

United in Faith Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

October

| 2026

| www.unitedinfaith.org

A Word from Pastor Sharei

Dear Friends,

A bag of groceries matters.

A warm meal matters.

A check in the offering plate matters.

When someone is hungry, we feed them.

When someone is cold, we give them a coat. When someone is facing a crisis, we show up. These acts of care are important, and they are part of how we live out our faith.

But what if we stopped there?

What if we became so good at responding to people's pain that we never stopped to ask why the pain keeps coming?

This is the invitation at the heart of the sermon series called **"From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems."** Together, we'll look beyond the immediate

cont.

needs we see and ask what systems and structures shape those needs. Why are people hungry? Why is housing so difficult to afford? Why do some communities have access to resources while others are continually asked to make do with less?

And we won't be doing that work alone. Throughout the series, we'll welcome partner organizations and people who are already doing this work in our communities. They'll help us listen, learn, and better understand both the challenges our neighbors face and the possibilities for change.

We will still give. We will still serve. We will still meet immediate needs because people should not have to wait for systemic change to eat.

But we will also ask a harder question:

What would it look like to work toward a world where fewer people need our charity just to survive?

I invite you to worship, to wonder, learn, and wrestle with these questions with us. May this series help us move from simply asking, "What can I give?" to asking, "What can we change?"

Peace,
Pastor Sharei

As part of **From Mercy to Justice**, we'll welcome partners who are helping us learn what justice looks like in action. Join us for worship, conversation, and opportunities to engage more deeply:

October 11

Rev. Nic Faison of Faith in Place will preach and lead adult study

October 25

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois will join us. Rev. Kelly Nieman-Anderson will preach, and Kevin Copeland will lead adult study

November 15

Rev. Nic Faison returns to facilitate MONadvocacy, a racial justice resource grounded in play

Girl Scouts at United in Faith

We are back and making plans!

We have room for girls in all levels of Girl Scouts, currently we have 1 Daisy, 3 Brownies, 1 Junior and 8 Cadettes.

We are planning our Juliette Low Rally later in the month and working on badges.

~ Janeen, Sharon, Catherine,
Michelle & Colleen

The Justice Ministry encourages UIF members to donate a highlighted item each month. The food pantry only has funding for food items and clients still need to stretch their dollars to cover both food and all those daily necessities. This month we are asking for: Period Products.

A donation box is available as you come in the back door, just at the end of the ramp. Thank you to all who contributed toilet paper during September!

St. Cyprian's Non-food Monthly Donations: October 2026 — Period Products



The poster is for the 'AIR AWARE Community Celebration'. It features a central title in large, bold, orange letters. Below the title, it lists activities: 'Trick-or-treating / Food / Kids activities / Giveaways'. To the left of the title is a circular portrait of Omar Aquino, a man with glasses and a suit, with his name and title 'OMAR AQUINO STATE SENATOR' below it. To the right of the title is a QR code. Below the QR code is a 'REGISTER NOW' button with a right arrow and the URL 'bit.ly/airaware-oct26'. The date and time 'October 26, 2026 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM' are listed on the left, and the location 'Wicker Park Lutheran Church 1500 N Hoyne Ave Chicago, IL 60622' is on the right. The poster is decorated with illustrations of pumpkins and leaves. At the top center, there is a small logo that says 'faith in place'.

faith in place

AIR AWARE

Community Celebration

Trick-or-treating / Food /
Kids activities / Giveaways

October 26, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Wicker Park Lutheran Church
1500 N Hoyne Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

REGISTER NOW > bit.ly/airaware-oct26

OMAR AQUINO
STATE SENATOR

Join us for a family-friendly fall celebration!

Wear your costume, bring your family and friends, and join us to advocate for healthier indoor air quality.

Date: Monday, October 26

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CT

Location: Wicker Park Lutheran Church

Free and open to the public

RefugeeOne Winter Gear Drive



RefugeeOne is having a Winter Gear Drive. As you may recall, United in Faith participated in an ELCA sponsored donation request last year. Members of UIF made monetary donations and UIF matched that amount. RefugeeOne is the largest refugee resettlement agency in Chicago. They supply support programs, health and wellness services, and legal support.



Now they are asking for new or gently used winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, and scarves for men, women, and children. (No regular clothes at this time, please.) There will be a table by the sanctuary doors where you can place any donations. We will be collecting through Sunday, October 18, and we will be delivering to the collection site on October 23 or October 24.

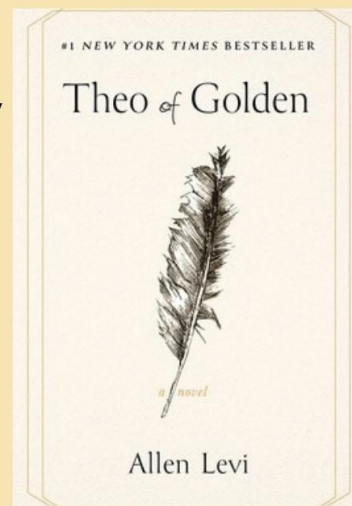


If you are able to help with donating it would be greatly appreciated.

Book Club

Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression of outreach and affection. Stories are shared, friendships are born, and lives, in response to his inexplicable kindness, are affirmed and transformed. The old man, no stranger to sadness and loss, quickly becomes a welcome presence in the community but his new friends and neighbors wonder, who is Theo? And why is he here?

Read the book to find out who he is and why he was there and then join the discussion on Saturday, November 21 at 10a.



Invitation to lead in worship

SIGN UP!

We are in need of greeters / ushers, readers & communion assistants. If you are feeling called to lead in worship, a sign up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall.

If you would like more info before signing up, please talk to Pastor Sharei.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 10:00am From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9 6:30pm AA	10 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
11 10:00am From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15	16 6:30pm AA	17 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
18 10:00am From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	19	20 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	21	22	23 6:30pm AA	24 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
25 10:00am From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems (Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson of LSSI preaching) — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour — Discussion with Mr. Kevin Copeland of LSSI Prison & Family Ministry	26	27	28	29	30 6:30pm AA	31 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org



Rev. Sharei Green

Pastor

Email: pastor@unitedinfaith.org

Office

Email: uifadmin@unitedinfaith.org

Phone: 773.283.2326

6525 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60634

On the web at: www.unitedinfaith.org
Twitter: UIFLC | Facebook: UIFLC | Instagram: UIFLC



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