



The BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Christ Church United Church of Christ, Des Plaines, Illinois
An Open & Affirming WISE for mental health congregation

Volume II, Issue X

November 2025

From The Pastor's Desk: Remembering Every Neighbor at the Table

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As November arrives, many of us prepare for gatherings around tables — tables full of food, laughter, and stories. Thanksgiving has long been a moment when we pause to acknowledge the blessings of our lives and the people who enrich them.

And yet, as followers of Jesus, we also hold space for a deeper truth: not everyone will be welcomed at a table this month. Some do not celebrate this holiday because of cultural reasons, and some of our Indigenous siblings grieve this day as a reminder of lands taken and communities harmed — including the very land upon which our congregation now gathers. Others will not sit down to a special meal simply because there is not enough food to go around.

At the same time that some enjoy abundance, many families in our nation face hunger due to reduced food assistance benefits and financial hardship. While resources are spent elsewhere, children in our neighborhoods will go without dinner tonight. Individuals living in fear — including those who are U.S. citizens — worry that going to school or work could put them at risk because of the color of their skin or the language they speak.

This is why the Board of Directors for Camino Rising discerned that beginning our food pantry ministry before Thanksgiving was not just important — it was essential. We cannot celebrate gratitude while ignoring the ones Jesus calls us to feed, welcome, and love.

As we gather this month, may we practice a gratitude that expands outward — one that includes compassion in action. I invite you to pray intentionally for our neighbors who are hurting, and I strongly encourage you to support our food pantry with financial donations or your time. Together, we can ensure more people in our community know the blessing of a full table.

Let us give thanks — and let our thanks become a blessing to others. ***"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."***
— 2 Corinthians 9:11

May this season remind us that gratitude and generosity walk hand in hand.

In faith and action,

Rev. Gilbert

Nourishment Through Scripture

For all those who are following the Scripture lessons used during the Sunday Worship Services, here are the October 2025 Common Lectionary readings:

November 2: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

November 9: Haggai 2:1-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 16: Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 23: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

November 30: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



Pastor's Office Hours:

Sundays: By Appt after worship.

Mondays: Phone, Video, or Appt.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 10 am - 3 pm*

Thursdays: By Appt.

Sabbath: Fridays and Saturdays

**Can schedule later appointments on a case-by-case basis.
For emergencies, call the pastor on his cell: 224-250-9898*

Finance Manager's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 12 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

STAFF MEETING: Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am

The office phone is not answered.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT

Suggested items - please, no peanut based snacks and no glass jars!

- Single-serve breakfast cereal
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Pancake mix (add water variety)
- Canned red beans
- One-pound bags of rice
- Pasta and pasta sauce (in cans or plastic jars)



- Canned tuna, beef or chicken
- Peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars)
- Fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks
- Individually wrapped snacks and chips
- Canned pasta (ravioli, beef-a-Roni, stew, or chili)
- Canned soup

Giving

Did you know our church offers online giving and text-to-give? They're easy to use and secure! You can give a gift of support online at <https://bit.ly/ChristChurchUCCGive> or give via text message by texting the amount you would like to give to 847-750-3007.



Kindness is free.
Let's sprinkle that stuff everywhere!



SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	<u>Liturgist/Lector</u>	<u>Council Greeter</u>	<u>Streaming Coordinator</u>
November 2	Holly Schmidt	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
November 9	Laura Hallberg	Holly Schmidt	Judy Rosedale
November 16	Putz-Cheng Family	Mandy O'Donnell	Judy Rosedale
November 23	Kyle Speer	Laura Hallberg	Judy Rosedale
November 30	Jessica Busse	Judy Rosedale	Mandy O'Donnell

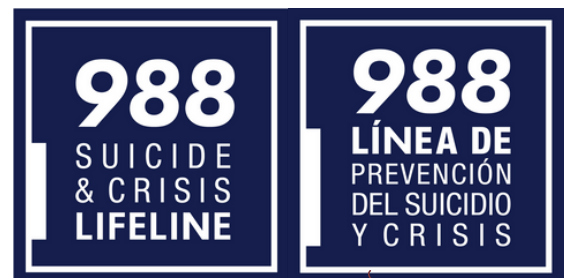


Ushers

November 2	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Ruben Oviedo
November 9	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
November 16	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Ruben Oviedo
November 23	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
November 30	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Ruben Oviedo

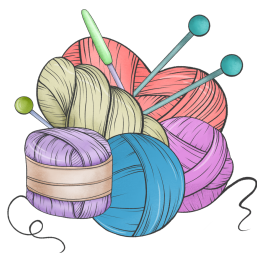


**OCTOBER'S AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:
48±**



FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to technical difficulties, we
are unable to provide this
information this month.



Lets Get Involved!

GET IT TOGETHER: Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on November 19th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

NOTABLES: The Notables will meet again to prepare for the coming busy season. As always, in Wobbe Hall from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Kyle Speer for more details.



MISSION COMMITTEE: On the first Sunday of every month, we collect food for the Self-Help Closet and Pantry of Des Plaines. The Red Barrels will be in the narthex.

Please, no expired food; here are a few suggestions:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| • Ketchup | • Body wash | • Men's, Women's, and children's all-sizes underwear |
| • Mustard | • Shampoo | • Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok) |
| • Mayonnaise | • Dish soap | • Canned dinners (hash, chili) |
| • Pasta sauce (plain) | • Laundry detergent | • Canned fruit |
| • Flour | • Paper towels | • Peanut butter |
| • Sugar | • Dog food (canned and dry) | • Jelly or jam |
| • Instant coffee | • Cooking oil | |
| • Juice (large bottles or boxed) | | |
| • Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible) | | |
| • New or like-new clean bed linens and towels | | |



Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags. Thank you everyone for all your help.

Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is on Monday, **November 10th at 11:45 am.**

Sunrise Grill: 1930 E Touhy Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60018



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is on Tuesday, **November 11th at 9 am.**

Sunrise Grill: 1930 E Touhy Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60018

LIBRARY



NEW BOOKS IN THE LITTLE LIBRARY!

Looking for a good read? Thanks to our dedicated Faith Forward Commission, our Little Library is stocked with various books for all ages. Each book has been carefully selected and stamped with our library stamp.

Want to contribute? Please hand your book donations to a Commission member. Remember, only pre-approved books will be stamped.

Christ Church Council Meeting September 2025

Call to Order: 6:58pm

Roll Call: Judy Rosedale, Bob Neil, Mandy O'Donnell, Holly Schmidt, Laura Hallberg, Pastor Gilbert

Prayer: Mandy

Review of August 13, 2025 Council Minutes:

Motion and second to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025, as sent out.

The motion passed to accept the minutes.

Review of the July 3, 2025, Financial Report

Motion to approve the July 30, 2025, Financial report as presented.

Pastor's Report**Worship & Arts:**

- Regular Worship services – Five (1 with communion)

Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education

- Led book discussion "If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk"
- Co-hosted Rally Day with the Outreach Committee
- Invited Big Noise Theater to perform during Rally Day.

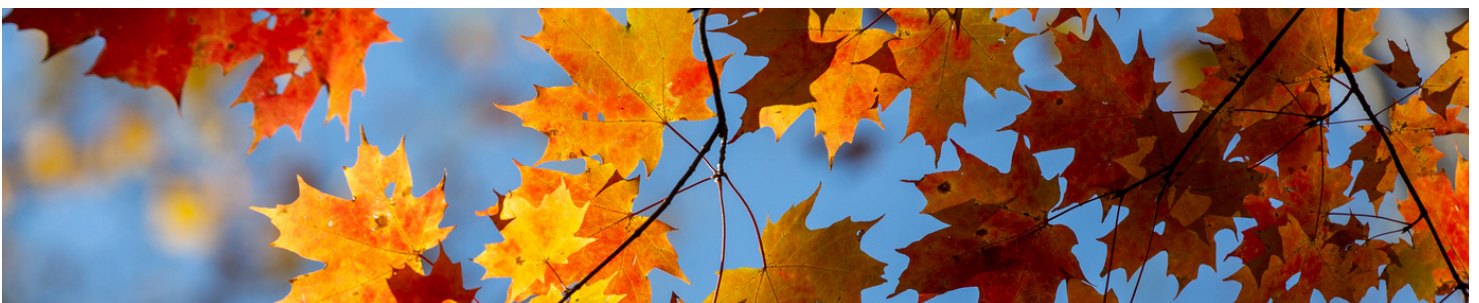
Pastoral Care:

- Pastoral contact (pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards) = 42+
- Donated from the Discretionary Fund \$250 to Forest Elementary PTC to help ensure every child can buy a book from the book fair.

Administrative/Personnel:

- Staff Meeting – Six (6)
- Continue to co-manage all social media. Updated website
- Five (5) committee meeting(s)
- The Vision Committee continues to meet and explore options for our next chapter of our church's ministry. Music Director position on hold until after the Special Congregational Meeting.
- We will not proceed with filling the Music Director position at this time. We will continue to operate on a musician supply rotation.
- Continue to assist with tasks assigned by the Vision Task Force, including building tours, etc.
- Rental: Big Noise Theater for August and September
- Maranatha is moved out on September 1, 2025, and the keys and Key fob were returned.
- The Stewardship Drive has started and will run through September 28.
- Reduced Tommie's hours to 10 hours per week (down from 15 hours) with the departure of Maranatha. He will no longer come on Thursdays to clean the building.

1 of 2



Committee Reports

Outreach Committee:

- The outreach committee and FFC met jointly on Aug 18 to plan Rally Day. Sept 7 will mark the beginning of Sunday School. A picnic will follow the service. Food will be provided, including a “ice cream wagon” experience. A Raffle will be held to support our scholarship fund. There will be games and music.

Building Committee:

- Ongoing maintenance goes on around the church.

Faith Forward Commission:

- We held a combined meeting with the Outreach committee to plan and prepare for Fall Fellowship Day. We plan on offering food (hot dogs and burgers, chips, and ice cream), entertainment (a theater performance), and activities (chalk and bag toss). Fall Fellowship day will be held on Sunday, September 7, after worship in the parking lot (weather permitting). • The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 14.

Missions:

- The first Sunday of every month, we will continue to collect food for the Self-Help Closet and Pantry of Des Plaines. Food collection (red) barrels will be out in the narthex for collection each Sunday.

Unfinished Business

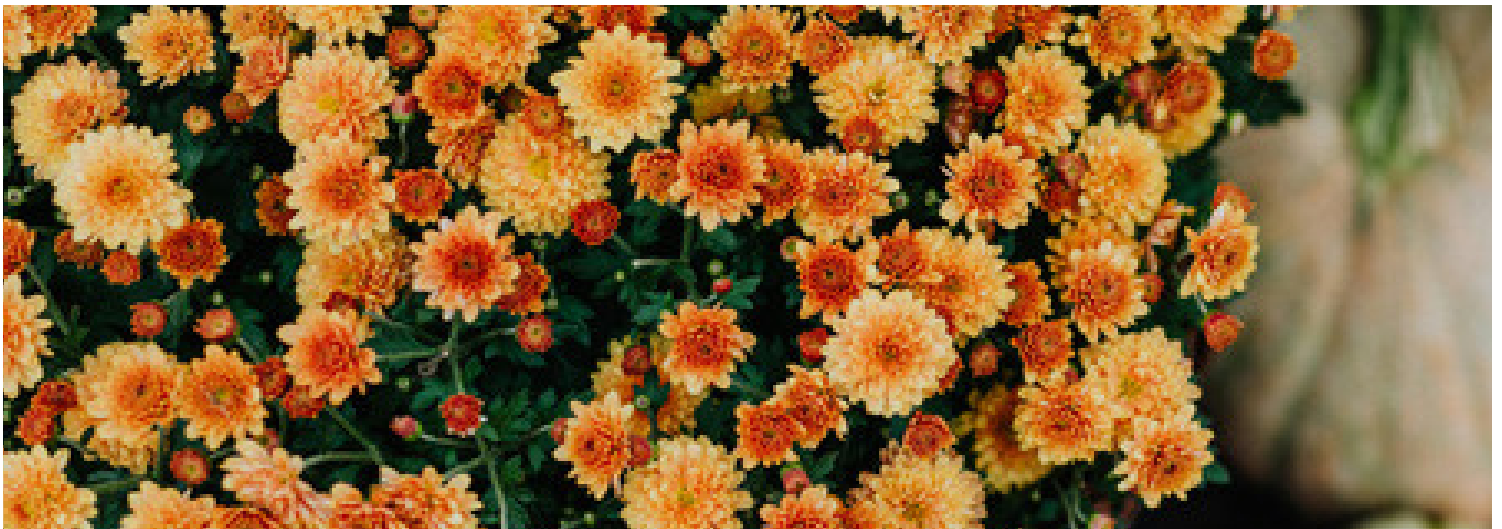
- Vision Committee
 - A special congregational meeting was held, and the decision was made to sell the church by congregational vote.
 - The Vision Committee will now actively seek our future home (renting, purchasing another building, etc.) and determine the best option.
- Migration to Cloud-based QuickBooks continues.
- The Music Director position will not be filled.

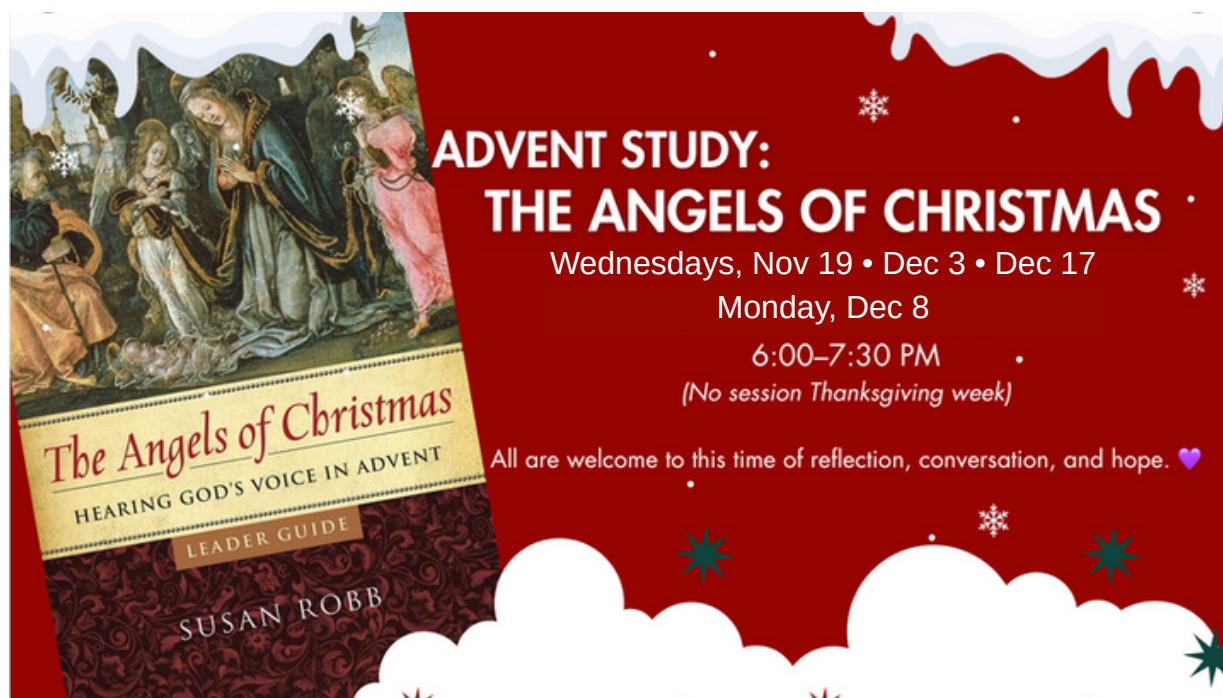
New Business:

- Review of the Special Congregational meeting notes. A motion was made to accept the notes as presented, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.
- The Stewardship Drive is beginning.

2 of 2

Motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm passed.





Wednesdays, November 19 • December 3 • December 17

Monday, December 8

6:00–7:30 PM

(No session Thanksgiving week)

This Advent season, join us for a four-week study of **“The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God’s Voice in Advent”** by Susan Robb. Together we’ll explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus — to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds — and discover what these heavenly messengers reveal about God’s presence in our world today.

Each week invites us to listen for God’s voice anew as we reflect on Scripture, explore the stories of Gabriel and other angels in the Bible, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Books are **\$15.50**, and financial assistance is available — if the cost is a barrier, please reach out to Rev. Gilbert for a copy.

All are welcome to this time of reflection, conversation, and hope during the Advent season.

<https://bit.ly/Advent2025CCUCC>

**Sign-up in the office
or use the QR code.**



Scan me

✦ **Faith Forward Adventures** ✦
Advent Celebration for Kids!

FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES



growing in
faith together

Christ Church invites all children to join us for Faith Forward Adventures, a special Advent celebration just for kids!

Each Sunday during Advent — **November 30 through December 21** — we'll gather during regular worship for fun activities, stories, and conversation about the hope, peace, joy, and love that lead us to Christmas.

🎄 **When:** Sundays, November 30 – December 21
🎁 **Time:** During regular service

Come celebrate the season, make new friends, and discover together what makes Advent so special!

We can't wait to see you at Faith Forward Adventures!



Pathways to Wellness **COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



1378 Miner St., Des Plaines

- COVID-19 & flu vaccines by Walgreens
- Most vaccines billed thru insurance/self-pay
- Flu vaccine vouchers available
- Limited COVID-19 vaccines covered by Camino Rising



Greater
Family
Health SM

Care to live greater.
1515 Lee St, Des Plaines, IL

Get Free Screenings & Information

- Blood Pressure
- Glucose

📅 **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**

📍 **WHERE:** CHRIST CHURCH UCC,
1492 HENRY AVE., DES PLAINES, IL

🕒 **TIME:** 10:00AM - 2:00PM

OPEN TO DES PLAINES RESIDENTS ONLY

For more information: 224-242-8955 or info@caminorising.org

Camino Rising is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



The Community Backpack Project (CBP) is kicking off its annual Hat, Scarf, and Glove Drive for District 62 students (Pre-K–8th grade). Our goal is to outfit 250 students for the cold weather **ahead!**

You can help by:

- Donating \$5 — enough to provide a hat, scarf, and gloves for one student (*items can be found at Dollar Tree*).
- Donations may be dropped off in the blue bins for delivery to the CBP.

Our goal is to distribute all items by the first week of November, before the winter chill sets in.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Because of your generosity, we never have to say “no” to a student in need.

Thanks,

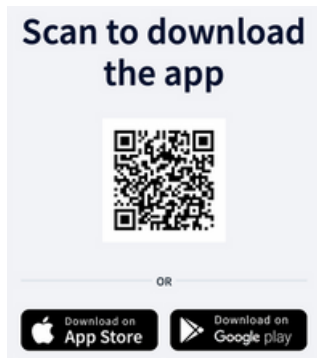
Jana Haas, Coordinator, Community Backpack Project

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>



Download Our New Church App!

Stay connected with our church family anytime, anywhere. Access sermons, events, updates, and so much more—all right at your fingertips. Don't miss out on this convenient way to stay in the loop! Download it today!





Cupcakes for San Lucas UCC

Thanksgiving is almost here and that means that we will be baking cupcakes for our sister church, San Lucas UCC, who will be feeding needy families in Humboldt Park. We ask you to bring the dessert to their dinner table. Please make 2 dozen cupcakes and bring them to the church kitchen on **Sunday, Nov 23**. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office. The cupcakes will be delivered to San Lucas UCC on Monday, Nov 24.

Thanks, Rita

COMMUNITY BUILDING PEACE CIRCLES

Coming Fall of 2025

Experience deep connections and conversations with others in the community around topics impacting Des Plaines.

Participants will receive a \$25 grocery card.

Saturdays: ~~Sept. 13, Oct. 10~~, Nov. 15, Dec. 13

11:00am - 2:00pm

First Church Des Plaines

668 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL

www.FUMCDP.org



Join First United Methodist Church Des Plaines and SPEAK Des Plaines for a series of Peace Circles—spaces to connect, share, and build community. Rooted in Indigenous traditions and guided by values of inclusion and democracy, circles help us strengthen relationships and practice restorative skills.

 668 Graceland

 Saturdays, 11 AM – 2 PM

 \$25 grocery gift card + refreshments provided

Register here: <https://bit.ly/communitypeacecircles>

Open to all community members—leaders, youth, seniors, teachers, parents, first responders, business owners, and neighbors.

Space is limited; confirmations sent one week before each circle.



A Faith-Based Conversation on Welcoming the Stranger

Sunday, November 9th at 12 pm

Christ Church United Church of Christ
1492 Henry Ave, Des Plaines

Join us and you will:

- Learn about the categories of U.S immigration.
- Look to Scripture and our shared Biblical calling to care for the stranger among us.
- Participate in breakouts to consider how we as Christians think about immigration.



Scan to register or visit
exodusworldservice.org/faithbasedconversation

Questions? Contact Jody May
jody.may@exodusworldservice.org | 847.514.9924

All Saints' Day



Sunday, November 2nd

Don't forget to bring a loved one's picture for our All Saints' Day worship service.

Inter-Generational Christmas Pageant Rehearsals



Rehearsals for this year's inter-generational Christmas Pageant, **A Manger Full of Stories**, will take place after worship on Sundays:

- **November 16**
- **November 30**
- **December 7**
- **Saturday, December 13** at 10:30 AM, with lunch provided that day.

The pageant will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 14** — and all ages are invited to participate and celebrate together!

Veterans Day



Sunday, November 9th

Send an email to Rev. Gilbert or leave a note in his mailbox to leave a tribute for a living veteran in the Veterans Day bulletin.



Memorials/Honors for October

In loving memory of Phil Seils on Nancy and Phil's 44th wedding anniversary

In celebration of our parent's, Irv and Ruth Hallberg, 68th wedding anniversary, from Janice, Laura, and Denise.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Jean Phillips | 16 - Judy Taylor |
| 2 - Irving Hallberg | 18 - Phillip Rosedale |
| 8 - Kevin O'Donnell | 19 - Janis Zidek |
| 12 - Max Kelso | 21 - Marion Meseth |
| 13 - Alan Bruhn | |
| 16 - Gail Fisher | |

Happy Anniversary

- 5 - Katie and Michael Skibbe (20)
15 - Joe and Jessica Busse (11)

Welcome

to our newest
member, Cindy!



COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
2	All Saints' Day Service	Sanctuary	9:30AM
2	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	11AM
6	Camino Rising's Health Fair	Wobbe Hall	10AM - 2PM
9	Veterans Day Service	Sanctuary	9:30AM
9	A Faith-Based Conversation on Welcoming the Stranger by Exodus World Service	Wobbe Hall	12PM - 1:30PM
10	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45AM
11	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9AM
12	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6PM
12	Council Meeting	Lounge	7PM
16	Faith Forward Adventures	Sanctuary/Room 1	9:30AM
18	Vision Task Force Meeting	Lounge	1:30PM - 3PM
18	Camino Rising's Pantry Distribution	Wobbe Hall	3PM - 7PM
19	Get It Together	Lounge	10AM - 12PM
19	Advent Study: The Angels of Christmas	Wobbe Hall	6PM - 7:30PM
24	Office Open		
25	Camino Rising's Pantry Distribution	Wobbe Hall	3PM - 7PM
27	Thanksgiving Day		
27-28	Office Closed		
29	Decorating for Advent	Wobbe Hall/Sanctuary	10AM
30	First Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary	9:30AM
30	Faith Forward Adventures	Sanctuary/Room 1	9:30AM
DEC 1 st	Faith Forward Commission	Lounge	5:15PM



Potluck: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday, November 12th, 2025**. Join us for fellowship and great food!

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." - 3 John 1:2

*Please keep the church office informed when you hear of someone needing prayers. During the months of **October**, our thoughts and prayers were with:*

Marion Meseth*
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel*
Jack Storm
Sue Prunty
Marilyn Hoover*
John Prellberg

Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Helen Harney
Hope & Bruce Tschappat*
George Bielat
Caid Carter

Homebound*
Our Country
Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian,
and Israeli citizens
Documented & Undocumented
Immigrants



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

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Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230

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Tommie Jordan, Custodian
Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician

The Beacon is the official newsletter of Christ Church United Church of Christ. Edited by church staff. Published monthly, August through June.

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Lifeline**
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