



MUSINGS

During the season of Lent, our Board of Missions has offered to match funds we contribute toward various mission outreach groups; for every dollar we contribute they will contribute one dollar, thereby doubling our contribution.

The funds they are using to match our gifts comes from the Dorothy White Estate. The church set aside \$10,000 from this bequest for the Board of Missions to use for mission programs. Here are the final results:

Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry: $\$1,225 + \$1,225 = \$2,450$

Hesed House: $\$680 + \$680 = \$1,360$

Greenman and Dieterich Schools Teacher Grants: $\$550 + \$550 = \$1,100$

Emmanuel House: $\$1,410 + \$1,410 = \$2,820$

Feed My Starving Children: $\$765 + \$765 = \$1,530$

Mutual Ground: $\$890 + \$890 = \$1,780$

United Church of Christ

Our Church's Wider Mission: $\$480 + \$480 = \$960$

The grand total of church member contributions and the matching funds from the Mission Board totals **\$12,000**. We met the goal of \$12,000!!

This is in addition to our budgeted money for OCWM, our monthly communion offerings for the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, and the contributions of back-to-school shoes and Christmas gifts given during the year. Thanks to Val Flechtner, Chairman of the Board of Missions, the Board members, and Rev. Mike Daly for using this gift wisely and efficiently. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the ministry of giving. I think Dorothy White would be very pleased!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project that further emphasizes "a caring church for thinking people" which is also "a thinking church of caring people."



Gary



'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, May 1

Tuesday, May 9

Wednesday, May 17

Thursday, May 25



FROM THE MODERATOR

Thank you so much to all of you that have accepted the “Stewardship Challenge” to help balance the 2017 Church Budget. So far, over \$15,700 has been donated for this cause. And the good news is that it’s not too late to make a donation!

It’s that time of year - Tax Refund Time (for some of us, anyway). If you are fortunate enough to get a tax refund and would like to share some of your refund for a good cause, remember New England! As you know, if all of our current pledging units donate an extra \$300 during 2017 (that’s just \$25 per month), we can have a balanced budget!

So, get a head start on your itemized deductions for next year’s taxes and consider making an extra donation to our church and to the many programs and mission projects it provides.

On behalf of the Church’s Cabinet and Stewardship Board, I extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you that have stepped up and contributed to this cause!

Cheryl Vonhoff

NEW NECC ONLINE DIRECTORY & SIGN UP OPTIONS

I have set up two new features that can be accessed from our church website!

The first is a way to access our church pictorial directory online. To access this new feature, go to our home page at www.newenglandchurch.org. Near the bottom of the page you will see a church icon that you can click on to take you to a registration page where you can register using your e-mail address and a password that you create. Once registered, you are able to access the church pictorial directory from any device by downloading the **Instant Church Directory** app.

The second is **Sign Up Station**. This is a way to sign up for different events and volunteer opportunities at the church. The link is again near the bottom of our church's home page. Click on the orange clipboard. It will link you to a page which lists events by date. Click on a date that you are interested in and it will show you what openings are available. Click on the opening you would like to sign up for and enter your name, e-mail address and phone number and you are signed up!

Soon we will have two kiosk computers in the church office (**Sign Up Stations**), available on Sundays where you can sign up as well!

I hope these new additions will make it more convenient for you to easily access the information you need.

Shelley Lund
Office Administrator

WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Spring is here and Women's Circle of Friends have been invited to Josie Starke's house for breakfast on our regular 2nd Saturday. All women are invited to join us at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 13. Josie's address is 269 Alschuler Drive. Please bring a dish to pass, invite a friend, and sign up in the church office. If the weather permits, we will be

able to enjoy Josie's beautiful gardens! This will be our last meeting until September!

Victor & Karen Swanson
909 S. Jefferson St.
Batavia, IL. 60510

Volunteer to work at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry - NECC sends volunteers to work in the warehouse and/or to restock shelves every 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:00-4:00 pm. The location is 110 Jericho Road, Aurora. Thank you!

INQUIRER'S MEETING



An Inquirer's Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 11:15 in the Chapel for those interested in learning more about New England Church. Attending this meeting in no way obligates you to further involvement at NECC; it is an opportunity for those visiting the church to learn more about who we are, what we do, and our philosophy of ministry. Childcare is provided; please let Gary know in advance if you need childcare.

Those who attended the last Inquirer's Meeting when the PowerPoint presentation didn't work are invited to see it this time!

NECC SUMMER SOFTBALL

Put me in coach, I'm ready to play today

Look at me, I could be Centerfield!

John Fogerty

Hi sports fans,

It's that time of year to be thinking of another season of men's NEC church league summer softball at Pierce Field.

The schedule is in the process of being finalized.

More information to follow.

We are always excited about recruiting new players. Anyone interested in joining the team can contact me.

Brian Carson-Coach

630-264-0604 or Cell-331-216-8020

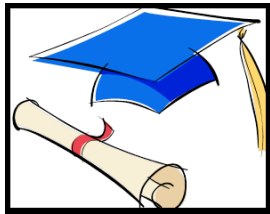


The current worship schedule will remain in place during the summer months.

The church office hours will be from 9:00 am-1:00 pm beginning Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, September 1.



ATTENTION GRADUATES



Help us celebrate your achievement. If you are going to be a high school, college or other graduate, please let us know. High school graduates, let us know where you plan to attend and what your expected course of study or major will be. College and other grads, let us know what your degree is in and where you are finishing up and what you'll

be doing next. We'll share your accomplishment in the upcoming Tidings and the bulletin on the first Sunday in June.

Contact Laura at Laura-Raspiller@ipsd.org or

Mike at mike@newenglandchurch.org with your information by May 10.

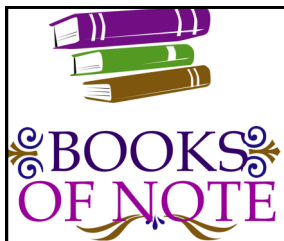
Thank you and congratulations!

NECC FEED MY STARVING

Feed My Starving Children volunteer night, on Friday, June 2 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Located at 555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL. Please sign-up in the church office or online at www.fmssc.org. Fun for all ages! "Help turn hunger into hope with your own two hands by packing nutritious meals for starving children around the world."



BOOKS OF NOTE



On May 16 at 7:00 pm in the parlor, Books of Note participants will exchange views about Anne Morrow Lindbergh's "Gift from the Sea". In this inimitable, beloved classic—graceful, lucid and lyrical—the author shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing

inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both men and women at any stage of life. This work describes the shifting shapes of relationships and marriage, presenting a vision of life as it is lived in an enduring and evolving partnership. Come and share your own insights!

SAVE THE DATE:
 Saturday, July 15
 New England
 Church Golf Outing
 AND a New England
 Church "ON-TAP"
 church social.
 Blackberry Oaks
 Golf Course and the
 golf course
 restaurant Kennedy
 Pointe.

May, 2017
Vol. 5

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

MAY 7TH	Prayer
MAY 14TH	Mother's Day Project
MAY 21ST	Church Family Picnic @ Darche Home
MAY 28TH	Last day of Church School

BIBLE GAMES

Thank
You

goes out to Jean Carson and the 5th and 6th graders who helped teach the 3rd and 4th graders about the Bible on March 19th. The 5th and 6th grade youth lead the children in various activities and games that provoked interest while encouraging the use of their new Bibles. Not only was the lesson fun, but it was great to see our youth as leaders in our church.

PRE K & K "READ IN" DAY

This year, on March 26th, the Pre K and K children participated in a special "Read In" day with the 5th & 6th graders. On this special day, the older children came into the PreK and K classroom and sat on the floor and read several common Biblical stories to the children. This is a new event in the church school program and it was a great success. This will for sure be another new tradition to the church school!



More pictures on the next page.

3RD ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC

PICNIC

On Sunday, May 21st, a special Church School family picnic will also take place at 3:00 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.

THANK YOU FO OUR CHURCH SCHOOL SHEPHERDS

Thank you to our wonderful high school volunteers:

SAMANTHA PITTMAN, DANIEL MOSES, AND 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!

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 June 4th. The theme this year will focus on the various holidays celebrated around the world. All lessons and supplies will be provided each week to make it easy for all who teach. A sign-up sheet is located in the church school hallway to view open dates.

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

PACKAGING CARE PACKAGES FOR HESED HOUSE



LEARNING ABOUT PALM SUNDAY



READ-IN

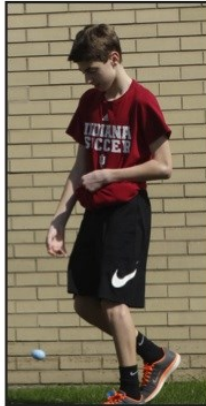
There were interactive pop-up books about Noah's Ark, ABC Bible Story Books and Animals of the Bible books read aloud to the 4 and 5 year olds by 5/6th graders Chloe Darche, Colin Hasty and Elliot Lechocki. Animal puppets were cuddled by the little listeners. Simple gifts! What a great time of sharing!

EASTER EGG HUNT - It's not just about finding eggs!

1. Youth stuffed eggs with candy and prize tickets.



2. Youth hide eggs.



3. Everyone hunts for eggs.



4. Time to open eggs and find out what is inside of them.



5. Choosing what to "buy" with their prize tickets.



FOR ANOTHER GREAT

EASTER EGG HUNT!

YOUTH THINGS

MAY, 2017

80TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE CLASS

- MAY 7TH** CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
(Stay in church - No Class)
- MAY 14TH** End of the Year Party
Last Class
- MAY 21ST** Children's Music Celebration Sunday

GRADUATES

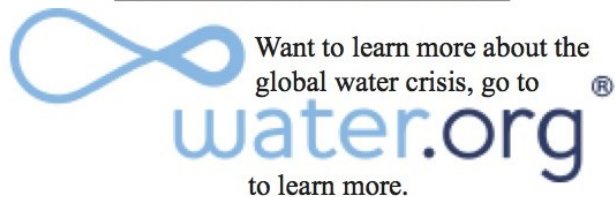


If you are **GRADUATING** in May or June, please contact Laura Raspiller at laura_raspiller@ipsd.org by Sunday, May 14th. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADS** please include school and major or other plans. **COLLEGE GRADS** include school name (college or university), degree earned and major/field.



Checkout our new church app. Go to your app store and search for "new england church". On the app you will find lots of interesting things including a Daily Devotional link. Enjoy and please let us know what you think!

GLOBAL WATER CRISIS



Want to learn more about the global water crisis, go to

to learn more.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Your present circumstances don't determine where you will go; they merely determine where you start.

Nido Qubein

Thank You

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

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH:

Language: The language used in referencing persons with mental illness can reinforce harmful stereotypes or dehumanize people with an illness or disability or language can communicate respect and dignity for persons with mental illness. The common guideline is to use "people first" language—the basic idea is to mention the person first and then the condition to emphasize that "they are people first." Use "persons with mental illness" rather than "the mentally ill." In addition, refrain from using damaging stereotyped language such as "crazy," "insane," "psycho" or other demeaning terms in referring to persons with mental illness or in general language, i.e. "I'm going crazy."

Learn more at <http://www.pathways2promise.org>



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Sunday, May 7th! Following the 10:00 service there will be a special fellowship reception with cake in Friendship Hall. Please come and meet the confirmands and say,



Kylie Moses
Audrey Young

Lauren Hasty
Edward Burkeen

SENIOR HIGH

SENIOR HIGH WORK TOUR: JUNE 2017
Back Bay Mission Donation Wish List:

Toiletries	Powdered Drink Mix
Playing Cards	Paper Bag Lunch Bags
Baggies (all sizes)	Paper Towels
Socks.	Batteries



**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

Baptisms:

Coy Michael Jerome Drews, son of Patrick & Rhea Drews.

Hospitalized:

Cole Werve

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Keith Whaley.



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
Chancel Choir Director: Jon Warfel
Children's Choir Director: AnDréa James
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: Cheryl Vonhoff
Moderator-elect: Scott Voris
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Judy Lopez