

**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.

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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 6**

**June 2026**

**From The Pastor's Desk: Beyond the Green**

Dear Church Family,

Recently, my husband, son, and I spent time reworking the front yard of our home. For nearly two years, the space had little more than grass after the old bushes had been removed. It was not dead, but it did not feel fully alive either. Through this, I was reminded how much care and intention are needed to cultivate beauty and vitality in every part of life.

As we selected plants, we wanted more than the standard green so common around us, seeking color and variety that remind us that beauty does not always come through sameness. Planting was not easy. There was digging, measuring, bending, repositioning, and physical exhaustion in trying to align reality with vision. Before adding mulch, I installed a soaker hose beneath the soil because growth requires more than hope. **Life needs attention and nourishment long before anyone notices results.**

Yet when we finally stepped back to look at the completed work, seeing the expressions on my husband's and son's faces reminded me why tending to life matters in the first place. I have been reflecting on how this process of tending, nourishing, and intentionally cultivating beauty mirrors the life of the church. Just as our yard needed attention to truly thrive, so too does the church need intentional care to flourish and show signs of genuine life.

It is easier to point out what is missing than to help cultivate beauty. **It is easier to critique than to kneel in the dirt and plant.** It is easier to demand quick answers than to recognize that human beings require dignity, compassion, and grace.

**The church is not called to simply maintain what is easy and uniform; it is called to cultivate life.** Our mission is to create spaces where people feel seen, heard, affirmed, and loved. If we believe God is the Creator of all, we should welcome and cherish the many colors of creation, not fear them.

And yes, cultivating that kind of community takes work and patience. It takes those willing to water, nurture, encourage, and take on the hard work of growth.

As we move into this new season together, my prayer is that we become people deeply committed to nurturing life and beauty within our church, mirroring the transformation we pursued in our yard. Rather than pointing at what is barren, let us each choose a specific area to plant and cultivate. Together, may we embrace the work of transformation, seeking beauty where others might expect sameness and commit daily to a practice that helps our community flourish, such as reaching out to someone new, serving in a ministry, or caring for our shared spaces.

*Blessings,  
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:

**June 7:** Gen 12:1-9; Hos 5:15-6:6; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26;

**June 14:** Gen 18:1-15; Ex 19:2-8a; Matt 9:35-10:8;

**June 21:** Gen 21:8-21; Jer 20:7-13; Matt 10:24-39;

**June 28:** Gen 22:1-14; Jer 28:5-9; Matt 10:40-42;

**July 5:** Gen 24:34-38; Song of Sol 2:8-13; Zech 9:9-12; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30;

**July 12:** Gen 25:19-34; Isa 55:10-13; Matt 13:1-9

**July 19:** Gen 28:10-19a; Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43;

**July 26:** Gen 29:15-28; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Matt 13:31-33;



### 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

### INCOME REPORT:

#### **Funds Overview for May 2026**

General Fund ----- \$5,262.68	Goebel --\$25
Mission ----- \$70.00	Pastor's Discretionary --\$5
Faith Forward Comm'n ----- \$286.22	HUG Camp --\$10
One Great Hour - \$25	Plate --\$80

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



### COMING UP IN JUNE/JULY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>6/6</b>	Music Sale	Wobbe Hall	10 AM
<b>6/7</b>	Finance-Trust Committee Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
<b>6/8</b>	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 AM
<b>6/9</b>	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9 AM
<b>6/9</b>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<b>6/10</b>	OFFICE OPENS LATE		2 PM
<b>6/10</b>	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6 PM
<b>6/10</b>	Council Meeting	Lounge	7 PM
<b>6/14</b>	Interfaith Family PrideFest	Raymond Park, Evanston	2 PM
<b>6/14</b>	Faith Forward Adventures Movie Day	Wobbe Hall	9:30 AM
<b>6/14</b>	Refugee & New Members Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
<b>6/20</b>	Community Pride Celebration	Trinity Lutheran	1 PM
<b>6/21</b>	FATHER'S DAY		
<b>6/22</b>	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 PM
<b>6/23</b>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<b>6/28</b>	Pride Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
<b>7/4</b>	INDEPENDENCE DAY		
<b>7/5</b>	Finance-Trust Committee Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
<b>7/8</b>	OFFICE OPENS LATE		2 PM
<b>7/13</b>	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 AM
<b>7/14</b>	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9 AM
<b>7/14</b>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<b>7/18</b>	Trinity Lutheran Trivia Night	Trinity Lutheran	1:30 PM
<b>7/19</b>	Faith Forward Adventures Bowling Day	River Rand Bowl	11:30 AM
<b>7/27</b>	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 PM
<b>7/28</b>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM



LOVE IS LOVE



THE TITHELY CHURCH APP  
Christ Church United  
Church of Christ

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<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>



**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Vision Task Force - Reviewing a couple of properties in Des Plaines. It's still early in the process.
- Joint Workshop: Council & Finance-Trust - Sunday, May 3, 2026.
- Village Bank & Trust, N.A. (Wintrust) - we are almost switched over, but it's still in progress.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Memorial Garden - *Vision Task Force*

Motion to not have remains buried in the garden was made. There was a tie vote. Council President's vote breaks the tie. The motion passes.

- Rev. Dr. William G. Grice III's Celebration of Life - May 2nd

Motion to waive building fees for Dr. Grice's Celebration of Life. Motion was seconded and passed.

- Greater Family Health HIV Testing and Education Tuesday events

A motion to accept Greater Family Health's HIV Testing and Education's request to use our facility was made, seconded, and passed. It should be noted that this is possible with both Christ Church and Camino Rising, since Christ Church's name is on the paperwork.

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

**Red means high priority!**

Other items can be added to the Baby Care Pack, but are not expected. Collection occurs between May 4<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>. A box will be available in the narthex.

**Sign Up Here**  
[bit.ly/4ud2NY8](https://bit.ly/4ud2NY8)



## SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	<u>LITURGIST/LECTOR</u>	<u>COUNCIL GREETER</u>	<u>STREAMING COORDINATOR</u>
<b>June 7</b>	Holly Schmidt	Megan Shipp	Mandy O'Donnell
<b>June 14</b>	Laura Hallberg	Judy Rosedale	Judy Rosedale
<b>June 21</b>	Putz-Cheng Family	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
<b>June 28</b>	Jessica Busse	Mandy O'Donnell	Judy Rosedale
<b>July 5</b>	Megan Shipp	Laura Hallberg	Mandy O'Donnell
<b>July 12</b>	Laura Benitez	Judy Rosedale	Judy Rosedale
<b>July 19</b>	Holly Schmidt	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
<b>July 26</b>	Laura Hallberg	Mandy O'Donnell	Judy Rosedale

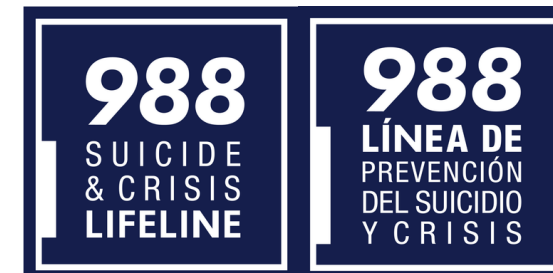
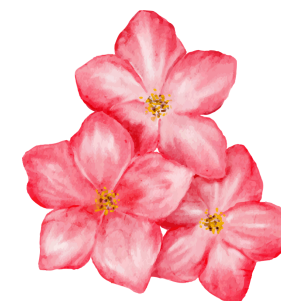


### USHERS

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>June 7</b>  | Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick |
| <b>June 14</b> | Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo                 |
| <b>June 21</b> | Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick |
| <b>June 28</b> | Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo                 |
| <b>July 5</b>  | Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick |
| <b>July 12</b> | Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo                 |
| <b>July 19</b> | Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick |
| <b>July 26</b> | Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo                 |



**APRIL AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:**  
61±



## Memorials/Honors for May

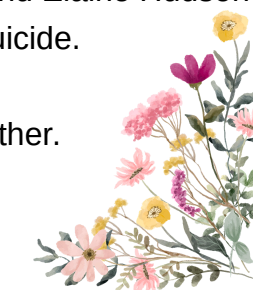
In memory of Margie, daughter, sister and aunt from Carol Borris.

In memory of our moms, Dorothy Bos and Myrtle Hudson on Mother's Day from Bud and Elaine Hudson

In sacred memory of those who died from the pain of mental illness and suicide.

In honor of those who wake up each day and keep going.

In honor and memory of all those who have mothered in one form or another.



**LETS GET INVOLVED!**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL APRIL 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** 7:01 pm

**Roll Call:** Judy Rosedale, Megan Shipp, Laura Hallberg, Bob Neil, Mandy O'Donnell (Pastor is on self-care week)

**Prayer**

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

**Review of Financial Report:** None

**Officer Reports** – none

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** MARCH 11 - APRIL 5

**Worship & Arts:**

- Regular Worship services – 5
  - One (1) w/ Communion
  - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday

**Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education:**

- Lent Book Study Sessions: The Last Supper on Thursdays at 6 pm. (2) Two held.

**Pastoral Care:**

- Pastoral contact (pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards) = 28+
- Anointing of Rev. Dr. William G. Grice III.
- One member requested removal from membership this month. As always, we hold space for transition with care and remain attentive to strengthening our pastoral care systems and communication.

**Administrative/Personal:**

- Staff Meeting – Three (3)
- Continue to co-manage all social media and updating website.
- The transition to our outsourced bookkeeper is ongoing. Almost caught up.
- We are one step closer to having our new checking and credit accounts opened with our new banking institution, Wintrust.
- I continue working with the Church Training Center (our outsourced bookkeeper) and our new Finance Coordinator to update and streamline our fiscal system.
- The Finance & Trust Committee met with the Church Training Center to gain clarity and receive a status update during its March/April meeting.

**Personnel:**

- Pastor's upcoming time-off:
  - 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:**

- Hosted a Des Plaines Clergy Alliance Meeting
- Delivered the sermon during Nuestro Amanecer UMC Easter Sunrise worship service at Lake Opeka.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Building Committee:** Both the fire suppression System and the Fire alarm have been tested.

**Faith Forward Commission:** Caryn has been appointed Treasurer. FFC is planning a Mother's Day fundraiser that will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

**Outreach Committee:** The next Outreach meeting is on the 6th at 5:15. My report for Outreach is as follows: the committee met on 3/2 to discuss new initiatives for both the public and the congregation.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## JUNE

- 1 - Jack Storm
- 3 - Julie Fritz
- 3 - Hunter Busse
- 4 - Maddie Cheng
- 6 - Styx Staggs
- 6 - Jennifer Ventrella
- 7 - Karen Harkovich
- 8 - Alice Barnhart
- 11 - Rogan Busse
- 12 - Hope Tschappat

- 12 - Tommie Jordan
- 13 - Napoleon Tecson
- 14 - Murphy Putz
- 17 - Elaine Hudson
- 17 - Annalise Borris
- 20 - Carol Borris
- 28 - Lori Fabian
- 29 - Linda Segal
- 30 - Nancy Seils
- 30 - Grace Pastor

## JULY

- 4 - Donna Boyko
- 7 - Katie Skibbe
- 8 - Cathy Speer
- 11 - Lanie Tecson
- 16 - Charlene Dohse
- 19 - Marge Thomsen
- 20 - Jack Branding
- 22 - Gary Smith
- 26 - Leslie Thomas
- 28 - Andrea Putz-Cheng
- 31 - Carolyn Amick

# happy anniversary

## JUNE

- 2 - Jack & Janice Storm (64)
- 7 - Timothy & Rosalinda Barnhart (29)
- 17 - Doug & Robin Shore (36)

## JULY

- 7 - Stephen & Barbara Bay (50)
- 29 - Karen & Nicholas Harkovich (37)



# 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](http://www.greaterfamilyhealth.org)

# FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES



Summer Activities

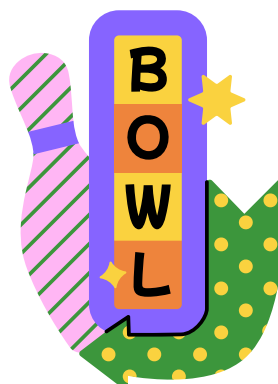


## MOVIE DAY - JUNE 14

Kids will enjoy a family friendly movie during worship - popcorn provided!

## BOWLING - JULY 19

Join us for some after church fun at River Rand Bowl (11:30 am). Pizza will be provided. Please use the QR code to register and pick your pizza preference.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



# Trivia Contest

## 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](http://trinitydesplaines.org/trivia-night) or follow the QR Code.



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



**Third Annual** **Save the Date**  
**Interfaith Family Pride Fest**

**Raymond Park  
 Evanston, IL  
 All Are  
 Welcome**

**FREE**

**Sunday  
 June 14th  
 2:00 PM -  
 5:00 PM**



**Featuring**  
**True Colors Drag Troupe**  
**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus**  
**Full Spectrum Bluegrass**  
**Evanston Folk Choir**



**Interfaith Prayer  
 Conversations on  
 the Lawn**

*Join us for a time of community connection and learning. Each week we will have folks from different religions as well as a different Christian tradition talk about the role of prayer in their faith. There will be opportunities to engage in different prayer practices and to learn about different faiths and cultures. In addition there will be activities for kids. All ages are encouraged to come and bring a lawn chair or blanket. If the weather is bad we will move our discussion into the church building.*



**Thursdays in July  
 at 7pm**



**Northwest Suburban  
 Interfaith Forum**

**First Church**  
 Your neighborhood United Methodist Church  
 668 Graceland Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60016



*"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:*

- |                        |                   |                                      |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dawn Mashek            | Marilyn McCown    | Documented & Undocumented Immigrants | <b>Homebound*</b> |
| Sue Prunty             | Ariana Subera     |                                      |                   |
| John Prellberg         | Rev. Marcia Urban | Our Country                          |                   |
| Kelly Roberts          | Charles Epperly   | Ukraine, Lebanon,                    |                   |
| Hope & Bruce Tschappat | Alice Barnhart    | Palestinian, and Israeli citizens    |                   |
| Helen Harney           | Grice Family      |                                      |                   |
| The Hudsons            | Isabel Kendl      |                                      |                   |

# Music Sale

\$1 per score!



Buy 5 scores,  
get 1 free!

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

**June 6 • 10 AM to 3 PM • Wobbe Hall**

\*Some filing cabinets will also be available for sale.




**community PRIDE celebration 2026**

**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](https://speakdesplaines.org/pride)**

*A Community Partnership Between*





