

First United Methodist Church

Western Springs

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

“May we rejoice and give thanks to God for the myriad of minutia that are woven into each and every day. “

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THANKFULL FOR... .

NOVEMBER 2014

Pastor's Notes

Last year, in acknowledgement of our 125th anniversary, I listed 125 things for which I was thankful. And maybe it's because of the great job Pam and Dan Litster did for our stewardship campaign this year but I'm in a really full-of-gratitude mood! I made some what-I'm-thankful-for leaves for our Giving Tree. Yet that doesn't seem enough. This is the day which the Lord has made! Pardon me if I rejoice a bit! Since Bebo's birthday is Thanksgiving, I'll list 35 in honor of her upcoming celebration in dog years.

My liver. Sure never expected to have that on my list.
As long as I'm at it, my kidneys,
Corneas
Lungs
Heart
Bones
Skin
Pancreas
And blood, and all the other various parts of me that

today are 'original'

The ability to breathe without mechanical assistance

The ability to cough and not require someone to suction my lungs

The ability to turn myself in bed

The ability to eat and not get my nutrition via a tube in my stomach

The ability to go to the bathroom by myself, clean myself, and not need to measure anything

Sleeping in my own bed

Having the lights off in my room at night, all night

Quiet at night; no beeps, buzzers or alarms

Wearing clothes

Wearing my own clothes

And my own pajamas

Brushing my own teeth

Being tube, catheter and wire free

Sitting

Standing

Walking

Yoga-ing

And Zumba-ing when I choose

Reading a book

Visiting friends

Putzing in my yard

Doing laundry

Doing dishes

Baking pies and cookies

Morning coffee

Snow (OK, you knew that had to make the list J)

Funny how a year can make such a difference. Things that I just considered a 'given', because of journeying with my brother and his liver transplant, I now realize are not givens at all! They are blessings, gifts, mercies from a generous God who is attending to more details of my daily life than I am. May God open our hearts and minds to the richness of life. May we rejoice and thank to God for the myriad of minutia that are woven into each and every day. May we not take for granted our health, our families and friends, our shelter and food, our Savior, our baptism and our church. And may the lives we live at work, school and elsewhere reflect an attitude of gratitude. Go forth to love and serve God! And rejoice!

Last Month....

October 9– Church conference

Held with Wendy Witt, current associate at The Chicago Temple (and former intern here!), presiding. All recommendations were unanimously accepted. Copies of the packet and forms are available in church office.

City Mentoring Program:

Pastor has begun her mentoring at Everett Elementary School. She is serving 2 kindergarten brothers. Please hold pastor, her “buddies”, their families and their teacher in prayers. The experience is proving to be much more a matter of heart than a support of

October 18th- Keiper’s Pumpkin Farm

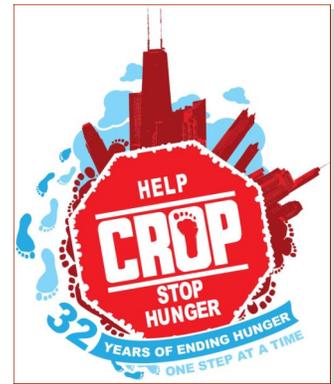
Thank you Jesse and Gretchen for setting up such a fun event!



October 19th – Hunger Crop Walk

We raised \$890 from our church and our goal was \$600 !!

Thank you to all who donated ! Thank you to all who participated!



October 26th– Nine Churches participated in Western Springs Historical Society’s Churches of Our Village event. It was a wonderful time of coming together, sharing what is common and foundational to all of us, and learning some amazing local faith history. The best part(even better than the cookies during fellowship time?) Was that the planning for this event has knitted the local clergy into more of a connected band of preachers! It’s been 28 years since churches have come together in a shared event! Conversations are now in process to identify “what next” for worship and mission as a public witness to ur community of the love of God. May the strength of the past fuel our present and future passion and zeal to be relevant and relational as we grow the kingdom of God in Western Springs.

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the lord.”

-ROMANS 12:11

Missions: Food Pantry

Our Church has been very generous in supporting two local Food Pantries: St. Cletus and Second Baptist in La-Grange.

In a Thank you Letter, Mary Beth Ford at St. Cletus wrote the following: "Although it is sometimes hard to imagine the extent

of need for food in our area, we continue to server over 240 families each month. For example, in August, our pantry served 281 households , a total of 1,111 individuals. As the colder months approach, our pantry experiences even greater need for food assistance. Thank you for being a vital and most nec-

essary partner in Jesus' call to feed the hungry."

If you would like to make a contribution, be sure to mark that it is for the Food Pantries.

We also give thanks for Elaine Stone who faithfully delivers our donations to both of these pantries!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Reconciling Congregation Update

Our church took the Reconciling Congregation Assessment in September. The goal of the survey was to understand the views of our members and determine how quickly we can proceed on this journey toward becoming a church that affirmatively welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Our

survey scores indicate we can proceed at a moderate pace. Many people in the congregation support the idea while a few indicated discomfort around the topic. The Reconciling implementation team consists of Erv Dvorak, Karen Dvorak, Gretchen Otterblad, Jesse

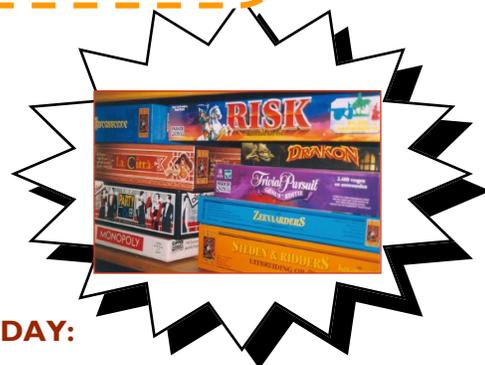
Otterblad, and Lee Wright. Please let any of them know if you would like to get involved in this initiative. We hope to bring in guest speakers in the coming months and propose an official welcoming statement for our congregation.

Young Adults

Calling all Young Adults we are organizing a **Game Day** every month! New games are welcome! Friends are welcome!

Young Adults if you have ideas or suggestions for a youth group or Young Adults Group please let Chris know!

christopher.lubawski@hotmail.com



NEXT GAME DAY:
November 9th after Sunday service



November Birthdays !

11/4 Bill Ward
11/9 Charles Wickman
11/10 Wayne Bailey
11/10 Sandra Lister
11/15 Nathaniel Schaper
11/17 Karen Dvorak
11/17 Mathew Litster
11/25 Bob Miller
11/28 James Conkis

Address Change !

Biery, Shawn & Debby
112 E. Cayuga Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126-4417

Milne, Jeffery
453 Homestead Ave. #1
La Grange Park, IL 60526

Lankton, Joyce Hewett Silverado
1936 Brookdale Road

Looking Forward....

Sunday School– Nov. 9 will be reading “Uncommon Decency: Christian civility in an uncivil world”

Yoga– Monday’s at 6pm
Are you flexible? Do you have excellent balance? Are you able to quiet calm your spirit and breathing easily at times of stress? No? Then you are perfect for our yoga time! No competition. No cost. No judgment. Just quiet music, suggested movements

Monday Night Bible Study
Starts at 7pm. Recently formed bible study working our way through the Bible. Join us!

Theology and Brew– Tues.
November 11 @7 and
November 18 @1pm– join us for animated conversation, food and your favorite beverage at Now Serving Café at 725 W. Hillgrove Ave, Lagrange, IL

Open House– November 16th–FUMC-Western Springs is hosting a an open house for other organizations, congregations and groups seeking to share space. We will have tours and light refreshments immediately following or morning worship service. Please contact Helen you know someone interested.

If you have any information to add to future Newsletters please contact Helen @ hlubawski@hotmail.com