



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 III

March 2024

"Let us know, let us press on to know the God; God appearing is as sure as the dawn; God will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth." – Hosea 6:3

From The Pastor

As Easter approaches, I am reminded of Hosea 6:3, which urges us to acknowledge the Lord and press on. The verse likens God's appearance to the winter and spring rains that water the earth. This metaphor highlights the importance of figuratively and literally planting seeds.

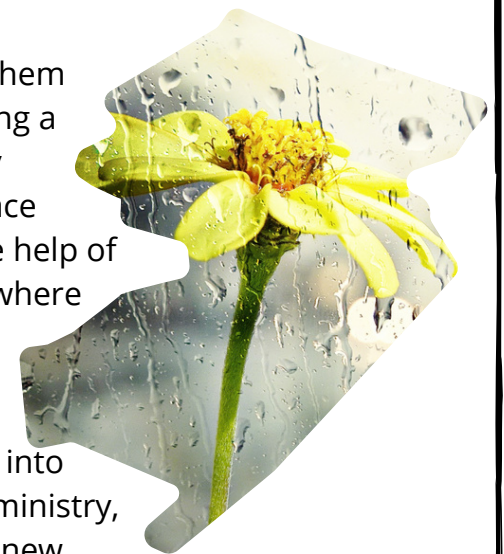
Just as the spring rains water the earth and enable new plants to grow, Jesus' resurrection offers us an opportunity to sow new seeds in our ministry. We can reflect on how we can grow and strengthen our community and find new ways to serve those around us, like supporting another nonprofit such as First Congregational Church Preschool.

For nearly two years, I have been closely observing the teachers and the incredible work they do for our children. Their dedication is truly inspiring, and I wanted to find a way to support them from a pastoral standpoint. Recently, I noticed they were struggling with funds for their C.P.R. and First Aid recertification, so I knew I had to help.

I provided them with a small check from the pastor's discretionary fund on behalf of the congregation, which eased their burden and showed them that their hard work and commitment to our children do not go unnoticed. It is a small part of which we assist in sowing new seeds and supporting these exceptional educators.

Many stories speak to the beauty of planting seeds and watching them grow. For instance, I've read and heard stories about people starting a community garden in low-income and urban neighborhoods. They discerned the need for fresh produce and wanted to provide a space where people could grow their own fruits and vegetables. With the help of volunteers and donations, the gardens grow and become a place where people can come together and connect over their shared love of gardening.

Likewise, we can plant seeds in our ministry and watch them grow into something beautiful. We could continue to invest in our outreach ministry, find ways to better support those in need in our community, offer new opportunities for fellowship and connection, or deepen our faith and understanding of God's love. As we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus, let us take this opportunity to sow new seeds in our ministry.



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 March 2024 Common Lectionary readings:

March 3, Third Sunday in Lent: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent: Num 21:4-9; Eph 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

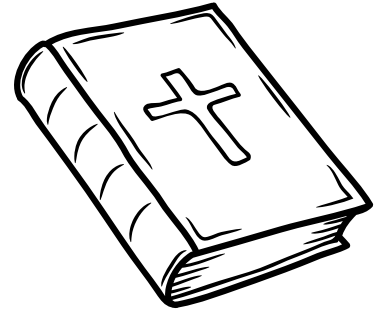
March 17, Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 24, Palm Sunday: Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11

March 28, Maundy Thursday: Matthew 26:17-56

March 29, Good Friday: Isa 52:13-53:12; Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

March 31, Easter: Act 10:34-43; 1 Cor 15:1-11; John 20:1-18



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, etc.), 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

Liturgist/Lector

Council Greeter

March 3	Jacob Guerra-Martinez	Alice Barnhart
March 10	Putz-Cheng Family	Bob Neil
March 17	Jessica Busse	Holly Schmidt
March 24	Kyle Speer	Mandy O'Donnell
March 31	Laura Hallberg	Laura Hallberg



Ushers

March 3	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
March 10	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
March 17	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
March 24	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
March 28	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
March 29	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
March 31	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman



LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:
40±



Lets Get Involved!



Dear Rev. Martinez and the congregation of Christ Church,

The staff at First Congregational Preschool was utterly astounded by the charity you've shown us. We are so very thankful for your generosity. Your donation to assist with the C.P.R./First Aid training cost was needed and appreciated. You have allowed us the training we need to provide the safest environment for our students. Thank you from each and every one of us.



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. **March 7th, 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 **March 20, 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.

Christ Church Book Club: Join our Christ Church Book Club on Wednesday, April 10th 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:

- Canned beans (kidney, black, northern, etc.)
- Canned tomatoes
- Pudding mixes
- Breakfast cereal
- Pasta sauce in jars
- Spaghetti
- Vegetarian items: soups/meal items in cans or pouches
- Men's stretch boxer briefs
- Women's, girls, boys underwear
- Boys' and girls' socks
- Paper towels
- Empty dozen egg cartons
- Dog/cat food



Thank you everyone for all your help.

Lets Get Involved!

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!



MEMORY LANE CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

We are excited to announce the launch of our **Memory Lane Caregivers Support Group**, which will be held on the **third Sunday of the month starting March 17 at 10:45 am** in the lounge. This group is designed to provide support for those who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia, as well as those who have lost someone to these diseases. We understand how difficult it can be to navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's and dementia, and we want to offer a safe and welcoming space for people to share their experiences and find support. If you or someone you know could benefit from this group, we invite you to join us on March 17 in the lounge. We hope to see you there! Rev. Gilbert Martinez will facilitate the group sessions.



SHARE THE LIGHT

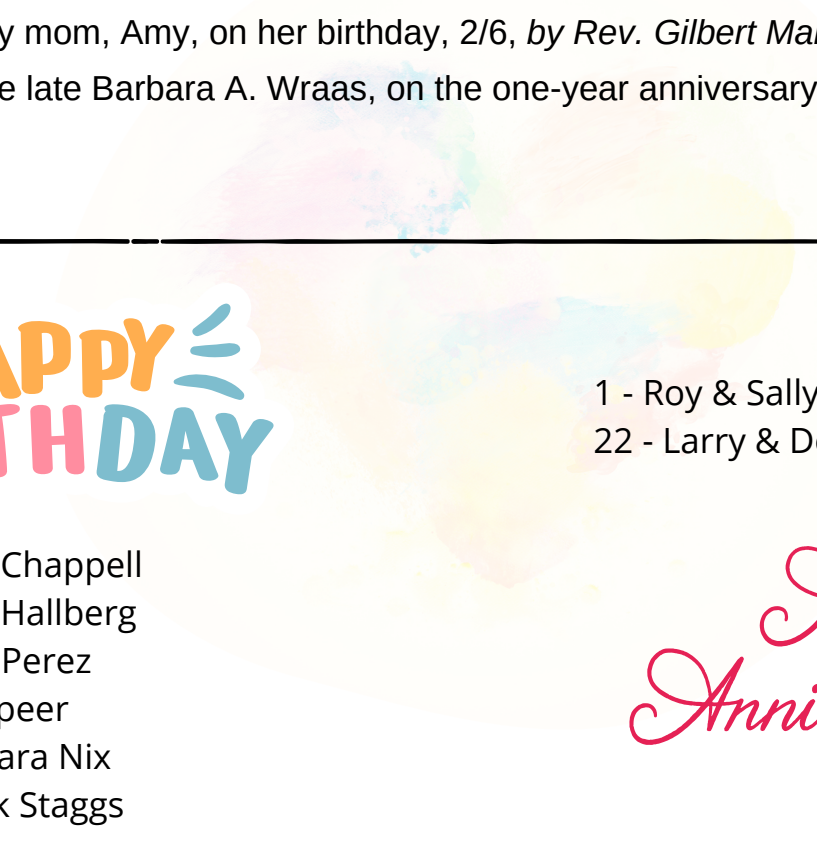
The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. *OGHS offering date: March 10, 2024*

Memorials/Honors for February

In memory of my mom, Amy, on her birthday, 2/6, by Rev. Gilbert Martinez

In memory of the late Barbara A. Wraas, on the one-year anniversary of her passing, 2/3, by Jon Perry



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 - Cathy Chappell
8 - Laura Hallberg
8 - Maria Perez
9 - Kyle Speer
14 - Barbara Nix
27 - Frank Staggs

1 - Roy & Sally Sove (72)
22 - Larry & Dorothy Zemke (55)

Happy Anniversary



EASTER LILIES: If you want to donate for Easter lilies, please mark your envelopes as such. There is a suggested donation of \$20.00. Please have your envelopes in by Palm Sunday.

TRINITY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: Trinity Lutheran Church of Des Plaines offers a monthly drive-through community lunch on the second Saturday of each month. On March 9th, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, all are also welcome to bring their meal inside for fellowship.



Potluck: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday, March 13th, 2024**. The theme is St. Patrick's. Any questions, contact Holly Schmidt.

Men's Lunch:

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

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



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **March 12th at 9:00 am.**

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

COMING UP IN MARCH

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
March 3	Outreach Committee Meeting	Lounge	10:45 am
March 6	Lenten Book Study Series	Lounge	11:00 am-12:30 pm
March 7	Circle of Friends	Wobbe Hall	12:00 pm-2:00 pm
March 9	Trinity Community Luncheon	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:00 am-12:30 pm
March 10	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Daylight Savings Time	-	-
March 11	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
March 12	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
March 13	Lenten Book Study Series	Lounge	11:00 am-12:30 pm
	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
March 17	Memory Lane Caregivers Support Group	Lounge	10:45 am-11:30 am
March 20	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10:00 am-12:00 pm
	Lenten Book Study Series	Lounge	11:00 am-12:30 pm
March 24	Palm Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	10:45 am
March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship & Potluck Service	Wobbe Hall	7:00 pm
March 29	Good Friday	Sanctuary	7:00 pm
March 31	Easter Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 am

Our Easter Cross tradition continues as we rejoice in celebrating that Christ has risen. Everyone invited to bring a "live" flower on Easter morning to place on the wooden cross. For further information, contact Elaine Hudson.



*"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 **February**, our thoughts and prayers were with:

William "Bill" Shipp*	Jean Henschke*	Hope & Bruce Tschappat
Marion Meseth	Marilyn McCown	Roy Sove*
John Nix	Dorothy Zemke*	Dolores Tomsheck*
Dawn Mashek	Kelly Roberts	LaVerne Thackaberry*
Linda Steckel*	Helen Harney	Diana Guerra
Jim Van Antwerp	Marianne Wolf	Tammy Fredrickson
Ally Enter	Ady De La Garza	Homebound*
John Hangey	Marilyn Hoover	
Al Angsten	Ady De La Garza	Palestinian and Israeli citizens



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

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Hana Fujisaki, Church Organist

Leslie Thomas, Church Pianist

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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**Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline**

Call or Text

