Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord.

This morning I found myself praying for impeachment as I prayed for the world, its people, and its leaders. Let me be clear. This was not a prayer for the US Congress to impeach the President. It was a prayer for the wisdom of God for the people of the United States and for elected leadership — all the elected leadership.

Paul in his letter to Timothy instructed him to pray for those in authority so that the people may live quiet and peaceful lives in complete godliness and dignity. Authority in the Scriptures is accountable to God. Authority and power are never an end in themselves. They always serve the higher purpose, as Paul says, so the people can live a “quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity.”

Many of Paul’s letters addressed the issue of division in the church. We don’t know what he thought about the political divisions of his day. My hunch is that he liked them no better. His opposition to division was grounded in his commitment to a quiet and peaceful life for all the people.

This is an uncertain time in our nation. Yet I believe that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective in what they can achieve. At the very least, it will make the church (you and me) a community in which people’s dignity is unquestioned.

Whether the US Congress moves forward with impeachment or not, the church must be the place where the values of peace, dignity and godliness are upheld for all people. Will you join me in praying for our leaders that they may uphold peace, dignity and godliness for all people?

Christ’s Servant ~

The Reverend Joseph A. Johnson

Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:2 (CEB)
A NEW INITIATIVE IN 2018. In the Fall/Winter of 2017-18, the Church Council decided to move forward with an evangelism plan that included a one-day church retreat in February 2018. The church retreat was led by the Rev. Dr. Heather Lear, Evangelism Director for the General Board of Discipleship.

AN EVANGELISM EQUATION. Dr. Lear equipped us with an evangelism equation. In addition, she exhorted us with Luke 10:1-12, the mission of the seventy. This equation invited the church to explore three things before we took any action. Those three things are: Starting Point, Theology, and Context.

1. Starting Point. Under the starting point, the church identified several strengths, including but not limited to the church’s commitment to mission, inclusivity, and to children and youth.

2. Theology. We also explored the functional theology of the church. We asked and answered these questions:
   - Why are you a Christian?
   - What is the good God wants to do?
   - If God fully transformed the person you were evangelizing, what would that mean for the person?

3. Context. To better understand our context, we went out two by two to interview community leaders. We interviewed politicians, non-profit directors, and for profit businesses. We learned several things.
   - First: most of the people we talked to knew nothing about First Church.
   - Second: there is a deep hunger for community.
   - Third: there is a perception that all churches are the same.

Creative Practices for 2019. Upon her return visit in January, Dr. Lear encouraged us to use our learnings to engage in creative practices of evangelism for Easter. Another creative practice that emerged was moving beyond “being the landlord” of our building users to being the “church.”

What we have learned in this process is that we are comfortable talking to new people about First Church, and that people are interested in learning about First Church and its ministry. We will continue this initiative through December as we begin to fold the learning into our current committee structures.

Lastly, First Church has moved to discussing evangelism six times a year from “no” times. Jesus be praised.

NOTE: If you would like to check the church’s full responses to the evangelism equation, they will be posted on the chalk board in Wesley Hall.

Pastor Joe will be on Spiritual Renewal Leave June 28-July 31 2019

The Lord will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Malachi 3:3b

Every four years, clergy serving in full-time ministry are encouraged to take a spiritual renewal leave. In consultation with staff-parish relations committee and the district superintendent, Pastor Joe has planned his leave for the above dates. During that time, guest clergy will be preaching during Sunday morning worship. Also, clergy will be available on call.

Please pray for Pastor Joe while he is away.
Youth Group News

Congratulations to the following Youth Group members who are graduating in 2019.

8th Grade Graduates:
Rowan Clark & Owen Kennedy

High School Graduates:
Kate Gehrke, David Hansen, Alex Jannusch
Owen Kennedy, Erin Lee, Sarah Pinkowski
Jacki Riek, Maggie Schroeder,
CeCe Stumpf, Sidney Valdez

Youth Group Being BOLD

First Church Youth Raise $535 (YAY!) for Next Step Missions with Annual Memorial Day Refreshment Stand

(Above) Pastor Joe, Mary Hallman, & Ruth Zervas enjoying Memorial Day at First Church.

(Left) Some of our High School Seniors on Youth Sunday
Ordination Celebration for Pastor Joe

Pastor Joe Celebrates his 20th Anniversary of Ordination

Twenty years ago, Joseph Johnson was ordained an elder in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist by Bishop C. Joseph Sprague. His journey to the ministry did not follow a traditional path, but Pastor Joe could not ignore God’s call. After graduating from high school in rural Indiana, where he was baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church, he attended both Indiana and Purdue Universities. He graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue, but felt called to explore ordained ministry. He enrolled at The Iliff School of Theology, but left and returned to engineering. Realizing that God was not ready to give up on him, Pastor Joe returned to Iliff and completed his studies there.

Since his graduation from seminary, Pastor Joe has served churches in Dixon, Chicago, and now Elmhurst. When he’s not in the pulpit, Pastor Joe loves to play the flute, search the wilderness for birds of many feathers, cook soup and can vegetables, and even has been known to sew the stoles that he wears on Sundays.

We congratulate Pastor Joe on his twentieth anniversary in ordained ministry. Blessings to you, Pastor Joe!

Celebrate this milestone with Pastor Joe on Sunday, June 9 directly after worship in Wesley Hall.

Commencement Kudos from First Church

♦ Julia Fetty received her degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Western Illinois University.
♦ Emily Kottwitz graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in Communication Design.
♦ Katie Rick graduated from Villanova University in Pennsylvania with degrees in Communications and English.
♦ Samantha Hamilton received her Masters of Science Degree from Boston University in Speech Pathology.
♦ Erik Most, grandson of Carol Most, received his Masters of Divinity at Knox Theological Seminary in Fort Lauderdale Florida.

Your First Church family is proud of each of you and will be praying for your continued success on your life journeys.
First Church Library

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 8

While ceiling repairs in the lower level rooms are taking longer than anticipated, getting our library books re-shelved is on hold. In the meantime, the Library Committee has ordered a new rug for the Children’s Corner and other supplies. The grand re-opening will take place in September.

EMHURST’S ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY If you live in Elmhurst, your summer edition of the Elmhurst Public Library “Fine Print” lists the discussions planned for the library’s “One Book, One Community.” The book this year is Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. It is a powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice. The author is one of the most influential lawyers of our time. Last November, Rev. Rich Havard, campus minister at UIC, joined us for a Sunday service and he mentioned this book during his message to the congregation. The Elmhurst library will have copies available when you register for one of the book discussions:

- **Traditional discussions** will be on July 16 at 1:00 PM and July 18 at 7:00 PM
- **A Twitter book discussion** will take place on July 18 between noon and 2:00 PM
- **Walk + Talk discussions** will be on July 23 at 10:00 AM and July 25 at 6:30 PM (walk through Wilder Park while discussing the book)

Thank you to all who read and participated in our book discussions last year. It’s not too late to read these great books if you haven’t already. They are available at your local library.

- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty* by Eric Metaxas
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X and Alex Haley

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

From a poem by MARY OLIVER.

Become acquainted with more of Oliver’s work at the Women’s Retreat in August.
2018-2019 Sunday School & Serving

GROWING & LEARNING.
Throughout the Sunday school year, the children explored 10 stories from the Bible. Stories studied included David & Goliath, Jonah, the Good Samaritan and, of course, the Christmas and Easter stories. Each Sunday teachers helped the children experience the stories through activities in different areas including storytelling/drama, art, science and cooking. Our teachers did an amazing job leading the activities with energy, creativity and enthusiasm.

Enormous thanks to our 2018-2019 Church School Teachers and Helpers:
Jamie Falconer, Ava Gehrke, Ellyn Gehrke, Kate Gehrke, Jennifer Grisolia, Anne Mathias, Laurie Provancal, Dena Vincent
Emma Rogers (Children’s Word)

GIVING & SERVING.
The children were given a variety of meaningful opportunities to give and serve during the year. Their offerings and service benefitted the following organizations:

⇒ FUMC Diaper Drive – Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network and the Family Shelter Service in DuPage County.
⇒ The Young Center (Immigration Assistance)
⇒ The Yorkfield Food Pantry — Birthday Party Gift Bags
⇒ Feed My Starving Children — All-Church Event
⇒ Northern Illinois Food Bank – Backpack Ministry

The classes also spent a Sunday working together in our Clothing Center and made encouragement cards for children living at the Young Center.

YOUTH BREAKFAST MINISTRY
The Youth Breakfast Ministry served a warm breakfast to an average of 60 Clothing Guests on 8 Saturdays through the School Year. At our December breakfast, Santa came to visit the children and passed out gifts to each of our young guests. In addition, the guests were treated to festive music performed by a brass group from York High School.

The 2018-2019 Youth Breakfast Ministry Leadership Team: Elizabeth Cooke, Danny Jannusch, Emma Rogers, Maggie Schroeder, Maya Valdez, & Sidney Valdez.

Thank you to the youth and adults who assisted us throughout the year:
Jill Clark, Rowan Clark, Eddie Cooke, Paige Detzler, Ava Gehrke, David Hansen, Dane Hindsley, Haley Hindsley, Alex Jannusch, Wyatt Kennedy, Nathan Ladd, Gabe Laurx, Julia Laurx, Declan Maloney, Logan Maloney, Jacki Riek, Jack Schroeder, Tommy Schroeder, Cece Stumpf, Gracie Stumpf, Katie Stumpf, Delaney Sullivan, McKenzie Sullivan, Amy Vincent, Claire Vincent, & Dena Vincent.
To prepare for Confirmation, these nine young people gathered each Sunday throughout the year to study the bible, learn about the Methodist tradition, and have open discussions about what it means to be a United Methodist Christian in the world today. Confirmation Teachers Kathy Hansen, Pete Meyer, Ruth Zervas, Chris Ladd along with Pastor Joe and Lisa Rogers are gratefully acknowledged for their dedication to and their love and support of our Confirmands. After a Celebration Breakfast on Sunday, May 12, the Rite of Confirmation was held during the worship service. We are proud to welcome our newest members into First Church.

Isabella Rose Bjerkan  mentored by Christine Janes  
Rowan James Clark  mentored by Jason Janes  
Edward Scott Cooke  mentored by Jason Janes  
Paige Arbor Detzler  mentored by Chris Mertz  
Maggie Lynn Ejma  mentored by Beth Valdez  
Haley Camille Hindsley  mentored by Beth Valdez  
Wyatt Andrew Kennedy  mentored by Steve Strauss  
Thomas Moxley Schroeder  mentored by Steve Strauss  
Claire Catherine Vincent  mentored by Ann Gills

Congratulations!
Sharing our Space

ROOM 103 is HAPPY TO BE BACK IN BUSINESS!

After a long winter & spring of holding classes in Wesley Hall, Marie Strauch is looking forward to holding her Summer Art Studio back in the lower level classroom. She is offering classes for Grades 1-9 during the month of June—exploring drawing, painting and 3-D activities while learning about master artists. Wishing everyone an artful summer at First Church!

What’s going on in Asbury Hall?

GreenMan Theatre Troupe has just completed its 15th season in the downstairs theatre space at First Church. According to Artistic Director David Soria, there will be lots of activity over the summer. The Troupe will be rehearsing for its 8 TO THE BAR theatre night at Fitz’s Spare Keys and revving up for the fall theatre season — auditions for the 1st show beginning in August. See details below.

GreenMan Theatre Troupe announces 2019-2020 Season:

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the original by Nikolai Gogol, this is a story for our times and plays as if the Mueller report were being made into a Mel Brooks movie. Hatcher spins comic gold out of Gogol’s classic play about greed, graft, and corruption in a small Russian town.

Oct 18-19. Spooky Stories and Songs of the Season. Storytelling Program
GreenMan’s annual tradition of sharing autumnal thrills and chills continues. The Storytelling Program is created with Storytelling Class participants. Class begins August 3. Sign-up with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff at 708-254-4575.

John Patrick Shanley’s 2005 Pulitzer and Tony award winning drama, Doubt: a Parable is a brilliant and chilling drama focusing on a nun’s suspicions about a priest at her school. Is he innocent or are her fears about him correct?

Feb 21-Mar 1. Speakeasy, or Die Hard 2. Winter Fundraiser at Angelo’s Ristorante
Murder mystery musical spoof is filled with outrageous characters, nefarious deeds, high spirited comedy, and musical fun.

Apr 24- May 10. The Angle of Mercy. Spring Production
A movie mogul gets his comeuppance at a glitzy Hollywood party with the zip and wit of a 1950s comedy

Visit GreenMan’s Website: www.greenmantheatre.org
Eastertime at First Church

Photos by Joel Toledo
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</table>
| Sun/JUNE 2 | 9:30 am | Peace with Justice Sunday ~ Summer Worship at 9:30 am  
WORSHIP with Communion  
Recognition of Lay Leadership  
Commissioning of Pastor Joe, Marlene Stratton, & Barb Knoeppel for the NIC Annual Conference | FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary                     |                  |
|            | 3-5:00 pm | Community Event  
Church Street Organ Crawl  
A unique opportunity to hear four different sanctuary organs at four churches all within easy walking distance to each other. In an event called an “organ crawl,” we will be able to see and hear the different organs at these churches which represent three of the four major types of organs in use in churches today – a pipe organ, an electronic organ, and hybrid organs that incorporate both types of sound production. Spend 30-40 minutes at each church where the organist will describe the instrument and play one or two pieces to demonstrate the capabilities of the organ. Join the musician and crawlers for refreshments at the end of the crawl. | Church Street  
St. Peter’s UCC  
First Church  
Church of Our Saviour  
First Congregational | Dick Stultz                  |
|            | 3:30-6:30 pm | Youth Group End-of-Year Activity  
Road Rally & Graduate Recognition Dinner | FIRST CHURCH  
Wesley Hall | Lisa Rogers |
| Tue/JUNE 4 |        | Small Group Ministry  
Film Group Matinee  
Date is subject to the availability of a quality movie. Need transportation? Contact Jan or Chris. | Marcus or York Theatres  
Dick Stultz | Jan Reese  
Chris Squier |
| Thu/JUNE 6 | 7:30-8:30 pm | Mission Ministry  
Clothing Center Open on First Thursday 9:00-11:00am  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Free gently used clothing and accessories for men, women, and children. No residency requirements. | FIRST CHURCH  
Lower Level  
Clothing Center | Beth Valdez                  |
|            |        | Community Event ~ ALL ARE WELCOME  
LOVE LIVES HERE. Vigil of affirmation and support for our LGBTQ community to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising and to celebrate the beginning of the gay rights liberation movement. Featuring: Jim Bennett, Director of Human Rights, State of Illinois; Cathy Richardson, Rock Star; Rev. Joseph A. Johnson, Pastor First Church; Reflections from the Community. Music & Singing to lift our spirits and unite in solidarity. | Wilder Park  
East Steps of Wilder Mansion  
[at First Church in case of rain] | Ed Miner. |
| Sun/JUNE 9 | 8:30 am | Pentecost ~ Summer Worship at 9:30 am  
Post-Annual Conference Conversation with Pastor Joe  
WORSHIP | FIRST CHURCH  
Aldersgate  
Sanctuary  
Wesley Hall |                  |
|            | 9:30 am | Celebrate the 20 year Anniversary of Pastor Joe’s Ordination  
Reception following Worship |                  |                  |
|            | 10:30 am | Celebrate! |
### SUMMER 2019

**Volunteer Opportunity**

**HEAVEN & EARTH GARDEN WEEK ~ We Grow To Give**

Sign up to Weed – Water – Harvest – Deliver

**FIRST CHURCH Community Garden**

Sign up with Darlene Van Meir

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#### JUNE 9-15

**Sunday through Saturday**

- **Sunday, June 9**: 9:30 am
  - **Trinity Sunday ~ Summer Worship at 9:30 am ~ Father’s Day**
  - **WORSHIP**
  - **WORSHIP with Woodwind Quintet playing Dvorak**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary**
- **Sunday, June 16**: 9:30 am
  - **Summer Worship at 9:30 am**
  - **WORSHIP**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary**

#### JUNE 11

- **Tuesday, June 11**: 7:00 pm
  - **Church Council Meeting**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate**
  - **Sandy Bode**
- **Wednesday, June 12**: 7-8 pm
  - **Community-Wide Event**
  - **Youth Mental Health Support Group**
  - **For families to share the Caregiving Challenges of living with young people who have mental health issues.**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate**
  - **RSVP to Chris Squier**
- **Saturday, June 15**: 9:00-11:00 am
  - **Mission Ministry**
  - **Clothing Center Open on Third Saturday**
  - **Free gently used clothing and accessories for men, women, and children. No residency requirements.**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Lower Level Clothing Center**
  - **Beth Valdez**

#### JUNE 19

- **Wednesday, June 19**: 7:00 pm
  - **Worship Team**
  - **Kathy Hansen**

#### JUNE 23

- **Sunday, June 23**: 9:30 am
  - **WORSHIP with soloist baritone Douglas Peters**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary**

#### JUNE 26

- **Wednesday, June 26**: 7-8 pm
  - **Community-Wide Event**
  - **Youth Mental Health Support Group**
  - **For families to share the Caregiving Challenges of living with young people who have mental health issues.**
  - **FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate**
  - **RSVP to Chris Squier**

### JULY

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon/Jul 1</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>Mission Ministry</td>
<td>Lower Level</td>
<td>Beth Valdez</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00-9:00 pm</td>
<td>Clothing Center Open TODAY</td>
<td>Clothing Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue/Jul 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Small Group Ministry</td>
<td>Marcus or York Theaters</td>
<td>Jan Reese</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film Group Matinee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Squier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Date is subject to the availability of a quality movie. Need transportation? Contact Jan or Chris.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs/Jul 4</td>
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<td>INDEPENDENCE DAY</td>
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<td>Church Office Closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clothing Center is closed today but will be open on Monday, JULY 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/JULY 7</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP with Holy Communion</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun through Saturday/JULY 7-13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Opportunity</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Community Garden</td>
<td>Sign up with Darlene Van Meir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues/JULY 9</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate</td>
<td>Sandy Bode</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed/JULY 10</td>
<td>7-8 pm</td>
<td>Community-Wide Event</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate</td>
<td>RSVP to Chris Squier</td>
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<td>Youth Mental Health Support Group</td>
<td>Two Brothers Restaurant on Park St</td>
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<td></td>
<td>For families to share the Caregiving Challenges of living with young people who have mental health issues.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00-8:00 pm</td>
<td>United Methodist Women</td>
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<td>Naomi Circle SUMMER DINNER OUT</td>
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<td>UMW members and all women of the church who are interested in a time of food &amp; fellowship are invited. Please RSVP by July 7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/JULY 14</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/JULY 20</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 am</td>
<td>Mission Ministry</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Lower Level Clothing Center</td>
<td>Beth Valdez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/JULY 21</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed/JULY 24</td>
<td>7-8 pm</td>
<td>Community-Wide Event</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Aldersgate</td>
<td>Chris Squier</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Mental Health Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For families to share the Caregiving Challenges of living with young people who have mental health issues. RSVP to Chris Squier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/JULY 28</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun-Sat JULY/AUGUST</td>
<td></td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP</td>
<td>Clendenin West Virginia</td>
<td>Lisa Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul28-Aug3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Through the platform of construction and home repair, our Next Step volunteers have the opportunity to join in the ongoing flood relief effort and rebuilding the town of Clendenin, and learn why they call it: “Almost Heaven, West Virginia”.</td>
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**AUGUST**

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<th>EVENT/ACTIVITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs/August 1</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 am 7:00-9:00 pm</td>
<td>Mission Ministry Clothing Center Open TODAY  Free gently used clothing and accessories for men, women, and children. No residency requirements</td>
<td>Lower Level Clothing Center</td>
<td>Beth Valdez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/August 4</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP with Holy Communion</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue/August 6</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Small Group Ministry Film Group EVENING Date is subject to the availability of a quality movie. Need transportation? Contact Jan or Chris.</td>
<td>Marcus or York Theaters</td>
<td>Jan Reese, Chris Squier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/August 11</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>WORSHIP with Flute Quartet</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Volunteer Opportunity HEAVEN &amp; EARTH GARDEN WEEK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Join us as we Weed, Water, Harvest, &amp; Deliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/August 18</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>All-Church Event GRACE GATHERING WORSHIP with Chancel Choir. Return to 10:30 am Service Potluck Picnic on Church Lawn</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Sanctuary</td>
<td>Lisa Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed/August 21</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Worship Team</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday to Sunday/August 23-25</td>
<td>9:30 am 10:30 am</td>
<td>4th ANNUAL WOMEN’S RETREAT Open to all women of First Church. Enjoy selected readings and discussions. Outdoor activities such as kayaking, short hikes, &amp; paddle-boarding as well as lakeside relaxing and fellowship will be part of the weekend. Participants are asked to contribute to the preparation of one meal. Car-pooling is available for Friday afternoon &amp; Saturday morning arrivals.) Limited spots are available. Make your reservation today.</td>
<td>Green Lake WI Van Meir Home</td>
<td>Ruth Zervas, Sandy Bodie, Darlene Van Meir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/August 25</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>First Day of Sunday School WORSHIP</td>
<td>FIRST CHURCH Classrooms Sanctuary</td>
<td>Lisa Rogers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUGUST SERMON SERIES: *The Way of Jesus*
In this series, Pastor Joe will explore — with the help of Rev. Dr. Jack Seymour — the way of Jesus. Dr. Seymour identifies six aspects of Jesus’ spirituality. These aspects guided Jesus in faithful living to his Abba:

- loving God and neighbor,
- living in God’s grace,
- looking for the realm of God,
- calling people to the banquet table,
- resisting the time of trial,
- and proclaiming the resurrected one.

These aspects will guide the spiritual formation groups that will meet from September through August.

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**The Fourth Annual First Church Women’s Retreat**

Friday to Sunday ~ August 23-25
at the home of Darlene Van Meir in Green Lake, Wisconsin
*Open to all First Church Women*

For background reading and discussion, we will be considering some selected poems by Mary Oliver, the Pulitzer Prize winning American poet, whose writings reflect her perceptive and much-treasured observations of the natural world.

Outdoor activities such as kayaking, short hikes, paddle-boarding as well as lakeside relaxing and fellowship will be part of the weekend. Participants are asked to contribute to the preparation of one meal. Car-pooling is available (for Friday afternoon & Saturday morning arrivals.) Limited spots are available. Make your reservation today.

Questions?
Ruth Zervas silmaril41@comcast.net; Sandy Bodie sanbodie1@icloud.com; Darlene Van Meir darlene.vanmeir@gmail.com

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**September—Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation was created to respond to the church’s doctrine of God the Creator. What would it mean if the church took seriously this doctrine by turning our attention to God’s relationship with all creation and to our relationship with creation (and with God through creation)? During this month, we will worship God with the oceans, animals, storms, and the universe.

**ALL CHURCH EVENT — SEPTEMBER 4 from 6:00-7:00 PM**
Come for Dinner & Activities for All Ages
Shannon Burns, Education Program Coordinator for DuPage County Forest Preserve, will be joining us to discuss habitat restoration in DuPage County.
First Church Lay Leadership Recognition 2018-2019

CHURCH COUNCIL
Chair: Sandra Bodie
Past Chair: Jason Janes

LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Marlene Stratton, Barb Knoeppel

NOMINATIONS AND LAY LEADERSHIP
Chair: Rev. Joseph A. Johnson
Chris Squier, Carolyn Heiney, Ruth Zervas,
Debra Meyer, Colleen Sherburne, Janet Hodge,
Darlene Van Meir

TRUSTEES
Chair: Robert Potter
Robert Lee, Jim Rogers, Steve Strauss, David Maki,
Karen Kottwitz, Brad Mertz

FINANCE
Chair: Ken Carbonetti
Financial Secretary: Heather Cross
Treasurer: Jack Phipps
Financial Services: Jennifer Jordan

STAFF PARISH
Chair: Carolyn Heiney
Deborah Meyer, Jason Mathias, Greg Gills,
Pam Locke, Bruce Hook, Joel Toledo

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Chair: Susan Ejma
Sunday School Superintendent: Jennifer Grisolia
Nursery/Rainbow Room Coordinator: Kristi Phipps
Newborn & Birthday Card Ministry: Clare Toledo
College Ministry: Jennifer Fetty

FELLOWSHIP
Co-Chairs: Barb Knoeppel and Laurie Provencal
Jennifer Hagstrom, Bruce Hook, Boyd, Lindsay Boyd

LIBRARY
Chair: Lola Hotchkis
Sally Allen, Cheri Bjerkman, Shirley Hazleton,
Anita Hindsley, Doug Hotchkis, Ruth Zervas

ARCHIVES
Chair: Doug Hotchkis

MEMBER GROWTH AND CARE
Chair: Tracy Meehan
Chris Squier (HUGS/Befriends),
Ruth Zervas (Grief),
Greg Gills (Sunshine Ministry),
Jen Fetty (Small Groups),
Kelley Hook (Meals Ministry),
Tracy Meehan (Greeters),
Dena Vincent, Mary Hallman.

MEMORIALS
Chair: Lola Hotchkis
Marlene Stratton, Debra Hatmaker

WORSHIP
Chair: Kathy Hansen
Jennifer Grisolia, Marlene Stratton,
Ann Gills (Communion Steward),
Jamie Falconer (Liturgists & Ushers),
Jason Gross, Mary Massie, Joanne Shultz

MISSIONS
Chair: Eric Wood
Carolyn Heiney,
Marlene Stratton, Anne Toohey, Jan Reese

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT
Chair: Fred Hodge
Susan King, Lindsay Boyd, Danelle Achepohl

ENDOWMENT GRANT COMMITTEE
Chair: Carolyn Heiney
Joel Toledo, Chris Janes,
Chris Ladd, Dena Vincent,
Sandra Bodie, Chris Mertz

Staff Directory

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Jennifer Jordan, Financial Services
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Mike Capra, Custodial Services
Capra Janitorial Services
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.

Note from Pastor Joe: The following is a statement from UMC NEXT which is an informal gathering of United Methodists here in the U.S. They are responding to the General Conference 2019 adoption of the Traditional Plan.

Four Commitments of UMC NEXT

We believe these commitments are essential to a hope-filled future for the global Methodist movement as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world:

- We long to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, experience and reason as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.
- We commit to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.
- We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.
- We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.