

APRIL
2024

United in Faith News

*Why are we
Here?
We are to
be God's
hands,
feet and
voice
in the
world.*



april

From the Pastor...

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

As followers of Christ, we celebrate the risen Jesus in our worship and in our work. We rejoice AND we rise ourselves as Jesus led us to serve our neighbor and share the good news.

We know that "we are not just with Jesus but within Jesus, as much a part of him as a he is of God. The security of that knowledge brings can be a springboard for action in the world; sharing the good news, spreading the love of Jesus and working for justice." (Sundays and Seasons)

The Easter season coincides with spring here in Chicagoland. Nature rises to meet the warming temperatures and the lengthening days. Just as the trees begin to bud, and the daffodils and jonquils bloom, we turn to Christ alive in our midst. Reaching out to each other and to our neighborhoods sharing the joyous resurrection and promise of God's abundant life for all of creation.

Last month we gathered to reflect on the last 25 years—our relationships, our strengths, and our struggles. Our congregation has much to be grateful for and much to be proud of. United in Faith has nurtured people into formal and informal ministry throughout Chicagoland and beyond. Our members have become pastors. Our interns have grown to shepherd congregations and non-profits here and abroad. Our pastors have served as military chaplains and Assistants to the Bishop. We have housed and supported St. Cyprian's Food Pantry, providing nourishment to the Dunning neighborhood for two decades. We have nurtured families in need through our family crisis fund and provided scholarships for education and advancement. We have been the church for so many.

We have also had our struggles. Grief and loss are not strangers to us. Beloved members have died, couples have divorced, suicide has claimed some of our children. Covid-19 sapped our

Continued on next page

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

+
Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

+
Reflect
God's *Love*

+
Pray and
listen for God's
guidance

+
Continue to
strengthen
faith

+
Include *All*
in God's
work

+
Meet people
where they
are

energy and forced difficult decisions. We are getting older.

And we are still here! Alleluia! Planted on Irving Park Road we are still called to be God's hands and feet and voice in this place. We step into spring rejoicing in God's continuing call and blessing here. Over the next weeks we will gather to assess our current ministries and consider God's urging for tomorrow. We will eat dinner and reconnect our mission to our resources. We will share a glass of wine or tea and ponder Joel 2:28:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your children shall prophesy, your elders shall dream dreams, your youngsters shall see visions."

Please be prayerful as you consider which cottage meeting best suits your schedule in the coming weeks. An invitation will be forthcoming mid-late April.

All things are possible in the spring! All things are possible in Christ! Let us continue to give thanks for the abundant love of God and the gifts we are blessed to share in this world.

Happy Easter season to you all!!

Pastor Jeanie

Good Shepherd Sunday April 21st

April showers bring Good Shepherd Sunday, when we focus on what Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) This Sunday is also the day when we encourage members to support our partner, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). This year, we are going to do something a bit different.

You recall that two years ago, UIF raised money for The Ukraine as that country was invaded and went to war. That event included matching funds donated by members with money from the UIF treasury. This year Council approved this matching idea for donations from members to LSSI. Your donation of \$10 will become \$20. LSSI donations from members will be collected between April 21 and Pentecost May 19. Envelopes will be available for donations to be counted and matched by the treasury. **Using the designated envelopes, you will be able to give cash or checks, made out to UIF.** Your donation will be added to your giving statement for tax purposes.

LSSI dates back to many individual Lutheran service institutions, such as orphanages, "old folks" homes and others, but its services have grown and adapted as societal needs have changed. During this fund raising campaign, you will hear much more about the many services provided by LSSI and the part you can play by your support. For more on LSSI and its mission go to: <https://www.lssi.org/>

Lay Leadership Day workshops announced

Plans continue to be made for the synod's highly anticipated Lay Leadership Day on Saturday, May 18, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville.

Perhaps you heard about the vision for this day during last year's Synod Assembly bishop's report. Thanks to the Carlmark Fund, we're able to gather lay leaders for a morning of learning and inspiration.

The day includes brief worship, workshops (see below), a keynote speaker and a boxed lunch. All for a nominal fee of \$10. Registration is now open!

Here are the workshops (more details, including workshop presenters, to come):

Climate Justice: What are we already doing in the synod to address climate justice and what more can we do? The ELCA Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador Training equips you with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and take action on climate change in your home, neighborhood, place of worship, community, with policymakers and beyond.

Stewardship of Space: Our buildings are mission outposts for God's work in our neighborhood, our city, and our world. Utilizing the space you have to live into the mission God has given you can be confusing and a struggle, especially if you are reimagining how you might use the space to support your mission going forward. Offering practical tips, theological insight, and highlighting some new resources available, this workshop intends to equip attendees with the knowledge they need to ask the next right questions and take the next right step in using their space for God's work in their piece of the world.

Lay Leadership & Equipping: Learn how to inspire and motivate your congregation's volunteers and leadership.

Church Governance: Basics of church leadership. What are the responsibilities of a congregation's council member? How do we understand, create and follow church constitutions, policies and procedures? With MCS Secretary Erin Clausen leading us, learn about the role and responsibilities of an elected leader.

[REGISTER](#) today.

Tentative schedule:

9 a.m. - Opening remarks (brief worship)
9:45 a.m. - Session 1 workshop
10:30 a.m. - Break
10:45 a.m. - Session 2 workshops
11:30 a.m. - Break
11:45 a.m. - Keynote Speaker TBD
12:30 p.m. - Lunch (boxed lunch provided)
1:30 p.m. - Leadership day concludes





Happy #EarthDay

On Monday, April 22nd, we will celebrate the 54th Earth Day. What began as one person's call to action over his concern for the environment has evolved into the largest civic event on Earth, activating billions across 192 countries to safeguard our planet and fight for a brighter future.

When Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin witnessed the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA, in January of 1969, he developed the idea to organize a teach-in regarding environmental concerns on college campuses. Inspired by the student anti-war movement of that time, Nelson recruited activist, Denis Hayes, to organize the campus teach-ins. They chose the date of April 22nd because it fell between Spring Break and Final Exams. With a staff of 85, Hayes broadened the effort to include a wide range of organizations, faith groups, and others across the country. On the first Earth Day in 1970, 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development. Americans across the country clearly shared Senator Nelson's concern for the environment and the Earth Day movement was born.

The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics. In recent years, many people have become aware of the impact of single-use plastics on our environment and have made choices to reduce their use of such plastics. (or donate them to New Life for Old Bags!)

This year, Earthday.org is demanding a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. If you visit the Earthday.org website at <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>, you will find information about the harmful effects of plastics as well as actions that you can take to be a part of the solution. Your individual choices, both small and large, can make a difference and, when joined with others, can fuel the energy we need to heal our planet.

May Book Club

The next book club is scheduled to meet on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 am. The book that was chosen is *The Sacred Pulse: Holy Rhythms for Overwhelmed Souls* by April Fiet.

April Fiet invites us to examine the frantic patterns of our lives to reclaim the deeper, sacred pulses that pattern our days. Through stories, scripture, and practical guidance for daily living, she lays out twelve rhythms—including gardening, handcrafts, friendship, and holidays—that are both sustainable and sustaining. *The Sacred Pulse* shows us how to strip away all the competing beats we have settled for so we can tap into the joyful, holy rhythms of life.

If you are weary and worn out, or simply in need of refreshing, this book can help to restore your soul. All are welcome. Please join us.

Welcome and Congratulations to Your UIF Council Members and Officers!

President – Gretchen Quillin

Vice President – Rich Guzik

Secretary – Julie Lozich

Treasurer – Pete Herberg

Ministry Director Representative – Gretchen Quillin

Adrienne Childress – Member

Kim Childress – Member

Pam Marino – Member

Denise Boyer - Member

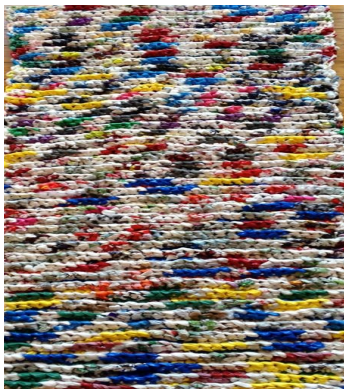
Financial Secretary – George Schultz

Interim Pastor Jeanine Reardon



GREETERS and USHERS NEEDED!

It's a simple task...just say "hi" and hand out a bulletin. That's it. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall. Thanks. :)



Next **New Life for Old Bags** Workday

April 6 at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Easter Blessings to all!



April 6

April 11

April 18

April 20

April 22

April 22

April 22

April 23

Mickey Bligh

Terrie Miller Wilk

Julie & Matt
Lozich Anniversary

Meghan Kosner

John & Tricia
Dombroski Anniversary

Denise Boyer

Christopher Hudie

Daniel Barsaloux

Cookie time is almost over as I write this, and we are working to sell the last of what we have. Please let me know if you would like cookies and I will see what I can do for you!



We celebrated Girl Scout Sunday on the 17th, even though our troops are smaller, we had girls here and they did take part in the worship. We also hosted Coffee Hour that day.

The Brownies have been working on their Cyber security badge and Snacks, The older girls have almost finished working on cooking badges as well. We need to set a date for camping too!

Our Service Unit (neighborhood troops) had our Thinking Day event at UIF in February and in March some of our Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors (6th-12th grade) had a Board Games and Tea event. It was a good time! Several of the Service Unit adults also finished their First Aid and CPR updated training.

As always THANK YOU UIF FOR SUPPORTING THE GIRL SCOUTS!

Janeen, Sharon, Catherine, Cathy, Michelle and Kathy

GOLDEN REBELS BINGO

Join us on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 am for BINGO!!

This event happens every week and all are welcome to join in the fun!!

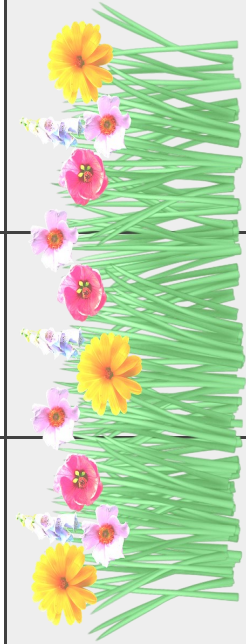




April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE Please check the website at www.unitedinfaith.org for up to date information.	1 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	2 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	3	4 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	5 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286	6 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am NLOB 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://isiawso.org
7 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	8 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	9 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	10	11 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	12 6:30pm AA	13 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://isiawso.org
14 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	15 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	16 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	17	18 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	19 6:30pm AA	20 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://isiawso.org
21 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	22 9:00am Food Pantry	23 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	24	25 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	26 6:30pm AA	27 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://isiawso.org
28 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	29 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	30 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts				



APRIL WORSHIP AT UNITED IN FAITH

APRIL 7 Easter 2	9:00 am 10:00 am	Coffee Hour Worship Service in person and on line
APRIL 14 Easter 3	9:00 am 10:00 am	Coffee Hour Worship Service in person and on line
APRIL 21 Easter 4	9:00 am 10:00 am	Coffee Hour Worship Service in person and on line
APRIL 28 Easter 5	9:00 am 10:00 am	Coffee Hour Worship Service in person and on line



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