

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". John 1:5 ESV

Christmas Letter 2026

Dear Christ UMC family and friends,
Warm Advent greetings to you!
Advent is upon us, already! The season calls the faith community to prepare for the arrival of Jesus in two ways: First, we prepare to celebrate the incarnation, the arrival of Jesus as a humble infant in the Nativity at Christmas, and the latter will be the anticipation for His promised return in final glory.

The spirit of Christmas is in the air, as we can witness and feel. Baking, buying, wrapping, and planning for gatherings translate that we are very much indulged in the season. With all this hustle and bustle there is a scope to miss the spiritual essence of Christmas, that is the gift of God's love. The birth of Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love. The incarnate God took human form in his son Jesus Christ to save us from sin and darkness. The light of the world has come to overcome the darkness and bring eternal hope into our lives. This is the central truth of the salvation story of our God. Advent is a season of waiting, preparation and celebration; and a season of healing and restoration.

At Christ UMC, we have wonderful resources offered for you to reflect on the season of Advent: We will be reading "Prepare the Way for the Lore: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist, by Adam Hamilton. Also, a sermon series "Until the Dawn: Action for the Work of Advent" from A Sanctified Art resource. This series focuses on the actions we can take as we move through he night with hope for tomorrow. Additionally, as you may know CUMC offers many other events, such as Christmas Cookie Sale, Small Group celebrations, Bethlehem Marketplace, Christmas Choir, Joyful Ringers, Youth and Children Sunday, and a Candlelight Christmas Eve service.

As you decorate your halls and homes for Christmas, may all of the reflections offered, help you to adorn your hearts with hope in times of uncertainty, peace in the midst of chaos and stress, the good news of great joy in fear and confusion, and the greatest gift of love for all of humanity.

Christmas Eve Offering:

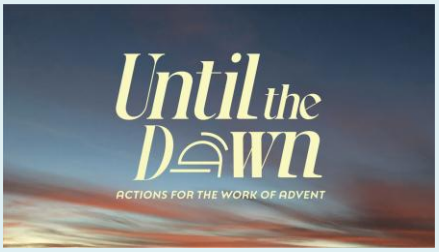
This year, our Christmas Eve offering will be designated to support our UMCNIC missionaries. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give.

Merry Christmas to you and your Kin.

Peace & Blessings

Your Pastor Satya Sudhakar.

December 2026 Newsletter



November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
"Until the Dawn: Cry Out"
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 64:1-9

*** Dec 5 Bethlehem Marketplace**
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

December 6
2nd Sunday of Advent
"Until the Dawn: Start Somewhere"
Mark 1:1-8 & Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

December 13
3rd Sunday of Advent
"Until the Dawn: Speak Up"
John 1: 6-8 & Isaiah 61:1-4
*** Cookie Sale**

December 20
4th Sunday of Advent
"Until the Dawn: Take Courage"
Luke 1:26-38 & Luke 1:46b-55
*** Sunday of Joy by Children and Youth**

December 24
Christmas Eve
"Until the Dawn: Angels Sing"
Luke 2:1-20 & Psalm 96

December 27
1st Sunday after Christmas
"Until the Dawn: Build Up"
Luke 2:22-40



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 *lisajoegreenwood@yahoo.com*
Amy Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Men's Group, Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.
Bryan Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Bethlehem Marketplace Saturday, Dec 5 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Our 18th annual "Bethlehem Marketplace" will be Saturday, December 5. This event takes a lot of volunteers to put together. Costumes will be provided. Please watch for the sign up poster in the lobby. Together, we will reach out to the community. Thanks for your support!

Christmas Choir Practice Sundays Following Service

We invite all youth and adults who would like to be a part of the Christmas Choir to join us for practice following service. We will have practice every Sunday following service until Sunday, Dec 6. Our Christmas Choir will be on Sunday, Dec 13. If you have any questions please see Becky Kock.

Christmas Cookies Sale Sunday, Dec 13 Following Service

Bakers (and shoppers) get ready for the Annual Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 13th. Boxes of Christmas Cookies will be available after the worship service. Please drop off cookies (4-5 dozen) before worship so we can fill the boxes ASAP. Contact Michele Linner if you can help with the packing on Sunday morning.

Praying Stitchers

The Praying Stitchers have been keeping their hands busy doing work for God by delivering to many community organizations providing comfort to those in need. We wanted to share with you the various craft projects we've agreed to support this year. we have expanded far beyond prayers shawls and these items are crocheted, knitted or sewn. We are not afraid to use hot glue guns or poly stuffing to create many items out of love. These items are prayed over at each meeting before they get to their final destination. If you are interested in reaching others, we meet the second Monday of each month at 1:00pm at CUMC. We are happy to teach anyone how to make any of the items in your free time. If interested, please contact our Chairperson, Cheryl Fournier our Secretary, Jean Jaderborg or our Treasurer, Bonnie Dodge. Please see the weekly e-news for the full report.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sunday School Class 10:15 a.m.

After Children's Time during worship, the children will be dismissed to the Sunday School room. All children are invited to join the Sunday School class. If you have any questions or would like to teach the class, please contact Mindy Zeppo at mamcall27@yahoo.com.

Youth Group Christmas Party Sunday, Dec 13 Following Service

We invite all youth to join us for the Youth Group Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec 13 following service till 12:30. Bring a white elephant gift and your favorite snack.

Sunday of Joy by Children and Youth Sunday, Dec 20

This Sunday our church will be blessed to have our younger children and youth lead and participate in various elements of our worship service, including singing, scripture readings, prayers and hosting the fellowship hour. Please join us for this special service to support our young people and spread the cheer to others.



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

Satya Sudhakar, Pastor
Nisha Waters,
Administrative Assistant

LET US GIVE

Greetings from the Mission Team!

In December, 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.



We will again be supporting the Grafton Food Pantry Christmas 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 church lobby. Please make checks payable to Grafton Food Pantry, with "Holiday Dinner" in the memo line. Please place check in the yellow Giving Tree Envelope in the office. We are also adopting 2 families through the "Adopt a Family" program with Grafton Food Pantry. Tags for gift purchases are also on the tree. Please bring unwrapped gifts to CUMC by Dec 16th. Please tape tags to gifts. If you have any questions, please 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.