



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 II

February 2024

From The Pastor



"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time." - 1 Peter 5:6

As Catholics, my parents always emphasized the significance of not eating meat on Fridays and making sacrifices or doing better in some way during Lent. However, as I grew older and left the Catholic faith, I realized that Lent is not just about abstaining from meat on Fridays. It's about sacrificing something in the name of your faith.

Lent is a time of introspection and self-evaluation. It is an opportunity to assess your Christianity and strive to expand on Jesus's ministry. It is a time to look inward and contemplate what you can do to strengthen your relationship with God.

For many Catholics, giving up meat on Fridays during Lent is a way to honor the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. By foregoing something we enjoy, we are reminded of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. It is a way to express gratitude and acknowledge the blessings that we have in our lives.

However, even for those who no longer practice Catholicism or never did, Lent remains an occasion to sacrifice in our faith's name. It is a time to evaluate our lives and identify areas to improve. It could mean relinquishing something we enjoy, such as sweets or social media. Alternatively, it could mean volunteering at a local charity or performing a kind deed for someone else.

Regardless of the type of sacrifice we make during Lent, it is crucial to remember that it is not just about giving up something for the sake of it. We should use this time to reflect on our lives and relationship with God. It is a chance to strengthen our faith and draw closer to God.

Therefore, this Lenten season, let us pause and contemplate our lives and faith. Let us make a sacrifice, whether by giving up something we enjoy or acting kindly for someone. Let us use this time to deepen our relationship with God and expand on Jesus's 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 February 2024 Common Lectionary readings:



February 4, 5th Sunday after Epiphany: Isa 40:21-31; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 11, Transfiguration Sunday: 2 Kings 2:2-12; 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

February 14, Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa 58:1-12; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18, First Sunday in Lent: Gen 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 25, Second Sunday in Lent: Gen 17:1-7, 15-16; Rom 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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*

Business 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

February 4	Laura Hallberg
February 11	Megan Shipp
February 18	Holly Schmidt
February 25	Alice Barnhart

Council Greeter

-
Alice Barnhart
Rita Barth
Laura Hallberg



Ushers



February 4	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart
February 11	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Bob Neil
February 18	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart
February 25	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Bob Neil

2023 ANNUAL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:
40±

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:
39±

988
LÍNEA DE
PREVENCIÓN
DEL SUICIDIO
Y CRISIS

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE



Lets Get Involved!

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. **February 1st, 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 **February 21, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.**



Notables: The Notables will be meeting again in preparation 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: We will meet on Wednesday, February 7th at 1:00pm to discuss the book "The Last Bookshop in London" by Madeline Martin. Hope to see you there.



MISSION COMMITTEE: On the first Sunday of every month, we are collecting 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*

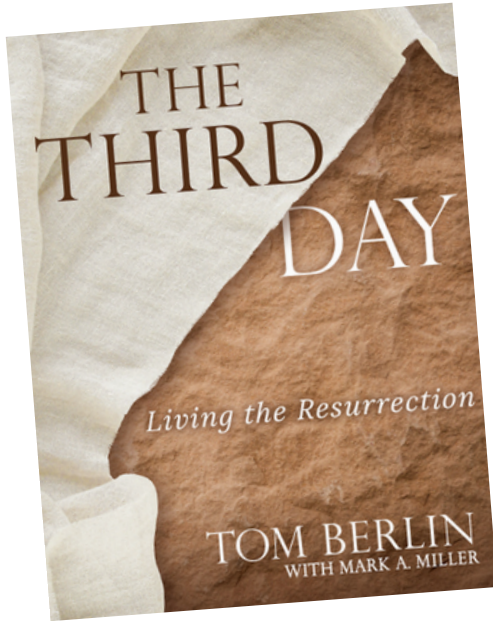


Thank you everyone for all your help.

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!



2024 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25th

**Lenten Study Series:**

A six-week session will be led on Wednesdays starting February 21 from 11 am to 12:30 pm in our church lounge.

In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding of the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. *The book costs \$13.50.*

**Ideas for Black History Month**

- Create a Black History Month Playlist
- Learn from a Local Black Historian or Speaker
- Explore a Local Black History Museum
- Support a Black-Owned Eatery
- Volunteer with a Black-Led Nonprofit
- Celebrate African Americans and the Arts
- Support Black Makers & Artists when Gifting

Memorials/Honors for *January*

In memory of our grandparents and parents, Amy & Julio, on their wedding anniversary, 1/15,

by Jazmyn, Alexa, Nathaniel, & Rev. Gilbert

In honor of our cousin and niece, Jazmyn, on her 18th birthday, 1/19,

by Nathaniel, Jacob, & Rev. Gilbert

In memory of our grandpa and dad, Julio, on his birthday, 1/15,

by Jazmyn, Alexa, Nathaniel, & Rev. Gilbert

In memory of my wife, Mary Ann, on her birthday, *by Robert Neil*

In honor of our son, Nathaniel, on his birthday, 2/2, *by Rev. Gilbert & Jacob Martinez*

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

2 - Ed & Andrea Cheng (4)

16 - Rev. Gilbert & Jacob Martinez (20)

2 - Nathaniel Martinez

7 - Nate Cheng

15 - Rev. Virginia Ericson

15 - Ariana Kelso

15 - Helen Smith

16 - Marianne Mullineaux

17 - Henry Taylor

23 - Sarah Moczisko

24 - Kathie Groll

25 - John Hangey

27 - Rita Barth

*Happy
Anniversary*



Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is Monday, **February 12th at 11:45 am.**

Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **February 13th at 9:00 am.**

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

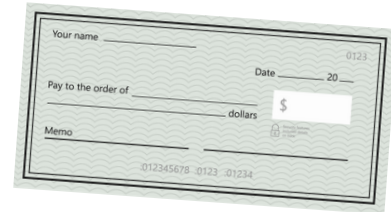
COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 1	Rev. Gilbert's Anniversary as Pastor		
	Circle of Friends	Wobbe Hall	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
February 7	Christ Church Book Club	Lounge	1:00 pm
	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
February 11	Welcoming of New Members	Sanctuary	9:30 am
February 12	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
February 13	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
February 14	Valentine's Day	-	-
	Ash Wednesday Worship	Sanctuary	6:00 pm
February 19	President's Day	-	-
February 21	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Lenten Study Series	Lounge	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
February 25	Annual Meeting	Wobbe Hall	10:30 am



NOTE: "If you cause to have sent the church a check from your broker, financial advisor, or the like, please give me a heads up: most of these kinds of checks arrive under the name of the brokerage service only - and without any indication of the name of the ultimate contributor!" -Thanks, Kyle

Potluck: Come and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.** The theme is *Mardi Gras*.



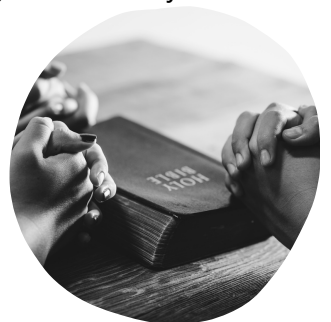
"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." - 3 John 1:2

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

William "Bill" Shipp*
Marion Meseth
John Nix
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel*
Jim Van Antwerp
Ally Enter
John Hangey

Jean Henschke*
Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Helen Harney
Marianne Wolf
Ina Koehler
Ady De La Garza

Hope & Bruce Tschappat
Roy Sove*
Dolores Tomsheck*
LaVerne Thackaberry*
Diana Guerra
Homebound*
Palestinian and Israeli citizens



**Christ Church
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Kyle Speer, Business Manager & Music Coordinator

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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

