



The BEACON

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

Volume I, Issue IV

April 2024

From The Pastor

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As I reflect on our recent initiatives and the energy within our church walls, a verse from Isaiah comes to mind:

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." -Isaiah
55:10-11*

Change, like the coming of rain, can bring both uncertainty and anticipation. Here at Christ Church U.C.C., we are in a season of both. We are shifting direction, planting seeds of new ideas and ministries. There's a buzz in the air, a sense of purpose stirring.

Are you feeling it?

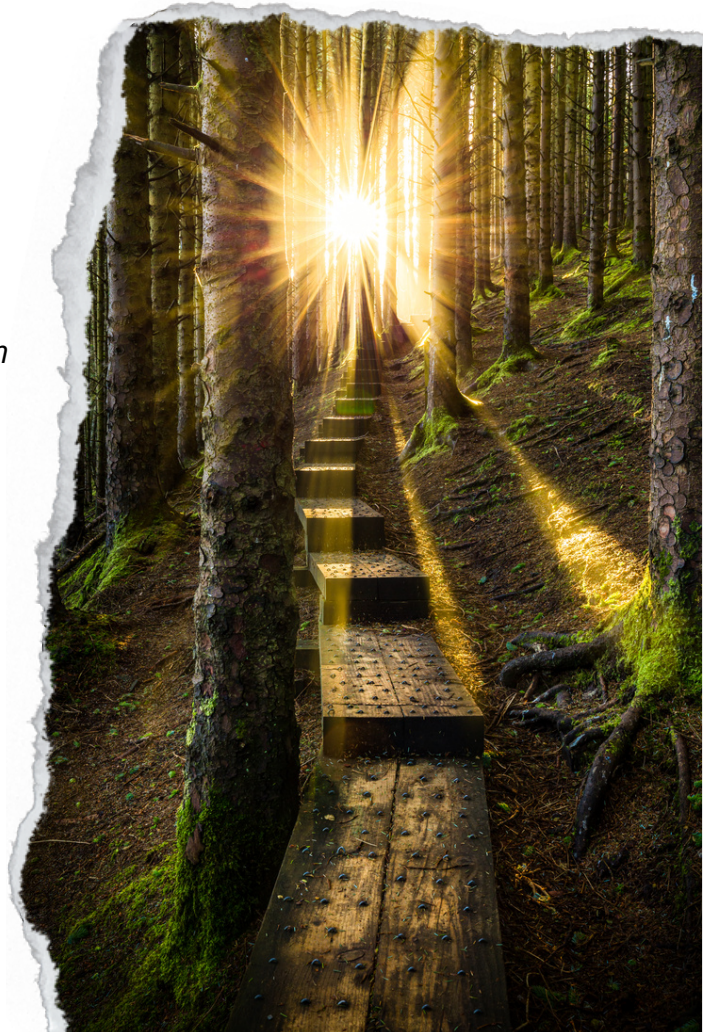
Perhaps you've noticed the increased participation of our Outreach Committee, the faces joining our book study groups, or the lively discussions after service. These are all signs of a congregation awakening, prepared to live out God's mission of love and care for one another.

Are we moving into action?

Absolutely! By creating a support group for those facing tribulation to our continued support of the food pantry, we are actively embodying the teachings of Christ. Like seeds sprouting after a spring rain, these actions will blossom into something beautiful serving our community.

This pilgrimage of transformation and metamorphosis will not be without its challenges. But remember, the rain nurtures the earth, and God's word guides our trail. Let us sustain each other, embrace new possibilities, and step forward in faith. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of others.

In God's Love,
Rev. Gilbert



Growing In The Word of God

For all those who are following the Scripture lessons used during the Sunday Worship Services, here are the April 2024 Common Lectionary readings:

April 7, Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14, Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4: 7-21; John 15: 1-8



Pastor's Office Hours:

Sundays: By Appt before or after worship.

Mondays: office closed

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 10 am - 3 pm*

Sabbath: Fridays and Saturdays

**Can schedule later appointments on a case-by-case basis. For emergencies, call the pastor on his cell: 254-250-9898*

Finance Manager's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30 am-1:30 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 am-3 pm

STAFF MEETING: Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm
The office phone is not answered.

Community Backpack Program

Suggested items - please, no glass jars!

Single-serve breakfast cereal

Instant oatmeal packets

Pancake mix (just 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>
April 7	Megan Shipp	Judy Rosedale	John Skibbe
April 14	Holly Schmidt	Steve Bay	Mandy O'Donnell
April 21	Alice Barnhart	Alice Barnhart	John Skibbe
April 28	Jacob Guerra-Martinez	Holly Schmidt	Mandy O'Donnell



Ushers

April 7	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
April 14	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
April 21	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
April 28	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman



POTLUCK: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**. *The theme is Tax Day Relief.* The main dish will be chicken pot pie. Join us for fellowship.



FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES

growing
in
faith
together

APRIL 21
MAY 19

FOR CHILDREN
OF ALL AGES

CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES

Faith Forward Adventures: Growing in Faith Together is a welcoming and supportive environment where children can learn and grow in their faith. We strive to create an inclusive atmosphere where all children feel valued and are encouraged to ask questions and participate. The program is a dedicated space to help kids develop a deeper understanding of God's love and the principles of Christianity through engaging activities and meaningful discussions. Each Sunday should be a fun and meaningful experience for all. Join us on this exciting journey of faith and discovery! **April 21 and May 19 at 9:30 am.**

Lets Get Involved!

EARTH MONTH CLEAN-UP

Celebrate Earth Month by joining a group trash clean up at Chippewa Woods on **Saturday, April 13, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. The Outreach Committee and Des Plaines Interfaith Clergy Cluster will be in attendance. There will be a brief prayer service. Gloves, grabbers, safety vests, and trash bags will be provided. This event is free and open to the community! You can register in advance at cleaupgiveback.org. Walk-ups are welcomed.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS: Friendly reminder that all are welcome to join the first Thursday of each month, summer included, to come and enjoy fellowship. At noon, with coffee and tea provided, bring your lunch. **April 4, in Wobbe Hall, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm.**

GET IT TOGETHER: Come, chat, and have some coffee! The third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on **April 17, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**.

Christ Church Book Club: Join our Christ Church Book Club on Wednesday, April 10 at 1:00pm to discuss the book "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. The discussion will be lead by Kathie Groll. Hope to see you there.



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:

- Pasta sauce (plain)
- Flour
- Sugar
- Instant coffee
- Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible)
- New or like-new clean bed linens and towels
- Men's stretch boxer briefs
- Women's, girls, boys, children all sizes underwear
- Toddler underwear (3-5)
- Maxi pads and tampons
- Women's Depends (size M)
- Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok)
- Clean, dozen size empty egg cartons
- New socks - women's & children's
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dog food (canned and dry)
- Cooking oil
- Juice (large bottles or boxed)
- Canned dinners (hash, chili, pasta)
- Ketchup
- Mayo
- Mustard
- Canned fruit
- White rice
- Peanut butter
- Jelly or jam



Thank you everyone for all your help.

CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONGREGATION

FAITH FORWARD

Christ Church U.C.C. speaks...

Lecture: Strangers in a Strange
Land: How Can the Church Stay
Relevant in Today's World of
Immigration and Refugees?

GET TICKETS
[BIT.LY/FAITHFORWARDCCUCC](https://bit.ly/faitforwardccucc)

PERMISSION TO USE A LIBRARY MEETING ROOM DOES NOT IMPLY
LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT OF THE AIMS, VIEWS, POLICIES, OR ACTIVITIES OF
ANY GROUP OR ORGANIZATION NOR IS THE LIBRARY A SPONSOR OF THE
EVENT OR REPRESENTING AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION.



Speaker
Rev. Jon Gilbert
Martinez

APRIL 18, 2024
7:00 PM
DES PLAINES LIBRARY



Memorials/Honors for March

In memory of Phil on his birthday, 3/9, by *Nancy Seils*

In memory of my dad, Frederick L. Caswell, by *Milissa (Caswell) & Richard Nixon*

In memory of Margie Borris, by *Mom Carol, Rj, Rich, and Annalise*

In memory of our son, Mike, and our parents and grandparents on Easter, by *Bud and Elaine Hudson*

In memory of my parents, *Jan & Lou Spetich*, by *Debra Lynn Spetich Van Antwerp*

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert & June Radman, by *Julie Radman*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 - Thomas March	24 - Rita S. Barth (II)
6 - Michael Skibbe	25 - Robin Shore
8 - Dorothy Zemke	27 - Jake Thorson
15 - Henry Speer	28 - William Frost
15 - Lori Bruhn	30 - Joseph Busse
15 - John Skibbe	

Happy Anniversary

TRINITY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: Trinity Lutheran Church of Des Plaines offers a monthly drive-through community lunch on the second Saturday of each month. On April 13th, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, all are also welcome to bring their meal inside for fellowship.



Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is Monday, **April 8th at 11:45 am.**

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



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **April 9th at 9:00 am.**

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

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.



COMING UP IN APRIL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 4	Circle of Friends	Wobbe Hall	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
April 8	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
April 9	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
	Christ Church Book Club	Lounge	1:00 pm
	Outreach Committee Meeting	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
April 10	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
April 13	Trinity Community Luncheon	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
	Earth Month Clean-Up	Chippewa Woods	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
April 17	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
April 18	Faith Forward: Christ Church UCC Lecture	Des Plaines Library	7:00 pm
April 21	Faith Forward Adventures	Wobbe Hall	9:30 am
	Worship Musical Guest: Jered Montgomery	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Memory Lane Caregivers Support Group	Lounge	10:45 am - 12:00 pm
April 28	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	10:45 am

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:

43±



Plastic Recycling Challenge: Christ Church started a plastic recycling challenge in October. The goal is to collect 500 pounds of plastics! We are at 500 lbs!

Keep bringing your plastic!

"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 month of **March**, our thoughts and prayers were with:*

William "Bill" Shipp*
Marion Meseth
John Nix
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel*
Ally Enter
John Hangey
Al Angsten

Jean Henschke*
Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Helen Harney
Marianne Wolf
Marilyn Hoover
Sue Prunty

Hope & Bruce Tschappat
Roy Sove*
Dolores Tomsheck*
LaVerne Thackaberry*
Tammy Fredrickson
Cindy Georgoulis
Homebound*
Palestinian and Israeli citizens





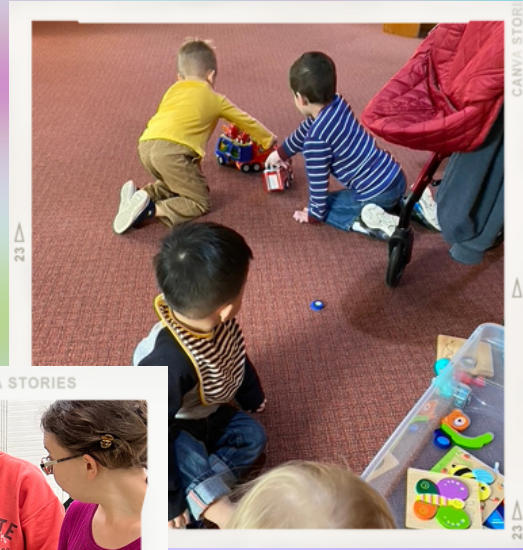
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Top Left-Right:
Lanie & Napoleon Tecson, Pam
Meseth Fack, & Julie Radman



Bottom Left-Right:
Penny Collins, Cathy Wiesner, &
George Bielat





**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

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

christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook & Instagram:

@christchurchuccdesplaines

Rev. Jon Gilbert Martinez, Pastor
gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant
jezze@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kyle Speer, Finance Manager & Music Coordinator
kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Hana Fujisaki, Church Organist

Leslie Thomas, Church Pianist

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

