



MUSINGS

In light of last month's Musings conversation about taking the Bible literally rather than literally and the ongoing saga of baking wedding cakes for the LGBT community, I thought it would be enlightening to look at some other biblical injunctions that would prohibit Christian bakers from providing a wedding cake, if they want to take the Bible as literally. These are taken from an article by Benjamin L. Corey. So if you want to discriminate according to the Bible, you can't bake a cake for:

1. **Career-minded brides to be.** The Bible is very clear, if you take it literally, that women are to be tenders of the home. If a bride intends a career outside the home, then no wedding cake.
2. **Weddings where there will be overeating.** Gluttony is greed and greed is a sin. The Bible calls greed 'idol worship' so no cake for those who will entertain guests who overdo the food.
3. **Weddings where there will be drunkenness.** If providing a cake for a LGBT couple is an endorsement of their lifestyle, then you can't make a cake for a wedding where those invited will exceed the legal blood-alcohol concentration of more than .08. By baking their cake, you endorse drunkenness and perhaps even drunk driving upon leaving.
4. **A bride or groom who is divorced for an illegitimate reason.** The Bible states (if you read it literally!!) that there are only two acceptable reasons for divorce: a spouse has been unfaithful or if married to an unbeliever who leaves you. So baking a cake for all other divorcees remarrying would condone their sinful lifestyle.
5. **Young military couples.** Deuteronomy 24.5 states that a man cannot serve in the military during the first year of his marriage. And we would assume that the same applies to a woman who, like the man, is supposed to spend the first year of wedded bliss caring for one another. Baking a cake for a military couple would condone a lifestyle that is contrary to scripture.
6. **Mixed-faith weddings.** The Bible is clear that we are not to be "unequally yoked," which means that if you bake a wedding cake for a Jewish bride and a Christian groom, or vice versa, or any other combination of religions other than two Christians, you are supporting their sinful lifestyle.
7. **Brides with expensive gowns and jewels.** Paul was adamant that women should not be adorned with expensive apparel, so you'd better see the receipt for the dress and the pearls before baking the cake.

Well, this tongue-in-cheek response only makes the point that most Christians would see these reasons as ridiculous for refusing to bake a wedding cake in today's modern world. We've learned to look beyond the literal word of the Bible to care for people in all kinds of situations knowing that culture, values and insights change over time. But it makes no more sense to refuse a wedding cake to a gay or lesbian couple than it does to refuse to bake one for any of the above situations.

I have a feeling God is both laughing—and crying—at the ridiculous ways people have used their faith to promote their own self-righteous discrimination rather than practice the biblical injunction of hospitality toward those different from ourselves.

Gary





'CONVERSATIONS WITH GARY'

'Conversations with Gary' will be held on Monday, May 4, Tuesday, May 12, Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 28 at 11:30 am at Ballydoyle Pub in downtown Aurora. Everyone buys their own lunch. Here you have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, explore topics of interest and enter into dialogue about things that are of concern to you - whether it be theology, the church, the community, or the arts.... As you can see this is a casual format with no formal agenda or topic other than what may come up in conversation or by your questions and thoughts. Everyone is welcome.



More Ways to Volunteer



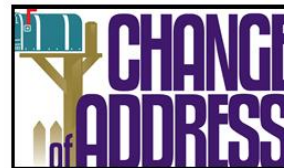
The Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry serves families in need of food assistance who live in Kane, Kendall, DuPage, and Dekalb counties. Volunteers are needed to help sort, pack, and distribute food. Volunteer hours are Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and other days and times for special projects. Your volunteer efforts make a huge difference in the lives of others. For more information

please contact the Pantry at 630.897.2127 or Mike Daly at church at 630.897.8721 x. 2140. Thank you!

We've Moved

Floyd Raspiller
275 S. LaSalle St.
Aurora, IL. 60505

Laura Raspiller
1037 Howell Pl. #201
Aurora, IL. 60505



Children's Choir Musical



On Sunday, May 17, the Plymouth Rock Singers will present *“Assignment: Earth”* at the 10:00 am service in Friendship Hall. In this delightful musical revue by Roger Emerson, the children will explore ways of caring for this beautiful planet that God has created for us. Through their pure, clear voices and lively skits, our budding young artists will challenge us to work together to make our world a better place for future generations.

You won't want to miss this meaningful musical offered by our precious young singers.

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Board of Missions sends a big **“Thank you”** to the generous NECC members and friends who provided colorful Easter bags or baskets filled with toys and candy. The staff of Mutual Ground appreciates the kindness which made Easter an even more joyous day for the children at the shelter. *And they will know we are Christians by our love.*



WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Women's Circle of Friends-Tinplate, tinsmithing, and the many, many items made of tin have played an important role in our history. On Saturday, May 9, at 9:30 am in Friendship Hall, Gordon McDugle will share with us the story of tinsmithing and show us examples of old tinware from the McDugle's collection. If anyone has

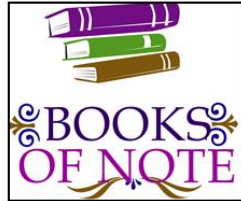
any pieces in tin-such as lighting, kitchen items, mirrors, candle molds, etc...please bring them to share. We will all learn something!! Linda Bridgman will host. Please sign up in the church office.

*A
Warm Welcome
to
Our
New Members;

Ken & Penny
Cameron,
Marsha Carter,
Tim & Sarah
Kanive,
David Morlock,
Julie Morrison,
Pam Olsen,
Martha Ryan
from
New England
Congregational
Church*



BOOKS OF NOTE



Books of Note will meet on Tuesday, May 19 to discuss "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich. Location is NECC and time is 7:00 pm. This will be the final meeting prior to summer break and all are welcome!

May Is Mental Health Month

Our local NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers support groups and information.

Their Aurora office can be reached at: 630-896-6264.

The Web site is: www.namikdk.org.

A most helpful book by Rev. Craig Rennebohm is, "Souls in the Hands of a Tender God". It is available from libraries, bookstores or speak to Bob Dell.



The current worship schedule will remain in place during the summer months.

The church office hours will be from 9:00 am-1:00 pm beginning Tuesday, May 26th through Friday, August 28th.

Discovering Sacred Architecture

All are invited to visit eleven landmark sites of worship and explore how architecture reflects faith traditions.

Organized by
Fox Valley Interfaith

4/19/15

Geneva: 320 Franklin St.
102 S. Second St.
211 Hamilton St.

Batavia: 21 S. Batavia Ave.

5/17/15

Aurora: 406 W. Galena Blvd.
420 W. Downer Pl.
400 N. Edgelawn Dr.
14 N. May St.

6/28/15

St. Charles: 1145 N. 5th Ave.
40w451 Fox Mill Blvd.
400 Cedar St. (2:00 to 4:00 only)

Free

Begin at any location on
Sundays
1 to 4 p.m.

For more information:
www.meetup.com/Kane-and-DuPage-County-InterFaith

Tiny Tidings

PREK - 4TH GRADE CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- MAY 3** Puppet Show (Presented by 5th & 6th Graders)
MAY 10 Mother's Day Project
MAY 17 Children's Musical
MAY 24 Summer Program

THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH SCHOOL SHEPHERDS



to all of our wonderful high school volunteers (Emma Scatterday, Darcey Pittman, Megan Voris, Libby Weit, & Olivia Swindle) who have made the church school year a success! Your dedication and time are recognized and our program would not exist without your help!

TIME UNDER THE TENT - PASSPORT TO THE WORLD

Time Under the Tent, NECC's summer church school program will begin May 24th for all of our church school children through 4th grade! This year's summer theme is **Passport to the World** and will focus on cultural diversity and how important it is for each of us to learn about other cultures. As always, children will begin with worship and stay through the Time with Children. After that, they will go up to the church school area for their lessons. Parents can pick their child/ren up after the church service has ended.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

On Sunday, May 17th, several church school children will be participating in our annual Children's Musical: "Assignment: Earth" lead by our wonderful music director Ina Heup. The musical will take place during the 10:00 service. The children have been practicing for months on this production and are excited to share their talents with you. Mark your calendars for this entertaining event!!



CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC



On Sunday, May 17th, a special Church School family picnic will also take place at 3:30 PM at the home of Rick and Audra Darche. This will be a great opportunity for our Church School families to hang out and enjoy a fun afternoon of food & fellowship. All families with a preschool-4th grade child are welcome to this event. Please RSVP to Audra Darche if you are able to attend.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The church school is in need of volunteers to help teach the Time Under the Tent lessons during the summer months beginning May 24th. All lessons and supplies will be provided to make it easy for all who teach. A sign-up sheet is located in the church school hallway or you can contact Audra Darche to obtain open dates.

Volunteers Needed

CHURCH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



BUILDING A ROAD AND WAVING PALMS TO WELCOME JESUS

PLAYING EASTER BINGO



TEACHING YOUNGER CHILDREN

HAVING FUN TEACHING BIBLE LESSONS



5/6 TEACH 3/4 ABOUT THE BIBLE



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



EASTER EGG HUNT



1. FILL THE EGGS

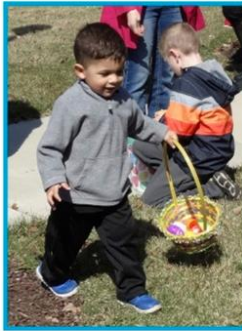


2. "HIDE" THE EGGS



3. GET THE PRIZE TABLE SET UP

4. FIND THE EGGS



5. COUNT THE EGGS



6. PICK OUT PRIZES

7. ENJOY THE PRIZES PICKED



YOUTH TIDINGS

MAY, 2015

59TH EDITION

Confirmation

The following youth will be confirmed on May 4, 2014:

CONFIRMAND

Brianna Frances Czenk
Emma Kristina Marlow
Samantha Marie Pittman

PARENTS

William & Kirsten Czenk
Bill & Amanda Marlow
Lindley & Laura Pittman

MENTOR

Sara Carley
Diane Hienton
Rebecca Talavera

5TH AND 6TH GRADERS

HELPING HANDS



REMINDER: The Annual Puppet Show for the church school is Sunday, May 10th. It will be another great show and we will start rehearsing soon.

Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday – May 3 at the 10:00 a.m. service. 8th graders will be confirmed, 7th graders will be greeters and ushers. Invite the **WHOLE FAMILY** for this very special day!

PLAY BALL

Do you like baseball? There are some special events at the Kane County Cougar games coming up! On May 5th our very own Sean Thompson will be singing. And on August 11th, we have a New England Church game outing with discounted seats. Those tickets will be on sale at church over the summer.



Youth we do occasional road clean-up on Orchard Road through the Kane County Adopt-a-Highway program. Please watch for dates and ask Mike Daly for more information.



SUMMER IS COMING

Youth please share your ideas for summer and fall activities with either Mike or Laura.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I'll tell you what's helped me my entire life. I look at baseball as a game. It's something where people can go out, enjoy and have fun. Nothing more."


Harry Caray

Thank you to all the youth who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! We couldn't have had such a great event without you!

Thank you everyone for supporting our Gondola Sandwich sale fundraiser supporting our youth ministry programs!

Visit us on the web
at
www.newenglandchurch.org

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

*“God
Is Still
Speaking”*


Joys & Concerns

Births:

Samuel Michael Morales, born to Emily and Rafael Morales on April 12.
Big brother Isaac is very proud.

Maya Ahern Williamson, born to Kari Williamson and Danielle Ahern on April 21.
Proud grandparents are Brian and Tim Williamson.

Hospitalized:

Susan Lindahl, Steve Svendsen, Laurel Svendsen, Ross Ament.

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
Lloyd O'Neil.



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 Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Care: Jenni Moses, Susan Kleinwachter
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Rose May
Moderator-elect: Bob Lundquist
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Cheryl Vonhoff