

FEBRUARY  
2024

# United in Faith News

Why are we  
Here?

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



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February



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

From the desk of . . .

*Pastor Jeanine*

Happy February Friends!

Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup> with **Ash Wednesday**. Services will be at **11 am and 7 pm**.

"The name "Lent" comes from an old English word for "lengthening," referring to the gradually longer days of springtime. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, what was cold becomes warm. What was dormant awakens. Just as green shoots break through the winter earth, so the church stirs into action to proclaim the Easter mystery: in dying, God destroys death, and in rising, God delivers and proclaims newness of life." -www.saltproject.org

So starts the weekly Lenten reflection guide "Practicing Lent" that is available to all who would like a copy. **Please let the office know, so we can have enough printed, an online version is also available.**

"This guide offers six weekly Lenten practices, each designed to deepen your journey through these 40 days of lengthening light. Practice them alone, or with your partner, friends, or family, sharing experiences and insights as you travel."

Each week includes a scripture and a related quote to read and consider during the week.

The **Annual Meeting and Potluck** will be February 25<sup>th</sup> after 10 am worship.

We will be discussing council's vision for 2024, most particularly costs of building maintenance. You, your vote, and your voice are needed as we talk about United in Faith and your shared mission on Irving Park Road. Moving forward. Stepping up and out in Faith. Allowing God to speak to us in our reflection and in our action. These are the things we will explore. I look forward to spending this time with you, listening for the breathe of God in our work.

Happy February!  
Pr. Jeanie

At  
United in Faith,  
The Guiding  
Principles are:

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Jesus is  
Lord and  
**Savior**

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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**

# † UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING †

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



## ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

11:00 A.M. in person



February 7  
February 20  
February 21

Samantha Cecala  
Joyce Csapo  
Jackie Bratland

### Planning for the Journey' Seminar

Would you like to give yourself and your loved ones a wonderful gift? Find out how by attending this seminar on **Saturday, March 9 at 10:00**. You will find out how you can put your wishes and affairs in order so that at your death your loved ones can carry them out. This will include tasks such as wake, funeral and burial arrangements, disposition of assets both physical and financial, payment of financial obligations. You will also want to designate who will make your health and financial decisions should you become incapacitated before death. Learn about living wills, palliative care and hospice. Also, the importance of documenting how to find what where. Do this all while physically and mentally able and before someone else makes the decisions for you.

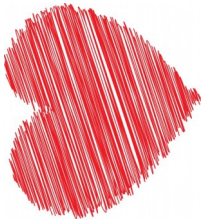
This seminar was originally presented in 2009 and the seminar's updated information is posted on the United in Faith website. You will receive a copy of the documents at the seminar.

Please **RSVP to Jeanne in the office by Monday, March 4** so your copy will be available.

Contact Rich Guzik with any questions about the seminar or website documents.

### BOOK CLUB...

Brrr, looks like cold weather has settled in! A perfect time to snuggle down in your favorite chair with a hot cup of tea or glass of wine and enjoy a good book. We suggest you join with us in reading our February/March selection, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. This Pulitzer Prize winner and Oprah Book Club selection follows the life of a boy born into Appalachian poverty through the perils of foster care, child labor, poor schools and addiction on much the same path as his predecessor David Copperfield but in a present day setting. Have things gotten better or worse or stayed the same for children born into extreme poverty? Come and discuss with us on Saturday, March 16 at 10:00am ( please note the new time). All are welcome.



# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>29</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>30</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>2</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>3</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am NLOB 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>4</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>5</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>6</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>9</b> 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286	<b>10</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>11</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>12</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>13</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 11:00 am Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>15</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>16</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>17</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>18</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>19</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>20</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>23</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>24</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Girl Scout Thinking Day 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>25</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed <b>11:00am ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>27</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>1</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>2</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest



**February**  
**Worship Schedule**



<b>Feb. 4th</b> <i>Epiphany 5</i>	9:00 AM coffee hour 10:00 AM Worship live and on line
<b>Feb. 11th</b> <i>Transfiguration</i>	9:00 AM coffee hours 10:00 AM Worship live and on line
<b>Feb. 14th</b> <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	11:00 AM MID-WEEK SERVICE 7:00 PM MID-WEEK SERVICE
<b>Feb. 18th</b> <i>Lent 1</i>	9:00 AM coffee hour 10:00 AM Worship live and on line
<b>Feb. 25th</b> <i>Lent 2</i>	9:00 AM coffee hour 10:00 AM Worship live and on line 11:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 6525 West Irving Park Road  
 Chicago, IL 60634



**Rev. Jeanine Reardon**

Pastor

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Phone: **773.283.2326**

Jeanne Rice, Church Administrator

Email: [UIFAdmin@unitedinfaith.org](mailto:UIFAdmin@unitedinfaith.org)

**On the Web** at: [www.unitedinfaith.org](http://www.unitedinfaith.org)

[Twitter](#): UIFLC | [Facebook](#): UIFLC | [Instagram](#): UIFLC

## Worship Assistants Coming Back Online

Covid derailed United in Faith’s previous cycles of active Worship Assistants. We have maintained Readers and Communion Assistants, while named ushers, greeters, and communion stewards have gone fallow. Please prayerfully consider how you might reengage in these necessary and lifegiving expressions of hospitality to our visitors and our weekly church family. Sign-up sheets are on the Fellowship Hall tables for your convenience.

## 2024 New Life for Old Bags WORK DAY SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of every other month from 10:00am to 12:00pm. We will meet on the even months, only.

Dates: 2/3, 4/6, 6/1, 8/3, 10/5, and 12/7

We have an open invitation to come as we are able.

## ~LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE~

<b>Feb. 14th</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	11:00 AM MID-WEEK SERVICE 7:00 PM MID-WEEK SERVICE
<b>March 24</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM coffee hour 10:00 AM Worship live and on line
<b>March 28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	11:00 AM MID-WEEK SERVICE 7:00 PM MID-WEEK SERVICE
<b>March 29</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	11:00 AM MID-WEEK SERVICE 7:00 PM MID-WEEK SERVICE
<b>March 31</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	9:00 AM coffee hour 10:00 AM Worship live and on line

## United in Faith Lutheran Church Treasurer’s Report – December, 2023

	Twelve Months Ended <u>12/31/23</u>
<u>Unrestricted:</u>	
Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 104,852
Expenditures	<u>260,895</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	\$ (155,843)
Investment Income and changes in market value	<u>17,228</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ (138,615)
<u>Educational Endowment:</u>	
Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 35,295
Scholarships paid out	<u>(2,600)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ 32,695
<u>Harriet Kurz Endowment:</u>	
Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	\$ 25,271
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	<u>19,210</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ <u>44,481</u>
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	\$ (61,439)

### Comments:

2023 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$19,210 in December and lower by \$155,843 YTD .

Income includes \$3,939 in Special Estate gifts from:

Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January 2023  
Louise Swanson -\$ 2,030 in November 2023  
Louise Swanson -\$ 182 in December 2023

Investments returned a gain of \$18,694 for December & a gain of \$61,709 YTD.  
Educational Investments returned a gain of \$14,974 for Sept. & a gain of \$35,295 YTD.  
\$2,600 in Educational Scholarships were paid out in August, 2023

Total expenses for December are unfavorable to budget by \$1,819 and favorable to budget by \$25,065 YTD due to Salary & Benefit YTD costs being lower than budget by \$11,692, the Administrative YTD costs being lower than budget by \$3,240, the YTD Building costs being lower than budget by \$5,209 & the Ministry Directors YTD costs being lower than budget by \$4,798.