



Our New England Church representatives at the Illinois Conference Annual Meeting in June at Elmhurst College were Nancy & Fred Krauss. Here is Fred's report:

The 2018 Celebration of the Illinois Conference was held at Elmhurst College* over Friday and Saturday of June 8th and 9th. The theme for this year was "Love in Action, Life as Neighbors." Nancy and I attended as delegates of New England Congregational United Church of Christ and represented the congregation in what was an exciting, inspiring and progressive celebration of who we are in the Christian family of faith. Our denomination has always been on the forefront of the peace and justice issues that continue to be a part of our local identity here in Aurora. That tradition continued as we went about the business of the church and passed three very critical resolutions that speak to the world in which we live.

The first of the resolutions spoke to the issue of immigrants seeking entry and asylum at our southern border and the current administration's policy of zero tolerance, resulting in the immediate separation of children from their families on entry to the United States. Titled "The Protection of Immigrant Children And Their Families", it resolved to advocate for the immediate end of the practice of separating minor children from their parents, and that those already separated should be quickly reunited with them.

A second resolution called for Congressional Hearings on Violence in America, requesting that the 32nd General Synod of the United Church of Christ call upon Congress to conduct formal hearings to discover systemic and proximate causes of civilian violence in America.

The third resolution called for the United States to abolish the growth and existence of private prisons. The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world with African Americans, Latinos, Latinas, and indigenous people being disproportionately incarcerated in the United States.

There was much more to our time together than simply passing resolutions that brought excitement to the Conference Celebration. There were stimulating "Energizers" (small group sessions) providing opportunities for discussion and learning around various topics. The election of new officers for our Illinois Conference, and plenty of time for friendly conversations with both old and new friends. There were exciting and meaningful times of worship and Friday's events concluded with a celebrative banquet for the gathered community. We've started the process of searching for a new Conference Minister following the retirement of Jorge Morales, and the mantle of Conference President was passed on to Rev. Kim Wood of the Prairie Association. In the display area were several booths sponsored by various ministries of the United Church of Christ.

**Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, Illinois) is one of twenty-eight campuses related to the United Church of Christ and one of eighteen that have affirmed the purposes of the United Church of Christ Council for Higher Education by official action and are full members of the Council. Elmhurst began as a pre-seminary campus of the Evangelical Church, a predecessor denomination to the UCC, whose purpose was to prepare students for admission into Eden Seminary (Webster Groves, Missouri) and full time ordained ministry.*

Submitted by Rev. Fred R. Krauss, UCC, retired

July/August, 2018
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Tiny Tidings

SUMMER ADVENTURE: ART IN OUR LIVES

- JULY 1:** Body/Face Painting-Guest Artist: Sue Kleinwachter
- JULY 8:** Acrylic Painting w/ String-Guest Artist: Tracy Snicker
- JULY 15:** Mural Discussion-Guest Artists: Josh Schultz & Rebekah Axtell
- JULY 22:** Watercolor Painting- Guest Artist: Tracy Snicker
- JULY 29:** Cake Decorating-Guest Artist: Jenny Svendsen
- AUGUST 5:** Stained Glass-Guest Artist: Judy McCann
- AUGUST 12:** Art Tour of NECC-Guest Artist: Gary McCann
- AUGUST 19:** Quilting- Guest Artist: Sue Herren
- AUGUST 26:** Color of Music-Guest Artist: AnDrea James
- SEPTEMBER 2:** Summer Art Project: Salt Paint



POP TAB UPDATE



This past February until the present, the entire Church School program, along with members of our congregation were invited to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Over the past 4 months, several bags of pop tabs have been donated and placed in the various "turn-in baskets" located throughout the church. On May 23rd, 6 pounds of pop tabs that have been collected from our church were dropped off to the Ronald McDonald House located in Winfield, IL. Moving forward, let's continue collecting the pop tabs. This is an easy way for our church to support such an amazing organization. In addition, we are looking for a volunteer or two to help drop off the pop tab donations to the Winfield location once in a while. If interested, please contact Audra Darche.

SUMMER ADVENTURE

The summer program has begun and the church school children have already been exposed to some amazing art lessons. Several of our "guest artists" from our congregation have not only led the children through some creative experiences, but many of the children have also made their own art while engaging in the summer program. Please take a moment and ask your child what "art" they learned about on the day he/she was in church school, as I'm sure you will be impressed! As a reminder, all children stay in church until "Time with Children" is completed and then they will be dismissed to the narthex where their teacher will escort them into the church school classroom.

REGISTRATION 2018-2019



Our fall church school registration is right around the corner and to ensure we have every child accounted for our upcoming 2018-2019 church school program, please complete the church school registration form for your child. The forms will be in the church school hallway and can be returned directly to Audra Darche in the church school office. Please remember to register your child/children/grandchildren by September 2nd, so we can have rosters and name tags ready for each child.

SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, August 25th, all church school children and families are invited for a "Feed My Starving Children" packing day from 4:30-6:30 PM. If interested, please sign up on the Feed My Starving Children site by clicking "volunteer" and then entering our code: 1439179.



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL - IN THE IMAGE

SOLOISTS AND SPEAKERS



DIRECTOR-ANDREA JAMES



ACCOMPANIST-JON WARFEL



CHORUS



END OF CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR PICNIC



SUMMER ADVENTURE: ART IN OUR LIVES

The first Sunday was "Kick Off" Sunday.
The children did a fun summer art project making popsicles.



YOUTH THINGS

JULY/AUGUST, 2018

92ND EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE


Thank you 5th/6th graders for a great first year! Good luck to Caleb and Tessa as they move up to the confirmation class. In addition, our current 6th graders are looking forward to meeting the new 5th graders. We have many exciting things planned for 2018-2019.

CONFIRMATION

We are on the lookout for Confirmation Mentors for the fall. If you are interested in learning more or if you would like to nominate someone from the church who you think would be great, please email Desiree at desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net or call her at 630-564-1849.



5TH & 6TH GRADE POOL PARTY

Reminder to the current 5th/6th grade class: Pool Party on July 15th at 12PM. Invitation will be sent out soon.



ENROLLMENT

Although it seems as if summer has just begun, the planning process for our fall program has already been in the process for at least a month. To ensure, we can identify all who will be participating at each of our church school levels, we are asking all to complete a registration form for your child. This information allows us to better identify our class numbers, but this also helps plan events throughout the year.



out for the upcoming registration form.

CONGRATS

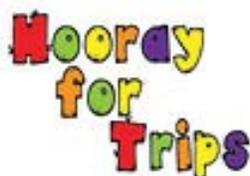
Congrats to all our high school students that graduated this year! We want to wish all of you good luck in all your future endeavors and hope you pop into class occasionally, to say hello.



HIGH SCHOOL

We hope all the high school families are enjoying the summer break and we are looking forward to hearing all about summer vacations and experiences when we return to classes on September 9th.

OH THE PLACES WE WILL GO



The education team is in the process of planning some fun trips and activities for the 2018-2019 church school year so please keep an eye out for these events as we get closer to September. In the meantime, enjoy the summer and have fun!





Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:
John Hett, John Williams

Deaths:
We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
Peg Steinhebel and Helen Rangel.



Over the past 4 years, New England Church's Mission Board has partnered with Greenman Elementary School to provide mentors, holiday gifts, shoes, and more to children and families who attend this school. Recently, the West Aurora School Board acknowledged this amazing partnership and awarded New England Church a certificate for being a committed partner and supporter of District 129 and the Aurora Community. Our own Val Flechtner, chair of our Mission Board has taken the lead in making this partnership a success and we want to also recognize you for all of your efforts. As mentioned in the Beacon News in June, although our church provides many tangible ways to support Greenman, it is the relationship that our church has established with the children and staff that truly makes a difference. Congratulations to New England's Mission Board for its partnership with Greenman Elementary School. Your dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed!

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
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

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A Caring Church for Thinking People