



THE MESSENGER



Stewardship Campaign

Commitment cards were sent in the mail the week of October 27 and Commitment Sunday is November 23, 2025.

The 2026 theme is, "Every Gift Matters". We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2026 estimate of giving to our church.

When each of us joined this church, we pledged to give our time, talent and treasure. This year, the commitment cards will have other areas to fill out besides your estimate of giving—the talents and gifts that you have to offer to your church.

Pledge cards will be collected at our church service on Sunday, November 23. However, if you will not be in attendance on November 23, please mail or turn it in to the church office.

If you do not receive a commitment card in the mail, call the church office and you may pick one up or have one mailed to you.

Every Gift Matters, Tom Weber and Mike Velez, Stewardship Co-Chairs

Advent Worship Series



Advent is the beginning of a new year of waiting, but it is an active and watchful waiting. It is tapping into the world's longing for redemption, salvation, and transformation. The beautiful and singable hymn *Toda la Tierra*, 210 in the United Methodist Hymnal, is a reminder of what is at stake. "All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty" in the first verse allows us to look back to the story of the Incarnation and to look forward to the coming of the kingdom of heaven, when the will of God will be done on earth as in heaven. All of earth is waiting for this fulfillment. In worship, we can see the signs of the nearness of Emmanuel, God with us.

First Sunday of Advent: Signs and Times (Matthew 24:36-44) – November 30, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent: Signs and Stories (Matthew 3:1-12) – December 07, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent: Signs and Truth (Matthew 11:2-11) – December 14, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Signs and Faithfulness (Matthew 1:18-25) – December 21, 2025

Advent Study: A Child Is Born, by Amy-Jill Levine

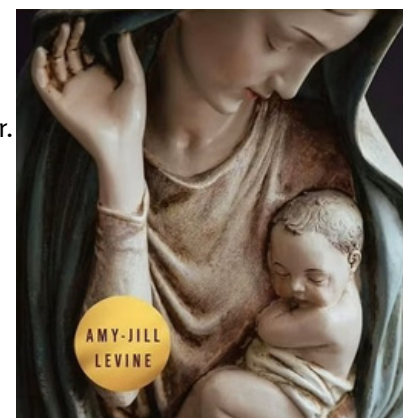
Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. The study delves into the narratives of Isaac and Ishmael, Moses, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story in the final chapter. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth and how the birth resonates and gives new meaning to those earlier stories. Transform your Advent season with fresh insights and inspiration from *A Child Is Born*.

Books are \$14 (limited quantity available in the Church Office)

at FUMC: Sundays at 11:15 AM (following Worship) -- 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

at FUMC: Mondays at 7:00 PM, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

at Oak Crest: Tuesdays at 11:00 AM, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23 (in the Little Theater)





Nothing screams more about It Takes a Village than the Church Conference. Did you know that everyone is invited to attend our Church Conference? And that all professing members get to vote for our church's leadership at our Church Conference.

Once a year every local church in the First United Methodist denomination meets with its district superintendent (DS) to hold its Church Conference- typically held sometime October through December. The DS presides over the meeting – our very own Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert – who is the DS for our district, which is Prairie South District.

So, exactly what happens at a church conference, you may ask. Hymns are sung, updates from our district, our Northern Illinois Conference, and from the First United Methodist Church worldwide are given by the DS, updates on membership are given, and voting on leadership are some of the agenda items that take place during the meeting.

According to the Book of Discipline, “to encourage broader participation by members of the church, church conference [can be held] extending the vote to all professing members of the local church present at such meetings.” (pg 181)

During the Church Conference, voting for the following positions may take place; chairperson of the church council, members of the committee on nominations, chair and members of SPRC (staff parish relations committee), finance committee, and trustees. Lay leaders may also be voted on during the meeting.

First UMC of DeKalb's Church Conference will be held this year on Saturday, November 8th at 10:30 am.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate all the wonderful programs and missions that go on at FUMC, as well as all professing members are encouraged to come and vote for the church's leadership.

Church Conference booklets will be available to pick up after service on Sunday, November 2nd, please feel free to pick up a booklet before the meeting so that you can be well informed of all the goings-on at the church and names of those who will be recommended for leadership.



Intro to First UMC/Church Membership Class

Sunday, November 9, 11:15 AM (Following Worship)

Have you been attending First UMC for a while and want to know more about our mission and ministries? Do you want to know what the benefits and obligations are of being a member of the Church? Join us for an exploratory info session (no obligation). Register to attend by contacting the Church Office at office@firstumc.net or 815-756-6301.



Join Us for a Special Recital

Sarah, the talented pianist and singer from the Praise and Worship Team, as well as a member of the Chancel Choir, will be showcasing her skills in an upcoming recital. Come and enjoy her remarkable performance, along with the incredible talents of fellow NIU students: Minjung (Hailie) Kim, Allison Wilson, and Sam Lynas.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 8:00PM IN THE RECITAL HALL

Accompanied by Minjung Kim-Piano
Assisted by Allison Wilson-Soprano, Georgi Dimitrov-Bass,
NIU's treble a cappella group The Harmelodies,
and Sam Lynas-Guitar



Scan Code for
Livestream!



Our Sympathies



Our deepest sympathies to Jane Hapeman and family on the passing of her son Tom Hapeman who passed away on October 16, 2025.

Our deepest sympathies to Sheri and Jennifer Kallembach and family on the passing of Sheri's husband, Jennifer's dad, Jim Kallembach who passed away on October 18, 2025.



Membership Concerns and Updates



Please keep the following members and loved ones who are in adult care facilities in your thoughts and prayers.

DeKalb County Area:

Anna Barnes, Mary Eakle, Carol Lindeberg, Louise Lowe, Jim McCann, Jim McKay, Lou Jean Moyer, Terry O'Brien, and Joe Pasteris

Facilities outside DeKalb County:

Agnes Barbatti, Barb Churchill, Chrissy Cowan, Carolyn Elliott, Jill Klecka, Doray Sietsema, and Bennetta Stearnes

November Mission Focus

**Partnering in Ministries of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice -
Our Puebla, Mexico Covenant Relationship**



"By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. 'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.' But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.' Mark 6:35-37"



GYTTE Global Missionaries Rev. Pat & Deaconess Kim Lewis

"God didn't send us because we're expert farmers, home builders, or taco-makers. We were sent because God had work to do in our hearts. And The Creator knew the best classroom wouldn't be a lecture hall- it would be an orchard, beside a tilapia pond, sharing stories, and praying with strangers who will become family."

Give Ye Them To Eat is an Advance Special Project of the United Methodist Church. 100% of your donation will reach GYTTE Ministry in Mexico. There are easy ways to give: Make your check payable to FUMC, write GYTTE on the memo-line of the check. Or choose the designation "Missionary Support" when you give online through Firstumc.net or by texting GIVE to 815-756-6301.



GYTTE focuses on six key areas: Community, Agricultural, and Livestock Development; Community and Family Health; Church and Faith Development; and the A.W.A.R.E. Program (Alternative Work-study And Reality Experience. More information can be found on Facebook and GYTTE.org.

Would you like to learn more about the work of the mission team? Do you have questions about what we do or how decisions are made? Have you just been waiting to be invited to serve in some way? Mission Team meet monthly on the first Tuesday from 5:45-7:00 pm Join us at a meeting.



Youth Events

Mission Possible & Youth Group

November 9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Youth Group at church

November 22, time TBD - Pizza Making

December 7, time TBD - Christmas caroling and party at church

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services 5:00 or 10 pm. Join us!



Women's Friendship Circle Sharing the Love of Christ

Thursday November 20th we will be having Denise Salihoglu, she is the Director of the Barb Food Mart Pantry, come to talk to us about the food pantry and their organization. Women's Friendship Circle would like to support Barb Food Mart by Hosting a Supply Drive. If you would like to donate any of these items or any other items, we will have a box in the Narthex marked Barb Food Mart.

On behalf of the Women's Friendship Circle, we appreciate your support and thank you for anything you are able to donate.

We would love to have you join us on Thursday November 20th at 1 pm.

Most needed items are cleaning products:

Clorox, bleach, and Lysol sprays

toilet paper

paper towels

sponges

trash bags

body wash

hair shampoo and conditioner

(Don't forget those with black/African American hair textures.)

United Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast

Saturday, November 8, 8:00 am

Faranda's (302 Grove St., DeKalb)

All men are invited each month for the UMM Gathering. We meet for fellowship, food (you may purchase your own breakfast off the menu or not as you choose), and to discuss how we can be of service to FUMC. All men of the church are invited.



Fellowship Hosts

Thank you to everyone who has helped to host fellowship. The schedule is below. 2-3 people are recommended.

November 2 - Shepherding Leaders

November 9 - Search and Service

November 16 - Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

November 23 - United Methodist Men

November 30 - (Hosts Needed)

December 7 - Shepherding Leaders

December 14 - (Hosts Needed)

December 21 - Bella

December 28 - Women's Friendship Circle



September 26 - October 30, 2025

General Fund Income

\$48,961

Mission Ministries Income

\$3,940

(including Spare Change,
REAL Meal, UMCOR, Youth &
Adult Mission Trip Scholarships)

Stewardship Testimonial *by Diane Anderson*

My name is Diane Anderson and I have been a member of this congregation for almost my entire life. Quick side note, when I joined one of the Women's circles many years ago, they asked us to introduce ourselves. While I was doing this, Jane Hapeman spoke up and said, that's not right, and corrected my story. (I believe I had my dates wrong.) I tell you this because some of you know my story better than I do, but I will do my best.

My parents started bringing my sister and me to this church in 1976 after my grandfather had a heart attack. I have been an active member of this congregation for most of my life. I attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Methodist Youth Fellowship during high school, along with attending 3 different service projects before graduation. When I went away to college, I will admit, I did not attend as regularly as I should for a couple of years. After graduation came marriage and having kids. It was decided that it was important for our kids to be raised in the church, so I started back regularly, this was in 1999.

"Basically, I grew up with most of you here. I was baptized in this church, confirmed, married and divorced. Then continued to attend and raise my girls in this congregation."

Basically, I grew up with most of you here. I was baptized in this church, confirmed, married and divorced. Then continued to attend and raise my girls in this congregation. They were also baptized, confirmed and grew up here being active. I love this church, it is my home and this is my family. I know when times are tough and we have to deal with the things that life can throw at us, I can reach out and have an army of prayer behind me. There

will always be kind words of support, hugs, smiles. Anything needed to help through tough times. Those are just a few of the things I love about this church. It really is an extended family.

"I love this church, it is my home and this is my family. I know when times are tough and we have to deal with the things that life can throw at us, I can reach out and have an army of prayer behind me."

Since actively coming back I have served/volunteered in many different ways. I just started my 21st year of teaching Sunday School, and I was one of the preschool leaders at VBS out at Walcamp for 5 years. I was employed by the church for a short time as the bookkeeper, at which time I was a part of the finance committee. I also am an active member of the Foundation Committee and Board of Trustees. I am a volunteer counter for Sunday offering and currently serve as the chair of the Altar Guild, I honestly don't know how long I have been doing that but it has been many years.

Now since this is a stewardship testimony, we should talk about money. I have had many conversations with my dad about tithing. He hates talking about money in church and honestly, I don't believe he is alone in those thoughts. It seems to be a taboo subject at times, but it should not be. The church is run by money. If we don't have enough coming in, there can't be as much going out, simple as that. We all play an important part in that. I do believe we all think about finances differently, and that is ok, we are all different people with different financial means and backgrounds. Personally, I find it easiest to tithe weekly by giving automatically from my checking account. I

chose one day a week, Thursday for me, and my weekly giving is removed consistently, every week without fail. This can be managed through the website and is a very simple process. I prefer this method since it is just done. I don't have to remember my checkbook and getting my envelope in the plate during service since a lot of times I am off doing something. This process just makes it simple. I also enjoy giving to many of the different fundraisers throughout the year. I enjoy that I am able to give to the specific groups in addition to my weekly giving. This is basically the way I run my personal finances; I make sure the electric bill and the light bill are paid first, which would be my weekly giving going to general church expenses. Then we can do the "fun stuff" like buying pizzas, or quarts of Jane's delicious spaghetti sauce to help missions or buying presents at Christmas for the angel tree. I feel this is very important, not only for the life of the church but to help keep the doors open and the lights on and to support the various missions, which feels like the heart of our church. We are a very giving congregation with our missions.

"We give our time, we use our talents and we give a portion of our money to help support a church that we love."

So, there are lots of ways we give to our church. We give our time, we use our talents and we give a portion of our money to help support a church that we love. I hope that is why you are all here. In addition to hearing riveting sermons, hearing the choir or the Praise team sing or even taking time to visit with someone you enjoy seeing on Sunday mornings; I hope you are here because this is a place that you love to come and support your family.



Let's dine together...
FREE Community Dinner
5:15-6:30 pm, 4th Sunday of each month
Dine in or Drive thru

R.E.A.L meal
sharing food & friendship

November 23
Join us for a holiday meal.

First United Methodist Church
2501 N Annie Glidden Rd, DeKalb, IL
815-756-6301, facebook.firstumcdekallbillinois, firstumc.net

TO VOLUNTEER


JOIN THE FUN!
COME LOVE & SERVE WITH US!

Invite your neighbors...remember our goal is to fill both hearts & bellies.

Volunteer - if you can chop veggies, set a table, ladle food into a container, or wash a dish, there is a spot for you.

Prep & set up 3-5 pm
Serving & cleanup 5-7 pm
Come for an hour or two, whatever works for you.



Mission Possible
PIZZA SALE
\$10 per 12" pizza
Cheese - Sausage - Pepperoni

Order after service or text PIZZA to 815-756-6301

Orders due Nov. 17 | Pickup starts Nov. 22



Sew in Awe ★★

Sew in Awe will be selling their quilts, blankets and crafts at the Christmas Kindle Market Saturday, December 6 at St. Mary's Catholic School, DeKalb. Pick up gifts for those on your Christmas list.



Christmas Caroling and Party

Calling all elementary through high school students: Join us as we go Christmas caroling and return to church to celebrate Jesus's birth with a party!
Sunday, December 7, time TBD.

Christmas Services

Advent begins Sunday, November 30 with 10:00 am worship.
Longest Night/Blue Christmas: Sunday, December 21, 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Services: Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm



Poinsettia Orders

Price: \$14.00 each

Orders Due: Sunday, November 16

This year, we are excited to offer a smaller size poinsettia at a more affordable price. They will arrive in a variety of colors to brighten up our church this season. While yours may turn out red, it could also be white, pink, marble, maroon, or even glittered! What a delightful way to celebrate the beauty of these plants and create a vibrant display for Christmas.



THE CELEBRATION CHORALE PRESENTS

SING WE ALL NOEL



Enjoy the music of the season with Carols for Christmas!



PERFORMING **DECEMBER 6TH AT 7 PM** AND
DECEMBER 7TH AT 2 PM

FREE WILL OFFERINGS ACCEPTED // FIRST UMC DEKALB // HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

ALL CONCERTS HELD AT FIRST UMC
2501 N. ANNIE GLIDDEN RD., DEKALB

CONTACT
THECELEBRATIONCHORALE@GMAIL.COM



Communion Service at Oak Crest

Join Pastor Jonathan Crail for communion and a church update!

Wednesday, December 10, 11:00 am
Oak Crest Chapel



2501 N. Annie Glidden Rd.
DeKalb, IL 60115

815-756-6301
office@firstumc.net
firstumc.net

Church Office Hours
Monday - Wednesday 8 am - 1 pm
Friday 8 am - 1 pm

Bookkeeper Hours
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 am - 12 pm

Ministry Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Jonathan Crail
jcrail@firstumc.net

Director of Family Ministries
Kelsey Lynch
klynch@firstumc.net

Director of Missions
Sherry Uhrich
suhrich@firstumc.net

Nursery Coordinator
Danielle Rogowski
nursery@firstumc.net

Director of Music Ministries
Eric Johnson
ejohnson@firstumc.net

Custodian
Levan Mitchell

Organist
Ron Barshinger

Video Technician
Matt Rogowski

Social Media Coordinator &
Bookkeeper
Kailee Kuropas
accountant@firstumc.net

Church Administrator
Jan Lam
office@firstumc.net

Worship & Christian Education Opportunities

Sundays

10:00 am	Worship Service - in-person & livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook
10:00 am	Sunday School (2 years to 12th Grade, Sept. thru May)
5:15 pm	REAL Meal Dine-in/Drive-thru - (4th week of every month)
5:00 pm	Confirmation (8th Grade and up, Sept. thru May)
7:00 pm	Search & Service (Adults, meets offsite 1st & 3rd weeks, Sept. thru May)

Tuesdays

11:30 am	Lunch Bunch Bible Study (Adults)
1:00 pm	Sew in Awe - craft group
1:00 pm	Afternoon Book Club (Adults, meets 3rd week each month)

Wednesdays

9:00 am	Beginner Bible Study (Adults, meets offsite)
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Thursdays

1:00 pm	Women's Friendship Circle (meets 3 rd week each month)
6:00 pm	Rooted & Real: Young Adults (ages 18-30, meets every other week at the parsonage)
6:30 pm	Friend Me Women's Group (meets in person & via Zoom, Sept. thru May)

Quarterly

11:15 am	Oak Crest Communion Service - Ash Wednesday, June, September, December - watch for dates
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Child care is available Sunday mornings.