‘But Everyone Knows My Name’

*CUMC providing new name tags – and correcting misassumptions*

by Mark McGowan

Christ United Methodist Church is home to many worshippers at both centers who have been members for years and years if not decades.

They have their favorite service. They have their favorite pew. They have their favorite place to hold court for coffee and conversation.

After all of this time, they are a part of the fabric of the church, fixtures on Sunday mornings and familiar faces outside the sanctuary. Everyone knows their names.

Or do they?

Both centers are also home to new families and new young adults who’ve joined the congregations. Both centers are home to visitors who are seeking a place to worship. Few of these people are likely to know the names of the long-timers — and few of the long-timers are likely to know the names of the newcomers.

And although Pastor Dan Lee has served several Sundays at the Alpine Center, he’s only made one trip so far to the Our Master’s Center, where he might recognize the names but not yet the faces.

Last – but not least – who hasn’t temporarily forgotten a name in the midst of a friendly chat?

For all of these reasons and more, CUMC is creating new nametags for everyone — and why all worshippers are encouraged to wear them every Sunday.

“‘If everyone is wearing nametags, it helps us all,’” Pastor Jane Eesley says. “It helps the pastors call people by their name when they come up for Communion. It helps everyone to recognize who’s related to whom — and to make connections that strengthen the body of Christ.”

Gayle George, coordinator of Welcoming Ministries, and Donna Riha, office support assistant for Finance and Membership, undertook the massive project.

Since the decision was made to create the new nametags, the two have scoured the membership roster over and over to finalize the list of names in need of badges, made sure that they used the preferred names (such as nicknames) and handled the printing of around 800 for Alpine and 60 for Our Master’s.

People will find their nametags in the usual place; all are asked to return them to that space before they leave church.

Wearing nametags, George says, will foster a friendlier congregation. Nametags tell others that they are important. Nametags invite people “to greet one another and care for one another,” she says.

“Nametags invite conversations,” George says. “Conversations are more comfortable when you see the name of the other person. Because of my nametag, someone recently shared a story about another Gayle. That conversation was meaningful and would not have happened without me wearing my nametag.”

(‘But Everyone Knows My Name’ continued on Page 5)
Giving Thanks for a Life Well Lived

“She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hand to the needy…. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue” (Proverbs 31:20,25-26).

This November let’s celebrate a month of Thanksgiving, not just a day.

Let’s create an attitude of gratitude, in which we give thanks for all God’s mercies in our lives. It’s easy to point to sorrows or disappointments in life, but our spirits strengthen when we list our blessings instead.

This lesson hit home for me over a weekend in St. Paul, Minnesota, celebrating the life of my aunt, Barbara Burkholder. Aunt Barby was the oldest of the four Harris children—Barbara, John, Eleanor, and Mary (my mother). Barby was a woman of deep faith, with a sense of delight in everyday life. She suffered disappointments in her life—she and her husband were unable to bear children, so they adopted three children. The oldest child was well, but the other two had significant challenges (possibly fetal alcohol syndrome and severe mental health diagnosis). Some women would have become bitter while facing these difficulties; instead, Aunt Barby extended her love to her ten nieces and nephews, as well. Starting in her 60s, Barby helped to care for her mother-in-law, who suffered with Alzheimer’s Disease; by her mid 70s, her husband had Alzheimer’s as well and had to be placed in a care facility. She visited both of them in their facilities, seeing her husband almost every day, although he did not recognize her. Despite these difficult circumstances, she retained her spirit of wonder, loving to bird watch, participating in her UMW Circle and book groups, caring for her extended family.

Barby remained healthy throughout most of her life, with some heart issues cropping up in her 80s. She managed these with medication and water exercise. She was able to live independently until this past summer, when she developed congestive heart failure and breathing problems. In late summer, she transferred to a care facility which would offer better nursing support. One September Saturday, she enjoyed her lunch and lay down for a nap. She did not wake up from her nap. She was 94 years old, and I think that’s a terrific way to die.

Whenever I visited Aunt Barby, I saw her Bible, her Upper Room magazine, and other devotional materials. She practiced daily devotions, put together quilts to be given to struggling families, and helped out with various ministries. She had a servant’s heart. She also had an active mind, enjoying book groups and learning about social issues in the Twin Cities and throughout the world. She cared about people’s sufferings, always turning her love outward toward others.

When we gathered October 27 for her funeral, almost all of her nieces and nephews were present. So many church members spoke to us of their love for her and respect for her witness. There also was a sizeable contingent of water exercise friends (which she continued up until last spring!). Four of us nieces offered brief stories of what Barby meant to us, and I was asked to read Psalm 121. My heart overflowed with gratitude to be part of this beautiful family, to carry on Barby’s legacy of love and care.

There is way too much negativity in our culture, with too quick a jump to complaints and grumbling. I could grumble that my aunt has died, or I could sing praises to God who gave me the blessing of such a loving aunt. We can choose to bemoan the bad or celebrate the good. I choose to give thanks.

Yours in Christ,

Jane
Thanksgiving Baskets Assembly Day: Monday, November 19, 2018

Once again, CUMC will be preparing Thanksgiving Baskets to share with needy families in our community. This is done by donations of time and money from our congregation and is not a budgeted project. The names of approximately 117 families have been provided to us by Children’s Home and Aid Society of Illinois, Family Consultation Services, Department of Human Services - Headstart, Lifescape, Centennial Saturday Kids Club and from our own pastors. The cost of each basket is approximately $100.

The Thanksgiving baskets will be assembled on Monday, November 19, 2018. They will include a full Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the trimmings and enough additional groceries to feed the family for the week. This project is a large undertaking and requires a great deal of volunteer effort. Please consider helping in one or more of the following ways:

1) Unload the groceries from the truck and prepare for assembly of baskets on Sunday, November 18, at 2:00 p.m.
2) Monday, November 19, meet at church at 8:00 am to assemble baskets and load into vehicles for distribution.
3) Help deliver a few baskets on Monday, November 19, if necessary.
4) Provide a cash donation to purchase groceries.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, we encourage you to sign up in the Connection Center beginning Sunday, November 4th, or call Paul or Molly Klazura at (815) 703-1220 (email: mollyklazura3@amail.com). If you choose to donate, checks should be made payable to CUMC and should specify “Thanksgiving Basket Project” in the memo line.

Welcome to Christ United Methodist Church!
UMW Circle Schedule
The United Methodist Women invite all women of the church to their circle meetings. Visitors are welcome and encouraged! To learn more about each circle, contact Audrey Johnson at 815-519-7822. Some circles do not meet in the summer.

Harmony Circle
The November 13 meeting will be at Ellyn Walker's home, 4203 Willow Lane, Rockford, at 9:30 a.m. Our study will be chapter three "Your Kindness Quotient" from A Love Worth Giving. If any are interested in joining us let Jo Hellmich know at 815-639-3074.

Priscilla Circle
Priscilla Circle will be meeting on November 27 at Wesley Willows for our annual party for the residents. We'll meet at 11:30 for lunch in the Wesley Willows Bistro and then have cookies and a sing-along with the residents. We would love to have anyone join us for this very fun, festive party. Call Deb Laskey with questions at 815-979-8555.

Rebekah Circle
Rebekah Circle will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 9:30 am for a tour of Temple Beth-El at 1203 Comanche Dr. with Rabbi Wing. After that, we will go to Meg's Daily Grind for a snack or lunch. Questions? Call Mary English at 815-397-4883. Visitors welcome!

Martha Circle
Martha Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14, in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 pm. We will have refreshments, a short business meeting, and once again will be decorating boxes for our annual Cookie Walk. Please bring scissors and glue sticks; cards will be provided. Lots of help needed! We urge you all to come, and feel free to bring a friend. Questions? Call Wilma at 815-877-3465 or Donna at 815-877-5381.

Out to Lunch Bunch
Let's begin the Christmas season with friends at Jerry's Cafe on December 6, 12:30 pm. Jerry's is located at 2605 N. Mullford, in the Brynwood Square Mall, just north of Spring Creek. To reserve your spot, call Diane Kirkland, 815-621-3118

Caravan Circle
On Weds, Nov. 14, we will meet at Just Goods Store. We will carpool from our two Centers so please meet at either the Alpine Campus or Our Master's at 9:30 a.m. We are scheduled at Just Goods at 10:00 a.m. and then over at Katie's Cup at 11:00 for a meeting and food. Everyone is welcome, so please come even and especially if you are not a member of our circle. Please RSVP so we know how many are coming. Questions? Call Geneve Harris at 574-612-9495 (local number).

Cookie Walk is December 8
Callers needed in November
A heads-up to all the bakers in our church: Dec. 8th is our annual Cookie Walk. We will be in need of callers in November and workers on Dec. 7th and Dec. 8th. If you would make calls for us, please let us know. Help us make this a success once again this year. Any questions please contact one of the co-chairs: Phyllis Melenas at 815-633-2288 or Sally Plath at 815-398-7541.
It’s also a financial move that makes CUMC “better stewards of the money that each of us give,” she says. “Each time we had used 100 nametags, we needed a new plate. The cost was approximately $600. This was in addition to each nametag costing approximately $9.”

The new nametags are now printed on paper stock and are made more readable with a larger font and an eye-friendly combination of capital and lowercase letters. Each is inserted into a plastic sleeve with a clip to attach to a shirt pocket or top or with a magnet.

Magnets are available for $2; people with pacemakers cannot use the magnets, and those with stents should check with their doctors before ordering a magnet.

And for those who prefer to make money rather than spend it, there is intriguing news: The pastors might hand out periodic prizes for those who wear their nametags.

**Daily Breakthrough Prayer**

*Please stop and pray this prayer daily at 7:07 a.m. and/or 7:07 p.m.*

God of hopes and dreams and visions for the future, we ask you to send the Holy Spirit to break through into our lives and into your church. Help us sense where your Spirit is leading. Give us faith and courage to step through the doors that you open.

*Amen.*

**Share Your Gifts, Pass Them Forward**

**Stewardship 2018**

The scriptures for the Stewardship Sunday’s are Deuteronomy 6: 4–6 on November 11 and 1Timothy 6: 17–19 on November 18. These scriptures include the familiar words: “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6: 5) and “do good, be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous” (1Timothy 6: 18).

Let these words speak to you as you prayerfully consider your support for Christ United Methodist Church for 2019. The October Flame gave the final report for the successful Capital Campaign. Let’s carry on that success into 2019. Your letter from Pastor Jane will arrive in early November. The letter from one of your church family members, which includes your pledge card, will arrive shortly after.

All of the worship services on November 18 and November 25 will have a special time of prayer and meditation for you to come forward and place your pledge card in a basket at the bottom of the steps or on the altar. Pledge cards can also be placed in the offering basket or mailed to the church office anytime.
Fellowship News; Rainbow Covenant Giving

Scrapbooking Group
Scrapbooking/Stamping is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dining Room. Stay for all day or just a half day - whatever fits your schedule. Not everyone in our group scrapbooks. Some are stamping or working on other projects so join us for a fun day of crafting! If children will be joining us, it's requested they be at least middle school age.

We will have a chili lunch on 11/17. Please bring your own beverage and something to share that goes along with the chili—whatever toppings, sides, paper products or dessert you like. The chili will be provided. If you need help with what to bring, please contact me.

No scrapbooking in December. For the first three months of 2019, scrapbooking dates are January 19, February 16, and March 16. For more information, call Mary Hicks, at 815-742-1136.

CUMC Senior Fellowship Group
Friday, November 16, at noon
Come and join this group for seniors for a wonderful homemade lunch and fellowship with your friends. After lunch we'll have a program led by our parish nurse. There will be lots of good health information and a trivia contest (maybe even a magnificent prize for the winner!)

Please call the church office at 815-399-5910 to make your reservation by Monday, November 12.

WOWS
Widows Or Widowers and Singles
Open to all single women age 65 and over

In November:
The next WOWS luncheon will be on November 14 at noon at the Olive Garden Restaurant on E. State Street. Please contact Doris Sackley at 815-715-9292 if you plan to attend.

Upcoming WOWS events:
Annual December Get-Together on December 13 at noon in the Hoffman House private room. Call Peg Halpin at 815-979-3213 for reservations.

After Christmas—Christmas Party on January 16 at noon in Sophia’s Restaurant in roscoe. There will be a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a beautifully wrapped white elephant gift. Call Peg Halpin at 815-979-3213 for reservations.

Coins for Rainbow Covenant Giving in November
Your Rainbow Covenant coins in November will go to the The Rosecrance Kinley Charity Care Fund. Founded by humanitarian Verna. T. Kinley a Rosecrance board member.

- Part of her mission was to ensure that young people had access to substance abuse treatment, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.
- To honor her legacy In 1984 the Kinley Charity Care Fund was established to support these neediest families.
- Your coins help bring the gift of new life in recovery.
United Methodist Men
Fall Communion Breakfast
November 10, at Bethel UMC, 217 S. Hickory St., Shannon, IL
8:00 am Gathering; 8:30 Breakfast; 9:30 Worship/Communion
Mark your calendar for November 10, 2018 for worship and renewal. The keynote speaker will be Mark Dehority, Deployed Staff GCUMM, introducing AMEND Together Preventing Violence Against Women. Special music provided by Dan Holmes. Remember to bring your banks and/or your check for Meals for Millions. Cost is $9.00; pastors free. Contact the church at 815-864-2581 to reserve your spot.

Attention Snowbirds!
If anyone is planning to spend the winter in another location and would still like to receive your mail from the church, please contact the church office with the following information:
1. The address where you will be staying
2. The starting and ending date that you wish to receive mail at the address.
   Contact the church office at 815-399-5910 or email driha@christumc.cc with this information.
   Thank you for your assistance!

Coming Soon...Tithe.ly
Introducing an additional way to give to Christ United Methodist Church via text/app!
Has there ever been a time when you may have forgotten your checkbook, or don’t have the cash in your purse or wallet for that special Sunday offering? Beginning in NOVEMBER we will be providing information on how to use Tithe.ly to conveniently give using your phone. Be on the lookout over the next few weeks as we roll out this additional method for giving to the ministry at Christ UMC.

Snow Plow Volunteers Needed
There are a few openings for our volunteer snow plow team, headed by Tim Moore.
If you’re interested in joining the team (Curt Leppert, Eric Mede Rich Fisher, Cory Schrank, Alan Beaman, Maurice Lin, and Dave Robinson), please contact Tim at 815-520-3629 or call the church office at 815-399-5910, and talk with Cliff Gillette.
Throughout his career Don penned a column, which he compiled into a book, "Black on White: Listening to the corn grow beyond the 'burbs."

"It's amazing how many times people came up with stories of how their experiences in life were similar to mine in the column, like a baby baptism," he said. His newspapers and he received numerous awards, for excellence, his columns and editorials.

It was journalism that brought Don and Suzy together at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

In the eighth grade, Don went to work as a "printer's devil" at his hometown weekly newspaper, “The Hugoton (Kan.) Hermes.” He shot pictures and wrote stories for the Hermes throughout his high school and college years.

In high school, he was in most of its activities – plays, musicals, band, and sports, mainly football. "In a school that small, you were in everything," he said. His graduating class of 39 students spent a week at Lake of the Ozarks on funds they had earned during high school.

Don came to KU after serving three years in the Army as a public relations photographer. Suzy came to KU after writing for her high school newspaper.

They clashed when he was an editor for KU’s University Daily Kansan newspaper and she was a reporter. "We still clash, so we don’t serve on church committees together," Don said.

They have three children. Their oldest son, Todd, lives with his family in northern Chicago. Their youngest son and their daughter, and family, live in Marietta, Ga. They have five grandchildren, with the oldest in college.

Two "claims to fame" stand out in Don’s life. He was in the national news in 1973 when inmates at the U.S. Penitentiary Leavenworth (Kan.) took several guards as hostages. Don, editor of the "Leavenworth Times," was a go-between to the inmates and the warden and gave briefings to the national media.

After 16 hours of talks the guards were freed and the inmates voiced their grievances to Don, who represented the Associated Press, and a Kansas City Star reporter for national distribution.

A second claim was when Don was among 30 newspaper editors across the nation chosen to meet with then President Jimmy Carter, following the Iran Hostage Crisis in November, 1979.

"It was great to see the President, but I think it was mostly a diversion at that time," Don said. The crisis, with an unsuccessful rescue attempt, lasted 444 days.

Don enjoys bicycle riding and has completed the 500-miles RAGBRAI ride across Iowa five times, twice with his sons who made the trips as 12-year-olds.

The couple also enjoys traveling nationally and abroad, taking their family to Europe in 1993.

By the way, his legal name is Don, not Donald. “I was named after the great lover in silent movies, Don Juan, not after Donald Duck,” he says, noting that his journalism students studying media history always chuckled following that statement.
In about 2004, Curt and his wife Lori were searching for a church home. A church that would support them as they started a family. Lori grew up in a United Methodist Church in Polo, IL and Curt did not have a church family growing up. Through work associations, Lori knew Diane Wilson and Marilyn Rothermel who attended Christ UMC. Also close to where they lived, they decided to give Christ UMC a try. They went to the 9:30 service one week and at 11:00 another week and really liked it. They didn’t see a need to go anywhere else. They found the church very welcoming, enjoyed the service, and Curt noted that the sharing of the “joys and concerns” at prayer time was especially meaningful.

Curt and Lori settled into their church home and brought their children Vivian and Jack to their church family. Curt found teaching Sunday School as an avenue to both live out his faith and have his faith inspired. In the past, he taught the early elementary class at Alpine. That started when he was asked to be a Shepherd for a class taught by another teacher. When that teacher wasn’t able to continue, he was asked if he was interested in teaching. Apprehensive at first, he said yes thinking he didn’t know if he knew enough about the Bible stories to teach. Curt discovered he enjoyed it and has been doing it ever since. Currently he teaches the 4th and 5th grade class. Curt said that his faith is enriched because he reads the lessons in preparation to teach. He then takes the lesson and makes it more understandable for kids. He found teaching the children has led him to a greater understanding of God’s teachings.

You will also find Curt plowing the church properties as he is a part of our snow plow team four years running now. He said that even though they don’t meet together in a traditional group sense, they have a bond. Curt shared that Tim Moore as their leader is good at organizing everyone in shifts so no one becomes too tired. As Curt explains, “It never snows when it’s convenient.” As a team they work together to keep our church properties safe.

Curt’s faith was powerfully impacted when he went on the second trip our church organized to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Pastor Patty Anderson and Laura Widstrom led the team. Curt said, “Being able to help seemed insignificant to me, but meant a lot to the people who lost everything.” He explained that while in Mississippi, a church, through UMCOR, had put up a huge tent for teams coming down to stay in. In the evenings they would have a meal and go the gym to talk, have a meeting and pray. A resident came to one of those evenings to speak. Curt shared that this woman didn’t have a ceiling in her bedroom. She had been looking up in the rafters in her attic. Curt said their job was to put up drywall and paint her new bedroom ceiling. The resident said that evening that she was crying in her bed looking at her ceiling because to her it was as beautiful as the Sistine Chapel. Curt explained that her perspective has stuck with him from that mission trip.

When Curt’s children were young, Pastor Dick Wisdom gathered a small young couples group together, suggesting a book to read and then meet to talk about. Curt said it was a group of couples all starting their families. Since they all had children around the same ages, they gained support from one another and made lasting friendships. Curt said that 10 years later life has taken these families in different directions with moves and changes, yet they have remained life-long friends. He is grateful for the presence that small group has had in his faith journey.

By Beth A. Palm
Getting to Know Hymn; Christmas Angel Project

Getting to Know Hymn
“Thanks To God for My Redeemer”
August Ludwig Storm (1862-1914)

It’s easy to thank God for roses. It is much harder to thank Him for the thorns. This hymn offers a mature approach to thanksgiving, showing appreciation for pain and pleasure, joy and sorrow.

August Storm wrote this hymn in 1891 while still a young man of twenty-nine. He worked for the Salvation Army in Sweden and published this hymn in the organization’s periodical, The War Cry.

Just eight years after writing this hymn, Storm was stricken with a back problem that left him crippled for the rest of his life. He managed to continue his Salvation Army work, and he maintained a thankful spirit even during this most difficult time. If anything, his troubles gave more power and credibility to his sermons and writings.

Thanks to God for my Redeemer, Thanks for all Thou dost provide!
Thanks for times now but a memory,
Thanks for Jesus by my side!
Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime,
Thanks for dark and dreary fall!
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
Thanks for peace within my soul.

Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heavenly peace with Thee!
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks through all eternity!

Taken with permission from
The One Year Great Songs of Faith,
Tyndale House Publishers, 1995

Christmas Angel Project

Our Christmas Angel Project is right around the corner! We currently serve 6 community organizations, and we “gift” over 300 people. As you can imagine, this is quite an undertaking. We really need your help. What you can do:

- Pick up an Angel Tag at a Sunday service starting November 18. We ask that all gifts are returned with the Angel Tag attached by December 9.
- Donate curling ribbon, gift boxes, tissue or medium size gift bags for those awkward sized presents. We have plenty of rolls of wrapping paper, tape, REALLY BIG gift bags and stick-on bows.
- Come and wrap with us! We can’t have enough wrappers. We will wrap an evening this year to accommodate those who work weekdays. Wrapping at CUMC at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 10 and at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11.

This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with fellow church members, share the holiday spirit, and make a positive impact on our community! If you have any questions, please call Teri Reynolds at 815-519-8374.
SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Nursery Child Care is available in the Nursery Room
No Sunday School at this worship hour

9:30 a.m. Worship Hour Alpine Center
• Infants and Toddlers: Nursery Room
  **All children begin in the Sanctuary and are dismissed after Children’s Message**
• Pre-School(4)-Kindergarten—Sunday School Room #7
• 1st Grade—3rd Grade Class—Room #1
• 4th—5th Grade Class (Room #3)

**Every first Sunday of the month, children will start their class downstairs and will come up for communion and return to their SS class.**

9:30 a.m. Worship Hour OMC
• Infants: Nursery
• Pre-School-Kindergarten: Nursery
• 1st-5th Grade: Begin in Sanctuary, dismissed downstairs for Sunday School following the Children’s Message to the Sunday School rooms

11:00 a.m. Worship Hour Alpine Center
• Infants and Toddlers: Nursery Room
• Pre-School(4)-Kindergarten—Sunday School Room 7
• 1st Grade—5th Grade—Sunday School Room #1

SAVE THE DATES!
NOVEMBER
4 All Saints/Sunday School starts downstairs (Alpine 9:30 and 11:00 am services)
  No children’s time
11 Praise Kids/CPR-AED Training
18 Junior Worship/No Children’s time
  Thanksgiving Sunday
22 Thanksgiving Day!
25 No Sunday School

DECEMBER
2 Sunday School starts downstairs (Alpine 9:30 and 11:00 am services) No Children’s time
  OMC Kids and families putting Ornaments
  Family Advent Craft Night
8 Kids and Family’s Caroling at 1pm-5pm
9 Junior Worship/No Children’s time
12 Last Wednesday Programming
15 General Practice at 10:30 am
16 Cantata/No SS-Kids Bulletin/Praise Kids
19 Practice for Christmas Pageant (5pm-6pm)
23 No SS-Kids Bulletin
24 4pm Christmas Eve/
30 No SS
31 New Year’s Eve

https://www.facebook.com/Christumcchildrensministry
Visit our webpage at:
http://www.christumc.cc/ministries/children
November 1
Amanda Beam
Vinny Berg
Lauren Buck
Jackie Dawson
Aaron Johnson
Cindy Kentner
Sandy Smith
Laura Wilson
Hailey Mahnesmith

November 2
Steve Kiley
Tami Rezin
Steve Sipe
Isabelle Biles

November 3
Megan Smick
Charles Frey
Tom Kerr
Lindsay Lundvall
Rachel Powell
Eric Wright

November 4
Marg Arthur
Alannah Beaman
Brooke Corrigan
Morrie Earnest
Steven Johnson
John Leverenz
Steve Randel

November 5
Dave Crane
Jacki Rodgers
Jennifer Harris
Natalie King
Kathy Moore
Christine Woodard
James Wyatt
Lisa Tortorici

November 6
Noah Gustafson
Nikayla King
Leah Raffety
Michael Muller

November 7
Johann Hayag
Amy Hicks
Todd Kennedy
Christine Swanberg

November 8
Abbi Edwards
Megan Finch
Randy Mathews
Tom McLeod
Adam Russell
Alejandro Quinones

November 9
Gail Brady
Lamont Holmertz
Patti Walker

November 10
Karen Greenwood
Amy Kurth
John Murray
Barry Smith

November 11
Judy Cox
Doug Fisher
Laurie Pink
Jim Wood
Andy Kaiser

November 12
Joan Gray
Mitchell Johnson
Steve Oyler
Dagmar Potter

November 13
Ryan Crane

November 14
Jordan Alms
Tom Cox
Connie Croffoot
Phil Dawkins
Shantel Brewer
Emily Kneller
Jeff Layng
Lara McKinney
Marc McKinney

November 15
Riley Martin

November 16
Maureen Cook
Derek Kiley
Bill Lipton
Ellie Murray
Tom Watson

November 17
Chad Blackburn
Terry Groncki
Mike Nelson
Sean Priebe
Suzannah Young

November 18
Emma LaPier
Alvina Stickels

November 19
Julia Holmertz
Jared Jacobsen
Lil Robinson
Mike Steward
Sydney Bowden

November 20
Rhonda Allen
Mark Blazer
Samantha Bielefeldt
Tricia Corrigan
Karen Cox
Lauren Swanson

November 21
Merle Clewett
Dennis McMullen

November 22
Aron Greenland

November 23
William Collins
Richard Evans
Geoffrey Kruse-
Safford
Erinn Kuntz
Jennifer Lundberg
Joan Noonan
William Pierce
Dave Replogle
Kerry Schaible
John Seedoff
Irv Stewart
Arianna Leon

November 24
Dan Copeland
Krina Goss
Gennie Schultz

November 25
Pierce Barker
Anne Beaumont
Bronwyn Geddes
Laura Hagerman
Connie Yates

November 26
Sarah Bruesewitz
Chey Leach
Janet Purkapile

November 27
Jason Busenbark
Kay Cull
Gary Lutes
Linda Marshall

November 28
Pat Benedict
Eric Mede
Dan Lee

November 29
Abby Bednar
Ann Frankenberg
Jean Garner
Nancy Cleburn
Bruce Lauher
Benjamin Mayer

November 30
Daniel Harris
Megan Schoff
Wanda Schroeder
Anniversaries; The Church is People

Happy Anniversary

November 1
Michael and Donna Hayes

November 2
Tony and Beckie Dzik

November 4
Duncan and Kris Geddes

November 5
Kerry and Karen Keller
Matt and Suzannah Young

November 6
Earl and Arlene Williams

November 7
Rich and Lisa Jewell
Emily and Dan Keeley
Jim and Mary Seigfreid

November 9
Martin and Linda Lurvey

November 10
Joann and Bob Turner

November 11
Kim and Chris Stender

November 13
Amy and Noel Nickel

November 14
Amy and Michael Taylor

November 16
Don and Gennie Schultz

November 17
George and Jean Garner
Robert and Hazel O’Quinn

November 20
Jonathan and Mildred Hayag

November 21
William and Jacki Rodgers

November 23
Krina and David Goss
Derek and Jenny Hunter
Tom and Kay Schwalbach

November 24
Cliff and Joan Gray
Martha and Byron Janke

November 25
Jeff and Christine Swanberg

November 27
Carlton and Jan Rittweger

November 29
Charlie and Joanne Last

The Church is People

Weddings:
Emily Mouri, daughter of David and Sharon Mouri, married William Mortimer on Oct. 6

Baptisms:
Henry Joseph Keeley, son of Dan and Emily Keeley, grandson of Jeff and Jean Kearney, on Oct. 7

Jonathan Paul LaPier, son of Erik and Jennifer LaPier, on Oct. 21

Addison Jade and Hadley Marie Rezin, daughters of Phillip and Amanda Rezin, on October 28

Brielle June Rezin, daughter of Jenae Rezin and Michael Cornely, on October 28

Sympathy:
Family and friends of Laura I. Sireci, mother of Virg Wilson, on September 17

Mary Eesley and Pastor Jane Eesley on the death of Mary’s sister, Barby

Sharon and David Mouri and family on the death of David’s mother, Martha, on September 30

Jack and Barb Hansen and family on the death of Jack’s brother, on September 30

Harold Hawes and Lois Kretschmer on the death of Eileen Bellerud, Lois’ sister and Harold’s sister-in-law

Tom and Nicky Danielson and Kathy Moore, on the death of Tom and Kathy’s sister, Judy Snyder, on Oct. 11. Cousin of Sue Van Grove and Tim Budden

Family and friends of Elaine Johnson, who died on October 20 in Florida

Bruce and Gloria Lauher on the death of Gloria’s sister

Amy and Noel Nickel and family on the death of Amy’s father, David Boeselager

Merv and Ruth Huckstep and family on the death of Merv’s brother, Moe, on October 23 in Florida

Priscilla Carr and family on the death of her husband, Keith Carr, on October 26
Thank You

- From Phyllis Smerke
  Thank you to everyone for their prayers and support during Ed’s illness and following his death. Thanks to all who have donated to Ed’s memorial fund and to the UMW women who served the funeral lunch.

- From Tom Danielson
  On behalf of my sister Kathy Moore, my wife Nicky, and myself, we would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, calls, and messages upon the death of our sister, Judy Snyder. They all helped get us through a very difficult time. Thank you and God Bless all of you!

Children’s Clothing/Winter Coat Collection
October 21—November 25
The Outreach Committee will be collecting children’s clothing and winter coats, used or gently worn. There is a labeled cabinet for these items at Alpine Center and a bin at Our Master’s Center. The coats will be taken to the refugee resettlement program and the clothing to St. Elizabeth’s Center.

Help Needed for Court Street UMC Thanksgiving Dinner
Plans are underway for the free Thanksgiving dinner for the lonely and homeless at Court Street UMC. This is an opportunity for members of our congregations to work together to serve the needy. Court Street UMC is at 215 N. Court Street. The dinner will be Thursday, November 22—11:00 am –1:00 pm.

Donations needed: 30 baked pies (store baked or frozen) and cash donations to Court Street UMC. (Mark Court St. Thanksgiving Dinner in the memo line)

Volunteers are needed: Phone Bert at 815-724-6065 if you can help on any of these dates: November 19, 20, 21, 22 (Thanksgiving Day), or 23. If there is leftover food, it will be shared with other programs serving the poor and hungry in our community. For more information call Court Street UMC at 815-962-6061.

Listening sessions on proposed changes to Discipline on human sexuality

A special session of the 2016 General Conference will be held Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis to consider a commission’s report on changes to the UM Discipline regarding human sexuality and the church. The elected delegates will vote on the three options for change developed by the commission. One or more other options will probably be proposed. The Council of Bishops is recommending the “One Church Plan.” The report is over 90 pages; these are extremely brief summaries of the options in the report.

1. The One Church Plan provides for more local autonomy on same sex marriage and ordination of active practicing homosexuals. These are now forbidden by church law.
2. The Traditionalist Plan seeks no change in the Book of Discipline but strengthens enforcement.
3. The Connectional-Conference Plan creates a system of three connectional-conferences that each annual conference can choose to affiliate with on the basis of their positions on LGBTQ issues.

You can search the Internet for more information. Use the phrase special session of general conference umc or try other key words.

Listening and conversation sessions
The Northern Illinois Conference general/jurisdictional delegation will be holding listening and conversation sessions:
November 10
9:00 a.m.—Elgin District, Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington 60010
1:00 p.m.—Aurora District, Bethany of Fox Valley, 2200 Ridge Ave., Aurora 60504

2018 Annual Church Conference
Monday, December 3, 7:00 pm
in the Dining Room, Alpine Center
Please mark your calendar for this important annual meeting, presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford. All members are encouraged to attend.
Sunday, November 25, is Christ the King Sunday. On this last Sunday of the Christian year, we prepare spiritually for the beginning of the church year, which happens on December 2, the first Sunday of Advent. So we will spend Christ the King Sunday reflecting upon the seasons of the gospel before beginning to move through them the following Sunday.

Held at the regular service times at both Alpine Center and Our Master’s Center, the service will be structured similarly to a regular traditional service, with call to worship, singing led by a choir, prayers and offering. The difference is that the service will lead us through the entire Christian year, from Advent, through Christmas and Christmastide, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Eastertide, Pentecost, and Christ the King.

The service will move through all of the seasons, with scriptures, singing, and brief explanations of each. It’s an exciting opportunity to learn more about the themes and emphases of the Christian faith throughout the year.

We are looking for choir singers, middle school age and up, to join the choir at any of the 3 services at Alpine Center to help lead familiar hymns from each season of the Christian year. You are welcome to sing at the service(s) of your choice. Please contact Jody at church (815-399-5910) if you are interested in being a part of the choir, to get more information, to sign up or to get a list of the hymns. There will not be a rehearsal. This would be a fun intergenerational singing opportunity.
Don Black was raised in the Methodist church – literally.

As a boy he lived with his aunt and uncle, who was the custodian of an Evangelical United Lutheran (German Methodist) church in Wichita Falls, Texas. Until he was in the sixth grade, Don helped his uncle after school, on weekends and during the summers.

“I remember washing the tiny communion glasses, dusting, and winding the clock every week,” he said during an interview.

He and his sister moved to southwest Kansas in 1951 to live with a new stepfather – also a Methodist – and a new stepbrother, who was his age. His mother had been a waitress before the marriage. The two boys helped their father in his construction and paint business.

Don has served Methodist churches in almost every capacity … from greeter to lay leader to chairman of the administrative board.

At Christ United Methodist Church most people have seen him usher, teach Bible study classes and ring handbells.

Don and Suzy, his wife, went on the church’s mission trip to Africa in 2008, with the late Rev. Patty Anderson.

They came to Christ UMC when Suzy became manager of the emergency department at Rockford Memorial Hospital. She retired this year from St. Anthony’s School of Nursing after teaching there 12 years.

Suzy moved to Rockford first while Don was selling their house near Grand Rapids, Mich., where she also had been an ER manager.

She “shopped around” and then took Don to CUMC. He concurred, and they have been attending the 9:30 a.m. service about 15 years.

Don has been an editor at newspapers in Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Iowa and Illinois.

In 1997 he retired as a journalism professor at Western Illinois University in Macomb. He had been editor of the Macomb Journal before teaching. Don also did time on two radio stations as a news editor in Scottsbluff, Neb., and Macomb.

(Continued on page 8)
Fall Craft Night at Alpine Center on October 10
The children kicked off fall with a colorful craft night. With help from moms, dads, and other helpers, many homes were brightened with their fall creations.

Fall Bash was held on October 7 at Our Master’s Center
What could be better than an opportunity for families to spend time together? Everyone had a great time at Our Master’s Center. This year there was a pumpkin decorating contest in addition to all the other fun activities: games, face painting and snacks.
2018 Crop Walk Team

Back row: Sandy Welte, Steve Oyler, Jane Reuber, Pastor Jane Eesley
Front row: Holly Sweeney, Judy Schultz, Kyra Murray
Christ UMC raised nearly $3,000 to help alleviate hunger in our community and around the world.

Remember when…
As the historian team sorts through our archives, watch for this spot occasionally in The Flame as they uncover pictures from the past for us to enjoy.

Christ UMC’s First Confirmation Class
Pictured above is the first confirmation class at CUMC. This picture was taken on May 25, 1958. The pastor at that time was Ralph Miller. The class members were: Jim Benedict, Tim Fitzmaurice, Dan Johnson, Tim Johnson, Melinda Miller, Carol Rasmussen, Keith Stelter, Jr., Trudy Timm. (Note: The names of those in the class do not necessarily match the order in the picture above.)