



THE MESSENGER

First UMC 2025 Conference

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 10:30 am

Your attendance is requested.

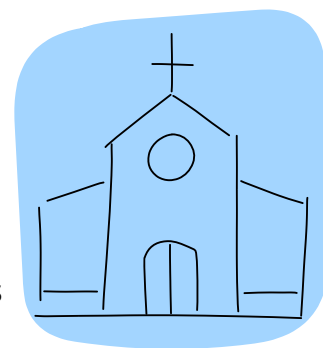
This meeting will provide updates on various church activities and highlight the achievements of the committees that support our operations throughout the year. The agenda will include the nomination and election of the church's leadership (committee members), approval of clergy compensation for the upcoming year, recommendations for ministry, and reports from the lay servant. Your participation is greatly valued.



Thank you!

Worship service with New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, September 21 was moving and fulfilling. The feeling of family was felt by all who attended. Thank you for continuing to be the warm and welcoming family of First UMC.

A great big thank you, especially, to all who helped and brought wonderful treats to share with our neighbors during fellowship. All enjoyed Bella's homemade tamales, Spanish rice and pasta salad. We all look forward to next year's shared worship.



Pastor
APPRECIATION
MONTH

Thank you, Pastor Jon
for your faithful
service and leadership!



It Takes a Village: Ushers

Each week four ushers are present at the service. Duties of the ushers include:

1. Greeting people
2. Distributing programs.
3. Offering & collecting prayer cards
4. Distributing & retrieving sign-in pads
5. Assisting those with wheelchairs/walkers
6. Collecting the offering
7. Directing people to the altar for communion and directing servers to those who are unable to walk to the altar
8. Collecting discarded programs at the end of the service
9. Retrieving sign-in sheets and placing them in the office
10. Cleaning the reusable name tags
11. Collecting discarded items in the sanctuary

Of the current pool of forty ushers, twelve serve once each month. Others volunteer to serve on an as needed basis when they are available. In addition to regular church services, ushers are also present at special church events to greet and assist people.

Congregants willing to volunteer as an usher should contact Rose Anderson in person or via email at rowsander@yahoo.com.

FUMC Alaska Adult Mission Team

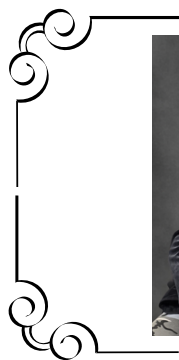
Laundry / Dish Soap Fundraiser

5-Gallon Buckets of Laundry Soap, Fabric Softener, Dish Soap, Laundry Pods, Scent Boosters and Household Cleaners

Cash or checks made payable to *First United Methodist Church (FUMC)*

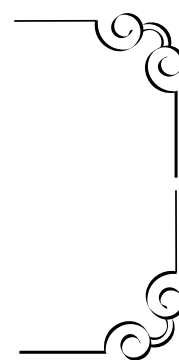
ORDERS DUE 10/25 TO SHERRY UHRICH





Our Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies to Chrissy Cowan and family on the passing of Linda Maffei on September 8, 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:

Mary Eakle, Carol Lindeberg, Louise Lowe, Jim McCann, Jim McKay, 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

4th & Oak Building Tour

On September 4, Jacob, owner of our former church on Fourth Street, gave us a tour. Jacob and workers from his company, Egg Toy, have done extensive renovations on the interior of the building. For more details, speak to one of the men who went on the tour: Tom McCrea, Dave Smith, Don Hill, Pastor Jonathan, Jim Horn, John Ward, Jack Scott, or Tom Weber.



Jazz Band Concerts

Friday, October 3, 6:30 pm

at First UMC

Free pizza and soft drinks.
Serving begins at 6:00 pm.



New Normal Jazz Band

The New Normal Jazz Band will be playing their last concert of the season. John and Diana Skillman are members of the band. In addition to the 7 members of the band, there are often professional



guest musicians and vocalists from around the state. They play old-time, foot stomping, New Orleans style jazz that is familiar to the seniors in the crowd and, they hope, will be a surprising delight to the younger ones.



Mission Possible & Youth Group

October 12, 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Youth Group at church

October 26, 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Youth Group at church

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

November 22, time TBD - Pizza Making

Youth Events

Youth Mission Trip June 2026

We are excited to announce a youth mission trip to either Tennessee or Kentucky in late June 2026! This opportunity is open to youth in sixth grade and older, and we are also in need of adult leaders to join us on this meaningful journey.

Each youth needs a parent to have attended the information meeting or to meet with Sherry for her to provide more details and answer any questions. A \$50 deposit, due by November 7, will secure your youth's place on the trip. We look forward to seeing you there and embarking on this incredible mission together!



United Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast

Saturday, October 11, 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.

October 5 - Women's Friendship Circle
October 12 - Council on Ministry
October 19 - Sew in Awe
October 26 - Barb and Larry Coward

November 2 - Shepherding Group
November 9 - Search and Service
November 16 - Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)
November 23 - United Methodist Men
November 30 - (Hosts Needed)

August 27 - September 25, 2025

General Fund Income
\$20,149

Mission Ministries Income
\$1,986

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





Stewardship Testimonial *by Marisa Kafka*

My name is Marisa Kafka and last spring, I was asked if I would be willing to share my stewardship testimonial.

I have been pondering what stewardship means to me and how I could share my appreciation of the concept. I think the best way to do so is to tell you a bit of my background and my faith journey.

Many of you know I did not grow up in DeKalb. I actually grew up outside Wenona, a very small farming community between LaSalle and Bloomington.

My family owned a small hobby farm 5 miles northwest of town of which I have many fond memories. One of my earliest memories I recall is loading up in the car and heading to town every Sunday morning to attend church at St. John's United Methodist Church with my Mom, Dad, brother and sister. My siblings and I would dutifully sit in the pews for the service eating cheerios out of a sandwich bag and listen to Dad sing in the choir, and occasionally avoid our mom's side glances when we would giggle during the sermon.

But, it was in this small church where my faith journey began with singing hymns, performing our Christmas pageants, being part of our youth choir, youth group meetings and activities, and confirmation. In all of these moments, my mom was always there to help. Whether it was to lead Sunday school, drive us to meetings, iron our robes, sew our costumes, or any other task she would help with to make sure we had these opportunities.

I loved my hometown church so much that when Tony and I got married, I didn't hesitate to hold such an important and special day of my life in that church with

my family, friends, and church family that I grew so fond of.

When I found myself attending NIU in the late 90s, I always tried to get back home on Sundays when I could attend church with my parents, but eventually that started to become more and more difficult as I became involved in my own work and studies. So, I asked one of my advisors at NIU where she went to church or where she thought I should attend. After a conversation similar to what I just described, she said I should check out DeKalb First United Methodist Church. And that is what I did. My attendance was on and off for several years. I moved away from DeKalb for a while but our journey brought Tony and me back to be closer to our jobs.

"I am so appreciative of how our church family supports, encourages, and shows a genuine interest in the faith journey of my children . . ."

I knew that it wouldn't be long before Tony and I started a family and I wanted to give my own children a similar experience to the one I had. I recall coming to Sunday service in the early 2000s and seeing all the kids involved in children's choir, Christmas pageants, children's moments, Sunday school, and VBS. This helped us to decide to make this our church home and in February of 2005, Tony and I became members of the DeKalb First United Methodist Church. In the 20 years since, we have been able to watch our kids grow in faith by participating in all the activities previously mentioned plus Sunday services, youth group, assisting the congregation, Mission Possible and creating connections with so many amazing people at our church home.

I am not the best at filling out a commitment card, but I am pretty good at

committing my time to support my children and those that have been part of VBS, youth group, and Mission Possible. I have enjoyed helping out at several VBS weeks at Walcamp over the last 15 years or so as the queen of snacks, a unit leader, station leader, sometimes helping to take the fish off the hooks, which is not my favorite, but I jump in wherever I am needed when I have the time. I have been given the honor of traveling along with the other leaders and youth to all the Mission Possible trips across the country for the last 6 years and made many pizzas, packaged pork chop dinners, made chili and desserts to support the team.

I have also put in some time on some of my own endeavors when I have had the chance, with joining sew in awe for several years and helping to make many quilts and projects to support our members, while working with some amazing sisters in faith. I have also enjoyed sharing my love of music by being a part of the bell choir and occasionally The Celebration Chorale for many years. I even had the opportunity to bring my Dad up in the choir one year to sing alongside me for a Christmas eve service.

When asked, "What does Stewardship mean to you?" the answer is sharing my time and talents whenever it is possible. Whether it is the skills I have practiced in the classroom for over 25 years, my love of sharing the joy of music, laughter and conversation, maybe sometimes my knack for being a mischief manager, but always the importance of sharing love and faith with those that are along for the journey with me.

I am so appreciative of how our church family supports, encourages, and shows a genuine interest in the faith journey of my children John and Abby. I hope that they will continue to be so blessed as they travel their faith journey and carry on the traditions that we have been allowed to cultivate here at DeKalb First UMC.



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



October 26
Ready for some good, old-fashioned home cooking?
Join us for meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and more.

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



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.

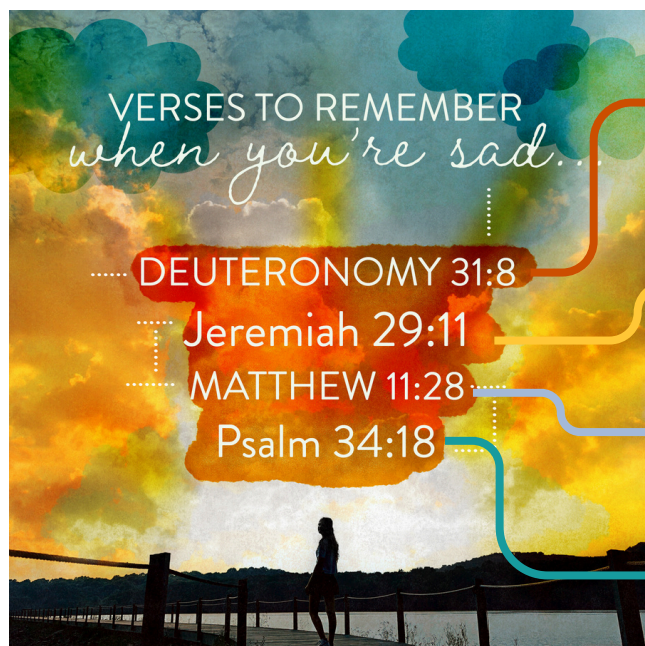
Adult Mission Trip

ALASKA
JULY 2026



Alaska trip meeting - Sunday, October, 5 at 11:30 am.

Grab some coffee and snacks and join the team in Joseph's Dream (rm. 3) for laundry soap/cleaning supplies fundraiser and trip information.



BUT THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO IS MARCHING BEFORE YOU! HE IS THE ONE WHO WILL BE WITH YOU! HE WON'T LET YOU DOWN. HE WON'T ABANDON YOU. SO DON'T BE AFRAID OR SCARED! (CEB)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (NIV)

COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. (NIV)

The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (NIV)

OCTOBER 2025



<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>	
10am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11:20am Handbells	10am - Noon Pastor Jon's office hours (and by appointment) 6:30pm Cub Scouts (1st & 3rd weeks)	8:30am Faithfully Fit Low-Impact Exercise 11:30am Lunch Bunch Adult Bible Study 1pm Sew In Awe 7pm BSA Troop 4	9am Beginner Bible Study 5:45pm Praise and Worship Team 6:45pm Chancel Choir 8:00pm The Celebration Chorale	OFFICE CLOSED 7pm PK Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Friend Me	8:30am Faithfully Fit Low-Impact Exercise	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6pm R&R for Young Adults	3	4
5 Communion & Family Worship 11:15am Faithful & Inclusive Study 11:30am Alaska Trip Meeting 7 pm - Search and Service meeting	6 Jan - out of office 7pm Faithful & Inclusive Study	7 11:30am Faithful & Inclusive Study at Lunch Bunch 5:45 pm - Mission Ministry Committee meeting	8	9	10	11 8 am - UM Men's Breakfast 8:30am - South Prairie District Lay Academy
12 11:15am Faithful & Inclusive Study 6pm Youth Group	13  7pm Faithful & Inclusive Study	14 11:30am Faithful & Inclusive Study at Lunch Bunch 7 pm - Board of Trustees meeting	15	16 6pm R&R for Young Adults	17	18 8:30am - South Prairie District Lay Academy
19 11:15am Faithful & Inclusive Study 5 pm - Search and Service meeting	20 Newsletter Deadline 4:30 pm Staff Meeting 7pm Faithful & Inclusive Study	21 11:30am Faithful & Inclusive Study at Lunch Bunch 1 pm - Afternoon Book Club 7 pm - Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting (SPRC)	22	23	24	25
26 11:15am Faithful & Inclusive Study 3 pm REAL Meal Prep 5:30 pm - REAL Meal Dine-in / Drive-thru	27 7 pm - Finance Committee meeting 7pm Faithful & Inclusive Study	28 11:30am Faithful & Inclusive Study at Lunch Bunch 7 pm - Council on Ministry meeting (COM)	29	30 6pm R&R for Young Adults	31 HALLOWEEN 	



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.