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Sign up to receive our weekly e-news through the sign-up form on our website, www.barringtonumc.com.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For the health and safety of our collective community, we are working with our multisite Heath Team to create a safe space for our gatherings. Online worship services can be viewed each Sunday morning on the Barrington UMC and First UMC websites along with their respective Facebook pages. If you wish to receive weekly email communications, please contact communications@barringtonumc.com for Barrington UMC and sorr@barringtonumc.com for First UMC updates.

Barrington United Methodist Church 98 Algonquin Road, Barrington, IL 60010 (847) 836-5540

January Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., closed Friday

Chapel Worship, Sundays at 8:00 a.m. | Suspended

You are invited to be a part of this welcoming, caring community that worships God in an intimate setting. Essential elements of this service include a time of gathering, liturgy, hymns, sermon and a sending forth into the world to live our faith. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Classic Worship, Sundays at 9:30 a.m. | Online Only

Please join us in the soaring, light-filled Sanctuary for this more formal worship experience. Essential elements of this service include a mix of traditional and current hymns, liturgy, organ and choir, sermon and a time for children every Sunday. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Crossroads Worship, Sundays at 11:00 a.m. | Suspended

There is a place for you in this casual, compelling worship service. The relaxed atmosphere invites us to interpret scripture in today's context with challenging questions, a variety of musical genres and an open, interactive format. Communion is celebrated regularly.

Comunidad Cristiana | Christian Community Worship

Online only, Sundays at 4:00~p.m. at Facebook.com/ComunidadCristianaUMC/Trinity Center

1647 Ravine Lane, Carpentersville IL 60110

You and your neighbors are invited to join this emerging worship. Experience Hispanic-style worship with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship elements. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

First UMC of West Dundee 318 W. Main Street, West Dundee, IL 60118

Classic Worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. | Online Only

All are invited to experience this multi-generational blended worship service, which incorporates traditional worship elements like hymns and liturgy with more contemporary elements like thematic altar displays, video and occasional contemporary music selections. There are scripture lessons, a sermon and a time for children every Sunday. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

"Who knows how we'll end up?"

'What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

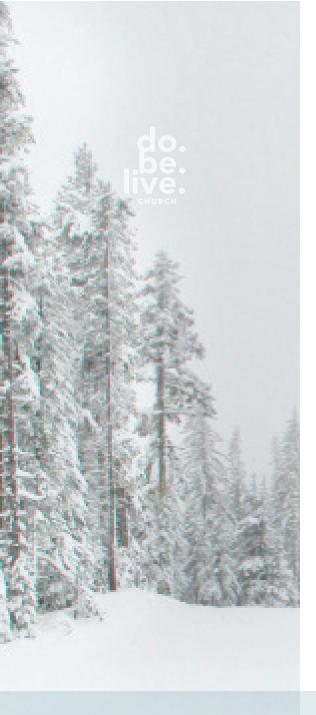
 $^{2-3}$ But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own. -1 JOHN 3: 1-3 from THE MESSAGE

"Who knows how we'll end up?" that is the question John the Evangelist asks in the familiar passage from his first letter. It is likely a question you have pondered in recent days. We are breathing a collective sigh of relief now that vaccines are being distributed, but we know there are many months to go before we can reclaim our old routines. We remain worried about the future of our loved ones, our jobs, our country, this world. We believe we can recover from the emotional, physical and economic havoc wreaked by the pandemic, but we wonder how long it will take.

These fears and uncertainties are certainly present in our churches as well. We believe we will survive 2020 intact because of your faithfulness and because we were able to secure Payroll Protection Program loan/grants and because we underspent our budgets. But what will 2021 bring? Have our attendance habits changed for good? Will people be willing or able to return to their previous level of support? The United Methodist Church will resume its struggles around human sexuality and, soon, we will again be hearing about the likelihood that the Church will split into two or three or more expressions of Methodism.

"Who knows how we will end up?" I wonder what John the Evangelist was thinking about when he wrote those words. I wonder what the persecutions or forces of evil were rising up against the church. The compelling thing about John's argument is that his question is not framed in the negative, rather it is issued as a statement of faith: We are loved by God. We are God's very own children. Through Christ, God

continued on page 2



"Who knows how we'll end up?" continued

has claimed us. Who knows how we will end up? I don't, but I can tell you this: because we belong to Christ we are going to be okay. The best thing we can do is to live as Christ would have us live and let the chips fall where they may.

John is not some foolish, starry-eyed optimist who is oblivious to the trouble around him. Like John, I am convinced that God holds the future in divine hands and that God will never abandon us or let us go. I am convinced that how we act and what we say, and how we embrace the change that is coming will ultimately be a testimony to our faith or lack of it. Let us boldly claim the truth that our God is faithful and trustworthy; our ever-present help in times of trouble. My prayer for 2021 is that it will be the year that we stepped out in faith and never looked back.

I close with this quote from the economist James Altucher who said, "Every day you reinvent yourself. You're always in motion. But every day you decide: forward or backward." As for me and my house, we will look forward with hope!

Rev. Chris Winkler

HOW ARE WE DOING FOR 2021?

Members of Barrington UMC, thank you for your continued support throughout 2020. With your help, we hope to be able to fund our ministries in 2021 at a level consistent with 2020 when we had a budget of \$1.1 million. To date, we have received 124 pledges for a total of \$628,800. Please let us know your level of support so we can plan for the future.

Members of First UMC West Dundee, thank you for continuing to faithfully give to support our operating budget at the same levels you always have even though this has been a year like no other. And thank you for stepping up your mission giving and providing support to those in need through the new pastor's discretionary fund. With your continuing commitment, we hope to be able to support a 2021 budget consistent with that of 2020.



We worship the God of restoration and new beginnings.

With the birth of Christ, we rejoice that hope has been born into our lives once again. Scripture tells us that living in hope is not a passive endeavor. Rather, it is a commitment to step out in faith and to act as co-participants with God in bringing about the change we long to see in our church, our community and the world. Join us as we consider stories from the Bible where the people of faith choose radical hope in the face of uncertainty and times of trial. Some choose fear. We choose hope!



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

On the 3rd Sunday in January, we celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Our anthem for worship that morning, "When the Song of the Angels is Stilled," is a setting by composer Elizabeth Alexander of Howard Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas."

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was raised by his grandmother, who had been enslaved. In 1925, he became an ordained Baptist minister. He was dean of chapel at Howard University and later became the dean of chapel at Boston University, the first black chapel dean in a majority-white university in the United States. Co-founder of the first major U.S. interracial, interdenominational congregation, Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence shaped a generation of civil rights activists.



Thurman mentored Dr. King, and this poem strongly evokes their mutual life callings.

Thurman's powerful text extends the story of Christmas beyond the birth of Christ to include a call for social justice action by Christ followers. "When the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins." This profound truth deserves our attention longer than the few minutes it takes to sing it, so we'll reprint it here.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and the princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brothers,

To make music in the heart.

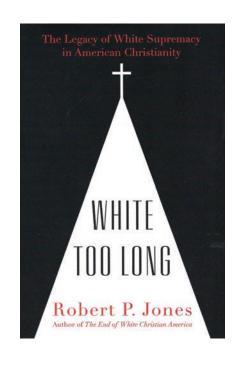
From "The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations" by Howard Thurman. © 1985 by Friends United Press.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Practical Christianity for Men | Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Practical Christianity for Men, the United Methodist Men's study group, has embarked on reading White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity by the award-winning religious writer Robert P. Jones. This study examines what Christians can do to focus on true Christian values while steering clear of some traditional Christian thought supporting the notion that, as the book says, "slavery could flourish alongside the gospel of Jesus Christ." The book contends that many churched Americans have grown up believing that "this arrangement was not just possible but also divinely mandated." Attitudes have changed, but institutional traditions and practices still support racism. This provocative book helps us understand how we can identify bigotry in our everyday lives and work to move our institutions away from these historically acceptable practices.

Led by Mike Rapp, all men are welcome and encouraged to participate in these UMM virtual discussions 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays. For more information, contact John Maxson (jsmaxson@aol.com).



Centering Prayer Group | Fridays, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

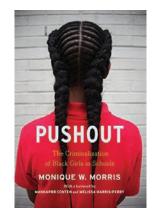
Following a time of centering prayer from 1:30 to 1:50 p.m., the group gathers online for fellowship and a discussion of The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities through Mindfulness by Rhonda Magee.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Penick (cemp@prodigy.net).





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Faith and the Prison Pipeline—Understanding and Interpreting the School to Prison Pipeline | Saturday, January 23, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

A presentation of the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women, a virtual event via Zoom.

The school-to-prison pipeline is a term describing how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions and funneled away from educational success towards the criminal justice system. This is one of the UMW social action priorities and will be the focus of one of our Summer Mission u offerings using the book "Pushout" by Monique Morris. "While for some folks the conversation about the school-to-prison pipeline and school pushout might seem like a new issue, the reality is that it is a continuation of a long-lasting, unfinished struggle for racial justice and educational equity," said Emily Jones, United Methodist Women's Executive for Racial Justice.

All, including women, men and youth, are invited to learn more about this topic. Knowledge can lead to action so that our hope for a better world for all students will become a reality.

Cost is \$5 per person to cover speaker honorarium, tech expenses, etc. The time will include a guest speaker, discussion, music and worship. This event will be recorded (minus breakout sessions). Register online at

https://my.cheddarup.com/c/mission-u-winter-2021

For more information, contact Janeen Hamack, (847) 885-0153 or Linda Osikowicz, Lmosikowicz@comcast.net

United Methodist Women continues to meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 10:00. It is a time to maintain connection with one another. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Osikowicz at Lmosikowicz@comcast.net to get the Zoom link.

We continue to prepare pillows for mastectomy patients at Good Shepherd Hospital. Recipients are so thankful for this small item which helps their recovery. If you would like to tie and/or stuff pillows, contact Norma Jung-Stein at (847) 516-3936 or Linda Osikowicz for details.

We are hopeful that there will be a 2021 Rummage Sale in October. Watch for further information. If you start your spring cleaning early, we would love for you to save your treasures.

FELLOWSHIP

Saturday Spins | 5:00-7:00 p.m.

All are invited each week to experience Pastor Matthew's vast album library and maybe a dance or two! Join with Google Meet: meet.google.com/rzj-wsxd-zif

As always requests are welcome ... send them in here: https://forms.gle/K5BkfWZt8zefbEWV8

January 9 — Bodacious Big Bands

January 16 — A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock N' Roll

January 23 — Inaugural Hit Parade

January 30 — All-Request Party

February 6 — Darling Duets

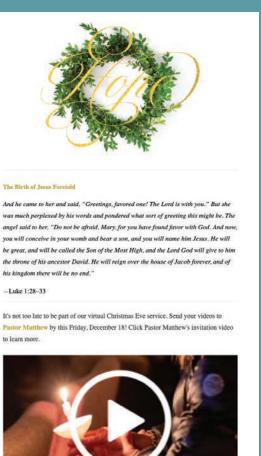
February 13 — A Box of Chocolates

February 20 — It Was A Very Good Year: When I Was 21

Are you missing out on the Thursday newsletter?

If you are receiving Notes of Encouragement but not the Barrington newsletter or special announcements, please check your spam folder for emails from communications@barringtonumc.com.

During the pandemic, many internet service providers tightened up their filters to eliminate emails that don't seem to come from a 'person'. Please allow emails from communications@barringtonumc.com so that you receive all of the announcements!





Our prison ministry supports programs that help recently released prisoners and their families as they make the transition home.

The Outside the Walls Christmas Luncheon was transformed by the pandemic restrictions. Instead of gathering as a large group in the Fellowship Hall of the New Mount Moriah Baptist Church as we usually would, individual meals were given to recently released folks living in halfway houses or in transition. The BUMC missions team doubled our annual monetary donation to help offset the extra costs and we also reached out to the amazing Multisite Mask Making Team who provided 205 adult masks as well as over 50 children's masks which Bill Bible delivered. Thanks to everyone who sewed!

We provide personal hygiene supplies to the men and women in Nicasa Behavioral Health Services' halfway houses and group programs in Lake County. Thank you to everyone who provided the travel size toiletries, shaving supplies or feminine hygiene products that Bill was able to deliver at the end of November. Thanks to everyone who shared!









Reverend Tommie Johnson at New Moriah Baptist Church

"Here are a few pictures from when I delivered the masks to Tommie Johnson. There were about 265 masks in total. His living room was filled with all sorts of things that he was taking down to the church on Thursday. He called me after the event and expressed his gratitude for all of money and masks that we had donated. The event was a great success and they had people entering the church single file and spaced properly to get their gift and meals. The local police captain and some of his men were there to help also. Tommie's wife took the picture of the two of us."

−Bill Bible







We provided **Christmas Gifts for children** whose families might not be able to provide a celebration, especially in this year.

First UMC West Dundee provided 26 gifts for young children whose families or foster families are in relationship with Kids Above All, the United Methodist Agency that supports foster kids, foster families, young adults learning to live on their own, and young families learning to parent.

Barrington UMC provided 64 gifts to Kids Above All, 17 gifts to families served by the District 220 Early Learning Center, and additional funding for Kids Above All. We celebrate that this program was oversubscribed this year and we plan to offer online sign ups even after we return to in-person worship. Thanks to everyone who helped!







We provided 244 treat packages for deployed army personnel through the **Treats for Troops** program this year. A socially distanced packing day was held on Sunday, December 20 to fill bags with personal hygiene items, specially selected snacks, and thank you notes signed and decorated by our young people. These packages let soldiers deployed far from home know that they are remembered. Thanks to everyone who donated!



The Geneva Warehouse of the Northern Illinois Food Bank supplies food pantries across a thirteen county area. Within the population they serve, 1 in 14 persons and 1 in 11 children struggle with hunger. On Wednesday, December 2 and again on Tuesday, December 15 teams of volunteers from our multisite ministry helped pack thousands of pounds of food to feed hundreds of families suffering from food insecurity. Thanks to everyone who joined the team!

The warehouse is large, the work is socially distanced, the need is great, and you are invited to help. Our next serving dates are: Wednesday, January 6, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., and Tuesday, January 19, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. You can sign up online at **barringtonumc.com/NIFB** or contact Pat Ziebart, psziebart@gmail.com, if you have any questions.





Our **Carpentersville Community Meal** now serves over 200 meals each month to about fifty families. Families have begun to sign up as soon as our form becomes available reflecting both increasing food insecurity and the high quality, protein-rich nature of the food we prepare each month. Despite increasing food donations, our costs have increased both by the number of meals and also the packaging required. Our congregations have strongly supported this mission with monetary donations large and small, and those who cook and serve have shown great dedication to feeding our neighbors. Thank you to everyone who has helped provide food and fellowship!











Staff at the Elgin Mental Health Center receive part of the United Methodist Men's gifts for patients.

When members of the BUMC United Methodist Men heard that patients at the **Elgin Mental Health Center** might not receive a gift for Christmas, they responded with donations. Many patients at the state operated facility have no family and friends so UMM members donated new sweaters, watches, slippers, sweat suits, and other things valued by patients who live at the facility. This will ensure a meaningful Christmas celebration for everyone. Thanks to everyone who saw the need!

Again this Christmas, we participated in the Heifer Living Gifts Market. Many of you donated and quite a few folks sent Christmas Cards to let people know that a gift was given in their honor. The Heifer project provides training in animal husbandry and animals to families who commit to pass the gift along to their neighbors helping to bring whole communities out of poverty. Thanks to everyone whose gift will bring hope!





Hurricanes devastated our **Growing Hope** development project in Nicaragua. With your gifts to the Christmas Offering, you've already begun the rebuilding process. Thank you for choosing hope!

Our **Ottawa-Barrington Growing Project** has been supporting sustainable development work in the Carazo Department of Nicaragua since 2015. Our on the ground partner CIEETS has been supported in this work by Church World Service, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Growing Hope Globally since 2005. They are now on their third community project in the area.

"They are working on conservation agriculture, planting fruit trees and patio gardens, gaining access to clean water, community advocacy, and coordinating with churches to be active in programs that build food security."

In April of 2018, political violence broke out in Nicaragua and continued for over a year. Throughout that time, CIEETS continued working with communities helping them to diversify their crops to adapt to climate change, building infrastructure for clean water, and adding poultry and beekeeping to the local economy. CIEETS also added peace-building workshops to help communities cope.



In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, the Atlantic hurricane was the most active on record generating 30 named storms. The 30th storm, Iota, was a Category 5 hurricane, the first to form in November in 88 years. It devastated Central America less than 2 weeks after Eta, a Category 4 hurricane, had wreaked havoc across nearly the same area. Two devastating storms back to back created incredible flash flooding. Rivers overflowed taking out infrastructure and leaving people homeless in shelters during the worst pandemic in a century.

The losses were devastating. Because it hit in November, communities lost 90% of their crops right before the harvest. Most of the sanitation systems were destroyed and the wells were filled with mud and sludge. Members of the community were swept away by the rapidly flowing water.

CIEETS, in partnership with CWS, UMCOR and Growing Hope Globally, will stay with these communities and help them rebuild. Because so much training has already been done, the communities are resilient. They have already learned what they can do and have experienced the outcomes. AND, they have partners who are committed to helping them rebuild. They have partners who are not going to walk away. They have hope. They have you.

Our 2020 Christmas offering was designated for this effort. Together we've donated \$5,600 to date. Thank you!





Our youth tied lap blankets as gifts for the residents of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Palatine. Jo Anne Rapp provided the materials and gift bags and our youth included a card with each of the 16 blankets. *Thanks for remembering those who came before!*



As food insecurity in our community increases, the need for the services of **FISH Food Pantry** continues to grow, and we continue to help. There have been many generous monetary donations from our members this Advent and the families of Noah's Ark Christian Academy continue to donate groceries almost daily. Thanks to everyone who has offered up fishes and loaves!









ILLINOIS SESQUICENTENNIAL HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Barrington United Methodist Church Receives Historic Recognition

The Illinois State Historical Society has recognized the Barrington United Methodist Church as an Illinois Sesquicentennial House of Worship. Churches across the state that have served their congregations continuously for at least 150 years are eligible. The recognition leads to the church's history being recorded at the Society as well as at the Illinois State Library for use by future researchers.

Sam Oliver, a long-time Barrington resident and BUMC's historian, explains, "The church was founded shortly after the Blackhawk War by settlers in 1840. The congregation first met in a stone school-house which was located at the corner of Bateman and Algonquin Roads. Growth required more space so subsequently larger buildings were needed. By 1930 the congregation was housed in its fourth church building, a classic landmark structure at 310 Hough Street, but this building



burned in 1998 and a new church was constructed south of town. Coincidently, our current church building is not far from the site of our first church building, built in 1853."

The mission of the Illinois State
Historical Society is to foster awareness,
understanding, research, preservation,
and recognition of history in Illinois.
Founded in 1899 to support the Illinois
State Historical Library, the Society is
a not-for-profit organization which
depends solely on membership dues,
gifts, bequests, and foundation grants to
support, preserve, and disseminate the
story of Illinois and its people.



BARRINGTON UNITED CHURCH

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First UMC West Dundee

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