

## March 2026 Newsletter

Several years ago, I attended a workshop with Kenda Creasy Dean. I've loved her writings since I read her book, *Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending*, in seminary. When she was invited to speak at a full-day seminar during our conference's Congregational Development program, I was thrilled to meet her and learn from her wisdom. The one big question she left with us was: "*Whom is your heart broken for?*" Amid a flood of efforts to revitalize local churches in the age of decline and many shortcomings, her lecture challenged me to go deeper into the fundamentals beyond tactics or strategies. While we search for the magic potion to solve all problems and revive congregations, Dean focuses on people and believes that is where refreshed visions and creative ministries evolve.

When I was at a Day with Bishop last week, all clergy received two books, including Dr. Dean's other book, *Innovating for Love*. She agrees with Simon Sinek that the question of why matters. Simon Sinek is a renowned leadership expert who made the third-most-watched TED talk of all time with the concept of "Start with Why." However, Dean argues that while "why" is a crucial question that all spiritual entrepreneurs must answer, it is the wrong place for innovative ministry to begin. She rather claims "*Ministry starts with Who - the God who loves us, and those whom God sends us to love.*"

Although purpose is significant in ministry, people matter more. When we start with the question of "why" and "how," we assume that humans are motivated by reason. Yet we make our decisions to take action in our guts, then rationalize them with our minds. The purpose may guide us to a certain direction, but what motivates our bodies to act is emotion. Dean says our real question should not be "How can we build a better church?" but "*Are we the people Christ calls us to be? - human beings in communion with God and one another.*"

In this season of Lent, as we look into our hearts and ground ourselves in the good news of God's kingdom breaking in through the life and ministry of Jesus, I invite us to reflect on Kenda Dean's questions. May we observe a holy Lent as we wrestle with them. May our actions be discerned and initiated from where we feel the pain of others, the ones whom God calls us to love as ourselves.

Blessings & Peace,



Pastor Mi-Sook



**March 1**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**Communion**  
**"Great Love for God & Neighbor"**  
**Luke 7:36-50**  
**Matthew 25:35-40**

**March 8**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**"Together, the Impossible Is Possible"**  
**Mark 6:32-44**  
**Ephesians 3:20-21**

**March 15**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**"Protection & Care for the Vulnerable"**  
**Deuteronomy 24:17-22**  
**Matthew 19:13-15**

**March 22**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**"Rooted in Justice, Mercy & Faithfulness"**  
**John 8:2-11**  
**Matthew 23:33**

**March 29**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**"Inspiring Us to Act"**  
**Mark 11:1-11**



## 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*

*Amy Doyle amybryandoyle@aim.com*

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

*Bryan Doyle amybryandoyle@aim.com*

#### **Ryan's Case for Smiles Sew Along ♣ Monday, March 9 ♣ 1:30—3 p.m.**

Praying Stitchers will be holding a Ryan's Case for Smiles Pillowcase Sew-Along. Children's pillowcase kits will be provided. No sewing experience needed. We will also be working on a Spring Bunny craft for The Oaks of Algonquin, and a Project Linus children's fleece blanket project. Everyone welcome! Bring a friend!"

#### **The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross ♣ Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**

You're invited to travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem in this Lenten study that explores the parables and stories Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal. Will Willimon asks readers to experience how these table stories—about searching shepherds, welcoming hosts, prodigal sons, and rejected invitations—illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Christ's sacrifice.

#### **Feed My Starving Children ♣ Wednesday, March 25 ♣ 9 a.m.**

The Wednesday group invites you to join their service day at Feed My Starving Children at the Schaumburg location on Wednesday, March 25, 9 - 11 a.m. See the e-news to sign up.

#### **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny ♣ Saturday, March 28 ♣ 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

We welcome you to join us on Saturday March 28 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny! We will also have a Petting Zoo from 10-11am, photos with the Bunny and a egg hunt! Reserve your spot for breakfast. Space will be limited. You can sign up in the church lobby or call/email the church at 847-669-9009 or christumcalgonquin@gmail.com with your RSVPs. This event is open to all. Invite the neighbor kids and your friends!

### March Birthdays

Julie Kukreja 3/1  
Enrico Santoso 3/3  
Austin Christopher 3/4  
Michele Linner 3/7  
Nathan Santoso 3/12  
Diane Joy Miller 3/15  
Dan Holtz 3/21  
Katy Spooner 3/21  
Janet Kleckner 3/22  
Peggy Literski 3/23  
Emily Perry 3/30

### March Anniversaries

Tom & Charlotte  
Letterle 3/20  
Jason & Nisha  
Waters 3/27

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.

## 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](mailto:mamcall27@yahoo.com).

### Legos & Games ♣ Saturday, March 14 ♣ 2-4 p.m.

Calling all children to join us for an afternoon of legos and games. This is a drop off event, but parents are welcome to stay. We will provide legos, games and snack for the children. This is a free event. Please watch for the signup to come in the church lobby.

### Youth Group ♣ Sunday, March 8 & 22 ♣ 4 p.m.

We invite all the youth to come meet your friends and have an evening of fun.



## March 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

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

## LET US GIVE

In March, the food and monetary donations collected will be donated to the Grafton Food Pantry. Please continue to support our local food pantries. The need is still great.

A HUGE thank you to all who participated in the Kids Around the World packing event. Our church (15 people) worked at three tables and helped pack part of the 80,000 meals the entire team packed. CUMC Missions team contributed \$1000 towards the cost of the event. A fun time was had by all.



Watch for our monthly “Mission Focus” which highlights one of the charities that the Mission Team supports. This month will be Midwest Missions. This July, a joint team from our church and the First UMC, Woodstock, will go on a two day mission trip to the Midwest Center. You will hear the details about their mission work during the worship, and the sign up will be available soon.

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 [mllinner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mllinner@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](mailto:josephgreenwood@yahoo.com) or 847-458-4698.