



MUSINGS

The month of March is with us already and with it comes....Easter! It's early this year, which might mean a chilly Easter Egg Hunt at church. And with spring break for many schools either before or after Easter, we hope that those of you in town will be at NECC to celebrate Easter on behalf of those who are traveling. But regardless of weather or attendance, we will have a meaningful remainder of the Lenten season and an exciting celebration of life on Easter Sunday.

As the Lenten season continues in March, I'm going to offer a lecture series on the Parables of Jesus. This will consist of two one-hour lectures, Parables 1 & Parables 2, offered three times during the month to allow you more opportunity to come to both even if you can't come to consecutive lectures. The parables are fascinating for me; they were the main vehicle by which Jesus illustrated the reign of God, what he called the kingdom of God, which ultimately means the world as if God were in charge. More important than the insight these parables offer us into the life of Jesus of Nazareth is the understanding of the ideas and lifestyle Jesus wanted to inspire in his followers. I hope you will be able to join me in taking a closer look at some of these stories Jesus told. Sundays after worship at 11:15; weeknights at 7:00.

Sunday, March 6:	Parables 1
Sunday, March 13:	Parables 2
Monday, March 14:	Parables 1
Monday, March 21:	Parables 2
Thursday, March 10:	Parables 1
Thursday, March 17:	Parables 2

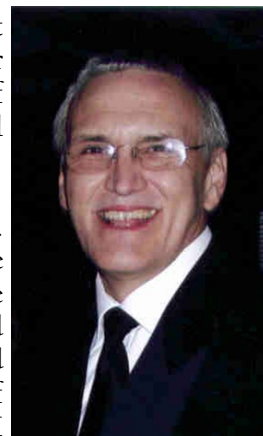
Easter Sunday is always a time of great celebration at New England Church. We will offer, as usual, two identical, one-hour services at 8:30 am and 10:00 am. The Chancel Choir will sing and the New England Carillon Bell Choir will play at both. Parking is always difficult, but know that overflow parking is available to the west, behind the law office of Gary Hurt; to the east in the parking lot by Paramount Staffing, and north and south on Chestnut Street.


Our Transition Team has been diligently at work to create the profile the church must complete this year in preparation for next year's search. The announcement requesting your participation in the questionnaire and the Focus Groups, inviting you into discussion and dialogue about the church's ministry and how you see it in the future, is in this edition of Tidings.

I invite you to join Mike and me at Ballydoyle Irish Pub for lunch each week for conversation. These gatherings have served two important purposes: 1. it's your opportunity to ask questions and raise issues that are important to you, and 2. an opportunity to get to know one another better. We hope you'll join us sometime; see the schedule in this Tidings.

And in conclusion, if you haven't checked out our new, user-friendly, beautifully-designed website, do so at: www.newenglandchurch.org. There's a wealth of information here about the church and the upcoming activities.

Happy March. Happy Easter.





THANK YOU

Thanks to Jodee Grometer and Deb Pendell for organizing the annual meeting luncheon. The festive room and the delicious food set the right tone for our meeting. And thanks to all who helped in setting up and cleaning up.

Remember to set your clocks 1 hour ahead the evening of Saturday, March 12.




“Heritage of Harmony” Weekend

On SATURDAY, APRIL 16 and SUNDAY, APRIL 17, the Music Ministry of New England Church will host a “HERITAGE OF HARMONY” weekend. This special event offers current and former members and friends of the Chancel Choir and Plymouth Rock Singers the opportunity to share in song and fellowship as we celebrate quality music-making in Aurora dating back to 1858.

- ◆ On Saturday afternoon, we will rehearse and share social time together from 2:00-5:30 pm as we prepare several anthems to be presented at the 10:00 am service on Sunday.
- ◆ There will be no 8:30 am service on Sunday, April 17. We want to encourage people to attend the 10:00 am service and with all of the activity that day, we will need to use the chapel.
- ◆ If you have sung in the Chancel Choir or Plymouth Rock Singers at any time in the past and are interested in participating in “HERITAGE OF HARMONY,” please contact Ina Heup at: iheup@aol.com or at 630.851.5364 *no later than Monday, March 14.*

I sincerely hope that many choir alumni will take part in celebrating the powerful music ministry that has brought such beauty and meaning to New England Church for 158 years.

Ina Heup
Minister of Music



OVERFLOW PARKING

Remember that there is overflow parking to the west of our church parking lot, behind the law offices of Don Dickinson and Gary Hurt. A sign on the front lawn on Galena Blvd directs you to the lot. Those who are able to walk the distance, please park here and leave the church parking lot available for those who can’t navigate the longer distance. Thank you.



'Conversations With Gary & Mike'



'Conversations with Gary & Mike'-Join us at Ballydoyle Irish Pub in downtown Aurora for conversations on the subjects you wish to discuss. Everyone buys their own food and drink.

LUNCHTIME at 11:30 am

Monday, March 7

Tuesday, March 15

Wednesday, March 23

Thursday, March 31

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Join us for two one-hour lectures and discussion on the meaning, purpose, and context of the stories Jesus used in teaching about God's presence in life. These are duplicate sessions so you may come any of the times that suit you. The parables were the main vehicle by which Jesus illustrated the reign of God, what he called the kingdom of God, which ultimately means the world as if God were in charge. More important than the insight these parables offer us into the life of Jesus of Nazareth, is the understanding of the ideas and life-style Jesus wanted to inspire in his followers. Sundays at 11:15 am, following the second service; week nights at 7:00 pm. In the third-floor chapel. Everyone is invited.



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- Thursday, March 17: Parables 2

Books of Note will meet Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm at NECC. The book for discussion is 'Brooklyn' by Colm Toibin. Join us for this book with an Irish flavor!

To Kimberly Adams for organizing our annual Chocolate Festival.



EASTER LILIES ORDER DEADLINE: March 20, 2016

I would like to order Easter flowers to be used as a chancel decoration on Easter Sunday. Anyone who donated a plant, may take it home after the 10:00 am service.

PLEASE PRINT

Lily _____ x \$12.00 each = _____

I have enclosed my check or cash for \$ _____

To Remember _____

Name _____



This year's Christian Service Awards went to Karna Burkeen and Val Flechtner, both of whom are tireless workers on our Board of Missions. Among other things, they are mentors and mentor trainers for KidsHope USA doing one-on-one tutoring at Greenman School. We appreciate all you do to provide opportunity of service for us.



Thanks to Mike Ahasic for supplying and cleaning the tablecloths and napkins for our various church and funeral dinners. We appreciate your generous contribution, Mike.

EASTER COLLECTION FOR MUTUAL GROUND



The NECC Board of Missions annual Easter Collection for Mutual Ground begins in March. This year we are focusing on their “most-needed” wish list including; gallon zip lock bags; paper towels, toilet paper, Clorox wipes, Kleenex, batteries, personal care items, gift cards to Jewel and Walmart, etc. Monetary donations for Mutual Ground are also very appreciated. Please bring items to the church by March 20. Thank you! www.mutualground.org.

The annual Chicken Soup lunch at Temple B'nai Israel is on March 6 from 12:00-2:00 pm. Eat in our take out. Pre-order: \$8. At the door: \$10. Order forms are on the bulletin board by the office.



FILM SERIES



Film Series March II: “Dil Se (From the Heart)” (1998)
A radio executive falls in love with a dangerous revolutionary. Starring Shah Rukh Khan, Manisha Koirala and Preity Zinta, and directed by Mani Ratnam, “Dil Se” has one of the most famous Bollywood soundtracks of all time from Oscar winner A. R. Rahman (“Slumdog Millionaire”). Presenters: Melanie Greenberg and her father, Joe Dunham. Please note: Film is 2 hours and 35 minutes.

Men’s Fellowship Dinner

NECC Men’s Fellowship Dinner, Kennedy Pointe Restaurant & Pub, Bristol (2245 Kennedy Rd), Tuesday, March 8 starting at 6:00 pm. Separate checks, cash bar, free iced tea, lemonade, and coffee, fantastic menu! Dinner orders will be taken at 6:30 pm. Please sign-up in the church office or by contacting Mike Daly (630.897.8721 ext. 2140 or mike@newenglandchurch.org).



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It is Scrabblefest time again! All women of the church are invited to Women's Circle of Friends meeting in Friendship Hall on Saturday, March 12, at 9:30 am. Following a shared breakfast, we will play Scrabble. (no prior experience needed!) Please sign up in the church office.

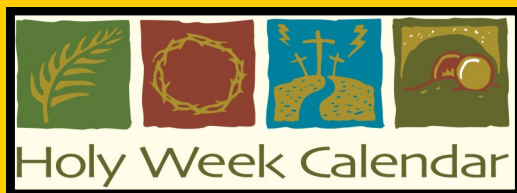


EASTER EGG HUNT



The annual NECC Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26 at 11:00 am. for all ages through 4th grade. We will start in Friendship Hall (3rd floor) for snacks, fun activities and a visit from the Easter Bunny. BRING YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, YOUR NEIGHBORS and YOUR FRIENDS. Weather permitting we will hunt for eggs outdoors on the church grounds, if the weather is prohibitive we will search for eggs inside

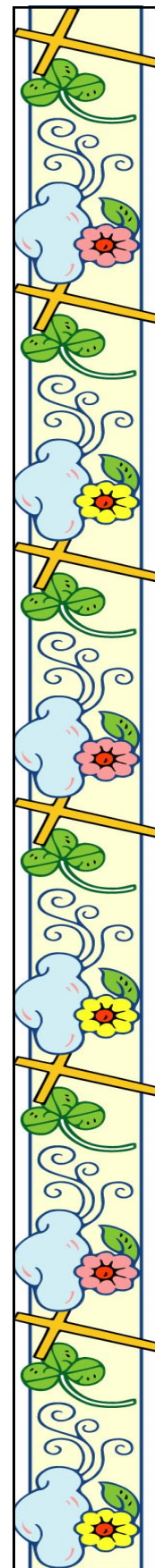
the church. Please join us and bring your Easter Baskets from home. There will be lots of Easter candy and prizes. If you have any questions, please call Mike Daly 630.897.8721.



MAUNDY THURSDAY-March 24
Worship service at 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY-March 25
Self-directed Communion and Meditation
11:00 am-1:00 pm in Johnson Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY-March 27
Two Identical Services at 8:30 & 10:00 am



March, 2016
Vol. 3

Tiny Tidings

PREK - 4TH GRADE CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 6TH	Exploring the Bible
FEBRUARY 13TH	Bible Sunday (3rd Graders Receive their own Bible)
FEBRUARY 20TH	Palm Sunday
FEBRUARY 27TH	Easter (All Children in Church)

BIBLE SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016

On March 13th, our 3rd graders, along with some 4th and 5th graders will be receiving Bibles during the early part of the worship service. Each of the participants have been sent a letter inviting them to the service and to the luncheon following in Friendship Hall. If you have received the letter, please RSVP your confirmation or regrets for lunch and the exact name you want printed on the Bible to Mike Daly, mike@newenglandchurch.org.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Mark your calendars NOW!! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26th @ 11:00 AM. This year, weather permitting, we will be hunting for eggs on the grassy area around the church and in the pre-school playground area. We will all start in Friendship Hall with yummy Easter treats and fun activities and then have the egg hunt. (If the weather is bad, we will hold the festivities inside.) So, if you are a pre-schooler-4th grader, BYOB (Bring your own basket), and join us for a terrific time!

THE ART OF GIVING

Over the past couple of years, the Church School has been incorporating a "Life Lesson" into the curriculum. These lessons help the children make real world connections on how they can live the way Jesus would like us to live. This year, the 1st-4th grade church school children will be practicing the "art of giving" while putting together mini-care packages for those less fortunate. To help the church school children meet their goal of packaging 50 care packages for Hesed House, we are asking church school families and members of the congregation to donate supplies for this "giving" event. All donations can be dropped off to Audra Darche or in the basket located in the Church School Hallway.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, deodorant, mouthwash, and sunscreen
*Mini versions of the above products are encouraged as they are easier to assemble, package and transport



**BIG
HUGE
THANKS**

On February 21st & 28th, the 1st & 2nd graders here at NECC, were a part of a special Church School lesson on The Sacraments (Communion & Baptism). The children were provided with a "show and tell" of the elements along with the symbolism of each. Thank you to Gary McCann and Joe Dunham for helping teach these important lessons to our children.

FUN AT THE CHURCH WINTER JUMP OUTING



MAKING
VALENTINES
FOR THOSE
UNABLE TO
ATTEND
CHURCH ON A
CONSISTENT
BASIS



YOUTH HELPERS IN CHURCH SCHOOL



VALENTINE FUN



YOUTH TIDINGS

MARCH, 2016

68TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

- MARCH 6TH** Prep for Bible Sunday lessons – Bible Games
- MARCH 13TH** BIBLE SUNDAY – teach 3rd and 4th graders
- MARCH 20TH** Palm Sunday FILL EASTER EGGS with candy for Egg Hunt
- MARCH 26TH** HELPING HANDS - Egg Hunt helpers at church
- MARCH 27TH** EASTER Sunday (Stay in church - No Class)

CONFIRMATION CLASS (7th & 8th Grade Schedule)

- MARCH 6TH** Giving Tree
- MARCH 13TH** The Protestants & the UCC
- MARCH 20TH** Palm Sunday – Easter Party
- MARCH 24TH** Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7 p.m.
- MARCH 26TH** Help with the Easter Egg Hunt
- MARCH 27TH** EASTER Sunday – no class

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
ROAD CLEAN-UP.
Watch for a March date,
depending on the weather.



thank
you!

The youth pizza sale was another “super” success! This fundraiser supports our summer youth work tour program. We’ll be back again next year (and back on Super Bowl Sunday).

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

WE THINK SOMETIMES THAT POVERTY IS ONLY BEING HUNGRY, NAKED AND HOMELESS. THE POVERTY OF BEING UNWANTED, UNLOVED AND UNCARED FOR IS THE GREATEST POVERTY. WE MUST START IN OUR OWN HOMES TO REMEDY THIS KIND OF POVERTY.

MOTHER TERESA

BOWL FOR KID’S SAKE SUPPORTS

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

All youth (5th – 12th grades) .March 13th at 1:30 arrival, 2:00pm. Bowling at Parkside Lanes, sign-up with Mike, Laura, or Jean. Pizza, prizes, bowling, and lots of laughs. All for a great cause. We also are collecting donations to support our team. Our goal for BBBS is \$1000 or more!

Big Brothers Big Sisters
BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Easter Egg Hunt

YOUTH HELPERS NEEDED

The annual children’s Easter Egg Hunt is coming. March 26th here at church. It starts at 11:00 a.m. We can use youth helpers starting at 10:00 a.m.



EASTER SUNDAY IS MARCH 27TH!

7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

Mark your calendars for the **SPRING RETREAT** April 15 – 17 at Pilgrim Park Camp in Princeton, IL.
Information and sign-up material will be sent out soon.

Check out the
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UCC
SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE
at www.il-odm.org

 **Happy Easter**

FUN FOR ALL AGES AT THE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL



WINTER TUBING AT DICKSON VALLEY CAMP



THE CONFIRMATION CLASS VISITED THE HINDU TEMPLE. THEY TRIED INDIAN FOODS FOR LUNCH. YUM!



MAKING PIZZAS TO RAISE MONEY FOR H.S. YOUTH SUMMER WORK TOUR





**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**

New England Congregational Church
-UCC
406 W. Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL. 60506
Phone: 630.897.8721
Fax: 630.897.8744
Email: office@newenglandchurch.org
A Caring Church for Thinking People

Visit us on the web
at
www.newenglandchurch.org

Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:
Don Brownson, Elaine Ross



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant Minister: Joe Dunham
Minister of Education & Mission: Mike Daly
Office Administrator: Shelley Lund
Preschool Director: Jacquie May
Director of Children’s Ministry: Audra Darché
Minister of Music: Ina Heup
Children’s Choir Accompanist: Beth Ann Miller
Organists/Pianists: Marilyn Parolini, Arlene Thurow
Handbell Director: Cathy Canfield-Jepson
Wedding/Funeral Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Care: Jenni Moses, Susan Kleinwachter
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Bob Lundquist
Moderator-elect: Cheryl Vonhoff
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Judy Lopez