

March 2026

CARILLON

**“To live by faith,
To be known by love,
And to be a voice of hope.”**



**First United Methodist Church
700 W Linwood Ave | Oshkosh WI 54901
920.235.8430 | firstumc@ntd.net
firstumcoshkosh.org**

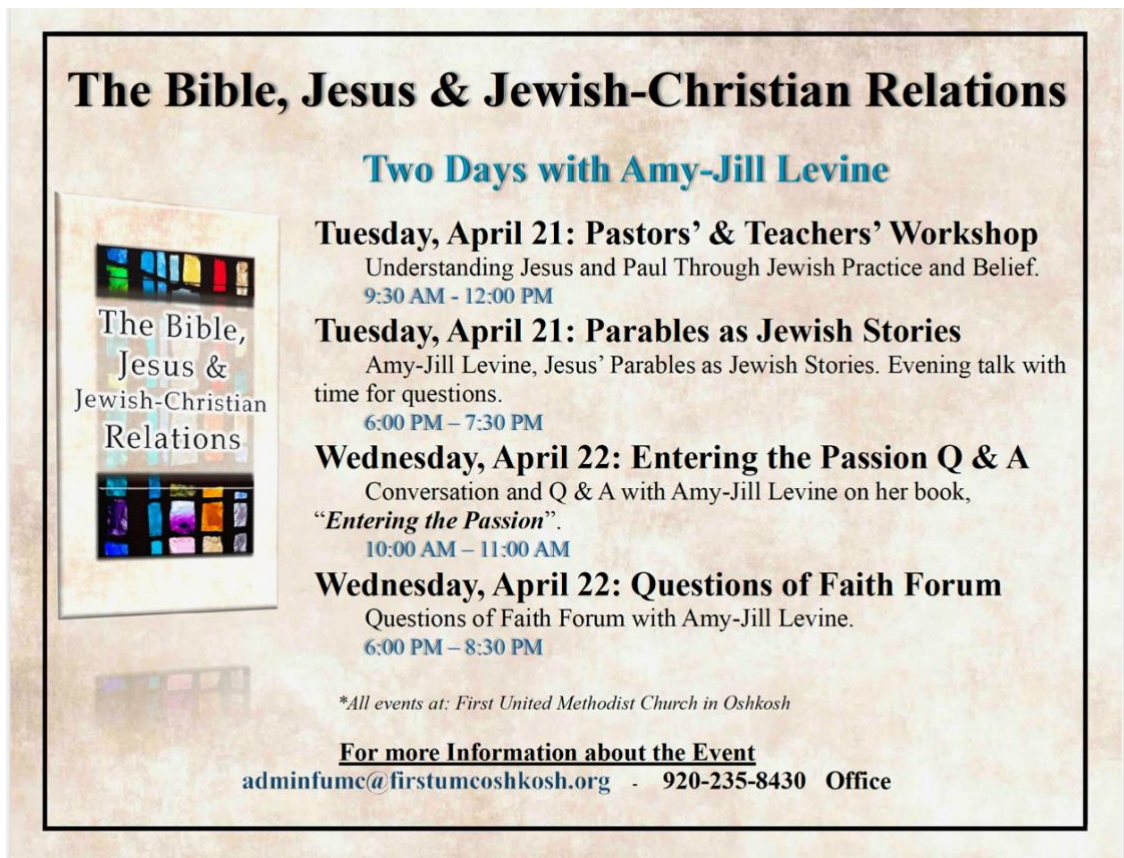
Welcoming Amy-Jill Levine to First Church – April 21–22

First United Methodist Church of Oshkosh has a unique opportunity to host biblical scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine for a special two-day series of learning, conversation, and fellowship on April 21–22. While all events will take place here at First Church, the Oshkosh United Methodist congregations are partnering together to make this meaningful opportunity possible.

Dr. Levine will lead a Pastors' and Teachers' Workshop on Tuesday morning, April 21, followed by an evening lecture open to the public, "Jesus' Parables as Jewish Stories." On Wednesday morning, April 22, she will offer a conversation and Q&A based on her book "Entering the Passion," welcoming both those who participated in the Lenten study and those who are new to the material. The visit will conclude with an evening Questions of Faith Forum exploring how Jews and Christians experience Scripture both differently and faithfully.

One of the ways our Oshkosh churches are sharing in this ministry is through hospitality. We are coordinating food and fellowship as an expression of welcome. If you are able to help with the pastors' lunch on Tuesday, April 21, or provide refreshments for the book study fellowship on April 22, please contact Beth Thomas. This is a unique opportunity not only for our congregation but for our wider community. I hope you can join us at some of these events and welcome Dr. Levine to Oshkosh!

Blessings,
Pastor Ben



The Bible, Jesus & Jewish-Christian Relations

Two Days with Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday, April 21: Pastors' & Teachers' Workshop
Understanding Jesus and Paul Through Jewish Practice and Belief.
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Tuesday, April 21: Parables as Jewish Stories
Amy-Jill Levine, Jesus' Parables as Jewish Stories. Evening talk with time for questions.
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Wednesday, April 22: Entering the Passion Q & A
Conversation and Q & A with Amy-Jill Levine on her book, "Entering the Passion".
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, April 22: Questions of Faith Forum
Questions of Faith Forum with Amy-Jill Levine.
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**All events at: First United Methodist Church in Oshkosh*

For more information about the Event
adminfumc@firstumcoshkosh.org - 920-235-8430 Office

Celebrate Our Community

Every month we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of those who call First United Methodist Church their spiritual home. We celebrate community in fellowship with one another. Be sure to greet those who are celebrating this month. Please don't assume we know all of the birthdays and anniversaries among us. Call the church office and let us know your special milestone dates, too!

March Birthdays	March 01	Dede Dewitt
	March 09	Jeni Faust
	March 09	Ben Morris
	March 11	Dale Tervonen
	March 22	Rob Reimers
	March 27	Stephanie Nourollah
	March 28	Andrea Ahl
	March 28	Paxton Nourollah
	March 29	Carol Crahen
	March 30	Karl Olsen



Offering Our Prayers

We are honored to join hearts with those who are grieving, sick or hurting among us. Please pray for those listed below. We'd love to pray with you, too. Contact Ann Tulip (920-379-9055) or Church Office (920) 235 8430 to be added to the prayer chain. We would also love to pray for you during our Sunday services. Please submit your brief request by phone, mail or e-mail at firstumc@ntd.net by Monday of each week: We will compile them for community prayers during our recorded Sunday morning.

Prayer & Praise Requests For the Month

- ❖ Continued prayer for Judi Weinert, Claude & Sue Collins, Betty Carpenter & family, cities under assault by ICS, family & friends of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, innocent people being attacked by Russia & USA.
- ❖ Members of FUMC experiencing illness. For health care and care center workers.
- ❖ Joy for Margaret selected for all-state children's choir, also Julian and West High production of Oklahoma. Loss of life in Minneapolis to ICE. Peaceful protest.
- ❖ Family of Bob Marin who passed away.
- ❖ Praise – a Cardinal sang this morning. Spring is around the corner.
- ❖ Morris family – Stephanie Heinritz as she enters hospice care.
- ❖ Praise – I was brave enough to invite a neighbor to church.
- ❖ The safety of the ICE Agents and law enforcement in challenging situations.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Glenn Christman (Pastor Nancy Green's brother)
- Brad Green
- Judi Weinert
- Claude Collins

Fellowship Hour

Please sign up to host a Fellowship Hour. If no one signs up there will be no fellowship hour that Sunday. It's easy and we need your help to keep it going. The sign-up sheet is on the Information Table in the Narthex.

Thank you for your gifts to First United Methodist Church!

Together, we share in God's work of love and service withn our community. We invite you to consider a way of giving that feels right for you, knowing that every gift makes a difference. Thank you for giving as part of our shared ministry!

- **Automatic Withdrawal:** Vanco offers automatic, electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your checking or savings account. You can pick up a form in the church office.
- **Mail** your contribution to church at 700 W. Linwood Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901
- **Offering Plate** You can bring your tithes and offerings to church services.
- **Online** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YS9T> **or by using the Vanco App!**

There are people who will benefit for generations as we give together.

Fill the Collection Box

We are collecting the following items

Please drop them off in the collection box in the Narthex.

Updated List



Men's and Women's Deodorant
Hair Brushes
Paper Towel
Reusable Water Bottles
Backpacks
Umbrellas
Shoe Laces – shoe and boot, various lengths
Belts
USB C Charging Cables
Coffee
Powdered Coffee Creamer
Sugar
Snack Foods / Applesauce and Fruit Cups
Juice
Sugary Cereal
Popular Condiments: Mayo, Hot Sauce, Ranch Dressing, Parmesan Cheese
Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
Garbage Bags – All sizes, wastebasket to 55 gallon
Cleaners – Window, Floor, and, Toilet All Surface

Church Family News



Buy Scrip Cards

Scrip cards are like any other gift card. Give them away as gifts or use them yourself when you shop. Our church benefits by earning a rebate on each card; some as high as 10%. The cards you order are available the following Sunday. **"Scrip Table" in the hallway by the display case on Sunday morning to pick up an order form. Then bring back your**

filled out form on Sunday, March 1, 2026.



March Food Drive

Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressings, Salsas, BBQ Sauce, Stir Fry Sauces, Hot Sauces, Pickles/Relish, Minced Garlic, Taco Seasoning, Chili Seasoning, Italian Seasoning, Single Spice Seasonings.

DAY BY DAY WARMING SHELTER MEALS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

First United Methodist Church will be providing an evening meal at the Day by Day Shelter on the following date:

Sunday, March 8, 2026

We are providing a meal for 70 people on the dates listed. We need six people each evening to serve the meal and to clean up afterwards. Arrive at the shelter located at 420 Ceape Avenue at 5:30 PM to do final meal prep and serving begins at 6 PM. After all guests and staff have eaten, then the servers eat and do the final clean up. Usually, we are out of the

shelter by 7:15 PM.

In addition to the team serving the meal, we are in need of someone to make a large batch of soup or chili to be served with the main dish. For dessert we serve homemade cookies and need eight dozen cookies each time. We often have two people baking cookies.

If you are interested in helping, contact Mike Thomas at 920-231-4465. This is one of the many ways you can help FUMC fulfill our mission statement to be a voice of hope caring for others in our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT



At the last Accountable Leadership Team meeting on January 22, 2026 it was decided that the Celebration

Committee (often referred to as the Funeral Committee) of First United Methodist Church will be dissolved. This decision is based on the age, health and physical endurance of the remaining members of the committee.

It is not feasible for us to be able to do the work of set up, preparing, serving and clean up any longer. Fellowship Hall will still be available to families to use for a luncheon and time of sharing memories after a funeral. The family will be responsible to find a caterer for their gathering. The committee has existed for many years and has served families and friends of the congregation.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our mission of serving First United Methodist Church.

FUMC Missions Outreach Team

Donated 60 packages of Diapers to the Oshkosh Pantry. Thank you all for your support!





**Continuing the Conversation
All-Church Gathering
Wednesday, March 4 • 2:00 p.m.**

Following our January 31 workshop, we continue the prayerful conversation about the future of First United Methodist Church. All members and friends of FUMC are encouraged to attend this follow-up gathering on Wednesday, March 4th at 2 p.m. as District Superintendent Rev. Park Hunter joins us again. During this time together, we will share what we have learned from recent conversations with community leaders and

listen for how God may be guiding us in the days ahead.

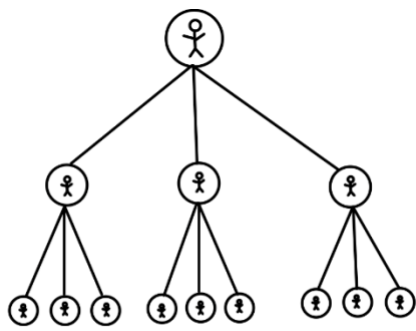


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANGEL TREE

ANGELS ON THE TREE REPRESENT ANGELS THAT WERE IN THE LIVES OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FUMC. IF YOU HAVE LOST AN ANGEL IN YOUR LIFE YOU WOULD LIKE TO REMEMBER PLEASE ADD AN ANGEL TO OUR TREE.

As many of you remember our Angel Tree that is now in the Sanctuary previously was on display only at Christmastime. The decision was made in 2024 that these angels were too beautiful to be on display for only a few weeks of the year. Angels can be added to the tree at any time. If you need assistance finding a spot for your angel someone from our committee will be happy to help.

The Accountable Leadership Team



Pay It Forward

March 2026 Stewardship Newsletter Grace That Keeps Moving

There's a difference between grace that stops with us and grace that keeps moving. Grace, at its core, is a gift we didn't earn and can't repay. God offers love, forgiveness, mercy, and belonging not because we've checked the right boxes, but because that's who God is. And while receiving grace can be

life-changing, one of the most faithful responses to grace is letting it flow through us to someone else.

The 2000 movie *Pay It Forward* explores this idea through a simple, hopeful premise. A Middle-school student is given an assignment to come up with an idea that could change the world. His solution is disarmingly small: instead of paying someone back for a kindness, you "pay it forward" by doing something generous for three other people; something they couldn't easily do for themselves. Those people then do the same for others, creating a ripple effect of generosity and compassion.

The film isn't naïve about the difficulty of living this way. Not everyone responds. Some people stop the chain. Others are changed deeply. But the idea at the heart of the story rings true: grace grows when it's shared. That's how God's grace often works in the real world. We receive forgiveness and choose to forgive someone else. We experience generosity and become more generous. We are shown patience and learn to extend patience to others.

Grace doesn't lose power when it's shared – it multiplies. Stewardship, at its best, is not about extracting resources or enforcing obligations. It's about helping people recognize the grace they've already received – and inviting them to pass it along. When generosity is rooted in gratitude and grace, it stops being a burden and becomes a joy.

