

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where I ought to be;
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
to turn, turn, will be my delight.
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

(Simple Gifts, by Joseph Brackett)

This summer, our household had two moves. In June, my husband moved to a different state to serve a new church. Last week, I moved my son to college. After some large pieces of furniture and my son's belongings were removed, I still see many items, such as books, old briefcases, tennis rackets, and toys. I have already brought several bags of clothes and shoes to our church's recycling bin. But our basement is still a mess. I couldn't spare a couple of days to go through the items to throw out, give away, and store for later. We have accumulated a great deal of stuff over the years. I saw a commercial where a son needed a small piece for the upstairs bedroom furniture. The dad went to the basement and found it with joy, shouting, "I knew this day would come and saved it for forty years!" At least this man marked it right and was able to find it when he needed to. How about us? Do we really need that much? Are we emotionally attached to certain things? How do we prioritize our spending?

The Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts" has been an inspiration for me since I read Adam Hamilton's book, *"Enough,"* which mentioned the song in my early years as a pastor. Materialism and consumerism entice us to acquire more things and exert control over our daily lives. I am often overwhelmed by all the goods offered in the stores, and wonder what would happen to the unsold product.

During this month of stewardship, I invite us to examine our lifestyle in our relationship with God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the Source of every blessing. Our worship series will follow Hamilton's book and reflect on the history and spirituality of the Shakers. May we gain a clearer sense of purpose, generosity, and faith. May we rediscover the joy and fulfillment in simplicity and relationship.

Peace & Blessings,


Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo

September 2025 Newsletter



September 7
Communion Sunday
"I Want it Now"

September 14
New Member Welcome
"Cultivating Contentment"

* **Medicare Presentation**
w/Light Lunch
at 11:30 a.m.

* **Court Whist Social**
Saturday, Sept 20
at 6:30 p.m.

September 21
"Defined by Generosity"
Speaker,
Pastor Karen Sersen

September 28
"Simple Gifts"

* **McHenry County**
CROP Hunger Walk
St. Paul's UCC,
Crystal Lake, at 1 p.m.



September Birthdays

Laurie Perkins 9/2
Violet Heider 9/4
Mindy Zeppo 9/8
Carl Gustafson 9/9
Tom Letterle 9/10
Maurice Pang 9/11
Dennis Vander Vorste 9/12
Robin Deak 9/13
Ethan Blackmore 9/14
Natalie Blackmore 9/17
Sherry Mark 9/19
Salvador Victoria 9/25
Joel Brighten 9/26
Sherrie Mills 9/26
Joe Kilberger 9/30

September Anniversaries

Dennis & Bev
Vander Vorste 9/1
Carl & Connie
Gustafson 9/30

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 lisajoegreenwood@yahoo.com

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

Bryan Doyle amybryandoyle@aim.com

Praying Stitchers Ministry 🍏 Monday, Sept 8 🍏 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, Sept 8.

Medicare Basics: Understanding Your Options 🍏 Sunday, Sept 14

We invite you to join us on Sunday, Sept 14 at 11:30 a.m. for a Medicare presentation by Deana Liss who is the Executive Director at Elderwerks Educational Services. This talk will provide essential insights to help you confidently manage your benefits and equip you to make informed decisions about your healthcare coverage. Light lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the lobby.

Court Whist Social 🍏 Saturday, Sept 20 🍏 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our Court Whist Event on Saturday, Sept 20. This is a fun card game with simple rules and plenty of laughter. We'll provide the cards, rules and refreshments. Watch for further details.

Crop Hunger Walk 🍏 Sunday, Sept 28

Let us come together as a community to end hunger one step at a time. Help us to raise funds to provide life saving support, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves. Our Youth Group will be walking this year. Please consider sponsoring them. See Debbie Thomas to sign up or make a donation. See the weekly E-news to signup or make a donation online.

World Communion Sunday Potluck 🍏 Sunday, Oct 5 🍏 Following Service

Let us come together and join our fellow Christians around the world in fellowship on World Communion Sunday, Oct 5, following the service. Look for the sign up in the church lobby coming soon.

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, Sept 14 🍎 4 p.m.

Come meet your friends and learn and share a great time of fellowship and fun! On September 28, our youth will join the Crop Hunger Walk, and there will be no regular meeting at 4 pm. Please sponsor them and support the good cause!



Youth Group Six Flags Outing

Back to School Blessing & Summer Potluck

Youth Group Kick Off

Ryan's Pillowcases

September Collection



Grafton Food Pantry



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

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

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

LET US GIVE

Greetings from the Mission Team!

Collection of items for school backpacks for students in Huntley was a HUGE success. We collected supplies and backpacks for around 50 students. Huntley School district very much appreciated our large donation.



Watch for info on the CROP WALK this year, on Sunday, September 28th . If you can't walk, maybe you can support someone who is walking this year.

5th annual Craft Sale – it's never too early to start thinking about what you might want to donate for our upcoming Craft Sale on October 12th and 19th. So start up those sewing machines, glue guns and paintbrushes and let's get creative! 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 mliner@sbcglobal.net.

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.