



## MUSINGS

There have been recent incidents where protestors have interrupted services in several churches in Aurora, and I want the congregation to know about the potential of that happening at New England Church. These are generally anti-abortion activists who seek to engage in conversation about the issue and who are intent on publicity in the process. We're told that they blend in to the congregation and during the service begin their verbal protest.

First of all I want to emphasize that they are not confrontational or violent. The police officer with whom we talked a few weeks ago said that they usually leave when requested to do so, without making a scene. However, the element of surprise is important to them as is the need for publicity, which is why they target churches on public thoroughfares like Galena Boulevard.

Second, there are some things we plan to do if they should come to a service here.

Should anyone from this group become vocal during worship, the congregation will be instructed to stand and sing loudly hymn #2, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." The organists are at the ready to begin playing so as to drown them out with our music-making. The police will be called, indicating that a police presence is needed.

Third, here are things you as an individual should do if you encounter them:

Walk past them without looking at them.

Don't engage them in conversation. This gives them the entrance they want to push their agenda.

Church property is private property, and we have the right to have them arrested if they should attempt their protest on our property. But if you begin talking to them, they can take that as an invitation to come into your space. They are allowed to be on the sidewalks, which is public property, but they cannot block the driveways.

Don't take any literature from them. This only encourages them.

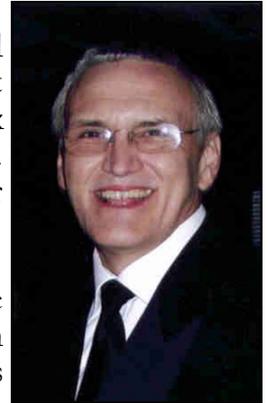
Don't touch them in any way. This gives them cause to cite aggression on our part.

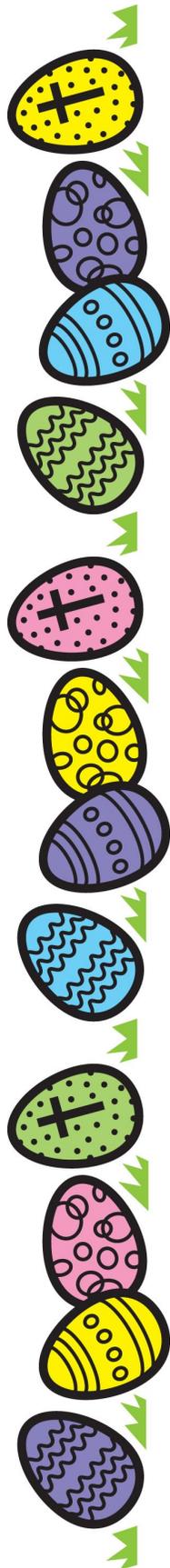
I want you to be aware of this possibility in case it should happen, but please don't let it deter you from being at church. There have been no incidents of violence in the four churches where this happened. Their "cause" should rather encourage us to be even more involved at church in order to stand up to them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Moderator Scott Voris.

With this kind of activism in our community, it is vitally important to support churches like NECC that take a stand for human dignity, individual choice, and non-judgmental inclusion. Thanks for being part of this congregation that advocates for love and acceptance.

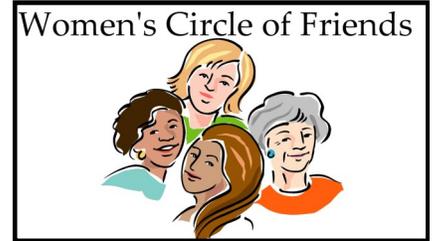
*Gary*





## Women’s Fellowship

April brings some changes to Women’s Circle of Friends! With a funeral scheduled at church on Saturday, April 14, Women’s Circle of Friends will be meeting at Colonial Cafe on Galena for brunch at 11:30 am. Instead of bringing a dish to share, bring a friend and enjoy eating out together with women from NECC! We will each buy our own breakfast.



Please sign up in the church office or on the computer. If you need a ride, please indicate that and we will arrange a ride for you. Be sure to note on your calendar the venue and time change for our meeting on Saturday, April 14. Contact Ann Eifler if you have any questions ([ann@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:ann@newenglandchurch.org)).

## FILM SERIES



Film Series April 13: *The Eagle Huntress* (2016)

Documentary features 13-year-old Aisholpan who trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle huntress. Presenter: Elaine Ross

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual Holocaust Memorial Service will be held at Temple B’nai Israel on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 pm. This is an important service for Christians and Jews alike so that we may never forget. The public is invited to attend. The church is located at 400 N. Edgelawn Drive.



## Mission Opportunities

KIDS HOPE USA is a program in which mentors from a church are matched with at-risk children at a local elementary school. Our congregation has been part of this program for four years. This year seven NECC members are mentoring seven students at Greenman Elementary School.



Each volunteer mentors only one student once a week for one hour. Meetings take place at the school during the school day. While mentors often provide academic support for the students, that is not the primary goal. The main role of the mentor is to be a friend to the student – an adult who takes a special interest in that student and who is consistently present in that student's life. Greenman students have responded positively to their mentors. One student told his mentor that she was his only friend at school. Another said she wished every day was a Kids Hope day. A third wrote her mentor a thank you note in which she said "Thank you for being nice to me." To find out more about the Kids Hope USA program and how you can be apart of that program for the 2018-2019 school year, contact program director Valerie Flechtner at 216-870-4115 or [valerie.flechtner@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.flechtner@gmail.com).

**Mutual Ground**-Thank you to the 10 generous individuals who provided Easter Baskets for children at Mutual Ground. This organization provides support for women who are survivors of sexual or physical abuse and for their children. During the first three weeks of May we will be collecting paper products, detergent and cleaning products for Mutual Ground. NECC has been a supporter of Mutual Ground for many years and they are grateful for our help. *And they will know we are Christians by our love.*



The Scouts and adult leaders of Boy Scout Troop 3 wish to thank the congregation for their support of our pancake breakfast on Scout Sunday and throughout the year. Our affiliation with New England Church will continue to benefit the lives of the boys and the communities in which we serve.

# Easter Sunday

April 1  
Two Identical Services  
at  
8:30 & 10:00 am



**Confirmation Sunday**

Please join us on May 6 at the 10:00 am service for the Rite of Confirmation as our 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are confirmed into full membership at New England Church. A special coffee fellowship will follow in Friendship Hall.

## THE MEMORIAL WALK IN THE GARDEN OF THE SAINTS



Engraved pavers in the Garden of the Saints serve as a lasting tribute to family members and friends. This summer we will be placing the order for engraved pavers to be installed in the walk. If you are interested in memorializing a family member or friend with an engraved paver, your order will need to be received in the office no later than

Thursday, May 31. Order forms are available in brochure rack outside the church office.

## EMMANUEL HOUSE GALA

The Emmanuel House, "Hope is a Home Gala" fundraiser will be an elegant evening dinner at the Acquaviva Winery and will include dessert by Food Network Star Chef Roby and a private concert by 2018 Grammy-Nominated recording artist Danny Gokey. Friday, April 6, from 6:00-10:00pm at the Acquaviva Winery, 47W614 Illinois 38, Maple Park. Cost: \$150 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased by contacting: sarah@emmanuelhouse.org or through Emmanuel House's facebook page @emmanhouse.




Trey & Julie Morrison  
0N582 Weaver Ln.  
Geneva, IL. 60134

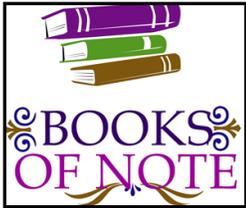
## PRIDE PARADE



Aurora's Inaugural Pride Parade, Summer 2018, sponsored by Indivisible Aurora, is Sunday, June 17. Come out and support your LGBTQ Community at Aurora's first ever Pride Parade. Wear your rainbow colors. Parade steps off at noon. Would you like to volunteer to help run the parade? Indivisible Aurora is looking for hard

working and organized people to join various committees. If you have free time to volunteer, please contact Kimberly Adams for more info at kimberly.adams@gmail.com.

## BOOKS OF NOTE



Books of Note is reading *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by French novelist and philosophy teacher Muriel Barbery. This best-selling novel is described as being, "full of allusions to literary works, music, films, and paintings. It incorporates themes relating to philosophy, class consciousness, and personal conflict," as told from the

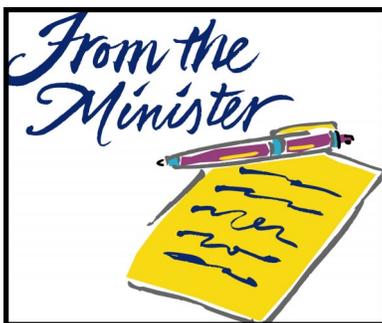
perspectives of two narrators. Please join us on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00pm in the parlor. New participants are always welcome to join us, whether you've read the book or not. We hope to see you there for lively conversation and fellowship.

## BURIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE

New England was given two burial plots and a bronze headstone in the River Hills Memorial Park in Batavia. River Hills has told us that the value of each burial site is \$1,050 and the bronze headstone's value is \$2,300, for a combined value of \$4,400. We continue to offer these items to members and friends of New England and we will accept any reasonable offer for the plots and headstone. If you have an interest or know someone who might, please contact the church office.



## WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF ADDITION



I'm pleased to announce the addition of Ann Eifler to our staff as the Director of Community Life. You may remember that Ann and husband Mike organized the Piece of the Pie night last November, so you know that she is good at creating events. Ann has been an educator in District 129 for many years and has been a long-time member of New England Church. Welcome, Ann!



Thanks to Barbara King, along with her assistant Mary Jane Ditzler, for organizing the Winter Dinners. A good time was had by all who attended the small, intimate dinners around the table.



Due to Gary's trip to Sweden in April, 'Conversations with Gary' will not meet again until May 7.

April, 2018  
Vol. 4

# Tiny Tidings

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- APRIL 1 Easter (All Children Stay in Church)
- APRIL 8 Emergency Procedures
- APRIL 15 Packaging donations to Hesus House  
5th & 6th Read in w/ the PreK & K Children
- APRIL 22 Earth Day Lesson
- APRIL 29 Zacchaeus



## BIBLE SUNDAY SUCCESS

On Sunday, March 11, several of our 3rd graders, along with a handful of our 4th-6th grade children received their new Bibles during the 10:00 AM service. Those who received a Bible were: Brooklyn Czenk, Tyler Darche, Adela James, Will Johnson, McKenzie Gordon, Anna Grometer, Evan Sprau, Colton VanDyke, Ryan Prusak, Martin Woosley, Molly Woosley, Tessa Snicker, and Caleb Snicker.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL



On April 8th, all of the church school children (Pre-school- 4th grade) will practice running through our emergency drills to ensure they all understand the protocol in the event of an actual emergency here at church. The children will review where to go if there was a tornado and where to go in the event of a fire. Please share with your children that this practice is not to scare them but to help them be prepared for an emergency here at church.

### Evacuation Drill

## ART OF GIVING CONTINUES

The Art of Giving event is quickly approaching for our 1st through 4th grade children. This will be our 3rd year that the Church School children and families have collected toiletry items to be given to Hesus House. Coming up on Sunday, April 15th, all 1st through 4th grade children will be practicing the "art of giving" while putting together mini-care packages for Hesus House. A sample care package will include: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, and deodorant. To ensure we can donate several mini care packages, we are continuing to ask for donated supplies for this event. All supplies can be dropped off to Audra Darche or in the basket located in the Church School Hallway.

**SUGGESTED  
DONATIONS**

Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth,  
deodorant, mouthwash, and sunscreen

\*Mini versions of the above products are encouraged as they are easier to assemble, package, and transport

## CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC

Make sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Church School family picnic. The picnic will take place on Sunday, May 20st at 3:30 PM at the home of Rick and Audra Darche. This will be a great opportunity for our Church School families to hang out and enjoy a fun afternoon of food & fellowship. All families with a preschool-6th grade child are welcome to this event. Keep an eye out for more details and hope you can make it! Please RSVP to Audra Darche if you are able to attend.



## THANK YOU 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

**A BIG THANKS**

goes out to Kathy Kokkinos and the 5th and 6th graders who helped teach the 3rd and 4th graders about the Bible on March 18th. The 5th and 6th grade youth lead the children in various activities and games that provoked interest while encouraging the use of their new Bibles. Not only was the lesson fun, but it was great to see our youth as leaders in our church.



**BIBLE SUNDAY**

# YOUTH TIDINGS

APRIL, 2018

89TH EDITION

## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

On March 18th, the 5th and 6th graders hosted Bible games for the 3rd and 4th graders in celebration of Bible Sunday. They enjoyed playing old and new testament book sorts, twister, hangman, and a word scramble. The 5th and 6th graders spent several weeks preparing and really enjoyed leading the younger students. The 3rd and 4th graders enjoyed breaking in their new Bibles with the older students.



## UP AND COMING FOR 5TH & 6TH

On April 15th, the 5th and 6th graders will be hosting a "read-in" for the pre-k and kindergarten students. A variety of books will be read aloud to the students in the Sunday school library. Bring your favorite stuffed animal and get comfortable!



## Confirmation Sunday

### SAVE THE DATE

Don't Forget! Confirmation Sunday is May 6th. All Confirmands and their Mentors should plan to attend the 10:00 service. Coffee Fellowship will be served in Fellowship Hall and student faith projects will be on display for the whole congregation to enjoy.

## CONFIRMATION

# SPRING MINI-RETREAT

8th graders in our confirmation program will be participating in a mini-retreat at Chestnut House on Saturday morning April 21st. Mentors are also encouraged to attend. We will play games, eat snacks, have a chance to give suggestions about the program for next year, and share progress reports on our faith projects which are due Sunday April 29th (the week before Confirmation Sunday) Contact Desiree Guzman with any questions.

## A BIG THANK YOU

*Thanks*

to all the High School kids who helped stuff Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt, we appreciate all of your hard work!!

## ESCAPE ROOM

Coming up on April 29th we have an escape room event planned. We will be hosting this event and inviting the Confirmation class to join us. We will first provide lunch to the whole Confirmation class at the Chestnut House and then immediately following lunch we will be inviting the 8th graders to join us to take part in the escape room. Please be sure to RSVP for this event no later than April 15th by emailing Lesley Myers at [Lesley@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:Lesley@newenglandchurch.org) We hope to have you all join us!



# ESCAPE ROOM

5TH & 6TH  
GRADERS

# PREPARE AND SERVE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



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## Joys & Concerns

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

### Baptisms:

Wyatt Carl Quigley, son of Travis & Kristen Quigley.  
Rafael Alejandro Morales IV, son of Rafael & Emily Morales.

### Hospitalized:

Joyce Baudouin, Bob Bridgman, Margaret Nickerson,  
Marcia Whaley, Bonnie Czinki.

### Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of  
Ruby Deason, Harry Munro and Margaret Thomas.



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## OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

### New England Congregational Church UCC

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[office@newengland  
church.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)

*A Caring Church for  
Thinking People*

**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  
**Director of Community Life:** Ann Eifler  
**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

**“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”**