

JUNE  
2023

# United in Faith News

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



From the desk of . . .

*Pastor Jeanine*



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

## Currencies and Currents

Eric Law noted that a healthy congregation has six currencies or currents that run through them: *Relationship, Gracious Leadership, Time and Place, Truth, Wellness, and Money*. In **Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries**, he wrote that in a healthy church each of these currents swirl together in an endless cycle of pouring out and filling up. Much like a river or a creek join the rain from a storm and fill a lake, and heat in the summer or the breeze and the sun evaporate a pond, water is constantly in motion. Life in a church is much the same.

Fr. Law intentionally chose to overlay the concepts of energy and finance to capture a fullness of the economy of church. He puts forward it is only in the exchange and not the hoarding of these resources that can a congregation thrive.

As part of the interim process we will dive in and explore, uncover and interrogate the currents and currencies that flow though United in Faith on Irving Park Road. We will do this so we can together understand the depths of our gifts and strengths, as well as consider the shallow places that need to be filled up.

In the next weeks we will consider **Relationship**: "the internal and external networks of mutually respectful connections that leaders and members of a church have" (p. 11). We will consider how we are interconnected, how we influence our neighbors, and how our neighbors influence us. During Sunday worship we will begin with God in three persons as a relationship model for us and continue to explore the relationships among Jesus and the disciples. After church in late June we will gather around the lunch table to talk about our internal and external relationships. We will plumb our connections and note our disconnects. We will walk our neighborhood and meet our neighbors. We will reach out to the Alderman and check out city resources. We will consider the challenges to relationship that comes with living on Irving Park Road, as well as the rewards.

We have much to do! But over a meal or three and a cool glass of tea (or a moderate cup of wine) God's work is easy, and the burden is light. (I'm certain that is what Jesus meant to say.) Nevertheless, we will feed (pour out) and be fed (fill up) as we share God's bounty.

I am excited to enter this stage of reflection and imagination with you all!  
Blessings and Peace to you!!

*Pr. Jeanine*

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

## Messy Church Conversation

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, fourteen of us gathered for lunch and twelve of us were able to stay and discuss our experiences of Messy Church (MC) at United in Faith. We shared candid conversation about our experiences and thoughts about moving forward. Our conversation was energetic and robust. We noted that a few people were out of town and unable to attend this conversation. Half of the people present had attended at least one of the MC events over the last year.

Many positive experiences were shared about how MC contributed to our wellness, our relationships, and gracious leadership here at United in Faith:

- “Makes us happy to do things for the environment and not waste valuable resources.”
- “Provided clear connections between biblical principles and our lives.”
- “It has provided an opportunity for us to reconnect; to kibitz with each other.”
- “We are able to be with each other outside of church services.”
- “Involved a few people who don't regularly attend worship.”
- “There was some shared responsibility for the breakout tables.”

It was generally noted that the primary energy came from Pastor Carla, and some concern that MC couldn't generate sustainable attendance. Folks shared their initial hopes that MC would generate more attendance of families with young children. Although, the representative from Messy Church named clearly that MC was not designed to be a magnet for children or a means to increase Sunday morning worship.

The energy of the people gathered reinforced that we are hungry for opportunities to gather, socially and spiritually. There was deep appreciation for guided spiritual conversations and relaxed social engagement.

The MC Leadership team will meet in June to continue to digest the feedback and discern how this feedback will shape our next steps. One of the conclusions I drew from this conversation was that people are hungry to reconnect in meaningful and stimulating ways. Messy Church may not be the perfect remedy to this hunger, but several of you felt fed by the opportunity to be together and try something new.

*-Pr. Jeanie*

## !!THANK YOU!!

To everyone who lent a hand in the storage room and with the instrument and sanctuary shifting! Your care and smiling faces made it easier. If you haven't checked out the sanctuary storage room please do! We have a floor!!!

Special thanks to Gretchen Quillin for the communion bread. *Taste and See* that the Lord is good!

Stay tuned for continued chair and worship space shifting...ya never know how the Spirit will move among us!

# NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS (nlob)

We are back in person!!! Please join us for our regularly scheduled, in person, monthly NLOB Work Day Saturday June 3, 2023 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at our main campus at United in Faith Lutheran Church located at 6525 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. Parking is available in the lot behind the church building.

Please feel free to bring a snack to share.

*As of January 29, 2023 we're at:*

*6,200 mats approx. completed*

*4,340,000 repurposed bags approx.*

*496,000 hours of volunteer work*

*574 new mats completed since 11/27/22!*

## REMAINING NLOB WORK DAYS IN 2023

*1st Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm*

- Saturday, August 5, 2023
- Saturday, October 7, 2023
- Saturday, November 4, 2023
- Saturday, December 2, 2023

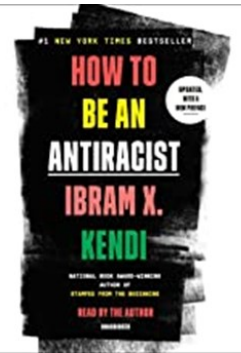


## BOOK CLUB

We are reading *How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi.

Ibram X. Kendi is a professor of history and international relations. His work has explored the origins and intersections of racism with class and culture and geography and how racism influences the way we see and value ourselves."

Please join us, Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.



## EV Chargers



United in Faith has been named as a finalist for a \$10,000 grant for Electric Vehicle Chargers as part of the Chicago Recovery Plan.

"The Chicago Recovery Plan is the City's plan to amplify once-in-a-generation federal funding to create an equity-based investment strategy to catalyze a sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding under the Chicago Recovery Plan, which includes funding from the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARP") and over \$600 million in local bond funds, is allocated alongside all other available resources in the City budget to maximize this opportunity over the next 3-5 year funding period."

This process is ongoing, but we are excited to be part of this neighborhood rejuvenation program.

# *The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches Pride Planning Meeting*

*This year's theme is "God's Love Embraces and TRANSforms All"*

## *Greetings to our partners and friends!*

As we prepare for Pride 2023 we want to ensure that we are communicating appropriately with our member churches.

Our Pride 2023 theme this year is: **God's Love Embraces and TRANSforms All**

This message aligns with our mission to welcome and affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches has two goals:

- To spread the message of our members' LGBTQ-inclusion across the Chicago metropolitan area, mindful that a positive message about sexual and family diversity is a gift to all people.
- To connect the leaders, members, and guests of our partner churches for fellowship and education, enabling support and resource-sharing for the practices of the faithful welcome.

As CCWC starts planning for Chicago's 2023 Pride Parade, we ask that your church renew your membership with CCWC with a suggested donation of \$250.

Your membership donations help us cover the cost of our participation in Chicago's Pride Parade as well as pay for our other ongoing costs.

If you wish to join us or renew your membership, [please click on this link](#).

## *Additionally, CCWC will be marching again in Chicago's 2023 Pride Parade!*

We recently inventoried all our church signs at our storage facility. Please review [the attached list](#) to ensure we have a sign for your church.

If your church is planning to march with us at Pride 2023, and you cannot find your church on the attached list or you know you are in need of a new church sign, please email us at [info@chicagowelcomingchurches.org](mailto:info@chicagowelcomingchurches.org) so that we have ample time to order a new sign for you.

Thank you for your continued support of **The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches!**

Questions - email us at

[info@chicagowelcomingchurches.org](mailto:info@chicagowelcomingchurches.org)





Over the next months we will meet anew our fabulous musicians. Please wave and get to know them better.



First up is guitarist, Tim Stine. Tim has been playing guitar since the age of 17. His father played coffee shops in Fargo, North Dakota (where he is from) in college, and his mother received her doctorate in Choral Conducting from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

Tim completed his undergrad studies in Fargo, and then went to earn his own Masters from the Cincinnati Conservatory. Music has always been all around!

Tim has two children, James, who is 9, and Naomi who is 5. He lives about 3 miles from the church in the Avondale neighborhood.



Kurt Lubbe was born and raised in Madison, WI. After banging on pots and pans around the house, his parents started him on drum lessons at age 8. He went on to get his Music Performance degree at Indiana University and soon after was drawn to Chicago's vibrant music. When he's not performing or teaching drum lessons, Kurt likes to spend his free time making jerky and hiking with his girlfriend.



## UIF: ACCESS FOR ALL

The ELCA, as a church, is committed to welcome all people in all its congregations and ministries into full participation. Sometimes, the church falls short of being a welcoming place for people with disabilities. People may assume they will never become impaired or disabled, but in fact, many will at sometime in their lives.

For that reason, United in Faith, would like to investigate how we stand in this respect. A few people have shown interest in being on a task force to address this issue. But we could use everyone's input. Do you see a need or a lack somewhere that we should tackle? We need to correct anything that stands out in that regard.

If you have any suggestions or concerns please provide them to us. If we see a need we will get the task force moving.

Thank you.

*Denise Boyer*

the Justice Ministry Team

## PRAYERS NEEDED....

We asked that you keep the Childress family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of husband, father, and grandfather, Joe, to brain cancer.

We also ask that you keep Julie O'Donnell Lozich and family in your prayers as Julie's mom enters hospice.



**CHURCH HOURS**  
**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**



June 6

Brenda Chobot

June 14

Ann Lozich

June 15

Jeanne Schira

June 17

Lylas Wollenzein

June 28

Jane Schira



# June 2023



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 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>30</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>2</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>3</b> Synod Assembly 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am NLOB Regular Work Day 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 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>6</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>7</b> 10:00am Justice Team	<b>8</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>9</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>10</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 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 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>13</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>14</b>	<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 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 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>20</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 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 3:00 Book Club 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>25</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>26</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>27</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>30</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>1</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 14:00pm Survivors of Incest

# Worship SCHEDULE



**JUNE  
2023**

Continue to check the website at  
[www.unitedinfaith.org](http://www.unitedinfaith.org) for updates

<b>JUNE 4</b> HOLY TRINITY	<i>9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Service &amp; live-streamed</i>
<b>JUNE 11</b> PENTECOST 4	<i>9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Service &amp; live-streamed</i>
<b>JUNE 18</b> PENTECOST 3	<i>9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Service &amp; live-streamed</i>
<b>JUNE 25</b> PENTECOST 4	<i>9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Service &amp; live-streamed</i>

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



**Rev. Jeanine Reardon**  
Interim Pastor  
Email: [pastor@unitedinfaith.org](mailto:pastor@unitedinfaith.org)

Phone: **773.283.2326**

**Jeanne Rice**, Church Administrator

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

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

**Twitter:** UIFLC | **Facebook:** UIFLC | **Instagram:** UIFLC