



The BEACON

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

Volume III, Issue 5

May 2026

From The Pastor's Desk: Bearing One Another's Burdens

Dear Church Family,

May arrives with flowers, gifts of beauty, and memory. In my work, flowers often mark both celebration and loss. They remind me that life is a gentle mingling of gladness and sorrow, each petal holding a bit of both.

Mother's Day deepens this mix. For many, it is a celebration; for others, it brings longing and gratitude. I feel my own mother's absence and know others do too. May is a time when these feelings meet.

Lately, I have found myself under heavy skies mentally and emotionally. There have been hurdles, and sometimes I catch myself growing impatient, not from frustration with others, but from a deep longing to reach those in need. Even at home, as our family feels the pinch of the grocery bill, I find myself thinking of neighbors who walk through each day with even less. The ache to help is a quiet companion.

I carry your stories with gratitude. Holding them with my own experiences, I'm reminded we are made for community to help bear each other's burdens.

Yet amid these weights, grace has found me unexpected, quiet, and sure. I see grace in the steady hands of volunteers at Camino Rising, who show up again and again with quiet compassion. I see it in the lay leaders who have taken time to know me not just as your pastor, but as a person who, too, needs care and rest. Their gentle accountability is a balm.

Recently, a member sent an email that brought me to the brink of tears, sharing their view of this ministry from the quiet of their pew. I have heard such words before, but this time, they settled differently in my heart. When I mentioned it to another who had shared similar encouragement, I joked that they must be in cahoots. But maybe, in truth, I simply needed to hear it anew.

It called to mind my mother, a strong and gentle soul, and how her strength, care, and compassion echo in the lives of those God places along my path. All of this returns me to a simple and tender truth: we never truly know the burdens another bears.

As your pastor, my role is not to place my needs on you as a congregation. My needs are met in serving alongside you. My calling is to tend to the life of this community, helping us become a place where care is shared and honesty is welcomed.

During this Mental Health Awareness Month, I invite you: be gentle with yourself, and check in with your heart. Reach out to someone who may need support, or offer a listening ear. Take one step, however small, toward caring for your own well-being or for another. And if you are struggling, let your first act be to reach out. Speak with a friend, a family member, another member of our church, or even me. You do not need to share your full story; just let someone accompany you. You are not alone; choose connection this month, and let us walk this path together.

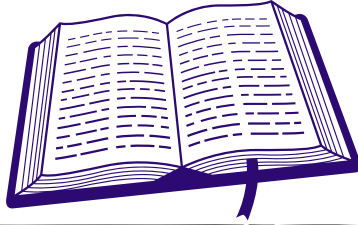
And for all of us, may we continue to grow into a community that truly bears one another's burdens with compassion and care. Remember: You are loved. You are enough. You belong.

Peace and grace,

Rev. Gilbert

NOURISHMENT THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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



May 3: Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 10: Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 17: Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 24: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; John 7:37-39

May 31: Gen 1:1-2:4a; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

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

Administrative Assistant's Hours: T - F 9 am - 3 pm

Finance Coordinator's Hours: T - TH 9 am - 12 pm

Staff Meeting: Tuesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am*

**The office phone is not answered.*

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.



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



**BIG THANK YOU
TO THE CHILDREN WHO
HELPED US WITH OUR SPECIAL
SCHOLARSHIP COLLECTION!**



SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	<u>LITURGIST/LECTOR</u>	<u>COUNCIL GREETER</u>	<u>STREAMING COORDINATOR</u>
May 3	Kyle Speer	Megan Shipp	Judy Rosedale
May 10	Jessica Busse	Judy Rosedale	Mandy O'Donnell
May 17	Megan Shipp	Bob Neil	Judy Rosedale
May 24	Jacob Guerra-Martinez	Mandy O'Donnell	Mandy O'Donnell
May 31	Laura Benitez	Laura Hallberg	Judy Rosedale



USHERS

- May 3** Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo
- May 10** Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
- May 17** Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo
- May 24** Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
- May 31** Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo

**APRIL AVERAGE
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:
61±**



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

988
LÍNEA DE
PREVENCIÓN
DEL SUICIDIO
Y CRISIS

Memorials/Honors for April

With heartfelt gratitude to the congregation for supporting my journey to ordained ministry 30 years ago
(January 12, 1996) - Rev. Carol Currier Frighetto

In memory of my beloved husband, Roy, who's been gone from our family for 1 year Sally Sove

In honor of our son, parents & grandparents from Bud & Elaine Hudson

In gratefulness for Rev. Grice's ministry from Don & Judy Rosedale

Rev. Grice, Rest in Peace, faithful servant of God by Rev. Gilbert on behalf of CCUCC



THE TITHELY CHURCH APP
Christ Church United
Church of Christ

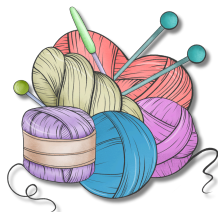
DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCH APP!

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**](https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP)



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 May 20th, from 10 am - 12 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
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Pasta sauce (plain)
- Flour
- Sugar
- Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible)
- New or like-new clean bed linens and towels
- Men's, Women's, and children's all-sizes underwear
- Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok)
- Canned dinners (hash, chili)
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter, jelly, jam

- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Dog food (canned and dry)
- Cooking oil
- Instant coffee
- Juice (large bottles or boxed)



Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

If you would like to contribute monetarily, we also do a special second collection every first Sunday of the month. Thank you so much for your contribution.



MEN'S LUNCH:

Next meeting is on Monday, **May 11th at 11:45 AM.**

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

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:

Next meeting is on Tuesday, **May 12th at 9 AM.**

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

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.





FREE & CONFIDENTIAL RAPID HIV TESTING

Greater Family Health, in partnership with Christ Church UCC and Camino Rising, will be on-site to conduct rapid HIV testing and prevention education on Tuesdays from 9 AM - 1 PM at Christ Church in Des Plaines

- Free and confidential risk based HIV testing
- Safe sex kit distribution
- Prevention education

Selected Tuesdays

1492 Henry Avenue
DesPlaines, IL 60016



MORE INFO


www.greaterfamilyhealth.org



CHRIST CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

CAKE WALK!

 **30 Saturday, May 30th**

 **3:00 PM**

 **1492 Henry Ave, Des Plaines, IL**








 **How It Works:**

Join the fun, walk the circle, and when the music stops...

You might win a cake!

 **Tickets:**

-  **\$1 per round**
-  **\$10 for unlimited rounds**
-  **All proceeds support our church scholarship fund**

-  **Fun for all ages**
-  **Bring your friends & family!**





Holy Week vibes

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this past Easter season absolutely gorgeous!

He is Risen,
Indeed!



Music Sale

\$1 per score!



Build up your music catalogue with sacred and secular pieces from our collection!

Buy 5 scores, get 1 free!

June 6 • 10 AM to 3 PM • Wobbe Hall

*Some filing cabinets will also be available for sale.





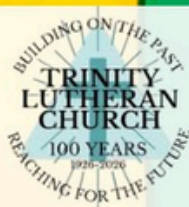
**SATURDAY
JUNE 20TH
1 TO 5 PM**

**Free Food | Performances | Family-Friendly Drag Show
LGBTQIA+ Support Organizations | Activities, Games & More!**

Trinity Lutheran Church, 675 E. Algonquin Rd , Des Plaines, IL

Learn more at speakdesplaines.org/pride

**A Community
Partnership
Between**





Welcome to the congregation,

Marge!





Cost Effective Ways to Keep Your Home

Rising housing costs can make aging in your home feel out of reach, but you may have more options than you think.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

10:30 - 11:30am

Rolling Meadows City Hall, 2nd floor

3600 Kirchoff Road

Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Learn more about
Center of Concern's
Home Sharing program!



Support Refugee Moms with Baby Care Items!

Sign up now to support an expecting refugee mom with an assortment of baby items to bless a growing family.

- Collect items for an expecting refugee mom.
- Deliver items and encourage refugees with a personal visit.

All items must be new. (Gifting new items to refugees shows respect and provides dignity.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving Blankets • Warm Baby Blanket • Crib Sheet • Baby Bathtub • 2 Hooded Baby Towels • Washcloths • Baby Soap • Baby Shampoo • Baby Lotion • Baby Laundry Detergent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn Baby Mittens • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Onesies (Snap T-Shirts) • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Footed Pajamas • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Sleep Sacks • Baby Socks • Large Box of Diapers – Size 1 & 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Box of Wipes • Diaper Rash Cream • Burp Cloths • Bibs • Pacifier with Clip • Teether • Baby Feeding Spoons • Digital Thermometer • Baby Nail Clipper • Baby Toy • Board/Soft Book (Non-Religious) |
|---|---|---|



Other items can be added to the Baby Care Pack, but are not expected.

Collection occurs between May 4th to June 7th
A box will be available in the narthex.

Sign Up Here

bit.ly/4ud2NY8



FAITH FORWARD SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED ON MAY 31TH

For those looking to apply for our scholarships, use the QR codes below to fill out an electronic application.



<https://tinyurl.com/fhdtz34b>

REV. DR. GEORGE GOEBEL SCHOLARSHIP

Benefiting church members who are pursuing higher education.



<https://tinyurl.com/e33a2k7y>

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Helping youth experience the joy of camp through faith and community support.



May 12th
6 PM

“Fiesta of Flavor & Community: A Late Cinco Celebration”

Join us for a vibrant evening of food, fellowship, and festive joy as we celebrate a late Cinco de Mayo together! Bring a favorite dish to share—whether it’s inspired by Mexican cuisine or a beloved family recipe—and gather around the table for laughter, connection, and community spirit. This potluck is all about savoring good food, honoring culture, and celebrating the richness we create when we come together. All are welcome—come hungry and ready to celebrate!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 3 - Janet Blume
- 6 - Judy Rosedale
- 7 - Peter Rosedale
- 8 - Barbara Musselman
- 9 - Emanuel Alvarez
- 9 - Karen Wilberg
- 15 - John Skibbe
- 16 - Joann Schindler
- 20 - Bud Hudson
- 21 - Barbara Dopp
- 24 - Lucille Kelso
- 24 - Jean Amick
- 26 - Jim Van Antwerp
- 30 - Alexa Vasquez

happy anniversary

- 17 - John & Maggie LaMarche (50)
- 26 - Debra Lynn Spetich Van Antwerp & Jim Van Antwerp (41)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trivia Contest

50/50 Raffle, Picture Trivia, Family Feud, Raffle Items, and more!

Saturday, July 18th

Doors open at 1:30 pm
Games begin at 2:00 pm

Please join us for our first ever Trivia Contest! Teams of 2-6 people will compete in rounds of Trivia to win the Grand Prize!

Registration for trivia is \$20 per person. Spectators are welcome to attend and participate in raffles, concessions, and mini games. Snacks and beverages available for sale. Awards will be given for Round Winners and Overall Winner.

To register please visit trinitydesplaines.org/trivia-night or follow the QR Code.

Trinity Lutheran Church
675 E Algonquin Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-827-6656

CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:56 pm

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

Prayer

Review of February 11, 2026 Council Minutes: Motioned, seconded, motion passed.

Review of Financial Report: Reviewed the November and December financial reports.

Officer Reports – none

PASTOR'S REPORT: FEBRUARY 11 - MARCH 10

Worship & Arts:

- Ash Wednesday Service
- Regular Worship services – 4
 - One (1) w/ Communion
 - One New Member Service

Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education:

- Lent Book Study Sessions: The Last Supper on Thursdays at 6 PM (4) four held - two more sessions to go

Pastoral Care:

- Pastoral contact (pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards) = 28+
- Welcomed three (3) new members
- We will welcome (1) one new member on Sunday, April 19
- One memorial service: Richard Hagedorn

Administrative/Personal:

- Staff Meeting – Five (5)
- Continue to co-manage all social media and updating website.
- The transition to our outsourced bookkeeper is ongoing. Almost caught up.
- Installed new nameplates on the Memorial Garden plaque. Old nameplates provided to the family upon request.

Personnel:

- Pastor's upcoming time-off:
 - Sunday, March 22 - Saturday, March 28. (Vacation week 1 of 4)
 - Easter self-care week, Monday, April 6 - Saturday, April 11.
 - Sunday 1 of 3 off, Sunday, April 12.

Continuing Education:

- Continue to participate in "The Playground" via Zoom.

Wider UCC & DP Community Meetings/Presentations/Events:

- Illinois Conference of the UCC Board of Directors related meetings - Three (3)
- Met with District 62 Superintendent, Rev. Hope (First Church UMC), and a local resident to discuss current student-related issues, particularly the recent walkouts and immigration-related policies. We also addressed food resource needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

INCOME REPORT:

Funds Overview for April 2026

General Fund ----- \$5,138.10
 Mission ----- \$55.00
 Faith Forward Comm'n ----- \$225.85
 Rent ----- \$1,885.00



I ask for your patience as we navigate transitions within our fiscal system. -GM

COMING UP IN MAY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
2	Rev. Dr. William G. Grice III Memorial	Sanctuary	10 AM
3	Joint Finance/Council/Personnel Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
9	Special Staff Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
10	Mothering Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
11	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 AM
12	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9 AM
12	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7 PM
13	Potluck: Late Cinco Celebration!	Wobbe Hall	6 PM
13	Council Meeting	Lounge	7 PM
16	CMA Spring Meeting	Abundant Grace UCC	8:30 AM
17	Mental Health Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
17	ONA-WISE Committee Meeting	Lounge	10:45 AM
20	Get it Together	Lounge	10 AM
25	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 PM
25	<i>Memorial Day</i>		
26	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7 PM
30	Cake Walk	Wobbe Hall	3 PM
31	Children's Day and Scholarship Awards	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
6/6	Music Sale	Wobbe Hall	10 AM



"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 previous month, our thoughts and prayers were with:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Marion Meseth* | Marilyn McCown | Alice Barnhart |
| Dawn Mashek | Dorothy Zemke* | Bielat Family |
| Linda Steckel* | Kelly Roberts | Cathy Wiesner |
| Jack Storm | Helen Harney | Julie Radman |
| Sue Prunty | Hope & Bruce Tschappat* | The Hudsons |
| Marilyn Hoover* | Caid Carter | Our Country |
| John Prellberg | Grace Pastor | Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian,
and Israeli citizens |
| Ariana Subera | Isabell Kendl | Documented & Undocumented |
| Eppely Family | Andrea Putz-Cheng | Immigrants |
| Grice Family | | |
| Louis Georgioulis | | |

Homebound*



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

1492 Henry Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230
christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook & Instagram:
@christchurchuccdesplaines

- Rev. Gilbert Martinez.....**Pastor
- Kat Chwalisz.....**Administrative Assistant
- Helayne Levin.....**Finance Coordinator
- Karen Wilberg.....**Music Director
- 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.

Sign-up for our Email List
<https://bit.ly/CCUCCSubscribe>

988
Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
Call or Text

