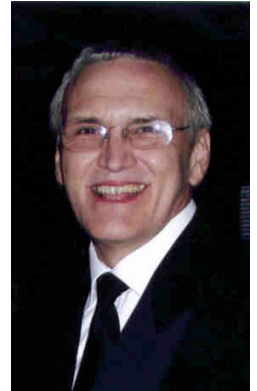




MUSINGS

As the new church year begins this month, I want to let the congregation know about our plans to continue the education and mission programs this coming year. We will miss Mike Daly's leadership in this regard, but we have capable lay leadership willing to carry the programs forward and continue the good work he's set in place.

Audra Darché, our Sunday school superintendent, has agreed to serve now as the Director of Education Ministries. She has already begun work to develop a comprehensive program for our Preschool through 12th grade, and engage people to help implement it. If you've ever observed Audra in her work, you know that we are in capable hands. She has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in School Counseling, so she's very qualified for this position.



AnDréa James, our Children's Choir Director, will be providing music for the Sunday school kids each Sunday throughout the year. This will include group singing, preparing for a musical, and working with individual grade levels for an integrated program.

We are in dialogue with lay people who will be leaders for each of the education groups, and I will meet regularly with Audra and the Board of Education Ministries to sustain this great program.

Val Flechtner, the chairman of our Board of Missions, has agreed to continue in her leadership role, helping to organize the various mission outreach programs we're involved in. She and I have discussed the various projects, and who might take charge of each one. I'm confident that our volunteer ministries to the community will continue as they have in the past. I will be working with Val over this next year to offer any assistance I can.

As far as Community Life, I've identified the various programs that are in place, as well as people who will take charge of organizing them. I'm also organizing various committees of lay people to serve in visiting the homebound, serving at funerals, etc. to assist me in the things I might otherwise not get done due to increased activity with the things I've mentioned above. Shelley Lund, our Office Administrator, and Todd Jones, our Building Maintenance and All-Around Assistant, have agreed to help with extra duties as needed.

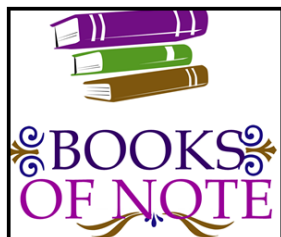
I'm encouraged by the level of participation and the eagerness with which people already in leadership positions have agreed to continue the great programs we have in place. As you can readily see, this will involve more of my time than in the past, but I'm glad to offer whatever help I can in order to keep things moving forward on a quality level.

HOWEVER, please let me know if you need pastoral care; I'm never too busy to help in a crisis, or make a visit at hospital or home to help where needed.

Together we will continue to be a Caring Church for Thinking People in the years ahead.

Gary

BOOKS OF NOTE



Books of Note will be starting the fall season on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM in the parlor to discuss “The Technologists” by Matthew Pearl. Think Boston, 1868. The Civil War may be over but a new war has begun, one between past and present, tradition and technology. The daring Massachusetts Institute of Technology is on a mission to harness science for the benefit of all. But when an unnatural disaster strikes the ships in Boston Harbor, and an equally inexplicable catastrophe devastates the heart of the city, an antiscience backlash casts a pall over MIT and threatens its very survival. So the best and brightest from MIT’s first graduating class secretly join forces to save innocent lives and track down the truth. We look forward to seeing new faces along with familiar friends as we discuss the content and share our reactions to “The Technologists”.

NECC VOLUNTEERING AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Feed My Starving Children volunteer night, on Friday, September 15 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm (please arrive 15 minutes early) located at 555 Exchange Court, Aurora. Please sign-up in the church office or online. Fun for all ages! “Help turn hunger into hope with your own two hands by packing nutritious meals for starving children around the world.”



Chancel Choir Begins



The Chancel Choir will begin another season of song on Wednesday, September 6 with a light potluck supper at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall. Singers are asked to bring a substantial side dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own tableware. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided. Following dinner and lively conversation, we will rehearse in the sanctuary until 9:00 pm. Thereafter, we will rehearse every Wednesday from 7:30-9:00 pm.

New members high school age and beyond are invited to join the Chancel Choir this fall. If you love to sing, can match pitch, and are looking for a meaningful way to serve our church community, please join us at the first rehearsal.

Fall Festival

New England Church Fall Festival, sponsored by the Board of Education Ministries on Sunday, September 10 from 11:00 to noon. Together, we celebrate the start of another new church year! Lunch served in Friendship Hall and yard games in the church garden area. And as always, the Board of Missions will be making their famous root beer floats! See you there.



Volunteers Needed



We continue to stock shelves at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry every second and third Mondays at 3:00 pm. Thanks to all who have helped and will continue to help. The Pantry has asked that all volunteers be 13 years of age or older due to liability. Thank you.

Handbell Choirs

Children's Bell Choir: The Joy Ringers have a new rehearsal time this fall: 9:00 am to 9:45 am on Sundays. The group is open to any child in 3rd through 8th grade. For information, contact Director Cathy Canfield-Jepson at canfield_jepson@yahoo.com or join us for the first rehearsal on September 17!



Youth and Adult Bell Choir: The New England Carillon welcomes new members! Middle school and high school students are welcome, as well as adults of all ages. Some prior music experience is helpful, but not absolutely required. For information, please contact Director Cathy Canfield-Jepson at canfield_jepson@yahoo.com, or come to the first rehearsal, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Tuesday, September 5.





A Kids Hope USA story:

SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MY NAME...

She was eight. And she was invisible. At least that's how Sam felt most days. She would stand alone on the playground. She would sit unnoticed in the classroom. At home, things were hard. Grandpa had died. A new baby was on the way. She felt like she was being left behind. Like no one could see her...and worse, that no one really tried.

But then Kim, Sam's KIDS HOPE USA mentor, came into her life. Kim called her by name. She looked in her eyes. She listened, uninterrupted, to Sam's voice. And Kim saw her in a way she thought no one had ever seen her before. In Sam, Kim saw a unique heart and creative spirit. A fun kid, undiscovered by her peers. A bright mind, overlooked in the everyday hubbub. A timid child, unaware of her importance. And through Kim's eyes, Sam began to see herself too. Kim's encouragement gave Sam confidence to step out and take a chance. Her reassurance freed Sam to be herself. Her time and her presence and her caring shined light into Sam's soul...and the sense of invisibility began to disappear.

Kim showed up every week. She called her "Sam," and she brought her black licorice jelly beans...because she knew they were her favorite. And for the first time, Sam felt important. She felt special and valued...for she had found *hope in someone who knew her name*. New England Church is proud to be in the Kids Hope USA program providing mentors to Greenman Elementary School. If you would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity to mentor a child for only one hour a week, please contact Mike Daly at mike@newenglandchurch.org or 630.220.9634. Thank you!

Women's Circle of Friends



As fall is just around the corner, Women's Circle of Friends will be starting up! Unless otherwise announced, we meet the 2nd Saturday of each month in Friendship Hall at 9:30 am, for a shared breakfast followed by a program. Our first meeting, Saturday, September 9 will not be at church, but we will be enjoying brunch together at Emerson Creek in Oswego. Brunch is at 10:45 am followed by time to shop. Please sign up in the church office and indicate whether you need a ride. Be sure to reserve a spot for yourself and a friend, as we have reservations for 20.

Our October meeting will be our 2nd annual Expo Market. We are looking for women who would like the opportunity to sell their products to other women in the church. If you have a home business or service that you could share with us on Saturday, October 14, please contact Linda Bridgman at linda4cacfp@aol.com or judymccann48@sbcglobal.net. We already have women with hand massages, chocolate candy, glass ornaments, Thirty-One, and Trades of Hope (products from artisans in 15 countries), signed up to share their products and services. Please contact us by the middle of September if you are interested in selling your products and services.

Olive Poliks
700 W. Fabyan Pkwy Apt 275E
Batavia, IL. 60510



Karna Burkeen
7713 Park Village Rd.
San Diego, CA. 92129

Looking Ahead...



Octoberfest is happening right here in Aurora for New England Church folks on October 21 at the home of Deena Sherman and Brewmeister Dave Mertz. Dave will have four different beers on tap for your autumn drinking pleasure. The gathering is limited to 35 people, so when the sign-up is announced, please add your name.

Giving Bus

School children grow rapidly! For many Aurora area families providing shoes for children as they outgrow their school shoes is a challenge. NECC is there to help! We provide several Aurora area elementary schools with a supply of shoes to distribute throughout the year. The Board of Missions sponsors the Giving Bus and invites NECC members and friends the opportunity to help keep Aurora school children well shod. The Giving Bus will be parked in the Marketplace September 17, 24 and October 1. Those interested in donating 1 or 2 pairs of shoes can select a "ticket" or "tickets" indicating the shoe size needed and gender of the recipient. Shoes are returned to church by October 8 for distribution to the schools. Or if you would rather not shop, give a donation and we will shop for you. The Board of Missions thanks you for your participation.



'Conversations with Gary and 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
Tuesday, September 12- *Please note that this will be the only date in September.*

Save
the
Date

Saturday,
November 4 is a date adults won't want to miss. Come share in NECC's **PIECE OF THE PIE FUNdraiser**. The evening will be pack-jam full of fellowship, fun, and **FOOD**.

There will be lots and LOTS of pie. Stay tuned for more details and ticket sales information.



Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank you
Troop 3 of NECC
for the clean-up of
the courtyard in
August.

With debris and weeds gone, the NECC Preschool can now utilize this space for outdoor art projects and other activities.

September, 2017
Vol.8

Tiny Tidings

WELCOME BACK

Make sure to mark your calendar on Sept. 10th as the first day of church school for the 2017-2018 school year. The theme for the upcoming year is:

LISTENING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.



REGISTRATION 2017-2018



Our fall registration is on its way and to ensure we have every child accounted for our church school program, we are asking families to please complete and return the 2017-2018 Church School Registration form. Please take note, we are asking families to complete a registration form for each child participating in our upcoming church school program. The forms can be picked up and returned directly to Audra Darche in the church school office. Extra forms can also be picked up in the church school hallway. Please remember to register your child/children/grandchildren soon, so we can have rosters and name tags ready for each child.

BIBLES



If your 3rd grader received a Bible this past spring, we are encouraging them to bring their Bible to church school on Sunday. On most Sundays, the 3rd & 4th grade children are exposed to a Bible verse that compliments the lesson and with support are encouraged to locate that verse in the Bible. The older children (4th graders) will be using their OWN Bibles weekly and sharing their Bibles with our current 3rd graders until they receive their own Bibles in the spring of 2018. It is believed that this partnership will not only encourage friendships, but also help our children understand their OWN Bibles a little better.



SWITCH UP

Please take note that several of the church school classes will be "switched up" this year due to our growing numbers in our 1-4th grade classes. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE LABELED ON THE DOOR TO ENSURE YOU KNOW WHAT CLASS YOUR CHILD WILL BE IN FOR THE 2017-2018.**

LIFE IS A SONG

church school classes on a



This year the church school program is inviting AnDrea James, our Children's Music Director to join the frequent basis. During this time of song, Mrs. James will introduce your child to various songs and will provide all children the opportunity to participate in our children's music program. When Mrs. James is in your child's classroom, the children will be singing for their entire church school time and music time will rotate every couple of weeks.

TEACHER SIGN UP

In order for New England to provide a quality church school, we will be asking for parent volunteers to teach a two-week unit beginning Sept. 11th-Dec. 25th. The rooms are set up ahead of time, plans will be prepared, and your children will love having you as their teacher! A new teacher sign-up sheet for 2017-2018 school year is now hanging in the church school hallway. Please remember to sign up for a two-week unit.



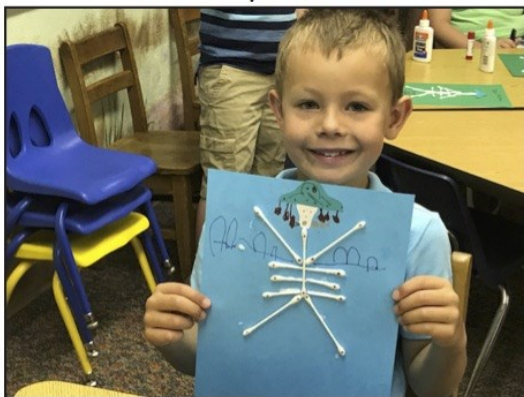
REMINDER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
immediately after church.
Hope to see you there!



During Time Under the Tent
the children learned about
**HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED
AROUND THE WORLD**

They made skeletons for
Mexican Day of the Dead.



When
they
learned
about
Kwanza
they made
Kawanza
bracelets.



AnDrea James did a fun musical sing along and dance with the kids.

They made
dreidels
and played
the dreidel
game
when they
learned
about
Hanukkah.



YOUTH Tidings

SEPTEMBER, 2017

83RD EDITION

5TH/6TH GRADE

CLASS STARTS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH. 5th & 6th graders start in worship and come out to the narthex after the Time with Children. Class is over at 11:00 and youth will rejoin families in narthex for fellowship time. The 5th & 6th grade youth group is called, "Helping Hands" please watch for your mail and emails for youth group service projects and outings.

CONFIRMATION

CLASS START ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH and we meet most Sunday mornings at Chestnut House (except on 1st Sundays please stay in worship). Confirmands start in worship and come out to the narthex after the Time with Children. Class is over at 11:00 and youth will rejoin families in narthex for fellowship time. Confirmands will also usher and do service projects throughout the year. Full schedule can be found on the new Confirmation website, <https://sites.google.com/view/necc-confirmation/home>

JOY RINGERS BELL CHOIR

OR VOCAL CHOIRS

 are other great ways for youth to participate at church. Please contact Cathy Canfield-Jepson (our bell director) or AnDrea James (our children's choir director) or Mike Daly for more information.



Sustaining Creation—A Faith Journey

Want to learn more about *CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* and a small group youth program we will engage in the fall? Check out www.sustainingcreation.org

WELCOME BACK

IF YOU ARE NEW

to New England Church please be sure that Mike has all your current contact information. Thank you! mike@newenglandchurch.org

THIS SUMMER

we hosted a youth program run by *TRIPLE THREAT AND WORLD RELIEF* for refugee kids at Chestnut House for a summer program. We are so pleased to be engaging these special neighbors in such positive ways.

NEW NECC CHURCH APP FOR SMARTPHONE AND TABLET

NOW AVAILABLE

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, Yale Divinity School's Video Bible Study, and quicker access to the Confirmation Website.

ON TWITTER?

Check out TheUCCYouth

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of the table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please. Remember, God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want! God is watching the apples."





THE MITTEN TREE

THE
YOUTH
AT NECC
PARTICIPATE
IN MANY
MISSION
ACTIVITIES



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES



***“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

Births:

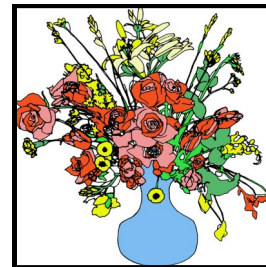
Alex Morales, born to Rafael & Emily Morales on June 26.

Baptisms:

John Florian Czinki, son of Paul & April Czinki.

Hospitalized:

Phyllis Wells, Alice Johnson, Ruth Medius,
Barbara Mitcheltree, Brian Williamson, Sue Adams,
Cliff Lund, Pat Demetry, Kevin Brock.



Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Herren,
Pat Warren and William “Alex” Greene.

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

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