

November 2025 Newsletter

It was early June that I heard Walter Brueggemann's voice on the *On Being with Krista Tippett* podcast. About a week after his passing, they reposted the 2011 interview. Brueggemann was a great Old Testament theologian and scholar, especially of the biblical prophets. His books are a “must-read” textbooks in seminary. I have several copies of his writings, too. He believed the prophetic tradition in the biblical narratives embodied “fearless truth-telling together with fierce hope.” According to Brueggemann, the prophets were rooted in covenantal traditions, marked by the agreement between God and the ancient Israelites. You can think of Moses as the first prophet in this thread. Another interesting thing is that they were uncredentialed people without lineage; they rose in the landscape. Yet, the most distinctive aspect of biblical prophets, Brueggemann notes, is this: “They imagined their contemporary world differently according to that old tradition.” Prophets were not fortunetellers or judgment proclaimers. They were rather poets and dreamers whose task was reframing so people could re-experience their realities from a different perspective.

Is our world much different from those prophets’?

Do you feel like we are doomed, and that the world we once knew is vanishing or already destroyed?

Are you threatened by the world that is coming, where Artificial Intelligence will replace significant human labor in the workplace, where climate change will cause more food insecurity, war, and refugees, and where nations succumb to extremist political movements?

This month, we will reflect on the wisdom of prophets and the teachings of Jesus through our worship series. I don’t know what comes to your mind when you see that tagline in the image - where justice and mercy meet. For me, it reminds me of the center of the cross that Jesus emptied himself and gave unsparingly in love. I believe at the heart of the cross, there is the compassionate heart of God that weeps with us and suffers with us in our pain and despair.

May we learn more about this heartbeat of God and practice compassion toward each other and ourselves. Let us “be compassionate just as [our] Father is compassionate.” (Luke 6:35, *Common English Bible*)

Peace & Blessings,



Pastor Mi-Sook



* **Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour and enjoy extra sleep.**

November 2
All Saints Sunday

“An Age of Outrage”

Amos 5:18-24

Luke 8:26-33

November 9
Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

“The Womb of God”

Exodus 34:6-7

Luke 6:32-36

* **Sat, November 15**
Kids Paint Party

November 16
Youth Sunday

“The Tears of Things”

Ezekiel 2:9-10, 3:2-3

Matthew 5:4

November 23
“The Compassionate Way”

Lamentation 3:21-24

Luke 4:14-20

* **Mission Pie Sale**

* **Nov, 27 & 28**
Church Office Closed



Celebrate!

November Birthdays

Shelly Logston 11/6
Tristan Agabin 11/9
Peyton Condie 11/15
Amari Kukreja 11/15
Narnia Le 11/20
Bryan Doyle 11/22
Nicholas Logston 11/23
Gary Gruebnaue 11/25
Bev Vander Vorste 11/25

November Anniversaries

Enrico & Daisy
Santoso 11/12
Larry & Cheryl
Fournier 11/20
Moose & Beth
Larocco 11/26
Chad & Kim
Aupperle 11/27
Brian & Cathy
Blackmore 11/27

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

Praying Stitchers Ministry 🧵 Monday, Nov 10 🧵 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, Nov 10.

Advent Study 🧵 Wednesday, Nov 12 🧵 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. The first session will start on Wednesday, November 12, at 10 am.

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 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.

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.

Kids Paint Party 🍁 Saturday, Nov 15 🍁 2-4 p.m.

Kids Drop-Off Event for the parents (of course, parents are always more than welcome to stay). Come and enjoy a guided paint party, pizza and some games! Look for the sign up in the church lobby coming soon. This event is open to the public, so please bring friends.

Youth Group 🍁 Sunday, Nov 9 & 23 🍁 3 p.m.

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



Church Cleanup

World Communion Sunday



Pastor Appreciation, Bible Presentation & Church Conference



Planned Giving Presentation

First Responders Appreciation



Trunk or Treat

November Collection



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!

Last month, we collected a “Tower of TP” to be distributed to all the 3 local food pantries we support. **Thank you to all who donated this basic item.**

In November, the food collected will be delivered to **Veteran’s Path To Hope Food Pantry**. Each Sunday, we encourage you to bring food and paper goods for the local food pantry.

Bakers (and shoppers) get ready for a Missions fund-raiser:

This will be our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale on Sunday, November 23rd following worship. Please bring your home-baked AND store-bought pies to sell to those who might not want to bake pies on Thanksgiving! Pies can be fresh or frozen.



Giving Tree – watch for details in November to help local families with gift items and dinner options for the holidays. The dinner program is run by the Grafton Food Pantry and called **Holiday with out Hunger**. The gift giving program is called **Adopt a Family**. CUMC will be participating

in both programs this year, as usual. Dinners will be \$35 and tags will be on the tree for dinners as well as gift item tags. 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!**