

Here's your September news from the Prairie North District



Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, District Superintendent

From the District Superintendent



Dear Prairie North District friends,

We continue in Church Conference season. Churches are working hard on trying to have everything ready in a timely manner. Over the years, we've seen and experienced that Church Conference is not only about reports but a time to celebrate the ministry in your setting and pray for the way forward as a church.

It's been a blessing to hear about the ministries that are going on in your context. Despite the pandemic that is not over yet, churches have found creative ways to keep doing ministries and continue to impact other people's lives. It's also been good to name the storms you've faced as a church: attendance, finances, building closing, deaths, etc.

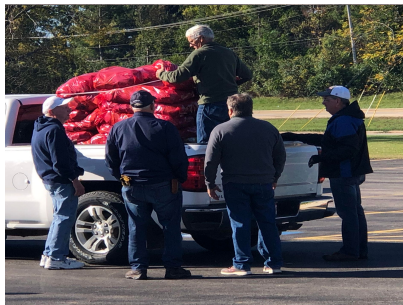
As we continue facing challenges and “storms,” let us always remember that, as Jesus calmed the storm for the disciples, he will be calming our storms today. The church continues its mission, and pastors and leaders will continue finding a way to plan the seasons.

Let us continue our journey in faith and hope. I pray for each of the pastors, deacons, deaconesses, lay ministers, and laity in our Prairie North District. May God help us to find joy and share the joy in the midst of what we are facing. Please remember that we are called to make a difference in our communities with our voices, acts, and gestures.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer
[Prairie North District](#) Superintendent, NIC UMC

Thousands of Families Fed

By Steve Nailor, United Methodist Men Foundation President



40,000 lbs. of potatoes were delivered to Grace United Methodist Church in early morning when Grace United Methodist Men and the Prairie North District United Methodist Men hosted a potato drop at Grace United Methodist Church in Rockford, IL on October 16th.

Local pantries, news media, and the Northern Illinois Annual Conference spread word throughout the area. Pantries were able to take advantage of the produce to help put food on tables, as well as individuals who drove through to pick up their potatoes at no cost. Several volunteers filled their trunks with potatoes and shared them with people in store parking lots.



The Potato Project is a program of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) headquartered in Big Island, Virginia. The Society was started by Rev. Ken Horne and Rev. Ray Buchanan, two United Methodist ministers, concerned with world hunger. In 1979, the two ministers were granted "a special appointment beyond the local church" by the Virginia Conference. The Society of St. Andrew adheres to Christian principles of good stewardship. Therefore, about 93% of all funds raised by the Society of St. Andrew are spent on the direct delivery of food and services to the hungry. They focus on cost-effective ways to move

produce to the tables of hungry Americans instead of to landfills, reducing waste and fulfilling a social need at the same time. Since the Potato Project was started in 1979, over 500 million pounds of produce have been salvaged and distributed through this and other SoSA programs.

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



Presenter: Rev. Kyungsu Park

The focus of his presentation is that you can't have discipleship without relationship. In that sense, our leaders have to "grow together" with their youth if they hope to help make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Attendees are encouraged to remain after the morning presentation to participate in breakout sessions, "Let's Talk About IDS: Intentional Discipleship Systems" on discipling youth and other members of your church.

umcnic.org/calendar/growing-together-symposium



Rev. Kyungsu Park

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



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

All Conference Worship Service Tending to the Harvest Sun., Nov. 14 at 4-5:30 pm In person and livestream



Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37"

Our Saviour's UMC, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL
Space is limited. Registration required. Masks required.

"To-Go" refreshments available following the worship service.

umcnic.org/calendar/conference-worship



Rev. Olu Brown
Impact Church, Atlanta, Ga.

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



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Two Event Options: **Sat. Nov 20, 2021** **Sat. March 19, 2022**
 9:00 am to 3:00 pm 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)



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](#). The downloadable file is password protected, the password is Psalm100.

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.

5th Sunday Appeal

October 31, 2021



Don't miss 2021's last special offering
to support the work
of United Voices for Children and its partners:



unitedvoicesforchildren.org/donate/

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 unitedvoicesforchildren.org/donate/

**Don't forget October is
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

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

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)



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

20 - Vital Merger Workshop

@ First UMC - Downers Grove

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

FALL BACK
Daylight Savings Time
Ends November 7, 2021



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](#).

Kids Above All Holiday Gift Drive 2021



Put your Holiday Spirit into action by stepping up to support Kids Above All's Holiday Gift Drive 2021. There are a variety of ways to do this by sponsoring children, volunteering in our Toy Room during Dec 1-13th, And/or ordering online to help stock our pop-up Toy Store. We are committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and education Of our kids above all else which means helping to make the holidays joyful and bright.

Contact Deaconess Catherine Inserra – 847/224-2870
or cinserra@kidsaboveall.org



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

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