

Here's your September news from the Prairie North District

From the District Superintendent



Dear Prairie North District friends,

October is a special month. The second Sunday is designated as Pastor's Appreciation Day, and the third Sunday is Laity Sunday. During this month, we have an opportunity to appreciate the pastor's work and recognize the laity in our congregations.

It is vital to find time to celebrate the commitment of each pastor and the laity in our churches. We need each other, and we need the gifts and talents that we all can invest in God's Kingdom.

I want to express my gratitude to all of you, Pastors and Laity, who work tirelessly in fulfilling the mission that God has given us. We know that we often feel overwhelmed by all the demands around us but remember that we are doing sacred and important work as Christ's followers.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phi. 4:4 NIV). Let us continue serving the Lord together with a strong commitment, passion, dedication, and a joyful heart, and let us always celebrate that we have each other.

As we continue facing challenges and uncertainty, God's call is to trust in him, to turn our eyes upon him, and to remember always that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Let us pray for each pastor, laity, our local churches, conference, and United Methodist Church.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

[Prairie North District](#) Superintendent, NIC UMC

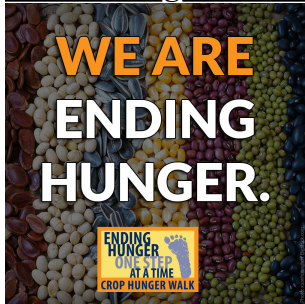
United Methodist Men Potato Drop - Sat, October 16



The Rockford Grace United Methodist Men and the Prairie North District United Methodist Men will have a potato drop on **Saturday Oct. 16th** beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Grace United Methodist Church's parking lot. There is **NO cost** for the potatoes. Drive through Grace UMC's parking lot and tell us how many 10 lb. bags you would like, and we will put them in your vehicle.

Prairie North District UMM is the largest supporter of the Meals for Million Program of the Society of St. Andrews in the country for all 50 +/- Conferences.

CROP Hunger Walk Going Virtual (Again)



WHAT: 35th Annual Rockford Area CROP Hunger Walk

WHEN: Sunday, October 17, 2021

2 pm: Virtual Step off

WHERE: From where ever you are

Because of Coronavirus, this year's Rockford Area CROP Hunger Walk will be mainly on line and virtual. The "walk" will be held on Sunday October 17, 2021 and can be completed at the individuals' speed. It is hoped that people can raise \$45,000 to help support the local hunger programs and overseas relief. (Last year the Rockford Walk raised an astounding \$44,000 on line!)

Donations will be raised through cash sponsorships solicited by the walkers themselves. Volunteer walkers can call David Jones, Chair of the walk, at 815) 540-3703 for sponsor sheets, or contact one of 41 congregations and businesses that are walking.

We need your help to support these efforts. Please support the local CROP Walk, or send your contribution to:

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515

To make a contribution via credit card or for more information please call 800-297-1516 or visit www.churchworldservice.org.

"Burning the Mortgage" Celebration at Belvidere First

Praying together

District prayer focus in October

Week of 3rd – DURAND – Pastor Brenda Byrne

Week of 10th - DAKOTA ROCK GROVE – Pastor Leslie Stanford

Week of 17th - MACHESNEY PARK: EVANS – Pastor Heewon Kim

Week of 24th – FREEPORT: FIRST – Pastor Natarsha Gardner

Week of 31st - DAVIS – Pastor Brenda Byrne

"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 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

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, Wespeth 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.](#)

OCTOBER

ACTIVE AND RETIRED CLERGY BIRTHDAYS

10/2 - Robert Watson (Retired Clergy)
10/3 - Rich Ottens (Hanover)
10/5 - Tércio Junker (Poplar Grove)
10/9 - Uziel Hernandez
(Rockford: Centennial Multicultural)
10/16 - Sung-Ja Lee Moon (Retired Clergy)
10/22 - Rodney Dillinger (Retired Clergy)
10/23 - George Woosman (Retired Clergy)







Calendar

October

16 – “Free Potatoes” – UM Men
16-17 - Fall Lay Academy
20 – Clergy Meeting (Zoom)
28 - DCOM



Prairie North Clergy Zoom Gathering

Clergy in the Prairie North District will gather the third Wednesday of every month via zoom to check in, connect and support each other. Clergy will receive an email on the day before the meeting, with the information to join in or call in.

Next Clergy Meeting: October 20th - 9:30am

October Reporter Available Online



Rev. Kerie Wager, Clerk of Daily Proceedings (left) opens the business of the fall session of the 182nd Annual Conference.



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.

Growing Together Symposium

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



“Tending to
the Harvest”
Discipleship Weekend

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.

Sponsored by the NIC Discipleship Task Force

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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.](#)

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.](#)

New Prairie North District Facebook Page

A great way to stay connected and receive updates about happenings in our district. Like Us on Facebook: [Prairie North District](#)



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Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer
[Prairie North](#) District Superintendent
312-346-9766, ext. 781
fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org

Debra Rogers
Prairie District Administrative Assistant

630-465-2941
drogers@umcnic.org

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

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