



January 2026

Sunday Worship: 9:00am
Youth & Adult Sunday School at 10:15am
Visit us on the web at www.caryumc.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COLOR YOUR
WORLD
WITH LOVE
AND
KINDNESS**



The Open Door

**Cary United
Methodist Church
January 2026 Newsletter**

February Issue - Deadline January 20



*We are a family of faith connected with God our Father and Jesus Christ his only Son and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
We are called to serve one another and the community through fellowship in an open, loving, and safe environment.*

Sunday Worship at 9:00am ~ Sunday School 10:15am ~ Hospitality Hour at 10:00am
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm

Church: 847-639-7627 Email: caryumc@caryumc.org Website: www.caryumc.org
Preschool: 847-639-7655 Email: cmp.preschool@gmail.com Website: www.carymethodistpreschool.org

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem!

Soon, 1 January 2026 will be here (well, when you read this, it will already be here, but I am writing this on 29 December 2025), and shouts of “Happy New Year” will ring out all around the world. It is a time when many will reflect on the year that has passed and revel in the excitement and anticipation of what the new year will bring. For me, there is excitement and anticipation, but there is also a sense of dread that occasionally comes to visit me, as well.

When I began this journey with you in July 2020, we knew in a best-case scenario how it would end. And now it seems to be so. I will be retiring in June. The S-PRC and I have set the date of 17 May for my retirement ceremony here, and then I will be on leave/vacation until my official retirement date of 30 June. There will be pastoral supply/support for Sunday worship and other needs until your new pastor begins on 1 July 2026.

I have mixed emotions about retiring, but the one least acknowledged and least talked about is trepidation. Yes, I have shared with some of you my plans – learning to roller skate (so if you’re thinking of a retirement gift a helmet, and leg and elbow pads are a good idea), joining a bowling league (I still have my bowling ball and shoes from when I was in a Church bowling league 25 years ago!), visiting our children and grandchildren who are out of state, and doing some writing. But the feeling of anxiety is just beneath the surface in all of this. For 49 years, my life – my identity – has revolved around the church. As many of you may remember, I

shared with you that all I have ever wanted to do is to be a pastor. I have been “living the dream” a friend once told me. It is time to wake up, though. I have not found much comfort in conversations with colleagues who are retired. They tell me I will be busier in retirement than I am now. Nevertheless, being busier does not necessarily mean happiness. Thus, the source of my anxiety. Those of you who have retired may have felt this way, too.

There are no easy solutions to this anxiousness. Developing a new identity at 72 years of age is challenging, but as I slowly fade into this new reality, I paraphrase the final words of John Wesley, with whom I share a birthday, “The best of all, God is with me”.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Norval



Nurture Team News

December 6 the Nurture Team participated in our annual Breakfast With Santa.

The children enjoyed crafting, coloring and the chance to celebrate the Christmas season together with friends and family. The children were also able to enjoy a yummy breakfast and a visit with Santa. Many thanks to all who helped make this event happen and congratulations to Jordan Sukow who was the winner of the Rainforest Falls VBS raffle basket.





Breakfast with Santa



COMING SOON

Coming January 25 to the CUMC sledding hill: Sledding with the Saints". No snow, no worries, we will have fun again this year doing our CUMC Scavenger Hunt. Can your team find the most things inside and outside of church grounds to win the scavenger hunt?? For a day of winter fellowship and fun, join us for worship at 9am; bring your sled for sledding and hot chocolate after 11am and our scavenger hunt will start in Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. Any questions, email Sally at christianed@caryumc.org

Nurture Team News

On December 6, our youth Sunday School classes came together to participate in Music Sunday. Such a joy to hear our amazing youth join with the beautiful voices of our choir celebrating the birth of Jesus. Hallelujah to the new born King!!!



Cary Methodist Preschool students celebrated the birth of Jesus at their December chapel time by singing "Happy Birthday" and enjoying a cupcake. They also learned about the nativity story. John 3:16 "16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



Men's Group Santa's Breakfast

Our Church Men's Group brought joy and a whole lot of pancakes to church members, preschool families and the community at this year's Santa's Breakfast held December 6. People gathered early to enjoy a delicious homemade breakfast while the children had a special visit with Santa himself.

The morning was filled with smiles, Christmas music, crafts for the kids, and lots of conversation as families, neighbors and church members shared food and fellowship. Santa spent time with each child posing for photos and creating memories.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the men who volunteered their time to cook, serve, and clean up. Events like this remind us that Christmas spirit is often found in service, generosity, and community. We are grateful for all those who attended!

We wish you and your families the blessings of health and happiness in the New Year!

Sincerely,
Church Men's Group





Our school, our children, our church. All connected with love.

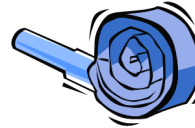


Cary Methodist Preschool

Happy New Year!

January 2026

Welcome back and happy 2026! We hope that your Christmas break was filled with lots of family time and memorable moments with your precious children. We were very happy to see such a great turnout for the Christmas program, and the children did a great job of remembering the songs. Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about registering for the 2026-2027 school year! Listed below is information about registration for next year at Cary Methodist Preschool. For those of you with 4 & 5-year-olds, it is also time to start looking into registering your child for kindergarten. We have also listed local school district's administration office. If you have any questions, please call your local school district's administration office. Blessings in the new year to come. ~ Laura Collier



Important Dates:

NO SCHOOL-Teacher In-Service:
Mon., 1/5

Happy New Year Back to School:
Tues., 1/6

Chapel time with Ms. Sally:
2's, Thurs., 1/8
3's and 4's Fri., 1/9

Stretch-N-Grow: : 2/s, Tues. 1/6
3's & 4/5's, 1/9

NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King
Day: Mon., 1/19

Preschool Board Meeting: Thurs.,
1/15 at 7pm

2026-2027 In-House Registration:
Tues., 1/13 - Fri., 1/16

2026-2027 Open Registration:
Tues., 1/20

Kindergarten Registration Information

District #26, Cary, IL
Online Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year is coming soon. For more information, please visit their website at: www.cary26.org or call 224-357-5100.



District # 3, Fox River Grove, IL
Call 847-516-5100 or Check the website at www.dist3.org for more information.

District # 46, Prairie Grove, IL
Call 815-459-3023 or Check the website at www.dist46.org for more information.

District # 47, Crystal Lake, IL
Please call 815-788-5000 or visit www.d47.org for more information

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on February 12 & 13 for the 3's and 4/5's classes. Your child's teacher will email a sign-up at the end of the month, and you can choose a day/time that works best for you. Please remember that there is no class for the 3's and 4/5's on those days. The 2-year-old class will still be in session on Thursday, February 12.

Items Needed:

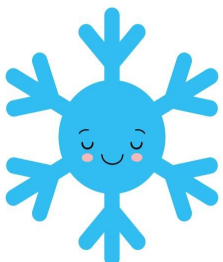
Glue sticks, Paper Towels,
Dixie Cups (5 oz.)
Newspapers, Hand Soap

CMP Registration Information

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin Tuesday, January 13 for our current students, alumni and Cary Methodist Church members. We will open registration up to the public beginning Tuesday, January 20. Class offerings and tuition rates will be posted beginning January 9.

Snow Closing / Snow Days

As a reminder, Cary Methodist Preschool will be CLOSED if DIST. # 26 is closed due to snow/bad weather. The local radio and TV stations will also be notified by the district as soon as the decision to cancel has been made. The notification will be broadcast between 6:00-7:00 am on **WGN 720 AM, WBBM 780 AM, WAIT 850 AM, WZSR 105.5 FM, WZZN 94.7 FM** and most major TV stations, including: **Channel 2 (CBS), Channel 5 (NBC), Channel 7 (ABC), Channel 9 (WGN), Channel 32 (FOX), and Cable Channel CLTV.** You may also visit the Emergency School Closing Center website at ww.emergencyclosingcenter.com.



Financial Status of Cary United Methodist Church

As we finish out the year, may we grace God with the gifts that we promised Him. He has done so much for us, now let us return those favors. I firmly believe that we will answer His prayer, just as He has answered ours.

Following is the financial status of CUMC for January thru November 2025. Yes, we are behind, and yes, I do not believe that we will have to borrow money from our savings account to balance the books at the end of the year.

As usual, if you have any questions about the current financial status, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Tom Swider

Chair, Finance Committee

(847) 727-9324 or (847) 639-6173

Email address: swidertc@comcast.net

FINANCE

Current Income for November 2024	Current Expenses for November 2025	Difference
\$29,434.47	\$30,920.60	-\$4,161.47
Current Income for Jan.– Nov. 2025	Current Expenses for Jan. – Nov.. 2025	Difference
\$308,659.06	\$312,523.71	-\$3,864.65

Members of Cary United Methodist Church walked in the Merry Cary Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 7.



Pictured in photo:

Amy Peterson, Pastor Norval and Jen Crick.

Staff Appreciation Sunday, January 18

We are blessed to have wonderful staff supporting our church. We will celebrate our Cary UMC office, music, Christian education, janitorial, and nursery staff during Hospitality time on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

If you would like to contribute toward monetary staff gifts, please designate "Staff Appreciation" on your payment. Please mail your payment to the office or put it in the offering plate by January 8.

Please join us on January 18 to convey your appreciation and thanks to our hard-working staff.

Thank you,
Staff Parish
Committee

STAFF APPRECIATION

United Women in Faith January News



Books 'n Bagels

Next meeting is Friday, February 6, at 7pm, at the church, in Zoom room 112, downstairs. Book title is *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. Contact Dawn Ferree or Bethany Decker.

Mark your Calendar: Dates for United Women in Faith Events

Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 pm, FH, **Leadership Team**, all are welcome. Contact *Glenda Arnold 312-550-1740*

Wednesday, January 14. Location TBD **Dorcas Circle**.

Contact *Penny Libert 847-639-2708*

Every Wednesday morning, 9:30am, FH, **Coffee & Crafts & Conversation**

Contact *Pat Jacobson 847-639-6173*

Every Thursday morning, 8:30am, **Women's Prayer Group** at Eggville Café, Cary.

Contact *Dorothy Fagerson, Sue Heizer, or Carroll Wagus 847-516-2016*



Dorcas Circle

Anyone available for a lunch fellowship on the second Wednesday of the month should join us on January 14. Location TBD. We love to share stories of faith, family and friends.

For more information, contact Penny Libert (847-639-2708).

Every Wednesday Morning

Our Wednesday Mornings Coffee & Craft Group welcomes your conversation and crafting. Bring your own project, and we'll have the coffee ready. Stop by to visit 9:30am-noon in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Pat Jacobson (847-639-6173).

Evening Craft Group

On the fourth Thursday evening from 7-9pm, our Evening Craft Group welcomes your crafting skills and conversation. Bring your own project, or choose from one of ours. For more information, contact loribmcclellan@comcast.net.

Stamp Camp

Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 9am in Fellowship Hall. Join us in making five handmade greeting cards. The \$20 fee includes all supplies, fun and fellowship. Contact Dawn Ferree to reserve your space.

Thursday Women's Prayer Group

Every Thursday morning at 8:30am, our Women's Prayer Group meets at Eggville Café, 350 Northwest Highway in Cary, to share prayer and enjoy breakfast and fellowship. Contact Dorothy Fagerson, Sue Heizer, or Carroll Wagus (847-516-2016).



College Care Ministry

Our College Care Ministry for the 2025-26 school year is underway. In September, our college students received an inspirational book and handmade card. In December, they received a handmade card and a gift card from Starbucks just in time for finals! In February, we will mail our Valentine care packages.

We feel it is essential for our new and returning college students to know that they remain in our thoughts and prayers during their educational journey. This ministry serves students in an undergraduate program, who have been, or are, active in the life of Cary UMC.

With all of the contact from our congregation, we feel our college students know they are surrounded by our love.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN DONATING ITEMS TO FILL THE VALENTINE BOXES.

Suggested items are:

Microwave popcorn, granola bars, gum, candy, hot cocoa mix, flavor packets to add to water, snack crackers and cookies, mini muffins, Tic-Tacs, chocolate, beef jerky, fruit snacks, Post-It-notes, highlighters, colored pens. Gluten-free items are also appreciated.

Items should be **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED**, easy to pack and **NO LIQUID ITEMS**
There will be a box for donations in the lobby until February 8.

For those of you who cannot donate an item, money to help cover shipping would be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to: Cary UMW

This year we are ministering to 12 students at approximately \$20 per school year.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Stacy Nordengren 847-639-7330 or Dawn Ferree 815-451-2371.

January Birthdays

- 1/2 Carly Splitt
 Jason Splitt
 Nathan Splitt
 1/8 Merrill David
 1/10 Claire Carlberg
 Harleigh Serpico
 1/11 Maria Baker
 1/14 Tom Oberheide
 1/15 Bill Koenig
 1/17 Mark Brashear
 1/18 Jan Fitzsimmons
 Maggie Groos
 1/20 John Lazarski
 1/24 Max Seubert
 1/25 Shane Sorg
 1/26 Bruce Nordengren



Thank you for your generous donations to the Salvation Army and The Home of the Sparrow through the Giving Tree.



A note from Cary UMC United Women in Faith . . .

Compliments of the festive season to all!

Thanks again to all who generously donated over 80 sets of pajamas (and one pair of socks, apparently). Becky Fitch of **Kids in Need** sent this thank you note in response:

“We can't thank you enough for organizing the pajama drive at Cary United Methodist Church. The number of pajamas was amazing and will help many kids sleep warm this winter. Your generosity...is what keeps our community strong”

If you want to further support their great work and the disadvantaged children who benefit from their efforts, we've put out a box in the narthex to start a new collection for them. They are reportedly low on toiletries, so please donate any of the following:

- ◆ Shampoo & conditioner
- ◆ 3-in-1 body wash
- ◆ Bonnets
- ◆ Body wash for older kids/teens
- ◆ Teen face wash
- ◆ Lotion
- ◆ Diaper cream
- ◆ Training toothpaste for very young kids

Staff & Volunteers

Norval I. Brown	Pastor
Sally Lorenzen	Christian Education Director
Holly Voss	Office Manager
Mary Ellen Spoerl	Financial Secretary
Dave DCamp	Music Director
Kevin Scott	Choir Director
Penny Libert	Organist
Jim Ferree	Tech/AV Coordinator
Holly Voss	Wedding Coordinator
Katrina Zentefis	Nursery Coordinator
Sue Heizer	Funeral Coordinator
Deb Kraemer and Judy Sutliff	Funeral Luncheon Coordinators
Laura Collier	Preschool Director
Arturo Arreola	Custodian
Jaime Arreola	Custodian

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9am - 3pm

Sunday Schedule:

Worship 9am

Sunday School 10:15am



DONATIONS



You Tube Channel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Unhanging Greens 10:15 Sunday School	5 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices	6 9:15 Stretch & Grow 5:00 T627 Daisys 6:30 UWinFaith 7:00 Trustees	7 9:30 Crafts & Coffee 7:00 AA Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 PEO meeting	9 9:15 Stretch & Grow	10 8:00 Stamp Camp 8:30 Men's Breakfast
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Gift Cards 10:15 Sunday School	12 4:00 T3725 Brownies 5:45 T229 Daisys 5:45 T3725 Daisys 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices	13 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 6:30 GS T582 6:45 GS T1932 7:00 Finance Committee	14 9:30 Crafts & Coffee 12:00 Dorcas Circle-away 6:00 T1818 Meeting 7:00 AA Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 7:00 Witness/Outreach	16 6:30 P557 Pack Meeting	17 8:00 Emmaus Tech Trng. 10:00 Pinewood Derby
18 Staff Appreciation Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 3:00 Chicagoland Voices Concert	19 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices	20 5:00 T627 Daisys 6:00 P557 Den Meeting Newsletter Deadline	21 9:30 Crafts & Coffee 7:00 AA Meeting 6:00 T160 Committee 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 Craft Night	23	24
25 9:00 Worship/UWinFaith 10:00 Gift Cards 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Youth Sledding/ Scavenger	26 4:00 T3725 Brownies 5:45 T229 Daisys 5:45 T3725 Daisys 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices 7:00 Faithbridge BOD Mtg.	27 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 6:30 GS T582 6:45 GS T1932 7:00 Church Council	28 9:30 Crafts & Coffee 6:00 T1818 Meeting 7:00 AA Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	29 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 P557 Den Meeting	30	31