

New England
Congregational Church
UCC
Aurora, Illinois



TIDINGS

Volume 91, Number 5

May 1, 2019

IN MEMORIAM



Joe Dunham

March 17, 1939—April 13, 2019



'CONVERSATIONS WITH GARY'

Join Gary 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, May 6
Tuesday, May 14
Wednesday, May 22
Thursday, May 30



A big thank you to all of you at New England Congregational Church for the love and support you have shown my family and me after Joe Dunham's death. We appreciate the many volunteers for both the visitation and the funeral service and luncheon that made everything run smoothly! We also appreciate the many expressions of sympathy—by words, cards, and actions. Joe was indeed special and we all will miss him.

Ida Dunham, Melanie Greenberg, Beth Slotnick, Phillip and Richard Dunham

WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

April Showers (both rain & snow) Bring May Flowers! Join us at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 11, at Josie Starke's home (269 Alschuler Dr in Aurora) to enjoy a shared breakfast and a tour of her spring gardens. All women are invited to attend our last meeting of the year! Please sign up on the NECC website or in the church office. Bring a friend and your ideas for next year's programs!



Exploring the United Church of Christ

The Deaconess Movement

I thought it would be interesting to follow up on last month's column on Advocate Aurora Health Systems by exploring the history of the Deaconess Movement in our United Church of Christ. Advocate Health Care began as a ministry that emerged from the Deaconess movement that began in Germany and was rooted in the New Testament of the Bible.

The word "Deaconess" comes from the Greek *diakonos* meaning messenger, servant, or helper. It was first used in the Bible by the apostle Paul in his description of Phoebe, a woman leader and worker in the early Christian community. *"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae, that you may receive her in the Lord as befits the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well."* Romans 16:1-2



Until well into the nineteenth century, professional nursing as we know it today was virtually non-existent. Britain's Florence Nightingale is considered the founder of modern nursing in her work during the Crimean War. She was responsible for reducing the unsanitary conditions in military hospitals and she trained nurses to care for the wounded, reducing the death rate by two-thirds. When she returned to England she successfully established a series of educational programs for nurses in British hospitals.

The Deaconess movement began in Germany as a faith based program designed to nurse the sick and care for the poor and aged. Deaconess societies also established homes where women could be educated and trained as nurses. They required that the training be threefold: spiritual, intellectual, and technical; which changed the image of nurses who had not been held in high regard in the earlier part of the nineteenth century.

In America, it was the civil war that provided the impetus for the establishment of professional standards in the training of nurses. In the United Church of Christ we can trace the movement to a remarkable meeting held in March of 1889 in St. Louis, Missouri. Sixty men and ten women of the Evangelical Synod met to charter the Evangelischer Diakonessen-Verein von St. Louis, MO (*Evangelical Deaconess Society of St. Louis, MO*). From that meeting they established the Evangelical Deaconess Home and Hospital in St. Louis.

Similar teaching hospitals were established in other cities. The Evangelical Synod of Illinois established the German Evangelical Deaconess Hospital in Chicago in 1906. Like the others, it was a teaching hospital that trained young women in the nursing profession in a four year degree program. To enter the Deaconess program the young women who were enrolled had to remain single and would live together in a Mother House. They would be addressed as "sisters," but unlike their Roman Catholic counterparts, they could leave the program and marry whenever they chose. I have the diploma issued to my great-aunt, Minnie Volz, dated June 1915.

At about the same time, other predecessors of the UCC adapted Deaconess programs. Members of the German Reformed Church established deaconess work in two locations. In 1901 the American Congregational Deaconess Association was incorporated in Chicago, Illinois. Later that year they began a Deaconess Training Home with instructors from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Times change, and the recruitment of Deaconesses was discontinued in the 1950's. The legacy of the Deaconess movement lives on in the nursing programs that continue through Advocate Aurora's Christ Hospital and the nursing program at our UCC related Elmhurst College. The same is true of other locations where the mission outreach of the church has provided the groundwork for well respected, well educated, compassionate and highly trained professional nurses.

There is so much more to discover about the Deaconess movement. Go to the UCC website at http://www.ucc.org/about-us_hidden-histories_the-deaconess-movement-in for the excellent article written by the late Ruth W. Rasche, who served as a historian and archivist of the Deaconess movement in St. Louis. She also authored books on the movement. Check by her name, Ruth Rasche, on Amazon.

Fred R. Krauss

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

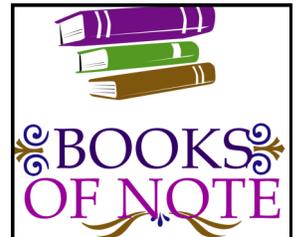


Spring has sprung and that means musical season! This year we will be doing a show called "Life of the Party". It tells the story of Mary and Martha inviting Jesus to their home for a dinner party. It highlights the differences in the personalities of the two sisters, and in turn, how different we all are from one another sometimes.

But of course, we are all the same too! We are all children of God and we need to work together to take care of one another, no matter how different we can be! We hope you will join us during the 10:00 am service on May 19 to see this inspirational show and support all the hard work of our young ones!

BOOKS OF NOTE

Books of Note is reading *Last Bus to Wisdom*, by Ivan Doig. Described as, "charming, wise, and slyly funny, this final novel by a great American storyteller is a last sweet gift from a writer whose books have bestowed untold pleasure on countless readers." Please join us for our final meeting and discussion for this season on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 pm in the parlor. We will take a break during the summer months, and reconvene in September to share ideas and make new selections, based on all of the great books we read over the summer. We hope to see you there, whether you have read the book or not. New participants are always welcome to attend!



The current worship schedule will remain in place during the summer months.

The church office hours will be from 9:00 am-1:00 pm beginning Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, August 30.



A CONCERN



Several of you have received emails purportedly from me but which were not from me. Please do not respond to any email that looks suspicious. The emails that were sent out were from addresses that had my name in them in one form or another, but which were not from me. Check the address before you respond; if it doesn't say gary@newenglandchurch.org don't open or respond to it.

Gary McCann



Pat Beebee
1955 Randi Dr.
Apt. 133
Montgomery, IL.
60538

IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to the congregation for your prayers and cards in response to Gary's mother's death. We appreciate your support.

Gary & Judy McCann



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Please join us on May 5 at the 10:00 am service for the Rite of Confirmation as our 8th grade youth are confirmed into full membership at New England Church. A special coffee fellowship will follow in Friendship Hall

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!



May, 2019
Vol. 5

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- MAY 5TH** Paul & Confirmation Sunday
- MAY 12TH** Mother's Day Project
- MAY 19TH** Children's Musical
- MAY 25TH** Annual Church Family Picnic @ Darche Home
- MAY 26TH** End of Year Movie in Theatre

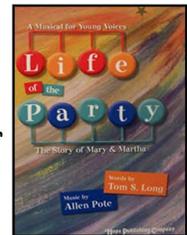
CHURCH SCHOOL "SUMMER ADVENTURE" WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 2ND.

BASKETS OF FUN

On March 31st, our 3rd and 4th graders assembled 15 Easter baskets for our annual church school service project. Each Easter basket was stuffed with various games, cards, snacks, and more for the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. It was evident that our 3rd & 4th graders really enjoyed packaging the items and it was wonderful to see the excitement in their eyes as they were methodically trying to fit all of these items perfectly into each basket. All of the baskets were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House located in Winfield, IL on Monday, April 1st so they would have them for in time for the upcoming Easter holiday. Thank you to all of our families and members of the congregation for donating items to make each basket extra special. (See pictures on the next page.)

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

On Sunday, May 19th, several church school children will be participating in our upcoming Children's Musical: "Life of the Party" led by our wonderful music director AnDrea James. The children have been practicing for months on this production and are excited to share their talents with you. The musical will take place during the 10:00 AM service and will be a visual and auditory delight for all. Make sure to mark your calendars for this entertaining event!!



5TH ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC

On Saturday, May 25th, a special Church School family picnic will also take place 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. Please keep an eye out for a sign-up genius to finalize your RSVP.



SUMMER VOLUNTEER TEACHERS NEEDED

COUNT



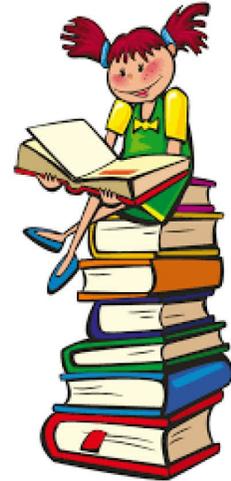
The church school is in need of volunteers to help teach our Summer Adventure lessons beginning June 2nd. The theme this year is Thinking Green and will focus on ways we can reduce our carbon footprint. Many of the lessons have already been secured by guests from the community or our congregation; however, we still need people willing to lead a fun lesson with the kids on various days. Please remember, if you are available, all lessons, along with supplies will be provided each week to make it easy for all who teach. A sign-up sheet is located in the church school hallway to view open dates.

A BIG THANK YOU

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

Thank you to all of our high school helpers who have made our church school program strong and consistent for the young children of our church. Your weekly dedication and commitment has not gone unnoticed and we are blessed to have each and every one of you. Thank you to the following high school helpers: **Briana Czenk**, **Shelby Darche**, **Abby Eller**, **Lauren Hasty**, **Kylie Moses**, **Samantha Pittman**, **Allie Voris** and **Mary Voris**.

5th/6th graders reading to the Pre-K/kindergarten



3rd and 4th graders assembled Easter Baskets to take to Ronald McDonald House.



YOUTH TIDINGS

MAY, 2019

101ST EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE STORYTIME

In April, the 5th and 6th graders hosted their annual read-in with the preschool and kindergarten students. Some of the stories read were about Noah's Ark and Creation. It is always entertaining to see the world through the eyes of a preschooler or kindergartner. Both groups really enjoyed the stories-the books and the personal commentaries.



5TH & 6TH CLASSROOM

In the classroom, the 5th & 6th graders are continuing to learn about various aspects of the Bible, such as Palm Sunday, the Lord's Prayer, and who were Jesus disciples.



The 5th and 6th graders are continuing to prepare for the end of the year musical. We are looking forward to another amazing performance!

UP AND COMING HIGH SCHOOL

This month is our last month together, can you believe it? **WE DO NOT HAVE CLASS ON CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (MAY 5TH)** as we hope that everyone will visit the projects up in Friendship Hall and partake in the festivities there. **OUR LAST CLASS WILL BE ON MAY 12TH, WHICH IS ALSO MOTHER'S DAY.** We will again be having a mini Mother's Day celebration during normal class time in which we will have light snacks and play some games. Prizes will be awarded! **WE HOPE THAT ALL OUR SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS AND THEIR MOMS CAN ATTEND THIS CELEBRATORY EVENT.** Please be sure to RSVP to Lesley Myers at Lesley.myers@mchsi.com or 773-255-1010 by Friday, May 10th.

CONFIRMATION

What a fantastic year of confirmation with a fantastic group of students! The capstone experience of our year was a Mini-retreat on April 6th. Confirmands spent the morning bonding with their mentors and working on detailed plans for the completion of their faith projects. First year students joined us in the afternoon for lunch and bowling at Funway. A special thanks to confirmation mentors and parents who helped with this great event!



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS BY JOINING US FOR CONFIRMATION SUNDAY ON **MAY 5TH.**

Stay for coffee fellowship in Friendship Hall where student faith projects will be on display.

CONFIRMATION-SAVE THE DATE

All current (including those being confirmed this spring) and incoming confirmation students are invited to join us for an amazing summer trip to:

**LAKE MICHIGAN/WARREN DUNES/
TOWER HILL AREA
AUGUST 9-11**

Please mark the date on your calendars and watch for more details coming soon. Contact Desiree Guzman if you have questions.

HIGH SCHOOL

Wow! What a busy April for the Senior High Youth Group! First we had an overnight service event at the Hoover Forest Preserve. Not only did we have a great time but we also helped our Community Life Director, Kimberly Adams, to clear up some invasive plants around the grounds as well as stuff Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg hunt. Thank you to all the kids and adults that attended. I am looking forward to doing this again!





The confirmation students met with their mentors, played games, prepared for their faith projects, had lunch, and then all were invited to an afternoon of bowling at Funway.



The kids helped to clear some invasive honeysuckle plants on the preserve grounds as well as stuffed all the plastic Easter eggs for the annual Easter egg hunt. We went for nature walks, enjoyed meals together and even had s'mores around a campfire.

WHAT A GREAT WAY FOR THE KIDS TO BOND!



**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**



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A Caring Church for Thinking People

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

Joys & Concerns

Hospitalized:

Ray Whaley, Judy Hoppe, Lindley Pittman, Dee Kelly.

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joe Dunham.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
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
Organist: Marsha Foxgrover
Assistant Organist: Marilyn Parolini
Handbell Director: Cathy Canfield-Jepson
Director of Community Life: Kimberly Adams
Wedding Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Care: Jenni Moses, Hannah Watkins
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Brian Kleemann
Moderator-elect: Judy Lopez
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Sally Floyd