

# Here's your September news from the Prairie North District

**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](#).

## From the District Superintendent



Dear Prairie North District friends,

November is Thanksgiving season, time to count our blessings, time to say thank you, time to be aware of God's love, care and protection. What are you thankful for? We have so much to be thankful for! Yes, we continue facing challenging times in our world, country, and church, but even in the midst of all this, we can give thanks to the Lord, for God is GOOD! Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

As Christians, we are called to be thankful always and in all circumstances. I'm thankful for all of you, pastors, leaders, and church members, who invest their time, gifts, talents, money and energy to serve God through in your church and community.

We are the Church, and we are all very important in fulfilling the mission that God has put in our hands and hearts. Thank you for all you have done, all you are doing and all you are ready to do. Let us keep working and trusting that God will take care of you and of our church.

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess. 5:18 (NRSV)**


**Happy Thanksgiving!!**

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer  
Prairie North District Superintendent, NIC UMC

## 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**

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

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

Rev. Kyungsu Park

Rev. Olu Brown

Sponsored by the  
NIC Discipleship Task Force  
[www.umcnic.org/discipleship](http://www.umcnic.org/discipleship)

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

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

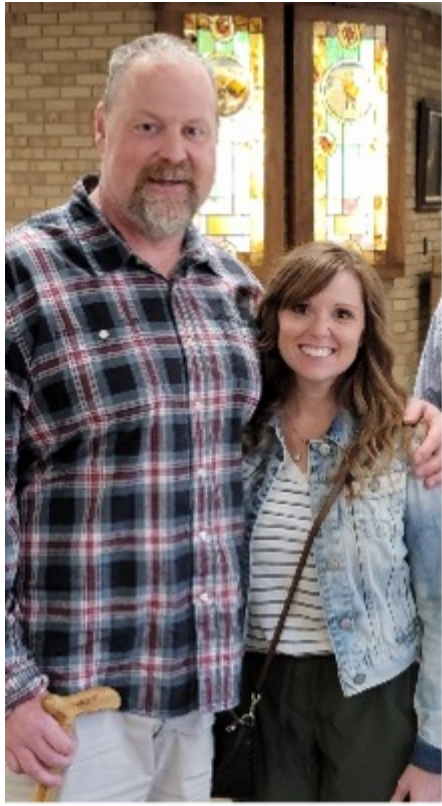
## Harmony UMC in Freeport held 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pig Roast Benefit

Harmony UMC in Freeport held their 4th annual Pig Roast Benefit on September 18, 2021. This has been a ministry of the Men's group since 2018. Each year the men pick some groups to share in 100% of the proceeds received from this event. It has proved to be a great success in bringing the church members together to serve our community, while having a direct impact on people who are in need. It also brings awareness to the community of how they can share their resources to the Glory of God.

In the past they have shared the gifts with: The Epilepsy Foundation, Voices of Stephenson County, The Stephenson County Senior Resources Center. For the last two years they wanted to get a bit more personal in their approach, so they searched for individual families. In the first three years they were blessed to share over \$12,000. This year they were able to help two local families with over \$10,000.

On the day of the event, they experienced a glimpse of what it looked like on that mountain when the 5000 showed up and Jesus challenged his disciples with how to feed the crowd. They too saw a miracle happen before them.

Harmony continues to explore ways to live into our mission statement of: "To know Christ and to make Christ Known." They are looking forward to the next opportunity they have to share God's grace through being examples of servants in the Kingdom.



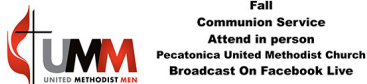
The Darin Davis Family



The Nash Harnish Family & Bob Garvens and Harold Lingel UMM



**Join Us on November 20, 2021**



**Fall  
Communion Service  
Attend in person  
Pecatonica United Methodist Church  
Broadcast On Facebook Live**

**Our Speaker is, DS Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer:  
Her message is, "Called and Sent"**



DS Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer was born and raised in Chile in the Methodist Church; her father is a Methodist pastor and Bishop (B). For five years she coordinated a program called Youth in Mission for all Latin America and the Caribbean Methodist churches. She was the Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the World Methodist Council.

In addition to her previous experience with the global church, Fabiola has been a tremendous asset in the revitalization, organization, and health of our Hispanic/Latin missions in the UMC.

Grandon-Mayer has served at Elgin: First UMC (2012), Rockford: Centennial Multicultural UMC (2014), and in 2019 Bishop Sally Dyck appointed her as the Rockford District Superintendent (now Prairie North District). She is passionate about preaching the Word of God and organizing events to strengthen the life and mission of the church.

**SPECIAL MEN'S Blessing Family**



Remember to bring your banks and / or your Men's check for the "Meals for Millions". We have helped our conference to be the number 1 Conference in the country the last four years. Help make a difference in feeding the country.

Attend in person.

Face Masks are required

This Service will be broadcast on Facebook Live

Join us at **Pecatonica UMC** for Worship, Renewal  
528 Washington Street, Pecatonica, IL 61063  
8:30am gathering 9:00 am Worship/Communion

Please contact **Dave Hilton** to reserve your spot!  
(815) 218-0577, email [Dvohilton@yahoo.com](mailto:Dvohilton@yahoo.com)  
There will be Coffee and Rolls served at 8:30

## **United Methodist Men – Fall District**

### **Communion Service**

**Saturday, November 20, 2021**

**8:30 am Gathering / 9:00 am Worship/Communion**

Watch on Live Stream or attend in person at Pecatonica UMC

528 Washington Street, Pecatonica, IL 61063

Speaker is DS Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer:

Message is, "Called and Sent"

[More info here.](#)

### **Rockford Urban Ministries Update: Interfaith Thanksgiving, CROP Walk and new Grant**

- The Crop Hunger Walk is still accepting donations [here](#).
- This year's Thanksgiving Interfaith Program is [online](#): Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021
- [The Rockford Interfaith Council 33d Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will also be online.](#)
- Violet Johnicker has secured a grant for a part time organizer to focus on building public support for the Pretrial Fairness Act as part of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' criminal justice reform bill that passed in January of this year, eliminating the unjust practice of money bond - incarcerating people before they have been convicted of a crime just because they don't have the cash to pay bond. Beginning in 2023 pretrial incarceration will be based solely on whether a person poses a specific threat, and wealth plays no role in who is incarcerated and who is free. To learn more about this issue and how Illinois is leading the country in restorative justice practices, visit [endmoneybond.org](http://endmoneybond.org).

**WELCOMING AFGHAN EVACUEES TO ILLINOIS**  
**Information Session conducted by WORLD RELIEF**

Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 7:15 pm

**At Wheatland Salem Church**

1852 95<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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

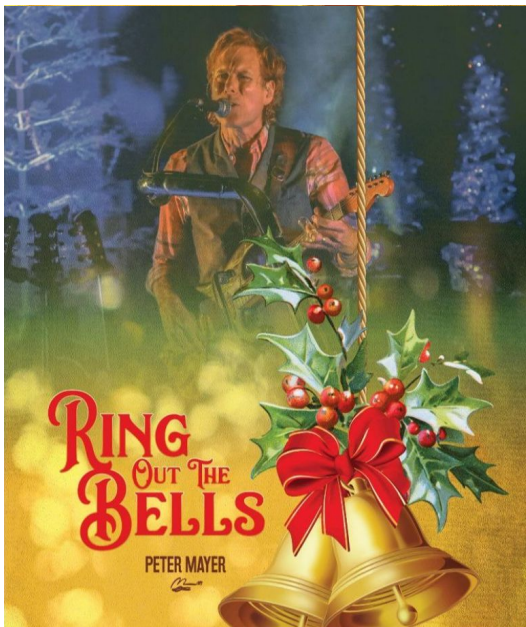
healthier through a merger.

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.



## Peter Mayer Stars and Promises Concert

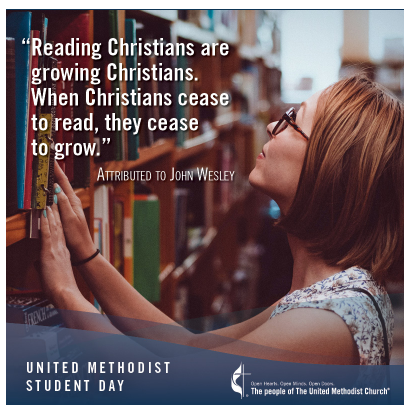
Roscoe United Methodist is hosting the December 17th "Ring Out the Bells 2022" Stars & Promises concert at Hononegah High School Performing Arts Center, 307 Salem Street, Rockton, IL 61072 at 7:30 PM, Doors open at 6:30 PM. Proceeds benefit Gigi's Playhouse and Rockton Food Pantry. General seating is \$35 through [EventBrite](#)



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 @umcnic.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.](#)

## Praying together

### *District prayer focus in November*

Week of 7th - ROCKFORD: ALDERSGATE – Pastor Brett Todd

Week of 14th - FREEPORT: HARMONY – Pastor Eddie Eddy

Week of 21st - FORRESTON – Pastor Sung-Eun Kim

Week of 28th - FREEPORT: FAITH – Pastor Melissa Meyers

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" – Philippians 4:6*

# Praying together

## ***District prayer focus in December***

Week of 5th - CEDARVILLE – Pastor Gary Rich

Week of 12th - PECATONICA – Pastor Rolland Hayag

Week of 19th - GERMAN VALLEY – Pastor Don Plock

Week of 26th - VAN BROCKLIN-FLORENCE – CLM Dawn Barr

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” – Philippians 4:6*

## NOVEMBER

### ACTIVE AND RETIRED CLERGY BIRTHDAYS

**11/2 - Carolyn Lukasick (Rockton)**

**11/4 - Matthew Mariani  
(Hampshire: First & Zion)**

**11/17 - Jonathan Singleton  
(Stockton: Calvary)**

**11/18 - Roger Bronkema (Warren)**



# DECEMBER

ACTIVE AND RETIRED CLERGY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Thomas Hay (Hunter & Blaine)
- 2 - Leslie Stanford (Dakota-Rock Grove)
- 18 - Taekhwan Lee (Rockford: Christ)
- 21 - James Gibbons (Retired)



## November



- 13 - Growing Together Symposium**
- 14 - Conference Worship**  
@ Schaumburg: Our Saviour's
- 17 - District Clergy Gathering**  
- Thanksgiving Celebration
- 20 - UMM - District Communion Service**  
@ Pecatonica UMC
- 25 - Thanksgiving Day**



connect \* support \* share

## Rockford District Clergy

Montly meetings via  zoom

3rd Wednesday at 9:30 am

**Next meeting: November 17**  
Thanksgiving Celebration



Northern Illinois Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*(No Clergy Gathering in December)*

### 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](mailto: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.*

This is a promotional graphic for 'Prairie North Leadership Training'. The background is a warm, orange-toned image of three people silhouetted against a bright light, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The text 'PRAIRIE NORTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING' is written in large, bold, brown capital letters on the left. To the right of the silhouettes, the text 'Save the Date!' is written in large, bold, orange capital letters, followed by 'January 29, 2022' in the same style. At the bottom, in smaller brown capital letters, it says 'More info to come'.

This is a promotional graphic for the 'Laity Convocation 2022'. The background is a dark, grainy image of a large group of people sitting in a church sanctuary. Overlaid on this image is the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in large, bold, white capital letters. Below that, 'Laity Convocation 2022' is written in the same style. Further down, the date and time 'Saturday, February 12th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m via ZOOM' are listed in white. At the bottom, the theme '“Hold Fast to the Mast: Spiritual Formation for a New Time”' is written in white, enclosed in quotation marks.



If you would like to receive the weekly Conferenece 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.

Like Us on Facebook: [Prairie North District](#)

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