

## **Anchored in Faith: Embracing 2025**

**Dear Beloved Faith Church Family,**

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

As the New Year dawns, we step into 2025, a year that will never come again in our lives. It is a time of fresh beginnings and renewed hopes. We all anticipate a year filled with happiness and laughter. Personally, I share this hope. However, perhaps reality may sometimes bring challenges and difficult times that can contrast with our desires. As such, the beginning of the year can bring both anticipation and anxiety.

Let me share a story that many of you might find familiar. During the Great Depression, many American families faced immense hardship and uncertainty. Yet, they held on to hope, believing that better days would come. This enduring hope, despite the harsh reality, is a testament to the resilience of faith.

Whenever these complex emotions and thoughts arise, I remember Hebrews 11:1. I continuously recite it in my heart and pray to God because the faith He has given us holds greater and more astonishing power than we realize.

Faith, as defined in this verse, is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. In the original Greek, this means having unwavering confidence in what we hope for. This is the true faith that God desires us to possess.

Consider the story of Abraham, who hoped against hope and believed God's promise that he would be the father of many nations (Romans 4:18). Despite his old age and Sarah's barrenness, Abraham's unwavering faith was credited to him as righteousness.

Because of the almighty God who created and guides us, when we place our confidence in all the hopes, beliefs, and prayers that come from Him, we can find joy, gratitude, and peace even amidst our trials.

***(Cont. on page 2)***

## Pastoral Letter Continued

Take the life of one more individual, for example. After accepting Jesus Christ and understanding this providence, the Apostle Paul confessed in Romans 5:3-4, “We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

He didn't just say this; he lived it. When he was persecuted or imprisoned, he endured and overcame through this faith. This was because he had confidence that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

Faith is not just about peace and prosperity in the present. The ultimate goal of faith is to have hope for the future, beyond our current reality, and the strength to hope for this future. This, I believe, is the power of faith given to us by God.

Therefore, no matter what trials and tribulations you face this year, do not be afraid. Whenever you feel weak and anxious, do not be discouraged. Instead, look to the almighty God who always keeps His promises. Pray that He grants you faith, so that with the power of this faith, you can overcome current sufferings and embrace a glorious future.

As your pastor, I strongly believe that if Faith Church, with this faith, journeys through the year alongside the Holy Spirit, all our time, ministry, and moments will ultimately come together for God's glory, bringing revival and restoration to our faith community, and blessings of grace, peace, and prosperity to your homes.

May you embrace hope in God throughout this year, drawing unwavering confidence from His Word and prayer. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance and assistance, may you transform every moment into a meaningful opportunity for spiritual victory and prosperity. As we live out this faith, may we receive God's answers to our prayers, and go forth into the world to testify of God's goodness. May God's blessings, grace, and peace be upon you and your family abundantly.

In His Abundant Grace,  
Pastor Yoon Ki Kim



## Announcements

### Prayer Hugs

The Prayer Hugs group continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m., in The Makery at the Elmhurst Public Library. The group is making prayer shawls, baby afghans and fleece blankets. All women are invited to join whether you crochet, knit or want to tie blankets.

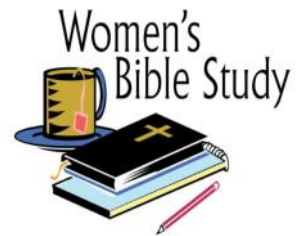
In 2024, the Prayer Hugs Group gave away: 5 Hats, 16 scarves, 22 afghans (many of those were baby afghans), and 27 prayer shawls. These were given to Elmhurst Extended Care Center, people asking for prayer at the Hillside Concert series in August, Caring Network, and Cityview Clothing Center. In addition, 10 prayer shawls were taken by people from the basket at church to be given to specific individuals.

If you know someone who may be in need of a prayer shawl, the shawls will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to take one to pass along. There will be a notebook there for you to sign your name, who you are giving it to (first names only are okay) and the date. We want to make these available to anyone who would like to give one of our prayer shawls. If you know of an organization that can benefit from the items we make, please contact a member of the group. For any questions, please contact Jane Ahrens



### New Day and Time for the Women's Bible Study Group

The Women's Bible Study Group has changed its meeting time. The group is now meet on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. as of Tuesday, January 14. The group will be studying the topic of "Forgiveness" for the following 8 weeks. All women are invited to join the group. Please let Jane Ahrens know if you are interested in attending so you can receive a study guide.



### Prayer Group

The weekly Prayer Group has changed its meeting time and will now meet on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., following the Women's Bible Study group. Everyone is invited to join in this hour sharing prayer concerns and praying together.



### Church Council

The regular Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, at 7 p.m., in the lower level of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Ahrens

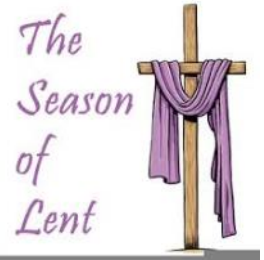


## Announcements

### Upcoming Worship Events in Lent

#### Pastor Kim's Lenten Holy Challenge

Pick up a copy of the Lenten Holy Challenge in the sanctuary any time starting Sunday, February 23



#### \*The Ash Wednesday Service on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm initiates the journey of Lent -

a time of reflection and repentance as we consider the journey that Jesus made to the Cross for each of us. Please join in Pastor Kim's Lenten Holy Challenge as we read God's word found in the Book of Luke, pray for one another, listen to inspirational music posted on Facebook and share our reflections each day.



#### \*Holy Week Events

Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Meal 6:30 pm

Good Friday Service 7 pm

Easter Sunrise Service 7 am

Easter Breakfast 8 am

Easter Worship Celebration 10 am – Resurrection Sunday!



\*Families may purchase **Easter flowers** from their favorite store and bring them on Easter Morning to the church.



\*Volunteers are welcome to help with Easter Breakfast. Please contact Mae.

#### \*Please consider helping in our worship services

during Announcements, Community Prayer time and the invitation to give our Tithes and Offerings. You don't need to be a great speaker, it's just an opportunity to connect our lives together as a church family in a personal way.

See Mae or just sign up in Fellowship Hall.



## Announcements

### Photo from Souper Special Potluck on February 16

A "Souper Special" Worship and fellowship meal. So warm inside when its cold outside. Nancy Hails also delivered soup to a few other families from our prayer list after clean-up.



### Chrysalis Create Group

Chrysalis Create continues to meet on Saturday morning at 10 am for the sole purpose of exercising our creative abilities, (*big or small or even microscopic*) and sharing our creations with others. We have shared Hope Rocks and Greeting Cards and are always looking for new ideas to learn. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to fellowship with us, so enhance your creativity and join us. Contact Mae or Sue.



### Come for Games and Fellowship on Saturday, March, 1 @ 4 p.m.

A Game Night, will be held on Saturday, March 1, at 4 p.m. Bring your favorite board game and join others in playing it. Pizza will be ordered and served at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own drinks if you like. Childcare will be provided. We are looking for individuals to help out with these events. If we have enough people to help, we can do this on a monthly basis on the first Saturday of the month. For more information, please contact Mae Kingzette.



### Photo from Coffee Fellowship

Join us for conversations, coffee, lemonade and cookies/light snacks following our regular Sunday Services in Fellowship hall.



# Announcements

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### JANUARY:

8 IN SOOK KIM

### FEBRUARY:

20 TROY ARTTIP  
26 KASEY ARTRIP  
JOSE BECERRA

11 WILLIAM & LINDA GALARZA

### MARCH:

21 DANIEL KIM  
31 SANDY WIECH

3 PASTOR YOON KI & IN SOOK KIM  
15 JOHN & LATHA SANGHA



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## 2024 Giving Statistics



### End of the Year Giving Numbers:

	Weekly	Income	Budget
3-Nov	1360.00	95938.11	148796.83
10-Nov	2469.00	98407.11	152103.42
17-Nov	4789.78	103196.89	155410.02
24-Nov	2550.00	105746.89	158716.62
1-Dec	1980.00	107726.89	162023.21
8-Dec	2210.00	109936.89	162023.21
15-Dec	6316.13	116253.02	165329.81
22-Dec	2789.01	119042.03	168636.40
29-Dec	725.00	119767.03	171943.00
31-Dec	13730.00	133497.03	171943.00
31-Dec	4374.00	137871.03	171943.00



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### March's 5th Sunday Offering

March's 5th Sunday offering will be collected Sunday, March 23, so we can give it to "Joy in the Harvest" ministry during Claudia & Lowell's visit on Thursday March 27th. There will also be a free will "Love offering basket" to cover the cost of fuel and other travel expenses involved with towing a travel trailer: to give to Claudia & Lowell during their visit. This "Love offering" will keep travel expenses from taking funding away from "Joy in the Harvest" Important programs for the poor.

*Special  
Offering*

### Make Your Own Taco Mission Dinner

Look for sign-up to bring ingredients for a build a taco meal, for the Missions dinner with Claudia & Lowell Wertz on 3/27 at 6:30pm



### Yorkfield Food Pantry

We have an ongoing collection basket in the North Ave. entrance for non Perishable food items.



### Other Outreach Opportunities

"POP-UP", "PADS", "Love Inc." and "4 on 4th race" are other service opportunities -TBA





Come join us as we worship  
online or in person on  
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

For our online service, please go to our  
Facebook page:  
FGMC ELMHURST

For our in person service, please join  
us at the corner of North  
Avenue and York Road. Parking is  
available behind the church and the  
entrance is on the North  
Avenue side with the red double doors  
next to the driveway.

---

**Faith Church of Elmhurst**  
**A Global Methodist Community**  
***"Creating Connections through Extending Christ's Love"***  
**111 W. North Avenue**  
**Elmhurst, IL 60126**  
**630-941-0212**

**Pastor Yoon Ki Kim**  
**nowamen@gmail.com**  
**224-402-4709**

**Sunday Worship @ 10 a.m.**

**February/March 2025**