

## First in Caring

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death.

Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, "Anyone who wants to be first, must be last."

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal.

In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

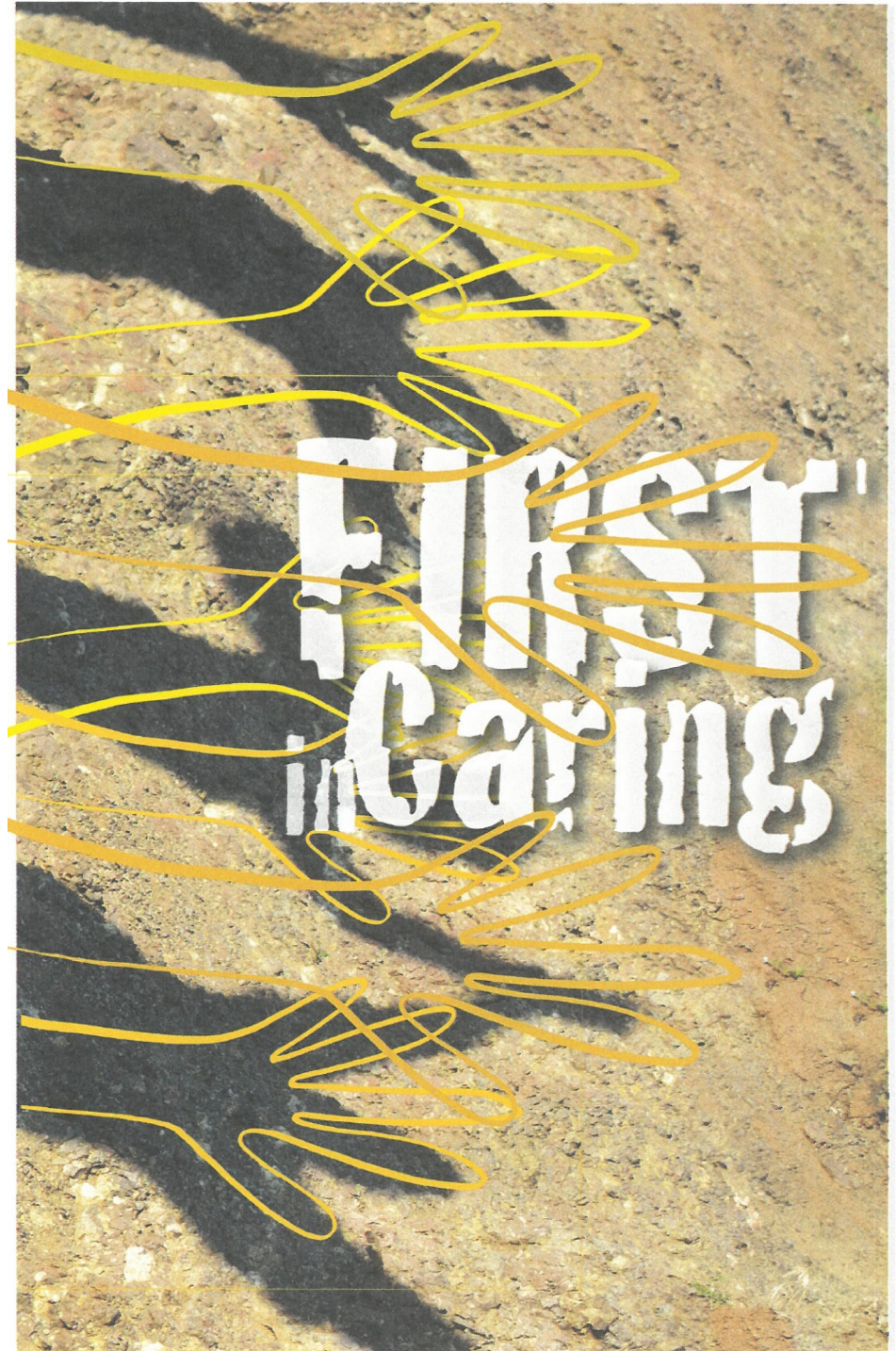
But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially with Adam, that gave his life purpose.

"The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen," wrote Nouwen. "They suffer not so much from their mental or physical handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired."

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

"Who among us is the greatest?" It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

*Loving God, may today we discover that in serving others last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done. Amen.*



**WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
A United Church of Christ  
(708) 865-1282

**Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s  
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

**September 22, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff**

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Lawrence Underwood, Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor

**Altar Flowers: Carol Hoppe**

**Liturgist: Deb Barker**

**Ushers: Greg Blomberg and Sue Becerra**

**Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ**

**1840 Westchester Boulevard**

**Westchester, IL 60154**

**708/865-1282**

**[www.westchesterucc.org](http://www.westchesterucc.org)**

**Email: [westcomchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:westcomchurch@hotmail.com)**

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,  
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in  
so we can share it with others)**

**\*\*ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM  
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR  
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND  
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

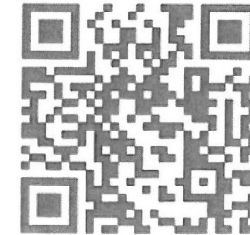
We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool,  
Which you can access through our website.

When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips,  
Our bills here at church don’t go away.

We need your help!!

Remember to give, and if it is a special gift,

There is a way to make a note on the  
Vanco page. Make clear what the donation  
is for!!! Thank you!!



**Manna news!!!** Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It’s a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees. Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dol-nics or Sue Becerra.

**Bell Choir** is every Saturday from 8:30-9:15 in the Sanctuary. We welcome all new members! Please come and join us. No music experience needed. Thank you, Joyce Kelstrom, Director



**Save these dates - Harvest of Crafts** is Saturday, November 16th and we need volunteers to work on this day. We also need volunteers to help set up on Wednesday, November 13th. We are selling Treasures and Trinkets items for \$2 or some items we make prices. As you do your Fall closet cleaning and find you would like to donate to Treasures and Trinkets please bring your items to the south basement or call Barb Mills for pickup 708-562-0759. Questions or if you wish to volunteer call Barb Mills!!

Our new Website is up and running!! You can access it at <https://westchesterucc.org> We hope you find it accessible and helpful!!!

**BRING empty RX bottles** and place them in the bin marked "RX bottles". Please remove any label and make sure they are clean.

Please Join the Westchester Food Pantry in **Harvesting Hope** honoring Our Past... Building Our Tomorrow on Thursday, September 26th at 6pm. Plymouth Place—Dole Hall Lagrange Park. Purchase tickets by September 23rd—\$50 per person. Drinks and appetizers will be served.

Our next area UCC **Cluster 4 Meeting** is Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 pm at WCC. The Rev. Roger Dart will be our guest speaker. Rev. Dart will be speaking on the Disaster Ministry of the Illinois Conference. All are invited to attend this informational meeting. Please contact Kathy Marinier (224-449-1735) if you plan to attend so adequate space can be arranged.

Grassroots Garden Group Presents: "**Native Plants for Small Gardens**" Wednesday, September 25th at 7pm. Location is 11225 Constitution Dr., Westchester. Tickets \$10 [Grassrootsgardengroup.org/events](http://Grassrootsgardengroup.org/events)

A **Senior Health and Resource Fair** will be held HERE at WCC, Wednesday, September 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many vendors are coming about Health Issues, Home Maintenance resources, Active Living, Estate Planning, AND Flu Shots are available!!

## WORSHIP SERVICE

*"If you want to have enough to give to others,  
you will need to take care of yourself first.  
A tree that refuses water and sunlight for itself,  
can't bear fruits for others"—Emily Maroutian*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*WE PRAY THAT WE WILL DO GOD'S WILL

#349

*"Seek Ye First"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Deb Barker

Leader: Raise up from within us the good that comes from knowing You.

**People: Your Spirit breathes so much into us.  
Not only are we gifted with skill and possibility, but we are given connection to what is You, what is wise and loving, and good.**

Leader: We do not pray to become as You, but we pray this:

**People: - to become more honestly Christ—like  
- to pay more attention to what is happening around us and what others truly need; and  
- to do these things with a humble spirit.**

Leader: Gather now to be the Body of Christ, the Church.

**ALL: AND MAY EVERYTHING WE DO SHOW HOW DEEPLY WE WANT TO HONOR YOU, O LORD!!**

A Reading from God's Holy Word

Deb Barker

*From the Pastorals: James 3:13-4:3; 7-8a* p. 35, NT, Pew Bible  
p. 55, NT, Large Print Bible

\*A GLORIA PATRI

#734

*"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen. Amen."*

WE PRAY TO THE LORD

#493

*"Cares Chorus"*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING  
AN OFFERTORY  
(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK  
OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)

\*THE DOXOLOGY #34

*“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”*

\*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison) Deb Barker

**We celebrate that we can do something for others and for You. We gather together our gifts in the hope that our congregation will thrive now, and what we do will plant seeds for a hopeful future for those who will follow us. Bless them to Your Glory, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

A Reading from God’s Holy Word Deb Barker  
*From the Gospel: Mark 9:30-37* p. 35, NT, Pew Bible  
P. 55, NT, Large Print Bible

THE MEDITATION—*“A Mature Faith”*

\*THAT WE WOULD HONOR A HOLY CALL #530  
*“Faith of Our Fathers”*

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION Pastor Mills

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CALENDAR

TODAY Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm  
MONDAY Pastor doing special memorial across state  
for Jerry Volkmar  
WEDNESDAY Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. THIS WEEK  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>  
SENIOR FAIR HERE 10 A.M.—2 P.M.  
Confirmation Class—Rose Room 4 p.m.  
NEXT SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

530 Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun-geon,  
2 Faith of our moth - ers, we will love both friend and foe in  
3 Faith of the mar - tyrs who, though bound, were still in heart and

fire, and sword. O how our hearts beat high with joy  
all our strife, and preach it, too, as love knows how,  
con - science true. How blest would be their chil - dren's fate,

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious Word! Faith of our fa - thers,  
by kind - ly words and vir - tuous life! Faith of our moth - ers,  
if they, like them, should live for you! Faith of the mar - tyrs,

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863), alt.  
MUSIC: Henri F. Hemy (1818-1888); arr. James G. Walton (1821-1905)

ST. CATHERINE  
8.8.8.8.8.

# Cares Chorus 493

Unison C G/B Am Cmaj7/G

I cast all my cares up-on you, I

F C/E Dm Gsus G

lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet. And

C G/B C/Bb F/A Fm/Ab

an - y-time that I don't know what to do. I will

C2/G C/G G7sus G7 F/C C

cast all my cares up - on you.

## BIRTHDAYS THRU 09/29:

- 09/23 Dan McDowell
- 09/24 Laurie Hoffman, Jennifer Vrablic
- 09/25 Zachary Scheffel
- 09/27 Tina Lopez, Carol Tibbie
- 09/28 Sarah Diaz
- 09/29 William Milleville

## ANNIVERSARIES THRU 09/29

- 09/24 Tim and Michelle Blomeke 19 years
- 09/24 Tyler and Nichole Lemme 8 years
- 09/26 Steven and Kimberly Scheffel 15 years
- 09/27 James and Dawn Slanker 37 years

## THINKING AHEAD

- Craft Workshop**—Every Monday from 9:30-11:30. We are making crafts to sell at the November 16th Craft Sale
- Sassy Stitches**—3rd Monday of the month at 7pm
- Book Club**—Wednesday, September 25th at 5:30 in the lounge. We finish up the book and watch the movie Overcomer.
- Card Making**—Friday, September 27th from 10am to 2pm. South Basement. Bring your lunch. Think Christmas!!!!
- Scrapbooking/Diamond Art**—Thursday, October 24th- 9 am-9 pm, Friday, October 25th 9am-11pm, and Saturday, October 26th 9am-9pm

Our **First Confirmation Class** is this Wednesday, September 25. We will meet at Pastor's Office at 4 p.m., and if a parent can stay for the beginning of the first class that would be helpful!!

A Special Prayer for two of Kelsea Hirsch's young clients, **Dylan (10) and Dyson (11)**, who lost their mother a year ago and their father suddenly last weekend.

## Seek Ye First

349

**PRAYER REQUESTS:****PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:**

Cindy Cox, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Virginia Hodina, Aaron & Elaine Hempel, Chuck Yeiser, Linda Belice, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Marilyn Sinde, Bettyann Richeson, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Pat VonLaven, Barb Sweazey, Sandra Bradley, James Hixon, Jeanie Rowe, Allen Meskan, Aldona Kitt, Judy Frandsen, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy



**FRIENDS IN PRAYERS:** Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Sherri Cozzi, Drake Dennis/Family, Bill Ernst, Father Neil Fackler, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Herman Goodloe, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Mary Ann, Cheryl Jargstorf, Larry, Tom Lindsey, Julie McGee, Julie McLean (mom to Nancy McLean), Frieda McKinnon, Leslie Mills, Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Gary Schultz, Anthony Taylor, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Jr., Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman, Adam Zellman

**OUR MILITARY:** Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler (Ft. Bragg, NC), Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks—Peace Corp. South Africa

**HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term:** Elaine Dildine—Sheridan at OakBrook, room 255; Donna Hansen—Tennessee, Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Sara Zellman—the Pearl, Hinsdale; Marylu Mills - in Hospice, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al -  
D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek and

le - lu - ia, al - le -  
D G/D D Em7 A7 D F#m

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
G D G D/A G/A D/A Em7/G A7 D

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty (1948- ); para. Matthew 6:33, 7:7

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