



CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



January 25th, 2026

9:30 AM



*Images are featuring Capernaum

Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

📺 Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

🌐 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

📘 facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

👶 CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

🚻 **Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

🚻 **Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

💧 **Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

🌿 **Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

🌍 OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

💻 Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at

👉 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a “church of firsts” and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision “...that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** and **WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work



🌿 OUR MISSION

“Share God’s teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need.”

"Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out — have mercy on me and answer me!" - Psalm 27:7

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.

PRELUDE

***** **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** *****

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us: "Come! Follow me!"

All: The kin-dom of heaven has come near.

One: Some say, "But we are walking in darkness."

All: In Christ, we have seen God's light. The kin-dom of heaven has come near.

One: Some say, "But divisions tear us apart."

All: In Christ, we are united in mind and purpose. The kin-dom of heaven has come near.

One: Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

All: The kin-dom of heaven has come near.

***** **BELL** *****

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"* (Red Hymnal 302)

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (unison)

Jesus, you come into our lives as a light shining in our darkness, and you call us to follow you. We long to seek you. We long to follow you. Sometimes our losses and failures overwhelm us, and we don't hear your call. Sometimes we are caught up in our disagreements and our desires to prevail, and we don't hear your call. Sometimes we are so busy with our responsibilities and successes, so comfortable in our routines, that we don't hear your call. Yet, we have seen your great light. We have heard your appeal to come together in mind and purpose. May we, like Peter and Andrew, and James and John, step away from our darkness and our conflicts and our devotion to our set ways. Help us to hear your call, for your kingdom draws near. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE 🙌

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (CEB)

Isaiah 9:1-4

*Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON

“Change Direction”

Rev. Gilbert Martinez

RESPONSE to scripture(*twice*)

 b Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show b
 b us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. b

A NEW CREED (unison)

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true Man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

“Somebody’s Knocking At Your Door”

(see music insert)

PRAYER OF PETITION

LORD’S PRAYER (unison) *please recite the version closest to your heart*

(Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: <https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving>



HYMN

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

(during collection, see music insert)

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (After the benediction, you are invited to respond with these words.)

We go to follow Jesus. We go to share God’s light and salvation. We go trusting God as our protection and shelter. We go as people drawn together in Christ. We go proclaiming with our lives: The kin-dom of heaven has come near.

***** **Bell & Extinguishing of the Candles** *****

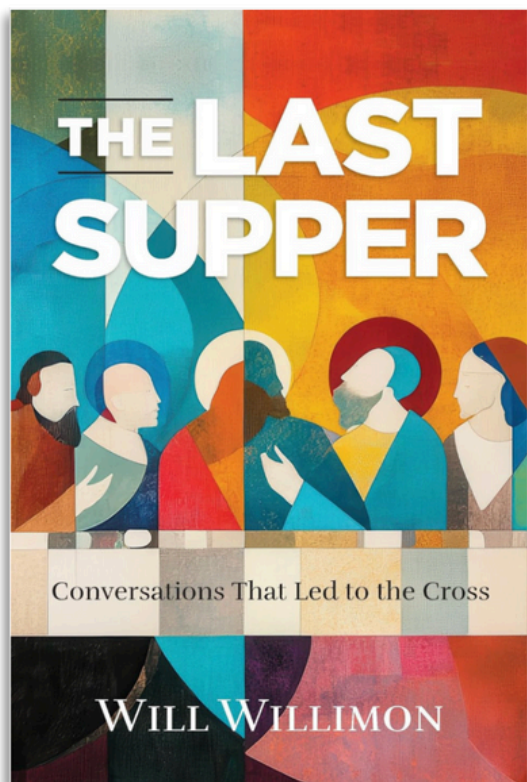
*HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

(Red Hymnal #152)

POSTLUDE

God is still speaking—join us this Lent at the table to hear new insights on The Last Supper.



Lenten Book Study

Thursdays | February 12–March 19
6:00–7:30 pm

Join us for a six-week Lenten study of *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross* by William H. Willimon. Together we will explore the stories Jesus told at tables and how they prepare us for Holy Week. Physical and digital books available. If the cost of the book is a concern, a copy will gladly be provided. Affordability will not be a barrier to participation.

Register here:



<https://tinyurl.com/CCUCCLEnt2026>



Welcome to our new music
director, Karen Wilberg!

We're excited to make
beautiful music with you!



Courage and Connection Gallery: **Stories of Refugee Neighbors**

Educational Presentation
Saturday, January 31, 7:00–8:00 pm

Park Ridge Community Church
100 Courtland Avenue, Park Ridge, IL
Service, Sweets, and Stories

**Join us for this special event led by
an Exodus staff member! You will:**

- See powerful images that highlight the resilience of refugees. Dive deeper into the real-life stories behind the portraits.
 - Learn about refugees' connections with volunteers who walk beside them.
- Enjoy desserts and coffee while you hear
- stories of refugees and opportunities to serve.



*This event will reveal the stories behind the portraits. **View the gallery January 24–31** on display in Jordan Hall.*

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison ^C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

CCLI 1718955



THE TITHE.LY CHURCH APP
 Christ Church United
 Church of Christ

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!

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>

Scan to download
the app



OR



Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door 638

Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door, Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door,

O sin-ner, why don't you an-swer? Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.

1. Knocks like Je - sus,
2. Can't you hear him?
3. Je - sus calls you,
4. Can't you trust him?

Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door;

1. Knocks like Je - sus,
2. Can't you hear him?
3. Je - sus calls you,
4. Can't you trust him?

Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door.

O sin-ner, why don't you an-swer? Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.

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Sing With All of Your Heart!

We're looking for singers to join a new church choir started by our music director, Karen Wilberg!

Please see Karen after worship for more information.



Open the Eyes of My Heart

Refrain

E B/D#

O - pen the eyes_ of my heart, _ Lord, _ o - pen the eyes_ of my heart; _

3 A2/C# A2 3 Esus E

I want to see you, _ I want to see you. _

1, 3 2, 4

A2 B

To see you high and lif - ted up, _

C#m A F#m7/9 B

shin - ing in the light of your glo - - ry. _

B7/9 C#m F#m7

Pour out your pow'r and love, _ as we sing ho - ly, ho - - ly, ho -

Bsus B D.C. (first time only) A/E

ly. _ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

E B/D# E/D#

ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _

A2/C# E/B A2 3 E E

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _ I want to see _ you. _

IN MEMORY / HONOR



May we continue special prayers for...

Marion Meseth*	Marilyn McCown	Cathy Wiesner	Our Country
Dawn Mashek	Dorothy Zemke*	Rev. Marcia Urban	Ukraine, Lebanon,
Linda Steckel	Kelly Roberts	Jack Branding	Palestinian, and Israeli
Jack Storm	Hope & Bruce Tschappat*	Charles Eppely	citizens
Marilyn Hoover*	Helen Harney	Eppely Family	
Sue Prunty	Caid Carter	Documented &	
John Prellberg	Ariana Subera	Undocumented Immigrants	
Grace Pastor	Bielat Family		Homebound*

Special prayers for:

Those living with mental illness, illness, without a home or food, our church community, service people, veterans, our nation, and our leaders.



Happy Birthday!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Laura Hallberg
Music Director.....	Karen Wilberg
Council Greeter.....	Laura Hallberg
Ushers.....	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick

Choose kindness

ANNOUNCEMENTS

inspire

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 39±
*Our attendance is calculated using our
LIVE Facebook viewers and those in person.*

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 January 21st, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

MEN'S LUNCH: Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY: They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT: If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP: Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 

TRINITY LUTHERAN WINTER SEED EVENT: Take home seeds with dirt and plastic milk jugs to prepare them for spring planting! This is free event at Trinity Lutheran at 11:30 AM on Saturday, February 8th.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CLEANING OUT SANCTUARY: Vision Task Force will be cleaning out the sanctuary on Jan 29th at 1 PM.

RELIABLE HELP FOR ALL YOUR HOME REPAIR AND UPKEEP NEEDS! Services include general repairs, minor electrical & plumbing, painting, flooring, furniture assembly, power washing, landscaping, and home & window cleaning. **Call Emanuel at (224) 392-9069**





Christ Church

United Church of Christ

1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016

847-297-4230

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 3 pm;

***Days off:* Friday & Saturday**

For after-hour pastoral care emergencies,

please call Rev. Gilbert on his cell phone at 224-250-9898.

Website: christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

Instagram: instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor

gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kat Chwalisz, Administrative Assistant

kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kyle Speer, Finance Coordinator

kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Karen Wilberg, Music Director & Church Organist

karen@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Tommie Jordan, Custodian

Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician

Rita S. Barth, Faith Forward Adventures Lead Teacher

Grace Pastor, Faith Forward Adventures Teacher

Lay Ministry: All Members

Judy Rosedale, *Council President*; Laura Hallberg, *Council Vice-President*

Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns

& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.

Art Sketch of Church Front by Nancy Boeckenhauer 1990.

