Gabby Riek
Nov. 9  David Hansen
Nov. 10 Jordan Rech
Nov. 11 Elliott Achepohl
Nov. 11 Michael Achepohl
Nov. 11 Kyle Kottwitz
Nov. 13 Nancy Hamilton
Nov. 14 Eddie Cooke
Nov. 15 Erika Klang
Nov. 16 Martha Akre
Nov. 17 Tom Hoeltgen
Nov. 17 Gabe Laurx
Nov. 17 Julia Laurx
Nov. 17 Lisa Laurx
Nov. 20 Tracy Meehan
Nov. 20 Steve Provancal
Nov. 22 Jennifer Conradt
Nov. 22 Paul Hagstrom
Nov. 22 Doug Peters
Nov. 23 Harrison Kennedy
Nov. 24 Jakob Meyer
Nov. 26 Joyce Meyer
Nov. 26 Claudia Olsen
Nov. 27 Eric Achepohl
Nov. 27 Sam Jordan-Wood
Nov. 28 Sandra Bodie
Nov. 28 Benjamin McCullough

Anniversaries

November 4
Phil & Kim Jannusch ~ 23 Years

November 5
Tom & Karen Kottwitz ~ 30 Years

November 12
Bruce & Kelley Hook ~ 30 Years

November 23
Greg & Jennifer Conradt ~ 27 Years

Prayer List

Recent Concerns ~ Darlene Van Meir; John Hazelton; Diane Rosenthal
Hirt (friend of Ellyn Gehrke); Karen Kottwitz; Eddie Cooke; Family & Friends of Eileen Bellerud (aunt of Pam Locke); Christina Houser (fiancée of June Muncy’s son); Marie (sister of Mike Capra); Isabel Shick; Al White (friend of Kelley Hook); Barbara Keeler (mother of Lisa Rogers); Kay Michael; Chris Ladd; Alex Hamilton; Ray Lynn Ruth, Ron Foster, Rick Stanley, Joan Cortesi, Sharon Gomez (friends of Jamie Falconer); James Herhold (Jeannie Herhold’s husband); Dan Herhold (Jeannie Herhold’s brother-in-law); Doug Peters, Sr. (Doug Peters’ father); Matt Johnson; Rachael (daughter of Kathy Hansen’s friend); Darlene Gee; Tony Sekera (Curlie Engdahl’s son-in-law); Madeleine Rodriguez (Amy Strauss’ daughter).

Ongoing Prayers ~ Jim Morris (stepfather of Chris Squier); Shirley Hazelton; Russell and Karen Whiles (Susan Boyd’s cousin and his wife); Sophia Zematis (age 4, friend of the Grisolias); Terse Stamos (Richard Norgaard’s sister); Mary Gaier (Lola Hatchikis’ mother); Cherie Kupcik (Sandy Terrell’s niece); Doree Kaforski (friend of June Muncy); Tom Mitchell (son of Diane Mitchell); Kathleen Gallagher & Anthony McElligott; Juanita Daniels (Steve Strauss’ mother); Marge Farrell (Ed Locke’s aunt); Pat Lind; Eric McMillian (son-in-law of Darlene Van Meir); Erv and Marge Blasius; Philip Williams; Janet H. (friend of Marlene Stratton); Margie Finley (Audrey Klang’s mother); Curle Engdahl; those who struggle with anxiety and depression; the homebound; the military; those who are homeless or in shelters; those in nursing homes; and caregivers.
From the Finance Chair: Ken Carbonetti
Re: Financial Results Through September 30, 2018

We are three quarters through the year and fall is in the air. I want to take this opportunity to present our financial results for the three quarters ended September 30.

Recall, Church Council approved a 2018 budget that projected expenses would exceed income by $65,000. Our deficit today is $24,338.

Income through September is $239,937, $9,288 under budget. Pledged giving is currently under budget, while loose plate offerings and unpledged giving are over budget. Historic trends suggest pledged giving will catch-up by year end. We tend to budget giving evenly throughout the year, while actual giving is somewhat seasonal.

Expense through September is $264,274, $34,298 under budget. Decisions to delay apportionment payments to the conference account for the favorable expense variance. This decision is consistent with prior year practices. We have made one apportionment payment this year. We have a goal to make 3 more payments year end. We made a little over 4 payments for all of 2017, exceeding our giving in the past years. Other expense category variances pretty much offset each other.

We at First Church should aim for strong fourth quarter to continue the wonderful ministries and programs at our church. Ken Carbonetti can be reached at ks2carbonetti@sbcglobal.net if you have questions about our finances.
**All-Church Event**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

*Stay after Worship for*

**An ADVENT ADVENTURE**

All are Invited to Share a Light Lunch. Each household will be able to create an Advent Wreath and pick up other resources to enhance observance of this first season of the liturgical year.

(There will be a nominal charge for materials.)

What better way to prepare for Christmas than to be ready for the Season of Advent.

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. [Liturgical -- from liturgy, which means the forms and functions of public worship.] During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

*from What Is Advent at umc.org*

---

**Welcome Home to the Gilmers!**

Deloris and Larry Gilmer were active members at First Church for over 40 years before they moved to Hayward WI in 2005. There they were beloved members of the Hayward Wesleyan Church. And now they are back and we rejoice!

Be sure to add their contact info to your Church Directory:
Larry & Deloris Gilmer at Lexington Square
400 W. Butterfield Rd. Apt 505, Elmhurst IL 60126
Email: lgilmer36@gmail.com  Phone: (715) 699-2660

Deloris & Larry at Fall Fest
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<td>9:00 Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Silent Meditation in Sanctuary 10-10:20am</td>
<td>Bulletin announcements deadline: 12 noon each Wednesday</td>
<td>12 Step Group 7:30pm</td>
<td>1 Clothing Center OPEN 9-11am, 7-9pm</td>
<td>2 Confirmation Retreat/W/Woods 5pm Fri –5pm Sat</td>
<td>3 SLEEP OUT SATURDAY 5pmSat-9amSun</td>
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<td>9:15 Church School for Adults, Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>10:30 Worship</td>
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<td>11:30 Handbells Fellowship in Wesley Hall follows Worship</td>
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<td>3 SLEEP OUT SATURDAY 5pmSat-9amSun</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
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<td>31 HALLOWEEN</td>
<td>1 Clothing Center OPEN 9-11am, 7-9pm</td>
<td>2 Confirmation Retreat/W/Woods 5pm Fri –5pm Sat</td>
<td>3 SLEEP OUT SATURDAY 5pmSat-9amSun</td>
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<td>4 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Communion Sunday ShopwithScrip signup Commitment Cards DUE</td>
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<td>6 ELECTION DAY</td>
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<td>Fall Back Election Day setup Film Group</td>
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<td>6 ELECTION DAY</td>
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<td>11 VETERANS DAY HS Breakfast Out Celebrate Earn Save Give at Fellowship Time</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Staff Meeting 10:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Staff Parish 6pm</td>
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<td>18 Thanksgiving Sunday Parent Group 9:15-10:15</td>
<td>19 December Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>Staff Parish 6pm CHARGE CONFERENCE 7pm</td>
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<td>Youth Group 5-6:00pm HS Devo 6-7:00pm</td>
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<td>25 Christ the King Sunday Advent Adventure</td>
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<td>27 Staff Meeting 10:30</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27 Staff Meeting 10:30</td>
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<td>December 1 WORLD AIDS DAY Lesley Starkey Piano Recital 12:00 noon</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>Naomi Circle 7:30</td>
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First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst is a caring Christian community. We are a progressive congregation; embracing thinking, exploring and questioning as part of a faithful search for a closer relationship with God. We seek opportunities to Worship, Learn, Connect, and Serve in ways that put Jesus’ life and teachings into action. As such, we affirm diversity and welcome all children of God into full participation in the life and ministries of our church regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race or marital status.

The Visitor Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions are due to the church office by the 15th of each month. Email: admin@umcelmhurst.org.