



MUSINGS

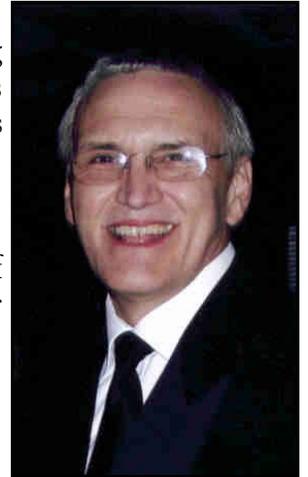
Well, our friends have moved into Emmanuel House this past month, and we are getting to know them a bit better. The house is now full of people and full of life to serve its intended purpose as these hard-working families invest in their future as home owners in Aurora.

Here are the first names of our new neighbors:

Jean Renee and Penitence, and four children, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo live on the main floor, the apartment that was converted into four bedrooms.

Tito & Enzo are brothers from Cuba. They live in the upstairs west apartment.

Isaam & Nour, from Syria, live upstairs in the east apartment.



Some of you have met them, helping them move in and get settled. Thanks to all who have assisted in the process. We can't say thanks enough to Paul & Caryl Herwick for donating the house; to Jim Hopp and his team of volunteers who rehabbed the house; to Desiree and Rick Guzman for their innovative program that has become Emmanuel House; and the Emmanuel House staff.

And thanks to our Emmanuel House Neighbors Committee who will be the liaison group working with the Emmanuel House organization, the residents in the home, and New England Church. We're grateful for their willingness to serve.

Mike & Lois Imbrogno – Mike is Chairman and a member of the Finance Board

Julie & Brian Swindle – Julie serves on the Stewardship Board

Kathi Limoges – a member of the Pastoral and Personnel Committee (P&P)

Christianah & Francis Olatunji

Rich Rosemann – a member of the Board of Deacons

Ann & Ron Richards

Val Flechtner – Chairman of the Board of Missions

There is a great article about our partnership with Emmanuel House in the United Church of Christ (the denomination of which we are a part) News. To read it, go to the www.ucc.org. Click on the link at the top "News and Events." In the dropdown, click on "Press Center." Select "News and Events" When that pages opens up, you'll see a picture of Emmanuel House and the article, entitled "A Partnership to Pierce the Cycle of Poverty in Illinois." We're proud to be part of this unique and important ministry.

Thanks to the congregation for your vote of approval to enter into this relationship with Emmanuel House and make it part of our church mission.

Gary

Mark Your Calendars!
 Saturday, July 15 for a Summer Evening Fellowship Social, New England "On-Tap" at Kennedy Pointe Restaurant in Bristol.

Check out our new Sign Up Stations in the church office!
 There are two kiosk laptop computers on the ledge where sign up lists are located that can access the sign up station on the church website to sign up for an event or volunteer. It's very easy to use! Give it a try!



Reminder!
 Articles for the next Tidings, which is a July/August combined issue, are due June 15.

'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, June 5

Tuesday, June 13

Wednesday, June 21

Thursday, June 29

EVENING at 7:00 pm

Thursday, June 8



THANK YOU!

Thank You The Board of Missions sends a big "Thank you" to the generous NEEC members and friends who provided Easter bags filled with toys and candy for children at the shelter. The staff of Mutual Ground appreciates our efforts. *And they will know we are Christians by our love.*

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 3 for working on the church grounds to celebrate Earth Day. Jerry Roesner coordinated a nice group of scouts, parents and adult leaders for the project. The plants and shrubbery appreciate their efforts. A job well done !!

CONGRATULATIONS DESIREE GUZMAN!

Congratulations Desiree Guzman! Desiree was honored by the Aurora Kiwanis Club as this year's, God & Fellowman Award recipient. Past New England Church members receiving this honor are Frank Voris, John McKee, Gary McCann, and Nancy Hopp. The Kiwanis Club honors community members for their spiritual and charitable contributions to our community. Qualifications include: Encouraging the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships; Serves as a role model for the community; Helps improve the lives of children in our community; Shows tremendous leadership skills. Desiree was recognized for all these attributes as seen in her role with Emmanuel House, as a reading tutor, as a Kids Hope USA mentor, as a writer, as a mom, as an active member of this church and so much more. Thank you Desiree.



NECC Softball Game Schedule

Here's the schedule:

- Monday, June 5 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, June 7 at 8:15 pm
- Monday, June 19 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, June 28 at 6:30 pm
- Monday, July 3 at 8:15 pm
- Wednesday, July 5 at 8:15 pm



NEW NECC CHURCH APP



Go to your App Store on any device and search for “new england church” to do a quick, easy and FREE download. This New England Church App has several interesting and useful buttons including; the latest sermon, a UCC Daily Devotional, Martin Forward’s – Thedivineimage Blog, Yale Divinity School’s Video Bible Study, and quicker access to the NECC Website and Confirmation Website. Need a moment of thoughtful reflection while waiting for your child’s hockey practice to end? Need to know what time the Five Crowns Card Group is meeting? Want to know who is preaching on Sunday? Use the App, it’s a great way to be connected to church 7 days a week. If you have any questions, please ask Mike Daly at mike@newenglandchurch.org.

NECC GOLF EVENT

Interested in hitting the links this summer with some friends from the church? Put a group together and join other members of NECC on Saturday, July 15 for an 18 hole scramble at Blackberry Oaks in Bristol. Cost is \$39, which includes a cart and range balls (\$49 with lunch). Tee times start at 1:00 pm. Contact Jason Buckley at 0409jbuckley@gmail.com if interested in participating. If you are unable to fill a foursome, we’ll pair you up with others.



Thank you to everyone who has done an excellent job of keeping their 2017 pledge payments up-to-date! We would also like to remind you that while you're off vacationing this summer, pledge payments may be made by mail, or you can consider setting up automatic payments through the church's website, www.newenglandchurch.org, click **Donate** Thank you!



NECC Kane County Cougars baseball night.
Monday, July 31
Gates open at 5:30, 6:30 pm start.
Excellent seats behind home plate.
Tickets will be on sale in the church Marketplace in July.

Here are the faith statements which our Confirmands wrote prior to their Confirmation Sunday on May 1. They are insightful and genuinely reflective of their personal faith at this time in their life.

Faith Statement of Audrey Lauren Young

As I sit here at a very small Fisher-Price picnic table on some random Saturday afternoon . . . I don't know what I'll believe in forever. But in this moment, I do know what I believe.

I believe in one God. I believe God is the creator of heaven and earth and everything on it and in between. As cliché as it sounds, I believe God does have a plan for me. I believe that at the end of my path of life, God will be waiting for me no matter how many times I trip on the uneven pavement. I believe that the pavement is uneven and life is bumpy on purpose.

People say nature is a greater creation than humans, but I believe that God intended us to be a part of nature. We are a part of the earth. Second to heaven, we (nature and earth) are God's greatest creations. We are meant to live our life to the fullest and to be strong soldiers ready for anything thrown in our way. I believe God puts other people in my life to help me grow. I believe in forgiveness and that God will always forgive my sins. I believe in one God that's greater than anything on earth.

I believe that the Bible makes me reflect on my choices, my life, and myself. I believe that the Bible can be inspiring and strengthening. However, I do not believe in the Bible itself. I believe in faith and having faith, but to me the Bible is only a very old book. The Bible was written by random people. No one knows exactly who wrote it. The people who wrote the Bible -- What made them qualified? What made them qualified to write a story that would be believed in by so many people for thousands of years and counting? The Bible says things that would make me feel absurd to believe in. Did you know that the Bible says, in Leviticus 11:4, that eating bacon (or pork in general) is a sin? I love bacon and I believe that it's not a sin to eat it. Some say that it's not up to us what is and isn't a sin. I somewhat agree, but if something is considered a sin in the Bible and I don't believe or think it should be a sin, how will I become a better child of God? I don't believe eating bacon is a sin and I believe that God is okay with that. I believe that I am trying to get a point across in my statement and not write a half a page about bacon. Some people may laugh at my statement of faith, but that's okay, because I believe that it matches my personality.

Lastly, I believe that everyone is entitled to believe what they want in peace, without judgment. No one should be treated differently, just because they believe differently.

Getting sore, sitting on this table, I realize that with all of my true beliefs written on that paper that I am done. And I am happy with it.

Faith Statement of Edward Mixon Burkeen

I feel like we need to follow God's teachings in order to keep a healthy environment and community for all. Nobody knows everything about God. This is okay because the unknown often leads to more questions. When there are unknowns though, there are many doubts. Doubts, however, lead to open interpretations of who God is and what He wants us to do.

I think the teachings in the Bible are made, not around the characters, but for the lessons. I have always been a Doubting Thomas. I do not believe in God, but I do not think it should matter. The lessons can be interpreted many ways. Most people see it different ways because of the things they hear and the things they do.

I also believe that you should be a good person. This is because more people will trust others and the world will be a better place.

This is what I think right now. Later in life, I will be wiser and know what I really think.

Faith Statement of Kylie Mable Anne Moses

I believe there is a reason for everything and that everything happens for a reason. I also believe that people were created for a reason, and that everyone has a purpose in this world. So far in life, this is all I am sure of. I do not know exactly what I do or do not believe. I am not sure whether I truly believe everything the Bible states. I am not sure that I am the type of person who believes in things that are not proven. I do believe that everyone has a place on earth, even if they do not see it at first. I think that everyone needs someone or something to get through the hard times. Whether or not I believe God or Jesus has the reason for everything, I am not sure. I do not know if I believe that praying will help a situation or give me any hope. I do not know that asking God for forgiveness when I make a mistake will make me feel forgiven, or if it will even make me feel better about the situation. I am not 100% sure what I believe one bit.

Although, there are a few things I am sure of. Those things are things like knowing I can trust my family or people I am close to. Also, I know that I believe that no matter what you believe you should be accepted by everyone and not discriminated against, like when it states in the Bible "Love thy neighbor as yourself." I believe that this statement, from Mark 12:31, is very powerful because what I get from it is to not judge others just because they are different from you or because you do not believe what they believe. I am not completely sure of what I believe, but this is what I do know.

Faith Statement of Lauren Elizabeth Hasty

I believe in God. I believe God watches over everyone and loves everyone. I believe God is always with you. I also believe in Jesus Christ who has taught great teachings to Christianity. I feel that faith is what you believe in, what you hope, your thoughts of God. I believe you should always carry faith with you. Through the good and bad, you should have faith.

I believe all people are equal. Everyone is a human being and should be treated equally. I believe that you should treat others how you want to be treated. Love your neighbor as yourself. I believe you should think of others and not always yourself. You should follow the rules and make good choices.

I believe that everyone has different beliefs. Everyone follows a different religion. Everyone has different faiths about something.

NECC is a great church to be a part of because everyone is accepted and you can believe what you want to believe. In Confirmation, I liked going to the different churches. We got to learn about the different religions and what they do. I also liked doing the things for other less fortunate people. Examples are the Fischer House at Hines V.A. Hospital, where we made and gave blankets, and Hesus House where we have donated and made food.

I feel we are placed in the world for a reason. It could be to help others, to help the world, to help the future, or to fulfill a dream.

I think God wants me to be a good person. I think He wants me to do the right things. Maybe He wants me to be a runner. Running is really important to me. It helps me be a healthier person, make better decisions, be a stronger person both physically and mentally, reach goals, work hard and believe in myself. Running teaches me to strive for the things I want, and if you work hard for something, it can happen. I believe most things happen for a reason and you should look for the positive, not the negative.

I love my family very much, I have two moms and a brother and I wouldn't wish for any other family. They all teach me how to be a better person in the world. I am grateful for everything I have in life. I appreciate all that is given to me.

June, 2017
Vol. 6

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

JUNE 4TH	Introducing Summer Lessons
JUNE 11TH	Holi- Hindu Festival of Colors & Spring
JUNE 18TH	Celebration of the Family
JUNE 25	Ramadan

MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT

This year, the children in Pre-K through 4th grade ended the year with a Mother's Day project. The children worked diligently on various projects hoping mom would be impressed with their special gift. The Pre-K and Kindergarten children made a book mark, 1st & 2nd grade children planted flowers in clay pots, and the 3rd & 4th grade made a homemade coconut body scrub for mom. The kids had a blast and we hope all of the moms felt special too!!



TIME UNDER THE TENT

HANUKKAH
KWANZAA
DIWALI

Don't forget our summer children's program: Time Under the Tent begins on Sunday, June 4th. This summer, the church school children will be learning about the various holidays that are celebrated around the world such as: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and many more. As a reminder, the children will start in church with their families and then will move into the church school area after "Time with the Children" in church.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

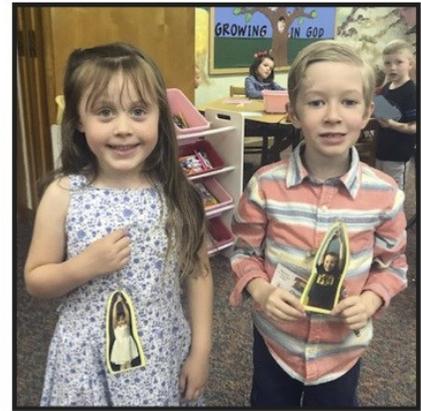
Summer is a super fun and busy time for many families and sometimes it is hard to schedule another event, however, the church school is in need of volunteers to ensure success during the summer months. Right now, we are short on volunteers for the summer and would like our church school program to run smoothly. So if you are able, please sign up in the Church School hallway to schedule a date that works best for you during the summer months. All lessons are prepared in advance and are ready to go upon your arrival.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



On Friday, June 2nd, all church school children and families, along with anyone else in the congregation are invited to participate in an evening of service at Feed My Starving Children from 6:00-7:30 PM. While at Feed My Starving Children, we will be filling and packaging meals to be sent to those in need world-wide. Please note that children must be 5 years old to help package the food.



WE HOPE OUR MOMS
ENJOYED THEIR

Happy Mother's Day

PRESENTS AS MUCH
AS WE ENJOYED
MAKING THEM!



YOUTH TIDINGS

JUNE, 2017

81ST EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE CLASS

thank
you!

for another FANTASTIC year!
We really appreciate your
great positive energy and
your "helping hands!"

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Volunteer Opportunity coming up! June 2 from
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Exchange Ct., in Aurora.
Sign-up sheet is in the office or contact Mike at
mike@newenglandchurch.org

YOUTH SUMMER POOL PARTY

Watch for
details!

DONATIONS WELCOME

DONATIONS WELCOME
TO SUPPORT YOUTH MINISTRY.
Pens, paper, magic markers,
powdered lemonade, hand soap,
and sandwich baggies.
Ask Mike Daly for more details.



Mark your calendars for Kane
County Cougars Baseball!
Monday night, July 31st at
6:30 p.m. first pitch, but come
early. Great seats behind
home plate again this year.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Do not forget your purpose and your destiny
as God's creature. What you are in God's
sight - is what you are - nothing more.
Remember that when we leave this earth,
we can take nothing that we have received...
only take what we have given; honest
service, love, sacrifice, and courage."*

St. Francis

Mike Daly will be on Sabbatical this summer.
He returns August 21st.

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2016

YOUTH REFLECTIONS ABOUT CONFIRMATION:

I loved the field trips and the outings. It was interesting to visit
the different churches because some of theirs are completely
different from ours. I learned about Christianity and other
religions. I learned how to be a better person in the world. I
think my favorite thing was the trip into Chicago with Kylie,
Audrey, and Laura. It was really fun. I think we should go on
more outings and visit places I've never been before. I think
some of the classes could have some more activities, but overall
I wouldn't change anything.

LAUREN

I learned that all religions teach some of the same things. I liked
the winter retreat because we got to play Catan. I thought the
retreat was interesting because we learned while having fun.
My favorite thing was the high ropes. I think we should have
games nights. I thought the process was very good and do not
have any suggestions.

EDWARD

I enjoyed all the outings we did as a group. I liked the outings
because you got to know everyone in the group better, and they
are a lot of fun. In Confirmation, I learned about other religions
and what they do in their service and about what they believe.
Something interesting in confirmation was when other people
came in and talked about what religion means to them. I think
we should learn more about our own religion and less about
other religions. I like the Chicago outing with Lauren and
Audrey best because I had the most fun on it. I think we should
do more waterpark outings or outings we choose as a group.

KYLIE

I liked the group of people we were with. It was fun with Kylie
and Lauren. It was interesting to learn not just about our own
religion. It broadens my aspects on how I see religion. We
learned about the Islam religion and the Quran—there's a lot
about it I didn't know before. We learned about other religions
and a lot about interpreting our own religion. I like that it was at
an earlier time this year. Last year, when it went until 1, it really
felt too long. I would like to do more outings, especially with
Lauren and Kylie.

AUDREY



Daniel & the Lion's Den Puppet Improv & Rap stressed Christian faith & character through actions. Drama, comedy & message were woven together in this lesson.

5th & 6th graders continued their Crusade to Save the Monarchs, Bees, Bats & the Earth on Earth Day Sunday by taking home bee and bat houses as safe havens in their backyards.



The fellowship & fun was part of the Zero Waste Lunch where we decided to rethink and reduce our intake of food to just what we knew we would eat, reuse our containers & recycle our cardboard & plastic. Special thanks to Brian Carson for his grilling expertise. Way to go green 5/6th!



New banner at Chestnut House



Confirmands prepare for their Trust Walk during their faith paper workshop.



This year's confirmands personally delivered the Matching Gifts Donation for Hesus House.



Confirmands write their faith statements.

**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**



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Church-UCC**
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A Caring Church for Thinking People

**Visit us on the web
at
www.newenglandchurch.org**

Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:
Ron Richards, Jim Hopp

Deaths:
We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
Susan Davis.



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