

THE SANCTUARY

An open and affirming church where God is still speaking.



APRIL 2026

This month, we reflect on the ways our spiritual lives are nourished. Whether through reading scripture or connecting with others, we will ask a simple question: *What does it mean to feel spiritually fulfilled?*

In April, we continue to deepen our relationships with our “web of ministry”. All of our guest pastors are familiar faces, and each brings us a unique perspective and worship experience.

Office hours will continue to be Fridays from 11 AM to 1 PM. For all other inquiries outside of office hours, the office can be reached remotely via email. For pastoral care needs, please contact Moderator Krista Kim.

See you in church.

BEYOND THE SANCTUARY

Ways We're Gathering This Month

✦ MONDAY, 4.13
Church Council Meeting
7:00 PM

✦ WEDNESDAY, 4.15
**Spiritually Seeking
Book Club**
6:30 PM

✦ SUNDAY, 4.19
Still Speaking Prayer Circle
9:15 AM

✦ **Church of the Wild:**
📍 Silverwood Park
*Following worship

AS ALWAYS...

Keep up with our news via our email announcements! If you do not receive our emails, please contact officecucc@gmail.com.

As a reminder, nobody from our church will ever solicit money or gifts via email - if you receive a request that seems suspicious, please reach out to the office.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

*Sunday worship begins weekly at 10 AM.
Childcare is available and Sunday School is
in session weekly unless otherwise noted in
the announcements.*

✦ SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Reverend Kathleen Remund
Liturgist: Tammy Campbell
Steward: Julie Norland

✦ SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**Creation Care Sunday
(Lay-Led)**

Liturgist: Julie Norland
Steward: Mary Lou Behring

✦ SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Reverend Shelby Jeidy
Liturgist: Mary Lou Behring
Steward: *volunteer needed*

*Please note: Regular live-streaming
of worship service has been
postponed. Please contact Krista
Kim if you or someone you know
relies on the live stream.*

APRIL THEME: SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

From Director of Ministry & Education Jill Sanderson

This April, we will explore the theme of Spiritual Nourishment.

Just as our bodies need food; our hearts and souls need care, connection, and meaning. Throughout the month, we will reflect on where we find that nourishment, especially through the rhythms of Easter and the stories that follow.

- On Easter Sunday, we begin with hope: the surprise of the empty tomb and the reminder that new life can emerge even in moments of emptiness and uncertainty.
- The following week, we turn to peace, as the risen Christ meets the disciples with words that calm fear and restore their spirits: "Peace be with you."
- During our Earth Day and Creation Care service, we explore connection to one another, to God, and to the Earth that sustains us, recognizing that we are nourished together in the breaking of bread.
- Finally, we reflect on love through the image of the Good Shepherd, whose voice calls us by name and leads us toward abundant life.

Together, these values we share - Hope, Peace, Connection, and Love - invite us to consider how God nourishes us, and how we, in turn, are called to nourish one another and the world around us.

For ways to take home this month's theme, read on - and follow us on Facebook for even more.

"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."

John 4:14

FEEDING THE SOUL: SMALL BITES

What if nourishment didn't have to be big?

- Instead of reaching for the phone or turning on the TV after waking, spend 3-5 minutes with silence. Let your thoughts come and go without chasing them.
- Schedule a block of time for reading a short passage of sacred or meaningful text each day (scripture, poetry)
- Send a text to a friend, just because.
- Step outside for five minutes
- At the end of each day, name 3 things that sustained you - big or small.

REFLECTIONS FOR JOURNALING & PRAYER

Take what you need, leave the rest.



Once a day, ask: What am I carrying right now? What do I need?

God of life, I come to you as I am. Fill the empty places in me with your love, feed my spirit with what is true. Help me receive what I need today.



What helps me feel restored? How can I make space for that every day?

God of renewal, when I feel worn down breathe new life into me. Restore my energy, my compassion and help me begin again.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: FEEDING OUR HUNGRY HEARTS

This month, our children will be exploring what it means to have hungry hearts - and how God lovingly feeds and nourishes us with what we need most to feel cared for, strengthened, and whole. Each week, we will focus on a simple, meaningful way our hearts are nourished:

Hope: On Easter, children will hear the story of the empty tomb and discover that even when things feel empty or confusing, hope is still alive.

Peace: Through the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples, children will learn that kind and gentle words like “Peace be with you” can help calm our hearts.

Connection: During our Earth Day celebration, children will explore how we are connected to one another, to God, and to the Earth that feeds and sustains us.

Love: In stories and activities, children will discover how we both receive love from the world around us and share love with others, feeding not only our own hearts, but the hearts of those around us.

Through stories, simple activities, and shared moments, children will be invited to notice how hope, peace, connection, and love help fill their hungry hearts and how they can offer those same gifts to others.



ACTIVITIES FOR HOME

Hope - At dinner go around the table and share:
“What gave you hope today?”

Peace- At bedtime: “Peace be with you”

Connection - Step outside and notice how the Earth cares for us. For example, “We can pick up this bottle rolling around to care for our Earth.” or “The rain is watering all the plants and flowers that need it to grow this spring.”

Love - Anytime: “I love you,”
“You have so many wonderful gifts for this world,”
“You are loved, just as you are.”
Place a hand over our own heart and repeat it to yourself, too.



LET US PRAY

Loving God,
Thank you for this day and for all the good things you give us.

Feed our hearts with your love, and fill our minds with your peace. Help us grow strong on the inside: kind, brave and full of joy.

When we feel empty or tired, remind us you are always with us.

Like food helps our bodies grow, your love helps our spirits grow.

Amen.



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PRAYERS

If you have a prayer request, you're invited to share it with us.

Requests may be submitted via the church office, during Sunday worship, or a prayer request form located in the sanctuary.

Prayers can be included beyond our worship service in newsletters and announcements upon request so we can lift one another up in prayer as a faith community.

In the event of a need for urgent pastoral care, Moderator Krista Kim or the church office are equipped to facilitate communication with former Interim Pastor Tiff Bates.

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

-St. Augustine

BIRTHDAYS

April 3 Bruce Morris
April 4 Brecken Smerchek
April 12 Kathleen Matson
April 17 Michele Ninmer
April 21 Joyce Morris
April 21 Eliza Tronnes

THANK YOU

Special thank you to our Moderator Krista Kim for helping our worship services flow smoothly so far this year! We are so grateful for all of our worship volunteers, treat bringers and all who offer to help serve our congregation: inside and outside of the church.

Thank you for reading! If you would like your newsletters delivered to your home address, please reach out to officecucc@gmail.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Krista Kim
Ministry/Education: Jill Sanderson
Vice-Moderator/Treasurer: Tracy Tronnes
Worship Life: Mary Lou Behring
Trustees: Bruce Morris

CONTACT

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:
Fridays from 11 AM to 1 PM

*Please note: Our member and leadership contact information is kept private from documents viewable by the general public. If you are a member and would like to get in touch with a member of leadership, please contact the office.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday, February 9, 2026

Our mission: To strengthen our Christian values and lives, for all people through faith, fellowship, and youth.

Present: Krista Kim, Jill Sanderson, Bruce Morris, Tracy Tronnes, Matt Thies

1. Call to order – Krista shared a contemplative reading.
2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from January were approved. Bruce/motion; Tracy/second

1. Committee Reports

2. **Treasurer's report:** Peanut fellowship funds were received into the operating account and the capital fund account. These are welcome additions to both funds.
3. **Trustees' report:**
 - Rachel Bynum attended the meeting today with interest in becoming a Trustee. This is a Council appointed position since we are past the annual meeting elections. Bruce/motion to appoint Rachel to fill an open position that has one year remaining to retain member rotation schedule. Matt/second Approved.
 - Bruce was elected Chair and Rachel was elected secretary. Vicki Morris will continue as bookkeeper.
 - Painting in the sanctuary is being completed by Eric Kim. Walls are being painted, not the ceiling.
 - Remaining windows have been ordered for the replacement project. Once completed all windows will have been replaced.
4. **Worship Life:** Mary and Lynn are changing paraments.

1. Staff Reports

1. Ministry Engagement/Education

- Planning a summer family “camp” in June. Starting on Friday evening with preparation of picnic for Saturday. Saturday activity will include fishing. No overnight. Considering fish fry for Sunday.
- Planning for themes coordinating Sunday school and Sunday services with guest pastors occurs several months in advance.
- April 5 (Easter) an Easter egg hunt will be held.
- May 24 is confirmation and Baccalaureate Sunday. Yeti is graduating and we are considering an ad in the yearbook honoring her.
- Considering selling popcorn for Friday Night Markets and Tobacco Heritage Days.
- Considering how to recognize extensions of faith of our congregation, including participation in Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Meals on Wheels, community contributions from peanut fundraising.

1. Old Business

Confirmed annual meeting minutes have been sent to the office.

1. New Business

- Lent/Easter: Consider moving communion to Maundy Thursday instead of Easter Sunday. Barb Well is preaching on Easter. A Lenten book study is planned for Wednesdays if there is enough interest.
- Website: Krista, Kathleen, Jill, and Gary will continue working to update the website.
- Profile: Tracy/motion to close profile until 12/31/26 and then revisit. Second/Jill. Discussed adding this topic to our December Council meeting to prepare for any annual meeting discussion. Approved.
- MOW: Currently scheduled for March 23 – April 5. Due to lack of volunteers, we may want to reconsider our participation in this project. To be discussed further at a later Council meeting. If we decide to exit, we will need to notify The Care Center in early fall.
- Baptism/New & Transferring Member Recognition: Baptism of three is scheduled for March 8. Jill and Krista will determine if member recognition will be done at the same service.
- Council meeting time: Consider meeting after church instead of Mondays. No decision made.
- Safety/Emergency Procedures: Matt and Jill will continue to evaluate safety procedures encompassing Sunday school.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Tracy Tronnes