Follow me, and I will make you fish for people. Matthew 4:19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Peace and grace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer: days at the pool, fresh produce from your garden or farmers market, and time with friends and family.

In August we returned to our 10:30 worship time and kicked off Sunday school. During worship, we focused on the way of Jesus. When I began the series, I reflected on the many challenges of the last year we have had as a congregation and a denomination.

When Jesus called his first disciples he invited them to follow him. Certainly, Jesus meant this literally but he also meant it figuratively. As his disciples, Jesus calls us to observe his teachings and his lifestyle. Rev. Dr. Jack Seymour has identified six guideposts of the way of Jesus:

- Loving God and Neighbor Matthew 22:34-40
- Living in God’s grace Mark 4:1-20
- Looking for the realm of God Mark 1:14-15
- Calling people to the banquet table Luke 14:1-24
- Resisting the time of trial Hebrews 11:29-12:2
- Proclaiming the resurrected one Luke 24:45-49

Over the next month, take some time with each of these. As Jesus’ disciple, where do you need some improvement?

As many of you know, I was on spiritual renewal leave in July. While away, I did not take my flute or piccolo with me. Recently, I have returned to the practice room. Let’s just say, “There is room for improvement.”

We do this for the hope of heaven on earth and for the people Jesus has called us to love.

Christ’s Servant ~

The Reverend Joseph A. Johnson
Strengthen & Grow Initiative

The summer meeting of Strengthen and Grow focused on two areas:
1. reaching out to current building users
2. recruiting church members to attend a conference-sponsored event on making disciples.

Among the groups who share space in our building, First Church has spoken to Raggedy Anne Learning Center, GreenMan Theatre Troupe, The Tribe (a men's group), Men of Spirito!, and Progressives for Change (P4C). The church wants to be more than just landlords to these groups. So we are asking how we can help them. We look forward to follow-up conversations and invitations with GreenMan, Men of Spirito!, and Progressives for Change. Strauch Art School and the 12 Step Fellowship will be contacted during the next month.

Also, we discussed making disciples. At the June session of our Northern Illinois Conference, three goals were adopted: the first is Growing and Reaching New Disciples for Jesus Christ. On September 12, six people from First Church will attend the Intentional Discipleship Systems training led by Rev. Jeff Campbell who is the Associate General Secretary of Strategic Programming for Discipleship Ministries.

Training will cover the following topics
- Creating an intentional discipleship system (or pathway) - unique to your church’s context.
- Discipleship begins with relationships. Equipping your disciples with the right heart and motivation for disciple-making.
- Tools for Seeing All the People & Engaging Your Community

Next meeting for Strengthen & Grow is Tuesday, October 8, 7:00pm.

Calling all music lovers:

REJOICE & REJOIN THE FIRST CHURCH MUSIC GROUP

WHEN: Sunday, September 15, 3:30-4:30 pm
WHERE: Home of Doug & Lola Hotchkis
130 Sunnyside Avenue, Elmhurst
PROGRAM: Featuring Pastor Joe’s flute teacher from his high school and college days:
DEBRA SILVERT

Debra is a professional flutist and half of Duo Sequenza. The other half is her long-time associate Paul Bowman who plays classical guitar. They have released a CD recently on the Navona Records label in conjunction with WFMT. Debra will join us as we play and discuss works from this release.
RSVP: doug@hotchkis.org
First Church Youth & Adults headed back to Clendenin, West Virginia for our 2019 Mission Trip from July 28 to August 3

Serving, worshiping, deepening their spirituality and strengthening their relationships were: Elizabeth Cooke, David Hansen, Nate Ladd, Julia Laux, Erin Lee, Kari Lee, Nathan Lee, Jacki Riek, Emma Rogers, Lisa Rogers, Maya Valdez, Sidney Valdez and Amy Vincent. It was an uplifting return visit to Clendenin and a second chance to work with Next Step Missions. Our first visit was in 2016 to help with the aftermath of a devastating flood. This summer we were assigned to continued restoration work. Our youth worked hard laying a floating floor in the home of Miss Linda. Each person found their niche during the project -- whether it was measuring, cutting, connecting the floor, or nailing in trim. By the end of the week, two rooms had been completed!

Each evening we worshipped with the groups from Michigan, and another Illinois group (Lincolnshire).

The Next Step 2019 theme was BEYOND THE SHADOWS. Using Plato’s Allegory of the Cave to illustrate how we can sometimes fail to see the light through the shadows, we wrote down what some of our shadows are and nailed them to a cross so we could let them go. In addition, we created goals for how we would work to build on the growth we experienced during the trip so that when we got back home and we could share those with others.

Our last day at Adventures on the Gorge was a fun outing for zip lining or white water rafting. Everyone had a great time! We ended the trip with a festive community gathering at the little league field (same one that our group put the tin roof on in 2016) until a huge downpour sent us inside.

Our trip was filled with service, spiritual growth, friendships, and fun. YAY, God!!!!
Volunteer Opportunities

For the past 13 years, churches throughout Elmhurst have held "Grace Cafes" twice a month to serve dinner to anyone in our community who may be hungry or lonely. This ministry has seen amazing growth from 5 "inaugural" churches to this year's record 15 local churches participating!

Our **ONLY** opportunity to host Grace Café at First Church this year is:

**MONDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 23**

Just a few short years ago, we welcomed 30-40 guests per evening. Last year each cafe averaged between **100-120** in attendance. We expect to have even more this season as the word continues to spread.

Providing a hearty meal and warm fellowship to so many requires a lot of helping hands. All ages are invited to participate.

Look for the sign up sheets on the Fellowship Table in Wesley Hall & help:
- Provide Ingredients
- Cook
- Set up
- Greet
- Serve
- Clean up

Not a fan of grocery shopping? You can help by making a monetary donation to purchase ingredients that we need in quantities larger than we would ask any one person or family to provide.

Thank you for helping us offer this meaningful service to our community.
The Visitor
FALL 2019
Page 5

First Church Library

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Thank you for your patience. The First Church Library is finally open for business. Come any Sunday and browse the shelves, check out books, return books, or just sit and relax. You can also check out DVDs.

Grand Re-Opening Open House on Sunday, September 8
Immediately after worship, grab a cup of coffee and come on down to take a tour, share some refreshments, and good fellowship. Check out a book and you’ll be entered into a raffle!!!

First Book Discussion in November

Lola Hotchkis will lead a discussion on Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. [This book was chosen by the Elmhurst Public Library as its “One Book One Community” this year. Lola attended one of their discussions which she reports was very lively.]

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

“the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice.”

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Discussion date: Sunday, November 17
Time: 3:30 PM
Place: First Church Library in Room 101

Book availability: Elmhurst Public Library in the Book Discussion section and in non-fiction 364.973 Ste. If you don’t live in Elmhurst, check your local library.

What is Mindfulness?
Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we’re doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what’s going on around us.

Join the Sunday Morning Mindfulness Group in the Library 9:15-10:15 am
Open to anyone including our older youth and teens.

Each meeting will explore a mindfulness topic and offer awareness exercises to help to become more focused as we face the days ahead.

Schedule for 2019-2020
September 22
October 20
November 17
December 15
January 26
March 15
April 19
Grace Gathering 2019

The Lord is my Rock. In Him I will Trust. Psalm 18:2

OUR FAITH IS ROCK SOLID

A wonderful melange of adults and children — singles and families — shared an “indoors” picnic lunch for the annual Grace Gathering following Worship on August 18. The celebration is a kick-off for the 2019-2020 program year at First Church.

To proclaim that Jesus is our Rock and our Foundation is Firm, everyone signed a large boulder to be placed outside by our church sign. They also enjoyed making “encouragement rocks” which they took to leave out in the community as reminders of the good that exists in our world.

Many thanks to all who brought delicious dishes to share; to Maggie, Zoe and Susan Ejma, Hadley and Heather Cross, Amy and Claire Vincent, and Ruth Zervas for their assistance; and to Jim Rogers for grilling in the rain!

Spiritual Growth Groups

The First Church SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUPS offer us the chance to study, learn, and grow in a small group setting.

Our study book -- WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING from critically acclaimed author Brian McLaren -- not only provides a brilliant re-telling of the biblical story, it offers tools for insightful reflections and transformative practices. Groups will be able to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. Reimagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today's world as agents of God's justice, creativity, and peace. Please contact Pastor Joe for additional information. The following groups will be meeting twice a month.

- **Sunday Morning Group at 9:15 am.** Beginning September 8
- **Monday Evening Group at 7:00 pm.** Beginning September 16.
- **Tuesday Morning Group at 10:30 am.** Beginning September 10.
From the Pulpit

SEPTEMBER is the Season of Creation.
For centuries, our theology, our ethics, and our worship have been oriented in two dimensions: our relationship with God and our human relationships with one another. Now it is time to turn our attention to God’s relationship with all creation and with our relationship with creation (and with God through creation).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Ocean Sunday</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Animals Sunday</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>Plants Sunday</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Storms Sunday</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>Universe Sunday</td>
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OCTOBER Have you ever fled God’s call in your life?
Jonah did. Come and hear the story again. Learn how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have interpreted this story. Finally, celebrate God’s mercy and deliverance despite Jonah’s (and our own!) disobedience and resistance.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Jonah’s Call</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Jonah’s Disobedience and God’s Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Nineveh Hears God’s Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>God’s Mercy to All (including Jonah)</td>
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NOVEMBER is the Month of Thanksgiving.
With the help of Dianna Butler Bass, we will explore gratitude individually and collectively, emotionally and ethically, theologically and psychologically. This exploration will include one home group experience, weekly worship focus, and concluding with our annual Pledge Sunday on November 24.

Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.
A. A. Milne
Getting to Know Who is Sharing our Space

UPPER LEVEL

Raggedy Anne Learning Center

https://www.raggedyannelearningcenter.com/

Here at Raggedy Anne Learning Center, we strive to provide a positive and enriching learning experience for children with their teachers and peers.

However, children are able to fully develop in academic areas only when certain emotional gains have been made. Our main goal is to build a positive self-image in every child. Children who know who they are, have positive self-esteem, are able to work well with others, and tend to be more successful students. Teachers provide a warm and secure atmosphere for each child, always treating them with dignity and respect.

Raggedy Anne Learning Center is a family-operated business that has been serving the Elmhurst area since 1970. Our small class sizes ensure that your child gets the one-on-one attention that he or she deserves.

Founder/Director: Carol Murray

LOWER LEVEL~ROOM 103

Strauch Art School

https://www.strauchartschool.com/

Strauch Art School is where you will find fun and inspiring art classes for children (ages 4+) and adults. Based on the idea that everyone can benefit in many ways from being creative, Strauch Art School was founded in 2012. Regardless of age or skill level, Strauch Art School can provide the direction and encouragement needed to build confidence and further art abilities while having fun! Art classes are designed to offer age appropriate activities with a wide variety of media for younger children and to concentrate on developing skills in specific media for students with more experience. Students have the opportunity to learn art techniques and concepts while engaging in fun hands-on activities. Group & individual instruction is given.

Owner/Instructor: Marie Strauch

LOWER LEVEL~ASBURY HALL

GreenMan Theatre Troupe

http://www.greenmantheatre.org/

A year-round resident at First Church

GreenMan Mission:
To provide diverse, quality theatrical entertainment for our audience.
To provide opportunities for personal growth in theatrical arts for our members.
To provide a source of cultural enrichment and pride for our community.

GMTT was incorporated in June of 2004 and provides a four-show season. The theatre also offers classes and workshops in theatre arts.

Artistic Director: David Soria
Board President: Jim Ocasek

COMING UP:
The Government Inspector
By Nikolai Gogol, adapted by Jeffery Hatcher
Directed by David Soria
Sept. 27 – Oct. 13, 2019

Mel Brooks meets Robert Mueller? When the locals in a small Russian hamlet learn that an undercover government inspector is coming for a surprise visit, an unfortunate case of mistaken identity sends the whole village spiraling into a world of panic and greed. Witty, smart and wildly satirical, this timely adaptation has a strongly contemporary feel, while also being a very funny farce.
United Methodist Women

Seven women from First Church attended the 4th Annual Women’s Retreat at the summer home of Darlene Van Meir in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Studying and appreciating the poems of Mary Oliver comprised part of each day. The women also enjoyed the Green Lake Conference Center, a walk on a boardwalk in a wetland area, and enjoyed a long pontoon boat ride on Green Lake. Kudos to Ruth Zervas for arranging and leading the program activities and to Darlene VanMeir for her extravagant hospitality. Attendees also included Kay Michael, Ann Gills, Sandy Bodie, Mary Massie, and Chris Squiers.

Oh feed me this day, Holy Spirit, with the fragrance of the fields and the freshness of the oceans which you have made, and help me to hear and to hold in all dearthness those exacting and wonderful words of our Lord Christ Jesus, saying Follow me.

from Six Recognitions of the Lord
By MARY OLIVER

To Shirley Hazelton
On her retirement from serving as Our Tuesday Morning Church Office Volunteer

Thanks so much
For being the voice of First United Methodist Church
For providing untold smiles and welcome to every visitor.
For keeping our office organized and tidy
For maintaining attendance records and mail boxes and supplies and bulletin boards and pew racks and sanctuary candles and choir records and so on and so on . . . .
You are a Blessing

All women are invited to attend for an opportunity to explore concepts of mission for women, children, and youth. And there’s always time for fellowship.

Elgin District Meeting & Brunch
Saturday September 21, 9 am -1pm
Libertyville UMC

NIC/UMW Annual Conference Celebration
Saturday, October 26. 9 am—3pm
Speaker: Deaconess Catherine Inserra
We Are Called
Olympia Fields UMC

NAOMI CIRCLE GATHERINGS
✦ Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 pm
Home of Mary Hallman
UMW in Mission: 150 Years & Beyond

✦ Wednesday, October 23, 7:30 pm
Home of Carol Norgaard

✦ Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm
Home tbd
UMW Across the Country/Around the World
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<td>9:00 Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Silent Meditation 10-10:20am</td>
<td>Bulletin announcements deadline:</td>
<td>12 Step Group 7:30pm</td>
<td>9:15 Sunday School</td>
<td>Cub Scouts 7:00 pm</td>
<td>12 noon each Wednesday</td>
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<td>10:30 Worship</td>
<td>Men of Spirit! 7:00pm</td>
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<td>11:30 Handbells</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Wesley Hall follows Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCEAN SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>Church Office Closed</td>
<td>Film Group</td>
<td><strong>ALL-CHURCH DINNER &amp; PROGRAM 6-7pm</strong></td>
<td>Clothing Center OPEN 9-11am, 7-9pm</td>
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<td>Communion Sunday ShopwithScrip signup</td>
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<td><strong>ANIMALS SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>Staff Outing</td>
<td>Church Council 7pm</td>
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<td>Youth Breakfast Group</td>
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<td>11:30 Library Open House</td>
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<td><strong>PLANTS SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>Strach Art School begins Fall Classes in Room 103.</td>
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<td>Youth Group PANCAKE BREAKFAST &amp; FUNDRAISER</td>
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<td>The Tribe 7 pm</td>
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<td>Music Group 3:30</td>
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<td>Worship Team 7pm</td>
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<td>Hotchkis Home Youth Group 4-6:00pm HS Devo 6-7:00pm</td>
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<td><strong>STORMS SUNDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Mindfulness Group 9:15</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 10:30 am</td>
<td>Naomi Circle Mary Hallman Home</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSE SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>Grace Café</td>
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<td>United Voices for Children Sunday</td>
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<td>Staff/Parish Appreciation Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September is the Season of Creation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Check bulletin announcements &amp; website for Spiritual Growth Group Meetings.</td>
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<td>Savvy Sister Sale returns to First Church — September 29-October 8. Sale Dates are Wed Oct 2— Sat Oct 5.</td>
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## Chapel Life

**WEEKLY**
- **9:00** Choir Rehearsal
- **9:15** Sunday School
- **10:30** Worship
- **11:30** Handbells
  Fellowship in Wesley Hall follows Worship each Sunday

**WEEKLY**
- **9:00** Choir Rehearsal
- **9:15** Sunday School
- **10:30** Worship
- **11:30** Handbells
  Fellowship in Wesley Hall follows Worship each Sunday

### October Schedule

**OCTOBER 1**
- **2** Savvy Sister Sale 10am-7pm
- **3** Clothing Center OPEN 9-11am, 7-9pm
- **4** Savvy Sister Sale 10am-7pm
- **5** Savvy Sister Sale 10am-7pm

**6** World Communion Sunday ShopwithScrip signup

**7**
- Staff Meeting 10:30

**8**
- Staff Meeting 10:30

**9**
- Strengthen & Grow 7:00

**10**
- Govt. Inspector GreenMan 7:30

**11**
- Govt. Inspector GreenMan 7:30

**12**
- Govt. Inspector GreenMan 7:30

**13** Youth Breakfast Group
  - Govt. Inspector GreenMan 2:00

**14**
- Columbus Day
  - Church Office Closed

**15**
- Youth Group 5-6:00pm
  - HS Devo 6-7:00pm

**16**
- Worship Team 7PM

**17**
- Girl Scouts 3:30-5:30

**18**
- Spooky Stories GreenMan 7:30

**19**
- Youth Breakfast Ministry 8:30 am
  - Clothing Center OPEN 9-11am
  - Spooky Stories GreenMan 7:30

**20**
- Mindfulness Group 9:15

**21**
- Staff Meeting 10:30

**22**
- Staff Meeting 10:30

**23**
- Naomi Circle 7:30 Home of Carol Norgaard

**24**
- The Tribe 7 pm

**25**
- NIC/UMW Annual Conference 9am-3pm

**26**
- ALL-CHURCH LUNCH
  - TRICK OR TREAT FOR NATURE CONSERVANCY

**27**
- FALLFEST

**28**
- CHARGE CONFERENCE 7pm

**29**
- The Tribe 7 pm

**30**
- HALLOWEEN
## November

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<th>Sun</th>
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</table>
| **WEEKLY**  
9:00 Choir Rehearsal  
9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship  
11:30 Handbells  
Fellowship in Wesley Hall follows Worship | **WEEKLY**  
Silent Meditation in Sanctuary  
10-10:20am  
Cub Scouts 7  
Men of Spirit  
9:30pm | **WEEKLY**  
Bulletin deadline | **WEEKLY**  
12 Step Group 7:30pm | **WEEKLY**  
**WEEKLY** |
| 3 ALL SAINTS  
SUNDAY / Communion  
Consecration Sunday  
ShopwithScrip signup | 5 Film Group | 6 | 7 Clothing Center  
OPEN  
9-11am, 7-9pm | 8 | 1  
2 SLEEP OUT  
SATURDAY  
5pmSat-9amSun |
| 10 Youth Breakfast Group | 11 VETERANS DAY  
Staff Meeting  
10:30  
Church Council  
7:00 | 12 | 13 P4C 7pm | 14  
Deadline for WINTER VISITOR  
Girls Scouts  
3:30-5:30  
Doubt GreenMan 7:30 |
| 17 Mindfulness Group 9:15  
LIBRARY DISCUSSION  
3:30 PM  
Doubt GreenMan 2:00 | 18 | 19 | 20 The Tribe  
7 pm  
Worship Team  
7:00  
Naomi Circle  
7:30 | 21  
22 Doubt GreenMan 7:30  
Doubt GreenMan 7:30 |
| 24 Thanksgiving Sunday  
PLEDGE SUNDAY  
Doubt GreenMan 2:00  
Youth Group 5-6:00pm  
HS Devo 6-7:00pm | 25 | 26 Staff Meeting  
10:30 | 27  
28 THANKSGIVING  
HAPPY Thanksgiving  
Church Office Closed |
| 29 | 30 |
The Somali poet, Warsan Shire, wrote this as part of a poem, “What They Did Yesterday Afternoon”:

later that night,
i held an atlas on my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered where does it hurt?
it answered everywhere
everywhere
everywhere

Every day we read, hear, see and experience the pain that injustice, violence, inequity, callousness, loss, and evil inflict upon people often by other people. Innocent people become collateral to larger dynamics at play. Sometimes it’s the result of natural disasters, but even those can experience the “pile on” of economic, political and social influences. “Everywhere” is here, even in our annual conference, and sometimes in places and situations we’re not mindful or aware of.

In August, the Cabinet and I went on a farm tour to learn and hear from some farmers in northern Illinois who have been affected by recent adverse weather conditions. We visited several different kinds of farms, including a family farm, a practicing organic farm, and an agritourism farm. (for the complete letter https://www.umcnic.org/news/bishops-column-where-does-it-hurt)

Tears flowed along our farm tour. Hearts were heavy. What can you do? What can your church do? Two things.

First, you can pray and raise awareness of the farm crisis in our conference and across the Midwest. It’s not always covered in the news, so calling for prayers in our congregations raises awareness about “where it hurts” in our own conference. In fact, we’re calling a special session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. It will be held On November 16 at Kishwaukee College in Malta IL. You’ll drive by some cornfields to get there.

Second, you can give. We will collect a special Bishop’s Appeal offering for the farm crisis. More information about how the money will be used will be available shortly, along with resources to better understand the situation.

Make a point of learning more about what hurts your neighbor, the farmer. We run our fingers across the map of our annual conference and ask where it hurts, knowing that it hurts in many places and many ways, such as gun violence and immigrants who are further oppressed by our nation’s lack of comprehensive immigration policies and other concerns. But let’s not overlook our farmers!

Bishop’s Appeal Offering for November 16, 2019

The offering will be used to support and provide relief for farmers who are suffering from the weather conditions that delayed planting this spring due to constant rain followed by the effects of a drought during July. The Keagy Town and Rural Committee will determine the allocation of the offering. It will be collected at the Special Session of Annual Conference on November 16. The agenda will include approving the 2020 Annual Conference Budget and receiving the Exploration Team report.
Youth Group News
Instead of a Cook-Out this year, we’re having

**A PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Sunday Morning, September 15, 9:00-10:15 am

First Church youth will be participating in Bridge Communities' **Sleep Out Saturday** event on November 2-3. This annual event is to raise awareness about homelessness in Du Page County.

The money raised at the Pancake Breakfast will be donated to Bridge Communities to help support their mission to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency by working with partners to provide mentoring, housing, and supportive services.

The youth will be preparing and serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, cereal, toast and beverages.

Donations will be gratefully accepted.

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**2019-2020 SCHEDULE ~ YOUTH BREAKFAST MINISTRY**

First Church Youth will be serving up a warm breakfast for Clothing Center guests on the following dates:

October 19, November 16, December 21,
January 18, February 14, March 21, April 18

Adult Volunteers are welcome: please contact Lisa Rogers at jljrogers204@comcast.net

OOPS! Callahan Meyer was accidentally left off the list of Youth Breakfast Ministry Leadership Team members in the last Visitor. Sorry for the oversight and thanks for all your service, Callie!
A Note from Pastor Joe to First Church for the Donation in honor of his Ordination Anniversary. It was given to the Excellence in Clergy Leadership/Special Seminary Scholarship at the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry.

Your gifts will be given as a scholarship to seminarians enrolled in one of the United Methodist Seminaries who are pursuing ministry as an ordained elder or deacon of the church.

Thank you for your generosity.

Pastor Joe

ALL FIRST CHURCH MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND 2019 CHARGE CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 7:00 PM
WESLEY HALL

NOTE to Council Officers and Committee Chairs: Reports will be due by October 8.

A Note from Brad Mertz, Chair of the Trustees

As you may be aware, First Church has experienced some turnover on our Trustees committee this summer. It started at the end of May with Robert Potter and his family making the exciting move to Florida and then continued with the sad passing in June of Bob Lee who was resigning the position of Chair. With TP Kung, Karen Kottwitz, Dave Maki, Steve Strauss, Jim Rogers and myself, the Trustees have regrouped and are prioritizing the various needs and safety issues of our church building. We are pleased to report that all of the water related issues from the burst pipes on the lower level last November are pretty well completed. There’s still some final painting to finish up — but we expect the church kitchen to be ready for our All-Church Event on September 4.

To comply with the State Fire Marshall mandates, we have new access to the south parking lot and new fire doors at the top of each stairwell. Further issues to tackle include the inspection of the other stairwell doors and the tread problems on the North stairway.

It is our hope that we are entering a much less eventful year. Thanks to all of the trustees, our building custodian Mike Capra, and other people associated with the church who have contributed greatly to making this happen. If you have any comments on the building or see issues you are not sure are getting addressed please contact me.

Brad Mertz  brad.mertz@gmail.com  630-715-4916

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Church Office Volunteers for 2019-2020

If you happen to call the Church Office on one of these mornings, you’re likely to hear the friendly and helpful voice of one of the following volunteers.

Tuesday Morning  Christine Mertz
Wednesday Morning  Carol Most
Thursday Morning  David Maki
Friday Morning  Dorothy Knoeppel

Thank you for sharing your time and your individual gifts of service.
All-Church Events ~ Bring Your Friends & Neighbors

Mark your Calendars now! Plan on joining your First United Methodist Church Family for dinner, spirited fun, and special activities appropriate for all ages. Bring along your friends & neighbors.

- **Wednesday, September 4, 6-7:00 pm.** **SEASON OF CREATION.** Come for Food, Fellowship, Creation Activities & Song. Meet Shannon Burns, education program coordinator for DuPage County Forest Preserve. Learn how we can praise God by helping to restore our natural habitat right here in Elmhurst — including the endangered Blanding’s Turtle.

- **Sunday, October 27, 11:30—1:00 pm.** **FALL FEST.** Come for Lunch in Wesley Hall. Start collecting your pocket change. First Church children will Trick or Treat to support The Nature Conservancy. Halloween Attire is enthusiastically encouraged.

- **Sunday, December 8, 10:30 am—1:00 pm.** **SEASON OF ADVENT.** Come for the special Advent Music Worship Service at 10:30 followed by Brunch in Wesley Hall.

- **Monday, January 20, 6-7:00 pm.** **REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** Church Supper & Program.

- **Wednesday, February 20, 6-7:00 pm.** **SEASON OF LENT.** Ash Wednesday Supper & Worship.

- **Sunday, April 12, 9:00 am.** **CELEBRATE EASTER.** Breakfast! Egg Hunt! Bon Fire! Worship!

Look for event details in the weekly bulletins & email blasts, on our FB page, and on the Website. Keep your eye open for other opportunities to be the Church Together such as working in the Church Gardens or serving with Feed My Starving Children.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP OR RSVP FOR EACH EVENT SO THAT WE CAN GET AN ACCURATE COUNT FOR FOOD. IF YOU CAN’T BE AT CHURCH TO SIGN UP, YOU CAN ALWAYS NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE!**