



“Living Our Faith in Jesus Christ  
Through Acceptance, Service, and Love.”

# Celebrating the Journey

## March 2026 *Newsflash*

Sunday Worship weekly at 10:00 a.m.

Services are livestreamed and can be accessed on  
YouTube, Facebook, and [www.algonquinucc.org](http://www.algonquinucc.org)

### FROM PASTOR JIM

When you receive this newsletter we will already have begun our 40-day journey to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Lent – this 40-day journey, not including Sundays is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter Sunday, the day we are reminded of God’s love for us in the empty tomb.

In the early church, Lent was a time for new converts to prepare to join the faith on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. For us, today, it is a time to reflect on the faith we call our own. I would encourage you to find a Lenten devotion series to guide you through this time. The United Church of Christ website provides just such a [resource](#).

Also, don’t forget to attend our Holy Week services (Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>). Both services will enhance your Easter Worship on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

May you have a blessed, spirit led Lent leading to a joyous celebration on Easter morning!

God’s blessings and see you on Sunday!

Pastor Jim



## WORDS FROM WORSHIP

These words were shared in worship on Sunday, February 15 that I share with you again.

Would you agree with me that our faith should influence all of our lives and all aspects of our lives?

Consumer/ Parent/ Spouse/ Neighbor/ Citizen/ Electorate.

On **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** we will have the opportunity to live out our faith as we vote. Now, when we step into that voting booth, we do so not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Christians, those who have been chosen to live out their lives as God's children following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Who we are, who we are called to be as Christians, should influence those who we vote for; should influence those issues we will vote for or against.

If we are called to bring about God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, then we are called to live out of Jesus' words when he was asked if he was the Messiah: "the lame walk, those with leprosy cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." The poor, the orphan, the widow, the immigrant, the sick, the hungry, the homeless all have a special place in Jesus' heart and so should they in our hearts as well.

These should be our guiding principles as we live out our faith voting.

Pastor Jim



**your VOTE  
is your VOICE**



## SAVE THE DATE & WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SAVE THE DATE

*\*Please see our online calendar for the most up-to-date information*

#### MARCH 1ST

First Sunday—Food Pantry Offering  
Women's Fellowship 11:00 AM

#### MARCH 2ND

Ministry of Christian Ed (Zoom) 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 4TH

Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 5TH

Bibles & Brew (Port Edward) 6:00 PM

#### MARCH 8TH *Shepherd U.*

*Daylight Saving Time Begins*  
Fair Trade Sunday  
Ministry of Trustees Meeting 8:30 AM  
Ministry of Missions Meeting 9:00 AM  
Ministry of Deacons Meeting 11:15 AM

#### MARCH 9TH

Ministry of Finance Meeting (Zoom) 6:30 PM

#### MARCH 10TH

Social Justice Advocates (Zoom) 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 11TH

Informational Meeting—ONA 6:00 PM  
Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 13TH

Women's Bunco 6:00 PM

#### MARCH 14TH

Men's Fellowship 9:00 AM

#### MARCH 15TH *Shepherd U.*

*Easter flower orders due*  
Women's Fellowship 11:00 AM

#### MARCH 18TH

Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 19TH

Newsletter Deadline

#### MARCH 22ND *Shepherd U.*

Church Council Meeting 11:00 AM

#### MARCH 24TH

Social Justice Advocates (Zoom) 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 25TH

Senior Game Afternoon 12:30 PM  
Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

#### MARCH 29TH *Palm Sunday*

Fifth Sunday—Global H.O.P.E. Offering  
Holy Week Setup 11:15 AM

### MARCH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 3-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

*Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.*

MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>: The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>: The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>: The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

**Scripture:**

*(Liturgy of the Palms)*

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

*(Liturgy of the Passion)*

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

SAVE THE DATE

# Spring Ahead

Before bed  
March 7<sup>th</sup>



Daylight Saving Time  
Begins March 8<sup>th</sup>

## Easter Flower Orders

Due by March 15<sup>th</sup>

Order forms available  
in the Narthex

## Family Easter Event

Saturday, April 4th | 10:00 AM

The Congregational Church of Algonquin

Guess How Many Jar  
Egg Hunt

Congregational Church  
of  
Algonquin

109 Washington St.  
Algonquin, IL

Easter Crafts  
Snacks  
Story Time

Registration Suggested:  
Sign-up in the Narthex, or  
contact the Church Office  
email: [algonquinucc@gmail.com](mailto:algonquinucc@gmail.com)  
phone: 847-658-5308

Drop-ins Welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

# Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> | 10:00AM

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> | 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> | 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> | 10:00AM

## Women's Fellowship

Please join us on Thursday,

April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

As we will be showing

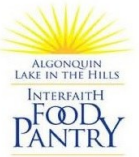
“The Shoes of the  
Fisherman”

Feel free to bring your favorite drinks & snacks.  
Coffee will be provided!

## MISSION EVENTS & NEWS!

### 1st Sunday Collection - Special Offering for the ALITH Food Pantry Sunday, March 1st

“Be a Neighbor, Feed a Neighbor”



Food Donations: There continues to be a great need in our community for donations of non perishable food. Food donations can be left in the shopping cart by the elevator or dropped off at the pantry at 1113 Pyott Road, Lake in the Hills. A current needs list can be found in the Narthex. The food pantry will also take plastic grocery bags to be used by pantry clients.

### 5th Sunday Collection - Special Collection for UCC Global H.O.P.E. Team Sunday, March 29th



This month's special collection will be for UCC Global H.O.P.E. Team. This team's volunteer network assists communities impacted by natural, ecological or public health and economic crises.

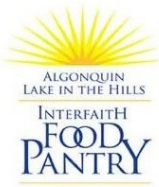
### SALLY NORRIS COPE FUND

Donations have been made to the following organizations, each for \$500.00. February– the Family Sponsorship Fund . This would make an additional 7 months of funds available to cover this program.



### ALITH INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

In addition to monetary donations, the Food Pantry also accepts non-perishable food items, toiletries, and paper products 24/7 at their location (1113 Pyott Road, Lake in the Hills). Items may also be placed in the shopping cart located between the elevator and Fellowship Hall. The Food Pantry also collects grocery bags for use by their clients.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch for updates on future Mission opportunities:

- Feed My Starving Children *or* Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Assist with Prairie Trail Bike Path *or* Fox River Clean-Up

### MINISTRY OF MISSIONS

#### PROJECT IDEAS

The Ministry of Missions appreciates ideas for mission projects. Please share ideas with any Missions member (Barb Erion, Peg Nesser, Wynn Ann Roggeveen, Alice Woertendyke, Paula Evans, Kris Panzloff), or by putting a note in the container in the Narthex.



## FELLOWSHIP!

**Coffee Hour** is so much fun, don't you agree! We have several openings to serve ; please sign-up!

Pick a date that is a special occasion for you, birthday, anniversary, birth of a child, etc., we want to celebrate with you!

LOVE FELLOWSHIP?  
LOVE COFFEE?

Volunteers are  
needed to serve  
during Fellowship  
Hour!



*Sign-up in the Narthex or contact the Church Office*

## FAIR TRADE



**Fair Trade**  
USA™

How do we pay for the coffee we drink at meetings and during Fellowship time after church?

We serve Equal Exchange Breakfast Blend regular, and Equal Exchange Decaf, both of which are organic. They cost about 26¢ and 30¢ per cup. A cup of tea is 20¢. Some of this is financed through the general fund under Ministry of Deacons along with sugar, creamer, and napkins. The main source of funding is through the extra people give when they are purchasing Fair Trade products, plus the 10% we add to the cost we pay to Equal Exchange and our local honey grower. When you are making coffee, please be sure to use the recommended level measuring cup, and try not to make extra that will be poured out.

Please look for the canister on the counter. Some of the cost is covered by the generosity of members dropping in coins or an occasional bill when they fill a mug. We are grateful for the gifts we receive to counter our costs!

## GROUPS & STUDIES



**WOMEN'S BUNCO NIGHT**  
Friday, March 13th at  
6:00 p.m. - \$5.00 entry fee

Join us for a fun-filled, competitive evening of playing Bunco while enjoying wonderful food and benefitting a good cause.



**SENIOR AFTERNOON OF GAMES**

Senior Afternoon of Games will be held on Wednesday, March 28th. Dessert will be served; feel free to bring a snack for yourself!



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Saturday, March 14th will be our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast.

## COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES



The Nominating committee has started filling committees and ministries for the year beginning July 1, 2026 and going through June 30, 2027. Most positions are 1 year and can be repeated. Please prayerfully consider what you can bring to any of these, and where your interests are. You can contact any of us with questions or to volunteer. Also, be ready to be asked where you would like to serve in the near future. Constitutions are available in the church office, which have descriptions of ministries and committees. Last year, we celebrated our 175th anniversary. This coming year will be an exciting time to be part of the leadership of the church as we search for a settled pastor and take a look at how we can grow in our ministry to the community around us. It is time to revise the constitution, too. New ideas are sought along with long-time members *and* new people to take a fresh role.

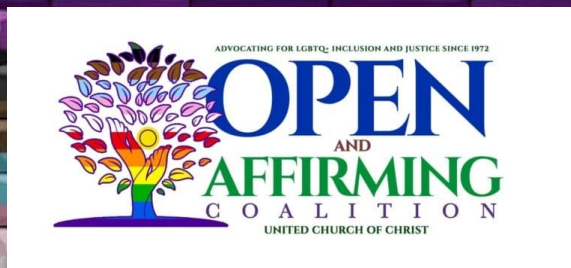
Nancy Kneip, chair	Bob Benjamin	Dave Carris
Jim Erion	Paula Evans	Karen Guenther
Jen Jazwinski	Marcie Nordlund	

## Becoming an Open and Affirming Church

Informational Meeting | March 11<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 PM

Attend In-person or on Zoom

Contact Michelle or the Kneips for information





**FAIR TRADE**

**Sunday, March 8th**

When you purchase products that meet Fair Trade standards, not only are you supporting and compensating workers with fair wages for their talents and labor, you're also contributing to protecting the planet. Visit our Fair Trade table in Fellowship Hall, where you can browse and purchase quality Fair Trade products like coffee and tea. Visit our website or contact Nancy Kneip for more information.



**THE HEAVENLY ATTIC - Open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

In the month of February, The Heavenly Attic selected the Pioneer Center of McHenry as the recipient of a \$500 donation. The Pioneer Center serves as a crucial resource in our area, offering dedicated services for individuals dealing with mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and homelessness. If you would like to learn more or donate to this organization, visit their website at

<http://pioneercenter.com> .

Total Operating Fund Income		
	MTD	YTD
Income	\$ 36,505.762	\$ 36,505.762
Total Operating Expenses		
	MTD	YTD
Expenses	\$ 23,979.52	\$ 23,979.52
Net	\$12,526.24	\$12,526.24
<b>Mortgage Balance *</b>		\$ 121,253.20
Checking Account Balance		\$ 28,994.63
<b>OCWM \$250 plus member contribution</b>	\$ 507.00	\$ 507.00
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>		
Refer to Capital Fund for details	-	-
<b>Memorial Funds</b>		
Income	\$250.00	\$250.00
Expenses (Special Music)	\$200.00	\$200.00
Net	\$50.00	\$50.00
<b>Control Check</b>	Ok	Ok

As of January 31, 2026



# March

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

3/1 Robert Woertendyke  
3/2 Joseph Scheske  
3/2 Claudette Treadwell  
3/5 Pat Maggio  
3/5 Judy Stauffer  
3/10 Martha Wallace  
3/10 Jessica Stengel  
3/16 Liz Albandia  
3/22 Brent Thorne  
3/29 Anna Benjamin

3/31 Dick & Barb Elke

If we missed your birthday or anniversary,  
please notify the Church Office.



## *In Our Thoughts.*

## *In Our Prayers.*

### **OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

Carol Briggs  
Lynne Carlson  
Fred Ekstrom  
Nancy Ekstrom  
Elsie Fry  
Gary Gray  
Pat Hemmingsen  
Janet Kelley  
Gary Parker

Bobbie Reed  
Dick Roggeveen  
Sue Kreibich

### **OTHERS IN NEED OF PRAYER**

Martha Wallace



## *Palm Sunday*

Lord Jesus, you entered our world and our lives with unmatched love. We thank you for your sacrifice, your, and your everlasting mercy. As we celebrate your entry into Jerusalem, we also prepare to stand at the foot of the cross, knowing it is through your death and resurrection that we are given life.  
Amen.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

*(inspired by John 13:1-17)*

Merciful Savior,  
We have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey.  
Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused.  
You have shown us Your love  
by becoming a humble servant.  
Humble us when we try to travel without You.  
As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.  
Humble us when we believe some work is below us.  
As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.  
Humble us when we are too proud  
to accept help, or care, or love.  
As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.  
Humble us when we do not fully receive  
the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace.  
As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another. Amen.

## Good Friday

Dear God, We remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely given, what you have done for us.

Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your huge sacrifice we can live free. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered and that your Power is everlasting.

Thank you that we can say with great hope, "It is finished..." For we know what's still to come. And death has lost its sting. We praise you for you are making all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## *A Prayer for Growth and Purpose*

Loving Source of all life,  
Thank you for the gift of this day and the  
breath that fills my lungs.  
Plant within me a spirit of steady growth;  
Stretch my mind toward wisdom,  
Stretch my heart toward compassion,  
Stretch my will toward courage.  
Clear away the clutter of fear and self-doubt so I  
can recognized the path that is uniquely mine.  
Show me the talents You have placed in me and  
how they fit into the needs of the world,  
When progress feels slow, grant me patience;  
When doors open, grant me humility;  
In every season, anchor me in gratitude.  
May my choices today bear fruit that nourishes  
other tomorrows. May my work, my relationships,  
and my rest all carry the imprint of purpose. Amen.

### **CCA STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**

**Interim Bridge Pastor:** Rev. Jim Benzing

**Office Manager:** Ashley Hrynko

**Moderator:** Dan Reebel

**Vice Moderator:** Nancy Kneip

**Past Moderator:** Bill Hellyer

**Ministers of Music:** Bev & Greg Tipps



**Please submit April  
Newsletter Articles by  
March 19th**

## **The Congregational Church of Algonquin**

109 Washington Street, Algonquin, Illinois 60102

**Phone:** 847-658-5308 • **Email:** [algonquinucc@gmail.com](mailto:algonquinucc@gmail.com) • **Website:** [algonquinucc.org](http://algonquinucc.org)

**Office hours: Monday — Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**