



MUSINGS

I don't know where I picked up this maxim but I have quoted it often enough that I could consider it my own. The practice of it often evades my daily consciousness, but this time of year I'm reminded of it again:

We bring nothing with us into this world and we take nothing out, so to be thankful for every little thing is the secret of happiness in life.

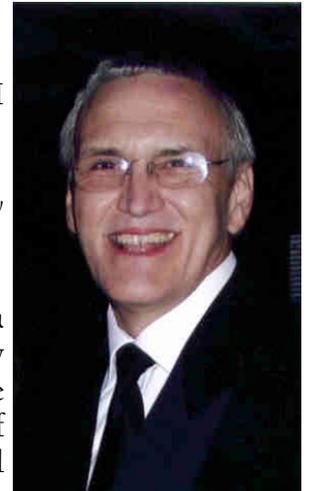
As we gather around Thanksgiving tables this month and collect food for the Aurora Food Pantry and contribute to the various organizations that provide food for hungry people, we realize again that we find our happiness in being thankful for every little blessing. Complaining about what we don't have or allowing ourselves to be victims of unfair circumstances robs us of the joy we might otherwise find in being thankful for all of the things we DO have, none of which is ever promised in our contract for living when we were born.

We can learn the art of giving thanks in many venues, not the least of which is church. We come to church to practice giving thanks so we can exercise that discipline in daily living. Giving thanks to God and one another on a regular basis in this community of faith becomes a laboratory that hones our skills for giving thanks Monday through Saturday.

Expressing thanks issues forth into the practice of giving, not just as an end in and of itself but as a means to an end, namely the lifelong art form of generosity. Here we learn to get outside of ourselves by caring for others, and by rehearsing it week after week, giving becomes second nature. It becomes a lifestyle more than an isolated activity. Giving is the consequence of being thankful.

When the church travel group was in Egypt several years ago, our Muslim guide explained the concept of jihad. Jihad is the struggle to improve oneself and society out of appreciation for what one has been given. Jihad, he said, is doing my job well; jihad is thanking someone for a job well-done; jihad is taking care of one's family; jihad is sharing generously out of one's abundance; jihad is living with thanksgiving the life that has been entrusted to you.

I trust that your Thanksgiving will be one of thanks *and* one of giving. As you give to various community organizations and consider your pledge to New England Church, remember that you bring nothing with you into this world and you take nothing out, so to be thankful for every little gift is the secret of happiness in life. Be thankful; be happy.



Gary



WORLD RELIEF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Did you know that during the week, people from all over the world meet at our building? World Relief is a local immigrant services and refugee resettlement agency that runs an English as a Second Language (ESL) program Monday-Thursday and they are in need of additional volunteers to help one or more mornings per week from 9:00-11:40 am with our Early Childhood Program!

The Early Childhood Program serves children 3 months – 6 years and enables their parents to take classes to learn English. For more information, please contact Grace Bliss, Volunteer Coordinator for Early Childhood Programs: Gbliss@wr.org or 630.580.8776 or you can apply directly at <https://worldreliefdupageaurora.org/volunteer-application>.



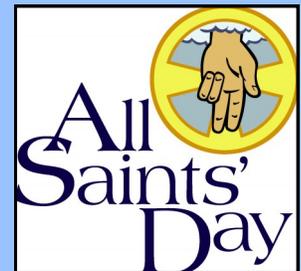
PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE



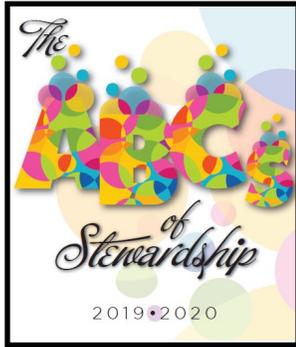
Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 17 or 24 so we can take your picture and collect any new contact information. No need to sign-up and it's a quick and easy process. Todd will be taking photos in Friendship Hall (3rd floor off the elevator) from 9:00 - 9:45 am and 11:00 -11:45 am on those days.

If you aren't available to have your picture taken this time but have new contact information or would like to submit a photo, please email Shelley in the church office at shelley@newenglandchurch.org or call 630.897.8721.

On Sunday, November 3 at both the 8:30 and 10:00 am services, we will remember those of our church family who have gone before us, calling special attention to those who have died within the past year.



Stewardship: We Need Your Support



Stewardship Sunday is November 3. We ask that you review our Stewardship Booklet, *The ABC's of Stewardship*, and bring your financial and service pledge page to church with you on Stewardship Sunday. If you are unable to attend service that day, we ask that you turn in your pledge page to the church office at your earliest convenience.

Members and friends of New England have responded positively to our church needs over the years. We request that you carefully and prayerfully consider your support of the church. If possible, we ask that you consider an increased contribution to New England in 2020. Your positive response will sustain both our current and future church programs.

FILM SERIES

November 8: *Eye in the Sky* (2015)
Col. Katherine Powell (Helen Mirren), a military officer in command of an operation to capture terrorists in Kenya, sees her mission escalate when a girl enters the kill zone triggering an international dispute over the implications of modern warfare. Presenter: Nancy Hopp





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




Our annual Pianorama is Sunday, November 24 at 10:00 am. We hope you will join us for a Sunday of making music and giving thanks.

Men's Group to Ring Bells for Salvation Army



NECC Men's Fellowship will ring bells for the Salvation Army once again (a Twenty year tradition!) this Christmas season. Please save the date of Tuesday, December 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Sign up includes one or two hour time slots. Beginning November 3, there will be a sign up sheet in the church office and online sign up on the church website. Bells, buckets, and aprons will be at the collection locations. Jerry Roesner will give you your assigned location on Sunday, December 8. If you are unable to be at the church that Sunday, please call Jerry (630.892.1904) to obtain your location assignment.

In keeping with past tradition, we again assure moderate weather and of course, a delicious meal and other nourishment will follow at the home of Jim & Jan Mamminga, 1636 W. Downer Pl., Aurora. If you are not able to ring, we invite you to join us for dinner and enjoy the fellowship of the giving season.

Annual Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk cookie sale will take place in Friendship Hall on Sunday, December 8 immediately following the Hanging of the Greens worship service. Buy your homemade Christmas cookies for your holiday parties, gift boxes, or just to have around the house while you wrap presents.



CAN YOU HELP?



Building & Grounds has an opportunity for you to get a bit of exercise and some fresh air. Good for all of us!! We need families, friends or individuals to volunteer to walk the church campus collecting the trash that accumulates in the bushes and along the fence lines. We would like it done weekly, best on Friday or Saturday to have the grounds looking their best for Sunday services.

Do you have an hour once every month or two to help us? Sign up via the Signup Station feature on the church website.

Bring a bag for trash and one for 'recycles' that you can then deposit in the large containers inside the corral at the west end of the parking lot. Questions? Contact Jan Mammaing at jrmammaing@yahoo.com.

The "Giving Bus" arrived at NECC stocked full of shoes. Thanks to those who purchased shoes themselves and those who gave donations so the Board of Missions could purchase shoes, 71 pairs of shoes were collected and equally distributed among Dieterich, Greenman and Hall elementary schools. At the request of the nurses, some of the cash received was used to purchase socks, underwear and sweatpants for boys and girls. Speaking on behalf of the parents of the children who will sport new shoes, the Board of Missions is very grateful for your overwhelmingly generous support for this project. ...*And they will know we are Christians by our love.*




IT'S WINTER DINNER TIME AGAIN!

Sign Ups Begin November 3

A cold winter night is a great time to gather with NECC friends in the warmth of a welcoming home to enjoy a hearty dinner and stimulating conversation. That's what's in store for everyone who signs up to experience the food, fellowship and fun of Winter Dinners. These occasions allow you to get better acquainted with other NECC folks whether you are a newcomer or a longtime member.

Here's how it works:

Sign up in November for a dinner in January, February, or March—or for all three! There will be as many dinners each month as are needed to accommodate everyone who wants to participate. Couples and singles are welcome.

Each dinner will have 8 – 10 people and will be at the home of someone who has volunteered to be a host. The hosts will contact everyone who has been randomly assigned to their group and will work out a date that is convenient for all.

Participants will bring a dish to share: Main course, salad, side dish or dessert. The host will provide appetizers, bread and beverages.

Those who would like wine or another adult beverage should bring what they prefer.

Be sure to stop at the Winter Dinners table in the Marketplace any Sunday in November, between services or after 11:00 am, when you can sign up and ask any questions you might have or call Barbara King at 630-879-2263.

Hope to see you at dinner in January!

Exploring the United Church of Christ
Fred R. Krauss

The Church of the First Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving has always been a favorite holiday among members of the United Church of Christ. The reason is simple. We trace our Congregational Heritage back to the harvest festival of the Pilgrims at the Plymouth settlement and the native population that befriended them and helped them to survive a most difficult season. The United Church of Christ, through our Congregational predecessors, is a direct descendent of what is remembered as the first American Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims were not the first people in history to give thanks to God (or to the gods) for the bounty of harvest and the blessings of life. To give thanks is an essential part of our human nature; formed in the deepest levels of our DNA. But for our nation, the harvest festival of our Pilgrim parents has become the storied foundation of our national day of Thanksgiving.

It was on September 6, 1620 that the Pilgrims set sail for the New World on the Mayflower. Of the 102 passengers aboard the Mayflower, only forty-four were actually Pilgrims, who called themselves "Saints" with the remainder making up what the Pilgrims called "Strangers." The journey to the new world was seen as an opportunity to create a new life for themselves that would become a beacon of religious light, a model of spiritual promise, or what John Winthrop called, "A city upon a hill."

It was a very difficult trip, cold, damp and crowded. Those early tall-masters were not comfortable for passengers and were vulnerable to a variety of weather and other dangers. The first half of the trip went well, but weather and seas became difficult. One person died on the passage and another was born. Land was sighted on November 10th. Unable to reach their planned destination along the Hudson River; they landed at Cape Cod. On exploring the area, they settled on Plymouth; named by Captain John Smith in 1614. Plymouth offered an excellent harbor with a large brook that would be an excellent resource for fish. It seemed ideal. It was here that the Pilgrims decided to settle.

The first winter was devastating. The cold, snow and sleet were exceptionally heavy, interfering with the settlers as they worked together to construct their settlement. As they wintered onboard the ship, sickness began to take over. Close to half of the original settlers perished. The survivors included only four of the wives, twenty-two adult men, nine adolescent boys, five adolescent girls, and thirteen young children. By the arrival of spring, there were only fifty-three remaining Pilgrims. *(From the journal of William Bradford)*.

The miracle of the First Thanksgiving began as spring arrived in March. Warmer weather arrived and the health of the Pilgrims improved. And then it happened. On the 16th of March, a native member of the Abenaki tribe walked into the settlement and greeted the Pilgrims by calling out the English word: "Welcome!" His name was Samoset. He had learned English from the captains of fishing boats sailing off the coast as part of an English fishing camp. He in turn introduced the Pilgrims to Squanto, who had learned English as a captive on voyages to Spain and England. The stories of how Squanto helped the Pilgrims to plant those first crops and who taught them the necessary skills of hunting, planting and survival in the New World wilderness are woven into the colorful fabric of our nation's history. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Squanto's help, the fledgling settlement of Pilgrims would have had little chance of survival. The harvest the following October was successful beyond their wildest expectation. The Pilgrims found themselves with enough food to put away for the winter. There was corn, fruits and vegetables, fish to be packed in salt, and meat to be cured over smoky fires. God had truly blessed them. Governor William Bradford proclaimed a time of Thanksgiving to be celebrated between the Pilgrims and the Native inhabitants who had befriended them. Chief Massasoit along with 90 braves came to the three day celebration during which they participated in games, races, marching and the playing of drums. The Indians demonstrated their skills with the bow and arrow and the Pilgrims demonstrated their musket skills. The first Thanksgiving probably took place around mid-October of 1621.

The United Church of Christ is the Church of the First Thanksgiving. We are heir to the Pilgrim Tradition, as the Pilgrims eventually became the Congregationalists who in turn became one of the founding partners of our United Church of Christ.



'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, November 4
Tuesday, November 12
Wednesday, November 20

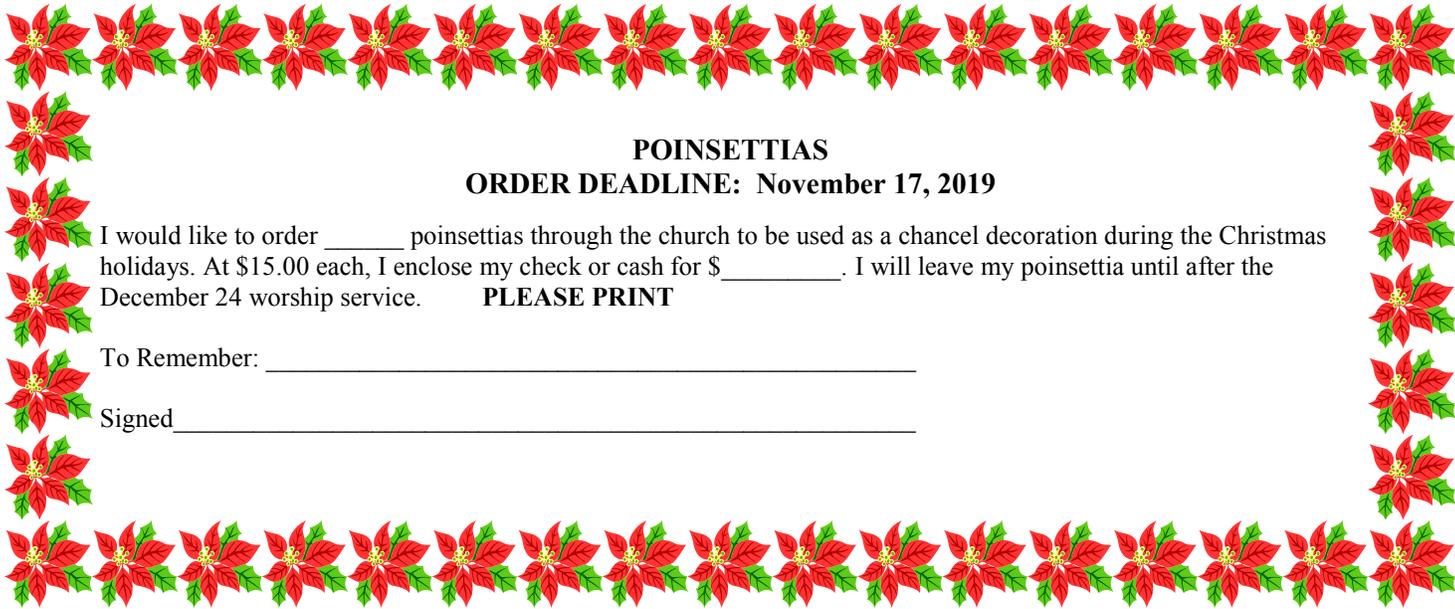



George & Kathy Ball
W10795 875th Ave
River Falls, WI.
54022

Women's Circle of Friends



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. This will be an opportunity to purchase jewelry, night lights, Pampered Chef products, Thirty-One products, soaps, and more! If you are interested in selling something or need more information, contact Linda (linda4cacfp@aol.com) or Judy (judycarol48@sbcglobal.net). Mark November 16 at 9:30 am, on your calendar to join us for a shared breakfast, followed by an opportunity to sell and/or buy products made or sold by NECC women and their friends!



POINSETTIAS ORDER DEADLINE: November 17, 2019

I would like to order _____ poinsettias through the church to be used as a chancel decoration during the Christmas holidays. At \$15.00 each, I enclose my check or cash for \$_____. I will leave my poinsettia until after the December 24 worship service. **PLEASE PRINT**

To Remember: _____

Signed _____

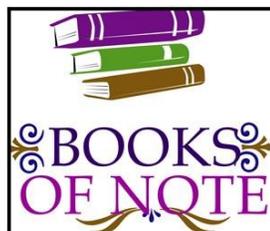
Daylight Savings Time



Don't forget to turn your clocks back the night of Saturday, November 2!

Books Of Note

Books of Note is reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. According to the *New York Times Book Review*, this book is "A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature." We will be meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 7:00 pm in the parlor. We hope to see you there to discuss this very popular and interesting novel. We hope to see you there, whether you have read the book or not. New participants are welcome to attend anytime.



Angel Tree



It is hard to believe that it is that time of the year again. The Christmas Angel Tree program will be starting soon. We will be supplying gifts to three schools this year; Greenman School, Dieterich School, and Hall School. We hope that you will select an angel from our tree in the Marketplace, and provide some Christmas surprises for the student, or 'angel', you have selected. The first day of the program will be Sunday, November 17. More information to follow in the bulletin.

...and they will know we are Christians by our love.



November, 2019
Vol. 10

Tiny Tidings

REGISTRATION 2019-2020

- NOVEMBER 3** Daniel
Children's Choir Performs in church
- NOVEMBER 10** Daniel
3 & 4th Serve Coffee Fellowship
- NOVEMBER 17** Music Sunday-All Children Sing
- NOVEMBER 24** Ornament Workshop



LET THEIR HEARTS SING

Make sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, November 3rd for the next performance from our Children's Choir. On that date, our young singers will have the opportunity to join voices with the adult choir to offer an anthem at the 10:00 a.m. service. Ina Heup, our Children's Choir Director has been working with the children monthly during church school while also meeting with a committed group of children each Sunday after church. The combination of voices both young and mature is sure to bring special meaning to our worship on that day. Please keep an eye out for information from Mrs. Heup as to when the rehearsal will take place before the November performance.



EMERGENCY EVACUTATION DRILL

On October 6th, all of the church school children (pre-school- 4th grade) practiced running through our emergency drills to ensure they all understand the protocol in the event of an actual emergency here at church. The children reviewed where to go if there was a tornado and where to go in the event of a fire. In addition, the children participated in a special question and answer session lead by our own Jeff Wiencek. Jeff reviewed the importance of listening and following directions during an emergency, while making it fun. Thank you Jeff for making this sometimes scary event informative and fun for our church school children.

Evacuation Drill

HALLOWEEN FUN HOUSE



A BIG THANK YOU to the our current 5th & 6th grade youth and confirmation students, along with their teachers: Kathy Kokkinos and Desiree Guzman at New England Church for putting together another amazing Halloween Fun House for our 1st - 4th grade children. The church school children wore their costumes participated in seasonal activities, and enjoyed the Halloween snacks at Chestnut House on Oct. 27th. It was truly an enjoyable day for all.

JUST BREW IT

During the month of November, the church school children will continue the tradition of selecting a Sunday in November to host coffee fellowship for the congregation. This year, the children will be hosting on Sunday, **November 10th after the 10:00 AM service.** All the church school classes and families (PreK-4th grade) will participate in bringing treats to fill the table in the narthex and the 3rd and 4th grade children will serve during the coffee fellowship time. Make sure to mark this date on your calendar and keep an eye out for the treat sign up.

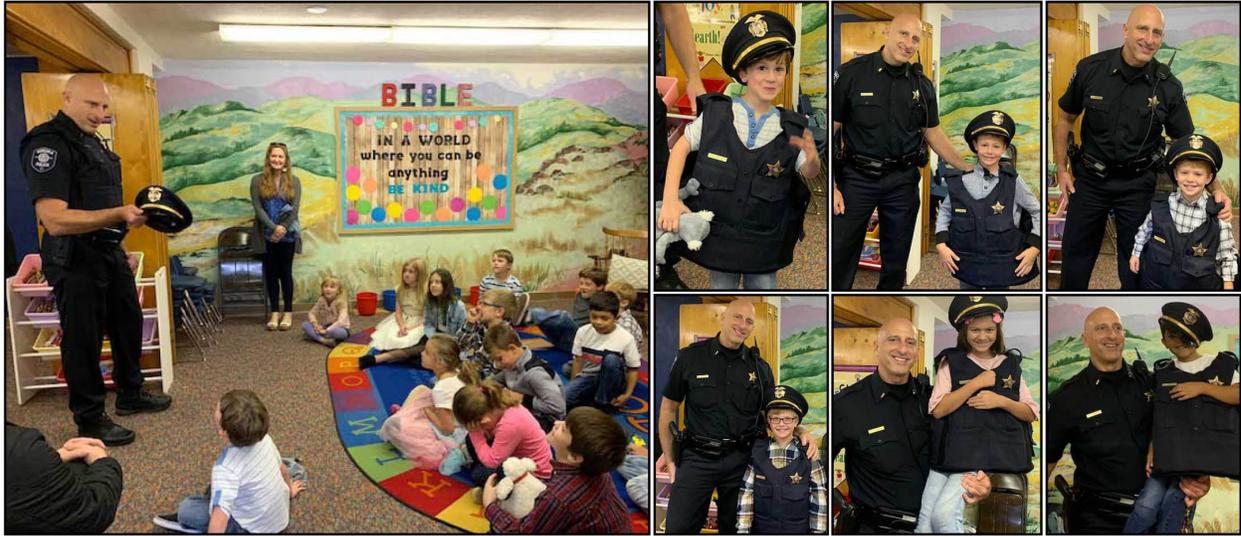


ORNAMENT WORKSHOP



On Sunday, November 24 the church school classes will be making various ornaments to adorn the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary. Then, once the ornaments are completed, the children will be asked to hang their creations during the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, Dec. 8th. If your child is unable to attend church school during the ornament workshop, extra ornaments will be made so they can still participate in the annual Hanging of Greens service.

On October 6th, the church school children practiced their emergency evacuation drills. Once the drills were completed, the children talked through the importance of listening during an emergency with Lieutenant Wienczek.



Many church families had fun at Jonamac Orchards on Columbus Day.

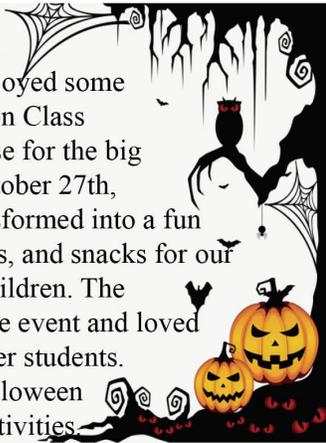
YOUTH TIDINGS

NOVEMBER, 2019

106TH EDITION

5TH & 6TH GRADE

The 5th and 6th graders had a SPOOKTACULAR time this month! They enjoyed some time with the Confirmation Class decorating Chestnut House for the big Halloween Event. On October 27th, Chestnut House was transformed into a fun house full of games, crafts, and snacks for our younger church school children. The 5th and 6th graders ran the event and loved their time with the younger students. Everyone got into the Halloween Spirit and enjoyed the festivities.



UP AND COMING

In November, the 5th & 6th grade class will focus on being grateful and appreciative for all that we have.

HIGH SCHOOL

Wow, can you believe it's November already?? This month we have a combined service project and dinner with the Confirmation students that will take place on Saturday, November 2nd.

THE SERVICE PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CHURCH FROM 3:00-5:00 PM and THEN DINNER WILL BE SERVED FROM 5:00-6:00 PM AT CHESTNUT HOUSE.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



A special thanks to all the confirmation students who helped decorate Chestnut House with the 5th & 6th graders for Halloween to make an extra special event for our younger church school students. And to those who served as Usher's in October. Students will be ushering every third Sunday as part of their contribution to the church.

CONFIRMATION OVERNIGHT/ SERVICE PROJECT

On November 2nd, confirmation students are participating in an overnight at Chestnut House, as well as a service project to support the work of World Relief's Early Childhood Program housed in our former preschool. Students are learning about the needs of refugee and immigrant families in our community and the Biblical to "Welcome the Stranger," while also completing a hands-on project to deep clean toys and prepare materials in ESL classrooms.



CAKES, COOKIES AND CONFECTIONS

Our high school youth are now in the final stages preparing for the Cookie Walk that will take place on December 8th. We will need all hands on deck to make this successful as this is a huge event that serves the whole church. Please keep a look out for detailed emails regarding the Cookie Walk and how you can serve in this season of giving.



A SCREAMING GOOD TIME

A quick thank you to the high schoolers that went on our trip to Six Flags Great America – WE HAD A BLAST!!!



Confirmation mini-golf outing



5th and 6th Graders decorated Chestnut House for Halloween.



The high school youth went to Six Flags on Columbus Day.





**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**

**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

Baptisms:

Owen Lecky Savage and Nora Rose Savage, son and daughter of John & Jaime Savage.

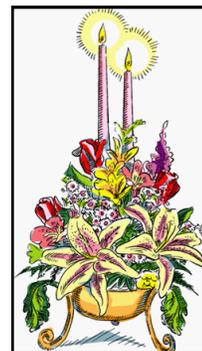
Freya James Brooks, daughter of Robert & Jennifer Brooks.

Hospitalized:

Bob Navarro

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lynn Stephens.



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