



MUSINGS

September is upon us and with it the beginning of a new program year at New England Church. I always look forward to the prospects of a new year of education, music, worship, and fellowship. There are many several exciting opportunities this month.

First, Fall Festival is September 9 and with it our education program begins a new year. Everyone is invited to the Fall Festival Celebration at 11:00 am in Friendship Hall for our annual indoor picnic—good food and fellowship. There will be outdoor games on the church lawn which will include a cake walk, face painting, and a piñata for the kids. See the details in this Tidings.

Second, our Chancel Choir will return to our worship service on September 9. We look forward to another year of inspiring music under the direction of our Minister of Music Jon Warfel. New England Church is very fortunate to have many talented musicians and a large choir to offer us music of the highest quality each Sunday.

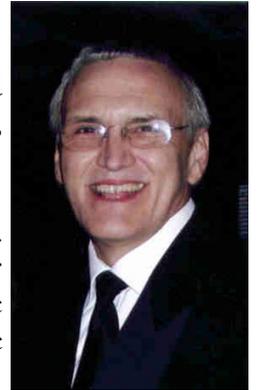
Third, there is an opportunity to learn more about the history of the United Church of Christ with the Rev. Fred Krauss who will lead a four-week study at 11:15 am each Sunday in the Chapel. Fred is a retired UCC minister and a newer member of NECC. You will find this a very informative and helpful seminar. See the information with dates and more information further on in this Tidings.

Fourth, we begin this new program year as well with some new “ministry teams” which will offer assistance in several areas: hospital visitation, Sunday hospitality, homebound visitation, and weekly kitchen cleanup detail. I’m grateful for those who have agreed to serve our church community in this way.

In that regard, we hope to establish a “Grounds Trash Pickup” ministry team who would be willing to spend an hour every few months patrolling the grounds on Saturday to make sure all the paper and debris that has blown into the yard is removed before Sunday morning. Individuals and families are invited to help us out. See the announcement from Jan Mammaing who coordinates our outdoor landscape for the Building and Grounds Board. Thanks in advance for agreeing to help us keep our campus looking clean and tidy...and inviting.

And last but certainly not least, in October, our Stewardship Campaign will give us once again a chance to show our support for the church through our commitment of financial and volunteer opportunities. I thank you in advance for your generous support as we continue to Build the Bridge While Walking On It.

It promises to be another good year at NECC this fall. Thanks for your part in it.



Gary

NECC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Congratulations to our recent high school graduates!! We wish you the best as you take on new endeavors this fall.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Nicholas Kierstead | Waubensee Valley High School - Aurora, IL |
| Roman Medrano | Oswego High School - Oswego, IL |
| Daniel Moses | Willowbrook High School - Villa Park, IL |
| Sean Olson | Willowbrook High School - Villa Park, IL |
| Olivia Swindle | Rosary High School - Aurora, IL |
| Jane Voris | West Aurora High School - Aurora, IL |
| Jacob Ziman | West Aurora High School - Aurora, IL |

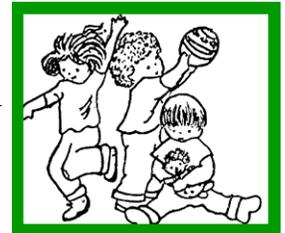
PRESCHOOL NEWS

New England Preschool will be back in school on September 4th and 5th.

The entire staff is excited for another great school year with many fun things planned. We still have openings for the fall. Please call the school if you are interested.

We are also honored to celebrate our 70th anniversary!

Special events will take place throughout the school year. We look forward to celebrating our anniversary with the entire New England Church community.



Film Series

The 14th Annual Film Series begins in October. Brochures are available in the literature rack by the office. Here's the lineup:

- October 12: *The Second Best Marigold Hotel*
- November 9: *The Miracle Worker*
- December 14: *The Adventures of Tintin*
- January 11, 2019: *Maudie*
- February 8: *The Breadwinner*
- March 8: *Local Hero*
- April 12: *A Place in the Sun*



Fall Festival

NECC's annual Fall Festival Celebration is Sunday, September 9. The indoor picnic begins after the 10:00 am service with great food and fellowship in Friendship Hall. The outdoor games for EVERYONE will be set-up in the church garden area. We will have a cake walk, face-painting, games, and we will finish in style with a piñata for the children. Look for ways you can help on the sign-up sheets in the church Marketplace. The Board of Education Ministries hopes to see you there and we hope you will invite your friends!



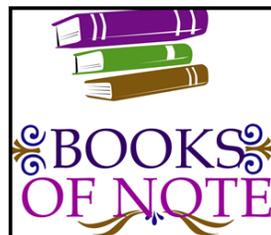
Volunteers Needed



We continue to stock shelves at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry every second and third Mondays at 3:00 pm. Thanks to all who have helped and will continue to help. The Pantry has asked that all volunteers be 13 years of age or older due to liability. Thank you.

Books of Note

Books of Note is reading *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a novel, by Amor Towles. Set in 1922, this story is described as a "30 year saga in which its main character, Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, is placed under house arrest in a hotel across from the Kremlin, when the Bolsheviki spare him from death or Siberia because of his 1913 revolutionary poem written in university."



According to Amazon reviews, "his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery." We invite you to join us in our discussion on Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm in the parlor. Our group meets the third Tuesday of every month, from September through May, and we read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction selections. If you enjoy good books, great discussions, and fellowship, we would love to have you join us, whether you have read the book or not. We are looking forward to hearing what people have been reading over the summer, so we can choose more great reads for the months ahead. We hope to see you there!



Exploring the United Church of Christ-Rev. Fred Krauss

I would like to invite you to join me in exploring who we are as The United Church of Christ in a series of four sessions following Sunday worship. The dates are September 23, 30, Oct 7, 14. We will be meeting in the chapel. I won't ask for a pre-registration, but would appreciate if you could let me know if you are planning to attend. If you can, please email me at Fred@fkrauss.org.

My family traces its history to Germany's Evangelische Kirche, or, The Evangelical Church of Germany. Beginning as a merger of Lutheran and Reformed churches in Prussia, it became an umbrella denomination for German Immigration through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. By the time I came into this world the Evangelical Church had merged with the German Reformed Churches, creating, The Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In a parallel universe, the Congregational Church had grown from its roots in the English Reformation and the Puritan movement through its emergence in what was to become the United States as one of the major religious bodies in early America. By the time our nation's founders signed the Declaration of Independence, 13 of the signers were Congregational, while two others claimed Unitarianism, which at the time was growing within the Congregational Church with its American center at Harvard University, a part of the educational mission of the Congregational Church.

In 1931, The Congregational Church merged with the "Christian" Church, a nineteenth century movement of Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and others who were a part of the Restoration Movement and who believed that the Church of Christ should only be called by the name "Christian." Expression of this movement continues in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian churches, and the Churches of Christ. The Disciples of Christ remain a close partner of the United Church of Christ.

In 1957, the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches merged to become "The United Church of Christ." Its been quite an adventure. We continue to be one of the most open, accepting and liberal denominations in the nation, and we have reached out in the ways of justice and peace through mission programs that serve around the world. We are a covenant community that believes we cannot impose our beliefs on one another but that we can find our center in God's love and the way that it is expressed in the world. We have maintained an extensive outreach in mission, education, healing and caring ministries that includes colleges, universities, academies, seminaries, hospitals, and clinics such as the Advocate Health Care System. We have residential homes, nursing facilities, foster care, adoption services, and homes for children and youth who need additional care. We maintain worldwide mission programs and continue to champion the rights of minorities, the poor and the dispossessed. We became Open and Affirming, declaring that no one for whatever reason can be kept from the Love of God and the care of Christian Community. The United Church of Christ has an inspiring and instructive history marked by evangelical courage, extravagant welcome, and a "liberal spirit."

I think it would be exciting to gather for a few weeks to study and explore our belonging to the United Church of Christ, our history, our mission, and what it means to live in covenant community with one another.

Women's Circle of Friends



School is starting up and so is Women's Circle of Friends! All women of the church are invited to our first meeting which is for breakfast at Briana's on Saturday, September 8 at 9:30 am. The address is 10 N. Island Ave, Batavia. Please sign up on the NECC website or in the church office. If you need a ride, please indicate and we can carpool. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend and meet other women from NECC!

Food Pantry Gala



Support the Aurora Food Pantry!

Celebrate a taste of Germany

at Aurora Food Pantry's annual fundraising gala October 6th at Pipers Banquets in Aurora.

This year's event will feature beer and wine tastings, a full open bar, a German-themed dinner, live and silent auctions.

Tickets are \$100 and each ticket provides \$350 of food to families in need in our community.

Save the date on your calendars for this amazing event!

Stop by the Marketplace in September to pick up an invitation.

Remember – when you purchase your tickets from the Food Pantry, tell them you would like to be seated with the New England Church Group!

Giving Bus

For many Aurora area families providing their children with shoes is a challenge. For many years NECC has been there to help! We provide three Aurora area elementary schools with a supply of shoes to distribute throughout the year. The Board of Missions sponsors the Giving Bus and invites NECC members and friends to help out. The Giving Bus will be parked in the Marketplace September 9, 16 and 23. Those interested in donating 1 or 2 pairs of shoes can select a “ticket” or “tickets” indicating the shoe size needed and gender of the recipient. Shoes are to be returned to church by September 30 for distribution to the schools. Or if you would rather not shop, give a donation and we will shop for you. The Board of Missions thanks you for your participation.



Grounds Clean-up Volunteers Needed

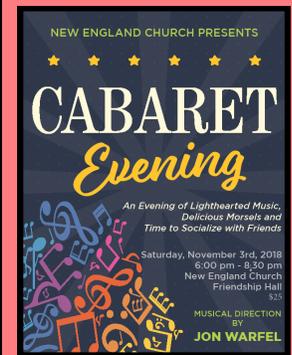


The Board of Building & Grounds has an opportunity for you to get a bit of exercise and some fresh air...something good for all of us!! We need volunteers—families, individuals, friends—to collect trash that accumulates on the lawn, in the bushes, and along the fence lines. If we can get 12 people/families to volunteer on Friday or Saturday four times a year,

the grounds would look their best for Sunday services. Do you have an hour once a quarter to help us? Email Jan Mamminga (jrmamminga@yahoo.com) if you are willing to help or if you have questions and we'll get back to you to create a schedule.

Looking Ahead...

Come join us for An Evening Cabaret on Saturday, November 3 at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall. This will be an evening of musical entertainment in a cabaret setting, with fun music, tasty hors d'oeuvres, good wine, and delightful company. \$25 tickets will go on sale in October.



The Chancel Choir annual fall potluck/rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 pm. We will begin with dinner in the Friendship Hall followed by a rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Please bring a dish to pass and table setting, beverages will be provided.



September, 2018
Vol. 8

Tiny Tidings

WELCOME BACK

Make sure to mark your calendar on Sept. 9th as the first day of church school for the 2018-2019 school year. The theme for the upcoming year is:

WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.



REGISTRATION 2018-2019

Registration Information

Our fall registration is on its way and to ensure we have every child accounted for our church school program, we are asking families to please complete and return the 2018-2019 Church School Registration form by August 26th. Please take note, we are asking families to complete a registration form for each child participating in our upcoming church school program. The forms can be picked up and returned directly to Audra Darche in the church school office. Extra forms can also be picked up in the church school hallway. Please remember to register your child/children/grandchildren by August 26th, so we can have rosters and name tags ready for each child.

TOP TRAINING

On Sunday, August 12th, several of our high school youth participated in a church school training session that reviewed necessary information and emphasized safety expectations when helping out in the church school classes. During the training, the youth reviewed class expectations, practiced emergency drills, visited the various church school classes, and discussed how to handle challenging situations. Our church school program relies on parent volunteers to help teach weekly in the classes, however, our high school youth are our consistent eyes and ears in the classes each week. During the training, it was evident that here at New England, we have many youth that are invested in helping on Sunday mornings. It is with this commitment, our church program will continue to grow. Make sure to say thank you to our high school helpers the next time you are up in the church school classrooms.

THANK YOU

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
FOR YOUR HELP IN
CHURCH SCHOOL.

WRAPPING UP THE SUMMER

CHECK OUT
THE NEXT TWO
PAGES TO SEE
PICTURES FROM THE
SUMMER PROGRAM.

Throughout the summer, many church school children participated in our **SUMMER ADVENTURE: ART IN OUR LIVES** during church on Sunday mornings. During this time, the children were exposed to variety of art forms, and on most Sundays, were able to create a masterpiece during their lesson. We were so blessed to have our entire summer filled with volunteer artists from our congregation who were willing to share their talents with our church school children. Although our summer program will be concluding shortly, we hope the art lessons this summer helped to spark some interest and creativity in your children.

TEACHER SIGN UP

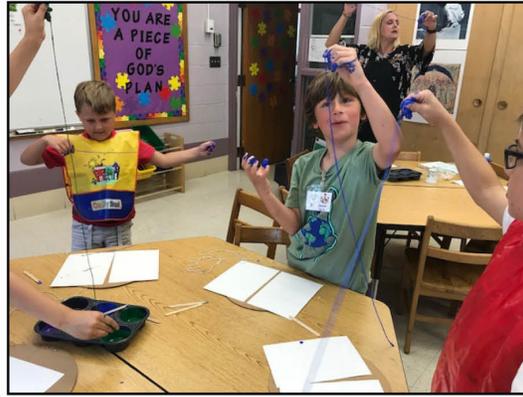
In order for New England to provide a quality church school, we will be asking for parent volunteers to teach a two-week unit beginning Sept. 16th-Dec. 24th. The rooms are set up ahead of time, plans will be prepared, and your children will love having you as their teacher! A new teacher sign-up sheet for 2018-2019 school year is now hanging in the church school hallway. Please remember to sign up for a two-week unit.

SIGN UP NOW!

REMINDER

FALL CHURCH PICNIC

will be on Sunday, September 9th immediately after church. Hope to see you there!



They learned to paint using string and tape to give defined lines



The children had an opportunity to learn some of the steps in cake decorating and how to decorate their own cupcakes.



YOUTH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER, 2018

93RD EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

WELCOME BACK 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS!

We have an exciting year planned, along with 24 students in our class. Please keep in mind,

**CHURCH SCHOOL WILL BEGIN
ON SEPTEMBER 9TH**

and, immediately after church, will be the

FALL FESTIVAL

Class on Sunday mornings will be held in the 5th/6th grade room located on the 3rd floor next to the bell choir room. To ensure everyone is kept up to speed on the fun events that will be taking place throughout the year, please remember to check your emails periodically.

CONFIRMATION CLASS KICK-OFF

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

10:00 A.M.

AT CHESTNUT HOUSE



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and fun filled summer! School is back in full swing and church youth group will be starting back up this month. We have 2 fun events coming up in September for the high school students to enjoy. First, our group will be helping out with games and activities at the Fall Festival on September 9th immediately following church. Secondly, we are going to kick off this year with a trip to Great America on September 15th!!! What a fun way to start out our time together! Oh, and don't forget to stay tuned regarding even more activities for the high school students. I have a feeling that it's going to be a great year!!

CONFIRMATION MENTORS

This year we are continuing the tradition of matching our 8th grade confirmation students with mentors from the congregation. Mentors will build relationships with students and their families, provide support and encouragement during their confirmation year, and help students as they develop and create their faith projects. If you are the parent of an 8th grader and have an idea of someone who would be a good match for your student, or if you are someone interested in becoming a mentor for a student, please contact Desiree Guzman at: desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net or 630-564-1849.

**WELCOME
BACK!**

UP AND COMING

CONFIRMATION INFO MEETING FOR
PARENTS, STUDENTS, & MENTORS:
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:00 SERVICE.

Come get a brief overview of our plans and expectations for the year so we can start off strong.

SUMMER ADVENTURE: ART IN OUR LIVES

The children heard the story:
THE DOT
Then, they created their own summer popsicle using various "dots" and shapes. These were hung in the classroom for the summer.



The children participated in a nature art lesson where they created nature paperweights and painted still-life nature items.



They also learned the beginning steps of body/face painting.



The children were able to see, touch, and ask questions on how to make quilts. To make this even more special, the children decorated their own fabric swatch that will be quilted into a pillow.

**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**



**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

Weddings:

John & Kim Renninger on June 30th.

Births:

Tim Edward Kanive Jr., born to Tim & Sarah Kanive on August 10.

Hospitalized:

Steve Svendsen, John Ditzler, Kim Peterson, Jack Hinton, Marilyn Parolini, Patty Peterson, Barb Holtman.

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Eileen King.



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: Kimberly Adams

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