



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 X

November 2024

From The Pastor

Growing up, I was fortunate to learn from my father. This immigrant worked tirelessly in Wisconsin's fields as a young boy, traveling back and forth to Texas. The man I grew to know as my dad taught me the importance of caring for the U.S. flag. I appreciate this, and I encourage others to learn.

There have been times that I have called out places or people when I've seen the flag disrespected, flying it with obvious visible tears. As a middle school teacher, I also tried teaching the kids how to be careful when pulling the flag off the pole at the end of the school day.

Despite his humble beginnings, he served his adopted country with pride and honor. My dad, a quiet, unassuming man, served in the U.S. Army as a mechanic stationed in Germany. I do not doubt that his experiences helped shape his worldview. I also know that they may have unknowingly influenced his choice of life partner if an old photo I found of a lady he dated is any indication.

While he was a proud veteran, my father never let patriotism overshadow his faith. He was a devout Catholic, always focusing on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. He reminded me that our true identity lies not in our nationality but in our relationship with Christ.

As we honor our veterans this November, remember that their service is a testament to their commitment to freedom and justice. Let's also acknowledge that the church is not a military institution. While we appreciate the sacrifices of our service members, our primary mission is to spread the love of Christ and build a more just and compassionate world.

So, this month, let's express gratitude for our veterans and the countless blessings in our lives. Cherish the moments you share with the veterans in your life, and let their stories inspire us to live lives of service and sacrifice.

In God's Love,

Rev. Gilbert

"The Divine Providence blesses each nation that worships only Elohim. The Great Spirit blesses God's chosen ones."
- Psalm 33:12



Growing In The Word of God

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

November 3: Rev 21:1-6; John 11:32-44

November 10: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Heb 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 17: 1 Sam 1:4-20; Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 24: 2 Sam 23:1-7; Rev 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37



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

Finance Manager's Office Hours:

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

Administrative Assistant's Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

**Can schedule later appointments on a case-by-case basis. For emergencies, call the pastor on his cell: 224-250-9898*

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.



Advent Decorating: Please volunteer to help decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, November 30th, at 10 am. Lunch will be provided.

Santa & Mrs. Claus will visit on **December 1** after worship service in Wobbe Hall. See you there!



Kindness costs nothing, but it means everything.



SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	<u>Liturgist/Lector</u>	<u>Council Greeter</u>	<u>Streaming Coordinator</u>
November 3	Holly Schmidt	Alice Barnhart	John Skibbe
November 10	-	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
November 17	Putz-Cheng Family	Holly Schmidt	John Skibbe
November 24	Jacob Guerra-Martinez	Mandy O'Donnell	Mandy O'Donnell



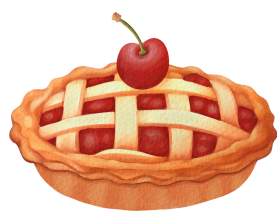
Ushers

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

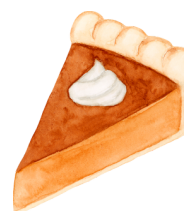
CHRIST CHURCH UCC - FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Together invite you to a

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service and Pie Fellowship



Sunday, November 24th at 6:30 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
675 E. Algonquin Rd.



"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

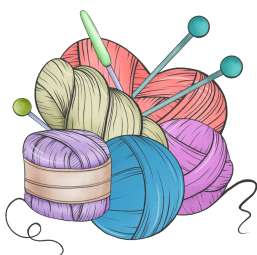
*Please keep the church office informed when you hear of someone needing prayers. During the months of **October**, our thoughts and prayers were with:*

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

Jean Henschke*
Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Helen Harney
Marilyn Hoover*
Sue Prunty
Jack Storm

Hope & Bruce Tschappat*
Roy Sove*
Dolores Tomsheck*
Rev. Marica Urban
Karen Harkovich
Homebound*
Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian,
and Israeli citizens





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 **November 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.



TRINITY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON: Trinity Lutheran Church of Des Plaines offers a monthly drive-through community lunch on the second Saturday of each month. **On November 16, 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 | • Body wash | • Men's, Women's, and children's all-sizes underwear |
| • Mustard | • Shampoo | • Maxi pads and tampons |
| • Mayonnaise | • Dish soap | • Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok) |
| • Pasta sauce (plain) | • Laundry detergent | • Canned dinners (hash, chili) |
| • Flour | • Paper towels | • Canned fruit |
| • Sugar | • Dog food (canned and dry) | • Peanut butter |
| • Instant coffee | • Cooking oil | • Jelly or jam |
| • Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible) | • Juice (large bottles or boxed) | |
| • New or like-new clean bed linens and towels | | |



Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags. Thank you everyone for all your help.

Super Dooper Soup Day

November 10, 2024

Thank you for your participation!
 Rita, Donna, Laura, Holly



- **Please only bring CANNED soups.**
- **No "cream" type of soup.**
- **Heavy and hearty soups are acceptable.**



LIBRARY



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 added to the library.

Dear Friends of Christ Church of Des Plaines,

Thank you for your support of Holy Joe's. This past Pentecost Sunday 2024, we celebrated 18 years of Ministry. We couldn't have done it without you! As Chaplain Pete Hoffmann says, "the coffee is a good thing for not only with what we do at the chapel but at the unit level—it's another touch for chaplains to go around and check in on their soldiers, their staff, their commander - 'Hey everyone, what's going on?' It opens new lines of communication and allows the chaplain to get his foot in the door and maybe just spark up a conversation." Hot coffee is a good way to do it. Where our service members go we go, We are always present in the chapels with a good cup of coffee.

Please consider helping us again online at
holypoies.org or sending a check to
Holy Joe's Cafe
246 Clintonville road #G/ Northford, CT 06472.

God Bless America!

Holy Joe's Cafe

Coffee for the Troops 



CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

At 7 p.m. by President Alice Barnhart

ROLL CALL

Bob Neil, Mandy O'Donnell, Alice Barnhart, Judy Rosedale, Pastor Gilbert, and Holly Schmidt were present. Laura Hallberg was not present.

PRAYER

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 14 MEETING MINUTES.

A motion was made to approve the minutes, which were seconded and approved by the council.

FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE ON FILE.

Pastor stated that the amount made for the play was \$179.66. A motion was made to approve the Financial Reports, which was seconded and approved by the council.

THE PASTOR'S REPORT: SUBMITTED AND IS ON FILE.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Our current estimated total equity is \$1.8 million. The Finance Manager has begun to request that all vendors provide proof of liability insurance before completing work on the property. The motion to approve the DeMarr bid (\$8817) for our parking *failed*. The motion was then made to table the seal coating until next year and *passed*. The committee motioned and *approved* the bid from Best Quality Construction, Inc. for \$1,250 to fix the section of the roof needing repairs. The company also mentioned that our roof has about another ten years. Additionally, the committee approved Rev. Gilbert's request to make Mr. Tech our tech and system support company, leaving the current one, Ryan Tech, at \$50/month, to a local company at \$109 a month. The Finance Committee, acting as the church's official fiscal advisor, presents the following recommendations for the Council's consideration:

- Approve Best Quality Construction LLC's roof repair bid at \$1,250.
- Table the parking lot resealing until next year. (*not unanimous vote*)
- Approve Rev. Gilbert's request to make Mr. Tech our official Office manager and tech support company at \$109 monthly.

Outreach Committee: Fall Fellowship Day is September 8th. Details were finalized. Rev. Dr. Grice will provide music. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and Kona Ice will be available. The Des Plaines Churches Recycling Challenge Potluck Celebration will be held on October 19th at 5 p.m. All churches and supporting business partners will be invited. Our next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 7th at 5:15 p.m.

Building Committee: The lounge is finally complete. We are looking for a plumber to work on the continuous backup of the downstairs restrooms under the kitchen. The smoke detector in the sanctuary above the altar needs replacement. We are waiting for the company to return with a high enough ladder. Thanks to Judy, we received more bids for the parking lot resurfacing and fixing the roof. Mr. Tech has made several visits to our building regarding the internet as Maranatha continued to have issues. The problem was determined to be the port on the Comcast modem. The connection was moved to another port, and the problem was solved.

Faith Forward Commission: We are co-leading Fall Fellowship Day with the Outreach Committee. Our first official Sunday back is Sept. 8. Our inter-generational Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15th. The Commission has moved forward with purchasing a Little Library for our sideyard. After revising our committee and chair description and responsibilities, the committee, under the direction of Pastor Gilbert, has promoted Jessica Busse to Chair. Here's our revised Mission statement: The Faith Forward Commission serves as an advisory board to the pastor in shaping and guiding Christian Education for all ages within our congregation. The Chair is a facilitator and coordinator, collaborating closely with the Pastor to implement Christian Education for all ages. As per our Church Bylaws, the Pastor/Teacher of the church is responsible for directing Christian Education for the congregation, regardless of learning level. Per Article VIII, Section B, second sentence, "The Pastor(s) shall direct the work of religious (Christian) education," we will continue to collaborate closely with our Pastor/Teacher. It's essential to remember that the Faith Forward Commission while serving as the Christian Education Committee, cannot function effectively without the leadership and guidance of the Pastor/Teacher.

Mission Committee: The Mission Committee has no report. The next meeting is on Tues., Oct. 29th.

Additional reporting:

- The roof work is complete. Best Quality Construction, Inc. did good work. The council moved, seconded, and approved, making Best Quality Construction, Inc. our permanent vendor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The organ has not been repaired yet. The needed part has been found and ordered. It will arrive by the holidays. Mike Skibbe will lead the installation.
- It was decided that the parking lot resurfacing and seal coating would wait until next year.
- However, the three vacated spots will be repaired this year. The council approved this after it was moved, seconded, and voted on.
- The council moved, seconded, and approved the plan that the Backpack Project will use the cabinets at the back of Wobbe Hall to store supplies at no charge and operate out of Wobbe Hall.
- Done-Rite Paving & Sealcoating will be removed from being an approved vendor.
- The smoke detector has been fixed.
- Steve Bay was asked to order the part needed to repair the pull-down stairs by the sacristy.
- A discussion was held about bringing in Mr. Tech to add four new speakers in the narthex and sanctuary. After an extended talk, it was decided that no change would be made at this time.
- It was suggested that we change our Microsoft license manager to Mr. Tech at \$109 per month. After discussion, the council moved, seconded, and approved the change.
- Heartiest thanks and appreciation to Kyle and Henry Speer for cleaning up the unsightly conditions in the church parking lot along the chain-link fence. It was done in time for our outdoor Fall Fellowship Day Celebration on 9/8.
- A discussion was held regarding expanding the coverage of our trash pick-up. The council moved, seconded, and approved the expansion. The pastor will handle the pickup service.
- Cradles to Crayons is on hold for now.
- Iroquois Community School snack bags will begin to be filled by Christ Church as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- Laura Hallberg will head up the Exodus Welcome Home Kit. We will put two kits together alongside Trinity Lutheran ELCA.
- The IL Conference's annual meeting will be held in Western Springs on 11/1 and 11/2. Two lay leaders and the pastor are requested to attend, but attendees have not been chosen yet.

IMPORTANT DATES

9/29 - 10/5 Pastors last week of vacation. Pastor Grice will fill in.

10/2 - 132nd Anniversary for Christ Church.

10/6 - World Communion Sunday. The congregation is asked to bring bread.

10/13 - Dr. Grice on duty.

10/19 - Plastic Recycling Challenge Potluck Celebration

ADJOURN

Next Council Meeting: October 9, 2024

2 of 2

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Week of Sep 29, 24	Week of Oct 6, 24	Week of Oct 13, 24	Week of Oct 20, 24	TOTAL
▼ Ordinary Income/Expe...					
▶ Income	1,712.00	1,322.50	665.00	690.05	4,389.55
▶ Expense ▶	5,966.42 ◀	877.98	823.49	851.72	8,519.61
Net Ordinary Income	-4,254.42	444.52	-158.49	-161.67	-4,130.06



COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please submit a budget for the fiscal year (March 2025 - Feb 2026). This will help build a better structure for the Annual Meeting. Please put it in Rev. Gilbert's box by December 15th.

RECYCLING CHALLENGE POTLUCK

October 19, 2024



Little Library and Benches Dedication Ceremony

October 20, 2024



Mission Committee Organizations

Who We Support

The Harbour, Des Plaines



From the first young woman we took in during a cold winter night in 1971, we knew we had a responsibility to help young people when they needed it most. Five decades later, our mission guides us to provide emergency housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness to promote their safety, stability and personal growth. Every day we empower young people to be self-sufficient through safe housing and support services to prevent homelessness.

The Harbour offers immediate, stable, and safe housing to youth and young mothers experiencing homelessness. We strive to promote safety, stability, and personal growth by providing services and support for long term housing stability, continued education and employment, and individual counseling to help break the cycle of homelessness.

The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM)

The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) is committed to:

Our Mission—Advancing the work of all health and human service ministries of the United Church of Christ in creating a just, caring and compassionate world.

Our Vision—Together, we create a just, caring and compassionate world.

Our Values—We live out our “Unshakable” Beliefs every day through our ministries:

- Covenant
- Inclusion
- Stewardship
- Courage
- Serving Leadership



Outdoor Ministry (Tower Hill Century Club)

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is blessed to have two outdoor ministry sites: Pilgrim Park Camp and Tower Hill Camp. Both Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park are open throughout the year to serve the needs of individuals, families, and churches in the Illinois Conference and the areas surrounding each camp.

The oldest site, Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan, began in 1923 with the generous gift of 55 acres of land from the Warren Family. In addition, the Warren Family donated 200 feet of beach along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan for the use of camp patrons. Over its more than 80-year history, Tower Hill has constructed and improved a number of buildings, including the new St. Philippus Retreat Center, completed in June 2007.

These camps offer a wide array of retreats, camps, and workshops for people of all ages. Activities are not limited to members of the United Church of Christ—all God’s children are welcome. Programs are designed to encourage covenantal relationships, celebrate the gifts and talents of those around us, and provide opportunities for personal growth in our lives and in our experiences with God.

Thank you

Memorials/Honors for October

Happy Anniversary. I have so many fond memories of growing up in the church, *by Linda Neumann Wright*

In loving memory of Carl Malone, one of our Christ Church Veterans & all around great guy, *by Bud & Elaine Hudson*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Charlene Hallihan*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Irene Petre*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Edith Heisler*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Jack & Jan Storm*

In honor of my baby sister, Tiffany, on her birthday, 10-16, *by Rev. Gilbert Martinez*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Ruth Schnittker*

In memory of Carl Odell Malone, *by Steve & Karen Peters*

In memory of Phil on our anniversary, 10/24/81, *by Nancy Seils*

In memory of Lila's 92nd Birthday, *by John Hangey*



ALTAR FLOWERS



In honor of Pastor Appreciation Sunday, *by Grace and Rita Barth (II)*

HAPPY
Birthday!

- 1 - Jean Phillips
- 2 - Irving Hallberg
- 8 - Kevin O'Donnell
- 12 - Max Kelso
- 13 - Alan Bruhn
- 16 - Darin Thorson

- 16 - Gail Fisher
- 18 - Phillip Rosedale
- 19 - Janis Zidek
- 21 - Marion Meseth
- 30 - Rev. Joseph Liang

Happy
Anniversary

- 5 - Michael and Katie Skibbe (19)
- 15 - Joseph and Jessica Busse (10)

**OCTOBER'S AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:**
50±

Men's Lunch:

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

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



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **November 12th at 9 am.**

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

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
1 - 2	Illinois Conference Annual Meeting		
3	Daylight Savings Time	-	-
	All Saints Day Worship	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Class	Lounge	11 am - 12:30 pm
4	Outreach Committee Meeting	Lounge	5:15 pm
5	Election Day ★ ★ ★	-	-
10	Veterans' Day Service	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Stewardship Sunday		
11	Veterans' Day	-	-
	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
12	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
	Community Sing-Along Meeting	Lounge	5:00 pm
13	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
16	Trinity Community Luncheon	Trinity Lutheran ELCA	11 am - 12:30 pm
17	New Member Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Class	Lounge	11 am - 12:30 pm
19	Mission Committee Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
20	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10 am - 12 pm
24	Thanksgiving Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 am
	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	11 am
	Economical Thanksgiving Worship Service	Trinity Lutheran ELCA	6:30 pm
25	Office is Open	-	-
28-29	THANKSGIVING (OFFICE CLOSED)	-	-
30	ADVENT DECORATING	Sanctuary	10 am
Dec. 1	World Aids Day	-	-
	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Class	Lounge	11 am - 12:30 pm
	Santa & Mrs. Claus Visit	Wobbe Hall	10:30 am

POTLUCK: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 13th, 2024. *The theme is Thanksgiving Feast.* Join us for fellowship.



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

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Rev. Jon Gilbert Martinez, Pastor
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**Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant &
Digital Outreach Coordinator**
jezzle@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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Suicide and Crisis

Lifeline

Call or Text

