

Thanksgiving Blessings!

Greetings of the season!

What comes to mind when you think of Thanksgiving? What imagery, scents, sounds, and tastes bring back memories of this holiday for you? Likely, our mouths begin to water as we imagine our families' traditional meal. It is likely that our minds bring us to tables surrounded by loved ones. Can you smell your favorite dish cooking in the oven?

In thinking about Thanksgiving, it is this table that comes to mind. There's nothing like being surrounded by loved ones, sharing in conversation, and demonstrating love by sharing a good meal. Having had to change so many of our customs and traditions over the past two years, we understand that now more than ever.

This Thanksgiving may be a return to our familiar gatherings or it may still be different for many of us. There may be fewer people around the table, and yet, maybe too, this Thanksgiving we can expand our table even farther. When we think of Thanksgiving and loved ones around the table, we are swept up into the imagery of communion — when we accept the invitation from Christ to gather at his table. It is here where we offer ourselves — our apologies and our gratitude. It is here where we are united with loved ones near and far, living and dead.

When you sit at the table this Thanksgiving, we invite you to imagine yourself at the communion table, a table where all of God's children are welcomed. In that spirit, we invite you to consider participating in our Thanksgiving offering. It supports the efforts of our Mission, Justice, and Community Work Area in helping our congregation to partner with and support a variety of outreach and social justice ministries. These ministries offer the inclusiveness of the communion table, seeking to remove any barrier that would keep one from living healthfully and fully.



You will find a giving envelope for your Thanksgiving offering included in this mailing.

If you are able, please consider giving in the spirit of communion, with a generous and thankful heart. To give, place your giving envelope in a mailing envelope and send it to the office to the attention of "Thanksgiving Offering" or drop it in the church mailbox outside the southwest entrance door. You may also place your giving envelope in the basket when you attend a worship service or give online at dgfumc.org/giving (choose outreach).

Whether your table is set for one or more this Thanksgiving, know that your church family is near. Know that you are seated at a table far bigger. Know that you are cared for at this table. Know that your gifts are received at this table.

In gratitude,

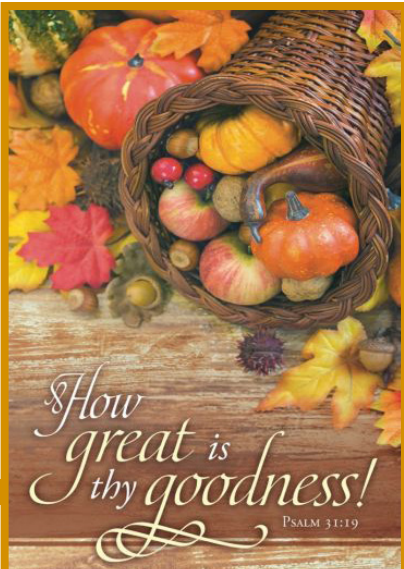
Andi

Claude

Pastor Andi Voinovich

Pastor Claude R. King

in collaboration with the members of the Mission, Justice, and Community Work Area



Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. in the Chapel
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
and on YouTube

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

Messy Church – 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of the month
for families of young children

Church Communications

Our weekly e-newsletter, called *Happenings*, is one of the main ways we communicate with members and friends. Information about worship, including our online worship link, and a great deal of other information is included. To be added to the list, email carolyn@dgfumc.org.



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Together We Do More

United Methodists have always believed that faith is as much a matter of doing as of speaking or thinking. While we accomplish much on our own, we multiply the effects of our efforts when we join with others.

Through our Northern Illinois Conference (NIC), we participate in the Mission Links: Living the Beatitudes Program (formerly Rainbow Covenant) to support local, regional, and international mission projects and ministries. This program is guided by Jesus' blessings during his Sermon on the Mount as recounted in Matthew 5, known as the beatitudes. In verses 1-12, Jesus offers a description of the various forms human

goodness can take. The projects and ministries described in Mission Links are matched with one or more beatitudes that allow the church to "advance" the cause of Christ and work for the public good.

On behalf of our church, our Mission, Justice, and Community Work Area selects ministries or missionaries from eight categories, including Global Advance Projects, Disaster Relief (United Methodist Committee on Relief), U.S. Based Projects, Conference Advance Projects, Northern Illinois Conference Advance Projects, NIC District Projects, and Missionary Support to distribute the generous funds received at Thanksgiving.

Supporting Our Community

Your Thanksgiving and Easter offerings are the main funding for our church's Outreach Ministries to be agents of transformation through our gifts and our labor. The following are only a few of the organizations that received support from your generous gifts. Visit dgfumc.org/giving and choose outreach to give online. Thank you!

Our Congregation's Impact

We partner with and donate to organizations both near and far to address the needs of our brothers and sisters. Here are a few of the organizations your gifts will support in the coming year:



Bridge Communities

mentors families from homelessness to independent living by providing temporary

housing, guidance (budgeting advice, tutoring, and more), care, and stability. Our church provides mentors for three families. bridgecommunities.org



DuPage Pads provides interim and permanent housing, coupled with

support services in order to help individuals work toward becoming self-sufficient. These vital support services along with case management, life coaching, and employment support helps stop the cycle of homelessness. Clients are helped with food, medical, dental, and/or transportation vouchers, plus guidance to appropriate social agencies. dupagepads.org



DuPage World Relief

is a global Christian humanitarian organization

whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. They come alongside refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations as they rebuild their lives in the U.S. The organization is a part of a national network through which more than 400,000 immigrants and refugees have been welcomed into this country. worldrelief.org

We also give to other organizations close to our congregation's hearts including DuPage NAACP, People's Resource Center, Sharing Connections, Watts of Love, Wesley Woods Retreat Center, UPAVIM scholarships, Youth Outlook, and many other organizations.

Putting Faith Into Action



Members of our church community participated in the annual CROP Hunger Walk this fall and raised nearly \$10,000 to help stock our local food banks, and national and international organizations to fight hunger in the world. More than 40 people participated in the walk, including many young people from Deacon Wes's confirmation classes.



Our church's Pumpkin Patch provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship! It's also a great way to reach out to the local community. This year the profits went to Dupage Pads to help in their efforts to assist those families and individuals struggling with homelessness.

In the Patch: Adult Trivia Night, our photo booth, artful pumpkin tables, and families watching *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!*

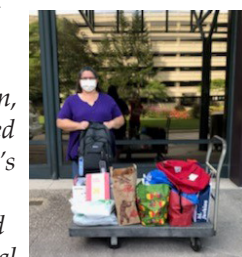


A small, enthusiastic group of volunteers cleaned all the new cushions from the sanctuary under the helpful eyes of Don and Joanne Colby. A mission we have all appreciated!



Volunteers from our church (left photo) help serve breakfast a few times a week through Alex's Mission,

a homeless ministry that helps those in need in downtown Downers Grove. Our church's DuPage Pads overnight ministry is still suspended. Our members have donated and delivered meals and funds to families at local hotels throughout the past year!



Kids Above All were the recipients of our congregation's donations of school supplies and backpacks on Children's Sabbath Sunday.