

OCTOBER
2025

United in Faith News



October

*Why are we
Here?
We are to
be **God's
hands,
feet and
voice
in the
world.***



Love One Another — Even Now

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." — John 13:34-35
Jesus could not be clearer. Love one another. He says it twice, just to make sure we don't miss it. And he doesn't just mean love in theory. Jesus he means real, stubborn, show-up kind of love. The kind of love that makes people stop and notice.

Martin Luther would call this the very heart of the Christian life. We are justified by grace through faith, not by works, not by how well we follow the rules, not by being the "right" kind of person. God's love comes first. Everything we do is a response to that love. Luther even said, "God doesn't need your good works — but your neighbor does." That's the point.

And let's be honest, loving one another isn't easy right now. We are living in a time when everything feels like a fight. Culture wars rage over classrooms, libraries, election signs in our neighbor's yard. The news makes it sound like the whole country is shouting at each other.

But Jesus doesn't say "love one another, **except** those people." He doesn't say "love one another even when you agree on politics or theology." He says love one another as he has loved us. And let's be clear, Jesus loved tax collectors and zealots, women caught in sin and men who betrayed him, sick folks, poor folks, annoying disciples who never seemed to get it.

Christianity is a commitment, not a performance. It's not about being seen as holy or "winning" an argument. It's about choosing the way of love, even when it costs us. Even when it feels like swimming upstream.

Luther would remind us that this kind of love flows from freedom. Grace sets us free from fear, free from proving ourselves, free from fighting for our worth. And in that freedom, we are called to be "little Christs" for our neighbors — to show up, to serve, to heal.

This month, let's lean into that freedom. Let's love so boldly that in a world obsessed with division, people notice. They'll know we are Christians by our love. Not by what side we're on, but by the way we show up for one another, for strangers, for the world God loves.

Blessings,
Pr. Jeanie

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

+

Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

+

Reflect
God's **Love**

+

Pray and
listen for God's
guidance

+

Continue to
strengthen
faith

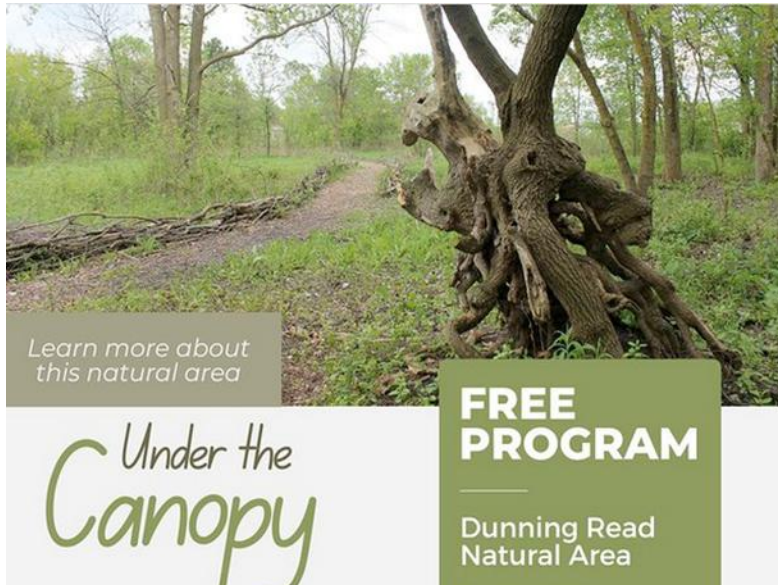
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Include **All**
in **God's
work**

+

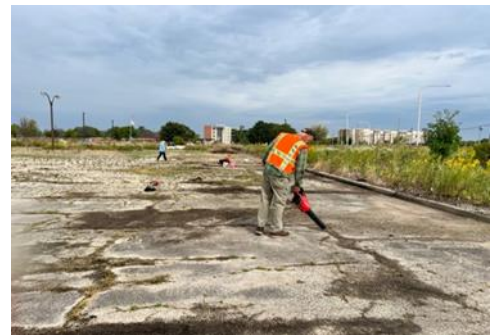
Meet people
**where they
are**

DUNNING READ NATURAL AREA



Dunning Read Natural Area is located at
4300 N Oak Park Avenue
Chicago, IL

Every 3rd Saturday the Dunning Read Natural Area gathers neighbors to reclaim this natural wetland and shape it into a neighborhood retreat from the traffic and the bustle of Irving Park Road. If you love quiet green space and to get your hands dirty, this is for you. This long-term project is worth your attention.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd.**



**You get to sleep in an extra hour!
See you at church at 10:00 am.**

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB



Join us on **Saturday, October 11 at 10:00** to discuss the graphic novel ***Ginseng Roots - A Memoir*** by Craig Thompson.

Ginseng Roots follows Craig and his siblings, who spent the summers of their youth weeding and harvesting rows of coveted American ginseng on rural Wisconsin farms for one dollar an hour. In his trademark breathtaking pen-and-ink work, Craig interweaves this lost youth with the 300-year-old history of the global ginseng trade and the many lives it has tied together—from ginseng hunters in ancient China, to industrial farmers and migrant harvesters in the American Midwest, to his own family still grappling with the aftershocks of the bitter past.

Stretching from Marathon, Wisconsin, to Northeast China, *Ginseng Roots* charts the rise of industrial agriculture, the decline of American labor, and the search for a sense of home in a rapidly changing world.

Barnes and Noble

This is no comic book you read in one sitting; *Ginseng Roots* is chock-full of narrative, interviews, reflection, and maps.

Englewood Review of Books



JOIN US FOR THE LADIES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Monday Ladies Discussion group is open to all women to join. The topics are decided on by the participants, written down, then pulled from a jar.

The group meets every Monday except the fourth Monday of the month.

If there are five Mondays in the month, the group will meet on the fifth Monday. You may contact Dian Hoyem for information.

Come join the lively discussions and make some new friends!

GIRL SCOUTS NEWS AT UNITED IN FAITH



We are back in the swing of things with our Ulf Girl Scouts! We have several new Daisies and Brownies and some girls moved into different troop levels. We are planning our Investiture and Rededication this month and will help in a small way with the Empty Bowls fundraiser for the Food Pantry. As always we have lots of ideas for things to do and are looking for any girls who might want to join in the fun!

Janeen, Sharon, Catherine, Michelle, Colleen and Dawn



October 3

Mary Haas

October 15

Tricia Dombroski

October 23

**Stanley & Dawk Kuswik
Anniversary**

October 24

Bonnie Maginnis

October 31

Gerald & Joy LaCour Anniversary

October 31

John Dombroski

Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 4th at 10:30 pm

(in UIF Back Parking Lot)

Please bring your pet on a leash or in a cage to "keep the peace." This worship service is casual and relaxed (and often interrupted by barking and sniffing and pacing and squirming). Feel free to invite friends and their pets. Please remember that both you and your pet must be social.



Pet Blessing

Pet Blessing

Garden of Eden?

No, just some major refurbishment of the UIF garden areas in the front of the building and near the front and back doors. The back area has needed new dirt since the tuck pointing and roof replacement took place. The front has sometimes gone to weeds and since it is the "face" of our building, we want it to be as presentable as possible.

We need your input/ideas about this project! What do you think would work in our spaces? What have you tried that didn't work? We need to choose plants that will not overwhelm our space and more perennials, especially in the front of the building. With Pastor Jeanie, there has been a team of two, Judi Schira and Elisabeth Wittman, working on plans for the garden. The current plans include taking out some plants and either transplanting them to other places or offering some to members for their home gardens.

At some point in time, we will ask for volunteers to join the "garden team" to help spread new dirt, remove plants, etc. Much of that is to be determined, but we have a tentative goal of doing the things needed to do this fall by the end of October, or the end of the growing season. We will make a call for volunteers and gather on a Saturday yet to be determined.

We haven't forgotten that some of the plans will need the Property Committee's approval, but YOUR ideas/input are of great interest. It has been quite a few years since we have reviewed what is going on in our "garden."

Your support is appreciated. To offer ideas or volunteer to assist, contact: Judi Schira (judibug12465@hotmail.com) or Elisabeth Wittman (e.wittman@sbcglobal.net; 773-685-1843) We will also be happy to share the plans developed thus far.



Chili, S'mores & Fellowship October 11



Join us for chili (meaty and vegetarian), s'mores, and fellowship at the Quillins, 5029 N. Natchez Ave, on October 11 starting at 5 PM.

Enter through the green fence and close it behind you to keep Bones -> the dog in.

All are welcome!





October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Al-Anon District meeting	2 9:00am Food Pantry	3 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286	4 9:30am Al-Anon 10:30am Pet Blessing 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
5 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	6 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	7 6:00pm Girl Scouts	8	9 9:00am Food Pantry	10 6:30pm AA	11 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am Book Club 5:00pm Chili & S'mores 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
12 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	13 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	14 6:00pm Girl Scouts	15	16 9:00am Food Pantry	17 6:30pm AA	18 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
19 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	20 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	21 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	22	23 9:00am Food Pantry	24 6:30pm AA	25 9:30am Al-Anon 1:30pm Girl Scout Juliette Low Rally Day 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
26 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	27 9:00am Food Pantry	28 6:00pm Girl Scouts	29	30 9:00am Food Pantry	31 6:30pm AA	

Worship Schedule

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**PLEASE JOIN US EVERY
SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP AT
10:00 AM in person
or livestreamed
on Facebook: UIFLC
or YouTube**

CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN ON
TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
9:00 am until 4:00 PM

OCTOBER 2025 WORSHIP

October 5 ~ Pentecost 17

9:00 AM Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship service in person or on Facebook

October 12~ Pentecost 18

9:00 AM Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship service in person or on Facebook

October 19 ~ Pentecost 19

9:00 AM Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship service in person or on Facebook

October ~ 26 Reformation Sunday

9:00 AM Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship service in person or on Facebook

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Rev. Jeanine Reardon

Pastor

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