



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 IX

October 2024

From The Pastor



The fall season is upon us, and the cooling of the air that surrounds us aids in our breathing and signifies the life that embeds our bodies. The range of colors—reds, oranges, browns, and all in between—brings a kaleidoscope of colors blended into one work of art initiated by the hand of something bigger than us mere humans.

Upon a pause in the chaotic scope of the living wind, we stop in amazement as we stumble on this almost perfectly crafted leaf. The leaf's colors and grains combine with such precise intricacy that every detail is carefully crafted. You bend down to grab the leaf and hold it as if this beautifully crafted piece of art is so delicate it requires the utmost care.

You stand there for a moment, pondering what you should do. Should you encase it and save it to stand as a work of art for all to see, or do you wait for it to wither and toss it? If you keep it, consider the type of encasement, whether it should have a background, what color of trim the frame should be, or choose a solid acrylic cube.

In retaining the integrity of the beauty of such carefully sculpted work, you allow it to be lit on display so that all its true colors of beauty radiate across the room for all to see. One by one, as people visit your new treasure, they are amazed at how much you have done to make it stand out. They comment that if they were to find such a leaf on the ground, they may not have taken such care of it or even noticed it, for that matter.

God is the sculptor who makes leaves like the one encased and all the beauty that encompasses the beauty of our siblings on this earth. We are bestowed with the various cultures, races, and skin colors that make people who they are. Like the leaf on display for all to see and admire, God hopes we can see the radiating love used to mold each person.

Unfortunately, people sometimes stroll on by without appreciating the life before them. Often, we are quick to step all over people who don't meet our beauty standards. How does that saying go, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

God asks that we help others see the beauty in people who are often seen as less than or not beautiful enough to appreciate. God, through Jesus, calls us to be disciples who will help lift each other up. We are called to help others see the beauty in which God created each person.

"The Great Spirit has chosen you to be his holy and deeply loved children, so put on the new regalia he has provided for you. Put on deep feeling for the pain of others, kindness, humbleness of heart, gentleness of spirit, and be patient with one another."

-Small Man to the Sacred Family in Village of Giants 3:12 FNVNT

In God's Love,

Rev. Gilbert

Growing In The Word of God

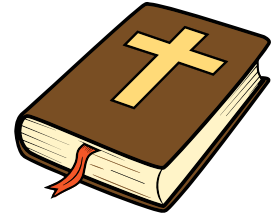
For all those who are following the Scripture lessons used during the Sunday Worship Services, here are the October 2024 Common Lectionary readings:

October 6: Luke 19:1-10

October 13: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 20: Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Heb 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 27: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Heb 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



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: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

STAFF MEETING: Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm

The office phone is not answered.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROGRAM

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

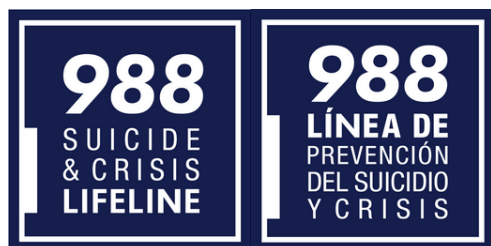
	<u>Liturgist/Lector</u>	<u>Council Greeter</u>	<u>Streaming Coordinator</u>
October 6	Jessica Busse	Mandy O'Donnell	John Skibbe
October 13	Kyle Speer	Laura Hallberg	Mandy O'Donnell
October 20	Laura Hallberg	Judy Rosedale	John Skibbe
October 27	Megan Shipp	Steve Bay	Mandy O'Donnell



Ushers



October 6	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
October 13	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
October 20	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
October 27	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman



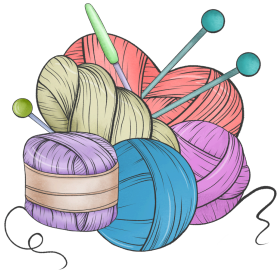
**SEPTEMBER'S AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:**
48±

Financial Report

Christ Church UCC Statement of Financial Activity September 1 - 28, 2024

	Week of Sep 1, 24	Week of Sep 8, 24	Week of Sep 15, 24	Week of Sep 22, 24	TOTAL
▼ Ordinary Income/Expe...					
► Income	879.50	1,003.50	1,152.00	2,132.00	5,167.00
► Expense	3,184.55	14,602.92	226.22	4,932.06	22,945.75
Net Ordinary Income	-2,305.05	-13,599.42	925.78	-2,800.06	-17,778.75

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 **October 16, 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.



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

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

Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

Thank you everyone for all your help.





October 2nd

Anniversary

As we reflect on 132 years of ministry, let's look forward to the future. Your donation will help us continue to serve Des Plaines and make a positive impact.

Different Ways to Give 132

Coins:

- **Pennies: 132 pennies = \$1.32**
- **Nickels: 132 nickels = \$6.60**
- **Dimes: 132 dimes = \$13.20**
- **Quarters: 132 quarters = \$33.00**

Bills:

- **Dollar bills: 132 dollar bills = \$132**
- **Five-dollar bills: 132 five-dollar bills = \$660**
- **Ten-dollar bills: 132 ten-dollar bills = \$1,320**
- **Twenty-dollar bills: 132 twenty-dollar bills = \$2,640**
- **Fifty-dollar bills: 132 fifty-dollar bills = \$6,600**
- **Hundred-dollar bills: 132 hundred-dollar bills = \$13,200**

No matter the amount, we appreciate your continued support.

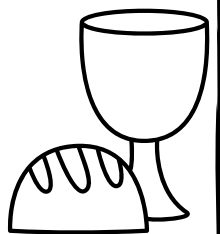
For online gifting, please go to <https://bit.ly/132ndAnniversaryCCUCC>



Join us on October 6th!

Experience a warm and welcoming community centered around faith and fellowship. Enjoy uplifting music, inspiring messages, and opportunities to connect with others. We have a dedicated children's play area to entertain the little ones while you worship. Come as you are and discover the joy of belonging! Join us after worship for fellowship and some treat with a cup of tea or coffee.

Please bring bread to display on the Communion Table and enjoy during fellowship. The sky is limit on what kind you can bring.





CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

Join Us for a Plastic Recycling Challenge Potluck Celebration!

Celebrate our success in reducing plastic waste together!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
5-7 PM

1492 Henry Avenue

Parking is behind the church

Enjoy delicious food and fellowship while recognizing our church challenge partners and businesses/organizations that contributed to our recycling efforts.

Let's continue to make a positive impact on our environment!

BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE



FALL FELLOWSHIP DAY 2024





FALL FELLOWSHIP DAY 2024



Christ Church Council Minutes – August 14, 2024

Approval of July, 2024 meeting minutes:

Motion made to the minutes with the correction to names, seconded and carried by the council.

Financial Report

- Question on how the Play went. We broke even with a little bit extra. It was asked to have more details at the next meeting.
- Information was sent out to the Council members.

Motion and second made to approve the financial report as sent out – the council approved the report.

Officer Report

The parking lot is ready for sealcoating.

Committee Reports

- **Mission Committee:** The Mission Committee and Pastor Gilbert met on August 6. We reviewed the Mission checks that were sent out. We were notified that Northwest Suburban Day Care Center had to close their doors. They returned the check we sent them. We are working on a program, for this fall, where we will collect certain items for the Backpack project. Our next Mission meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 29.
- **Outreach Committee:** The August 4th Outdoor Church Service at Lake Opeka was a success with 60+ people attending. The cleanup had good participation with both churches and the Boy Scouts cleaning up around the lake. The potluck was enjoyed by all with plenty of food thanks to the Staggs making pulled pork. Our next event is Rally Day/Community Day on September 8th. There will be food, beverages, games, music, and information on our many Christ Church organizations and events. Sunday School and confirmation classes begin that day. A food truck will provide Kona Ice for attendees.
- **Faith Forward Commission:** The commission met on Monday, July 29th. We discussed finalizing a calendar for the programming and Christmas pageant, among other ideas for getting the new educational elements going. Additionally, we discussed how to bring focus to the Goebel Scholarship Fund as we aim to have it be more mainstream. In a joint effort with Outreach and Mission, we will look at taking part in filling and delivering backpacks through the Backpack Project. Next meeting, Monday, August 26th at 6 pm.
- **Building Committee:** Two quotes have been submitted for consideration in re-surfacing our parking lot and fixing our roof. Maintenance tech continues to work on revamping our lounge. The new look will be completed by the end of the month with a new conference table and chairs.
- **Finance Committee:** The committee met on Sunday, July 28th. We accepted the financial reports as presented by the Finance Mgr. The committee reviewed the estimates submitted by Bldg. Comm for consideration. The committee voted to affirm the parking lot resurfacing estimate. However, the committee did not vote to approve the roof estimate without getting at least one other quote. The committee also discussed who can sign contracts on behalf of the church. Rev. Gilbert will verify when the Council approved for the Finance Manager and Pastor to sign on their behalf. Next meeting, Sunday, August 25th at 11 am.

PASTOR'S REPORT: July 7 – August 8

Worship & Arts:

- Regular Worship services – Three (3), Two (2) with Communion
- Nearly 70 people attended our annual worship, clean-up, and potluck event.

- Children's Storytime launches on Sunday, September 8th.

Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education

Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School) & Confirmation Classes will officially launch on Sunday, September 8th on Fall Fellowship Day (Rally Day).

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral contact (*pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards*) = 61±

Administrative/Personnel:

- Staff Meeting – Five (5) (*includes w/maintenance technician on Sundays*)
- Continue to co-manage all social media.
- Five (5) committee meetings

Wider UCC & Community:

DP Clergy Meeting

Current Business

Building:

- o We had a fire department visit due to the defective smoke detector in the sanctuary. It has been repaired.
- o Roof is leaking by the entrance to the office. We received 1 quote but are waiting for a second and third quote before making any decisions. Since a new roof would be over \$15 K, a congregational meeting would be needed for approval – if a new roof is needed.
- o We have a quote for the parking lot seal coating and expect another one in the next week. Waiting for the additional bids before a decision is made.
- o The organ is still not working. The motor is ok but need a new gasket. Having issues finding someone who can do the repair.
- There was a question from the finance committee about who can sign contracts on behalf of the church. The Finance Manager and Pastor can sign contracts up to \$500. It will need Council approval (up to \$15K) if it is above that amount. If above that amount, congregational approval is required via a special congregational meeting

New Business

- Coffee Hour Sign up: will continue to place the sign-up sheet on the table during coffee hour and filled the calendar through mid-August. We will remind people that if they serve others can bring baked goods if needed during an announcement on Sundays.
- Rally Day – September 8, 2024, in the parking lot. The Outreach Committee is working on a fun event to include Snow Cones, burgers / hot dogs, music, games, and a raffle. Everyone will receive a ticket for a free burger (from a food truck) and a snow cone – an in-kind donation will be asked for. Will be asking for donations of raffle prizes. Proceeds will go to the George Goebel scholarship fund. Will also highlight our current committees so that people can join.
- Laura Hallberg will work on our next Exodus Welcome Home Kit collection. Trinity Lutheran would like to partner with us. More to come.
- September 8 will begin our Children's Sunday Programs for the year. Children will start at the worship service with us and then go to their class. The program will be held every other week.
- The Mission Committee will start a themed collection for the Backpack Program. On the 2nd Sunday of each month (same day as the second offertory collection for Missions) we will have a themed collection.

September will be “pound of pasta” Sunday. People can bring other items too and any weekly donations are accepted.

- Pastor Gilbert suggested we volunteer to pack specific snacks for one of the local schools to help out. We could ask for the food / beverage items from the congregation and then have weekly packing sessions during Fellowship Coffee Hour to lack. On Sundays when the kids are present, we will ask them to help. More details to come.

Motion to adjourn at 7:54 pm

3 of 3

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday, November 3rd

Bring a loved one's picture to place on our Communion Table as we honor them.



Mission Committee Organizations

Who We Support

ONA Coalition

The Open and Affirming Coalition has been a spur to the conscience of the United Church of Christ denomination, the Church, and the world since 1972; advocating that LGBTQ+ individuals and their families deserve welcome and safety in their churches and communities.



Founded in 1972, the Coalition has helped the UCC reach each of its milestones on the journey towards acceptance and justice for its LGBTQ+ and same-gender-loving (SGL)* members. From General Synod's first resolutions advocating for the civil rights of homosexual citizens to the church's historic affirmation of marriage equality, the Coalition has been a spur to the conscience of our beloved church. By claiming our right to participate fully in ministry and fellowship, by reminding UCC members of the injustices that continue to prevail in wider society, by providing leadership for the growing Open and Affirming movement, the Coalition has been an effective agent for change in the UCC.

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries

The organization and Ministry of PAAM has helped Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders be more visible in all setting of the UCC ministry. From leadership participation to the establishment of new PAAM UCC congregations. To date there are more than 200 PAAM churches nationwide and more are still in the process of joining the UCC. PAAM is organized into 6 regions comprising of Hawaii, Norther California Nevada, Southern California Nevada, Pacific Northwest, Midwest and East. PAAM continues to address institutional racism within the church and society, is concerned with issues of human rights and justice, and helps to support and strengthen clergy and lay leadership at the local level.



WINGS

The mission of WINGS Program, Inc. is to provide housing, integrated services, education and advocacy to end domestic violence. WINGS Program, Inc. understands that Diversity and Inclusion are a vital part of our mission. Together we will continue to foster an inclusive culture that supports, values, connects and honors the diverse voices and needs of our employees, clients, board and volunteers, donors and customers, and partners.



Illinois Conference United Church of Christ Annual Celebration

Embrace God's Imagination



First Congregational Church of Western Springs
November 1 - 2, 2024
with optional events October 31st

Friday Highlights

Opening Worship

*Rev. Dr. Patrick
Daymond*

Workshops

Celebrations:

*5 for 5
Anniversaries
Necrology*

Banquet Dinner

Event Cost

Full Event:

\$125

Retired Min:

\$60*

MIDs:

\$62.50

Youth:

\$60*

**Banquet Cost Only*

Saturday Highlights

Keynote Address

Rev. Rhina Ramos

Business Session

Camp Forward

Governance

Budget

New Officers

Closing Worship

Rev. Julian DeShazier

SCAN TO
REGISTER
ONLINE!



Rev. Rhina Ramos | Keynote Speaker

Rev. Rhina Ramos is an ordained United Church of Christ minister leading Ministerio Latino, a Spanish speaking open and affirming congregation for LGBTQI Latinx immigrants she established as her call in December 2011. Embedded in her heart is San Oscar Romero's legacy of seeking justice.



**Thank you to
our Sponsors!**



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SOCIETY**



United Church of Christ
**Church Building
& Loan Fund**



<https://tinyurl.com/2024AnnualCelebration>

Illinois Conference

United Church of Christ

Annual Celebration Schedule



FULL TICKET

\$125

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

9:30 AM	Registration/Fellowship
10:00 - 12:00 AM	COM Discussions (for COM members, free)
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	UCC History & Polity - CANCELLED
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Boundary & Bias Awareness Trainings (\$30)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:30 - 10:00 AM	Registration/Fellowship
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Opening Worship
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Workshop Block A
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch (boxed lunch provided)
1:15 - 2:00 PM	Workshop Block B
2:15 - 5:00 PM	Celebrations & Business Meeting
6:30 - 10:00 PM	Banquet Dinner

FRIDAY ONLY

\$80

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

8:00 - 8:30 AM	Registration/Fellowship
8:30 - 9:15 AM	Keynote (livestreamed)
9:30 - 11:45 AM	Business Meeting (hybrid)
12:15 - 12:45 PM	Lunch (boxed lunch provided)
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Closing Worship (livestreamed)
2:00 PM	Depart for Home

SATURDAY ONLY

\$60

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE!

<https://tinyurl.com/2024AnnualCelebration>



Memorials/Honors for September

In memory of our son Mike, on his birthday, 9/6, by *Bud and Elaine Hudson*

In memory of Phil, 9/17/22, by *Nancy Seils*

In loving memory of Ron Groll on his birthday, September 28, and our anniversary, October 1, by *Kathleen Groll*

To my amazing Papa, Jacob, on his special day 9-22. Wishing you a birthday filled with joy and happiness, by *Nathaniel Martinez*

To honor and thank my entire Christ Church Family for their support, by *Linda Steckel*

In loving memory of Ann Wobbe Wisniewski, by *Gregory Wisniewski*



- 1 - Cecilia Goto
- 3 - Kathryn (Katie) Matthews
- 11 - Lois Malone
- 13 - Elaine Angsten
- 19 - Marilyn Hoover
- 30 - Nicholas Harkovich
- 31 - Ruth Hallberg



- 3 - Bill and Mindy Frost (54)
- 5 - Irving and Ruth Hallberg (67)

Snacks needed for IROQUOIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Please bring individually wrapped snacks such as pretzels, goldfish, fruit snacks, cheez-it, ritz bits, small bags of pre-packed popcorn. The snacks should be easy to eat while in class.

NO PEANUT BUTTER.



Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is Monday, **October 7th at 11:45 am.**

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



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **October 8th at 9 am.**

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

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
October 2	<i>Happy 132nd Anniversary!</i>	-	-
October 3	Rev. Gilbert's Ordination Anniversary	-	-
October 6	World Communion Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Class	Lounge	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
October 7	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
	Outreach Committee Meeting	Lounge	5:15 pm
October 8	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
October 9	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
October 12	Trinity Community Luncheon	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
October 16	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
October 19	Potluck for Recycling Challenge	Wobbe Hall	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
October 20	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Bench/Little Library Dedication		10:20 am
	Confirmation Class	TBD	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
October 27	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	11:00 am
October 28	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 pm

Potluck: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 9th, 2024. *The theme is Latin American Flare.* Join us for fellowship.



Plastic Recycling Challenge: Christ Church started a plastic recycling challenge in October of 2024. The goal was to collect 500 pounds of plastics! We are now at over 1,027 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 months of **September**, 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*
Jack Storm
Rev. Marica Urban
Homebound*
Palestinian and Israeli citizens



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

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Facebook & Instagram:

@christchurchuccdesplaines

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

**Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant &
Digital Outreach Coordinator**
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.

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988

Suicide and Crisis

Lifeline

Call or Text

