

"God of all, you bless my questions. You bless my gifts.  
You bless my productive days, my awe-filled days,  
my just-barely-hanging-on days. You bless it all and call it all good.  
Cradle my face in your hands and remind me that  
wherever I am, you are there.  
Wherever I go, you'll be there, too.  
You are in the faith, the doubt, the works, and the rest.  
You are in it all with me. Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen."

- Prayer for Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent,  
by Sanctified Art

I love to pray with the Lenten daily devotional card each morning.  
When I read this particular prayer, it was one of those mornings that I  
had to drag myself to move. Outside was dark and cloudy. My body was  
as heavy as a soaked blanket. When I was tempted to start the day  
rather grumpy and take it for granted, the prayer awakened me.  
'God made this new day for me and bless my just-barely-hanging-on  
day. Am I not grateful for the gift?!'

God is with us on our best, joyous, enlivened, and colorful days.  
And God is with us on our so-so days, or even bottom-low days when  
we want to blame everything on God and cannot comprehend if God  
really loves us and cares about us. The forty-day journey of Lent is  
often described as a wilderness journey. Figuratively, we enter into the  
spiritual wilderness to meditate on Jesus's life and death, especially his  
journey toward Jerusalem. At the same time, many people are living in  
desert-like places and circumstances - people live under poverty,  
oppression, war and violence, whose homes and communities are  
destroyed by natural disasters, people struggling to get clean water,  
safe shelters, proper education or secure job to meet the needs of the  
family, and those who live in fear and worry because of their health or  
economic conditions, backgrounds, identities, legal status ...

Where have you experienced wilderness this Lent, and how have you  
found God's grace and blessing in those barren and parched places,  
friends? In our continuing Lenten journey, may we find God's abiding  
presence in every place in between. May we align our hearts and lives  
with the heart of God, merciful and gracious beyond our measures.  
May we stop, turn around, and see God's face in the frightened,  
neglected, and ostracized neighbors around us.

Blessings & Peace,



Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo

## April 2025 Newsletter



This Lent, we are wading into the  
middle of sacred texts to find God.  
Let us find the sacred space  
between us, where God is found.

\* **April 5**  
**Spring Cleaning**

**April 6**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**"Righteousness & Mercy"**  
**Luke 19:1-10**

\* **April 12**  
**Breakfast with Easter Bunny**

**April 13**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**"Shouting & Silence"**  
**Luke 19:29-40**

**April 17**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
**"Power & Humility"**  
**Luke 22:7-20**

**April 18**  
**Good Friday**  
**"Tenebrae Service with  
the Seven Last Words of Jesus"**

**April 20**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**"Grief & Hope"**  
**Luke 24:1-12**

**April 27**  
\* **Silent Service Auction**



### **April Birthdays**

Robert Cooper 4/1  
Diane Evans 4/4  
Laurie Perry 4/6  
Tobey Sroga 4/6  
Patrick Greenwood 4/9  
Janet Graf 4/12  
Ken Spooner 4/12  
Linda Riggs 4/14  
Nathan Logston 4/16  
Elantine Brighten 4/17  
Michael Geheren 4/17  
Brenda Gray 4/18  
Joan Waszak 4/19  
Liz Radtke 4/22  
Harold Steen 4/25  
Beth Larocco 4/30

### **April Anniversaries**

Kevin & Amy  
Huibregtse 4/17

Bryan & Amy  
Doyle 4/19

If you are celebrating your birthday and/or anniversary this month, but do not see your name, please call the office and let us know.

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

### **SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS**

Contact each group leader or call/email the church office to join the conversation. Check the weekly e-news or your leader's email for their in-person and zoom meetings.

#### **Spirituality Group, Wednesdays at 9 a.m.**

Linda Mullen [mullen520@comcast.net](mailto:mullen520@comcast.net)

#### **Women's Bible Study, Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

Lisa Greenwood [lisajoeegreenwood@yahoo.com](mailto:lisajoeegreenwood@yahoo.com)

#### **Men's Group, Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.**

Bryan Doyle [amybryandoyle@aim.com](mailto:amybryandoyle@aim.com)

#### **Lent Study 🐣 Wednesdays at 10 a.m. or Thursdays at 11 a.m.**

Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of Jesus encountering ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. Many were struggling and considered unimportant; some were outsiders or even outcasts. Whoever they were, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. This Lent, we invite you to a Lent study to explore Jesus' life and teaching through the gospel of Luke. In Luke's stories, we will find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts.

#### **Easter Choir Practice 🐣 Sundays following service**

If you are interested in singing in the Easter choir, please reach out to Becky Kock at [bkock@yahoo.com](mailto:bkock@yahoo.com) and join the praise team after Sunday service for any or all of the practice sessions. Each Sunday until Easter, we will have a brief practice following service and you will receive a recording of the song via email to practice any time you like.

#### **Church Clean Up Day 🐣 Saturday, April 5, 2024 🐣 9 a.m.**

Help us clean the church in preparation for a beautiful spring and summer season. Don't forget to bring your cleaning supplies/tools.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt Donation**

We need donations of individually wrapped candies and small toys for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12. Please drop off your donations by **Wednesday April 9.**

#### **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 🐣 April 12 🐣 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for pancakes with the Easter bunny. We will have a petting zoo from 10-11am, photos with the Bunny and egg hunt! Please sign up in the lobby for the pancake breakfast. This event is open to all. Invite the neighbor kids and your friends!

#### **Feed My Starving Children 🐣 Wednesday, April 16 🐣 9 - 11 a.m.**

The Wednesday group invites you to join their Lenten service day at Feed My Starving Children at the Schaumburg location. Please see the weekly E-news to sign up.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Sunday School Class 🌈 10:15 a.m.

We are now offering in person Sunday School for children. After Children's Time during worship, the children will be dismissed to the Sunday School room. If you have any questions or would like to teach the class, please contact Mindy Zeppo at [mamcall27@yahoo.com](mailto:mamcall27@yahoo.com).

### Youth Group 🌈 Sunday, April 13 & 27 🌈 4 p.m.

Come meet your friends and learn and share a great time of fellowship and fun!

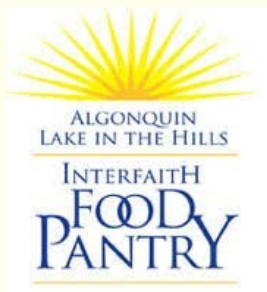
### Confirmation Class 🌈 Sunday, April 13 & 27 🌈 5 p.m.

Youth in 7th grade and up are invited to join this journey to learn more about God and faith.





## April Collection



## Algonquin/LITH Food Pantry



**You can drop off  
gently used clothes &  
shoes in the bin.**

 **Reach  
Everyone**  
with Acts of kindness &  
build Communities  
of Hope

## Christ United Methodist Church

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Rev. Mi-Sook Yoo, Pastor  
Nisha Waters,  
Administrative Assistant

## LET US GIVE

### Greetings from the Mission Team!

On April 16th the Wednesday Spirituality small group is organizing an outing to FMSC (feed my starving children) that is open to the congregation. To sign up contact Nisha Waters or Linda Mullen.

It's Almost Here! We are renewing a previous tradition here at **CUMC -the Second Annual Silent Service Auction** is coming in April with Soup and Sandwiches. Mark your calendars for **April 27th** following worship. [Please bring your own table service as we are trying to have a waste-free meal.] Start thinking of what you can donate and look for auction slips at church starting Sunday, April 6th. ANY services may be offered. Be creative, keeping in mind the buyers who might be interested in what you have to offer. Start thinking of what you might donate. The items can be a one-time thing or yearly (i.e. dinner for 4 or year's supply of soup – 1 per month). Fill out your bulletin insert and put in AUCTION basket. Any questions, ask Michele Linner. The deadline for submitting items is Monday, **April 14th**.

Here are a few ideas from past auctions:

Sports lovers basket   Chocolate Lover's basket   Car Wash basket   Ride to Airport  
Tea Lover's basket   Italian Feast Basket   Coffee Lover's basket   Lunch Outing  
Loaf of Banana bread   Steak Dinner for 4   Custom Table Runner   Meal Basket  
Shopping Assistance   Wardrobe Consultation   Hand Thrown Pottery

If you have questions or want to contribute to the food pantries in any way (donating food, delivering food, monetary donation), please contact Michele Linner. Her contact info is: 815-861-6890 (cell) or email her at [mliner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mliner@sbcglobal.net).



**In 2024, Missions gave \$1000 to Marion Medical Mission.  
This amount was able to cover the cost of two wells in Africa.**

**Thank you for being a partner of Christ's ministry  
through your generous gifts!**



You can now make all your donations online. Simply visit our website and click the "Online Giving" box on the main page or scan the QR Code on the top. You can also mail the donation to church, use EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) or QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). For any assistance, contact Joe Greenwood, Financial Secretary at [josephgreenwood@yahoo.com](mailto:josephgreenwood@yahoo.com) or 847-458-4698.