

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS

## OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR

Questions God asks us... Where are you? Where is your sister, your brother? What is that in your hand? What is your name? What are you doing here? What are you looking for? Who do you say I am? Do you want to get well? Why are you crying? Do you understand what I did for you?

I find these questions unsettling. I want to give the correct answer! But too often the honest answer is not correct. Where am I? Hiding, trying to be the person others want me to be vs who I really am. Where is my sister? She's just like me, likes me, and is fine thank you very much. What is that in your hand? Useless trash... and on and on. Then there are times when I'm not so sure what the correct answer is.

Our annual church conference is Thursday, October 9, 6:30p for Staff Parish, 7p for all church to gather. Our preside will be Rev. Wendy Witt from 1<sup>st</sup> Chicago (The Temple), former student pastor here. Many reports are being completed in preparation. One asks me a question: what is the church's goal? To me, this question is reflected in my understanding of what God has done for me.

What is the goal of this church? My guess is that more than a few would say our goal is to grow. While that's a good and necessary thing, it's more of a consequence than a goal. As I understand what God has done for me, how can I not want others to have God in their lives, too? Our goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! To do that we must be financially stable, community focused, and connectionally collaborating in ministry.

Financially stable. Extravagantly giving according to our blessings. Biblically obedient to stewardship. Creatively managing expenses. Honestly and objectively assessing our finances. Generously responding from our resources to enable ministry to others.

Community focused. This is where Reconciling Ministries comes in. Because we know there are people hurt, excluded, fearful and searching, we are in process to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing place where everyone can experience the expansive love of God. Open hearts, open minds, open doors. We really mean it! This is also where Crop Walk, Yoga, Theology and Brew, BEDS, and other outwardly facing ministries belong and must grow. To be invitational to family, friends and neighbors. To seek opportunities to enter into faith conversations.

Connectionally collaborative. Partnering with the Western Springs clergy group to do shared worship. Connecting with our cluster churches to be in ministry in ways that cannot happen if we stand alone. Encouraging each other.

Do you understand what God has done for you? Do you?  
Blessings, Pastor C

## **FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

We invite you to join us as we work toward deepening our own spiritual journeys through our fall stewardship campaign, Extravagant Giving.

We have planned three special Sundays: Oct. 12, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26.

On Oct. 12 we will focus on gratitude for the blessings God has given as a church and as individuals. On Oct. 19 we will learn more about what the Bible has to teach us about giving. Related Sunday school classes will take place both Sundays.

We will have a special time of meditation and prayer walking the labyrinth at Lyonsville Congregational Church at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The church is at 6871 Joliet Road in Indian Head Park.

Oct. 26 will be Pledge Sunday, when we will make our commitments to the church. We will follow the service with a special time of fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you on these three Sundays.

Pam & Dan Litster  
Stewardship Committee

## **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCT. 5**

Bring a favorite bread to be used as The Table is celebrated during worship.

## **CHURCH CONFERENCE OCT. 9**

All are welcome to attend our annual church conference on Thursday, Oct. 9. Staff parish will meet at 6:30 p.m. with the general session at 7 p.m.

Rev. Wendy Witt from First UMC (The Temple) of Chicago will preside.

## **CROP WALK OCT. 19**

On Sunday, Oct. 19, our church will once again be participating in the LaGrange/ Western Springs/Brookfield Hunger Crop Walk, set to begin at 1 p.m.

We have participated in this walk for as long as I can remember. The money raised is used in a variety of ways including supporting food banks and community gardens, clean water and food, education to enable people to attain jobs to help support their families and emergency packets. When downstate Illinois was hit by tornadoes last year Church World Service/Crop Walk sent emergency kits to those residents that needed them.

25% of the money raised and all of the food collected at the walk goes to our local food pantries.

The walk this year will start at the LaGrange 1st United Methodist Church at 100 W. Cossitt Avenue. Registration is at 1 p.m. and the walk starts at 1:30 p.m. This is where walkers will drop off your envelopes and food donation (all participants are asked to provide a can or box of non-perishable food). The walk is 3 miles and the half point will be our church where we will provide bathrooms and water for the walkers. Walkers will return to the LaGrange Methodist Church for a celebration with food and drinks.

I am hoping for 100% involvement for our church whether you walk, sponsor a walker or donate food to our local food banks. I will be handing out envelopes starting this Sunday so please consider walking and/or donating.

Any questions please let me know. For more information you can go online to [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org). You can also register for the walk and/or donate online there. Click on donate, put in our zipcode, click on the LaGrange/Western Springs/Brookfield Walk and then click on register or donate. You can also keep track of how much money is being raised on that website.

Thank you very much!  
Julie Lillquist  
Missions

### **MORE FROM MISSIONS**

October food pantry item: soups and stews

Also, a special Golden Cross offering that benefits the elderly and those who work in elder care, will be taken Sunday, Oct. 5.

### **EDUCATION**

Adult Sunday School will finish its discussion of the book "Switch" on Sunday, Oct. 5. On Oct. 12 and 19, conversations will be about gratitude and giving as part of the fall stewardship campaign. Sunday school will not take place Oct. 26, the date of the next Church Council meeting.

Adult Sunday School will resume Nov. 2 with another book study of "Uncommon Decency." Pastor Christina will lead this study. Books can be ordered by Oct. 26 for \$13.50 a copy. Please let Nancy Benes know if you would like to order one.

The children's Sunday School is using a new curriculum this year, "Grow, Proclaim, Serve!" from Cokesbury. The material is providing fun and entertaining looks at important Bible stories.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Pastor Christina and the leaders of other Western Springs churches will gather at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1106 Chestnut St., to give presentations to the Western Springs Historical Society.

All are welcome to attend and learn more about the history of other churches in town — and perhaps more about our own church!

## **GOOD NEWS**

\* The rummage sale, held Sept. 20 with an extra day Sept. 27, raised \$1,000 for Imagine No Malaria PLUS \$700 for church ministries. What a great success! Thanks to all who helped out, from planning to cleanup!

\* Helen Lubawski, who has been working with Chris and Jesse and Gretchen Otterblad on communications, has agreed to take over responsibility for the newsletter. Hurray! Her first newsletter will be for November, so if you have items to include, please send them to her at [hlubawski@hotmail.com](mailto:hlubawski@hotmail.com).

## **CELEBRATIONS**

October birthdays

10-02 Michelle DeMarco

10-12 Helen Tomek

10-23 Dale Kruchten

10-26 Debbie Howarth

10-27 David Hanus

10-31 Orpha Sparks

October anniversaries

10-03 Jeff and Deirdra Marshall

10-11 Jim and Jeannie Herhold

10-26 Dave and Ann Lawrence

\*\* If we are missing your birthday or anniversary, please let Helen Lubawski know. We want to make sure we are using an updated list.