



## MUSINGS

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, I will be organizing some small volunteer groups to assist with some housekeeping items that I usually take care of but will need others to carry on these tasks after my retirement. This will assist in an easier transition for the new senior minister, allowing them time to get to know you and the church without having to take care of these details.

If you can help with any of the following areas of ministry, I would appreciate you letting me know via email.

### Altar Team:

The candles on the altar need to be checked and replaced as needed, as do the paraments. This team will make sure everything is in order for Sunday as needed. No regular meetings.

### Funeral Preparation Team

This would involve getting the church ready for a funeral, working with the family to place flowers in the narthex and sanctuary, putting out the ropes and signs to designate the family pews, putting Kleenex boxes in the family pews, etc.

A second team would then come in after the service to take down the ropes, flowers, etc. so the sanctuary can be cleaned by the custodian after the funeral.

### Funeral Greeting and Parking Lot team

It is important that people be greeted personally at each funeral and direct them to the elevators, bathrooms, and sanctuary. A larger group of people rotating for each funeral request makes the job much easier.

### Orion Ensemble Team

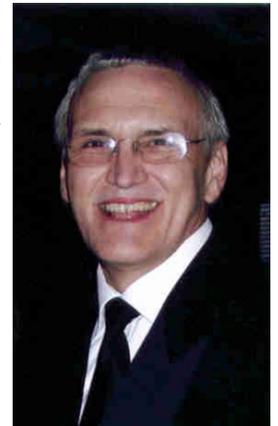
With Chicago's premier chamber ensemble choosing our church as their west suburban venue, we need people willing to greet, help with the reception that follows the concert, and otherwise help host the event.

### Pride Parade Team

We need a few more people on the team, and particularly someone to be in charge of decisions about the annual Parade, as far as our church involvement is concerned. Such things as handouts, marching, advertising the date, and sending in the application form are necessary for this project to continue.

Volunteers keep the church active and involved. Without people willing to serve on Boards or Committees, or Ministry Teams, we would have to close the doors.

Thanks in advance if you can help out in any of the areas above.



*Gary*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Circle of Friends



Will March be your lucky month? Women's Circle of friends is playing Scrabble in Friendship Hall on Saturday, March 14. Join us at 9:30 am for a shared breakfast followed by our annual Scrabble tournament. All women, no matter your skill level, are invited to play and have fun together! Maybe you will bring home the trophy or win another prize!



This year's Christian Service Awards went to Dale & Jodi Myers and Rich & Terri Rosemann. We appreciate all you do for New England Congregational Church.

## FILM SERIES

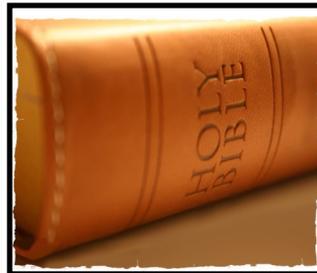
### MARCH 13: August Rush (2007)

An orphaned musical prodigy uses his gift to try to find his birth parents. With Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell and Jonathan Rhys Meyers. Presenter: Gary McCann



Want to learn more about New England Church?

An Inquirer's meeting will be held in the church Parlor on March 8 following the 10:00 am service. Childcare is available.



Gary will lead a Lenten lecture/discussion series on "How We Got the Bible" on Sunday, March 15 & 22, from 11:15 am – 12:15 pm. We will explore the complications, the scholarship and the details that are critical for understanding the Bible in its context and translations. Everyone is invited to join us.

## HAVE A GUY'S NIGHT OUT!

NECC Men's Dinner will be on Thursday, March 26. Social time at 5:30 pm. Dinner ordered at 6:00 pm. Blackberry Oaks Golf Course located at 2245 Kennedy Road in Bristol, IL. in the Kennedy Pointe Restaurant. Separate Checks/ Cash Bar/ Special Menu Options Don't miss this fun evening - Sign up in the Marketplace or you can e-mail your RSVP to [kimberly@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@newenglandchurch.org).



## 'Conversations With 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, March 2

Tuesday, March 10

Wednesday, March 18

Thursday, March 26

The top-notch chamber group, the Orion Ensemble, will perform its third concert of the season at New England church at 3:00 pm on Sunday, March 1.

The program will feature music by Antonin Dvorak, the prominent Chicago-based composer Sebastian Huydts, and others. Please note the earlier start time. That's because a wine, cheese and dessert reception to benefit Orion will follow the concert in the narthex. You are invited to both—the reception donation is \$50—or you may come just for the concert. Tickets to both will be available at the door. Barbara King has more details. You can contact her at 630-879-2263 or bhk430@att.net.



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!



Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Aurora Pride Parade that will be held on June 14 in downtown Aurora.

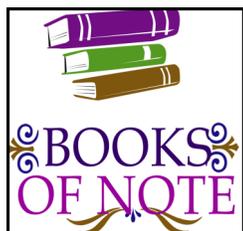
We as a congregation will march proudly again this year and need people to be in the parade but we also need people to join the parade planning committee.

If you are interested in being on the committee and helping us organize our unit in the parade; please e-mail Kimberly Adams at kimberly@newenglandchurch.org.

Remember to set your clocks 1 hour ahead the evening of Saturday, March 7.



## BOOKS OF NOTE



Books of Note is reading Educated by Tara Westover.

This book has been described as a memoir that "follows the author's journey from rural Idaho to the PhD program at Cambridge as she struggles against her family's devout, isolationist religious beliefs and fights for an education."

We will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 pm in the parlor.

New participants are always welcome. We look forward to

seeing you there for a lively discussion, whether you have had a chance to read the book or not.

March, 2020  
Vol. 3

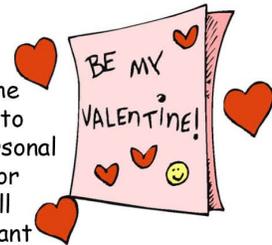
# Tiny Tidings

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

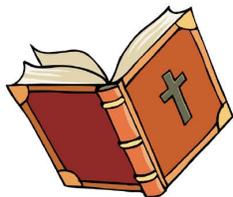
- MARCH 1** Using My Talents  
**MARCH 8** Bible Sunday & Luncheon for 3rd Graders  
**MARCH 15** Exploring the Bible  
5th & 6th Graders lead Bible Games  
Children's Choir Performs in Church  
**MARCH 22** Music Sunday (All Children Sing)  
**MARCH 29** Art of Giving-Service Project-3rd & 4th Package Baskets  
Baptism and Communion Lesson-1st & 2nd

## SPREADING SOME LOVE

While many of our church members attended the annual meeting on January 26th, several church school children came down into the church school classroom for some entertainment and fun. During this short time, the children watched a movie, played games, and even made 10 Valentines that were mailed to members of our congregation that have not able to attend church recently due to a personal or medical reason. Creating Valentines during the annual meeting has been a tradition for several years and it never seems to get old. We all agreed that no matter our age, we all love to get something fun in the mail and that it doesn't have to be something extravagant to make a big difference.



## BIBLE SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

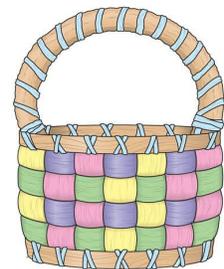


On March 8th, our 3rd graders, along with some of our 4th-6th grade children will receive their Bibles during the 10:00 AM worship service. Recently, a letter was sent home inviting the children and their families to this special service and to the luncheon following in Friendship Hall. Please remember to RSVP your confirmation or regrets for lunch and the exact name you want printed on the Bible to Audra Darche. [audra@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:audra@newenglandchurch.org)

## BASKETS OF FUN

The church school children will continue with their annual Art of Giving service project and will again support the Ronald McDonald House by putting together 15 Easter baskets for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Many times, these families are under a lot of stress trying to navigate appointments and how to best support their sick child. It is our hope that this Easter basket filled with items for the entire family, will bring a smile to their faces while also providing some things that they may need. Coming up on Sunday, March 29th, the 3rd & 4th grade children will be stuffing the baskets with the items donated. To ensure we can fill 15 baskets, we are asking families and members of the congregation to sign-up for a specific item or two to donate. Please select an item to donate on the form in the church school hallway and drop off any items by March 29th to Audra Darche or in the basket located in the church school hallway.

Such specific items will include: **Chapstick**, **Uno cards**, **hand sanitizer**, **mini-packages of crackers/cookies**, etc. See form in church school hallway for more options.



## EASTER EGG HUNT



Mark your calendars NOW!! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11@ 11:00 AM. This year, weather permitting, we will be hunting for eggs on the grassy area around the church and in the pre-school playground area. We will all start in Friendship Hall with yummy Easter treats and fun activities and then have the egg hunt. (If the weather is bad, we will hold the festivities inside.) So, if you are a pre-schooler-4th grader, BYOB (Bring your own basket), and join us for a terrific time!



FUN AT SKY ZONE



# YOUTH TIDINGS

MARCH, 2020

110TH EDITION

## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

*Thank you* to all the 5th/6th grade students and their families that helped with coffee fellowship on February 16th. The students always enjoy this event and it is a great way for the students to meet and interact with the congregation. It was a pleasure meeting so many of you!

## HIGH SCHOOL

**THANK YOU** to the students that attended the movie event last month, we had a great time!!

**AS A REMINDER**, youth group classes are still being held most Sundays after church from 11:05-11:50am. If you haven't had the chance to attend class, come over and check it out! Lessons are based on life experiences and help to teach things like acceptance, influence, accountability, compromise, etc. in today's world.

**PLEASE NOTE** No Class on March 15th as we will be at Top Golf instead. March 22nd we will be stuffing the Easter eggs for the church Easter egg hunt so if you are available to come to class that day all help will be greatly appreciated.

## CONFIRMATION MARCHES ON

This month students will be learning about how the Bible calls us to be good stewards of the earth.

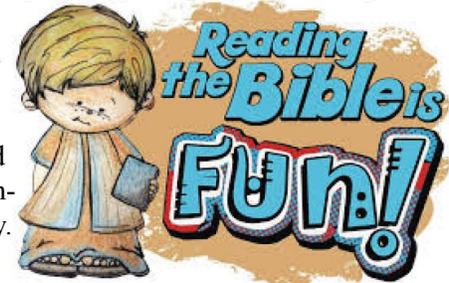


They will also be discussing topics and methods for their 8th grade

# FAITH PROJECTS.

## UP AND COMING FOR 5TH & 6TH

The 5th and 6th graders will spend most of March exploring the Bible and preparing Bible games for the 3rd and 4th graders. On March 15th, the students will lead Bible games for the 3rd and 4th. This collaboration is a great way for the 3rd and 4th graders to become familiar with their new Bibles that they received on March 8th- Bible Sunday.



## A STUFFING WE WILL GO

During class on March 22, the confirmation students will stuff eggs for the church school Easter egg hunt. In addition, the confirmation students are invited to stay after class and continue stuffing eggs with the high school group if they are able until 11:30.



## TOP GOLF YOUTH OUTING

As a reminder, coming up on Sunday, March 15th will be our first Youth Golf Outing (5th-12th Grade) at Top Golf in Naperville. The event will take place from 12:00-2:00 PM and will include 2 hours of golfing, along with a snack and drink. Cost: \$15.00 per youth participating. Only 18 spots are available for this event, so first come, first served. Once attendance has been finalized, rides from the church to Top Golf will be communicated; however, all children must be picked up at 2:00 PM at the conclusion of the event. Additional questions, please see Audra Darché or your child's designated teacher.



# 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS SERVED COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON FEBRUARY 16TH



**“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”**



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-UCC  
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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

Hospitalized:  
Gordon McDugle, Pat Demetry,  
John Ruby, Rodger True, Lee Thurow



## 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:* Mark Plummer  
*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  
*Moderator-elect:* Bill Donnell  
*Treasurer:* Andy Sprau  
*Clerk:* Sally Floyd