

MUSINGS

New England Church is a colorful church in many ways, from our building to our diversity to our clothes. And we're getting more colorful, going [GREEN](#) and [PURPLE](#) and [RAINBOW](#). And it's more than just on the stoles that Gary wears with his robe to signify the church year.

We have a new [GREEN TEAM](#) to help facilitate a more eco-friendly environment inside and outside the church building, and serve as consciousness-raising for the congregation. To that end, you will be hearing more from the group about how we can reduce our carbon footprint, be more efficient in recycling paper, water, and resources, and be friendlier to birds, bees, and other creatures of the earth. Some of this won't cost us much of anything other than an awareness of the need and a concerted effort to take advantage of the opportunities to make changes. Other items will be long-term and will involve financial resources, so these will only occur as money is available. Unfortunately, we're fighting a government administration that doesn't see the need for such things, so it will be an uphill battle. But that never stopped New England Church from taking up the challenge. So, stay tuned.

As far as being [PURPLE](#), this is a bit more nebulous but involves the intent to engage civil conversation between "red" and "blue" political ideologies, neither of which is completely wrong or completely right. However, more than any other time in recent history, we are a divided nation and it threatens to disrupt friendships, even in the church. So as much as possible, we want to model what it means to engage in productive conversation about political issues, be informed, and respect others' opinions even as we take a stand to protect those values we treasure most.

We have been very intentional not to bring politics into our pulpit while at the same time holding forth the values and teachings of Jesus. When the precepts of Christian caring for the marginalized, the oppressed, and victims of social systems clash with those of a culture or a political viewpoint, we must hold fast to our calling to live faithfully according to God's calling. At that point, being countercultural can appear to be political, but that is in perception, not reality.

And finally, we have been in the news of late as a church promoting and supporting the inaugural Gay Pride Parade on June 17, 2018. We have been an inclusive [RAINBOW](#) church for many years, accepting and including those who want to be part of our church family. Now we're going to be active participants, along with a dozen other congregations in Aurora and beyond, who will be marching in the Pride Parade. At this point, we're only walking unless someone is particularly good at creating a float! So, stay tuned.

I'm proud to be part of a church that wants to make the world a better place for everyone. We are a caring church for thinking people; no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Thanks for sharing this ministry together.



Gary



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!

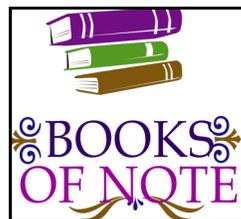
New England Preschool made Valentine's Day posters for the residents of Fox Knoll. Some of our preschoolers helped deliver the posters along with some sweet treats to help spread the love!



Remember to set your clocks 1 hour ahead the evening of Saturday, March 10.



BOOKS OF NOTE



Books of Note is reading *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, a memoir written by Laura Bates, a Shakespeare professor and prison volunteer. We will meet in the parlor on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm. New participants are always welcome to join our discussion and fellowship.

'Conversations With Gary'



'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, March 5

Tuesday, March 13

Wednesday, March 21

Thursday, March 29

Thank You!

THANK YOU!

To Deena Sherman
& Dave Mertz for
organizing our
annual
Chocolate Festival.



MAUNDY THURSDAY-March 29

Worship service at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY-March 30

Self-directed Communion and Meditation

11:00 am -1:00 pm in Johnson Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY-April 1

Two Identical Services at 8:30 & 10:00 am



EASTER LILIES

ORDER DEADLINE: March 18, 2018

I would like to order Easter flowers to be used as a chancel decoration on Easter Sunday. Anyone who donated a plant, may take it home after the 10:00 am service.

PLEASE PRINT

Lily _____ x \$12.00 each = _____

I have enclosed my check or cash for \$ _____

To Remember _____

Name _____

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Circle of Friends



March may bring winds, St. Patrick's Day, and the First Day of Spring, but it also brings Women's Circle of Friends annual Scrabble tournament!

All women of the church are invited to join us on Saturday, March 10, at 9:30 am in Friendship Hall.

We will begin with a shared breakfast followed by the Scrabble tournament. The tournament is for first time players as well as the wordsmiths, as our purpose is to have fun while fellowshiping with other women in the church. Please sign up online or in the church office. Scrabble is 70 years old in 2018 so join us in having fun playing together in March!



This year's Christian Service Awards went to Mike & Lois Imbrogno and Val Flechtner. We appreciate all you do for New England Congregational Church.

FILM SERIES



Film Series-March 9: My Left Foot (1989)

Christy Brown, born with cerebral palsy, learns to paint and write with his only controllable limb - his left foot. Featuring Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker.

Presenter: Gary McCann

Want to learn more about New England Church?

An Inquirer's meeting will be held in Johnson Chapel on March 25 following the 10:00 am service. Childcare is available.



CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

We need to be able to contact volunteers in case of a cancellation or change. So, if you have ever attended a movie in the Film Series or if you've ever volunteered to stock shelves at the Food Pantry, please email Shelley Lund, Office Administrator, (shelley@newenglandchurch.org) so we can compose a comprehensive list of emails in case we need to contact you.



NECC'S CONGREGATION CORNER



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Mavis A. Bates

10 years of Experience

Mavis is a Licensed Acupuncturist and Oriental Medicine practitioner. She treats men, women and children for a wide variety of health issues.

She has been practicing in Aurora, IL for ten years, and has successfully treated thousands of patients.

She received her MSTOM, Master of Science, Traditional Oriental Medicine from the prestigious Pacific College of Oriental Medicine. Mavis is National Board Certified in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbs and Oriental Medicine.

Mavis' expertise includes both Chinese and Western medicine. This background allows her to understand your Western medical diagnosis, so she can work with you and your Medical Doctor to integrate the benefits of both Eastern and Western approaches.

Mavis holds a Doctor of Naturopathy certificate. This includes western herbs, essential oils, nutrition and homeopathy.

Free! 50 inch Plasma TV-Panasonic manufactured in 2005, Model TH-50PX50U, outstanding picture and sound quality, perfect working order, requires two strong and steady humans to move. Call Hedy Lindgren at 630.212.0006.



The church does not endorse any of the businesses or products; all transactions are solely at the risk of those selling and buying.

March, 2018
Vol. 3

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- MARCH 4** Jesus Calls His Disciples
PreK -2nd Grade Sing with Mrs. James
- MARCH 11** Exploring the Bible- Bible Sunday
3rd & 4th Grade Sing with Mrs. James
*Luncheon in Friendship Hall for those who received a Bible
- MARCH 18** Exploring the Bible
5th & 6th Grade Lead Bible Games for the 3rd & 4th Graders
PreK-2nd Grade Sing with Mrs. James
- MARCH 25** Palm Sunday & PreK-4th Grade Sing in Church
- MARCH 31** Easter Egg Hunt

BIG DIFFERENCE

On February 18th, the 1st & 2nd graders here at NECC, participated in a special Church School lesson on The Sacraments (Communion & Baptism). During this time, Gary McCann, our Senior Minister guided the children through a mock Baptism and an engaging hands-on Communion experience. A big thanks goes out to Gary for joining our Church School class and helping teach these important lessons.

THANK
YOU,
GARY

BIBLE SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018



On March 11th, our 3rd graders, along with some of our 4th-6th grade children will receive their Bibles during the 10:00 AM worship service. Recently, a letter was sent home inviting the children and their families to this special service and to the luncheon following in Friendship Hall. Please remember to RSVP your confirmation or regrets for lunch and the exact name you want printed on the Bible to Audra Darche by March 1st. audra@newenglandchurch.org

EASTER EGG HUNT

Mark your calendars NOW!! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31st @ 11:00 AM. This year, weather permitting, we will be hunting for eggs on the grassy area around the church and in the pre-school playground area. We will all start in Friendship Hall with yummy Easter treats and fun activities and then have the egg hunt. (If the weather is bad, we will hold the festivities inside.) So, if you are a pre-schooler-4th grader, BYOB (Bring your own basket), and join us for a terrific time!

EASTER
EGG
HUNT

POP-TABS AND MORE

Many of you may have noticed a basket full of pop-tabs near the office window as you walk into church on Sunday mornings. Some of you may be thinking, what are those for or who do those go to? Many years ago, we as a church started collecting pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides support to families who have a sick child. Such support could be assistance with housing for the family near the hospital and/or even furnishing a place to rest at the hospital just to name a few. By simply donating the tabs we pull to open various soda, soup, beans, and other aluminum cans, we can help support this amazing organization. Various baskets will be stationed throughout the church and Chestnut House for easy drop off. We invite your family to join us in collecting these tiny tabs, and ultimately, making a big difference in the lives of others.





PRACTICING AND THEN SINGING IN CHURCH

1ST - 4TH GRADERS MADE STAINED GLASS



DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING CHILDREN MADE VALENTINES FOR SHUT INS.



CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ACTED OUT THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.





MARCHING AROUND THE SANCTUARY TO THE MUSIC OF THE MAD MONKS

AT THE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL



YUM yum
YUM yum
yum
yum



YOUTH TIDINGS

MARCH, 2018

88TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

On February 18th, the 5th and 6th graders, along with some of our parent volunteers came together to **HOST COFFEE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE CONGREGATION**. The students brought in treats, worked together to set up the table, and even helped to clean up after the event took place. In addition, the students really enjoyed visiting with the congregation while serving various treats. This will be the 3rd Helping Hands event the 5th & 6th graders have completed for this school year.

Helping Hands

UP AND COMING FOR 5TH & 6TH

During class time, the students continue to study the Bible and practice Bible games. On March 18th, the 5th & 6th graders will host our current 3rd & 4th grade children for a special day of Bible games. It will be a fun day for all!



HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you to all the students who joined us for the **PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT** on February 18th!! We had a fantastic time and enjoyed eating, playing games and chatting. And a special Thank You goes out to the Lundquist family for opening up their home to us and for being such gracious hosts.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

REMINDER:

The High School Youth Group class meets on Sunday's from 11:05 to 11:50 so please come and join in the fun! Bring a friend!! Please note - no class on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

CONFIRMATION

Every week at confirmation we have been asking students to leave their comments in our suggestion box. Our goal is to make sure that our lesson plans are fun, engaging, and meaningful. Here are a few examples of comments we've received recently:

"It was really fun. I liked the activities with today's lesson."

"It was fun to act out the lesson today."

"I think it was very fun! We should do more like this!"

"Acting out the stories helped me understand the parables."

"I like it when we have donuts for snack."

Sounds like we are on the right track, but we love getting regular feedback. It's a great way to make sure that the lessons are connecting with our students. Parents are also always encouraged to share their perspective.

FUN OUTING

On Sunday March 25th, confirmation students will be going on a fun outing after church from 11-1. Students will be nominating ideas and voting to choose our activity. Stay tuned to the next edition of the Tidings to see if we go bowling, skating, play Laser Tag...or try something else.



CHURCH VISIT

A special thanks to **THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHURCH** for welcoming our confirmation students for a visit on February 25th. Visiting other faith communities helps our students build understanding, cooperation, and respect with and for people of other faith traditions.





New England Congregational Church
 -UCC
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A Caring Church for Thinking People

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

Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:
 Duane Ross



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