

Little blue, be my shelter
Be my cradle, be my womb
Be my boat, be my river
Be the stillness of the moon
If I could, I'd go with you
To a place I never knew
In your eyes, so dark and open
There's a light that leads me back to you

'Cause you're not so far away
I hear you say
"You'll never walk alone"
Singin'

Don't be afraid of the dark
In your heart
You're gonna find a way
To carry the weight of the world
On your shoulders
You're gonna find a way home

- *Little Blue, Jacob Collier*

Meditating on this year's Advent and Christmas season theme, this song kept returning to me. I love this genius singer-songwriter. His reharmonization skill is exceptional, especially in his choral pieces. His concert often turns into an instant choir made up of the audience. His lyrics are poetic, just beautiful. Collier said this song was inspired by the little blue creature his mom made for him as a child. When I first listened to the music, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper that "With-Us-God" would be on my side and that I should fear not. Even when I do not know the next journey ahead, God's light will help me find my way home.

We use the deep blue color as a symbol of hope and longing for the Advent. We light the candle each week and wait for the "Light of the world" to come again and be born within us this season of waiting, watching, and wondering. God's incarnation story is disruptive; God's power breaks in through the least expected people and places in the nativity story. As the day dawns, vanishing the darkness of night, the good news of Christ-Child is greater than fear and despair.

One repeated message from the scriptures is *Do not be afraid*. It seems impossible to live fearlessly in this fearful world. Yet, our worship series writers challenge us, "Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action?"

May this Advent, our hearts be willing to be led by the guidance of God's loving Spirit. May we listen, look into the Light, and take heart. May we practice holding fear gently. May we insist on hope!

Peace & Blessings,



Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo

December 2025 Newsletter



November 30

First Sunday of Advent

**"In the Time of Herod,
We Long for God to Break In"**

***Bethlehem Marketplace**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

**"When We're Running out
of Hope, God Is at Work"**

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

**"Even in Our Fear,
We Are Called Forward"**

***Sunday School skit**

Christmas Cookie Sale

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**"When You're Afraid,
Give Me Your Hand"**

December 24

**Christmas Eve Service with
communion & candlelight
at 7.p.m.**

**"Good News Is Louder
Than Fear"**

December 28

Sunday After Christmas

**"Let Fear Fuel a Fire for
Justice"**



December Birthdays

Cameron Huibregtse 12/1
Nisha Waters 12/5
Craig Logston 12/9
Jacob Deak 12/11
Earl Mark 12/12
Bonnie Dodge 12/13
Kim Aupperle 12/17
Daisy Santoso 12/22
Peggy Burke 12/29

December Anniversaries

Tom & Marlene
Adamson 12/23

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*

Amy Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

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

Bryan Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Advent Choir

We invite all adults who would like to be apart of the Advent Choir to join us for practice on Sundays, following service. We will have practice every Sunday following service until Sunday, Dec 7. Our Advent Concert will be on Sunday, Dec 14. If you have any questions please see Becky Kock.

Bethlehem Marketplace 🎁 Saturday, Dec 6 🎁 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This event is open to the public and a meaningful event for our church. It is time to sign up to help in one of the workshops and/or the Nativity scene. Sign up on the poster in the lobby. We need everyone to help make this a successful event. Your costume will be supplied.

Advent Study 🎁 Wednesdays 🎁 10 a.m.

This Advent, we will watch the film series, The Light that Guides Us, from the workofthepeople. The study is rooted in the teachings of Peter Traben Haas and inspired by his book The Advent Remedy. Advent is a time of waiting, watching, and wondering—a season where the light of Christ pierces through our deepest darkness and offers hope, healing, and transformation. Each session focuses on one of the core themes of Advent, exploring how the light of Christ illuminates our path and transforms our lives, both spiritually and practically.

Advent Crafting 🎁 Nov 30 & Dec 7 🎁 Fellowship Hour

On the first two Sundays of Advent, Cheryl Fournier will provide crafting time during the fellowship hour. This is for everyone of all ages. Come to her craft table in the lobby. Bring your artistic self and discover deeper meanings in the season!

Sunderraj Family Christmas Party 🎁 Saturday, Dec 13 🎁 5:30 p.m.

We would like to invite our church family for a Christmas party at our home on Saturday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to the Sunderraj Family.

M&M Christmas Party 🎁 Sunday, Dec 21 🎁 4 p.m.

We invite anyone over 55 to attend the M&M Christmas Party at Janet Graf's house on Sunday, Dec 21 at 4 p.m. Please bring hors d'oeuvres and snacks to share. RSVP to Janet Graf

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.

Children's Choir and Nativity Skit 🕒 Sunday, Dec 14 🕒 10 a.m.

Our Sunday School Children will sing and present their Nativity skit for our congregation.

Youth Group Caroling at the Oaks Algonquin Senior Living 🕒 Sunday, Dec 14 🕒 4 p.m.

All are welcome to join the youth at the Oaks for an evening of caroling. The Youth will have their annual Christmas party at church following caroling.



December Collection



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

9009 W. Algonquin Rd.
Algonquin, IL 60102
* Located at the corner of Algonquin & Square Barn Rd.

847-669-9009
christumcalgonquin@gmail.com
www.gocumc.org

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

LET US GIVE

In December, the food collected will be for the Veterans Path To Hope Food Pantry. Help us help our local veterans fill their pantry for the holiday season.



Bakers (and shoppers) get ready for the Annual Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 14th. Boxes of Christmas Cookies (and some fudge) will be available after the worship service. Please drop off cookies before worship so we can fill the boxes ASAP. Contact Michele Linner if you can help with the packing on Sunday morning.

In November and December, we will again be supporting the Grafton Food Pantry programs. You will have the opportunity to donate money towards a family meal in the "Holiday Without Hunger" program by taking a tag from the Giving Tree in the Lobby starting this Sunday. Write a check or donate online and indicate "Holiday Dinner" in the memo line. Donations accepted until December 30th. There are still tags on the Giving Tree available for gift purchases for our 2 families we have adopted in the "Adopt a Family" program. Please bring the unwrapped gifts to CUMC by Dec 10th. Please tape tags to gifts. 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.

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. **The Stewardship letter and pledge cards were mailed. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the ministry of CUMC in the following year. Please bring or mail the filled out pledge card before the end of the year. Thank you!**