

January 2025 Newsletter

If you were at the church conference last month and/or keep up with the conference e-news, you must have read what Bishop Schwerin set for the Northern IL and Wisconsin Episcopal Area for 2025 - A Year of Grace. We say the word in our liturgy and sing it in our hymns and songs all the time. But how would you answer if you're asked to define what grace is? How would our lives be different when we live by God's grace day after day? How is our mission to be Christ's hands and feet guided and discerned by grace?

Listen to what Bishop Schwerin said in his column:

Grace is the unmerited, up building, unconditional love God extends to all people and to the whole creation. United Methodists have an expansive view of grace. We know that grace is always among us, working in love.

United Methodists are a Baskin-Robbins of grace. We proclaim the grace that God gives us before we even know we need it or know how to ask; this is prevenient grace. We proclaim the grace of God for us and for our healing with God; this is justifying grace.

The up building grace that attends to growth in love within us is sanctifying grace. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Our whole lives are a response to grace. I write today to invite you to observe 2025 as a year of grace.

(December 19, 2024)

The leadership team has already begun a conversation on aligning our mission and ministry with this theme throughout the new year. I hope this direction will be an invitation for us to reflect on our spiritual journey daily, nurturing healthy discipleship and engaging in active missions as a faith community. I pray this will be a movement that we fully embrace and experience the dynamic power of God's transformative love. Following Bishop's suggestion, we will include "Grace Sighting" - a space where we can share our experience of grace (where we have seen the grace) - in our worship and e-news. You can write a sentence, take a picture of the moment, share the lyrics or a line from a book or movie, or speak during the service.

Are we ready, friends?

Blessings & Peace,



Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo



A YEAR OF GRACE

January 5
Epiphany Sunday
Communion
Matthew 2:1-12
Isaiah 43: 18-21

January 12
Baptism of the Lord Sunday
A Service of Reaffirmation
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19
Human Relations Sunday
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Guest speaker,
Rev. Karen Seren

January 26
New Worship Series,
"A Hidden Wholeness,"
begin.

*** Pizza & Games fellowship**
following the worship

Celebrate!

January Birthdays

Stephanie Lee 1/3
 Jennifer Pang 1/10
 Matt Thomas 1/14
 Amy Doyle 1/27

January Anniversaries

Ken & Katy
 Spooner 1/11
 Doug & Peggy
 Literski 1/19
 Thomas & Tobey
 Sroga 1/20
 Brighten & Elantine
 Sunderraj 1/24

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.

Community Blood Drives

1/16 Algonquin Library

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

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

Lisa Greenwood lisajogreenwood@yahoo.com

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

Bryan Doyle amybryandoyle@aim.com

An Afternoon of Pizza & Games * Sunday, Jan 26 *

Join us for a fun afternoon of board games and pizza following service. You bring the games and we will provide the pizza.

Summoned to Serve * MCC * Feb 9 * 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for our second annual meal-packing event with First UMC, Crystal Lake for Kids Around The World! Together, we'll pack an incredible 80,000 meals to make a big impact. Prepare for a day filled with energy, teamwork, and the joy of serving others! Keep an eye on the E-news to sign up.

The day will look like this:

9-9:30 - Sign in and get your packing instructions

9:30-11:45 - Meal packing program

11:45-noon - Group photo and closing remarks

Childcare will be available for kids age 5 and under.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is an organization that has been operating for over twenty years. They collect gently used textile materials to alleviate landfill waste. We will partner with them by having a recycling bin at our church parking lot. Please watch for the upcoming announcement. These are the items they accept.

Community Blood Drives

Donate blood on behalf of Christ UMC! We continue to see blood shortages and fewer first-time donors at blood drives. Please donate and help the local blood supply and potential neighbors. See the list on the left.

Accepted items

Clothing		
Blouses	Pants	Swimsuits
Coats	Scarves	Ties
Dresses	Shirts	Tops(any kind)
Hats	Socks	Formal wear
Jackets	Suits	Undergarments
Jeans	Sweaters	All baby/infant clothing
Shoes- All are accepted		
Household		
Bedspreads	Washcloths	Sleeping Bags
Drapes	Blankets	Shower Curtains
Sheets	Curtains	Pillows
Sofa Covers	Quilts	Baskets
Towels		
Toys		
	Plastic Toys	
	Plush Toys	
	Stuffed Toys	
Accessories		
Backpacks	Gloves	Mens Wallets
Belts	Handbags	Purses
Computer Bags	Costume Jewelry	Tote Bags
		Womens Wallets

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.

Youth Group ❄️ Sunday, Jan 12 & 26 ❄️ 4 p.m.

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

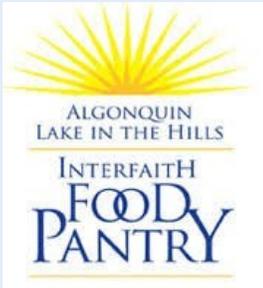
Confirmation Class ❄️ Sunday, Jan 12 & 26 ❄️ 5 p.m.

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



Moments from our blessed Advent & Christmastide

January Collection



Algonquin/LITH Food Pantry

LET US GIVE

Greetings from the Mission Team!

In January, the food and monetary donations collected will be donated to the Algonquin/LITH Food Pantry.

The Annual Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 15th brought in \$521 towards mission charities. A HUGE thank you to all who baked, packed and of course, bought. Hope you enjoyed the results of our talented bakers!

Last month, as we have in the past, we supported the Grafton Food Pantry. This generous congregation donated 18 dinners for families and \$1000 in gift cards for the Giving Tree gift tags. Thank you to all who donated.

Coming up on February 2nd is our 2nd Annual Warm Your Hearts Bake Sale. This year we are adding a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon following worship. So don't forget to start making your soups, breads, and meals to sell. Also watch for a sign-up in the lobby for food to bring. Any questions, ask Michele Linner.

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 mlinner@sbcglobal.net.

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

We need your help to help others!!

**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 or 847-458-4698.

If you forgot to drop off your Stewardship pledge cards, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the ministry of CUMC this year. Please bring or mail the filled out pledge card at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

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