



MUSINGS

It's been a year. It's been a year! I can scarcely believe that 12 months, 365 days, 525,600 minutes have passed since Charles and I moved to Aurora and began a new journey with New England Congregational Church. The time has flown.

I would be remiss not to remember back to those first weeks together—weeks of just 20 individuals present in our sanctuary for in-person worship and so many participating virtually. I will never forget the parade of cars on my first Sunday, the flowers and gifts in the office, the planned and unplanned first meetings with so many of you in homes, restaurants, and at the church. How far we've come.

In this season of resurrections, reawakening earth, and new beginnings, I'm struck with profound gratitude for the new beginning we've experienced together over the past year, with awe at the way time and space and events brought us together, with joy at all we have yet to do together. I'm also cognizant of the endings that happened to give birth to these new beginnings: the conclusion of a rich and wonderful ministry in Wisconsin for me, a new kind of relationship with former Senior Minister Gary McCann for this congregation, the slow winding down of this pandemic. It has been a year of highs and lows, of lasts and firsts, endings and new beginnings. And I'm so very grateful.

As spring continues to unfold, I commend this beautiful prayer to you from the Chinook Psalter:

O God, may we today be touched by grace, fascinated and moved by this your creation, energized by the power of new growth at work in your world. May we move beyond viewing this life only through a frame, but touch it and be touched by it, know it and be known by it, love it and be loved by it. May our bodies, our minds, our spirits learn a new rhythm paced by the rhythmic pulse of the whole created order. May spring come to us, be in us, and recreate life in us. Amen.

May spring continue to take root in us, in New England Church, and in our community, and with it, much growth.

Blessings and peace,

Brandon Perrine
Senior Minister



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TREATS



Do you miss treats at Coffee Fellowship? Beginning Sunday, May 1, we'll be inviting New Englanders to sign up to bring treats to share at weekly Coffee Fellowship. We will continue to provide the coffee and lemonade. Follow the link to sign up:
<https://signupschedule.com/neccshelley>

Come and march with us in the 2022 Aurora Pride Parade!

Sign up on our church website to join the New England Church group as we show our support to our LGBTQ friends, family, and community.

The parade is on Sunday, June 12. Our group will line up prior to the step off time at noon, in downtown Aurora.



Please indicate on the sign up if you would like to buy a t-shirt to match everyone in our group and what size shirt you need. The cost is \$15 per shirt. Drop off your payment in the church office or mail in your payment asap.

If you still have your 2018 NECC Pride shirt, you could wear that again this year. T-shirt sign up deadline is: End of day on Sunday, May 29.

Purchased shirts will be passed out on Sunday, June 5. If you have any questions, please talk to Kimberly Adams or email her at kimberly@newenglandchurch.org.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Our last meeting of Women's Circle of Friends for the 2021-2022 season will be breakfast out on May 14 at Apple Villa at 1961 W Wilson St in Batavia. We will meet there at 9:30 am. Please sign up using the Sign up Station on the church's website or in the office on the sign up sheet. Please indicate if you need a ride. We ask that you sign up no later than May 11th so that the restaurant can be notified of how many are coming. All women of the church are welcome.

From the Students of the Beloved Community Committee



Dismantling old ways of thinking is a matter of one step up the ladder at a time. During African American History Month, the congregation took part in events that got us all started on learning how much we don't know about the experiences of black- and brown-skinned Americans. Many of us then took to books to learn more. African American history and its heroes were not taught in most schools.

On April 25th many of the church leaders took part in a Cultural Immersions Seminar to prepare themselves to lead more efforts. The seminar, called *Understanding the Black Experience in America*, was a generous gift from LCW, a company that specializes in helping companies and non-profits to navigate cultural differences. They believe everyone has the ability "to collaborate, thrive, and succeed across cultures."

Our committee is planning next steps. Watch Sunday bulletins for details:

Jun 19 is Juneteenth, honoring the day the last slaves were freed in 1865. We'll attend together Aurora's joyful celebration of African American food, music and culture.



On Sunday, May 8, the Orion Ensemble will present the fourth and final concert of its 2021-2022 series at New England Church, its West Suburban home. The program will feature Mozart's Quintet in A Major for Clarinet and Strings, K. 581, and Borodin's String Quartet in D Major.

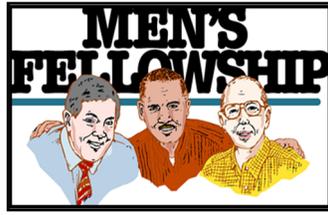
Guest artists Stephen Boe, violinist, and Roger Chase, violist will join the ensemble for this event.

The concert will begin at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, with an audience reception hosted by the musicians in the narthex following the performance.

The Orion Ensemble is recognized for the variety as well as the quality of music it performs, which includes classical, contemporary, jazz and other innovative compositions. Works of women composers are also frequently highlighted.

Tickets to the May concert may be purchased through the Orion Ensemble website, <https://www.orionensemble.org>, or at the door: \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for students.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Men's Poker Night-Friday, May 20 from 7:00-10:00 pm at Chestnut House

Organized Tournament, \$20 buy-in - bring cash that evening.

BYOB and Pot Luck style foods to share

Open to all men of the church and you can bring a friend.

Don't miss this fun evening. Access the sign up in the church office on the laptops or go to our church website and click on the Sign up Station icon.

You can also RSVP to Kimberly Adams: kimberly@newenglandchurch.org.

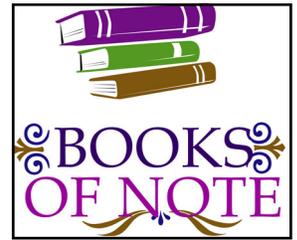
BOOKS OF NOTE

Books of Note- May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm on Zoom only.

Contact Sue Reimer for a Zoom invitation.

"Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation"

While much has been written about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, battled the British, and framed the Constitution, the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters they left behind have been little noticed by history. #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Cokie Roberts brings us women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, often defending their very doorsteps. Drawing upon personal correspondence, private journals, and even favored recipes, Roberts reveals the often surprising stories of these fascinating women, bringing to life the everyday trials and extraordinary triumphs of individuals like Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Read Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Catherine Littlefield Green, Esther DeBerdt Reed and Martha Washington—proving that without our exemplary women, the new country might have never survived.



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

The church office hours will be from 9:00 am-Noon beginning Tuesday, May 31 through Friday, September 2.



FOOD PANTRY



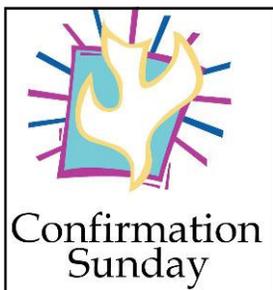
Help support the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry!
 Volunteers are needed to re-stock the shelves.
 NECC Volunteer Days are:
 The 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 3:00-4:00 pm.
 No Sign-up required- Please arrive on-time at 1110 Jericho Rd.
 Aurora.

ICELAND CRUISE

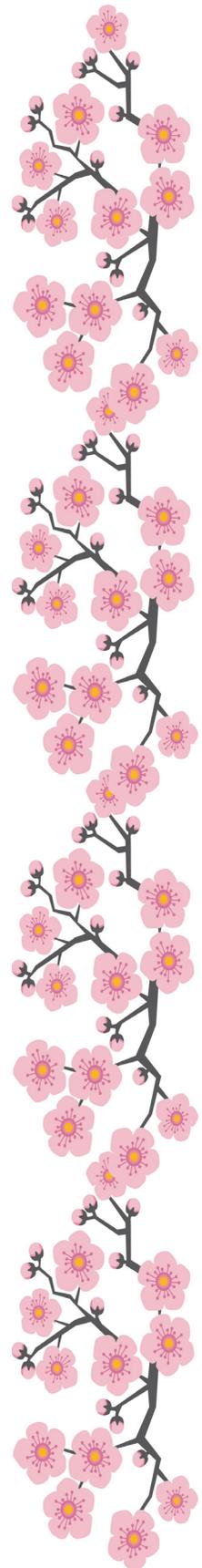
A Viking cruise to Iceland (Aug 13-21, 2023) is being organized.
 Anyone interested in learning more is invited to a meeting on Sunday, May 15, at 3:00 pm at the church. Brochures giving details of the trip are available in the literature rack or by contacting Gary McCann (garymccann21@gmail.com; 630.643.4925).



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Please join us on May 22 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 the Narthex.



Tiny Tidings

MAY, 2022



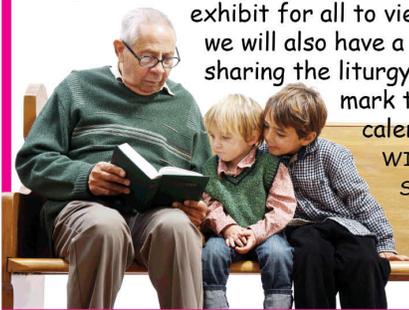
CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- MAY 1 Intergenerational Service
- MAY 8 Mother's Day Project
- MAY 15 Reflecting on God's Majesty
- MAY 22 End of Year Celebration
(Confirmation Sunday)
- MAY 29 No Church School

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Coming up on May 1st, New England Church will be hosting its very first Intergenerational Service. Typically on Sunday mornings, children begin in church and then are released to church school. During their time in church school, the children hear stories, engage in activities, and participate in games. Overall, the lessons are written to promote interest and encourage active engagement; however, wouldn't it be fun for a Sunday church service to be geared for children and adults alike? That is what NECC's upcoming intergenerational service will be. On May 1st, all children will be in church and there will not be church school. The goal is to make the service interesting and engaging for all ages. The service will include music from our children's bell choir and a duet from two children in our church school program. In addition, there will be a children's art exhibit for all to view. To top it off,

we will also have a youth member sharing the liturgy. Make sure to mark this event on your calendars as THIS WILL BE A UNIQUE SERVICE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Family Picnic

IS BACK

On Sunday, May 15th, a special Church School family picnic will take place at 3:00 PM at the home of Rick and Audra Darché. This will be a great opportunity for our all of our families to hang out and enjoy a fun afternoon of food & fellowship. All families with a preschool-12th grade child are welcome to this event. Please keep an eye out for an Evite link to finalize your RSVP.

THE ART OF GIVING UPDATE

Thank you to all the church school children and families, along with members of our congregation for donating various toiletry items for our annual children in mission project. On April 24th the church school children packaged all of the items up and dropped them off to Hesus House. This project is helpful on many levels as it not only helps members in our community, but it is teaching our children to care for others.

Thank You!

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: **Shelby Darché**, **Chloe Darché**, **Dylan Kokinos**, **Natalie Myers** and **Matthew Gordon**.





There was a real bunny to pet and chicks to hold.



There were pictures to color.



There were selfie pictures to take.



There was a chance to pre-tend to be the Easter Bunny.

There was lots of fun hunting for eggs outside.



There were prizes to choose.



There were MANY happy children at the end of the morning.



YOUTH TIDINGS



MAY, 2022

HIGH SCHOOL



Our last class will take place on May 8th. Please take note, on this special day, we will be celebrating our mothers and the end of our high school youth hangouts for the school year.

5TH & 6TH GRADE STORY TIME

On April 3rd, the 5th and 6th graders hosted their annual read-in with the preschool and kindergarten students. Some of the stories shared with our younger learners focused on Noah's Arc and Creation. It is always entertaining to see the world through the eyes of a preschooler or kindergarten. Both groups really enjoyed the story books and the personal commentaries.



Later on in April, the 5th & 6th graders learned more about Palm Sunday and Easter. At the conclusion of most lessons, the students always appreciate some downtime and enjoy playing Jenga and hangman.

As the church school year comes to a close, please take note that our last lesson will take place on Sunday, May 22nd.

Confirmation **SUNDAY**

Confirmation Sunday (May 22nd) is right around the corner! What a joy it has been for me to facilitate discussions of life and faith with our New England 7th & 8th graders this year, and to be able to do so in-person.

I can't wait to celebrate our Confirmands: Will Klish, Olivia Kopeke, & Luke Swindle; and for them to share their faith projects with our congregation. Don't miss this very special Sunday in the life of our church!

A special thank you to our mentors: Brian Kleemann, Judy Lopez, and Jason Wilkins; and to these three volunteers who generously gave their time at multiple class sessions this year: Val Flechtner, Robin Schmidt, and Barbara Brungart. We couldn't run our program successfully without great volunteers! If you are interested in learning how you can help in the future, please contact Desiree Guzman desiree@newengland-church.org

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE?

If your high school student is graduating in the 2021-2022 school year, please email Lesley Myers at skidder2009@gmail.com with your student's information. Please include name and high school they attended. This information will be shared with the congregation highlighting our recent graduates.

SAVE THE DATE

Family picnic for all children, youth, and families on Sunday, May 15 @ 3:00 PM. The event will take place at the Darché residence. Food, games, and fellowship will be provided. If the weather is nice, bring a swimsuit and towel for a dip in the pool. Please make sure to RSVP directly to Audra Darchea audra@newenglandchurch.org or via the Evite link.



INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE REMINDER

May 1st is the Intergenerational Service for all grade levels. No church school or youth classes will take place on this day.

Fifth and Sixth Graders read to PreK - second graders.



On March 20th fourteen 5th-12th students attended Rock Climbing trip to LifeTime Fitness in Warrenville.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

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

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*A Caring Church for
Thinking People*



*“God
Is Still
Speaking”*

Senior Minister: Brandon Perrine

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 Bridge Director: Ina Heup

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, Charlotte Adams

Custodian: John Hett

Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Bart Grometer

Moderator-elect: Josh Ream

Treasurer: Andy Sprau

Clerk: Ida Dunham