

Last Wednesday afternoon, just as I was about to work on the weekly e-news blurb at home, I got distracted. As I took out my laptop from the case, I didn't realize that I held the case slip in the wrong direction. The computer was not in my grip and it fell on my foot. "Ouch!" I was wearing a slipper, but it hurt and made me cry. An hour later, I noticed my foot had swollen and was starting to bruise. 'It will go away. I'm fine.' When I finished writing and got up to prepare dinner, I could not put weight on my right foot. The swelling improved for the next three days, but the bruise was getting darker around my big toe. My husband was out of town attending a conference. Our poor dog had to skip her daily walk. I was irritated as I was limping and the pain was still lingering not only on my foot but in my knee and back. 'It was not even a serious injury, but it affects my whole body. Gosh! How do other people deal with chronic pain and other illnesses or disability? ...'

I remembered how Pope Francis described that he used his last struggle with hospitalization for nearly forty days as his time of prayer for the sick and suffering in the world. My pain was so minimal compared to his and others, yet I kept murmuring, "Lord, have mercy for all who are in pain!" I also remembered the image of the body that the apostle Paul used to describe the nature of the church: "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. **If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.**" (1 Corinthians 12:25-26, *The Message translation*)

We are an organic body that is interconnected and interdependent, and everyone has an integral part to contribute to the whole. No single part can flourish by itself. I appreciate your efforts to sustain and empower our ministry together, upfront as leaders and quietly behind the scenes, with your generous minds and gifts and your presence and prayers. May we strive to live as a living body of Christ when we rejoice with each other and embrace one another's pain as our own. May our earnest striving be a humble witness to the world that we are Christians, followers of the Risen Christ, Easter people, believing in the power of love over hate, goodness over evil, light over darkness, and life over death.

Blessings & Peace,



Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo

May 2025 Newsletter



BELIEVING INTO CHRIST

We explore the power of our belief in Christ, how belief is not only an intellectual endeavor and assent to the power of God to transform, but also a process that helps us use our hands and feet in ways similar to how Jesus used his hands and feet to seek out the lost and hurting and invite to the life abundant.

* **May 3**
Ladies Luncheon

May 4
Communion Sunday
Luke 24:13-35

* **May 8**
Spring Hand Bell Concert
2 p.m.

* **May 10**
Margaret (Peggy) Burnette
Memorial Service at 12 p.m.

May 11
Mother's Day
Graduation Recognition
Psalms 23
John 10:22-30

May 18
Confirmation Sunday
John 15:1-8

May 25
Memorial Day Weekend
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Celebrate!

May Birthdays

Richard Brooke 5/2
Wanda Holtz 5/7
Amelie Kukreja 5/10
Brighten Sunderraj 5/11
Tom Adamson 5/12
Hyujae Lee 5/12
Chuck Perry 5/12
Cheryl Fournier 5/18
Nicholas Masek 5/18
Ruby Zeppo 5/18

May Anniversaries

Maurice & Jennifer
Pang 5/6
Earl & Sherry
Mark 5/17
Mike & Linda
Mullen 5/20

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

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

Ladies Luncheon 🌸 Saturday, May 3 🌸 12-2 p.m.

Thursday group is inviting you to Luncheon and Painting on Saturday, May 3rd. All supplies are provided and luncheon will be included in the price of \$20. Please RSVP by May 1st. Seating is limited. See Lisa Greenwood or Amy Doyle for questions. Please sign up in the church lobby or see sign up link in the weekly e-news.

Spring Hand Bell Concert 🌸 Sunday, May 4 🌸 2 p.m.

We invite you, your family, neighbors and friends to join us **Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m.** for an afternoon of beautiful music featuring the Random Ringers Hand Bell Ensemble and the Joyful Ringers of Christ UMC.

Praying Stitchers Ministry 🌸 Monday, May 12 🌸 1 p.m.

Praying Stitchers invites all who know how to or are willing to learn to sew, knit or crochet! Can't make a daytime meeting? You can still participate! Sew a pillow case (we have an easy pattern). Knit or crochet a 12x12 square (or several) and one of our ladies will put them together making lovely prayer shawls. For more details, see Jean Jaderborg or Cheryl Fournier. Our next meeting is at church on Monday, May 12.

Fill the Truck Mission Challenge for the Month of May

In the month of May, we will be collecting items for the "Fill the Truck Mission Challenge Collection Drive." The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Missions to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's most needed items. Pastor will take all the items that we collect to the Annual Conference in June and "Fill the Truck." See e-news for more information.

Crystal Lake Pride Walk 🌸 Sunday, June 1 🌸 11 a.m.

Please speak to Debbie Thomas, Gary Gruebnaue or Lisa Greenwood if you would like to walk with our church group.

Happy Mother's Day

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.

Save the Date 🌸 VBS 🌸 July 21-25 🌸 6-8 p.m.

Please check the signup sheet for registration and volunteer!

Youth Group 🌸 Sunday, May 11 & 25 🌸 4 p.m.

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

Confirmation Class 🌸 Sunday, May 11 🌸 5 p.m.

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

Graduates Recognition 🌸 Sunday, May 11 🌸 10 a.m.

Join us as we recognize our 2025 high school graduates. Please contact the church office if you have a high school student who will be graduating this year.

Confirmation Sunday 🌸 May 18 🌸 10 a.m.

Join us on Sunday, May 18 to celebrate our young disciples as they make their profession of faith.



May Collection



**Crystal Lake
Food Pantry**
No one should go hungry.

**Crystal Lake
Food Pantry**



**You can drop off
gently used clothes,
bed sheets, towels,
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!

May, the food collected will be delivered to Crystal Lake Food Pantry.

The Mission Team has decided to support the Northern Illinois Annual Conference "Fill the Truck Mission Challenge Collection Drive." We will be collecting items for the **Personal Dignity Kits**. See the list below. Watch for a bin in the Lobby next month to begin collecting items. **Deadline is Sunday, June 8th.**

Hand Towels (no kitchen towels) Washcloths (no dishcloths)

Toothbrushes (no multipacks) Bars of soap (3-4oz) Deodorant (2-3oz)

Shampoo bottles (12-19oz) Lotion bottles (8-10oz) Gallon Zip-lock bags

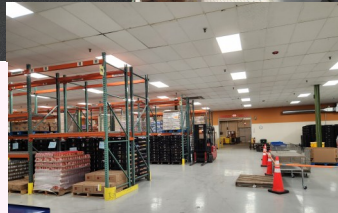
If you have questions or want to contribute to the food pantries in any way (donating food, delivering food, monetary donation), please contact Michele Linner. Her contact info is: 815-861-6890 (cell) or email her at mlinner@sbcglobal.net.



Mission Service Auction



**Volunteering at Northern IL
Food Bank Neighborhood
Market in Rockford**



**We received the first
quarter check of \$248.85
from Helping Hands
donation.**



**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.