

# THE STEEPLE



## A Walk to Remember

It was early in the morning and was taking a walk around the lake at the retreat center. I was in the transition time between serving a church in Mount Vernon, Illinois and starting here at FUPC. It was so quiet. Just a few birds chirping. An occasional flicker of movement in the water. As I looked across the lake into the tree line, I saw the sun was in the process of invading the dark purple of the fading night sky with its brilliant red and orange hues. I walked and prayed along the path asking for God to give me a clarity and wisdom as I started the next chapter of my life. This was 12 years ago.

Along the many steps from that lake to the place where I stand today, I found out that (at least in my case) God does not layout the Great Divine Plan for me to peruse and see the coming adventures with clarity. Instead, it is more like a slow reveal that demands daily curiosity and a desire to do God's Will each day. I still use walking as a way of discernment. And I find it works better when I do it in nature. In November we will worship reflecting upon the beauty of the Earth using images of earth, wind, and fire to guide our reflections (perhaps a theme better suited to September). I look forward to our walks together this month and in many months ahead yet to be revealed.

*in Christ, Pastor Rob*

END  
of  
YEAR  
CHURCH  
NEEDS

Recently, a member of the church who had moved away contacted the church. They had heard about all of the big financial challenges over the past few years that our ministry has faced. Even though they lived a distance away and were not able to worship with us regularly, they wanted to know how they could help. In the midst of answering their questions, we were able to share some good news while clarifying the current financial needs of our ministries and mission at FUPC.

**Parking Lot Repairs: COVERED!** One side of the church parking lot experienced some major issues of breaking apart. In addition, it was time to resurface the newer portion of the parking lot. After sharing this news, the parking lot goal was met with one very large donation and a few other large donations. Praise God!

**New Boiler: COVERED!** The boiler just stopped working at the end of our last winter season. That was quite a big surprise! We ran an information effort to share the details over the last few months. The boiler goal was also met with about 50 contributions that added up to the total funds needed. So many people really stepped up with extraordinary responses. Praise God!

**Solar Panels: STILL WORKING.** The solar panel project was an opportunity to get government incentives and provide power for future generations. We have loans to cover our expenses while we wait for the federal and state incentives to roll in over the next 7 years. The temporary financing for that work is being handled in multiple ways but we have an immediate issue we are facing. Right now, we are facing a \$75,000 loan that is getting refinanced and we hope to pay that off instead of getting hit with the higher interest rates. We are pulling together resources but any contribution towards that would be greatly appreciated. If you send in a donation for this, you can simply label it "Solar Panels" and it will be a big help.

**General Expenses: BIGGEST NEED RIGHT NOW.** The generosity that has helped out with some of our big expenses this year has left our giving for the everyday/general expenses a little low. We are facing a deficit that could really use extra offerings to cover our regular expenses of running the church. We are so very fortunate that we could face such huge challenges over the last several years of roof repairs, HVAC issues, parking lot, and boiler repairs so close together. Anything you could give towards the general fund expenses would be another huge help to our ministry.

That wonderfully kind and thoughtful member who asked how they could help from afar replied within a few days that they would be sending in a generous offering to help. If you are reading this and you have had questions about how you could help advance the ministry and mission of the church during these particularly challenging times, we hope this helps you as well.

*Bless you,  
Budget Committee and Pastor Rob*

# Announcements



## Advent Devotionals

In a world dominated by binary thinking – light vs. dark, good vs. evil – *Patterns of Divine Possibility* encourages us to look for the more, to recognize that God's patterns are nuanced, complex, and always beyond the limited constructs we impose. It challenges us to explore faith as trusting in the unseen patterns and embracing a fuller understanding of God's handiwork. This Advent Devotional published by the *Presbyterian Outlook* will be available at the reception desk in Cornell Commons by November 19, 2024. If you would like a digital copy, email Rhonda Eugea at [reugea@firstunitedpres.org](mailto:reugea@firstunitedpres.org).

## Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday night youth activities are in full swing. The FUPC youth are an enthusiastic group of kids and we love to see their smiling faces when they come down to eat dinner. We smile when we hear a kiddo get excited that we are having cereal and bacon for supper. Or when they come back for seconds because they love our soft tacos!

We need volunteers to help provide a meal. There are so many options! Are you part of a life group at church? Talk to them about providing a Wednesday night meal as a group. Would you rather donate funds for a meal? That's great too!!

Contact  
Jess Mokriakow, (618) 910-3738,  
[jmokrakow@gmail.com](mailto:jmokrakow@gmail.com) or  
Leah Lankford, (618) 696-6576,  
[shawnandleah@yahoo.com](mailto:shawnandleah@yahoo.com)  
to get the details.

## These Days

*These Days* daily devotional books for October-December 2024 are available at the Chapel entrance and at the reception desk in Eversull Hall.

## United Bells Ringing our Praise!



We meet every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Experienced ringers and anyone interested in learning to ring are welcome. Please consider joining this committed group who work, laugh, and pray together, all to the glory of God! For more information, please call or email Julia Weeks, (618) 531-5002, [juliaaweeks@gmail.com](mailto:juliaaweeks@gmail.com).

## All Saints' Sunday

In memory of the Saints of God, those who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year:

Tom Bridges	Babs Hill	Sandy Pickerell
Kathleen Brighton	Pattie Layman	Carol Ripley
Mary Buesin	Dwight Lied	Carmen Shoemake
Gloria Edwards	Patty Linton	Kathy Spilka
Fred Ehrstein	Barbara Litsey	Darlene Stark
Rosemary Ehrstein	Irene Lux	Mary Sticklin
Paul Elsea	Patty Morgan	Dan Strobo
Tom Farquhar	Jerry Nowak	Dr. Mary Ann Williams
Bill Gamblin	Jane Peak	Anthony Wilshusen
Ann Hall		Linda Woolard



**Sunday, November 3**  
**Fall Time Change**  
**Turn clocks back one hour.**

*from the Deacons*

September Deacon's Meeting: Deacons Present - 18. Total contacts – 336 (43 calls, 213 cards, 42 visits, and 38 emails & texts).

*from the Trustees*

In addition to routine maintenance, these are the Trustee highlights for the month:

- Solar: Updated security/monitoring is being installed to protect our solar panels from vandalism.
- Completed update of the women's restroom by the library.
- Boiler: Bendler Boiler removed the old boiler and will install the new, high-efficient boiler.
- The insurance company will reimburse FUPC for hail damage to the roof and heating/cooling units.
- A new heating/cooling unit has been ordered for the Music Room.
- New basketball hoops and backboards have been ordered.
- Thanks to our gardeners who continue to tend our gardens through the fall months.

We appreciate everyone who helps maintain our church and church grounds!

# Fellowship & Fun

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER**® FUPC hosted a Rise Against Hunger event on October 9. Approximately 150 volunteers packed over 15,000 meals to be used for disaster relief and food insecure regions. The evening started with prayer and preparation in the Sanctuary. Half the crowd ate dinner together while the other half was organized into teams for the various packing stations. After an hour, the dinner and packing crews switched places. God did a beautiful thing that night and we had the pleasure to be part of that blessing!



## Veteran's Life Group Celebrates Veterans Day Weekend

We will be celebrating our 8th year for both these FUPC events.:

### Saturday November 9th

This will be our FUPC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST sponsored by your Veteran's Life Group and the Hospitality Ministry. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, gravy and more will be served from 8:00-11:00 am. This is always well attended by you and our local community families. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

### Sunday November 10th

This will be our CELEBRATION OF VETERAN'S DAY in The Commons immediately following our FUPC 10:30 am service. THERE WILL BE CAKE! As part of this year's event, we will digitally display the names of veteran's who served during Operation Enduring Freedom which included the Second Gulf War (also known as the Iraq War) as well as operations in Afghanistan. These consecutive combat operations ran from October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014. As on previous Veterans Day Sundays, we will recognize those who served at ANY location around the world during this time. We will also have a Veteran Memorabilia Table (please bring yours), several uniforms on display, and a Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) Display. Finally, we will be displaying several "Quilts of Honor." If you are a FUPC Veteran and for any reason and have not received your "Quilt of Honor," please let us know IMMEDIATELY by calling (314) 791-5371. Awarding these beautiful Quilts created by Susy Rybicki is our way of saying thank you for your service to this Great Country.

We appreciate all of you and your continued support of FUPC Veteran's Life Group.

Blessings, Ken & Shawn  
314-791-5371

# Fellowship & Caring Ministries

## NOVEMBER 1 Sand Dollars

The Sand Dollars will meet in Eversull Hall on Friday, November 1 at 6:00 pm for dinner, a meeting, and an evening of fellowship. If you are a family (children included), couple, or single adult and would like to share a meal in a very relaxed atmosphere with Christian fellowship, please join us. Anyone interested, please contact our Skippers, Brenda & Joe Fedak, (618) 558-7086, or Jan Nevois, (618) 402-7170.

## NOVEMBER 8 Merry Mates

Merry Mates will meet on Friday, November 8 at 6:00 pm in Eversull Hall. This will be a potluck dinner so bring your favorite dish or dessert. Beverages will be furnished. We will eat at 6:30 pm, think Thanksgiving. Please contact Jean Morgan, (618) 540-8517 by Wednesday, November 6 and leave a voice mail or text message to let us know if you plan to attend.

## NOVEMBER 14 Book Club

In November, the Book Club will discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. We will begin at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Please contact Joyce Dyer, joycejdyer@att.net for the Zoom ID and passcode. The book selection for December is *The First Conspiracy, The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington* by Brad Meltzer.

## NO MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you like to crochet or knit or would like to learn, join the fellowship of this exceptional ministry next year! Plan to join us on January 22, 2025 at 9:30 am in Cornell Commons. Prayer shawls are continually added to the inventory. Be part of this outreach to those celebrating joy or needing comfort. Shawls are in the bookcase in the Narthex. For more information contact Mary Teague, (618) 920-7589.

## MEMBER CONNECTIONS

FUPC has joyfully welcomed a bevy of new members into our church family this year. We are so thankful for the energy, faith, and talents they bring to our community and look forward to nurturing these relationships in the months and years ahead.

We also want to remind everyone to mark your calendars for our Holiday Gathering after the 10:30 am service on December 15. This festive event will be a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and fun as we celebrate the season together.

In 2026 there will be festive gatherings like this one and the Mini Mission Fair happening quarterly so be on the lookout!



## Our Deepest Sympathy

## FAMILY NEWS

For Betty Scherrer and family & friends of Patricia Ann Morgan who passed away September 19 in Warsaw, NY.

For the family & friends of Kathy Spilka who passed away October 5 in O'Fallon, IL

For Dede Farquhar and family & friends of Tom Farquhar who passed away October 14 in Denver, CO.

## from the Deacons an interview with... Ginny Schofield

Each month the FUPC Deacons will provide a glimpse into the life of a member included on their Thinking of You List. It will allow readers to become acquainted or reacquainted with former leaders of the FUPC Family.

**What is the secret to your longevity and good health?**

I took care of myself.

**What would be your advice to your younger self?**

Have a church involved in your life.

**What was one of your moments closest to Christ?**

When my husband Lee passed I knew he was going to a good place.

**How has church and your love of God shaped your life?**

I had a great Sunday School class when I was young. We had great leaders and sponsors. I was the only person who did not marry someone in the young people's class.

**Favorite church hymn:**

The Old Rugged Cross

**Favorite Bible verse:**

Psalm 23

**Of all God's blessings in your life, what are the three closest to your heart?**

More than three – all my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren.



# Adult Discipleship

There are numerous learning, connecting, and fellowship opportunities available for adults throughout the month of November.

## DURING THE WEEK



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study Group meets hybrid every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am, both in-person in the Vista Room and via Zoom. Contact the Church Office for more information.

### WOMEN'S CIRCLES

FUPC two women's groups meet in-person and via Zoom. Gathering monthly from September through May, their purpose is to nurture women's faith through prayer and Bible study. If you would like more information, please contact a leader.

- Lamplighters Circle will meet November 19 at 1:00 pm, Amy Brummitt, (618) 235-4226.
- Lydia Circle will meet November 21 at 1:00 pm, Jan Jensen, (626) 894-6580.

### Practice Generosity

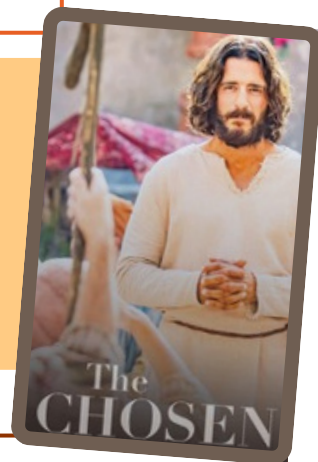
In November, we will be doing a four-week series from the *Follow Me* curriculum *Practice Generosity*. Generosity is often understood as an act of kindness that involves giving out of one's abundance to others in need. Biblical teachings describe the practice as something a little different. Generosity is simply, and profoundly, love in action. We practice generosity in all the ways we love God and love our neighbors. It is a practice rooted in justice and concerned with all the world's needs. The four sessions are titled: "Share Resources," "Share Wisdom," "Share Justice," and "Share Power." This class is hybrid, meeting in-person in the Vista Room or via Zoom at 9:15 am on Sundays. For details and to receive study materials, contact Rhonda Eugea at [reugea@firstunitedpres.org](mailto:reugea@firstunitedpres.org). Login information for Zoom is included in the eWeekly every Friday.

### Connect & Gather

Looking for a casual way to reflect with others about life and faith? Join other adults in the Library from 9:15-10:00 am on Sunday mornings for a time of fellowship and discussion. Come see what questions await in the three mystery boxes!

### THE CHOSEN

Come join us to watch and discuss seasons 3 and 4 of *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking movie depiction of the life of Jesus and His disciples. This class meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Blue Room (the former preschool room in the lower level) beginning September 4. Bottled water and popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring supper in a sack or snacks to share. For more information contact Roger Doll, (618) 402-1822 or Brenda Doll, (618) 444-9660.



### Cap & Mitten Tree

The Lydia Circle will once again be collecting caps and mittens of all sizes from November 17 through December 8, Trees will be set up in Cornell Commons and outside the Chapel. All collected items will go to Kindercottage in East St. Louis. Contact Susy Rybicki with any questions.

## GIVE a MEAL a MONTH

GAMAM will collect food this month for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry. The Pantry needs staples like sugar, flour, cooking oil, peanut butter, jelly, rice and pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, soup, chili, ravioli, cereal and toiletries and diapers. Donations of these items as well as monetary donations are appreciated. Items will be collected Sunday, November 10 and taken to the Pantry. Contact Laurie Brown, (618) 620-8112, or Judy Stratton (618) 978-5485 with questions.

### *from Hospitality*

The Deacons hosted coffee hour on October 13 as we celebrated our pastors during official Pastor Appreciation Week. Of course, we appreciate our awesome pastors every day here - just not with cake.



### Mobile Market: November 21



Our next market takes place November 21. Volunteers should arrive at 8:00 am and dress for the weather. We sort and distribute the food to waiting families. The truck from St. Louis Food Bank arrives and unloads and we sort the food and put it into the waiting cars. We served over 100 families from District 118 in September.

Please join us to be part of this rewarding venture. Questions can be directed to Judy Stratton, (618) 978-5485 or Laurie Brown, (618) 520-8112.

### *from Stewardship*

#### Selecting a Steward

Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God

How does stewardship relate to selecting a Steward? What are the characteristics of a good Steward?

We live in a country which provides us the right to vote. Stewardship requires us to exercise that right and more importantly, to do so wisely and prudently. It requires us to identify our principles and find the truth we can trust. This requires sound judgment. Paul used the Greek word, *sophron*, to describe this quality, which when translated into English means sober minded, sensible, and prudent.

“For through grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of yourself than he ought to think; but think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”  
Romans 12:3

A prudent man has humility (Phil. 2:3-4), gratitude (Titus 2:11-12), and is prayerful (Eph 3:14-21).

The qualities to seek in a Steward (leader) are principles of ownership, accountability, responsibility, and commitment to others. The steward is the overseer and caretaker of God’s garden (1 Peter 4:10-11). If curious of the qualities of an overseer, consider reading 1 Timothy 3.

Aristotle defined three distinct rhetorical appeals: *ethos* (credibility/ethics); *logos* (logic/rationality) and *pathos* (emotion/passion). He suggested the wise understand the basis and strength of each in each decision you make. The Bible suggests you avoid others who are self-centered and seek those who are wise in heart. Seek the reason and sound judgment of those who are just and upright. As summarized in Matthew 23:12, “The greatest among you must be a servant.”

*May your vote be a sincere reflection of a wise heart.  
The Stewardship Committee*

# Children & Youth Discipleship

## Wednesday Night Ministry for Children and Youth!!

Every Wednesday during the school year (except during holiday breaks), there is fun, food, and faith for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Each night has games, dinner, and faith discussions for every age. If you would like to sign up a child or youth for Wednesday nights contact Rhonda Eugea at [reugea@firstunitedpres.org](mailto:reugea@firstunitedpres.org) or you can scan the QR code and fill out a digital form.



## Wednesdays for Grades K-5

November 6: We are finishing a four-week series called "Wise People." Our lesson this week is "God Asks Solomon A Question" based on 1 Kings 3:1-15.

November 13 & 20: We are beginning a four-week series called "Parables Jesus Told." On November 13 we will learn about the parable of "The Sower" based on Luke 8:4-15. On November 20 we will learn about the parable of the "Good Neighbor" based on Luke 10:25-37. We will also be having our monthly drum circle on November 20.

November 27: There is **NO** Wednesday Night Ministry this week!

## Wednesdays for Grades 6th-12th

November 6, 13, & 20: We will be beginning a four-week series called "Grateful" a series from the Gospels on Christmas. Our favorite Christmas memories might involve snowball fights, presents, or time with people we love. The end of the year is a great chance for us to reflect on everything that has happened and everyone around us. When we really think about it, there is so much we can be thankful for each and every year even if things did not work exactly how we planned. As students hear about the prophecies and stories of Jesus' birth, they will be reminded to be thankful for each other, what God has done, and God's promise, and to be thankful even when it is not easy.

November 27: There is **NO** Wednesday Night Ministry this week!

## Sunday Discipleship for ALL Children and Youth

SUNDAYS  
9:15-10:00 AM

There are opportunities for all ages to grow in their faith on Sunday morning. Safe, interactive childcare will be available in the Toddler Room for children 5 years old and under. Kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th have a time of **Faith & Fun!** This will help younger children build their basic beliefs and knowledge about God in fun and engaging ways. Sixth through 12th graders are invited to come eat some waffles and explore the Bible in meaningful ways during **Waffles & the Word**.

### Children and Worship at FUPC

All children are welcome in worship at FUPC! There are also two special places for children during the 10:30 am service.

### Childcare During Worship for birth through age 3

Two caring volunteers are in the Toddler Room ready to welcome children ages 3 and younger. The volunteers are members of FUPC and have been trained and background checked.

### Children's Chapel for age 3 through grade 3

After a special time with the pastors, children are invited to leave with a Worship Leader and Greeters to continue to worship in Children's Chapel. This is a special place where children will hear stories of God's people and respond.

### PYC LOCK-IN

The annual PYC (3rd-5th grade) lock-in was held October 4-5. Fourteen students participated this year. The theme was "Carve out time for God." The scripture focus was on Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42. Check out photos from the night on the next page!

**grateful**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Be thankful for each other.	Be thankful for all God has done.	Be thankful for God's promises.	Be thankful even when it's not easy.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

# First United Presbyterian Church

## PYC LOCK-IN

(continued from page 7)

Students started their evening with a scavenger hunt to find mini-Jesus figures that were hidden all over the church building. Then we read our Bible story followed by prayer stations to help remind them even when they are busy they need to slow down and spend time with God. The prayer stations included: LEGO prayers, Post-it note prayers, pumpkin painting, mindful coloring, cross bracelets, gratitude puzzle making, and prayer journals. After prayer stations, we had evening vespers in the Chapel. We ended the evening with popcorn and a movie. The next morning we had breakfast, gathered our belongings, and then reflected in God's Grove.



Staff Leaders



November Worship Focus

**Rev. Rob Dyer**, Senior Pastor / Head of Staff

[rdyer@firstunitedpres.org](mailto:rdyer@firstunitedpres.org)

**Rev. Alex Lysdahl**, Associate Pastor

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**Mat Conway**, Worship Music Leader

**Diana Umali**, Pianist / Accompanist

**Dale Overstreet**, Director of Audio /

Visual Ministries + Custodian

[videoministry@firstunitedpres.org](mailto:videoministry@firstunitedpres.org)

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### the Steeple

To submit articles and suggestions each month, simply email the team!

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office hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 am-1:00 pm



### Sundays

8:00 am Chapel Worship

9:00 am Chancel Choir

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Sanctuary and  
Zoom Worship

5:45 pm Children & Youth

5:45 pm United Bells

