

**FAITH CHURCH OF ELMHURST  
A Global Methodist Community  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024**

**2024 Advent;  
A Season of Hope and Anticipation**

Dear Beloved Faith Church Family,

As we step into this sacred season of Advent, I want to encourage each of you to pause for a moment, breathe deeply, and truly embrace the miracle that is unfolding before us. Advent is a season of quiet anticipation, a time of waiting, and preparing our hearts for the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's a moment when we remember how God's people longed for a Messiah, and how that longing was beautifully answered in the birth of a child in Bethlehem.

This Advent, let us turn our hearts to the Psalms, which are like a mirror reflecting our deepest hopes, fears, joys, and prayers. The Psalms capture the full range of human emotions, reminding us that waiting on the Lord is more than just passing time—it's an active expression of faith and trust in God's perfect timing and His loving plan.

### **The Gift of Waiting**

Advent calls us to slow down in a world that seems to move faster every day. It invites us to resist the rush and to treasure the gift of waiting. **Psalm 27:14** encourages us, saying, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"* This is a beautiful reminder that waiting on God is not wasted time. It's a time of growing, trusting, and drawing closer to Him.

As we wait for Christmas, we also look ahead with hope for Christ's second coming. Just as the people of Israel longed for the coming of their Savior, we wait with expectant hearts for the day when He will return in glory. **Psalm 33:20-22** reminds us of this promise: *"Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name."*

### **Light in the Darkness**

Advent is also a season of hope—a reminder that no matter how dark things may seem, Christ's light shines even brighter. **Psalm 40:1-3** tells us, *"I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."* This is the hope we cling to: that God hears us, lifts us up, and gives us a firm foundation when we feel like we're sinking.

*Cont. pg. 2*



## Pastor's Letter Cont'd.

Each time we light the Advent candles, let it remind us that Jesus is the true Light of the World. His light chases away the darkness, filling our hearts with the warmth of His love and the promise of His presence. Whatever challenges you may face this season, know that His light is shining for you, guiding you, and bringing you peace.

### Gratitude for Grace and Love

At the heart of Advent is the reminder of God's amazing love and grace. It's a celebration of the gift of His Son, Jesus, who came to bring us salvation. **Psalm 103:8-12** speaks powerfully of this truth: *"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."* What a gift it is to know that God's love is greater than our mistakes, that His grace is deeper than our sins, and that His mercy is new every morning.

This Advent, let us come before God with hearts full of gratitude for all that He has done for us. Let's celebrate His unfailing love and rejoice in the promise that nothing can separate us from the grace that came to us wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

### Preparing Our Hearts for Jesus

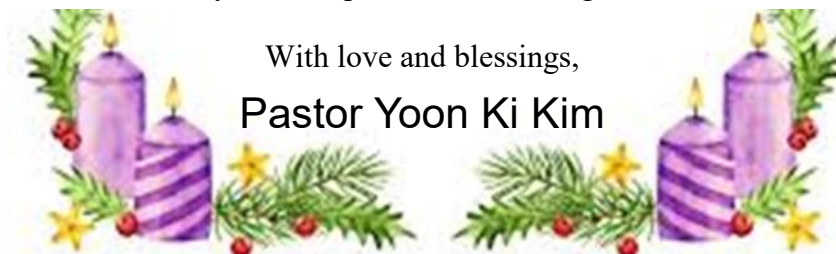
As we draw closer to Christmas, let's take the time to prepare our hearts as well as our homes. **Psalm 51:10** offers a perfect prayer for this season: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* May we each ask God to cleanse us, renew us, and make us ready to receive the gift of His Son once more.

Advent is a journey that leads us to the manger, where the greatest gift was given—Jesus Christ, our Savior. As we meditate on the Psalms, let's open our hearts to be filled with the hope, peace, and joy that only Jesus can bring.

### A Prayer for Advent

My prayer for each of you this Advent season is that you would know the deep peace of Christ in your hearts and homes. May the Psalms draw you closer to God's heart, reminding you of His love and faithfulness. May you find joy in the waiting, strength in the hope, and gratitude in the grace that has been so richly given to us through Jesus.

Let us journey through this Advent with expectant hearts, ready to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus, but also His presence in our lives today and His promise to come again.



With love and blessings,  
Pastor Yoon Ki Kim



### **Membership Potluck on November 17th, Following the Regular Service**

We will be having a potluck to welcome and celebrate our new members. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you wish to sign up to help setup (11/15), serve or clean up, and/or if you plan on bringing a dish, side or dessert.



### **Church Council**

The regular Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, at 7 p.m., in the lower level of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Ahrens.



### **Women's Bible Study Group**

Women's Bible Study Group will conclude the fall study of the book of James on November 13. A potluck luncheon will be planned for later in December. Then on January 15, we will begin an eight-week study on "Forgiveness" followed by an eight-week study on "Spiritual Gifts." The group meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women are invited to join the group. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Jane Ahrens.



### **Hanging of the Greens will be After Worship on Sunday November 24**

We will be decorating the church in preparation for Advent, which begins December 1st. All helping hands are welcome and lunch will be provided.



### **Church Conference**

On Thursday, December 5, at 6 p.m. we will have our annual church conference with our presiding elder, Pastor Steve Saunders. We will come together to share what is happening in the church, to approve reports, and to worship together. Be sure to come to this important meeting. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Kim.



### **The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24@11 p.m.**

The Christmas Eve service will be at 11 pm as we welcome Jesus to our world as a humble baby and as our Savior King.



### **Prayer Group meets Wednesdays@11 a.m.**

Come join us as we meet to share any need or concern in prayer for our church, our church families and the world. We also come together to praise our lord for his gracious gifts he bestows upon our lives. All are welcome.



### **Church Library**

Now that the weather is getting colder, why not curl up with a good book from the Church Library. There are many selections on the table and the shelves in the Fellowship Hall. You can use the self-checkout system by signing your name on the card found in the front of each book and filing in the box according to the author's last name. Happy Reading!





## NOVEMBER



### BIRTHDAYS

4 NANCY CERNY

## DECEMBER



### BIRTHDAYS

5 DORIE GUZMAN  
24 JOHN SANGHA  
SIHA KIM

### 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 the past months the group has given items to the Caring Network, Elmhurst Extended Care Center and individuals who have suffered loss or illness. Currently there are scarves being made that will be given to an organization helping the homeless in the area.

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 away. 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



### Faith Church Local Community Outreach

Faith church, Prayer Hugs and Chrysalis handed out over 300 Hope Rocks at the Hillside Concert Series and AutumnFest on the Prairie Path. We also received 15 prayer requests, handed out a couple prayer shawls, distributed many Church Business cards and flyers, and many people even returned to thank us for our ministry and welcoming presence. Some even shared where they keep their Hope Rock so they can see it every day and remember the encouraging message it has for them. Thanks to everyone that helped out and praise God for the encouraging ways He uses simple things we do to make a difference in peoples lives.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Photos from Harvest Home Celebration



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Pictures from Harvest Home Celebration Cont'd.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Date	Weekly Income	Income To Date	Budget To Date
22-Sept	1587.00	83382.14	128957.25
29-Sept	1689.00	85071.14	132263.85
06-Oct	5498.97	90570.11	135570.44
13-Oct	1000.00	91570.11	138877.04
20-Oct	2048.00	93618.11	142183.63
27-Oct	960.00	94578.11	145490.23



## Missions and Outreach



### Raise Right Fundraising Program

Raise Right has added a new feature, where we can shop online through Raise Right to earn % Rebate for Faith Church. Still use a Credit card that earns points for payment or a Raise Right gift card for added % Rebates. Please check out your Raise Right account to use this NEW feature it is a win win to earn for Faith Church and get those card rewards. If you still have questions, see Nancy Hails.



### There is a collection box in Fellowship Hall for Elmhurst Walk-in Network

Collection ends December 8th. EWAN is looking for donations of New or Like-New: Wool socks, waterproof gloves, warm hats, and disposable body wipes.

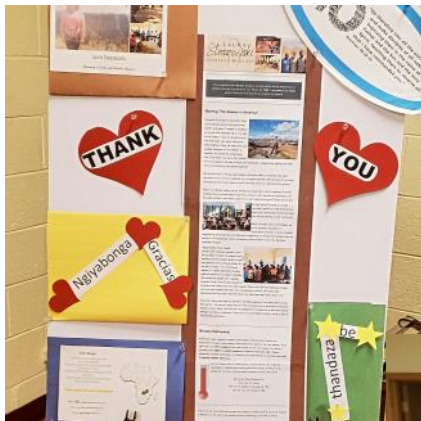


### 5th Sunday Offering for December

The December 5th Sunday offering will go out to one of our fellow GMC pastors and his family in Ethiopia.



**On November 7th we had a Potluck meal with Laura Staszewski from Overland Missions; see a couple pics below**



WE ARE  
*grateful*  
FOR YOU!



# Come Worship with Us

**Sunday  
Worship  
Services  
10 a.m.**

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.



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Faith Church of Elmhurst  
A Global Methodist Community  
*"Creating Connections through Extending Christ's Love"*  
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web page - [www.faithchurchelmhurst.org](http://www.faithchurchelmhurst.org)



Rev. Yoon Ki Kim, Pastor  
Melisa Guzman, Church Office Manager

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

November/December 2024