



MUSINGS

It was September, 1948 when the New England Nursery School first opened its doors. It was an innovative program in those days, offering preschool children a chance to learn some of the basic skills of interpersonal relationships in a safe, friendly environment as preparation for entering kindergarten. Here, through play, they would learn the importance of working as a group as well as finding constructive things to do when playing alone. Here they would learn to take turns, to share toys, to listen when others are talking, to interact with stories, and sing together.

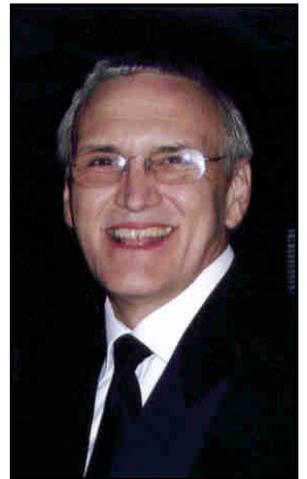
As time progressed, the curriculum and the approach changed to accommodate a changing culture, but the philosophy of “learning through play” remained the same. In the last decade, the curriculum gradually added more academic aspects to the program, a recommendation from the kindergarten teachers who visited the school each spring to discuss ways to improve kindergarten readiness. Now “learning through play” incorporated a word-rich, art-filled classroom, more complex stories, and updated playthings and a change in name to the New England Church Preschool.

As we approached our 70th year in 2018-2019 it was clear that a culture shift was evolving that preempted preschool with the need for all-day care for working parents. We made a valiant attempt this past year to offer additional after-school art classes and enrichment opportunities, but with no noticeable increase in student registrations. Sadly, then, with a precarious enrollment for next year that did not include enough income to sustain the program, we had to make the difficult decision to close the school. With more families seeking daycare facilities, and with the advent of free preschools in various area school districts, we had no choice but to close.

The response of nearly everyone who hears the news is sadness. We understand the factors that precipitate the closing, but emotionally it's difficult to get our mind around the closing of this very excellent school that has been a stalwart institution in Aurora these many years. But after acknowledging our grief at the closing of the school, we need to celebrate the thousands of children who were readied for school—both academically and socially—through the dedication of teachers and directors committed to the care and keeping of these three and four year olds. This has been one of the premiere preschools in the Aurora area with a reputation for a quality, caring program of the highest order.

I take this opportunity to thank our current staff: Jacquie May, who served as Director for 14 years and all of the teachers without whose dedication we couldn't have had such a successful program over the years. I also want to thank others in the congregation who have served as directors and teachers over the years. Together these skilled and caring people made New England Preschool one of the best preschools in Aurora.

So we come to the end of an era, knowing that nothing lasts forever, but thankful, indeed, for the influence we've had on the lives of the children, and whose children and grandchildren, have fond memories of their time spent in our building. It's been a great experience to have sponsored such a wonderful institution these past 70 years.



Gary

'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, June 3

Tuesday, June 11

Wednesday, June 19

Thursday, June 27



Articles for the next Tidings, which is a July/August combined issue, are due June 15. Thank you!



The Second Annual Pride Parade will be held on Sunday, June 9.

New England Church will have a presence in this year's parade as we did last year. We need to have an approximate number of people who will be marching with us, so if you plan to join us, **please sign the paper** in the Marketplace.

USHERS NEEDED



We would like to encourage anyone interested in helping as an usher during 10:00 am services to contact Judy O'Brien at jdgobrien@gmail.com, so she can add you to the regular Sign Up Genius emails. Ushers hand out bulletins at the center, east and west doors, collect the offering and help distribute communion the first Sunday of each month. If you can help with this duty, please contact Judy. She's happy to provide instructions and/or training, so please consider volunteering.

Thank you!



To the church family at New England Congregational: Thank you so very much for your warm welcome to me as I join the staff at New England. You could not have been more gracious; the coffee hour after the service, the choir dinner, the many comments from people, and how

accommodating the church has been to me are all appreciated! It has been a pleasure to work with Jon and Gary and to accompany the choir.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Marsha Foxgrover

Thank you to everyone who has done an excellent job of keeping their 2019 pledge payments up-to-date! We would also like to remind you that while you're off vacationing this summer, pledge payments may be made by mail, or you can consider setting up automatic payments through the church's website, www.newenglandchurch.org, click Donate or the Give Plus app. Thank you!




Julia Doverspike
35 Mansfield Dr.
Bella Vista, AR. 72714



ARE YOU RECEIVING YOUR COPY OF THE MONTHLY TIDINGS?

Some of us receive it by mail, and some electronically. If you aren't receiving your copy, please contact Shelley in the church office.

Exploring the United Church of Christ

Educational Outreach



One of the many things that I like about New England Congregational Church is our motto, “A Caring Church for Thinking People.” I recall a United Church that I once visited that prided itself on having *doors tall enough that you don’t have to leave your brain outside*. The United Church of Christ has valued education through all of its predecessor churches, and we have maintained high standards in the preparation of an educated clergy. Historically, there have been over two hundred colleges and universities that trace their lineage to the United Church of Christ. Following the Civil War, the Congregationally based American Missionary Association, a predecessor body of the United Church of Christ Council for Higher Education, established educational centers for freed slaves, providing access to the basic knowledge and skills needed for success as free people. Eight of these became colleges and universities, six of which continue to relate to the UCC.

Many of our churches, especially those with German roots (Evangelical and Reformed), had parochial schools that served the poor and immigrant families in their neighborhoods. These same churches supported the development of public schools so that a wider population could have access to a free education. As a sign of their support many of them chose to close their parochial schools, repurposing the buildings to serve as centers for Christian Education and other church and community activities.

Today, there are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ. These include academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. Located throughout the United States, each one is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited. Most offer scholarship help to members of the United Church of Christ. Additionally there are Campus Ministries and Academic Chaplaincies on many of our campuses.

Harvard and Yale both had their beginnings as colleges of the Congregational Church. Illinois College in Jacksonville, with roots in both the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, was the first college in Illinois to conduct classes and grant a baccalaureate degree. Its actual beginning was at the request of a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. John M. Ellis, who saw the need for an educational seminary in the new State of Illinois. Congregational students at Yale picked up the challenge and headed west. Illinois College’s first president was Congregational minister Edward Beecher, whose sister was Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of the influential anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

Elmhurst College had its beginnings as a German Evangelical pre-seminary campus whose purpose was to prepare students for seminary. Students would go from Elmhurst College to Eden Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri to prepare for their ordination. Those of us who completed our education in this United Church pairing have been known as “the 3-Es”, or “Elmhurst, Eden, and Eternity.” Heading north into Wisconsin you have Lakeland University in Sheboygan, and Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, both closely related to and affirming the purpose of the United Church Christ Council for Higher Education. Beloit College in Beloit and Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin are historically related and continue as members of the Council but have chosen not to affirm the purposes of the council. To see a list of all of our related colleges go the United Church of Christ website: (<http://www.ucc.org/higher-education>)

Of the seminaries that are closely related to the United Church of Christ, those nearest to us are known as CUE, standing for Chicago, United and Eden. Chicago Theological Seminary is in the city and began as a Congregational seminary. United Seminary of the Twin Cities, located in its new home in St. Paul, Minnesota, is a merger of Mission House Seminary of Plymouth, Wisconsin and Yankton School of Theology in Yankton, South Dakota. The old Mission House campus in Sheboygan, Wisconsin continues its undergraduate program and is now Lakeland University. Eden, as mentioned before, began as an educational mission of the German Evangelical church. These three seminaries trace their roots to the Congregational, Reformed and Evangelical predecessors to the United Church of Christ.

Yes, we are certainly a “Caring Church for Thinking People.” What speaks so well for our local church is reflective of the broad spiritual and educational traditions that are integral to the United Church of Christ. Be proud to be a part of such an important educational history.

Fred R. Krauss

2019 Graduates



Brianna Czenk
 Emma Marlow
 Samantha Pittman
 Shea Roney

West Aurora High School
 Batavia High School
 Matea Valley High School
 West Aurora High School

Catalina Lopez
 Julianna Lopez
 Alexander Rossom

Naperville Skin Institute
 Naperville Skin Institute
 North Central College



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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!



June, 2019
Vol. 6

Tiny Tidings

CHURCH SCHOOL SUMMER ADVENTURE: THINKING GREEN

- JUNE 2** Caring For Our Earth
- JUNE 9** Guest Speaker from The Conservation Foundation
- JUNE 16** Conserving: Just A Dream
- JUNE 23** Guest Speaker from Red Oak Nature Center
- JUNE 30** Doing Our Part

MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT

This year, the children in Pre-K through 4th grade ended the year with a Mother's Day project. The children worked diligently on various projects hoping mom would be impressed with their special gift. The Pre-K and Kindergarten children planted a flower or two in a pot for mom, 1st & 2nd grade made an individual "mud cake" for mom, and the 3rd & 4th grade made a hand/body scrub made with essential oils for mom. The kids had a blast and we hope all of the moms felt special too!



CHURCH SCHOOL SUMMER ADVENTURE

think
GREEN



Don't forget our summer children's program: Summer Adventure begins on Sunday, June 2nd. All Pre-K-4th Grade children are invited to join our upcoming summer adventure that will focus on "Thinking Green." Throughout the summer, the children will be exposed to a variety of lessons, speakers, and activities that will emphasize mindfulness and hopefully encourage changes that will benefit our planet. We hope your child can join us each Sunday morning for this fun new adventure. As a reminder, the children will start in church with their families and then will move into the church school area after "Time with the Children" in church.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL ANIMALS

On Sunday, July 7th, **THE FOX VALLEY WILDLIFE CENTER** WILL BE VISITING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES and sharing their knowledge and expertise on how we can care for animals. To make their presentation more interesting, they will be bringing in an animal or two for the children to see. Instead of charging New England Church a fee for their time, Fox Valley Wildlife Center is accepting donations for items that they use at their facility. Please bring an item or two donate by July 7th to help support this wonderful organization but also to say thank you for making our summer program -fun and interesting.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS: Dog and puppy chow(dry), kitten chow (dry), vinegar, sponges, ziploc storage bags, 70 % rubbing alcohol, new or gently used bath towels, paper towels, & laundry detergent (unscented). *Please feel free to view an extended list on their website for additional items needed. <https://www.fvwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Wish-List-3-2019.pdf>

ART INSTITUTE

Coming up on Tuesday, July 16th, all church school children, along with their parent/s are invited to a summer day trip to the Art Institute downtown Chicago. We will all meet at the Art Institute at 11:00 AM for a fun day of exploration. All church school children 13 years old and under will be free; however, adults will be asked to cover their admission fee of \$22.00 each. After spending time at the Art Institute, families will have an option to explore Maggie Daley Park or Millennium Park. Remember to pack a snack and a lunch for this fun-filled day. *Some families will be riding the train into the city from Aurora. If you are interested in riding the train, please see Desiree Guzman to coordinate the train departure schedule.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU AnDrea James for your time and dedication this year in teaching our church school children several songs and for leading the production of "Life of the Party" on Sunday, May 19th. In addition, **A BIG THANKS** to Cathy Canfield-Jepson for teaching several of our younger children how to play the bells. It has been another incredible year!



EASTER EGG HUNT



YOUTH TIDINGS

JUNE, 2019

102ND EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE STORYTIME

As the year comes to an end, we say farewell to our 6th graders who will be moving on to confirmation class. It has been a joy to work with them over the last 2 years. Throughout the year, the 5th and 6th graders have participated in a variety of leadership/service activities which included the Chestnut House Halloween Event, Bible games for Bible Sunday, and the read-in for the preschool and kindergarten students. In addition, they hosted a Valentine's themed Coffee Fellowship which allowed them to meet and converse with the congregation. While they worked hard at learning their Bible lessons throughout the year, they were also able to relax and have fun playing games. Our classroom time really encouraged the students to bond and get to know one another. It will be exciting to see the growth of our 5th graders as they move into 6th grade and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our new 4th graders moving up to 5th grade.



Another exciting year awaits! Have a great summer and see you all in the fall!

HIGH SCHOOL

Wow!! What a fun church school year for the High School Youth Group! We had some really fun events (bowling, movie night, overnight at Hoover Forest Preserve and a pizza party to name a few). Thank you to all the students that participated in these events as well as all the other events and classes. We are so blessed to have such a great group of kids. Please keep an eye out over the summer for events for the next church school year. Looking forward to another year of fun and hope you all

**Have a GREAT
summer!**

CONFIRMATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were confirmed on the first Sunday in May:

*Chloe Darche, Kaden Fetterolf, Colin Hasty,
Elliot Lechocki, Charlie Morrison,
Carina Morjan, and William Morjan.*

These amazing students each attended two years of confirmation classes, built a relationship with a mentor from our congregation, and completed a faith project. We are so proud of them! But Confirmation isn't an ending, it's just the beginning. We can't wait to see what they do next! We will welcome them all as members of New England Church at our fall kick-off service in September.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIP TO LAKE MICHIGAN

All Confirmation Students (including those just confirmed and those who will enter confirmation in the fall) are invited to join us for a fun summer trip to Lake Michigan and the Warren Dunes Aug. 9-11.

**GAMES
BEACH TIME
HIKING
TEAM BUILDING
CAMPFIRES
AND MORE!**

We will meet at church Fri. morning at 9:00 AM and return on Sunday around 11:30 AM. Because of the generosity of one of our members who will be hosting us, the cost for students is only \$30 – which covers all food and activities. A deposit of \$15 is due by June 1st. Please contact Desiree Guzman (desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net 630-564-1849) with questions.

Confirmation



ON MAY 5TH,
SEVEN YOUTH WERE
CONFIRMED AND
BECAME MEMBERS
OF NECC.



Confirmation students were asked to complete a faith project to share with the congregation that meets three requirements:

1. Thoughtful - projects should show careful, thoughtful reflection on a topic of faith.
2. Personal - projects should reflect the students' personal beliefs and ideas
3. Creative - projects should creatively showcase the students' own interests and talents.



**“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:

Joyce Baudouin, Frank Voris, Alma Forester, Bill Marlow



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant to the Minister: Martin Forward
Office Administrator: Shelley Lund
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
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