

Here's your October 14 District News

Rev. Jeffry Bross, District Superintendent

From Your District Superintendent

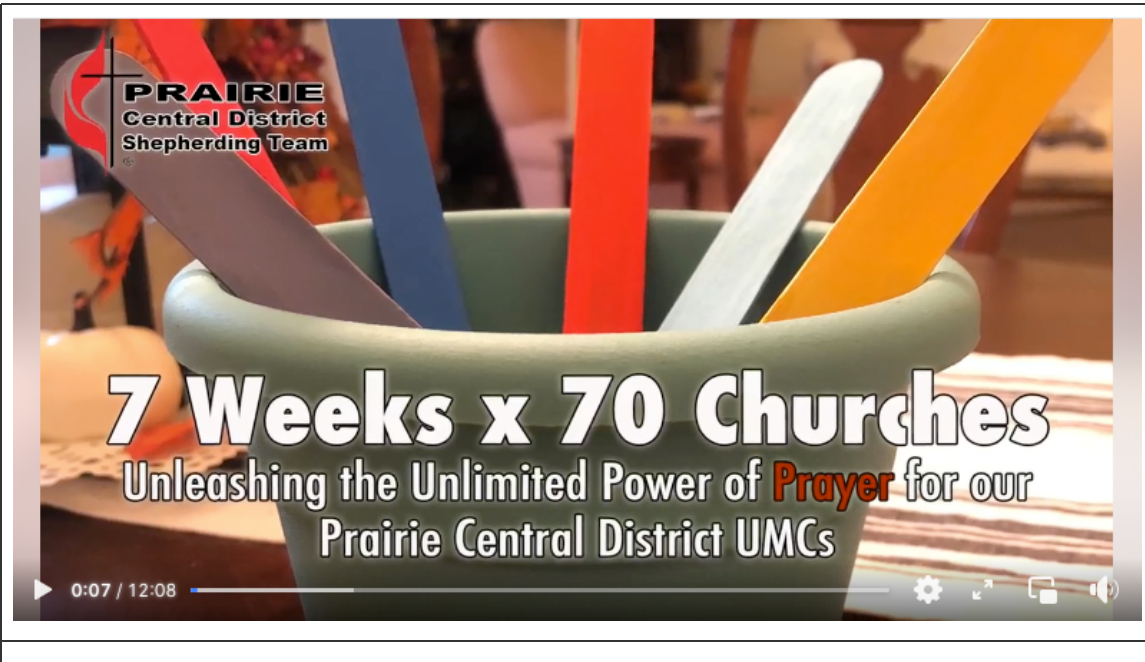


Recently I spent a few days in the woods near the Mississippi river. I sat amongst the trees and listened and watched, prayed and meditated. It was overwhelming to once again connect so deeply with creation. I had forgotten the sounds of rustling trees in the wind, the light pitter patter of rain drops falling on the canopy and the hammering of a woodpecker. I had forgotten how all the sounds in the woods come together and join in as a symphony of God's design. I had forgotten how everything takes on a more 3D look in the woods when distractions are taken away. I had forgotten how peaceful life can be.

The church is entering into a time of busy and important work. Church conferences, programming, worship planning for online and in-person, staffing decisions, budgets and the myriad of other tasks will take our focus, our time and our energy. I know that just a few days in the woods to reset has focused my energy and spirit on the work that is ahead of me. I know that the peace I was granted in those few precious moments will renew and energize me when ministry is hectic and intrusive.

Are you rested? Are you centered? Are you in tune with the renewing work of the Holy Spirit? You may not be able to go for a few days into the woods every week, but I encourage you to find time and space to renew your soul so that when you are asked the age-old Methodist question, "how is it with your soul?" you might be able to respond, that you are energized and eager, connected and loved. I am praying for each of you!

~Rev. Jeffry Bross
[Prairie Central District](#)



7 Weeks x 70 Churches: Unleashing the Unlimited Power of Prayer for the Prairie Central District beginning on Sunday, October 10, 2021

The Prairie Central District (PCD) Shepherding Team is inviting all congregations and individuals to participate in our prayer event, **7 Weeks x 70 Churches: Unleashing the Unlimited Power of Prayer for the Prairie Central District** which began on Sunday, October 10, 2021. No worries if you need to start later. We believe this is a great way for pastors and congregations in the former Aurora and Elgin districts to get to know one another. More importantly, we believe that by blanketing our district with prayer, we will better discern what God is calling us to do in these unprecedented times.

How can you participate?

1. **Watch our [overview video](#)** (see above)
2. **Obtain your group list of churches and church prayer needs** from your pastor or church leaders.
3. **Pray weekly** for one of the churches that is part of your group.
4. **Create a "prayer pot" or some other reminder to pray for the prayer needs of that church daily.** Ideas have been distributed to each church.
5. **Find ways to connect with the other congregations in your group** (connect suggestions are provided to each church pastor and church leaders).

If you have any questions or need more help please don't hesitate to contact the Prairie Central District Shepherding Team, chaired by Leonard Jones (pclayleader@gmail.com) and Felicia LaBoy (revlaboy@fumcelgin.org)!

Remember –

We pray for you, You pray for us -- and we'll watch God change things!

Pfizer Booster Vaccine Shots Available

Illinois department of public health will be administering Pfizer booster shots on



Wednesday, October 20th from 10am to 2pm,
@ Good Samaritan UMC, 960 W. Army Trail Blvd, Addison, Illinois 60101,
630-543-3725

Please bring your vaccine card.

Spread the word to get your booster vaccine!

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Life has been tough for all of us during the pandemic, including pastors. In this year's clergy wellbeing survey, Wespath found clergy are struggling in its findings. The survey looks at 5 dimensions: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and financial health. The only factor of these 5 dimensions that was stable is finances. Clergy health has declined, depression and isolation, even faltering faith were reflected in the survey results. "We cannot wave a magic wand and make all the factors challenging anyone's wellbeing go away. But perhaps this year is the right year to observe 'Clergy Appreciation Month,'" Rev. Arlene Christopherson, NIC Asst. to the Bishop/Dir. of Connectional Ministries writes in her monthly DYK article. "Who doesn't appreciate a word of encouragement, an acknowledgment that life has been hard, or a congregational 'hip-hip hurray.'" [Read more and find some tips and suggestions.](#)

Find a Crop Walk near you

If you don't have a local CROP Hunger Walk in your community, join us for the 2021 National CROP Hunger Walk on World Food Day, October 16. We will walk to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world! Walk on your treadmill, in your neighborhood, in a park with friends – you choose the location and the experience. Walk one day - 3.7 miles (the average distance a woman walks for water) or take the Weekend Challenge and walk 11.1 miles (3.7 miles for 3 days). Every step you take, every dollar you raise makes the walk shorter for neighbors in need by providing clean water, emergency food as well as livelihoods and access to education. Sign-up and start raising funds TODAY at crophungerwalk.org/usa. For more information, contact info@cwsglobal.org.

NIC UMW Annual Virtual Celebration



(Oct. 23) 9:30 - 11 am. Cost: \$10. The theme will be "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms; Listening, Transforming, Reaching Out." The keynote speaker will be Rev. Megan Dean Tobola, Lead Pastor at Naperville: Wesley. Megan was a 2010 UMW Scholarship recipient, and she will bring a message to remind us to "Lean on God" for inner peace and strength during these hectic, stressful, and trying times of our

lives. [Click here to register.](#)

October Reporter Available Online



The October issue of the Reporter is now available online and on its way to subscribers' mailboxes soon.

Bishop John L. Hopkins continues with question #6 about the future of the United Methodist Church in his monthly column. Also, read a wrap-up of the fall session of the 182nd Annual Conference with information on the 2022 budget and a new initiative to help fund clergy retirement. Also, find out where churches can help Afghan refugees and a fall fill-the-mission truck collection for disaster relief.

[Click](#) to access the online edition.

5th Sunday Appeal - (Oct. 31)



United Voices for Children (UVC) would like to thank Northern Illinois congregations for their faithful support through [5th Sunday Appeal](#) offerings in 2021. Your generosity helps UVC and its partners' [Kids Above All](#), [MYSI](#), and [Rosecrance](#) as they serve at-risk children, youth and families in our communities. Sunday, Oct. 31 is the final 5th Sunday Appeal of the year. You may either write a check payable to the church with "5th Sunday Appeal" in the memo line or simply donate online at bit.ly/giveuvc.

PRAIRIE CENTRAL FALL LAY ACADEMY

Dates: November 6 and November 13
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harvard: First, 1100 N. DuSable, Harvard, IL
Cost: \$40

Course Description: www.umcnic.org/prairie-central-lay-academy

For more information, please contact Mary Mecker,
Lay Ministries Chair, at mary.mecker@gmail.com



Growing Together Symposium
Sat., Nov. 13 from 9-11am via Zoom



November 13-14, 2021

Presenter: Rev. Kyungsu Park
Breakout sessions—"Discipling Youth" and
"Let's Talk About Intentional Discipleship Systems."

umcnic.org/calendar/growing-together-symposium

Sponsored by the NIC Discipleship Task Force

 **Northern Illinois Conference**
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



All Conference Worship Service

Tending to the Harvest
Sunday, November 14 at 3:30 pm
In person and livestream

Location: Our Saviour's UMC, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL
More info: umcnic.org/calendar/conference-worship

Rev. Olu Brown
Impact Church, Atlanta, Ga.

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

The NIC Board of Global Missions is organizing a fall collection drive to support recovery efforts from the 2021 Hurricanes and the recent devastating Earthquake in Haiti. [Please check the NIC website for future information about the collection site locations, pick up schedule and other updates.](#)

Fall Ministry Grant Applications Open

Applications are now being accepted for the NIC's three ministry grants, Social Reform, Congregational Development, and Creative Ministries. The deadline to apply is Nov. 1. To learn more about each grant and for an online application, [click here.](#)



Equipping & Encouraging Growth in Discipleship

NIC Prayer Network

Monthly calendar with devotions, prayer tools and more!

umcnic.org/prayernetwork

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OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Jeffry Bross

[Prairie Central](#) District Superintendent

jbross@umcnic.org

312-346-9766 ext. 783

Leola Tucker

Administrative Assistant

ltucker@umcnic.org

312-346-9766 ext. 733

Northern Illinois Conference
of The United Methodist Church
77 W. Washington Street, Suite 1820
Chicago, IL 60602

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