

Here's your November 11 District News

Rev. Jeffry Bross, District Superintendent

Note: Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, this is the last District email for November. To keep up to date with what is happening in the conference, please sign up for the [weekly conference email newsletter here](#).



“Do you hear what I hear?”

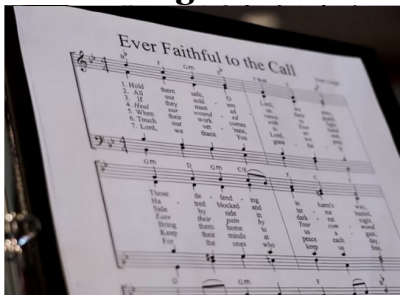
I have always loved that Christmas song (or is it a hymn). Either way, it brings back fond memories. As a District Superintendent, I am privy to things happening in churches that you may or may not have heard about. I believe one of my primary responsibilities is to support the work that you are doing in the life of the local church. One of the ways I can do that is to share what I discover that is working in the 69 other Prairie Central District Churches or in the 344 other churches in our conference. So look to this space to hear what is actually working out there in the mission field called Prairie Central District.

We are blessed in the district to have a website and marketing consultant, dare I say “guru” who is volunteering time to give her professional assessment of every local church website in our district. It is something you would spend a lot of money on to bring in a professional and she is doing it as a gift to district. The former Aurora Churches were completed a few years ago and now she is working on completing the former Elgin churches. The assessment shares how each up to the basic necessities that a church should have present in its website and provides some suggestions for improvement. Recently, she discovered a website that she has touted as one to set forth as the example. It was so good, she had nothing to say to them but “good job.” She suggested all churches that are looking to see how it should be done could visit this church’s site as a shining example of how to do a church website. I encourage you to visit Cornerstone UMC in Elgin’s website found at www.umc-cornerstone.org. Thank you to Rev. Melissa Hood and the developer and member, Beth Firsching, who put it together. Great job! A copy “Effective Church Website,” a basic guide of the criteria used by our expert website developer which includes a list of what things should be included in every church website can be requested from Leola Tucker at ltucker@umcnic.org.

Remember, your first impression for any potential new member is probably going to be your website or social media. Make it count!

Rev. Jeffry Cross, District Superintendent

Celebrating Veteran's Day



Today, as you celebrate Veteran's Day, giving compassion to those who serve and their families, think about how your congregation can find opportunities to support them year round. Tom Lough, an Army veteran and United Methodist layman, was frustrated that there was no Army counterpart to a well-known Navy Hymn ("Eternal Father, Strong to Save"). He finally decided to write one. Vance Morton and Dustin Kaps share the story of Lough and his new composition, "Ever Faithful to the Call," which is winning praise as Veterans Day (Nov. 11) approaches. [Read more](#) and listen to the song. [More Veteran's Day Worship Resources are available here.](#)

Rev. Olu Brown, the guest preacher for Harvest Worship service on Sunday, shares about Understanding and Growing as Disciples



"Tending to the Harvest"
Discipleship Weekend



Registration Closes Nov. 11


Rev. Kyungsu Park

Growing Together Symposium
Sat., Nov. 13 from 9–11 am
Via Zoom


Rev. Olu Brown

All Conference Worship Service
Sun., Nov. 14 at 4–5:30 pm
In person and livestream

Sponsored by the
NIC Discipleship Task Force
www.umcnic.org/discipleship

[Click here](#) for Symposium registration and more information

[Click here](#) for Worship Service registration and more information

Aurora Church Hosts KAIROS Blanket Exercise



Joseph Standing Bear Schranz, a United Methodist, chronicled centuries of injustices imposed on native Americans by the U.S. government, settlers and European explorers. He keynoted a KAIROS interactive blanket exercise outdoors on the east lawn at Wesley UMC in Aurora.

[Learn more about the day here.](#)

WELCOMING AFGHAN EVACUEES TO ILLINOIS
Information Session conducted by WORLD RELIEF

Friday, November 12th from 6 pm to 7:15 pm

At Wheatland Salem Church

1852 95th Street • Naperville, Illinois

All Welcome • *For further info, call (773) 497-4141*

WE WELCOME
our Afghan neighbors.

world relief
SPOKANE



100s of Afghan evacuees who fled their country after the recent Taliban takeover, have begun to arrive in Chicagoland. This Friday, 11/12, at 6 pm, Wheatland Salem Church will host a comprehensive Information Session conducted by World Relief.

All are Welcome to join us to learn how to faithfully respond and welcome our new Afghan neighbors.



Bishop Hopkins Continues to Serve as Northern Illinois Conference Interim Bishop

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has approved extending retired Bishop John L. Hopkins interim assignment in the Northern Illinois Conference into 2022. Thank you Bishop Hopkins for agreeing to stay on another year! [Read more here.](#)

Mission Project for First Vietnamese



Over 20 years ago the NIC launched First Vietnamese UMC. Unfortunately, this summer the building was extensively damaged.

United Church of Rogers Park has put forth a donation of \$1000. They are challenging 10 other congregations.

CAN YOUR CHURCH STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

As a district, we will rally around our sister congregation to help them rebuild. Can you give your time, talent or treasure to help? We are looking for project managers, electricians, and contractors. In a couple of months we will need dry wallers and painters. If you would like to make a financial contribution you can send it to the Northern IL Conference (PO Box 5646, Carol Stream, IL 60197-5646) and indicate First Vietnamese. If you would like to volunteer, please contact DS Rev. Brittany Isaac 773-633-0498 or bisaac@umcnic.org



Two Event Options: **Sat. Nov 20, 2021** **Sat. March 19, 2022**
CANCELLED 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Northern Illinois Conference **First UMC, Downers Grove** **First UMC, Freeport**
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
The Office of Congregational Development & Redevelopment
www.umcnic.org/calendar/vital-merger-workshop

Churches come in all forms of health: some are healthy and growing, others are maintaining the status quo, and some are declining. But they all have one thing in common – they want to be fruitful and healthy. One way this can happen is through partnerships or mergers. Attend this workshop featuring Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy & Leadership Development from the Michigan Conference, and explore new ways your church might become healthier through a merger.

Cost \$20 (includes box lunch)

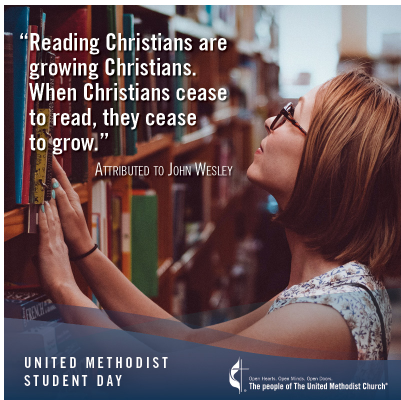
November Reporter Available Online

Access the latest NIC news and information in the [November Reporter](#) now available online. [In his monthly column](#), Bishop John L. Hopkins poses his final question in a series about the future of the Church.

Learn more about how First UMC in Evanston is helping provide clean water in Kenya, read about the Prairie North District's United Methodist Men potato drop to help feed hundreds in the community, and get a [year in review](#) from United Voices for Children.



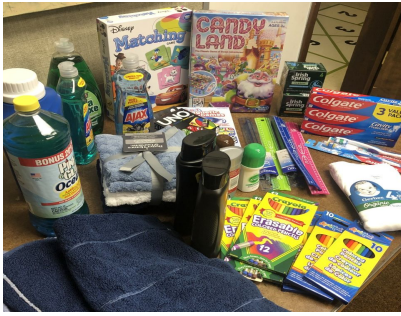
We have seen an increase in email scams with people pretending to be the Bishop or District Superintendents. If you receive emails from the conference that are not from @umenic.org, it is a spam email. To be clear, the conference will NOT contact you or solicit anything via generic email. All financial gifts always go through the conference's regular collections process. If you ever get an email or phone call that seems strange or odd, contact your district administrative assistant to check it out before responding to such a request.



Special Sunday: United Methodist Student Day 2021 - (Nov. 28)

United Methodist Student Day (last Sunday of November) furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. This offering helps provide for more than 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. [Click for resources.](#)

Fall fill-the-truck collection drive for Haiti and disaster relief



The NIC Board of Global Ministries with the Midwest Mission Distribution Center is organizing a fall collection drive from **Nov. 29 - Dec. 7** to support recovery efforts from the 2021 Hurricanes and the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti. Several collection sites are set up around the conference to drop off your donations with more TBD. For items needed and more information on times and locations for collection, [click here](#).



Put your Holiday Spirit into action by stepping up to support Kids Above All's Holiday Gift Drive 2021. You can help make the holidays joyful and bright for all the children they serve in a variety of ways, including sponsoring children, volunteering in their toy room Dec 1-13, and/or [ordering online](#) to help stock their pop-up toy store. If you would like to help, contact Deaconess Catherine Inserra at 847-224-2870 or cinserra@kidsaboveall.org.



2021-2022 Directory Available

Are you looking to replace your directory with one that has the most recent info? The 2021-2022 Directory is now available [for \\$7 printed on Amazon](#) or [available for free to download on our website](#).

Please remember: The information in this directory and search function is for the

use of NIC churches, related groups, clergy, lay and staff in conducting business and making connections at the conference, district and local church level. Contact information may not be used for solicitation purposes or by outside organizations to share or generate email lists without written consent.

PRAIRIE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Save the Date!

January 29, 2022

More info to come

SAVE THE DATE

Laity Convocation 2022

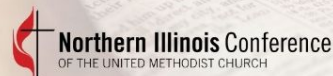
Saturday, February 12th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m via ZOOM
"Hold Fast to the Mast: Spiritual Formation for a New Time"

Equipping & Encouraging Growth in Discipleship

NIC Prayer Network

Monthly calendar with devotions, prayer tools and more!

umcnic.org/prayernetwork





If you would like to receive the weekly Confernece eNews and other important announcements, including sympathy notices and appointment announcements, please sign up online. No need to sign up if you're already on the mailing list. [Click here](#) to enter your name and email.

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