



*December 2025*

Sunday Worship: 9:00am  
Youth & Adult Sunday School at 10:15am  
Visit us on the web at [www.caryumc.org](http://www.caryumc.org)

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COLOR YOUR  
WORLD  
WITH LOVE  
AND  
KINDNESS**



# *The Open Door*

**Cary United  
Methodist Church  
December 2025 Newsletter**

*January Issue - Deadline December 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](mailto:caryumc@caryumc.org) Website: [www.caryumc.org](http://www.caryumc.org)  
Preschool: 847-639-7655 Email: [cmp.preschool@gmail.com](mailto:cmp.preschool@gmail.com) Website: [www.carymethodistpreschool.org](http://www.carymethodistpreschool.org)

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I had a wonderful experience last night (21 November 2025) that I want to share with you.

I pulled into the parking lot of the Temple around 6:25 p.m. By now it was quite dark, the parking lot was beginning to fill. I was a first-time attendee, and I really did not know the lay of land. I had no clue as to where the entrance was, so I followed people trickling out their cars toward the building. Along the way, I was stopped and greeted with "Shabbat shalom." I was familiar enough with the sabbath greeting and I returned it.

When I entered Temple Beth-El, everyone warmly greeted me. Somehow, my skin color or my clerical collar or both made me stand out from among everyone else. I stood in line outside the sanctuary, waiting for the doors to open and the evening service to begin. A woman whom I had met as the pastor of the Christ UMC in Deerfield was being installed as the Temple's new cantor. Her parents had formed my music staff at that church. They had invited me to this service/ceremony. I was glad that I was able to attend.

Rabbi Helbraun came to introduce himself and welcomed me in the same way so many others had. I shared with him how I came to be there and he thanked me for making the effort to be there.

When the doors opened, I found a seat, hoping that I had not taken someone's accustomed seat. (You know how we are in the church! I did not want someone to come to stand over me and stare!) A couple sitting in

the row I had chosen invited me not to sit so far away and to come and join them. So, I did. They introduced themselves, and I followed with my introduction. They shared some of their history, including Holocaust remembrances. I found myself thanking God that even though so many had died, so many had survived so that we would never forget.

Then the service started. The music, oh the music, was so vibrant and alive. The sanctuary was well lit and inviting. In the center of the Bima was the Aron haKodesh (the holy ark) containing the Torah scrolls. Cantor Stefanie Greene sang portions of the psalms. Her voice was magnificent. As the liturgy unfolded, I was no longer an attendee, an observer, but a participant in worship. In that space, I felt the enveloping presence of God filling me, surrounding me. There was a sense of understanding the meaning of a language that was foreign to my ears but familiar to my soul. Rabbi Helbraun's teaching moment found me wanting to say "amen" to points he was making. My voice was silent (For the most part), but my soul was sharing that intimate expression of encouragement and affirmation that is familiar to me.

The service of installation was not unlike ceremonies that I have experienced in other settings. There were blessings offered, declarations made, and covenants cemented. Then Stephanie stood to address the congregation. She told her "Call story" – the narrative of how she came to this moment, this post. It was not her childhood dream. It came as more of a surprise to her, but something to which she could not say "no."

*Continued*

At the service's conclusion, I greeted Stephanie, congratulating her on this momentous occasion. I said goodbye to her parents and Rabbi Helbraun and so many others who had greeted me. As I was driving back to Cary, I took my hat off and realized I had not returned the borrowed yarmulke I had worn during the service. I guess I felt so much at home there I became attached to it and did not even notice its presence!

I shared this with you to say that last evening I had a wonderful encounter with God and with God's people. It causes me to sing:

### **Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

Song by: Gaither Vocal Band

There's a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place  
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord  
There are sweet expressions on each face  
And I know you feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit

Sweet heavenly dove

Stay right here with us

Filling us with your love.

And for these blessings

We lift our hearts in praise

Without a doubt we'll know

That we have been revived

When we shall leave this place

Songwriter: Doris Akers

Where has God surprised you, causing your mouth to widen, your eyes to see sights that awed and amazed you? Certainly, God shows up in those unexpected moments, those unexpected places. I find myself looking, wondering where, how I will experience God, and God

never ceases to amaze me. I thank God for being able to be present at Temple Beth-El and reminding me that God's presence is not relegated to people who think, speak, and act as I do.

Praise be to God.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Norval



# Nurture Team News



On November 16 we had a dedication of our Sunday school teachers and nursery staff. Committed Sunday school teachers are a big part of what makes discipleship effective. Yet often time can go by without lifting up their example or celebrating their faithfulness! These leaders are like the part of an engine that only the mechanic can see yet is still critical to the car's well-being and functionality.

The dedication service is a powerful reminder of the role each Sunday school teacher plays in being a channel of God's goodness to the members of the community of faith. As these teachers work in our midst, valuable lessons are imparted to the students. May their dedication continue to positively impact the lives of those they lead, fostering a deeper understanding of God's love and teachings.

We are truly blessed to have these wonderful men and women sharing the Gospel message with our church family.



## Teachers



Jeffrey Bivin

Stephanie Brashear

Dorothy Fagerson

Dawn Ferree

Jim Ferree

Lori McClellan

Christina Rank

Josh Sukow

Stephanie Sukow

Katie Weaver

Chris Weisser



## Nursery Staff

Emily Liautaud

Jessica Malinowski

Athena Zentefis

Katrina Zentefis



## Advent Study



Contact Dawn & Jim Ferree  
to join the study.  
Buy the book on Amazon

Sunday's  
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21  
10:15 - 11:15 AM  
Room 112

This holiday season, step away  
from the hustle and bustle for  
a few moments each week to  
reflect on the gifts that  
truly matter.

Hosted by The Home Builder's Class

# COMING SOON..

## December 6

### **Nurture Crafting Elves at Santa's Breakfast 8-11am:**

The Nurture Team will be crafting with children who wish to create a little holiday art while at the

December 6, Santa's Breakfast. Come join our workshop of coloring and fun during this event.

## December 14

Our Sunday School children have begun practicing and will be singing at the annual Christmas music service on December 14. What a gift to our New Born King to hear our youth sing!!!

### **No youth Sunday school on December 21 and 28.**

Merry Christmas and God Bless!

## CMP November Chapel Time: Our Lord Provides in Abundance



Cary Methodist Preschool and  
CUMC Sunday School Sing  
on 10/26/25

Merry  
CHRIST  
mas





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



# Cary Methodist Preschool

**A Blessed Christmas & A Happy New Year!**

**December 2025**

We can't believe that we are almost halfway through our school year. Time is flying, and the children are very busy in the classrooms this month preparing special gifts for you. They will probably tell you they are working on a "surprise." You will definitely know their gift is from their heart.

We hope you are able to enjoy your precious children during this busy season and reflect on all of the many blessings of your family. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ~Laura Collier



## Christmas Program

Our Christmas program for the 3's and 4/5's classes will be on Friday, Dec. 19, at 10:30am. The students (3's & 4/5's) will arrive at 9am as normal. Parents can arrive at 10:15am to save seats in the sanctuary. The program will start at 10:30am. After our program, we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas treats, holiday cheer and a special visitor. The 2-year-old room will have their Christmas celebration on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 10:30am, in the classroom!



## Stay & Play 11:30am - 1pm Monday - Thursday

\*\*\*DON'T FORGET THIS PROGRAM!\*\*\*

This is a great way for your child to connect with new and current friends. The Stay & Play children eat lunch at school, play outside and participate in fun activities in our Stay & Play room.

**It is a wonderful way to sneak in some Christmas Shopping!**

## We Are Thankful For You!

Thank you to our parents that donated their time to plan and help at our Fall Fest parties. We are so lucky to have you!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Fall Fest Party Bags! They made the children very happy!

Thank you to everyone for the generous Thanksgiving Friendship Snack Mix donations! The children enjoyed a delicious treat the day before Thanksgiving Break!

## Merry Cary Parade

This year, CMP is going to participate in the Merry Cary Parade on Sunday, December 7 (we will line up around 12:30pm). We would love to have our students & parents join us (children must be chaperoned by an adult). A sign-up was emailed to you a couple weeks ago. If you and your child would like to join the fun, please sign up and let us know how many of you will be there. I will send home more detailed information to those who have signed up.



## Important Dates:

2's Stretch-n-Grow: Tues.

Chapel time with Ms. Sally and Stretch-N-Grow: 3's and 4's Fri., 12/5

Merry Cary Parade: 12/7 @ 1pm.  
Lineup @ 12:30pm

2's Christmas Celebration: Thurs., 12/18, 10:30am-11:30am

Christmas Program (3's and 4/5's), Fri., 12/19, 10:30-11:30am

NO SCHOOL Christmas break: 12/22 thru 1/2

NO SCHOOL Teacher in-service: Mon., 1/5

Classes Resume: Tues., 1/6

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



## Registration 2025-2026

Registration for the next 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 January 20. Class offerings and tuition rates will be posted on January 9.

# Financial Status of Cary United Methodist Church

Thank you. We did not make the current monthly expenditures, but we are still ahead for the year. It depends on what kind of person you are, whether you view it as our glass being half full, or half empty. I personally think that God is still smiling.

Following is the financial status of CUMC for January thru October 2025.

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](mailto:swidertc@comcast.net)



Current Income for October 2024	Current Expenses for October 2025	Difference
\$29,434.47	\$30,920.60	-\$1,486.13
Current Income for Jan.– Oct. 2025	Current Expenses for Jan. – Oct.. 2025	Difference
\$287,352.62	\$287,055.80	+\$296.82



## Sunday, December 14 - Music Sunday at 9am

Our Music Department, anchored by David DCamp, Kevin Scott and Penny Libert, will present vocal and instrumental seasonal music. Come to hear some old favorites and to develop new ones as the Angels' voices are heard.

## Monday, December 22 - Service of the Longest Night 7pm

**Wednesday, December 24 - Family Interactive Worship at 4pm.** Bring the children—infants, toddlers and up to participate in the Christmas story and share together in the Eucharist.

**Pre-Midnight Worship at 10pm.** Music, singing—both choral and congregation as we welcome the Christ Child into the world.

Reminder: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 21 and Dec. 28

Dear Church Family,

You may have noticed that the **new TVs for the Sanctuary have arrived!**

Our dedicated Tech Team is working diligently to get them installed as soon as possible.

To give you a preview of how the screens will look in action, I've attached a mockup image. *Please note: The screen sizes shown in the picture are **not to scale**—they're just for illustration purposes.*

We're excited for this upgrade and how it will enhance our worship experience!

Blessings, Your Tech Team



# United Women in Faith November News



## Books 'n Bagels

Next meeting is Friday, December 5, at 7pm, at the church, in Zoom room 112, downstairs. Book title is *Mr. Dickens and His Carol* by Samantha Silva. Contact Dawn Ferree or Bethany Decker.

## Mark your Calendar: Dates for United Women in Faith Events

Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 pm, FH, **Leadership Team**, all are welcome. Contact *Glenda Arnold 312-550-1740*

Wednesday, December 10, 11am at Julie Lilly's home, FH, **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 December 10, 11am at Julie Lilly's home. 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. There will be no meetings on Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

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](mailto: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).

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all! This month we are thankful to everyone who generously donated to our **Pajama Drive** to benefit **Kids in Need**. The response was overwhelming!

And thank you all for the warm welcome given to Michael Benedeck. On November 6, the director of **Helping Hands of McHenry County** spoke on the work of his local prison ministries. We will also host a **Giving Tree** to benefit the families of the inmates they work with at the McHenry County Jail.

## **Breakfast with Santa and Kris Kringle Shop**

On Saturday, December 6, kids of all ages can have **Breakfast with Santa** and shop the **Kris Kringle Market** from 8-11am. United Methodist Men will be cooking up to serve pancakes and other “parts of a balanced breakfast” for this merry event. Our Nurture Team ‘elves’ will lead kids crafts as well.



## **Cookie Walk**

We need your help! We need Cookie Baker volunteers. Bring them to church on Friday, Dec. 12 from 9am-7pm. We need volunteers to help setup tables and cookies or come on Saturday to greet & help buyers, prepare or serve hot drinks for our Mingle tables, then cleanup after the sale. Cookie Walk Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9am - 12pm. Cookies will be weighed and sold by the pound: \$10. Contact person: Amy Peterson 847-502-3394



## **December Events**

**Merry Cary Parade: Sunday, December 7, 1PM**

**Annual Cookie Walk: Saturday, December 13, 9 – 12PM**

**Music Sunday: Sunday, December 14, 9AM Worship Service**

**Christmas Eve Worship: Wednesday, December 24, 4PM and 10PM**

## December Birthdays

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>12/1</b> Valerie Deehring  | <b>12/17</b> Joseph Frieman  |
| Bob Groos                     | Christina Rank               |
| Torben Mularski               | <b>12/20</b> Manav George    |
| <b>12/2</b> Amy Reynolds      | Holly Voss                   |
| Judy Sutliff                  | <b>12/21</b> Glenda Arnold   |
| Kathie Parks                  | <b>12/26</b> Penny Libert    |
| <b>12/4</b> Karen Groos       | Linda Scholz                 |
| <b>12/5</b> Steve Scholz      | Ken Scott                    |
| Joyce Simon                   | <b>12/27</b> Chris Oberheide |
| <b>12/8</b> Barry Wintersteen | <b>12/28</b> Liliana Reynold |
| <b>12/9</b> Jorge Brockhoeft  | <b>12/30</b> Ray Weisser     |
| Cameron Iverson               |                              |
| <b>12/12</b> Karen Moe        |                              |
| Janice Prunier-King           |                              |
| <b>12/13</b> Jim Iverson      |                              |
| Lexi Stewart                  |                              |
| <b>12/14</b> Rich Heizer      |                              |



## December Anniversaries

John & Jennifer Crick 12/16



**Merry Cary Parade:**...The Merry Cary Christmas Parade is Sunday, December 7, at 1pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. Families from the preschool will join us, too! We will line up in downtown Cary at 12:30pm. More specific information will be available at a later date. All are welcome to march with us.

# CHRISTMAS PARADE

## A note from your McHenry County Team...

Hello friends,

We have made it to the end of our 2025 McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk!

Congratulations and a sincere thank you for each and every moment and donation that you have made towards this event and towards Church World Service. The county CROP walk total is **\$16,866.10**.

The three Friends of the CROP restaurant fundraisers plus a grant and donated items totaled **\$1,266.21** to buy the items for 121 CWS Period Packs valued at **\$3,025**. So, all in all our Walk value is almost **\$20,000**.

Canned goods were collected for the four food pantries: Algonquin, Cary-Grove, Crystal Lake, and Grafton. We have a balance of \$416.80 to prepare for Sept. 27, 2026.

**CONGRATULATIONS: Our golden shoe award winner is Cary United Methodist Church, \$6135.03 donated!**



## 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	Funeral Luncheon Coordinators
Judy Sutliff	Preschool Director
Laura Collier	Custodian
Arturo Arreola	Custodian
Jaime Arreola	

### 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
	<b>1</b> 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices	<b>2</b> 9:15 Stretch & Grow 5:00 T627 Daisies 6:30 UWInFaith 7:00 Trustee Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:00 AA Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 T2174 Daisies 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 6:30 Nurture Team 7:30 Worship Team	<b>5</b> 9:15 Stretch & Grow 10:00 Setup Kris Kringle 10:00 Setup Breakfast 7:00 Books 'N Bagels	<b>6</b> 8:00 Breakfast with Santa 8:00 Kris Kringle Shop 8:00 Nurture Team Elves 
<b>7</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 1:00 Merry Cary Parade	<b>8</b> 4:00 T3725 Brownies 5:45 T229 Daisies 5:45 T3725 Daisies 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices 7:00 Faithbridge BOD.	<b>9</b> 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 6:45 T1932 Girl Scouts	<b>10</b> 12:00 Dorcas Circle-away 6:00 T1818 Meeting 7:00 AA Meeting 7:00 Stamp Night 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 7:00 PEO meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 Setup Cookie Walk 	<b>13</b> 8:15 United Women in Faith 9:00 Cookie Walk
<b>14 Music Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Gift Cards 10:15 Sunday School 	<b>15</b> 6:00 Girl Scout T1907 6:00 T160 Meeting 7:00 Chicagoland Voices	<b>16</b> 5:00 T627 Daisy 6:00 P557 Den Meeting 6:30 T582 Girl Scouts 7:00 SPRC	<b>17</b> 7:00 AA Meeting 7:00 T160 Committee Mtg. 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 8:30 Retired Men's Fellowship 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 T2174 Daisies 6:00 P557 Den Meeting	<b>19</b> 10:30 CMP Christmas Program 6:30 P557 Pack Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 Worship	<b>22</b> 7:00 Blue Christmas	<b>23</b> 6:00 P557 Den Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 4:00 Worship/Family Service. 7:00 AA Meeting 10:00 Candlelight Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Gift Cards	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 AA Meeting	