

MARCH
2025

United in Faith News



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



Spring is here again! Sometimes this is a statement of faith, but today this is a declaration of reality. March 20th is the 1st day of spring, but 45 degrees and budding trees tell me that the world is still turning, and winter is on its way out. Praise God!

Here at United in Faith we are moving toward Pastoral interviews and a new chapter in the life of this congregation. As you pray for the world, please keep the Call Committee and our Pastoral Candidates in those prayers. Seeking new partners is a holy time and God's clarity is always needed.

God's work continues.

We will gather on March 5th for Ash Wednesday and will begin another Lent together. Services are at 11 and 7. During Lent we will gather for Soup and Conversation about Joy at 12, and Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm.

Lent can be a time of letting go or picking up. For many it is time to let go of vices or distractions, to grow more disciplined. I also know this period to be a wonderful time to pick up virtues and explore new perspectives. Seeking a new lens to see the world, we will join The Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu to think about how JOY can change us and our world. On March 15, the Book Club will focus particularly on the book and how their conversation stimulates our reflection. Soup and Conversation will be a place where we can reflect together on wider glimpses and interactions of Joy are at work.

Please join us...in person or online, a zoom link is available. Please RSVP to me.

I hope that you are surprised by the crocuses and other silly bursts of color in the grass and the budding lilacs. By the birds who slip back into the yards and the frolicking squirrels. By the Spring that is returning and the hope and joy that are all around.

Blessings!

Pr. Jeanie

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**

BOOK CLUB...

Join us on Saturday, March 15 at 10:00am and find some Joy as we discuss:

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World
by Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
with Douglas Abrams

Despite the world's adversities, the Dalai Lama and Tutu exemplify the power of resilience and the human capacity to find joy even in the midst of suffering. As they guide readers on a journey to understand the nature of joy, they also emphasize the importance of interconnectedness and the shared responsibility to create a more compassionate and joyful world. "The Book of Joy" is a heartwarming and enlightening read that reminds us of the simple yet profound truths that can lead to a more joyful and fulfilling existence. ([The Book Of Joy Summary](#)).

"There are going to be frustrations in life. The question is not: How do I escape? It is: How can I use this as something positive?"

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to our newly elected Church Council Officers:

Gretchen Quillin , President

Bonnie Maginnis, Vice President

Rich Guzik, Secretary

Kim Childress, Treasurer

Other council members include Denise Boyer, Adienne Childress, Katie Jewell and Pam Marino.

Thank you all for serving United in Faith in this capacity.



March 7

March 13

March 15

March 19

March 24

March 25

March 31

Zoe Barsaloux

Harold Hoyem

Julie O'Donnell Lozich

Dian Hoyem

Janeen Devine

Ray Good

Rich Guzik

A message from Bishop Curry

Dear siblings in Christ,

Some of you are likely familiar with the phrase, “flood the zone.” It’s a sports metaphor currently used by politicians to fill the news cycle with so much, so fast, that the chaos causes us to be overwhelmed and distracted.

Through its executive orders and operations, the federal administration has in recent weeks targeted our transgender siblings, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, Lutheran Social Services, federal employees, the Department of Education, agriculture, DEI programs, and others. People near and dear to us, and those on the other side of the world, are threatened, abandoned, fearful, and feel hopeless.

Even when we do not *feel* hopeful, we continue to walk with one another—accompaniment is a value we treasure in this synod and in the wider church. Other strengths of our synod include our diversity, our inclusion, and our social justice ministries. Our synod is rich in diversity, including LGBTQIA+ leaders, welcoming congregations, and ethnic-specific ministries. More so, we are committed to further strengthening and expanding our Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging work. These are deep values. Who we say we are and what we do together as people of God, as a synod, matter. Our speech and action spring from our identity as children of a loving, forgiving, and just God—and from our relationships with one another.

In these difficult days, I am thankful for the church. I hope you are finding strength as you regularly gather around water, word, and meal. While current events flood the zone and overwhelm us, we remember a different kind of flood in which God made a covenant with God’s people and brought deliverance and freedom. We remember God’s promises to us and the world when we gather at the font to give thanks for baptism (ELW #119):

*Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claimed us as [children of God],
Making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.*

Please continue to reach out to my office—especially my faithful, compassionate associates, our conference deans, and your local congregational staff for care and resources. I encourage you to participate in local, state, and national coalitions (such as [ELCA Advocacy](#)) so together we can move toward action and speak more powerfully. Look also to those closest to you—family members, neighbors, and faith communities—asking how recent events are impacting them. We are bound together and constructive conversations are key to shaping our world.

Together, we will continue to navigate these challenging waters, anchored in the hope and strength of one another and of our faith.

We are the church together,

Bishop Yehiel Curry

THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST SYNOD





GIRL SCOUTS AT UIF

We are in the middle of the our Cookie Season! If you are looking for Girl Scout cookies or maybe MORE Girl Scout cookies, we are happy to help! We are celebrating Girl Scout Sunday on March 16th, and we will be selling cookies at coffee hour.

The girls planted 64 pots of tomato and pepper seeds that we will be handing out to folks at the Food Pantry for their gardens (or pots). We will likely plant a few more.

Our neighborhood troops were here February 22 to celebrate Thinking Day which is an international Girl Scout and Girl Guide program that celebrates the unity of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

We will also be hosting a Fiber Arts afternoon for the older girls in our Service Unit in March. The older girls of UIF are going to visit the Chicago Weaving School for a lesson on flat loom weaving and the Brownies and Daisies are busy with crafts and badgework. The Juniors did a cookie sale at the Jewel across the street too! So we are all busy!

Now to plan some spring camping!

Thanks from all the GS leaders! And Happy Spring!

Janeen



WE NEED YOU!

Please sign up to volunteer on Sundays.
You can be a greeter, usher, Assisting Minister, help with coffee hour
or any/all of the above.

Sign up sheets are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

In our prayers....

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ray Good and family

Vern Stahl

Lorraine Enderle

Carolyn Doughty

Barbara Piggott

Ron Fischer

Fran Johnston

Violet Swanson

Lylas Wollenzien

Doris Hemple

As Bishop Curry prays, let us join him in praying for all people near and dear to us. For those throughout the world who face hunger and war and for those who are threatened, abandoned, fearful, and feel hopeless. *Lord in your mercy....*

LENT ideas



Here's a great idea for Lent....join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a soup lunch. We will have soup "and" at 12:00 every Wednesday from March 5th until Holy Week. Join us for a delicious bowl of soup made by Pastor Jeanine. Sounds good, right?



Join us on Thursday, April 17 at 11:00 am or 7:00 pm for one of our Maundy Thursday Worship services.

Join us on Friday, April 18 at 11:00 am or 7:00 pm for our Good Friday Worship services.



GOOD FRIDAY



CHRIST HAS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

Join us for our Easter Worship Service on Sunday, April 20 at 10:00 am.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Mental Health Resource Fair

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium
4057 N. Harding Ave., Chicago

Overview of LSSI's Mental Health Programs: LSSI's services include counseling, crisis response, alcohol/substance use treatment, walk-in mental health clinics, and more.

How to Access These Services: Learn the process to connect people with the care they need and when each service is appropriate.

This event is free, but registration is required by Friday, March 7. Registration: <https://www.lssi.org/event/resource>

Refreshments will be served. Email kelly.nieman-anderson@lssi.org with questions.

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH 2025!

The Chicago chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Health has a helpline for you: 833-626-4244. This organization supports individuals and groups with mental illness assistance and resources. The help line is the heart of their program and can be used to find emotional support and help to find resources for treatment, housing, legal and more. Callers may be the person in need, or you can call on behalf of a loved one. When you call, you will be talking to a mental health professional. Calling hours are seven days a week: M-F, 8am-9pm, S-S, 8am-5pm. NAMI will connect callers to classes, training and support groups or you can go to their website for more detailed information: <https://namichicago.org>

Another important mental health resource is the three-digit dialing code, 988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You may get the information you need there, or it will prepare you for calling the help line that will connect callers in crisis to trained counselors that will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources as necessary. Just as you might call 911 for medical or safety assistance, call 988 for mental illness assistance.

Another local resource for suicide prevention is Hope For The Day. Their website is www.hftd.org. One of their outreach programs is Sip of Hope Coffee, Logan Square, 3039 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL, 60647, open daily, 7am-1pm. This coffee house exists to support suicide prevention and 100% of proceeds support proactive suicide prevention and mental health education. The café serves as a space to provide resources and hold educational events in a community setting. All the baristas are trained in mental health first aid. Their web site: <https://sipofhope.com> Their coffee is also organic and fairly traded.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Lay Leadership Day



Leadership Leap!

Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Schaumburg



TAKE THE LEADERSHIP LEAP!!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 29, and gather lay leaders from United in Faith for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's second Lay Leadership Day. This one will be hosted by Prince of Peace in Schaumburg.

It will feature worship, a guest speaker and workshops, lunch and plenty of time for conversation and inspiration. You must register. Cost is \$10 (to help cover the cost of lunch). Call the Metro Chicago Synod for more information and to register.

Lent at UiF

During the Wednesdays in Lent we will gather again for soup and conversation. Our topic will be **JOY**. We will rely on **The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World** by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams and excerpts from the film based on the book to center our conversations. The film is entitled **Mission: Joy Finding Happiness in Troubled Times**.

JOY

Our world is getting faster and more chaotic by the minute. And we seem to be desperate to find happiness in the swirl and cacophony. These two religious men sit down to talk about an alternative perspective and how to calmly seek and create moments of joy that sustain people, relationships and movements.

Joy, according to Merriam Webster is:

- 1 a : the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires : [delight](#)
b : the expression or exhibition of such emotion : [gaiety](#)
- 2 : a state of happiness or felicity : [bliss](#)
- 3 : a source or cause of delight

To these Holy men, "Joy...is much bigger than happiness. While happiness is often seen as being dependent on external circumstances, joy is not." In their weeklong conversation they explore how Joy moves from being an ephemeral state to an enduring trait.

Springboarding off their words we will gather to talk about how we understand Joy and what role Joy plays in our lives.

Soup will be served at **noon**, and we will spend an hour or so focusing on Joy as our Lenten discipline. I hope to see you there.





well hello, march

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
2 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	3 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	4 6:00pm Girl Scouts	5 12:00am ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7:00pm ASH WEDNESDAY Worship	6 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Justice Team	7 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286	8 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
9 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	10 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	11 6:00pm Girl Scouts	12 12:00pm Soup and Conversation - "JOY" 7:00pm Worship	13 9:00am Food Pantry	14 6:30pm AA	15 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am Book Club 1:00pm Knitting Group 2:00pm Girl Scout Event 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
16 Girl Scout Sunday 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	17 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	18 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	19 12:00pm Soup and Conversation - "JOY" 7:00pm Worship	20 9:00am Food Pantry	21 6:30pm AA	22 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
23 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	24 9:00am Food Pantry	25 6:00pm Girl Scouts	26 12:00pm Soup and Conversation - "JOY" 7:00pm Worship	27 9:00am Food Pantry	28 6:30pm AA	29 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
30 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	31 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group					

Worship SCHEDULE

March

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2
5

March 2 Transfiguration	9:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am worship in person & online
March 5 - Ash Wednesday	11:00 am worship in person & online 7:00 pm worship in person & online
March 9 - Lent 1	9:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am worship in person & online
March 12 - Mid Week Lenten Worship	11:00 am worship in person & stay for soup
March 16 - Lent 2	9:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am worship in person & online
March 19 - Mid Week Lenten Worship	11:00 am worship in person & stay for soup
March 23- Lent 3	9:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am worship in person & online
March 26—Mid Week Lenten Worship	11:00 am worship in person & stay for soup
March 30- Lent 4	9:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am worship in person & online

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