

Senior Ministries Newsletter

November 2025



For information regarding Senior Ministries events or trips, or if a loved one is moving to a care facility, please contact Terri Hempstead at thempstead@springfieldfirst.org or 217-793-9760 x111.

I thought, "Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom."
(Job 32: 7)

Songs of Stage and Screen Annual Senior and Adult Gala

Friday, Nov. 14, 6-8pm

Featuring Ed Clark Quintet

Tickets available,

\$30 each, on Sunday, Nov. 2 or

in Terri's office or online until Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Online: Go to springfieldfirst.org/senior-and-adult-gala-2025/
and scroll down to find the Purchase Tickets link

Senior Fellowship

Thursday, Nov. 13, 9:30am

It's all fun and games,
then...lunch!

Enjoy breakfast snacks followed by a morning of card games or dominoes. Dorothy has planned a lunch of center cut pork chops, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, roll, and apple galette. \$7 suggested donation. RSVP at springfieldfirst.org/seniors

Recent Speaker Series Event Spotlighted Hospice Care

Jackie Pope-Ganser from Hands of God Hospice held a round-table discussion recently with a small group of our members. Her compassionate and comforting message focused on spiritual and practical ways families can find comfort when a loved one is dying. She gifted each attendee with a book called *Feeling Broken? Finding Rest in His Wisdom* by R.J. Helm and a booklet called *Gone from My Sight: The Dying Experience* by Barbara Karnes, RN.



Senior Field Trip to The Carriages of Rochester

Mon. Nov 17, 1pm

Meet in the Atrium to carpool.

Join us for an outing to The Carriages, a lovely community in rural Rochester. Lifestyles include independent living patio homes as well as assisted living, memory care, hospice care, and respite. Several of our church members have already chosen to downsize to The Carriages.

Monthly Church History Class

Topic: Reformers before Martin Luther

Thursday, November 13, 1pm, Choir Room

Senior Speaker Series

Tax-Favored Ways to Make Charitable Gifts

Monday, Nov. 3, 1pm

Larry Johnson will discuss tax-advantaged giving strategies. Larry is a consultant to nonprofit organizations on their fundraising plans and a tax manager at Sikich.



What Does AI Have to Do With Me?

Monday, Nov. 24, 1pm

Hei Chi Chan will talk about dos and don'ts for seniors regarding artificial intelligence. Hei Chi is a professor of mathematical sciences and philosophy at UIS. He has a B.A. in physics from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Yale.



How Do You Want to Be Remembered?

These days, I am mourning the loss of a good friend, Pastor Joel Newton, who died a few weeks ago. Joel and I met at a Bible conference that our church hosted in the early nineties. I was blessed by his quiet, approachable, and Southern-gentleman temperament.

Joel later pastored one of our churches in Peoria. He and I frequently met for lunch in Lincoln. I considered our friendship to be a peer mentoring relationship, although I think he regarded his older pastor-brother in Christ as "seasoned" enough to offer occasional mentoring suggestions.



This sentence in his obituary had me near tears: "He will be remembered as a gentle, godly man who guided many in their faith in Christ." It couldn't have been said any more succinctly! He was a "gentle, godly... guide!"



The Bible mentions many faithful servants whom we remember by the way they lived. Abraham was called from a pagan land to faith and faithfulness. Moses responded to God's calling at a burning bush. Hosea received his calling out of a broken heart. God called Amos in a shepherd's wilderness to preach God's righteousness to his people. Isaiah answered the call, "Whom shall I send?" by exclaiming, "Here am I. Send me!"

I am glad that God still calls His servants and equips them with personality, giftedness, and the strength to serve Him. Time moves on. One chapter leads to another. God is charting our paths. His grace will be sufficient. May God continue to get the glory for Joel's, and his wife Cheryl's, faithful service to Christ these past 40 years! How do YOU want to be remembered?

- Mike Keppler, Care Pastor

Follow Mike's weekly blog called "Serve by Design" at mjkministries.com.



Springfield First

A UNITED METHODIST FAITH COMMUNITY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WEEKEND WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday 9:00am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Traditional (Sanctuary)