

United in Faith News

SEPTEMBER 2016



Why are we Here? ~

We are to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.

From the desk of . . .

Pastor Carla

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

Reflect
God's love

Pray and
listen for God's
guidance

Continue to
strengthen
faith

Include all
in God's
work

Meet people
where they
are

These days, my life feels pretty fluid. I'm not sure where we will call home next. I am safe; I have a home to stay in; I have a call that I love; I have an abundance of support from family and friends. But I'm not settled in a particular location yet.

Our family's belongings are scattered between the south side of Chicago, a storage space in Northbrook, and my parents' house in Northbrook. It is easy to become overwhelmed by a feeling of not exactly belonging anywhere. When I become overwhelmed by this unsettled feeling, I often have to remind myself that God is with me in this transition. (To be honest, my husband is often the one reminding me of this fact.) God is with me wherever we settle. God is with me no matter what kind of housing we live in. God is with me regardless of my circumstances.

In Psalm 121, the Psalmist appears helpless ("from where will my help come?"), but then acknowledges that help comes "from the Lord." At the end of the Psalm, I am reminded that, "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."

That is such an important reminder for me. God is with me and watching over "my going out and my coming in." No matter what entry door I go through to "go out." No matter what type of house I "come in" to. God is with me and watches over every move I make, "my going out & my coming in."

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR CARLA, CONTINUED..

Wherever you go - whether you travel or move or find yourself temporarily displaced or relocate or even if you stay in one place - God will be with you and will watch over "your going out and your coming in." So lift up your eyes unto God, from where your help will come.



A Letter From Jeanne Rice

Greetings from Michigan!

I have no words to express my thanks for all the support, kindness, and friendship you have give me the past three-plus years - not to mention the awesome worship service (which happened to include my favorite hymn), the sending song, the delicious coffee, and the very generous fit. It meant the world to me and is/was very much appreciated.

I miss you all so very much and look forward to worshipping with you sometime soon.

Sending love, heart-felt thanks, and peace to you all!

Jeanne =)

Thanks From Peggy Devine

Hey everyone!

I wanted to say my thanks for the Church. I was very fortunate to be able to work as the interim general administrator at UIF while the church was looking for a replacement for Jeanne, who moved to Michigan. Thank you for understanding any mistakes I may have made in this time of transition. It was wonderful to work with all of you and a great experience to see how UIF works.

I also want to say thank you to the Church and the Endowment Committee for granting me a scholarship to allow me to continue attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where I am studying Environmental Policy and Nordic Studies.

Peggy

More About Derek Sire, Church Administrator

Derek Sire joined the staff of United in Faith Lutheran on August 22nd.

Greetings to All of You at United In Faith,

My name is Derek Sire and I am pleased to join you as Church Administrator. I enjoy volunteering, helping others, & exploring nature. I am currently a religious studies student at College of DuPage & will be transferring to Elmhurst College. I have taken numerous classes in Political Science, English, and Psychology. I am passionate about learning from all people of all backgrounds. I am passionate about social justice, radical hospitality, & building authentic relationships. I hope to enroll in an ELCA seminary.

Derek

SERVING IN WORSHIP: SEPTEMBER 2016

	Traditional 8:30 Asst. Min.	Traditional 8:30 Communion Assistants	Traditional 8:30 Ushers	Praise & Worship 10:30 Asst. Min.	Praise & Worship 10:30 Communion Assistants	Praise & Worship 10:30 Ushers
Sept 4 9:30 AM only	<i>Dear Friends, Please Sign Up To Serve</i>	<i>In Any Lay Assistant Capacities As You're Able =)</i>	<i>Dear Friends, Please Sign Up To Serve</i>	<i>In Any Lay Assistant Capacities As You're Able =)</i>	<i>Dear Friends, Please Sign Up To Serve</i>	<i>In Any Lay Assistant Capacities As You're Able =)</i>
Sept 11						
Sept 18		Frances Johnston				
Sept 25						

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!!

September 4 Dave Quillin, Pete Herberg
 September 6 Marty Devine, Gretchen Quillin, Ray and Jackie Good anniversary
 September 7 Ellen Devine
 September 10 Joe Veal
 September 17 Frances Johnston, Jacob Kuswik
 September 19 Pam Marino, Kim Childress
 September 22 Dana and Gary Callgreen anniversary
 September 24 Marilyn Ricker
 September 25 Kristin Denz
 September 27 Joe and Adriene Childress anniversary
 September 28 Gary Callgreen, Loreen O'Donnell-Stellpflug

Ever Wonder Which Body Part You Are?

"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

It's easy to tell yourself that you don't have any gifts when you see someone do something great, like preach an inspiring sermon, sing with the choir, or fix a broken cabinet. While United in Faith certainly needs mouths to preach and sing and hands to fix, we need all of our "body parts," which includes you. Not sure what you can contribute? We invite those who haven't participated in the Gifts Assessment seminar to come and discover their gifts.

What it is: A 5-week session facilitated on Wednesdays starting on October 5 at 7 pm. In these five sessions, you will explore your gifts to allow for a deeper understanding of yourself. You will also uncover how your gifts and the gifts of others are important to United in Faith.

What it isn't: A way to coerce (or guilt) you into "doing more" at United in Faith. Of course, we'd love for you to learn something new about yourself and apply it immediately at United in Faith, but that doesn't always mean joining a new ministry. It could mean stepping down from a ministry where your gifts aren't being used. You will likely also learn something about yourself that will enhance your work, school, or personal life, as well.

Who it's for: Anyone who hasn't previously participated in a Gifts Assessment seminar, especially if you're new around here or were recently confirmed. Have you been around awhile but not participated? Our goal is 100% participation for those who attend worship and otherwise participate in the life of the church.

Ready to discover new things about yourself? Sign up by contacting the church office (phone, email, etc.) or look for a sign-up sheet available near the sanctuary. Mark your calendars, and we'll see you there!

COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD!

Will YOU be a part of the UIF choir this year?



Positions Open: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass – no others need apply.

Experience: No application accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower.

Wages: Satisfaction and joy in God's service.

Fringe Benefits: Social Security – we promise you the security of social fellowship with other members of the choir.

Hours: Sunday mornings and the first Thursday of the month with occasional opportunities for overtime. (at the above mentioned wages)

Retirement: No particular age, but it is generally determined by prayer, printed notes getting too small, notes too high, church too hot (or cold), or organist unable to play the notes you sing.

Rehearsals: Once a month on the first Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. The length of the rehearsal depends on how fast the choir learns the music and on how many stories are told in between each piece!

Apply: By attending the next rehearsal.

Please plan to join us at our first rehearsal on Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the music room. We rehearse the first Thursday of each month to prepare music for that month's services. We generally sing at the 8:30 service and we sing for other special services, as well. So...if you want to share God's word in a way that touches the heart and the soul...join the choir and let your spirit sing!



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING UP !

SEPTEMBER 18TH at 9:30 AM BETWEEN SERVICES

Calling all children ages 3-10!! Sunday school starts on September 18th at 9:30 in between the services. We have a great group of volunteers eager and ready to teach our children. Each week we will be exploring a reading from the Sunday lectionary and doing some fun activities to go with it! We hope to see you there!

For questions, suggestions, or to volunteer, please contact Tricia at [\(773\) 680-5118](tel:7736805118) or Tricia.dombroski@gmail.com or contact the church office.



HELP NEEDED!

If you are interested in being an Assistant Minister, Communion Assistant, Usher, or Greeter, please contact Jane Schira and your name will be added to the rotation. Or if you need to make a change in the current rotation, please find a replacement and contact the church office with that name. Thanks.

VBS 2016 Wrap-Up

Another summer is wrapping up and that means another VBS is behind us. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated, contributed, and brought grandchildren to join us this past week! We had 22 children attend, and it could not have happened without help from so many of you!

Each day the children heard a Bible story, sang songs, made crafts, did science experiments, played fun games and participated in service projects. It was lots of fun to watch them get covered in shaving cream or stand wide-eyed as they watched explosions!

On Monday, we heard the creation story and learned that "God Creates!" On Tuesday, we heard about Miriam caring for baby Moses and learned that "God Helps!" Wednesday was all about the baptism of Jesus and learned that "God Loves!" Thursday we heard about Jesus calming the storm and that "God Calms!" On Friday we wrapped up the week with breakfast on the beach and learning that "God Sends!"

Many of you donated needed items for the VBS service project and some have asked for more information about the organization. We partnered with Cornerstone Community Outreach in Chicago. This is the same group with whom New Life for Old Bags (NLOB) works. You can learn more about them and the services they provide at ccolife.org. With your contributions, our 22 VBS attendees were able to pack 50 personal hygiene kits, 200 single use laundry bags, 175 bags of trail mix, 75 complete sack lunches, and 45 comfort bags with toys and fun for young children in need.

Thank you all again for all your support of this important ministry in our church and our community!

Katie

Making a Charitable Bequest to United In Faith

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways you can leave a lasting impact on United in Faith. The bequest can be made in your will or trust directing a gift to United in Faith.

To make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney. Your attorney can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be given to United in Faith as part of your estate. Your bequest can be for an amount of money, specific personal items (like stocks and bonds), real estate, or a percentage of your estate.

Please consider United in Faith in your estate planning.

Worship and Music Notes



It's September already. Seems like summer goes so fast! Thanks to Denise Boyer and the summer bell choir, and everyone else who provided special music throughout the summer. We will celebrate Rally Day on September 11th with one service outdoors at 9:30. We will resume our regular worship schedule on September 18th with the traditional service at 8:30 and the praise and worship service at 10:30. The UIF choir will also resume this month.

Many thanks to those who volunteer in worship. Your participation is greatly appreciated. More volunteers are always welcome. Dawn Kuzwik is the coordinator of worship service volunteers, so please sign-up on the sheets beneath the bulletin board; and speak to Dawn if you are interested in volunteering. Many thanks also go out to the altar guild and the decorative arts volunteers for their dedication in preparing the worship space for every Sunday.

If you have any constructive feedback regarding worship and music; please feel free to speak to Jane Schira, Dave Quillan, Lois Cornils, or any of the other the worship planners. The worship planners also include Denise Boyer, Janeen Devine, Katie Jewell, and Elisabeth Wittman, and Richard Trost. Many thanks to our planners who all volunteer their time. Any feedback concerning the slide presentations may be addressed to Jane Schira. If you use e-mail, Jane may be reached at janie.yellin@hotmail.com. Yours in Christ, Jane Schira



SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

Coffee hour hostesses for September

Sept 4 RALLY DAY COOKOUT

11 - *Please Sign Up To Serve!*

18 - *Please Sign Up To Serve!*

25 - *Please Sign Up To Serve!*

Thanks to everyone who has served as hostess during the summer months. You are all wonderful.....Lois & Annette



Boy Scout Troop 166

Hello again from your Boy Scout Troop, 166.

Well, we did it. Two weeks in the wilds of Owasippe Scout Reservation, at the edge of the Manistee National Forest in western Michigan. While there, our Scouts enjoyed swimming, camping, canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, rock climbing, motor-boating, etc. Our older Scouts were able to go next door to learn and earn Metalwork and Welding merit badges. On top of that, our younger Scouts got an opportunity to really hone their cooking skills. Yum! Really! And on top of all that, our two younger Scouts combined for a total of three ranks advanced! One of them was promoted from Tenderfoot to Second Class to First Class in a matter of three weeks! Yes, a great deal of fun was had by all.

Shortly after Owasippe, we spent a weekend at Pathways to Eagle, in Bolingbrook, IL. This is a weekend event hosted by the Scout Council there at which troops can camp and work on merit badges required for the rank of Eagle Scout. Meals are catered so that the Scouts don't have to cook, and can concentrate on their badge work. Three of our Scouts went, joined by a guest Scout from Wisconsin, and each came home with a new merit badge to his credit.

Coming up on our schedule as of this writing, we'll be visiting the Bristol Renaissance Faire, in Bristol Wisconsin, Running an Orienteering course at Arie Crown Woods, camping for a weekend at the Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship and visiting the Feast of the Hunter's Moon in West Lafayette, Indiana. All the while, seeking to recruit new members with whom to share our adventures.

More next month. Til then, enjoy the cooler weather (wishful thinking?) and stay safe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Friedl

Scoutmaster, Troop 166

Conversation Table

Starting in September, Pastor Carla will offer a Faith 5 Conversation Table during Coffee Hour between services. Faith 5 is a pattern of conversation and prayer that is used by some families and some intergenerational congregational groups. You can join in for whatever period of time you are able and for whichever Sundays you are present. Each week, we'll focus on a few verses of scripture from the assigned lessons, and we'll use a Faith 5 format to guide our conversation. Simply, Faith 5 includes:

SHARE your highs and lows

READ a Bible verse or story

TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

PRAY for one another's highs and lows

BLESS one another

Look for the Faith 5 poster toward the back of the fellowship hall and bring your snacks over to join the prayer and conversation!



Welcome

Hospitality Corner

Thanks to all who come early to welcome our friends to church on Sunday morning. It is great to see each of you on Sunday.

Greeters for SEPTEMBER 2016 we will be seeing:

September 4 **9:30 AM** Terrie Miller

September 11 **8:30 AM** Harriet Kurz
September 18 **8:30 AM** Dennis Vogel
September 25 **8:30 AM** Doris Hemple

10:30 AM
Bonnie Maginnis
Nancy Ciecko
Carolyn Doughty

Thanks for all your smiling faces.

From the Church Health Team... (continued on page 11)

WHAT IS IN YOUR GROCERY BAG? —a reflection by Carolyn Doughty

You lost your job, have dwindling savings, and \$60 to feed your family of five for a week. . . WHAT IS IN YOUR GROCERY BAG?

You are right—the above passage is not a verse from the Bible. Yet it is a reality for far too many households in America with today’s economy, most of which are NOT because they are lazy!

It is estimated that 50.1 million Americans (14.9 percent of the U.S. population) live in food insecure households. This means that at some point during the year household food consumption was disrupted or reduced because the household lacked money or resources to obtain food. There are so many reasons why this happens. Very real, legitimate reasons.

I remember when I was getting divorced, my pre divorce financial calculations showed that after paying for a full-time babysitter and all the bills that I inherited from the divorce, I would have \$50 for two weeks of food, clothes, and any other expenses that came along. Although I never went to a food pantry, my friend worked for a church rectory that got food shipments to have on hand in case someone came to the church in need of food. Once a month my neighbor came with a carton of macaroni and cheese and another carton of canned food. Although I wished I didn’t have to, I accepted the food gratefully. *There are so many reasons why households are food insecure . . .*

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17



Girl Scouting In and Around United in Faith

We are getting ready to begin another year of Girl Scouts! Our first meeting and registration will be on Tuesday, Sept. 6th, from 6:45-8:50 pm. If you know of any little girls ages 4-18, send them our way that night. The Daisy & Brownies will be meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8th from 6:00-7:30 pm.

The registration fee is \$15.00 and the dues will be \$40.00 for the year. This helps with our Bowling event, Juliette Low Rally, Special Event in January, swimming, roller skating, and our badges, Girl Scout pins, etc.

We are all going to Botanic Gardens in October. Daisy & Brownies will be working on a badge over at the park the end of Sept., Juniors have a camping trip in Oct. planned, our Juliette Low rally is planned for October for about 100 girls. We are having a birthday day party event for Juliette Low (founder of Girl Scouts). Should be a fun packed day! The Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are planning a camping event for October or November. So you can tell we are all going to be busy. Put a few badges here and there and before we know it the end of the year will be here!

We are still collecting health supplies, such as razors, washcloths, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body lotion, deodorant, soap, emory boards, nail clippers and any thing else you can think of., soda cans, and ink cartridges. Thank you for all your help in these events. Thanks from all the girls and leaders.. and from me, Annette, too!

Senior Club of UIF

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 11:30 am. We will be meeting at Bakers Square at Foster and Harlem Ave. It's Free Pie Day!!

We hope all those on our Get Well List would do just that. We miss you all. Get Well Wishes go out to Lil Bjork, Fred & Muriel Clauson, Helen Glowacz, Barbara Hubka, and Joe Beckie.

Happy Birthday goes out to Barbara Hubka on Sept. 30th.

Hope to see you on the 21st of Sept. at 11:30 am.

Love,
Annette

From the Church Health Team... (continued)

Having been on the governing board of a food pantry at a church I used to attend, I heard about a few of the families that came for food. Here are examples of families in need:

A father came to the pantry and explained that his baby was dying of cancer. His wife was taking care of the baby and their three other children at home. He quit his job so he could be with his wife and help with the children. He asked if he could come for food until his baby died and he could go back to work. He was allowed to come until he went back to work. *There are so many reasons why households are food insecure . . .*

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:2

Another time, a woman who was a political refugee from Columbia explained that her family had been killed, and she escaped with the clothes on her back and \$300 in her pocket. She asked if she could come for food until she got situated. She was welcomed to come. Once she was employed she came back to give a monetary donation and to volunteer. *There are so many reasons why households are food insecure . . .*

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother..." Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Another instance was a household with two working parents and 11 children. They couldn't make ends meet. *There are so many reasons why households are food insecure . . .*

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... Matthew 25:35

Job loss, divorce, family crisis, immigration issues—these are only a few reasons why families in this modern world are food insecure. Clearly you can see through the chosen Bible verses that God is calling all of us to feed the hungry, support one another when needed. We are **all** being called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need, not just the rich and famous super model super stars, but all of us according to our own means.

On Sunday, October 16, the Justice Team will present to our congregation a program called **Food for a Week**. *This is a simulation where all UIF members will get a glimpse at what it is like to make decisions that a person living in food insecurity, or "very low food security," would face. The goal of the simulation is to provide an experiential, educational opportunity that explores issues of food access and availability.*

You will be hearing more about **Food for a Week** in the Sunday bulletins, at the announcements time in the Sunday service, and in next month's newsletter.

Creator God, thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed on the members of this congregation. Thank you for the gift of St. Cyprian's Food Pantry which gives us an opportunity to share our gifts with those in need. Help us to always see YOU in each other and in those in need, and treat them with the same love and respect that we would treat you! Amen.

RALLY DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF PARTY: SEPT 11 @ 11 AM
Join us in the East Parking Lot (Please Find Alternative Parking)
There will be plenty of Food, Games and Fun!
We'll Be Welcoming The Community, Doing Lots of Activities..
& Doing God's Work, Our Hands Community Projects Together.
ALL ARE WELCOME



Church Events/Calendar Reminder: *Derek Sire just started 8/22 as Church Administrator & is working on a new format for the newsletter calendar. Please feel free to email him at UfAdmin@unitedinfaith.org with any event times & dates for him to include on the online calendar & upcoming bulletins & newsletters. Thanks!*

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6525 West Irvin Park Road
Chicago, IL 60634



Rev. Carla Thompson Powell
Pastor

Phone: **773.283.2326**
Email: unitedinfaith@unitedinfaith.org

On the Web at www.unitedinfaith.org
Twitter: UIFLutheran and Facebook: UIFLC