

February/March 2023



Communion

A Bimonthly Newsletter from The Community Church of Barrington



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The time has flown so fast, it is hard to believe it has only been a year. On the other hand, the warm welcoming spirit of this community has made us feel like we have always been home here. I cannot tell you what a blessing that has been for me and my family.

Looking back on the past year, here are some highlights that stand out:

- **Bringing Back Social Gatherings.** I was beginning to worry I would lose weight in Illinois. Turns out those worries were unfounded due to the cookies of coffee hour and pot-luck casseroles. Although those gatherings were nourishing to the body, perhaps the most spiritually nourishing element to return has been the “Passing of the Peace” during worship. Whether through hugging, hand shaking, or a pleasant non-contact greeting, it has been a blessed time of connecting with one another.
- **The Kids’ Table.** I love the Kids’ Table. I love that there is a dedicated group of volunteers who are willing and excited to teach. I love that we have something to offer families each week. But, what I love most is that this idea was a creative way of solving a problem. When we only have one child, we cannot have Children's Church in a separate room due to the “rule of three” safety guideline. But, instead of canceling the program altogether, we devised the Kids’ Table solution. Love it.
- **Mindful-Lent.** I was so honored to share some of the mindfulness training I have done and bring meditation and prayerfulness into the Sunday School room. I also loved the graphic interpretations of the Lenten journey done by Miss Alayne. I look forward to more contemplation and more art during our *God’s Gifts of Imperfection series this Lent*.
- **Hot Sauce Pentecost.** Speaks for itself.
- **175th Anniversary Sunday.** The fact that my first year would be the church’s 175th Anniversary year was a bit daunting at first. However, the community stepped up to the task of making it special with an article in Quintessential Barrington, a lovely series of services, and a festival-like party to commemorate the occasion.

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- **Christmas Cookie Sunday.** What started as an idea in the mind of Cindy Alton to bring back one of CCB's most-beloved traditions blossomed into a fully-formed family-friendly Sunday. Truly one of the most special days of the past year, Cookie Sunday was a wonderful (and filling) way to approach the Christmas Season together.

- **Sermon Titles.** Finally, here are some of my favorite sermon titles from this past year in case you missed them:

1. Fishing for Complements (*sic*)
2. Reversal of Misfortune
3. On Sundays, We Wear Pink!
4. Go Ahead, Fill Up on Bread
5. How are Christians like M&Ms?

~Pastor Chris



Upcoming Family Sunday

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

February 19th - 10:30 a.m.



Community Church of Barrington
Corner of Lincoln and S. Grove Ave.
847.381.1294 ~ ccbarrington.org



Marching ~ Beads ~ King Cakes ~ Paczkis & More

Moderator's Update



I may be wrong, but February can be a confusing month. We're surrounded by hearts and flowers, but as Lent begins just after Valentine's Day, we also are told to strengthen our faith, put aside all the unnecessary "romance" and become more mindful as those who faithfully follow God.

However, I think there's more to Lent than fasting and spending time in prayer. We are also called to put God's love into action. When we work together to help others, we show mercy and generosity, and we give people a chance to experience God's blessings.

What do you consider an act of love? Love can be an act of valuing someone more than you value yourself. It can be a deliberate act of caring for or listening to others. Love is wanting others to succeed and to be happy and fulfilled. God made us to love and to be loved.

I believe these acts of love are expressions of the change we experience by our faith in God. It's not just about giving up chocolate; it's about faith in God and growing in His love.

As we all know, Lent lasts 40 days and is a symbolic representation of the 40 years the people of Israel spent in the desert with Moses. It also symbolizes the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his public ministry.

As we begin this time of both love and reflection, wouldn't it be remarkable if in these weeks before Easter, we could work together to show our love for others and our love for Jesus?

There's lots to do at our little church – we're a small, but mighty group of believers. Let's take a few moments to consider love and Lent – and work together to reflect God's love and faith in each of us. God places us before him. The cross is the ultimate expression of that.

~ Jayne Majzan, Moderator

"The shape of love isn't a diamond – it's a cross" Alicia Bruxvoort



The Missions Committee met on January 10, 2023. Those present: Christy Davis, James Majzan, Jackie Phinney, Carolyn Roussel, Glee Huddlestun, (via phone) Lauren Davis; absent – Sandy Schroeder and Pastor Chris Shade

Fresh produce collection for December was switched to the third Sunday due to Christmas, and the larger than usual produce donation from CCB was greatly appreciated by the Pantry.

CCB's participation in Barrington's Winter Giving Day Campaign (boot drive, etc.) was updated. Glee emphasized the huge amount of donations received (coats, boots, caps, toys, bicycles, board games, soft items/blankets, diapers, etc.) and the scope of the setup at Barrington Middle School - Station campus, as well as an explanation of the procedures for the (invitation) shoppers.

The Committee reviewed the responsibilities of Missions for the Assistance Fund (f/k/a Deacon's Fund). The balance in the Fund as of December 31, 2022, is **\$5,947.47**. A discussion was had on the chain of contact concerning a request for assistance and, specifically, as it relates to a member of the CCB congregation who is in need. It was agreed that such a request for financial assistance from a congregant could be made to a member of Missions, who in turn would contact Pastor Chris on behalf of the congregant to explain the request, or the request could be made to Pastor Chris directly by the congregant. Either way, Pastor Chris would be in contact directly with the congregant to obtain the particulars of the need and secure addresses of the payees, as well as to get the approval of the Missions Committee, if the request would be over \$200.

It was also suggested that the congregation be made regularly aware of the Assistance Fund and its purpose in order to encourage contributions to the Fund. It was suggested that Pastor Chris orally remind the congregation on the first Sunday of the Assistance Fund and its purpose (envelopes in the pews); a written appeal would also be included in the first Sunday bulletin; and a reminder will be noted in Glee's Missions Newsletter article. (We all remember Bunny Janke's passionate plea for Deacon's Fund contributions each first Sunday.)

Fourth-quarter 2022 benevolence funds in the total amount of **\$3,195.94** were available for distribution, of which **\$3,100** was disbursed to the following charities:

ABC United (quarterly)	\$ 300.00
ABC Metro (quarterly)	600.00
Bright Hope (Liz Camp, representative)	1,000.00
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (Wheaton)	600.00
The Night Ministry	600.00

Total fourth-quarter 2022 distribution (5): \$3,100.00

Bright Hope is a Christian-based charity which has been assisting local churches in six countries around the world for over 45 years. The people in these areas face extreme poverty and the organization offers HOPE for today, HOPE for tomorrow and HOPE for eternity. Services include medical care, care for orphans and vulnerable children, clean water, job training, education, agricultural practices, animal rearing, and church leadership development with evangelism and discipleship support. Liz Camp (David Phinney's daughter) has served on missions to Uganda several times and has been our direct contact for the organization.

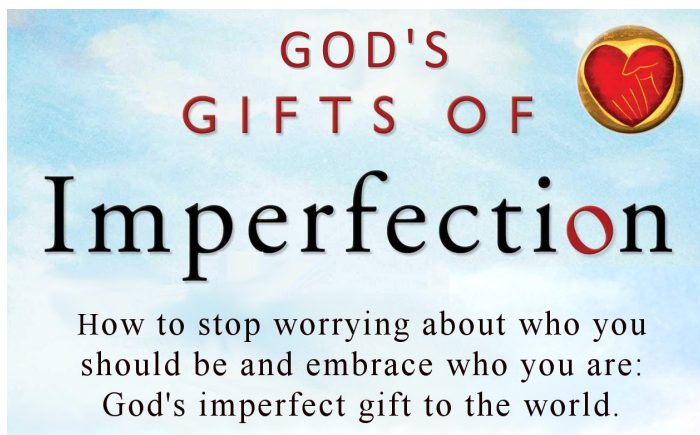
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV)(based in Wheaton) provides housing, supportive services and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. Founded in 2007, MSHV operates on a vision of no veteran left behind due to homelessness, joblessness, poverty and/or mental health issues.

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based charity whose mission is to provide *human connection, housing support* and *healthcare* to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty. The organization also provides food distribution through its Health Outreach Bus. CCB has supported The Night Ministry in the past.

Glee Huddlestun, Chair

Adult Sunday School

Upcoming Lenten Study Series



Sunday School Calendar

Feb 5th: Pray Like Job
Feb 12th: Pray Like Daniel
Feb 19th: What is Mardi Gras Sunday?
Feb 26th-April 6th:
God's Gifts of Imperfection

Using the book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, by Brené Brown as a reference and jumping-off point, we will gather each week to see how our “imperfections” are not parts of ourselves meant to be hidden or punished. Using Biblical and theological references as well as Brown’s extensive research on shame, we will seek to embrace imperfections and vulnerability as a means to create compassion and joy.

If you have been meaning to come to Sunday School, but not sure where to jump in, this is a great opportunity. This study will provide both intellectual stimulation as well as opportunities for self-reflection and growth.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22nd ~ 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join us for a self-led service of prayer and reflection. Stations will be set up around the Fellowship Hall and Narthex inviting you to pause and prepare for the upcoming season of Lent. Ashes will be offered by Pastor Chris in the Sanctuary. It promises to be a meaningful time for all.



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 CHRIS & MARJORIE NEWMAN ANNIV.	3	4
5 Worship Service 10:30	6	7	8	9	10 LESLIE LIRGAMERIS B'DAY	11
12 Worship Service 10:30	13 BADC MTG. Fellowship Hall	14 MARGE BOYNTON B'DAY	15 POTLUCK	16	17	18
19 Worship Service 10:30	20	21 COUNCIL MTG.	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23 RENE SHADE B'DAY	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:30 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT PRODUCE SUNDAY	27	28 BRIAN SHADE B'DAY				

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 <i>Alayne McNulty B'Day</i>	4
5 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Spring Ahead One Hour</i>
12 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	13 <i>MADISON JENSEN B'DAY BADC MTG. Fellowship Hall</i>	14 <i>DEACON'S MTG. LIBRARY</i>	15 <i>POTLUCK.</i>	16 <i>Judy Haack B'Day</i>	17 <i>Patty Luchsinger B'Day</i>	18
19 <i>Worship Service 10:30 Bill Athmann B'Day Dave Pratscher B'Day</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Worship Service 10:30 PRODUCE SUNDAY</i>	27	28 <i>COUNCIL MTG.</i>	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY!
MARCH!

You think winter
will never end,
and then, when you
don't expect it,
when you have
almost forgotten it,
warmth comes and
a different light.

- Wendell Berry

