



## MUSINGS

Some years ago, a member of this church, now long deceased, told me that he never answered any phone calls from the church during November, knowing that the church would be asking for money for the stewardship campaign. Really? That seemed incongruous to me for this person was proud to be part of New England Church, and the concept of not wanting to support an organization that meant a lot to him seemed like a paradox.

A few years later, when we were discussing the stewardship campaign at a Board meeting, a woman was surprised to hear me say that Judy and I made a pledge to the campaign. She wondered why I would be contributing to the church that paid my salary and required much of my time. That surprised me as well; why wouldn't I support the ministry of this church with whom I have had a great relationship for over 31 years?

It is always a joy to support the organizations which provide meaning and purpose, not only for me but for the larger community as well. I find it a privilege to give money to the Paramount Theatre for the great art they provide Aurora. I'm delighted to contribute to the ongoing operation of St. Jude's Children Hospital through our Preschool Bike-a-Thon because of the healthcare they provide for children. I'm excited to give to Youth Outlook because of the advocacy they provide for the LGBTQ+ community. Likewise with the Red Cross, the Public Broadcasting System, and the Wildlife Federation.

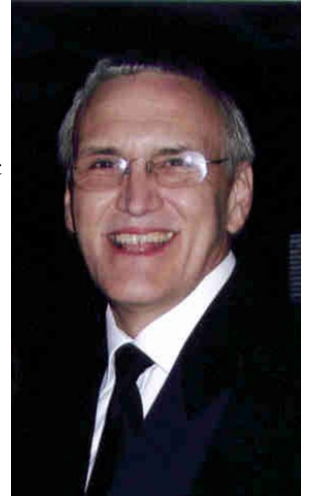
All too often, we want to avoid contact with organizations asking for money, but isn't it part of our mission as people who have resources to support organizations that provide stability and stimulating programs for the betterment of a society?

Here at New England Church, our children learn what it means to include those who may not have the same ideas or religion as they do; here our children are affirmed for who they are without having to behave or believe in a certain way. Here people looking for a congregation who loves with an unconditional love can find a spiritual home. Here the arts are as important as mission outreach.

Another member of this church, Emeline Messenger, whose financial contributions helped establish and support the Messenger Library in North Aurora, always had this to say at stewardship time:

Don't give until it hurts; give until it feels good.

So I appeal to you as we begin our campaign to underwrite the budget for our ministry in 2018, please give as generously as possible, until it feels good. This church is worth every dollar and every ounce of energy we can give to support it.



Gary



## THANK YOU!

The "Giving Bus" arrived at NECC stocked full of shoes. Thanks to those who purchased shoes themselves and those who gave donations so the Board of Missions could purchase shoes, 120 pairs of shoes were collected and equally distributed among Bardwell, Dieterich and Greenman elementary schools. At the request of the school nurses, some of the cash received was used to purchase socks, underwear and sweatpants for boys and girls. Speaking on behalf of the parents of the children who will sport new shoes, the Board of Missions is very grateful for your overwhelmingly generous support for this project. *...And they will know we are Christians by our love.*



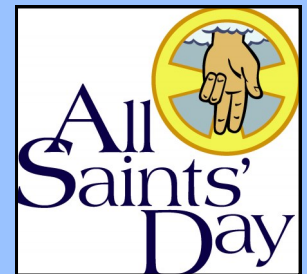
## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE



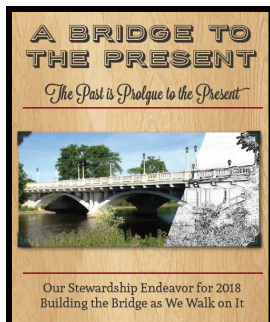
Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12 or 19 so we can take your picture and collect any new contact information. No need to sign-up and it's a quick and easy process. Todd will be taking photos in Friendship Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> floor off the elevator) from 9:00 - 9:45 am and 11:00 - 11:45 am on those days.

If you aren't available to have your picture taken this time but have new contact information or would like to submit a photo, please email Shelley in the church office at [shelley@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:shelley@newenglandchurch.org) or call 630.897.8721.

On Sunday, November 5 at both the 8:30 and 10:00 am services, we will remember those of our church family who have gone before us, calling special attention to those who have died within the past year.



# Stewardship: We Need Your Support



Stewardship Sunday is November 5. We ask that you review our Stewardship Brochure, *A Bridge to the Present*, and bring your financial and service pledge page to church with you on Stewardship Sunday. If you are unable to attend service that day, we ask that you turn in your pledge page to the church office at your earliest convenience.

Members and friends of New England have responded positively to our church needs over the years. We request that you carefully and prayerfully consider your support of the church. If possible, we ask that you consider an increased contribution to New England in 2018. Your positive response will sustain both our current and future church programs.


## FILM SERIES

November 10: Diva (1981)

Two tapes, two Parisian mob killers, one corrupt policeman, an opera fan, a teenage thief, and the coolest philosopher ever filmed. All these characters twist their way through an intricate and stylish French language thriller.

Presenter: Diane Ellis






Looking Ahead:  
Our annual  
Hanging of the Greens Service  
will be  
December 3  
at the 10:00 am service.





## INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2950 Bilter Road, Aurora, on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 pm. We will join with Muslims, Sikhs, Jewish, Bahia, and Christian communities in Aurora for a meaningful service of readings and prayers. Everyone is welcome!

The New England Church  
Pianorama Extravaganza featuring 7 pianos,  
7 pianists and 14 hands  
will play for the church service on  
Sunday, November 19.  
Please join us!

## Men's Group to Ring Bells for Salvation Army



NECC Men's Fellowship will ring bells for the Salvation Army once again (an eighteen year tradition!) this Christmas season.

Please save the date of Tuesday, December 5, from 5:00-7:00 pm. This year's sign up also includes one hour time slots. Sign up in the church office beginning November 5.

Bells, buckets, and aprons will be at the collection locations.

Jerry Roesner will give you your assigned location on Sunday, December 3.

If you are unable to be at the church that Sunday, please call Jerry (630.892.1904) to obtain your location assignment.

In keeping with past tradition, we again assure moderate weather and of course a delicious meal and other nourishment will follow at the home of Jim & Jan Mammaing, 1636 W. Downer Pl. in Aurora.

If you are not able to ring, we invite you, nonetheless, to join us for dinner and enjoy the fellowship of the giving season.

# Annual Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk cookie sale will take place in Friendship Hall on Sunday, December 3 immediately following the Hanging of the Greens worship service. Buy your homemade Christmas cookies for your holiday parties, gift boxes, or just to have around the house while you wrap presents.



**BAKERS NEEDED**, if you are able to bake cookies for the event, please sign up in the Marketplace on Sunday mornings November 12, 19, & 26 or use our Sign-Up kiosks in the church office or on your own device. Proceeds go to support our Senior High Youth program.

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## GET READY FOR WINTER DINNERS 2018!



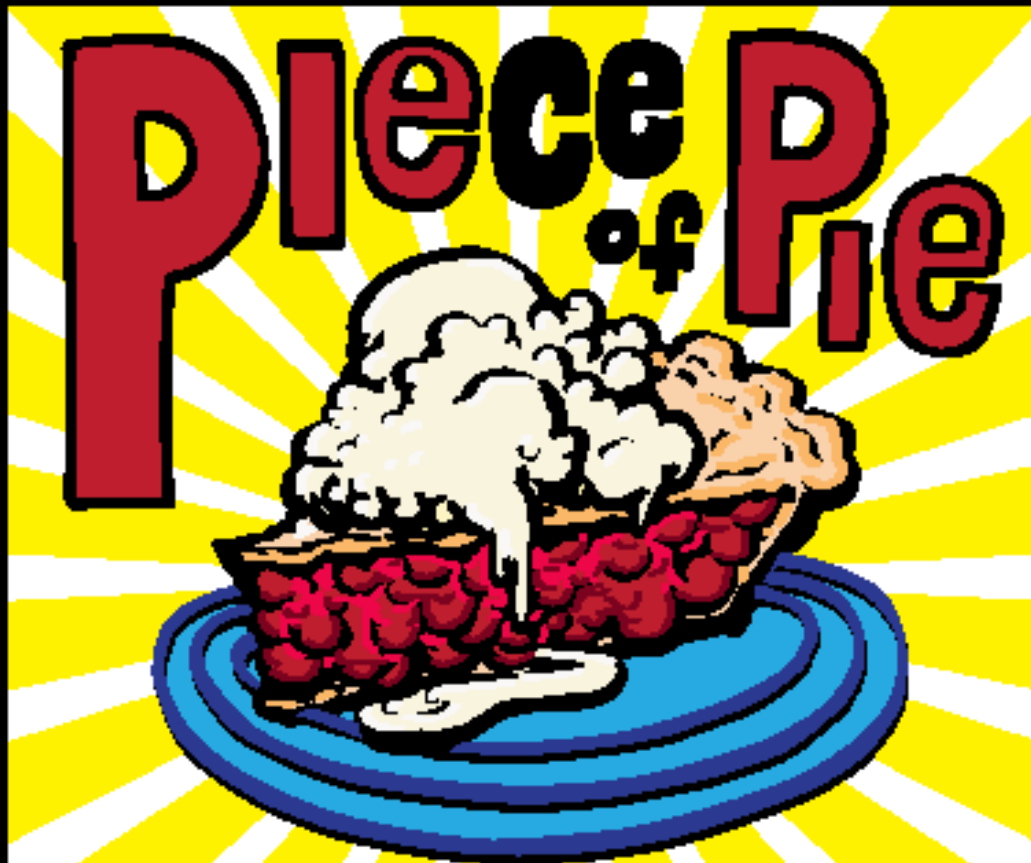
Be sure to sign up during November for one, two, or all three of the 2018 Winter Dinners that will begin in January. These popular and enjoyable get-togethers for 8 - 10 people will be in members' homes. They are a great way to spend a winter evening as you get to know other NECC people. Come to the Marketplace after either service on any Sunday in November to learn more and sign up to join the fun!

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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!



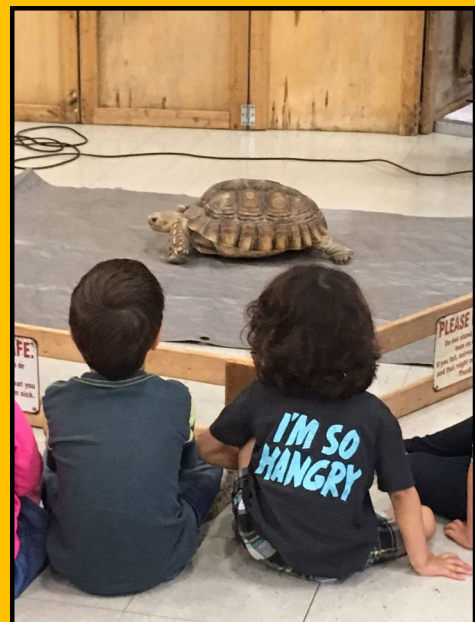


# **FUN!**draiser

**ENJOY HOMEMADE PIE WITH FRIENDS  
AT NEW ENGLAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH!**  
**YOUR \$40 TICKET INCLUDES:**  
• DELICIOUS PIE • APPETIZERS AND COFFEE  
• PIE AUCTION • WINE PULL  
• GAMES AND MORE! BYOB (MIXES PROVIDED)  
**SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 4TH**  
**6:30 - 8:30PM**

# NEW ENGLAND PRESCHOOL


New England Preschool had some special visitors from Animal Quest. The preschoolers and their families loved meeting different creatures and learning fun facts about them. They were even able to touch a lop eared bunny as well as a hedgehog!"



# 'CONVERSATIONS WITH GARY'

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, November 6  
Tuesday, November 14

Ron & Barb Vavrinek  
1196B Woodridge Dr.  
Sugar Grove, IL  
60554

## Inquirer's Meeting & Building Tour

There will be an Inquirer's Meeting on Sunday, November 12 at 11:15 for those wishing to know more about New England Church. Come learn about who we are and what we are about. If you need child care during this time, please let the office know.



There will be a Building Tour on Sunday, November 19 at 11:15 am. Gary will lead a tour of our campus and share with you the history of the various buildings.

**POINSETTIAS**  
**ORDER DEADLINE: November 19, 2017**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias through the church to be used as a chancel decoration during the Christmas holidays. At \$15.00 each, I enclose my check or cash for \$\_\_\_\_\_. I will leave my poinsettia until after the December 24 worship service. **PLEASE PRINT**

To Remember: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



# Women's Circle of Friends

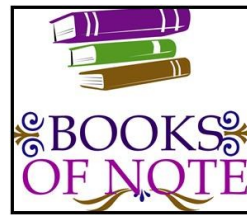


Women's Circle of Friends is meeting on Saturday, November 11, at 9:30 am in Friendship Hall. Following our shared breakfast, we will hear from some of our women who just returned from the church tour in Ireland. Please join us as we eat together & then experience Ireland through stories, pictures, and special souvenirs!

Invite a friend, and sign up both of you in the church office.

# Books Of Note

Come join the Books of Note discussion at 7:00 pm in the parlor on Tuesday, November 14, about **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** by J. D. Vance. He describes his family's journey from "dirt poor and in love" to white middle class, including profound struggles to escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Does this represent the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country?



# Angel Tree



This year we will be distributing gifts to students in the Greenman and Dieterich Schools. The Christmas Angels will be hung on the tree in the Marketplace on November 19 and 26. We ask that you wrap and label your gift for the angel you selected and deliver these gifts to the Marketplace area no later than Sunday, December 10, so that we can deliver them to the schools on December 15. Consider picking up an angel this holiday season; sign up in the Marketplace to buy a Christmas surprise for a child that may be less fortunate than most. *...And they will know we are Christians by our love.*

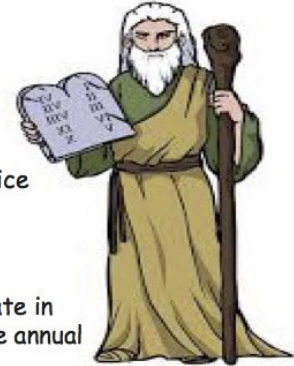
Don't forget to turn your clocks back the night of Saturday, November 4!

November, 2017  
Vol. 10

# Tiny Tidings

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- NOVEMBER 5TH** Ten Commandments  
3rd-6th Music class with Mrs. James
- NOVEMBER 12TH** Ten Commandments cont.  
PreK-2nd Music class with Mrs. James  
Church School hosts Coffee Fellowship after 10:00 AM service
- NOVEMBER 19TH** The Promised Land  
Children Sing in church during 10:00 service  
3rd-6th Music class with Mrs. James
- NOVEMBER 26TH** Ornament Workshop- all Sunday School classes will participate in making a creative ornament or two to hang during the annual Hanging of the Greens ceremony.



## NEW VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

The church school has some very exciting news! Over the past several years, the church school has relied on our volunteers signing themselves up to teach on the paper schedule hanging in the church school hallway. Starting now, teachers can now go to our church website main page and scroll down to the bottom of the page and find the "sign up station" button and click to find the dates and times that still need to be filled for our church school program. The paper copy will continue to hang in the church school hallway for those who like this method, but believe that this new user friendly tool is ideal for our busy families.



## HALLOWEEN FUN HOUSE



A big **THANK YOU** to the Jean Carson, Kathy Kokkinos, several parent volunteers, and our current 5th & 6th grade youth at New England Church for putting together another amazing Halloween Fun House for our 1st - 4th grade children. The church school children wore their costumes, participated in seasonal activities, and enjoyed the Halloween snacks at Chestnut House on Oct. 29th. It was truly an enjoyable day for all.

## CUP OF JOE

During the month of November, the church school children will continue the tradition of selecting a Sunday in November to host coffee fellowship for the congregation. This year, the children will be hosting on Sunday, November 12th after the 10:00 AM service. All the church school classes and families (PreK-4th grade) will participate in bringing treats to fill the table in the narthex and the 3rd and 4th grade children will be serving during the coffee fellowship time. Make sure to mark this date on your calendar and keep any eye out for the treat sign up.



## ORNAMENT WORKSHOP



On Sunday, November 26 the church school classes will be making various ornaments to adorn the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary. Then, once the ornaments are completed, the children will be asked to hang their creations during the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. If your child is unable to attend church school during the ornament workshop, extra ornaments will be made so they can still participate in the annual Hanging of Greens service.



CHILDREN LEARNED ABOUT MOSES AS A BABY AND WHEN GOD TALKED TO MOSES AS AN ADULT.



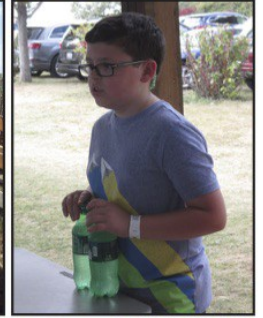
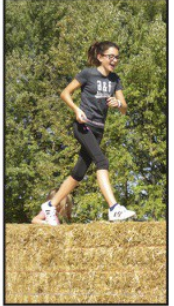
THE CHILDREN WERE LEARNING ABOUT CREATION AND THE FIRST DAY GOD CREATED LIGHT. THE CHILDREN USED FLASHLIGHTS IN THE DARK TO FIND CLUES IN THE THEATRE THAT REPRESENTED THE OTHER 6 DAYS OF CREATION.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN PRACTICED WITH ANDREA JAMES AND THEN SANG IN CHURCH.



A DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL WAS THE PERFECT TIME FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS FROM NECC TO VISIT JONAMAC APPLE ORCHARD. THEY PICKED APPLES AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE THERE.

# FUN AT JONAMAC APPLE ORCHARD



# YOUTH THINGS

NOVEMBER, 2017

85TH EDITION

## APPLE ORCHARD

On Monday, October 9th, all of the children and youth at New England were invited to participate in a fun day at Jonamac Apple Orchard. A total of 33 children and youth took part in this fun event along with several parents and grandparents. Many of the children and youth participated in apple picking, running through the corn maze, visiting the petting zoo, and even sampling apple donuts. It was great to have so many children, youth, and families from our church enjoying this time together.



## 5TH/6TH GRADE

### HELPING HANDS PROJECT

The 5th and 6th graders have just completed their first Helping Hands project for the year by hosting the Halloween Fun House for the 1st-4th grade children. The 5th and 6th graders helped decorate Chestnut House and led games and activities for our littlest monsters on October 29th. Shortly after completing this task, they've already begun their second project of collecting canned goods for the Food Pantry. Please keep an eye out how you can help the 5th & 6th graders make an impressive donation.



**NOVEMBER 19:** 5th & 6th Grade Children sing in church

**NOVEMBER 26:** Ornament Workshop in Friendship Hall (5th & 6th grade participate and assist younger children)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The confirmation class is looking for parent volunteers to aid the teacher on Sunday mornings. Volunteers will not be responsible for teaching, but will simply be an extra set of hands in the classroom. Reminder confirmation is held on Sundays from 10:00-11:00 at Chestnut House. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet.



## CONFIRMATION

In November, the Confirmation class finishes its Bible topic with a look at the biblical lands today. Also in November, we have our Fall Confirmation Retreat to Pilgrim Park. The Retreat Theme is: "What Happened after the Bible: A Look at Christian Church History." In addition, we'll be having our first church visit in November to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

This year in the confirmation class/ junior high group we have 18 kids, in 12 schools, in 8 school districts.

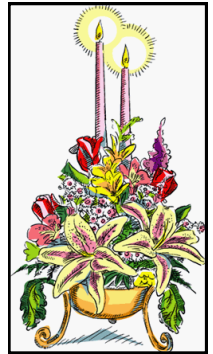
## HIGH SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for the upcoming **Cookie Walk on Sunday, Dec. 3rd**. The Cookie Walk will take place in Friendship Hall immediately after the 10:00 AM service. This year, the High School Youth will be sponsoring this fun and festive event and money raised will go towards the youth activities fund that

will help off-set the cost of the activities and projects the youth will participate in the coming year. To help make this event a success, we are asking all high school youth to participate in this event. Paige Lundquist will be assisting this event and more details will be forthcoming.



# Joys & Concerns



Hospitalized:  
Rose May, Sue Herren, Jim Hopp, Joan Jividen, Chuck Haymond

Visit us on the web  
at  
[www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org)

## OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

New England Congregational  
Church-UCC  
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Phone: 630.897.8721  
Fax: 630.897.8744  
Email: [office@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)  
*A Caring Church for Thinking People*

**“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”**



**Senior Minister:** Gary L. McCann  
**Assistant Minister:** Joe Dunham  
**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