



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 VIII

September 2024

From The Pastor

Deuteronomy 15:11: "For there will always be poor people in the land; therefore I command you to open your hand to your brother, to the needy and the distressed, in your land."

As the new school year begins for many people of all ages, our children are the most vulnerable. Sometimes, despite their best efforts, parents struggle to provide for their children, especially in today's economy. Unfortunately, even a child who does not have enough food feels the stigma of hunger, which is embedded in our society. Adults often pass judgmental thoughts about hunger to their children. Experiencing this stigma does not help a child's self-esteem.

When I was in 3rd grade, my teacher treated me differently because I was a foster child. She didn't hide her bias, and it was a stark contrast from my 2nd grade experience. In 2nd grade, I was a top student, and my teacher, Mrs. Gonzales, trusted me to help my classmates. This changed in 3rd grade. Even in the foster home, we were not treated as part of the family but more like a paycheck.

I'm sharing this not to seek sympathy but to highlight the impact of stigma. It was hurtful to be treated differently by a teacher, while my 2nd and 4th-grade teachers did not do so. I have experienced being on the receiving end of stigma. I can only imagine what today's hungry children may be feeling. As your pastor and teacher, I'm asking for help to provide food for a handful of children at Iroquois Community School and potentially provide food for some over the weekend.

It's not the children's fault that they don't have enough food. We aim to assist without judgment. We don't know the circumstances each parent faces. While there are resources like the pantry, more hours may be needed for parents working multiple jobs. I spent the first decade of my life with very little, carrying only a small duffle bag with my belongings when my parents adopted me after 2.5 years in foster care. Imagine if your children accumulate only a small duffle bag of belongings in 2.5 years. Is that realistic? Imagine a child having only a bowl of cereal on Saturday and Sunday, waiting for their next full meal at school on Monday. What happens during breaks?



Let's answer Jesus's invitation to nourish needy children with love, empathy, and kindness.

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 September 2024 Common Lectionary readings:

September 1: Song of Sol 2:8-13; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8: Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 15: Prov 1:20-33; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 22: Prov 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 29: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



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 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>
September 1	Holly Schmidt	Judy Rosedale	John Skibbe
September 8	Holly Schmidt	Steve Bay	Mandy O'Donnell
September 15	Alice Barnhart	Alice Barnhart	John Skibbe
September 22	Jacob Guerra-Martinez	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
September 29	Putz-Cheng Family	Holly Schmidt	John Skibbe



Ushers



September 1	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
September 8	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
September 15	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman
September 22	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat
September 29	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman

**AUGUST'S AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:**
53±

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

988
LÍNEA DE
PREVENCIÓN
DEL SUICIDIO
Y CRISIS

Financial Report

8:45 AM

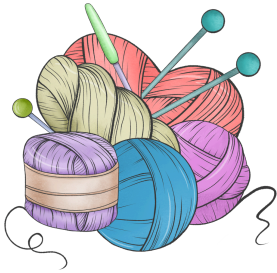
08/28/24

Accrual Basis

**Christ Church UCC
Statement of Financial Activity
July 21 through August 24, 2024**

	Week of Jul 21, 24	Week of Jul 28, 24	Week of Aug 4, 24	Week of Aug 11, 24	Week of Aug 18, 24	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income	1,552.50	3,673.00	1,011.00	0.00	1,190.50	7,427.00
Expense	15,102.47	3,921.53	1,524.04	86.07	172.35	20,806.46
Net Ordinary Income	-13,549.97	-248.53	-513.04	-86.07	1,018.15	-13,379.46
Net Income	-13,549.97	-248.53	-513.04	-86.07	1,018.15	-13,379.46

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 **September 18, 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 September 14, 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.



Faith Forward Adventures & Confirmation Class Schedule**2024-2025**

9/8/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
9/22/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
10/6/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
10/20/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
11/3/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
11/17/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
12/1/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
12/15/2024	Christmas Pageant	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
12/29/2024	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1			
1/12/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
1/26/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
2/9/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
2/23/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Sanctuary
3/9/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
3/23/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
4/6/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
4/20/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
5/4/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
5/18/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	TBD
6/1/2025	Faith Forward Adventures	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	Confirmation Class	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lounge
6/8/2024	Confirmation	9:30 AM	Sanctuary			



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

FALL FELLOWSHIP DAY

BE A PART OF THE FESTIVITIES!

Free Food, Fun, & Fellowship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM



BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR





Presented by

Mission Committee for the Community Backpack Project

POUND OF PASTA DAY



Sunday, September 8th



Bring in your pound of pasta
(Please individually wrapped per pound)





Lake Opeka

ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE, CLEAN-UP,
& POTLUCK 2024





Lake Opeka
ANNUAL WORSHIP SERVICE, CLEAN-UP,
& POTLUCK 2024



Christ Church Council Minutes – July 10, 2024

Call to order: 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

Holly Schmidt, Bob Neil, Mandy O'Donnell, Laura Hallberg, Steve Bay, Alice Barnhart, Judy Rosedale

Also present: Pastor Gilbert

Approval of June 12, 2024, meeting minutes:

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

Financial Report

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.

Giving remains lower than previous years. Our expenses currently are higher than our income. Kyle will add a brief financial update in the Beacon and monthly in the Sunday bulletin to keep the congregation aware.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mission Committee: eighteen Mission checks were sent out on June 18. They totaled \$16, 865. *This is a portion of our 2024 Benevolence Budget.* We will wait a month or two to send out the remaining checks. It was also approved to move the money from the rummage sale account to the Mission Fund. The amount was \$434. Thank you for making that donation. Our June 25 Mission meeting had to be canceled. We will meet sometime in August.
- Finance Committee: *Received staff pay rates and provided comparisons to the national averages.* We are paying most of the staff at current or slightly above the national averages. In addition, we are paying our guest musicians the average rate.
- Building Committee Report: The shed has been painted. We are waiting to hear back regarding the seal coating of the parking lot. *Will need to make sure we have the last of the garden planters, etc. gone before we can seal coat.* Over the 4th of July it looks like someone damaged the base of one of our parking lot lights. Will have Emanuel look at it and decide what the next step is.

Current Business

- Building
 - The roof is leaking by the entrance to the office. Still waiting for a roof inspection for the roof leak – it will be completed when the weather cooperates. We had to postpone it due to rain.
 - Smoke and Heat detectors are complete. An inspection will happen once we are contacted.
 - The organ needs the bearings replaced – the motor is ok. We can get new bearings for approximately \$120 but need a key to get to the bearings. Still trying to get ahold of someone to get information from them.
- Memorial Garden Plaque – the current shaped brass plates are no longer available. Motion made to buy all new brass plates to update the plaque and buy extra. The motion was passed by the Council

New Business

- Coffee Hour Sign up: we placed 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.
- Annual Picnic, Clean up, Potluck – August 4, 2024, at Lake Opeka
- Rally Day – September 8, 2024. The Outreach Committee is working on a fun event to include Snow Cones, burgers / hot dogs, music, games, and a raffle. Will be asking for donations of raffle prizes.

PASTOR'S REPORT JULY 10, 2024: June 7 – July 7**Worship & Arts:**

- Regular Worship services – Five (5), One (1) with Communion
- Baptism – 2 (Scarlett an Isabella Kois)

Christian Education / Faith Forward Commision

- Met on June 24 for its inaugural meeting. During that meeting the officers were elected: Jessica Busse, vice-chair; Holly Schmidt, secretary; Mandy O'Donnell, treasurer; Judy Rosedale, camp funds coordinator; Jacob Guerra-Martinez, program coordinator.
- The Commission voted on a new curriculum, Illustrated Ministry, that will be utilized beginning in September.
- Approved its mission statement and core values.
- Commission affirmed Rita Barth (II) as lead teacher.
- The Commission brainstormed and discussed other items.
- Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School) & Confirmation Classes will officially launch on Sunday September 8 at Rally Day.

Pastoral Care:

- Pastoral contact (*pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards*) = 47±
- Two (2) new members will be joining on Sunday, June 9th.
- Pride Celebration

Administrative/Personnel:

- Staff Meeting – Four (4) (*includes w/maintenance technician on Sundays*)
- Continue to manage all social media.
- Four (4) committee meetings
- The Custodian's 90-day review was conducted.
- The Klaus general Fund Team awarded the Outreach Committee \$5,000 for its use. The committee was left out of the 2024 annual budget. *The money is eligible for carrying into the new fiscal year.*

Wider UCC & Community:

- Pantry Board Meeting
- Mission & Spiritual Care Committee of Advocate Health Care Board Meeting
- Speak Des Plaines Meeting
- Volunteered via Pantry for Taste of Des Plaines
- Des Plaines PD Presentation on Frisbee Center

Important Dates

July 11 – Pastor Comp Day

July 12 to 27 – Pastor vacation

July 14 – Rev Bob Campbell, pulpit supply

July 21 – Rev Sarah Lohrbach, pulpit supply

July 28 – Finance Committee Meeting at 11 am

July 29 – Faith Forward Commission Meeting at 6 pm

August 4 – Lake Opeka Annual Picnic, Clean up and Potluck with First Congregational Church

August 6 – Missions Committee Meeting

August 14 – August Council Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:54 pm

3 of 3

FIGHT THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

Center 
of Concern

"Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling—it harms both individual and societal health."

-Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General

Join the fight with the Center of Concern to learn how you can help while enjoying an evening of appetizers, cash bar, networking, panel discussion, and awards ceremony.

Monday, September 9, 2024

5:30 Appetizers, 6:30 Program Start

Des Plaines
THEATRE

Des Plaines Theatre
1476 Miner Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016

centerofconcern.org/fight

Mission Committee Organizations

Who We Support

Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries



In the United Church of Christ, “We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved”. We can act out our faith and worship together more deeply by integrating practices and rituals representing the rich history of all those who come together in faith.

The Latinx people in our beloved United Church of Christ (UCC) grow strong and faithful, with our hearts and minds rooted in Jesus Christ, hoping that our tomorrow will be a time of rejoicing and real unity in the midst of diversity. We embody respect for our deep and diverse heritage while honoring the experience of each individual who walks in these challenging times. Therefore, we have become Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, a name that reflects the UCC belief “that all may be one.”



Northside Ecumenical Night Ministry

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to those who are unhoused or experiencing poverty. Each year, we serve thousands of young people and adults who are unhoused or struggling with poverty. With an open heart, we compassionately accept each individual as they are and work alongside them to advocate for their immediate physical, emotional, and social needs while affirming our shared humanity.



*Thank
you*



Rainbow Hospice, Mt. Prospect

Rainbow Hospice in Mount Prospect, IL is a community based non-profit organization with deep roots in Chicagoland. For more than 30 years, we have been dedicated to continuing that vision through our mission of empowering others to live with dignity and hope while coping with illness, loss, and the end of life. By providing a safe, comfortable and home-like environment for people with chronic conditions or terminal illnesses, we deliver short-term care to help lessen pain and manage your symptoms. From skilled-nursing checkups and therapies, to home health aids, we care for you.

Memorials/Honors for August

In memory of my husband, Don, on 9/3, by Charlene Dohse

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



6 - Sally Sove
8 - Wendy Ortiz
9 - Jessica Busse
10 - Robert Neil
10 - Stephen Bay
11 - Miles Skibbe

12 - Rev. Carol Currier Frighetto
22 - Jacob Guerra-Martinez
28 - Meadow Putz
29 - Donald Rosedale
30 - Emily Rosedale



18 - Frank & Julie Staggs (30)
20 - Bud & Elaine Hudson (66)



Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is Monday, **September 9th at 11:45 am.**

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



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is Tuesday, **September 10th at 9 am.**

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

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 1	<i>Farewell Celebration for Rev. Molly Carlson</i>	615 N 1st St, DeKalb, IL 60115	4:00 - 6:00 pm
September 8	Fall Fellowship Day (Rally Day)	Sanctuary/ Parking Lot	10:30 am - 1:00 pm
	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Classes Begin	TBD	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
September 9	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
	Fight the Loneliness Epidemic	Des Plaines Theatre	5:30 pm
September 10	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:00 am
September 11	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7:00 pm
September 14	Trinity Community Luncheon	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
September 18	Get It Together	Wobbe Hall	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
September 22	Faith Forward Adventures (Sunday School)	Sanctuary/Class Rm 1	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	Confirmation Class	TBD	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	11:00 am
September 23	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, September 11th, 2024. *The theme is Pizza Night.* Join us for fellowship.



Plastic Recycling Challenge: Christ Church started a plastic recycling challenge in October. 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 **August**, 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*
Cindy Georgoulis
Jack Storm
Rev. Marica Urban
Homebound*
Palestinian and Israeli citizens



**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 &
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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<https://bit.ly/CCUCCSubscribe>

988

Suicide and Crisis

Lifeline

Call or Text

