

Some time when the river is ice ask me mistakes I have made. Ask me whether what I have done is my life. Others have come in their slow way into my thought, and some have tried to help or to hurt: ask me what difference their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

- *Ask Me*, William Stafford

Do you know what you are meant to do and who you are meant to be? I remember one afternoon at a retreat home two years ago when I reflected on my ordained life in a small group conversation. I felt like I made it half-way, as I had completed 15 years of full-time pastoring by then. I shared my hope to serve more with God-given gifts for the second half of my pastoral leadership beyond the local church. I did not mean to live a busier life or “occupy myself with things too great for me,” as the psalmist said (psalm 131). I meant to live my vocation not by my willfulness with ambitious goals to be this and do that but by listening to my life - “a life that is different from the “I” of daily consciousness; a life that is trying to live through the “I” who is its vessel,” in Parker Palmer’s words. We are more than our roles, titles, and daily activities. There is a true life waiting to be expressed and acknowledged within us, a life larger than ourselves.

Living through another season of coldness and long nights, I hope we remember the life sustained underneath the ground, the current flowing below the frozen river. In the harshness of winter, I hope we learn to be humble and know our limits and weaknesses. I hope we are not afraid to take a downward journey to see the darkness and brokenness in us and our world because, without that spiritual journey, we cannot find our way out to the light. I hope we discover that there is a hidden wholeness in all things. That whole life is what our loving creator gifted us, all of us, as our birth-right.

Blessings & Peace,



Pastor Mi-Sook Yoo

February 2025 Newsletter



In a divided and polarized world, how can we embrace the brokenness of ourselves and others and journey together toward the hidden wholeness of an undivided life?

February 2
Communion Sunday
“A Larger Welcome”
The Transformative
Power of Hospitality
Genesis 18:1-15

***Warm Your Hearts Bake Sale**

February 9
“Habits of Hope”
Cultivating Practices for
Resilience & Connection
1 Corinthians 12:12-26

***Meal Packing day at MCC**

February 16
“Holding Life’s Tensions”
Fostering Connection &
Compassion
John 5:1-18

***Friendship Dinner**
Sat, Feb 22

February 23
“Letting Go of Fear to
Embrace Abundant Life”
1 John 4:7-21



February Birthdays

Mike Kefauver 2/3
 Phil Stallone 2/3
 Mi-Sook Yoo 2/13
 Caitlin Agabin 2/14
 Alison Blackmore 2/14
 Terry Burke 2/14
 Joe Greenwood 2/16
 Maylo Hranac 2/16
 Judith A Brooke 2/17
 Cathy Blackmore 2/18
 Everette Gustafson 2/18
 Moose Larocco 2/20
 Jean Jaderborg 2/22
 Sue Pedersen 2/17

February Anniversaries

Richard & Judith
 Brooke 2/12

 Hanh & Katherine
 Le 2/14

If you are celebrating your birthday and/or anniversary this month, but do not see your name, please call the office and let us know.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Contact each group leader or call/email the church office to join the conversation. Check the weekly e-news or your leader's email for their in-person and zoom meetings.

Spirituality Group, Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Linda Mullen *mullen520@comcast.net*

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Lisa Greenwood *lisajogreenwood@yahoo.com*

Men's Group, Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

Bryan Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Warm Your Hearts Bake Sale Sunday, Feb 2 Following Service

Attention, rev up your ovens and dust off your soup pot, the 2nd annual Warm Your Heart and Soul Bake Sale is getting closer! Sunday, February 2nd is the date. Tired of baking? How about donating a meal basket? For example, a jar of pasta sauce, box of pasta and rolls or bread sticks in a basket for a meal? Last year we had dried, canned and frozen soups, bread, corn bread muffins and much more. Also baskets of chili, chicken casserole and pasta meal ingredients. Let's get creative! We also will take traditional baked goods - cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.

Summoned to Serve MCC Feb 9 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for our second annual meal-packing event with First UMC, Crystal Lake for Kids Around The World! Together, we'll pack an incredible 80,000 meals to make a big impact. Prepare for a day filled with energy, teamwork, and the joy of serving others! Keep an eye on the E-news to sign up. Childcare will be available for kids age 5 and under.

Traveling Tea Party

Do you love to visit people and listen to their stories? Do you have a heart for our seniors? The Nurturing Team is prayerfully considering forming a group of people who can visit our church family seniors every two months. We hope these visits will be a time of fellowship with simple treats and sharing communion (with pre-blessed elements). If you are interested, please join us for a training meeting on Sunday, March 2, following service.

Pillowcase Sew Along Monday, Feb 10 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Join us in sewing whimsical pillowcases to be delivered to children in our local hospitals. "Helping Children & Families Feel Better to Heal Better". Pre-cut fabric kits for cases & borders will be provided. Sewing machines will be available. Your additional portable sewing machines are always welcomed! The Praying Stitchers monthly meeting will be held Feb 10 from 1-1:30 preceding the sew-along.

Friendship Dinner Saturday, Feb 22 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for an evening of fun. Our youth will be serving you dinner. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Serving starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advanced. Proceeds will benefit our youth program.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sunday School Class 🍀🍀🍀 10:15 a.m.

We are now offering in person Sunday School for children. After Children's Time during worship, the children will be dismissed to the Sunday School room. If you have any questions or would like to teach the class, please contact Mindy Zeppo at mamcall27@yahoo.com.

Praise, Pizza and Paint Party 🍀🍀🍀 Saturday, March 15 🍀🍀🍀 3-6 p.m.

Kids Drop-Off Event for the parents (of course, parents are always more than welcome to stay). Come and enjoy a guided paint party, pizza and some games! This event is open to the public, so please bring friends.

Youth Group 🍀🍀🍀 Sunday, Feb 9 & 23 🍀🍀🍀 4 p.m.

Come meet your friends and learn and share a great time of fellowship! The Youth will serve at the Friendship Dinner on Feb 22. This will be a great service opportunity. Please talk to Ms. Debbie to participate

Confirmation Class 🍀🍀🍀 Sunday, Feb 9 & 23 🍀🍀🍀 5 p.m.

Youth in 7th grade and up are invited to join this journey to learn more about God and faith.

Save the Dates

Sunday, March 2 - Traveling Tea Party Training

Sunday, March 16 - Potluck

Sunday, March 30 - New Member Class

Saturday, April 12 - Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt



Pizza & Games



Youth Group



February Collection



Crystal Lake Food Pantry



**You can drop off gently
used clothes and shoes in
the bin.**

 **Reach
Everyone
with Acts of kindness &
build Communities
of Hope**

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Rev. Mi-Sook Yoo, Pastor
Nisha Waters,
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LET US GIVE

2024 missions report by Michele Linner

FOOD PANTRIES:

Algonquin/LITH Food Pantry food donated 550 lbs. \$990 total food value
Total cash given \$1100

Crystal Lake Food Pantry food donated 400 lbs. \$600 total food value
Total cash given \$1100

Grafton Food Pantry (approx.) food donated 225 lbs. (estimated) \$400 total food
value Total cash given \$ 1100 *Food was not weighed.

Veteran's Path to Hope 200 lbs. \$350 total food value - Total cash given \$192

Toilet Paper Collection 170 lbs - value of \$300

Mini Food Pantry (approx.) food donated 175 lbs. (estimated) \$300 total food value
Total Cash given \$75 *Food was not weighed.

Total donations and food worth = approx. \$5400

FUND-RAISERS: All proceeds went to Mission Fund

Bake Sale – February \$450

Auction for a Cause – April \$1300

Culver's Fund raiser – September \$1300

Craft Sale – October \$1400

Pie Sale – November \$272

Cookie Sale – December \$521

Total money from fund-raisers - \$5300

Giving Tree and Holiday Meals – December 18 x \$30 = \$540 for dinners plus
\$1000 for gift cards (\$ and gifts went to Grafton Township)

Total money for Families in Need (in December) - \$1500

OTHER MISSION ACTIVITIES:

Collection for local immigrants (Feb – May) – estimated value \$800

Midwest Missions collection in May-June (onesies) estimated value \$100

Backpack/school supplies – estimated value \$700

Total approx. \$1600 in goods donated

OTHER CUMC ACTIVITIES MISSION SUPPORTS:

FMSC (Feed my starving children) 2-3 dates per year

Midwest Mission trip (help with cost and collect items needed)

Kids Around the World (food packing event)

**In addition to the above, \$10,000 was distributed to various charities and
funds.**

**Thank you for being a partner of Christ's ministry
through your generous gifts!**



You can now make all your donations online. Simply visit our website and click the "Online Giving" box on the main page or scan the QR Code on the top. You can also mail the donation to church, use EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) or QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). For any assistance, contact Joe Greenwood, Financial Secretary at josephgreenwood@yahoo.com or 847-458-4698.