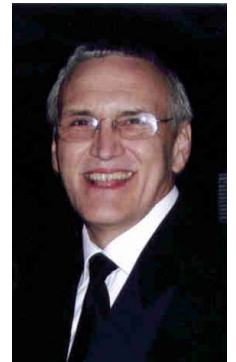




MUSINGS

One of the most important facets of community life at New England Church is Sunday morning worship. And one of the most important facets of Sunday worship is music. We love hearing the organ and the hand bells; we love hearing the Chancel Choir and the Sunday school children sing.

But perhaps more important than any of these, though they are critical to creative worship, is the singing of hymns by the whole congregation. As we enter a new year of worship and singing, I want to reflect for a bit here about the value of hymns in worship.



First, hymns engage the whole congregation. We're not listening to someone else perform; we're singing together.

Second, hymns serve to move the worship service forward. Each hymn has a purpose: the first hymn is always a worship hymn, extoling the qualities of God. The second hymn is the Pulpit Hymn for good reason: it prepares us for the theme of the sermon. The third hymn summarizes the service, reiterates the sermon theme, or sends us on our way with a blessing and reminder that going forth to be the church in the world is our real service.

So, having said that, I would like to encourage everyone to be attentive to hymn singing.

Sing, even if you can't carry a tune in a bucket, as my grandmother used to say. My dad always maintained that the scripture says "make a joyful noise to the Lord;" it doesn't say you have to sing on key.

If you absolutely don't want to sing, that's ok. But **follow the text as the rest of us sing.** These words are more than adding music for variety. Joe, Martin, and I are diligent about choosing hymns that fit the theme of the day, as best we can. So follow the text in your hymnal as we prepare for the scripture and sermon.

And whether you're singing, reading, or listening, **try to figure out why this particular hymn was chosen.** Sometimes the reference to the scripture or sermon theme is just one verse, but make a little exercise of deciding what it is. The hymns are meant for edification not just to make the service last for the hour.

We have resisted the popular trend to post the hymns on a screen, but choose instead to use the traditional hymnal. There's something about holding a book that I like. While I can read a book in electronic form, I like having a physical book in my hands. In the same way, I like having a hymnal in hand. The hymns we choose are hymns that have survived the ages. They've survived for good reason....**they edify our soul, they extol the unconditional love of God, and they connect us to the church of the past, the present, and the future.**

So join me in singing. Or following along, at least. I encourage you to open your hymnal, follow along, and sing with us, even if you don't utter a sound. It's what worshipping congregations do well together.

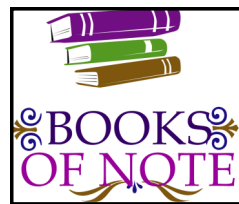
Gary

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be a service in Johnson Chapel on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm. Please join us.



BOOKS OF NOTE



February's Books of Note selection is "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivald.

A heartwarming reminder of why we are booklovers, this is a sweet, smart story about how books find us, change us, and connect us. Picture a small town in Iowa with vacant storefronts, book-loving pen pals (one from Sweden), a supportive community, and the surprising decision to open a bookstore in town. Come join the group on February 20 at 7:00 pm in the parlor to share your thoughts on the unexpected things that can happen when you let a book into your life.

Film Series

February 9: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2015)

As the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel has only a single remaining vacancy - posing a rooming predicament for two fresh arrivals - Sonny pursues his expansionist dream of opening a second hotel. Presenter: Marsha Carter.



We have discontinued the phone app that we initiated last year. The cost seemed prohibitive for the use we were able to get from it.

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY



Boy Scout Troop 3 will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Boy Scout Sunday, February 25, in Friendship Hall from 8:30 am until noon. There will also be a bake sale and raffles for quilts and a signed sports related jersey. Ticket prices are \$8 per person, \$24 for a family.

An interfaith trip to Israel is being organized, along with our friends from Temple B'nai Israel, Aurora, for February 20 – March 2, 2019. If you are interested in receiving a brochure of the itinerary, please email Gary at gary@newenglandchurch.org.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Calling all women of the church! Please join us for our annual Valentine breakfast held at Jan Mammaing's house at 9:30 am on Saturday, February 17. We are meeting a week later than usual, but we will still have fun with our Valentine's theme. Besides bringing a dish to share, please consider inviting someone and maybe offering them a ride to Jan's. Her house is located at 1636 W Downer Place, Aurora. Sign up in the church office or at home on the church website.

Women's Circle of Friends



'CONVERSATIONS WITH GARY'



February is
Early Bird Preschool
Registration for
NECC
families!

Registration forms
are available outside
the Church School
doors.

You may turn in
forms, meet the
Director, and
visit the preschool
on
Sunday, February 25
after the
10:00 am service.

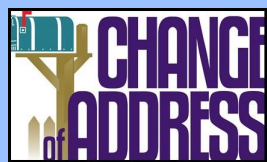


'Conversations with Gary'-Join us at Ballydoyle Irish Pub in
downtown Aurora for conversations on the subjects you
wish to discuss. Everyone buys their own food and drink.
LUNCHTIME at 11:30 am:
Monday, February 5, Tuesday, February 13,
Wednesday, February 21.

Mardi Gras Sunday

Mardi Gras Sunday on February 11 this year is a tradition at New England
Church not to be missed.

Once again the *Mad Monks of Melody* will be here with their
Dixieland music.
We hope you'll join us!



Harry Munro
22051 N. Prairie Rd.
Lincolnshire, IL.
60069

CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

The Annual Chocolate Festival will be held in
Friendship Hall after second service on Mardi Gras
Sunday, February 11. We are asking for bakers of
chocolate desserts to sign up on the church website.
Baked goods should be dropped off (downstairs on the
stainless steel carts by the church office) on Saturday,
February 10 between 11:00am-1:00pm and Sunday morning February 11.
Please make a note if your dessert contains any kind of nut, for those who may be
allergic. Desserts should be brought on disposable plates.
Contact Deena Sherman for more information.



Several people have asked recently if there's anyone in the church who needs a good (television, sofa, table, etc.) And others have asked if there's a plumber or handyman in the church for a project.

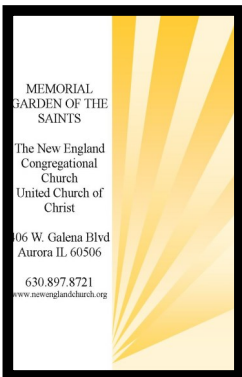


We're considering a publication at the church that would allow the congregation to post articles they are interested in selling as well as a venue for advertising your business to the congregation.

If you have something to sell or give away, or you have a business you would like for the congregation to know about, please email Shelley with the information.

This will be circulated only among the congregation. The church will not endorse any of the businesses or products; all transactions are solely at the risk of those selling and buying.

MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE



MEMORIAL GARDEN OF THE SAINTS

The New England Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

106 W. Galena Blvd
Aurora IL 60506

630.897.8721
www.newenglandchurch.org

The Memorial Garden of the Saints, established in 2003, is a memorial garden for the interment of cremated remains in a serene setting that offers a place for respite and remembering. Located on the southeast side of the church building, on Chestnut Street, it is a place to remember loved ones who have been a part of the life of the church.

Members of the committee for The Memorial Garden of the Saints met recently and updated the policy. The following changes were approved by the church Cabinet.

Subscribers may now place their names on the Memorial Plaque located at the back of the Sanctuary in advance of being deceased. After the agreement has been signed and the required donation made, subscribers may request the plaque be updated to include their names. The donation for perpetual care of the Garden has increased to \$150. This is a one-time gift.

A brochure about the Garden is available in the display outside the church office. Please feel free to call or stop by with any questions or to learn more.

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

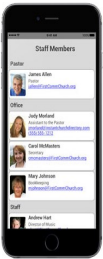
Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.



It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



February, 2018
Vol. 2

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 4	Pre-K-2nd Grade Sing in Church NECC History
FEBRUARY 11	Mardi Gras Sunday/Chocolate Festival- No Church School
FEBRUARY 18	Growing Our Understanding-No More Bullying
FEBRUARY 25	Jesus Calls His Disciples

CHURCH SCHOOL MADE A BIG DONATION

Over winter break, a check for \$183.00 was provided to Feed My Starving Children, the organization that the Church School offerings support throughout the year! The check that was provided was solely from the money collected from the Church School offerings from September 2017-December 2017. Did you know that this amount donated will feed 2 children every day for an entire year? This is amazing and thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of others!

\$183
WOW!

WINTER JUMP SUCCESS



On January 15th, when many were home from school in honor of Martin Luther King Day, several children, youth and families from NECC participated in our second winter jump activity at Sky Zone in Aurora. The children and youth bounced on the trampolines while some explored the Sky Slam (basketball), Warrior Course, and even the Foam Zone. It was a fun time for all and it will certainly be put on the calendar again for next year.

MARDI GRAS

On February 11th, we will be celebrating Mardi Gras at New England Church. The children will stay in church for this special worship service filled with song and dance. Before church we will be passing out Mardi Gras beads for everyone to wear. Following the service, our annual Chocolate Festival will take place in Friendship Hall.



THANK YOU



Thank you again to Cathy Canfield-Jepson for leading the first Church School lesson of 2018. Cathy Jepson, our hand bell director led all the PreK-4th grade classes through a fun interactive lesson on the hand bells on January 7th. Remember, our church has an amazing children's hand bell group that meets from 9:00-9:45 AM each Sunday morning. The children's hand bell group is a great way for our children to learn how to read music and have fun connecting with other church friends.

BIBLE SUNDAY COMING UP

All 3RD GRADERS (plus any student 4th grade or older who did not previously receive a Bible) will be receiving Bibles during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 11th. To ensure we have the correct name to have written on the Bible, please email Audra Darche the exact spelling of your child's name by March 1st. Please keep an eye out for a letter coming home soon with all the details.



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LEARNING TO PLAY HANDBELLS



YOUTH THINGS

FEBRUARY, 2018

87TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

In the month of January, the 5th and 6th graders learned about the history of the UCC as well as our own church history. They also learned about the church's involvement with the Underground Railroad. In addition, the 5th and 6th graders continued to rehearse and practice for their Ukulele performance in front of the congregation on Feb. 4th. Be sure to mark your calendar for their big debut on February 4th!

B'USY 5th & 6th Graders

5TH & 6TH GRADE HOST COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

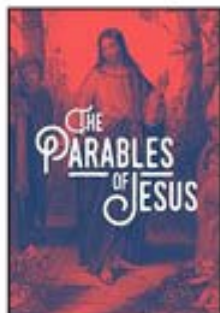
The children are excited to be hosting coffee fellowship on February 18th. Please stop by after the service on the 18th and say hello!



GIVING A LITTLE BIT OF TIME

Four confirmands and their families joined our confirmation teacher, Desiree Guzman, and her family packing meals at *Feed My Starving Children* on January 4th. All the meals packed will be delivered to hungry kids in Haiti. With the help of the other groups in our packing session we were able to provide meals for 66 children for one year. **Thank you** to everyone who participated and gave!

CONFIRMATION



In February, confirmation students will continue to study the Parables of Jesus and look at the many ways he challenged the social norms of his day by including and welcoming people who were often excluded by the religious and well connected.

HIGH SCHOOL

The High School Youth Group class is underway!! Our first meeting went very well and was run as more of a housekeeping meeting. We talked about class format and upcoming events as well as expectations. We also talked about using the **Remind app** to keep everyone connected. This app allows me to send group reminders about class, fun events and lessons. You too can download the Remind app and join in the communication! **Our code is @necchs** – once you have downloaded the app you can either text this code to 81010 OR you can go into the app and manually add it. All high School students are welcome to come and join the group on Sundays from 11:05-11:50 at the Chestnut House – come see what it's all about! *(Pssst! Students who attend class can earn points to win prizes!!!)*

REMIND APP

OFFERING

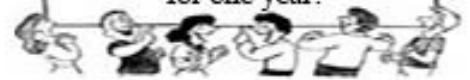
Traditionally, our Church School children (Prek-4th) have historically collected an offering each Sunday morning during our Church School time, and for the past several years, the money collected has been going to Feed My Starving Children. **MOVING INTO 2018, WE'D LIKE ALL CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES, INCLUDING CONFIRMATION AND OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH, TO JOIN IN COLLECTING OFFERING EACH SUNDAY.** Please know that there is no expected dollar amount that the students are to bring. It could simply be 50 cents or any change they have in their sock drawers. Ultimately, the goal is to include all grade levels in this simple but powerful act of giving.





ANNOUNCING..

We worked at
Feed My Starving Children.
 We were able to provide
 meals for 66 children
 for one year!



SKY ZONE
 On Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday there was no school. Braving the snow, 25 participants from NECC went to Sky Zone to "jump".



**“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

Hospitalized:

Joann Patton, Olive Poliks, Ruby Deason, Martha McWethy, Helen Rangel.

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mildred West.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant Minister: Joe Dunham
Office Administrator: Shelley Lund
Preschool Director: Jacquie May
Director of Education Ministries: Audra Darché
5th & 6th Grade Education: Kathy Kokkinos
7th & 8th Grade Education: Desiree Guzman
9th–12th Grade Education: Lesley Myers
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: Scott Voris
Moderator-elect: Brian Kleemann
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Judy Lopez