

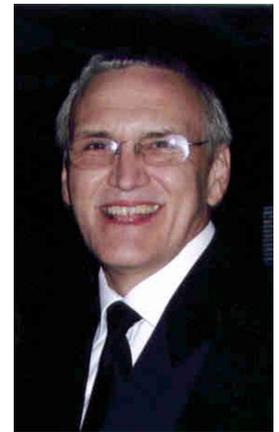


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## MUSINGS

By the time you receive this issue of Tidings you will have read the letter sent by Brian and Judy about my retirement. While we announced my retirement a few years back, we could not have foreseen the issues that we encountered at the projected date, and in discussion, mutually decided that my leaving at that time would have put the church in a precarious position.

But the time seems right now, though it will be more difficult to step down from this position than I can imagine. It's been such a great 33+ years here at NECC, beyond my wildest expectations and far more rewarding than most of my colleagues. Nonetheless, I feel that it's time to spend more time with my kids and six grandsons, as well as my 92-year-old father and my three (younger) sisters, all of whom are retired.



The Search Committee and I have agreed not to set a firm date yet; I don't want the church to make a decision because a deadline is looming. This will give the congregation the time to find the right person before I plan the actual date.

This has not been a quick decision, but one which I've given a great deal of prayerful thought and careful preparation before discussing it with the Personnel Committee. We've spent the last three months charting a timeframe and considering the options before writing to you, the congregation.

As has been discussed already, there will be a three-month transition time when the new person and I will be working together in an attempt to make the transition as smooth as possible. I have every confidence that you will find someone who can take you to new heights in the coming years, and who will have the immense privilege that I've had in serving in ministry with all of you.

During this coming year, I will create teams of people to learn what I do for funeral preparations, special services like Hanging of the Greens, and hospital/nursing home visitation. The new person may eventually change these procedures, but it will be to everyone's benefit to have people who can take care of these things to assist the new person as they begin their ministry among you.

If you wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to call me or join us at one of the Conversations at Ballydoyle Pub (October dates are listed in this issue of Tidings).

Please keep the Search Committee and the Transition Committee in your thoughts and prayers in the coming months as they begin the search. Know that the congregation will be updated from time to time and that the final decision of selecting a new Senior Minister will come before the entire congregation.

*Gary*

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## '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 7

Tuesday, October 15

Wed., October 23

Thursday, October 31



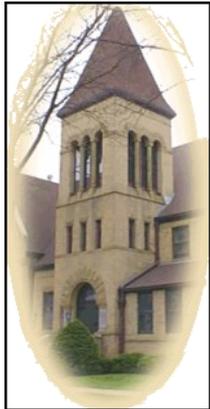
This festive service will be on Sunday, December 8 this year. Usually we schedule this for the first Sunday in December, but December 1 is too close to Thanksgiving to work well.

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



# 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](http://www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org) or call 630-896-7800.

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## 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.



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## Film Series



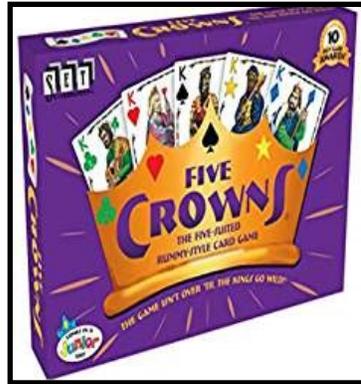
October 11: *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (1970)  
Oscar-winning foreign film is the story of the Finzi-Continis, a noble family of Ferrara, during the Jewish persecution in 1930s Italy. Presenter: Maureen McKane

The brochures for the 2019-2020 Film Series are in the literature rack in the Marketplace.





## 5 CROWNS



Have you ever wondered about the bulletin listing of 5 Crowns at 5:00 pm every Sunday night? We are a group of people who love playing the card game called 5 Crowns!

It is an easy game to play and we welcome anyone ages 10 - 99, who would like to join us on Sunday nights from 5:00-7:00pm.

We can quickly teach you the game and hopefully it will become one of your favorites too!

## Leadership Change

Boy Scout Troop 3, which has been chartered continuously by New England Church since 1910, will have a leadership change beginning October 1, 2019.

Scoutmaster Tim Jungels will retire from that position and Matt Fultz will assume the role of Scoutmaster.

Tim will remain with the troop as Assistant Scoutmaster. Thanks to Tim for his excellent leadership these many years; we're grateful for all that you do for the troop.

Welcome Matt, thank you for your willingness to lead the troop into the future.



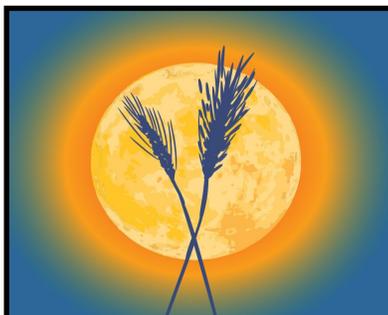
# Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Gala

## Support the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry!

Celebrate the Harvest Moon at Aurora Food Pantry's annual fundraising gala on October 5 at Pipers Banquets in Aurora.

This year's event will feature beer & wine and whiskey tastings, great music, a full open bar, fall-themed cuisine, live and silent auctions.

Tickets are \$150 and each ticket provides \$400 of food to families in need in our community.



Save the date on your calendars for this amazing event! Remember – when you purchase your tickets from the Food Pantry, tell them you would like to be seated with the New England Church Group!

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## Thank you!



"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices" seems to be a good description of the worship service on Sunday - a total 5 star event. I am so amazed and overwhelmed at the tribute I received and so grateful for the participants and the many hours spent in preparation for this special celebration of music. Blessings to our wonderful NECC congregation for the love and support I receive

from you. I did not ask Mark Hayes to sign the 12 books of his hymn arrangements for piano that I own, but I will play them with a new dimension of friendship from now on.

Sincerely,  
*Marilyn Parolini*



# A BROADWAY REVUE

*Presented by  
New England Church*



*musical director*  
**JON WARFEL**

*Saturday, November 2nd*

*6:00-8:30pm*

*Friendship Hall*

# **FUN FAMILIAR BROADWAY MELODIES**

*tickets*  
**\$30<sup>00</sup>** each

**BRING AN APPETIZER  
OR DESSERT TO SHARE  
~ BYOB ~**

Join us for a must see musical event on  
Saturday, November 2  
6:00-8:30pm

New England's Musical Team Presents - A Broadway Revue

Enjoy our second annual fabulous night out; full of musical  
entertainment, food, fun, and delightful company,  
located in  
Friendship Hall.

Tickets must be purchased in advance – while supplies last!  
\$30 tickets will go on sale in October in the Marketplace.  
No Tickets will be sold at the door.  
\*Doors will be locked promptly at 6:15pm\*

Bring something yummy to share; this is a pot-luck style, BYOB,  
and  
a fundraising event.

Watch for Sign-ups in the Marketplace.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 2 at 6:00pm  
You Won't Want to Miss It!

## Exploring The United Church of Christ- *The UCC and La Amistad*

Fred R. Krauss

The film “Amistad”, directed by Steven Spielberg, was released in 1997. It is a historical drama based on the true story of how in July of 1839 a group of 49 Mende tribesmen who had been abducted for the slave trade, managed to gain control of the slave ship La Amistad. They were led by Cingbe (Cinque), an African who was able to free himself from his chains, and lead the Africans in a revolt, taking over the ship. Following a zig-zag route along the American coast, the ship was finally captured by the Washington, a U.S. revenue cutter. This resulted in an international legal battle that was ultimately resolved in 1841 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The film is a fictionalized version of the true events that finally led to freedom for the Africans; allowing them to return to their homeland. What the film leaves out is the role of the church, including Congregationalists Lewis Tappan and his brother Arthur. The Tappan brothers were uncompromising in their faith-based passion for ethical behavior and were very active in the abolitionist movement. Leading the effort to free the Africans, Tappan arranged for several Yale University students to tutor the imprisoned Africans in English. The lessons included learning to read New Testament scriptures and to sing Christian hymns. These were skills that the Africans were able to use as they spoke at Congregational Churches in order to raise funds for their return to Africa.

Another Congregationalist, whom they invited to join them in defending the Africans, was former president John Quincy Adams. He defended the Africans before the Supreme Court, speaking for four hours on their behalf. The film portrayed Roger Baldwin, the lawyer who was a leader of the defense team for the Amistad Africans, as a young lawyer with little experience but lots of passion. In reality he was a seasoned abolitionist lawyer. The film also added a freed African American as a partner of Lewis Tappan. This is a fictional addition to the story.

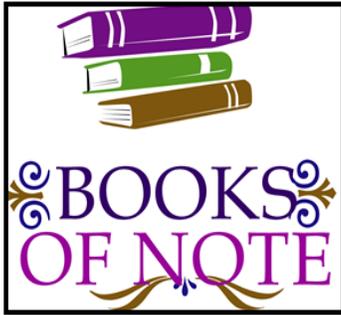
The film treated the role of Congregational clergy and laymen who rallied to the captives' cause as barely a subtext in the film. The heroic efforts of Josiah W. Gibbs to communicate with the puzzled Africans was used as comic relief by the filmmakers. In fact Gibbs, a Congregational minister and Yale professor, learned to count from one to 10 in Mende -- the language of the African captives -- then spent days walking the New York City waterfront, chanting the numbers aloud. His efforts paid off when James Covey, a genuine freed slave serving in the British Navy, heard his own native language and volunteered to serve as an interpreter for the Africans.

The 1839 capture of the Amistad and the 1841 court case became an important part of our Congregational history and our tradition of seeking social justice and racial equality that continues today. The Amistad case was a spur to the conscience of Congregationalists and other Christians who believed no human being should be a slave. In 1846 Lewis Tappan organized the American Missionary Association—the first anti-slavery ecumenical society in the U.S. with multiracial leadership. In 1937 the AMA became part of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Church, now a part of the United Church of Christ. If you visit the denominational offices of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, you can visit and worship in Amistad Chapel on the main floor.

Don't get me wrong. I loved the film “Amistad” and I have used it in the film seminars I have led in the past. But I do want to round out the story so that as members of the UCC we can know the important role that our predecessors played in this remarkable story.



## Books of Note



Books of Note is reading *Becoming*, Michelle Obama's memoir which has been described as "intimate, powerful, and inspiring."

Several members of our group have already read this book and have highly recommended it!

We will be meeting on Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 pm in the parlor.

Books of Note has been meeting since 2002, and we read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books

from September through May. We hope to see you there for what should be a very lively and interesting discussion. Please come whether you have had a chance to read the book or not. New participants are always welcome to attend!

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## Women's Fellowship

Women's Circle of Friends will be meeting on Saturday, October 12 at 9:30 am for a shared breakfast in Friendship Hall.

Following breakfast, Ellen Bonewitz, will demonstrate creating fall arrangements. She has been collecting dried items and will creatively assemble them for us. Please bring a dish to pass and invite a friend to join you. Several women will be able to take one of Ellen's fall creations home with them!

Please sign up on the NECC website or in the church office.



Women's Circle of Friends is sponsoring a Marketplace on Saturday, November 16 in Friendship Hall. This is an opportunity for NECC women and their friends to share their hobbies, part time jobs, and passions with us. Previously we have enjoyed and purchased jewelry, Pampered Chef products, hand made bears, massages, international products, scarves, Thirty-One products and more! If you are interested in selling something or need more information, contact Linda Bridgman (linda4cacfp@aol.com) or Judy McCann (judycarol48@sbcglobal.net).

Mark November 16 at 9:30 am, on your calendar to join us for breakfast, followed by an opportunity to sell and/or buy products made or sold by NECC women and their friends!



October, 2019  
Vol. 9

# Tiny Tidings

## UP AND COMING CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

- Oct. 6 Emergency Evacuation Drills
- Oct. 13 Fear Not-Trusting In Jesus
- Oct. 14 Jonamac Apple Orchard Event
- Oct. 20 Music Sunday
- Oct. 27 Halloween Fun House (1st-4th)

## A COUPLE OF COINS



Throughout this past church school year and our recent summer program, many of the church school children and youth have contributed to our church school offering that supported Feed My Starving Children. This year, since our church is partnering with World Relief, it is a natural fit to assist this amazing organization that provides support for refugees and immigrants, along with their families to become fully functioning members of society by offering ESL and work classes. The weekly offerings collected from the church school will now assist World Relief in purchasing additional tables and textbooks that are needed for their classrooms. We hope you and your children can see the impact of how a couple of coins each week can add up and truly make a difference in the lives of others.

## SERVING AND PACKING MEALS

On Saturday, Aug. 24th 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 of 24 individuals divided up between two packaging stations and went to work. During this short time, our group from NECC, along with other volunteers packaged 173 bags of food that would eventually provide 37,368 meals. By working together, we certainly made a big difference! Please keep an eye out for our next packaging date coming up in December.

Pack again soon! | [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org) | #fmsc

Boxes Packed: 173  
Meals: 37,368  
Kids Fed For A Year: 102  
Cost: \$9,968.32

## BUSHEL OR A PECK



On October 14th (Columbus Day), the Education Ministry at NECC will host our annual daytrip to Jonamac Apple Orchard: 19412 Shabbona Road, Malta, IL for all children and youth 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 sign up in the church hallway.

## HALLOWEEN COSTUME SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 27th, 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.



During our last Thinking Green lesson of the summer, the children participated in a mystery game where the children had to guess the nature gifts God has provided to us. Then the children played a game of clean sweep which helped them see that when people litter, it's hard to keep our Earth clean.



### Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children



# FALL FESTIVAL



There was great food and fellowship,



and two pinatas.



face painting



# YOUTH TIDINGS

OCTOBER, 2019

105TH EDITION

## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

While it rained the day of the fall festival, it did not stop us from having fun! The 5th and 6th graders had a great time getting to know each other. We played fun “get to know me” games while incorporating a Bible verse into the lesson. In addition, the 5th & 6th graders enjoyed their first music lesson with Mrs. Heup on Sunday, Sept. 22nd.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Happy Fall, Y'all!! Are you ready for Halloween?? This month our High School students are invited to attend the High School Youth Group trip to Six Flags Great America!! We will be meeting in the church parking lot at 9:00 am on Monday, October 14th and returning back to the church parking lot at 8:30pm. Cost is \$25 per student/ticket (unless you currently have a season pass). 1 guest is allowed per student. Please RSVP by Wednesday October 9th to [Lesley.myers@mchsi.com](mailto:Lesley.myers@mchsi.com) or 773-255-1010. Please contact Lesley with any additional questions about this trip or anything in regards to the High School Youth Group.



## APPLE PICKING-FAMILY EVENT

October 14th is the trip to Jonamac Orchard for all Church School children (PreK-8th grade). All attending will 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 NEWS

Confirmation is off to a great start! Thanks to everyone who attended our information meeting and lunch on September 29th, and to those who joined us for Mini-Golf in the afternoon. Here's a look at an exciting event coming up:

## CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN

Saturday Nov. 2nd – Sunday Nov. 3rd – LOCK-IN OVERNIGHT AT CHESTNUT HOUSE. Confirmation Students are invited to join us Saturday afternoon for a group service project, and then stay overnight and enjoy, food, fun, games, a movie, and more. Contact Desiree Guzman with questions: [desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:desireeguzman@sbcglobal.net) or 630-564-1849

## HALLOWEEN DECORATING SERVICE



### PROJECT FOR 5TH & 6TH

### AND CONFIRMATION



On Sunday October 13th, both 5th & 6th graders, along with the Confirmation students will meet at Chestnut House to decorate the house for the annual Halloween event held at Chestnut House on October 27th. All decorating will take place during the regular class time; however, students will also be invited to stay after class for a celebratory lunch once the house has been decorated! Make sure to put this date on your calendar to ensure your child/ren are able to attend.

## HALLOWEEN FUN HOUSE

October 27th is our Halloween event at Chestnut House hosted by our 5th and 6th graders. The 5th and 6th graders, host our 1st-4th graders over at Chestnut House with some spooktacular games, crafts, and snacks. The entire event will take place while the children are in church school; however, there will be a few Sundays prior that the students will be working together to get to prepare for the event. Keep an eye out for some amazing pictures next month.



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*A Caring Church for Thinking People*

Visit us on the web  
at  
[www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org)

## Joys & Concerns

Weddings:  
Jason Wilkins & Charlotte Adams on September 7.



## 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  
**Children's Choir Director:** Ina Heup  
**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:** Judy Lopez  
**Treasurer:** Andy Sprau  
**Clerk:** Sally Floyd