



The BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Christ Church United Church of Christ, Des Plaines, Illinois
An Open & Affirming WISE for mental health congregation

Volume III, Issue 6

June 2026

From The Pastor's Desk: Beyond the Green

Dear Church Family,

Recently, my husband, son, and I spent time reworking the front yard of our home. For nearly two years, the space had little more than grass after the old bushes had been removed. It was not dead, but it did not feel fully alive either. Through this, I was reminded how much care and intention are needed to cultivate beauty and vitality in every part of life.

As we selected plants, we wanted more than the standard green so common around us, seeking color and variety that remind us that beauty does not always come through sameness. Planting was not easy. There was digging, measuring, bending, repositioning, and physical exhaustion in trying to align reality with vision. Before adding mulch, I installed a soaker hose beneath the soil because growth requires more than hope. **Life needs attention and nourishment long before anyone notices results.**

Yet when we finally stepped back to look at the completed work, seeing the expressions on my husband's and son's faces reminded me why tending to life matters in the first place. I have been reflecting on how this process of tending, nourishing, and intentionally cultivating beauty mirrors the life of the church. Just as our yard needed attention to truly thrive, so too does the church need intentional care to flourish and show signs of genuine life.

It is easier to point out what is missing than to help cultivate beauty. **It is easier to critique than to kneel in the dirt and plant.** It is easier to demand quick answers than to recognize that human beings require dignity, compassion, and grace.

The church is not called to simply maintain what is easy and uniform; it is called to cultivate life. Our mission is to create spaces where people feel seen, heard, affirmed, and loved. If we believe God is the Creator of all, we should welcome and cherish the many colors of creation, not fear them.

And yes, cultivating that kind of community takes work and patience. It takes those willing to water, nurture, encourage, and take on the hard work of growth.

As we move into this new season together, my prayer is that we become people deeply committed to nurturing life and beauty within our church, mirroring the transformation we pursued in our yard. Rather than pointing at what is barren, let us each choose a specific area to plant and cultivate. Together, may we embrace the work of transformation, seeking beauty where others might expect sameness and commit daily to a practice that helps our community flourish, such as reaching out to someone new, serving in a ministry, or caring for our shared spaces.

*Blessings,
Rev. Gilbert*

NOURISHMENT THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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

June 7: Gen 12:1-9; Hos 5:15-6:6; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26;
June 14: Gen 18:1-15; Ex 19:2-8a; Matt 9:35-10:8;
June 21: Gen 21:8-21; Jer 20:7-13; Matt 10:24-39;
June 28: Gen 22:1-14; Jer 28:5-9; Matt 10:40-42;
July 5: Gen 24:34-38; Song of Sol 2:8-13; Zech 9:9-12; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30;
July 12: Gen 25:19-34; Isa 55:10-13; Matt 13:1-9
July 19: Gen 28:10-19a; Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43;
July 26: Gen 29:15-28; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Matt 13:31-33;



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

Administrative Assistant's Hours: T - F 9 am - 3 pm

Finance Coordinator's Hours: T - TH 9 am - 12 pm

Staff Meeting: Tuesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am*

**The office phone is not answered.*

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.



COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT

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

INCOME REPORT:

Funds Overview for May 2026

General Fund ----- \$5,262.68

Mission ----- \$70.00

Faith Forward Comm'n ----- \$286.22

One Great Hour - \$25

Goebel --\$25

Pastor's Discretionary --\$5

HUG Camp --\$10

Plate --\$80



I ask for your patience as we navigate transitions within our fiscal system. -GM

SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	LITURGIST/LECTOR	COUNCIL GREETER	STREAMING COORDINATOR
June 7	Holly Schmidt	Megan Shipp	Mandy O'Donnell
June 14	Laura Hallberg	Judy Rosedale	Judy Rosedale
June 21	Putz-Cheng Family	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
June 28	Jessica Busse	Mandy O'Donnell	Judy Rosedale
July 5	Megan Shipp	Laura Hallberg	Mandy O'Donnell
July 12	Laura Benitez	Judy Rosedale	Judy Rosedale
July 19	Holly Schmidt	Bob Neil	Mandy O'Donnell
July 26	Laura Hallberg	Mandy O'Donnell	Judy Rosedale



USHERS

June 7	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
June 14	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo
June 21	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
June 28	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo
July 5	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
July 12	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo
July 19	Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Jan Storm, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
July 26	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo



APRIL AVERAGE
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:
61±



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

988
LÍNEA DE
PREVENCIÓN
DEL SUICIDIO
Y CRISIS

Memorials/Honors for May

In memory of Margie, daughter, sister and aunt from Carol Borrís.

In memory of our moms, Dorothy Bos and Myrtle Hudson on Mother's Day from Bud and Elaine Hudson

In sacred memory of those who died from the pain of mental illness and suicide.

In honor of those who wake up each day and keep going.

In honor and memory of all those who have mothered in one form or another.



LETS GET INVOLVED!

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.



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
- Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible)
- New or like-new clean bed linens and towels
- Men's, Women's, and children's all-sizes underwear
- Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok)
- Canned dinners (hash, chili)
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter, jelly, jam



- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Dog food (canned and dry)
- Cooking oil
- Instant coffee
- Juice (large bottles or boxed)

Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

If you would like to contribute monetarily, we also do a special second collection every first Sunday of the month. Thank you so much for your contribution.



MEN'S LUNCH:

Next meeting is on Monday, **May 11th at 11:45 AM.**

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

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:

Next meeting is on Tuesday, **May 12th at 9 AM.**

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

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 stamped.





FREE & CONFIDENTIAL RAPID HIV TESTING

Greater Family Health, in partnership with Christ Church UCC and Camino Rising, will be on-site to conduct rapid HIV testing and prevention education on Tuesdays from 9 AM - 1 PM at Christ Church in Des Plaines

- Free and confidential risk based HIV testing
- Safe sex kit distribution
- Prevention education

Selected Tuesdays

1492 Henry Avenue
DesPlaines, IL 60016



MORE INFO

www.greaterfamilyhealth.org

FAITH FORWARD ADVENTURES



Summer Activities

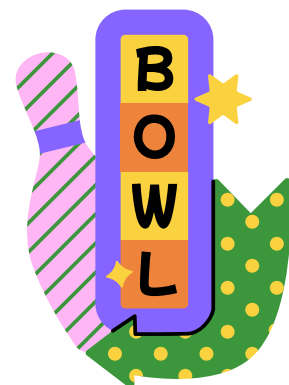


MOVIE DAY - JUNE 14

Kids will enjoy a family friendly movie during worship - popcorn provided!

BOWLING - JULY 19

Join us for some after church fun at River Rand Bowl (11:30 am). Pizza will be provided. Please use the QR code to register and pick your pizza preference.





Interfaith Prayer Conversations on the Lawn



Join us for a time of community connection and learning. Each week we will have folks from different religions as well as a different Christian tradition talk about the role of prayer in their faith. There will be opportunities to engage in different prayer practices and to learn about different faiths and cultures. In addition there will be activities for kids. All ages are encouraged to come and bring a lawn chair or blanket. If the weather is bad we will move our discussion into the church building.



**Thursdays in July
at 7pm**



COAC - Children of
Abraham Coalition

**Northwest Suburban
Interfaith Forum**

First Church

Your neighborhood United Methodist Church
668 Graceland Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60016



**DES PLAINES
CLERGY
ALLIANCE**



"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 previous month, our thoughts and prayers were with:

Dawn Mashek
Sue Prunty
John Prellberg
Kelly Roberts
Hope & Bruce Tschappat
Helen Harney
The Hudsons

Marilyn McCown
Ariana Subera
Rev. Marcia Urban
Charles Epperly
Alice Barnhart
Grice Family
Isabel Kendl

Documented &
Undocumented
Immigrants
Our Country
Ukraine, Lebanon,
Palestinian, and Israeli
citizens

Homebound*



Music Sale

\$1 per score!



Buy 5 scores,
get 1 free!

Build up your music
catalogue with sacred
and secular pieces
from our collection!

June 6 • 10 AM to 3 PM • Wobbe Hall

*Some filing cabinets will also be available for sale.



**SATURDAY
JUNE 20TH
1 TO 5 PM**

community
PRIDE
celebration

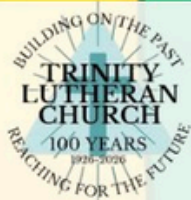
2026

**Free Food | Performances | Family-Friendly Drag Show
LGBTQIA+ Support Organizations | Activities, Games & More!**

Trinity Lutheran Church, 675 E. Algonquin Rd , Des Plaines, IL

Learn more at speakdesplaines.org/pride

**A Community
Partnership
Between**



Third Annual

Save the Date

Interfaith Family Pride Fest

**Raymond Park
Evanston, IL**

**All Are
Welcome**

FREE

**Sunday
June 14th
2:00 PM -
5:00 PM**



Featuring

**True Colors Drag Troupe
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
Full Spectrum Bluegrass
Evanston Folk Choir**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Trivia

50/50 Raffle, Picture
Trivia, Family Feud,
Raffle Items, and more!

Contest

Saturday, July 18th

Doors open at 1:30 pm
Games begin at 2:00 pm

Please join us for our first ever Trivia Contest!
Teams of 2-6 people will compete in rounds of Trivia to
win the Grand Prize!

Registration for trivia is \$20 per person.
Spectators are welcome to attend and participate in
raffles, concessions, and mini games. Snacks and
beverages available for sale. Awards will be given for
Round Winners and Overall Winner.

To register please visit trinitydesplaines.org/trivia-night
or follow the QR Code.



Trinity Lutheran Church
675 E Algonquin Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-827-6656



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

JUNE

- 1 - Jack Storm

3 - Julie Fritz

3 - Hunter Busse

4 - Maddie Cheng

6 - Styx Staggs

6 - Jennifer Ventrella

7 - Karen Harkovich

8 - Alice Barnhart

11 - Rogan Busse

12 - Hope Tschappat
- 12 - Tommie Jordan

13 - Napoleon Tecson

14 - Murphy Putz

17 - Elaine Hudson

17 - Annalise Borris

20 - Carol Borris

28 - Lori Fabian

29 - Linda Segal

30 - Nancy Seils

30 - Grace Pastor

JULY

- 4 - Donna Boyko

7 - Katie Skibbe

8 - Cathy Speer

11 - Lanie Tecson

16 - Charlene Dohse

19 - Marge Thomsen

20 - Jack Branding

22 - Gary Smith

26 - Leslie Thomas

28 - Andrea Putz-Cheng

31 - Carolyn Amick

happy
anniversary

JUNE

- 2 - Jack & Janice Storm (64)

7 - Timothy & Rosalinda
Barnhart (29)

17- Doug & Robin Shore (36)

JULY

- 7 - Stephen & Barbara Bay
(50)

29 - Karen & Nicholas
Harkovich (37)



CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL APRIL 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Roll Call: Judy Rosedale, Megan Shipp, Laura Hallberg, Bob Neil, Mandy O'Donnell (Pastor is on self-care week)

Prayer

Review of March 11, 2026 Council Minutes: Motioned, seconded, motion passed.

Review of Financial Report: None

Officer Reports – none

PASTOR'S REPORT: MARCH 11 - APRIL 5

Worship & Arts:

- Regular Worship services – 5
 - One (1) w/ Communion
 - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday

Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education:

- Lent Book Study Sessions: The Last Supper on Thursdays at 6 pm. (2) Two held.

Pastoral Care:

- Pastoral contact (pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards) = 28+
- Anointing of Rev. Dr. William G. Grice III.
- One member requested removal from membership this month. As always, we hold space for transition with care and remain attentive to strengthening our pastoral care systems and communication.

Administrative/Personal:

- Staff Meeting – Three (3)
- Continue to co-manage all social media and updating website.
- The transition to our outsourced bookkeeper is ongoing. Almost caught up.
- We are one step closer to having our new checking and credit accounts opened with our new banking institution, Wintrust.
- I continue working with the Church Training Center (our outsourced bookkeeper) and our new Finance Coordinator to update and streamline our fiscal system.
- The Finance & Trust Committee met with the Church Training Center to gain clarity and receive a status update during its March/April meeting.

Personnel:

- Pastor's upcoming time-off:
 - Sunday 1 of 3 off, Sunday April 12

Continuing Education:

- Continue to participate in "The Playground" via Zoom.

Wider UCC & DP Community Meetings/Presentations/Events:

- Hosted a Des Plaines Clergy Alliance Meeting
- Delivered the sermon during Nuestro Amanecer UMC Easter Sunrise worship service at Lake Opeka.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Committee: Both the fire suppression System and the Fire alarm have been tested.

Faith Forward Commission: Caryn has been appointed Treasurer. FFC is planning a Mother's Day fundraiser that will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Outreach Committee: The next Outreach meeting is on the 6th at 5:15. My report for Outreach is as follows: the committee met on 3/2 to discuss new initiatives for both the public and the congregation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Vision Task Force - Reviewing a couple of properties in Des Plaines. It's still early in the process.
- Joint Workshop: Council & Finance-Trust - Sunday, May 3, 2026.
- Village Bank & Trust, N.A. (Wintrust) - we are almost switched over, but it's still in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Memorial Garden - *Vision Task Force*

Motion to not have remains buried in the garden was made. There was a tie vote. Council President's vote breaks the tie. The motion passes.

- Rev. Dr. William G. Grice III's Celebration of Life - May 2nd

Motion to waive building fees for Dr. Grice's Celebration of Life. Motion was seconded and passed.

- Greater Family Health HIV Testing and Education Tuesday events

A motion to accept Greater Family Health's HIV Testing and Education's request to use our facility was made, seconded, and passed. It should be noted that this is possible with both Christ Church and Camino Rising, since Christ Church's name is on the paperwork.

Support Refugee Moms with Baby Care Items!

Sign up now to support an expecting refugee mom with an assortment of baby items to bless a growing family.

- Collect items for an expecting refugee mom.
- Deliver items and encourage refugees with a personal visit.

All items must be new. (Gifting new items to refugees shows respect and provides dignity.)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Receiving Blankets | • Newborn Baby Mittens | • Large Box of Wipes |
| • Warm Baby Blanket | • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Onesies (Snap T-Shirts) | • Diaper Rash Cream |
| • Crib Sheet | • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Footed Pajamas | • Burp Cloths |
| • 2 Hooded Baby Towels | • 0-3 & 3-6 Month Sleep Sacks | • Bibs |
| • Baby Lotion | • Baby Socks | • Pacifier with Clip |
| • Baby Laundry Detergent | • Large Box of Diapers – Size 1 & 2 | • Teether |
| | | • Baby Feeding Spoons |
| | | • Digital Thermometer |
| | | • Baby Nail Clipper |
| | | • Board/Soft Book (Non-Religious) |

**Red means
high priority!**

Other items can be added to the Baby Care Pack, but are not expected.

Collection occurs between May 4th to June 14th
A box will be available in the narthex.

Sign Up Here

bit.ly/4ud2NY8



COMING UP IN JUNE/JULY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>6/6</u>	Music Sale	Wobbe Hall	10 AM
<u>6/7</u>	Finance-Trust Committee Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
<u>6/8</u>	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 AM
<u>6/9</u>	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9 AM
<u>6/9</u>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<u>6/10</u>	<i>OFFICE OPENS LATE</i>		2 PM
<u>6/10</u>	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6 PM
<u>6/10</u>	Council Meeting	Lounge	7 PM
<u>6/14</u>	Interfaith Family PrideFest	Raymond Park, Evanston	2 PM
<u>6/14</u>	Faith Forward Adventures Movie Day	Wobbe Hall	9:30 AM
<u>6/14</u>	Refugee & New Members Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
<u>6/20</u>	Community Pride Celebration	Trinity Lutheran	1 PM
<u>6/21</u>	<i>FATHER'S DAY</i>		
<u>6/22</u>	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 PM
<u>6/23</u>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<u>6/28</u>	Pride Sunday	Sanctuary	9:30 AM
<u>7/4</u>	<i>INDEPENDENCE DAY</i>		
<u>7/5</u>	Finance-Trust Committee Meeting	Lounge	11 AM
<u>7/8</u>	<i>OFFICE OPENS LATE</i>		2 PM
<u>7/13</u>	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 AM
<u>7/14</u>	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9 AM
<u>7/14</u>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM
<u>7/18</u>	Trinity Lutheran Trivia Night	Trinity Lutheran	1:30 PM
<u>7/19</u>	Faith Forward Adventures Bowling Day	River Rand Bowl	11:30 AM
<u>7/27</u>	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 PM
<u>7/28</u>	Camino Rising Office Hours	Wobbe Hall	3-7PM


 LOVE IS LOVE


THE TITHE.LY CHURCH APP
Christ Church United
Church of Christ

DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCH APP!

Stay connected with our church family anytime, anywhere. Access sermons, events, updates, and so much more—all right at your fingertips. Don't miss out on this convenient way to stay in the loop! Download it today!

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

1492 Henry Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230
christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook & Instagram:
@christchurchuccdesplaines

Rev. Gilbert Martinez.....Pastor
Kat Chwalisz.....Administrative Assistant
Helayne Levin.....Finance Coordinator
Karen Wilberg.....Music Director
Tommie Jordan.....Custodian
Emanuel Alvarez.....Maintenance Technician

The Beacon

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988

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
Call or Text

