

APRIL  
2025

# United in Faith News

*Why are we  
Here?  
We are to  
be God's  
hands,  
feet and  
voice  
in the  
world.*



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*

april

## From the Pastor...

*Jesus Christ you are the Light of the world,  
The Light no darkness can overcome.*

April begins in Lent and moves us ever closer to Resurrection. Here at United in Faith we are studying **Joy** and singing Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays and on Sunday mornings walking with Jesus to Jerusalem. Through it all we are listening for God's voice and turning our attention and our hearts to Jesus' mission in the world.

We know our work here is to be "God's hands and feet and voice in the world." Figuring out how to do that can be overwhelming. Together we have been exploring opportunities this season. Our members are holding our elected officials accountable, through town hall meetings and direct phone calls.

Steadfast volunteers are supporting St. Cyprian's Pantry with their time and financial support. As a congregation we are becoming more aware of the refugee experience and the crises that the unfunding of their support creates. As a result, we are again coming together to match individual monies with congregational funds to make a difference, this time for *Refugee One*.

As followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbor, as we love ourselves. Believing that Christ lights our way and leads us, we are actively carrying our candle into the world. You will learn more about some of these initiatives in this newsletter.

**Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. We will gather in the fellowship hall and prepare the way for the Lord! Moving through the week we will join the disciples for the Last Supper and the disquiet of the crucifixion. Maundy Thursday service is at 7PM and Good Friday services are at Noon and 7PM. Easter Sunday is at 10AM on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Come joyfully celebrate Christ's Resurrection in music and worship with us! May April's showers and spring energy remind us all that God's love for the world is still Lighting us our world!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Jeanie*

## HOW CAN WE HELP/ADVOCATE???

The power of calling our representatives to express our opinions on timely issues is a great way to make your voice heard.

There are many places to get a practice script.

There are places that have supporting websites that include scripts for various issues like the following:

- \* Indivisible Chicago
- \* Red Wine and Blue
- \* Equality Illinois
- \* 5 Calls

See anyone on the Justice Team for more information.

## Global Refuge Needs Us!

Why did the UIF Council vote to contribute \$5,000 to Global Refuge at their February meeting? A bit of history and current situation of the agency should explain why.

One of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's sister agencies is Global Refuge, formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. The founding during World War II was in response to the many displaced people due to the war in Europe. Since then, the need to provide refuge and asylum to people due to war, conflict and persecution has continued for people all over the world.

Over time Global Refuge has become a trusted partner of the federal government to provide needed services to asylum seekers, awarding contracts to the agency. The agency was one of a few given responsibility for resettling unaccompanied minors, i.e. *children* with no adult relatives.

But all that work stopped due to executive order and the cancellation of contracts. Leaving thousands of refugees already being assisted by Global Refuge in the lurch. Those people were working within legal immigration policies and are already in the U.S. or waiting in third countries for help. Among those waiting to come to the U.S. are Afghan translators and helpers who were promised resettlement by our government.

ELCA members and congregations have supported this agency, and our advocacy and donations are needed more than ever. Spreading the word about helping the agency is as important as monetary contributions. You can find further information on their website, <https://www.globalrefuge.org> You may also wish to make a contribution there, or you can send a contribution to: Global Refuge, P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 20297-14670

**\$90K for 90 Days**  
**Ministry partner of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod ELCA,**  
**[RefugeeOne](#) is Chicago's largest refugee resettlement agency.**

As of January 27, the Trump Administration suspended new refugee arrivals indefinitely and cut off the usual first 90-days federal funding aid for refugees who were already here.

RefugeeOne offers holistic support for newcomers for up to 5 years—making sure to see them through to becoming self-sufficient community members.

**They welcomed more than 500 refugees in the 6 months prior to the federal suspension,** and despite the cut off of government funding they are committed to walking alongside these newcomers without disruption of services.

**Our support is needed to help with out-of-pocket costs for the newest arrivals who are still getting on their feet.**

**Combined efforts from ELCA partners could make such an impact: \$90,000 raised will support at least 60 refugee families with \$1,500 rent and food subsidies that will offer immediate relief.** Covering these costs will help RefugeeOne stay the course to continue serving newcomers long-term—through English classes, job coaching, mental health care, youth services, and more.

Thank you for coming together as a synod in the call to love and care for our neighbor, to live out being one body, and exemplify how we are better together!

\*

Our United in Faith Council approved matching funds up to \$2500 for donations from our congregation. Special envelopes are available for your cash or check (made out to United in Faith) gift or donate on the United in Faith website. Donations will appear on your giving statement. Please submit your donation by Easter Sunday, April 20.

**The need is urgent.**



Next  
**New Life for Old Bags**  
Workday

April 5 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

## BOOK CLUB...

Join us on Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 am as we discuss:

**How We Learn to Be Brave** Decisive Moments in Life and Faith by Mariann Edgar Budde

**How We Learn to Be Brave** is an inspirational guide to the key junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves by the bishop of the famed Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C.

On January 21, 2025, many Americans were introduced to Bishop Mariann Budde thanks to what The New York Times called “an extraordinary act of public resistance”. During her prayer service for Donald J. Trump's second inauguration, Bishop Budde addressed the president directly, imploring him “to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now,” from those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community to immigrants and refugees.

With Bishop Budde's wisdom, readers will learn to live and to respond according to their true beliefs and in ways that align with their best selves. **How We Learn to Be Brave** will provide much needed fortitude and insight to anyone searching for answers in uncertain times.

The church has a few copies of the book available for borrowing. Please contact Jeanne in the church office if interested.

## United in Faith NEWLY ADOPTED Welcome Statement

At the February 2025 Annual Meeting, United in Faith adopted a new welcome statement. It is as follows:

United in Faith, as a community of united disciples striving to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world: affirms its intention to openly welcome and value every person who walks through our doors regardless of race, nationality and ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, social and economic situation, abilities, cultural realities and needs; supports efforts to share with all, God's gifts of love, acceptance and grace; commits to racial equity and anti-racism; invites all people, uniquely created by God, to experience the word of God, communion and the promise of the risen Christ; and, encourages all people to participate fully in the ministries of this congregation, which are based on its purpose and guiding principles.

# What Can I Do?

It can be easy to feel swept into chaos and feel like you don't know what to do or who to support in the world today. The thing is there are many people and organizations that are making real difference in peoples lives. Below are some local places to learn more about, volunteer or send cash donations. There is something you can do! Check them out.

## **Hope for the Day (and Sip of Hope)**

Hope for the Day is a non-profit organization empowering the conversation on pro-active suicide prevention and mental health education. Through outreach, mental health education and community action, Hope for the Day seeks to prevent suicide by eliminating the stigma and silence around suicide. One example of their local outreach is the Sip of Hope Café with locations in Logan Square and Hyde Park. The coffee served at Sip of Hope is the world's first coffee where 100% of the proceeds go towards proactive suicide prevention and mental health education. The cafes also provide a safe gathering place where it is "Ok not to be OK". More information can be found at <https://www.hftd.org/> & <https://www.sipofhope.com/>

## **Resurrection Project Immigrant Justice Program**

The Resurrection Project Immigrant Justice Program, a program within the Resurrection Project organization, seeks to build an equitable future for immigrant communities where immigrants can celebrate their full humanity. In collaboration with many community organizations, legal experts and advocates, the Immigrant Justice Program endeavors to provide every immigrant with access to trusted guidance and a voice in shaping a just future. Particularly in these last few months, the Immigrant Justice Program has been a vital resource in educating immigrant communities about their rights and connecting them with legal services. More information can be found at <https://www.trpimmigrantjustice.org/>

## **Maryville Crisis Nursery**

Maryville Crisis Nursery, located at 6650 W. Irving Park Road, is within walking distance of United in Faith. The Crisis Nursery provides free, short-term care for parents in distress and experiencing a crisis. Children from the age of birth to six years old can receive round-the-clock childcare for up to 72 hours for each stay. Issues that may bring a family to the Crisis Nursery include, unemployment, parental illness or hospitalization, poverty, or homelessness. The Crisis Nursery also has a 24-hour Crisis Helpline, crisis counseling, referrals to supportive services and Parent Support Programs. More information can be found at <https://maryvilleacademy.org/>

## **Onward Neighborhood House**

Onward Community House is located at 5413 West Diversey Avenue. They are oriented to primarily help new immigrants access resources and find a community of support. They provide early childcare and after school programs so parents can trust their children are safe as they work knowing their children are safe. Their Community Computer Resource Center provide basic access and technology class for homework and career support. Other services: ESL, citizenship, a food pantry, and assistance accessing other resources, such as mental health programs, when needed. More information can be found at <https://onwardhouse.org/>

## **LYDIA Home**

LYDIA Home Association is located at 4300 West Irving Park Road, east of United in Faith. They are a Christian, nonprofit organization that has been serving children in Chicago since 1916. Their mission is to strengthen families to care for children and to care for children when families cannot. While their programs are meant to both serve youth in care and be a blessing to our local community. More information can be found at <https://www.lydiahome.org/>

# SPRING



|          |                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| April 6  | Mickey Bligh                        |
| April 11 | Terrie Miller Wilk                  |
| April 18 | Julie & Matt Lozich Anniversary     |
| April 20 | Meghan Kosner                       |
| April 22 | Denise Boyer                        |
| April 22 | Christopher Hudie                   |
| April 22 | John & Tricia Dombroski Anniversary |
| April 23 | Daniel Barsaloux                    |



## **GREETERS and USHERS NEEDED!**

It's a simple task...just say "hi" and hand out a bulletin. That's it. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall. Thanks. :)

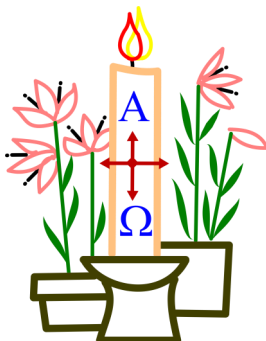
## **HAPPY SPRING from the GIRL SCOUTS!**

We celebrated Girl Scout Sunday and it was so nice to have a hearty welcome from the congregation. If you missed it, our troops were thrilled to give UIF a recognition from our GS council to thank you all for all your years of support. We have our weekly troop meetings, monthly leaders meeting and service unit events.

The girls have been working on badges and having fun. The Daisy and Brownies are learning songs. The Juniors are working on a theater badge and the older girls have been exploring textile arts.

We are hoping to camp later this spring.

Janeen



## *Easter Blessings to all!*



# April 2024



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b><br/>Please check the website at <a href="http://www.unitedinfaith.org">www.unitedinfaith.org</a> for up to date information.</p> |   | <p><b>1</b><br/>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>                            | <p><b>2</b><br/>12:00pm Soup and Conversation - "JOY"</p> | <p><b>3</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry</p>  | <p><b>4</b><br/>6:30pm AA</p>  | <p><b>5</b><br/>9:30am Al-Anon<br/>10:00am NLOB<br/>1:00pm Knitting Group<br/>4:00pm Survivors of Incest-<br/><a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>6</b><br/>9:00am Coffee Hour<br/>10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed</p>   | <p><b>7</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry<br/>12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group</p>  | <p><b>8</b><br/>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>                            | <p><b>9</b><br/>12:00pm Soup and Conversation - "JOY"</p> | <p><b>10</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry</p>   | <p><b>11</b><br/>6:30pm AA<br/>7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286</p>  | <p><b>12</b><br/>9:30am Al-Anon<br/>1:00pm Knitting Group<br/>4:00pm Survivors of Incest-<br/><a href="https://siawso.org">siawso.org</a></p>                         |
| <p><b>13</b><br/>PALM SUNDAY<br/>9:00am Coffee Hour<br/>10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed</p>  | <p><b>14</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry<br/>12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group</p> | <p><b>15</b><br/>6:00pm Girl Scouts<br/>7:00pm Church Council</p> | <p><b>16</b></p>  | <p><b>17</b><br/><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry<br/>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship</p> | <p><b>18</b><br/><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br/>12:00pm Good Friday Worship<br/>6:30pm AA<br/>7:00pm Good Friday Worship</p> | <p><b>19</b><br/>9:30am Al-Anon<br/>1:00pm Knitting Group<br/>4:00pm Survivors of Incest-<br/><a href="https://siawso.org">siawso.org</a></p>                         |
| <p><b>20</b><br/><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b><br/>9:00am Coffee Hour<br/>10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed</p>   | <p><b>21</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry<br/>12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group</p> | <p><b>22</b><br/>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>                           | <p><b>23</b></p>  | <p><b>24</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry</p>   | <p><b>25</b><br/>6:30pm AA</p>   | <p><b>26</b><br/>9:30am Al-Anon<br/>1:00pm Knitting Group<br/>4:00pm Survivors of Incest-<br/><a href="https://siawso.org">siawso.org</a></p>                         |
| <p><b>27</b><br/>9:00am Coffee Hour<br/>10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed</p>  | <p><b>28</b><br/>9:00am Food Pantry</p>                                     | <p><b>29</b><br/>9:30am KICHWA<br/>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p>         | <p><b>30</b></p>  |   |  |   |

# APRIL WORSHIP AT UNITED IN FAITH

|                                    |                     |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>APRIL 6</b><br>Lent 5           | 9:00 am<br>10:00 am | Coffee Hour<br>Worship Service in person and on line        |
| <b>APRIL 13</b><br>Palm Sunday     | 9:00 am<br>10:00 am | Coffee Hour<br>Worship Service in person and on line        |
| <b>APRIL 17</b><br>Maundy Thursday | 7:00 pm             | Maundy Thursday Evening Service ~ only                      |
| <b>APRIL 13</b><br>Good Friday     | 12:00 pm<br>7:00 pm | Good Friday Midweek Service<br>Good Friday Evening Service  |
| <b>APRIL 20</b><br>Easter Sunday   | 9:00 am<br>10:00 am | Coffee Hour<br>Easter Worship Service in person and on line |
| <b>APRIL 27</b><br>Easter 2        | 9:00 am<br>10:00 am | Coffee Hour<br>Worship Service in person and on line        |



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



**Rev. Jeanine Reardon**  
Interim Pastor  
Email: [pastor@unitedinfaith.org](mailto:pastor@unitedinfaith.org)

Phone: **773.283.2326**

**Jeanne Rice**, Church Administrator

Email: [UIFAdmin@unitedinfaith.org](mailto:UIFAdmin@unitedinfaith.org)

**On the Web** at: [www.unitedinfaith.org](http://www.unitedinfaith.org)

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