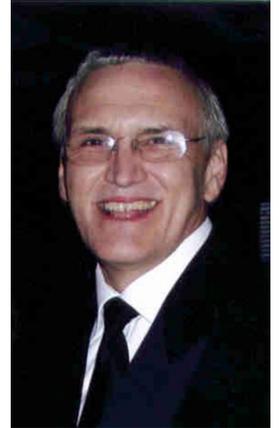




MUSINGS

As we enter into the autumn months of the calendar, my thoughts turn to the annual stewardship drive of the church, and consider the mixed blessing this is for a congregation. The campaign to secure money for next year's budget is a privilege we are all invited to share but it is also a difficult time for the church leadership, anxious about receiving enough money to sustain a budget and have to call people repeatedly to ask them to pledge.

This year will be particularly difficult, I think, given the new tax laws this year. Much of the new law is vague, and only time will tell if it is helpful or not. But we do know that it works against philanthropic and religious agencies such as the church. In a newsletter designed for clergy, an article says that "with less tax incentive to give, millions of relatively small donations that moderate-income Americans give to mainstream charities could be sharply reduced. Despite the changes due to tax reform, Americans' charitable instincts will still lead them to give, but they are expected to give less."



The incentive to give to New England Church is a strong one, for this congregation believes strongly in the mission, program, and future of this church. Most of us appreciate the outstanding music we are privileged to listen to each Sunday and are pleased to see the wonderful education program we have, close-up if you have children, from afar if not. Sermons make every attempt to challenge and comfort and many have commented that they find them helpful in practical ways.

SO, in advance of this year's stewardship campaign "A Bridge to the Future," I encourage all of us to carefully reevaluate why we give to this church.

Indeed, we appreciate any tax incentive we get in our charitable giving. But if that incentive is diminished, will we continue to support this church generously because...

- it's the right thing to do
- because this church serves an important function not only for us personally but for the community of Aurora
- because we want to support an organization that connects us to a caring, thinking community?

I hope so. And I hope you will join me in reframing the reason for giving, if, indeed, giving more to the church doesn't increase your tax return.

The article continues:

According to a recent study by the Chronicle of Philanthropy, the more important religion is to a person, the more likely that person is to give to a charity of any kind. Among Americans who claim a religious affiliation, the study said 65% give to charity. The tax benefits, while certainly helpful, are secondary to many givers in the faith community." ("Tomorrow," MMBB)

Join me in supporting New England Church to help build the bridge to the future.

Gary

NEW ENGLAND PRESCHOOL NEWS



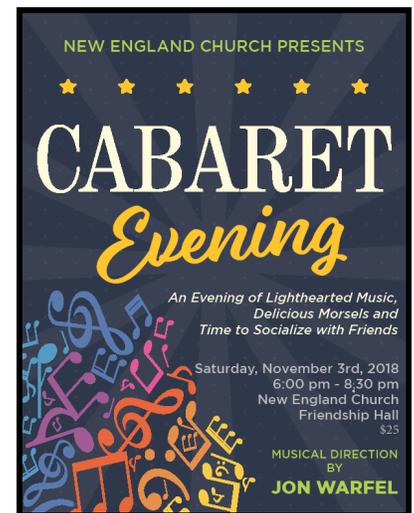
New England Preschool is off to a great start! We are excited to be celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year and have extra events planned throughout our school year. We look forward to hosting coffee fellowship in the preschool after the 10:00 am service on Sunday, October 21. Please plan on joining us and looking around our beautiful school.

The picture shows our Special Greeter. When our preschoolers celebrate their birthdays, they are able to stand in the entry way and greet everyone walking into school. We are not only celebrating birthdays, but practicing good manners!

Save the Date!

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. Tickets are \$25.



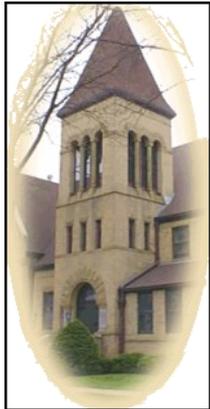
October 2020 France River Cruise?



We are considering an 8-day Viking river cruise through the Bordeaux area of France, cruising the Dordogne, Garonne, and Gironde Rivers. This is, of course, wine country, so touring vineyards, sampling wine, and hunting for (and eating!) truffles are part of the trip. A pre-trip extension to the Loire Valley and a post-trip extension to Paris are available. If you are interested, please email Gary to let him know.



NECC Endowment Fund



Please remember our endowment fund in your estate planning and through your current giving, such as memorials and honorariums. We have six sub-funds under the umbrella of the New England Endowment Fund. These sub-funds are Administrative, Capital, Education, Mission, Music, and Youth. If you do not name a specific sub-fund in your gift directive, your gift will be placed into the Administrative Sub-Fund. For further information, see www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org or call 630-896-7800.

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.



Growing Food World Wide



Is an organization all about helping people to grow food better. Locally, it is about churches and farmers from Aurora and the surrounding area, who raise money to support the program. Bob Dell is inviting you to attend this year's annual celebration on

Saturday, October 13, when they will celebrate raising a total of \$1 million dollars! This annual celebration is a combination of worship, a good meal, choir music, plus activities such as a combine ride, and other farm machinery. For the kids, there are several activities including a sandbox made of corn kernels. Worship is at 10:00 am followed by learning about how the program saves lives through more efficient ways of producing food for better income, and better health. Lunch is next, followed by optional activities. No cost; donations welcome. (There is a pie auction).

Your presence helps make this a joyous celebration. It will take place at the Jerry & Jean Dau farm near Sheridan. Bob is offering to provide transportation. We leave at our convenience. For more information, call Bob at 815-786-6341.



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 3:00-4:00pm. The location is 110 Jericho Road, Aurora. Thank you!

'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, October 1 Tuesday, October 9 Wed., October 17 Thursday, October 25





Exploring The United Church of Christ

Rev. Fred R. Krauss, retired

The **Statement of Faith** of the United Church of Christ was unanimously passed at the Second General Synod of 1959. The founding Synod of 1957 appointed a 28 member commission to develop a statement that would reflect the shared faith of both the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. The commission was chaired by Dr. Elmer Arndt (E&R) and vice-chaired by Douglas Horton (CC). Dr. Arndt was one of my professors at Eden Seminary and told the story of when the statement was passed the entire delegation spontaneously rose and sang the Doxology. Since 1959, the statement has been revised twice to reflect more inclusive language; first by Dr. Robert Moss, the first president of the United Church of Christ, and later in 1981 it was transformed into the current doxological prayer. The statement has also been translated into Spanish. In our Exploration of the United Church of Christ, we will compare all three English versions including the original.

The Statement of Faith is not intended to be a test of faith, but is rather a testimony of the shared faith of the diverse membership of the larger church. The vision was that the statement would invite us to consider our own faith and in the process give us a language and provide a set of theological categories to help us to do so.

The following is The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology:

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Women's Fellowship



Women's Circle of Friends will be meeting on Saturday, October 13 in Friendship Hall at 9:30 am for breakfast.

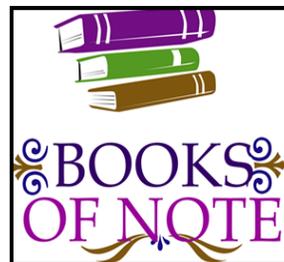
Please bring a dish to share and a friend! Following Breakfast, we will enjoy our own display of quilts. If you have a quilt you would like to share with us, please bring it with you and we will display all of our shared quilts on the stage. We would like some information about each

quilt so you could put it on a card yourself or send the information to Barb Vavrinek (bvavrinek@ameritech.net), and she will print the info for you.

We would be interested in the type of quilt, who made it, date, and any other interesting information you know about your quilt. Please sign up on the NECC website or in the church office. Instead of indicating your shared breakfast item this month, please indicate if you are bringing a quilt to share!

Books of Note

Books of Note is reading *Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair* by William Elliott Hazelgrove. This book is described as, "an historical look at Chicago during the darkest days of the Great Depression. The story of Chicago fighting the hold that organized crime had on the city to be able to put on The 1933 World's Fair." We will be meeting on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm in the parlor. We hope to see you there to join our discussion and fellowship.



NECC Building Tour & Inquirer's Meeting



Inquirer's Meetings for those interested in learning more about New England Church will be held on the following Sundays at 11:15 am in the third floor Chapel.

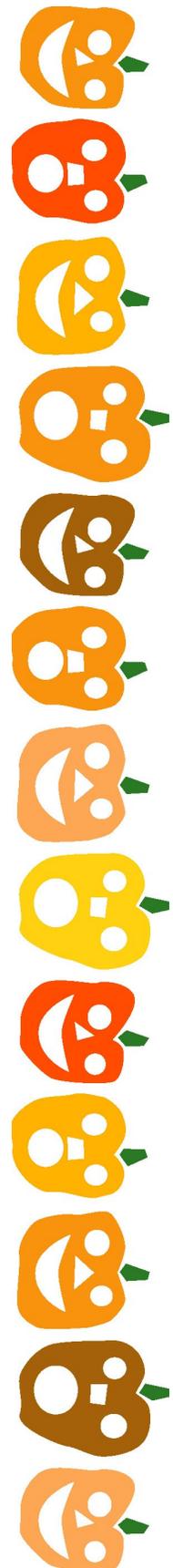
November 11 * January 13

This PowerPoint presentation will give you a thumbnail sketch of our history, our program, our mission, and our future. It will also give you a chance to ask questions.

If you are interested in attending, let Gary or Kimberly Adams know. And if you need child care during that time, please indicate that so we can provide nursery care.

Building Tours will be offered on the following Sundays at 11:15 am. Gary will take you around our three buildings explaining a bit of New England Church history, some of the artwork around the church, and point out some of the important and functional features of our buildings.

October 21 * November 18 * January 20

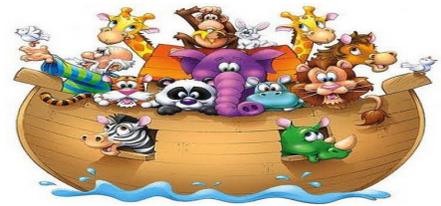


October, 2018
Vol. 9

Tiny Tidings

UP AND COMING CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

- OCTOBER 7TH Noah's Ark
- OCTOBER 14TH Abraham and Sarah
- OCTOBER 21ST Abraham and Sarah
- OCTOBER 28TH Halloween Fun House



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ON OCTOBER 7TH

Prek-4th grade children will be making their big debut. The children will be singing in church led by our Children's Music Director, Mrs. AnDrea James.

PACKAGING MEALS

On **SATURDAY, AUG. 25TH** from 4:30-6:30, several church school families and members of our congregation met at Feed My Starving Children for one of our church school service days. During this time, our large group divided up between two packaging stations and went to work. During this short time, our group from NECC, along with other volunteers packaged 200 bags of food that would eventually provide 43,200 meals. It was so amazing to see the strong interest in our children, youth, and families. By working together, we certainly made a big difference! Please keep an eye out for our next packaging date coming up in December.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

ON OCTOBER 8TH (Columbus Day), the Education Ministry at NECC will again sponsor a daytrip to Jonamac Apple Orchard: 19412 Shabbona Road, Malta, IL for all children and youth (Preschool-12th grade) along with their parents/grandparents. At Jonamac, children and families can partake in a variety of activities from picking apples, petting the zoo animals, and much more. Interested members will meet in the church parking lot at 8:45 AM and will depart from the church promptly at 9:00 AM to make our voyage to the orchard. Cost: FREE for each child or youth attending. Each child will receive a wristband that includes entrance into the jumping pillow, petting zoo, corn maze, and more.



*Please note an \$8.00 fee will apply for each adult attending and additional fees may be applied if purchasing apples or items in the store. If interested, please see Audra Darche.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SUNDAY

On **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH**, all church school children are invited to participate in our annual Halloween dress-up day. Wear your Halloween costume to church and show everyone your favorite seasonal ensemble.



CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



The church school is still looking for volunteers to help fill the remaining sessions for the fall. It is with your dedication our church school program will continue to thrive and your children will be so excited to have you in their classes. We still have a couple of dates to fill, so if you have a Sunday or two you'd be willing to help, please sign up on the sheet in the church school hallway. Please, if possible, remember to sign up for a two-week unit.

FALL FESTIVAL



LOTS OF GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP; THEN LOTS OF GAMES TO PLAY



Thank you Chris Kierstead.



YOUTH TIDINGS

OCTOBER, 2018

94TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

On September 9th, our first day back, the classroom was filled with excitement as children participated in an ice breaker, created classroom guidelines, and overall had a good time getting to know one another. The 5th & 6th graders will continue to participate in a variety of charitable activities such as helping host the **HALLOWEEN FUN HOUSE** for the 1st-4th grade children, collecting can goods for the Food Pantry, hosting Coffee Fellowship, and being Reading Buddies to our Pre-K and Kindergarten children just to name a few. Our first event is right around the corner, so make sure to

MARK OCT. 14TH IN YOUR BOOKS!

HALLOWEEN FUN HOUSE

ON OCTOBER 14TH, THE 5TH & 6TH GRADERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THEIR FIRST HELPING HANDS PROJECT

for the year. The 5th and 6th graders will be joining our Confirmation group over at Chestnut House during our church school time and for about an hour after church on this selected day. During this time, both classes will join together to help transform Chestnut House into a Halloween Fun House. The children will be decorating the house from approximately 10:00-12:00 and lunch will be served. The decorated Halloween House will then be used when our 5th & 6th graders host our 1st-4th grade children over at Chestnut House on October 28th. It really is a spooktacular time! Please let Kathy Kokkinos-5th & 6th grade teacher or Desiree Guzman-Confirmation teacher know if your child is able to stay for lunch and decorate.

NEED HELP WITH LEAF RAKING?

As a part of our upcoming confirmation/high school service project, we are hoping to provide leaf raking services for 1-3 families or individuals in need of help this season. To make transportation simple for our students, we are looking for locations that are walking distance from the church. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Desiree Guzman – desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net 630-564-1849

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The High School Youth Group class is back in session! Our next big group event coming up will be on November 3rd, when we will be working on our

LEAF PROJECT.

This entails the group going to a nearby church member's house and raking leaves!

What a great way to help our church community and to bond as a group. Stay tuned for more info regarding this event. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in class on Sunday's following the church service. We meet from 11:05-11:50 over in the Chestnut House.



APPLE PICKING EVENT

OCTOBER 8TH

JONAMAC APPLE ORCHARD

FREE to all Youth.

Meet at the church at 8:45 AM.

Please sign up in the church school hallway if you and your family are planning on attending.



CONFIRMATION OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN AT CHESTNUT HOUSE

Confirmation students are invited to join us for an overnight extravaganza filled with food, fun, games, a movie/reflection activity, and a fun service project. **5PM FRIDAY NOV. 2ND-NOON ON SATURDAY NOV. 3RD.** Students should bring a sleeping bag, pillow (camping mat if they wish) a rake, work gloves, and a snack to share. We will also need at least two additional adults willing to help chaperone. Our theme is: ALL SAINTS DAY. We will also be talking about the Mexican tradition of "DIA DE LOS MUERTOS" and reflecting on the value of remembering those who've gone before us.



People from our church:

Packed: 200
Meals: 43,200





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:
Rich Rosemann, Jack Richmond, Lee Thurow,
Mark Zelman.

Deaths:
We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends
of Robert Shelp and Marion Newell.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant Minister: Joe Dunham
Assistant to the Minister: Martin Forward
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