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## MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

It's now June and that means farmers' markets, summer vacations, a much-needed break from school, and a well-deserved season of rest for our beloved Chancel Choir. Speaking of the Chancel Choir—they're wonderful! What a joy it has been to share worship leadership with such talented and dedicated musicians! And Ina, we are so fortunate to be blessed with her continued sharing of talents as Bridge Director. If you are reading this, Chancel Choir, thank you all!

Just because we're moving into vacation mode, however, does not mean that New England Church will be on vacation—quite the opposite! With the month of June comes a host of exciting opportunities to engage as a congregation and wider community. Beginning with Pentecost on June 5<sup>th</sup>, monthly outdoor worship returns to the Celebration Garden south of our building. These communion services will recur on the first Sunday of July and August and will be followed by a time of fellowship featuring seasonal treats.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, New England Church will host a multi-congregation Pride breakfast and worship service. We're excited to be welcoming Wesley United Methodist Church (making and serving breakfast) and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva to join us as we eat, rally, worship, and walk to the parade grounds.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, a group of New Englanders will be heading to the Aurora Juneteenth Celebration at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. This celebration of emancipation features African American history, storytelling, poetry, vendors, talent show, face painting, games and more.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, our new Director of Education Ministries, Desiree Guzman, will kick off "Summer in the Garden," our children's ministry summer program. This exciting 10-week program will have our kiddos outside the building during Church School time learning music with ukuleles and percussion instruments, planting and tending seeds, making crafts, and learning about the biblical themes of planting and growing. It's going to be so much fun!

In addition to these community events, the Board of Missions collection for Mutual Ground continues, boards and committees are actively meeting and serving, and weekly worship opportunities at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. are offered. It's far from a vacation, but it's also far from "business as usual" at New England Church!

Wherever your times and travels take you this summer, we hope that you'll continue to make space for caring community with your church family.

Summer blessings,

Brandon Perrine  
Senior Minister

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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.

## GIVING OUR FAITH FEET: 2022 PRIDE CELEBRATION

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. If you still have your 2018 NECC Pride shirt, you could wear that again this year. Purchased shirts will be passed out on Sunday, June 5. If you have any questions, please talk to Kimberly Adams.



This year, New England Church is partnering with Wesley United Methodist Church and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva to offer a day of fun PRIDE activities for the whole family and to share in a profound witness to the unconditional welcome of our communities!

Here's an overview of what to expect:

- 8:30-10am - "Pride Cakes" pancake breakfast at NECC, Friendship Hall (cooked/served by Wesley UMC)
- 10:00-10:30am - Combined Community Worship Service, NECC Sanctuary
- 10:30-10:40am - Gather near the Hawthorne Door/Main Parking lot area.
- All of us can walk down to the Parade staging area together as a group.
- 10:00-3:00pm - commUNITY Market (Vendor Fair) on the Water Street Mall.

Please sign up (on our church website at the Sign Up Station) and plan to join us as we give our faith feet and show our solidarity with the Aurora LGBTQ+ community!

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraILPrideFestival> to get more details about other fun Pride events planned during the weekend, such as A Queer Comedy and Drag Show Experience at the Comedy Shrine on June 11, Saturday night.

**Reminder!**

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

# MUTUAL GROUND



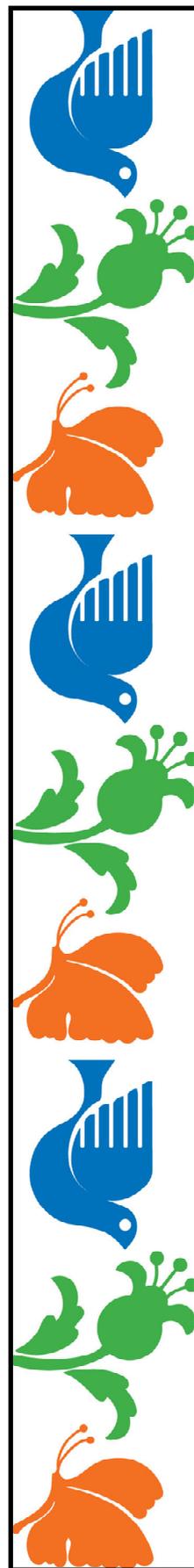
The Board of Missions invites you to be part of our yearly collection for Mutual Ground, a long time partner of New England Congregational church. Mutual Ground is a shelter meeting the needs of women survivors of emotional and/or physical violence and their children.

Currently, the organization has a very high need for gasoline cards (\$20.00+), laundry detergent and Clorox wipes. Donations of Pine Sol, Swifter Wet Jet refills, cane sugar, new and used jewelry, and snack food for kids (jello/pudding cups, goldfish, granola bars) are also welcome. Used clothing and shoes are not being accepted at this time. Bring your donations to church during the last two weeks of May and the first two weeks of June and leave them in the parlor.

Thank you to everyone who has done an excellent job of keeping their 2022 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](http://www.newenglandchurch.org), click Donate or the Vanco App. Thank you!



Join us on Sundays: June 5, July 2, and August 7 for an All-Ages Outdoor Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.! Bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on as we gather in the green space near our playground. The service will feature special music, a kid-friendly version of the Bible story, and Holy Communion. We hope you'll plan to attend.



WESLEY UMC AURORA PRESENTS

# PRIDE CAKES



**SUNDAY, JUNE 12 8:30 - 10 AM**  
**AT NEW ENGLAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**406 W. GALENA BLVD**

PAY WHAT YOU CAN! ALL PROCEEDS GO TO AURORA PRIDE  
ENJOY PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, WATER AND COFFEE

## From the Students of the Beloved Community Committee



Why do we avoid talking about race? Is it simply that we are awkward, don't want to offend anyone? Some say white people are too sensitive. Some say black people are too sensitive.

One reason for discomfort, we learned at the *Cultural Immersion* seminar in May, is that we don't know enough about African American history and culture. The facilitators had us walking in the shallow end of that pool just enough to realize how many Black inventors, scientists, scholars and accomplished businesspeople have shaped our American culture. Our history books left them out.

Yet, even without knowing more, we can address everyday stereotypes. When you hear a racial trope in conversation, don't call the person out, we were told. Instead, Call them In. Accusation only triggers defensiveness. Instead, call them in, like this: "I'm sorry, I didn't get that. Can you explain what you meant?" It's not about the behavior, it's about its effect.

So much to learn. A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boy practiced and practiced learning the hardest song in his Violin Book 1. With each repeat, his mother would plop 1 more M&M into a bowl until it was full. When he finally played the song for the other children, the teacher said, "Mike makes it look easy, but it isn't." At New England we'll keep working at change until it looks easy.

Did you know the last of the slaves learned they were free 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation? It was June 19, 1865. That's what the holiday, Juneteenth, is all about. Join us at Aurora's fun celebration, Saturday, June 18. Either come to church and go together or meet us there at Dr. Martin Luther King Park, on Farnsworth and Grand Ave. See the Sunday Bulletin for info and sign-up.



Students of the Beloved Community committee members are planning an excursion into Chicago on July 10. Following the 10:00 am church service, we will meet at the "Park Supper Club", a black-owned restaurant in Garfield Park for lunch and then move on to the nearby DuSable Museum to explore black history in Chicago. Stay tuned for more details!!!

# Tiny Tidings

JUNE, 2022



## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- JUNE 5** Intergenerational Outdoor Service  
**JUNE 12** No Church School - Aurora Pride Parade following 10:00 service  
**JUNE 19** First Week of Summer in the Garden Children's Program. Story: The Marvelous Mustard Seed  
**JUNE 26** Summer in the Garden Children's Program. Story: The Parable of the Sower

## UKULELES ARE BACK!

Children who participate in our summer program will be given the opportunity to learn and practice "The Garden Song" with ukuleles and simple percussion instruments. We will share the song with the whole congregation in September.



## SUMMER IN THE GARDEN:

We invite all children PK - 5th grade to join us for Summer in the Garden beginning Sunday June 19th and running weekly during our 10:00 service through Sunday August 21st. Children will start in the sanctuary with parents as usual, but after dismissal we will head outside to the playground area (weather permitting) to explore biblical themes of planting and growing with hands-on activities.



## SUMMER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES:

We need volunteers each week to make summer great. Do you love to read to kids? Volunteer to be a guest reader. Do you have a love for gardening? Volunteer to help kids plant and take care of what we've planted. Do you love music or crafts? Volunteer to help with music time, or with a craft project. Or maybe you just like playing and being outside with kids. That's great too. You don't have to take on the whole class session or even teach the lesson if that's not your thing. Just come be part of this fun, creative program and support our amazing kids in the way that works best for you. If you are interested in volunteering to assist our staff, please contact Desiree [Guzman desiree@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:desiree@newenglandchurch.org).

# THANK YOU!

On May 15th our NECC church family gathered after church to honor and thank Audra Darché for her many years of service to our children and youth as the Director of Education Ministries. So many children and families have been blessed by Audra's leadership. We are so grateful for all she has done and can't wait to see what other exciting ways she will continue to make an impact at New England Church.



Last attendance raffle winner of the year

They Packed 37 Care Packages to be donated to Hesus House.



Winners of the large group Simon Says activity

# SUMMER FUN





# YOUTH TIDINGS



JUNE, 2022

## CONFIRMATION CORNER

Over the years our Confirmation program has had to change and adapt to meet different needs and different times. I am very excited to announce that next year our Senior Minister, Brandon Perrine, will take on a larger role in shaping and facilitating our program. Exact details are still being determined, but I have no doubt that our students will greatly benefit from Brandon's involvement. Watch for details to come about this exciting change!

## HIGH SCHOOL UP & COMING

Thank you to all the high school students that attended hangouts this year, we really did have a great time. We learned some great lessons and life applications and bonded during discussions and games. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in class in the fall. Good luck to all our graduates!!

## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

As the year comes to an end, it has been great getting to know the 5th and 6th graders back in the classroom! They are a great group of kids and I look forward to working with them in the fall.

The 5th and 6th graders have participated in leadership/service activities this year which included: the Friendship Hall Halloween Event, collections for A.D.O.P.T. animal shelter, bible games for bible Sunday, and the read-in for the preschool and kindergarten students. 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, they were able to relax and have fun playing games. Our classroom time allowed the students to bond and get to know one another. I am excited to see the growth in these students as they move to 6th and 7th grade! Another exciting year awaits!

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER** and see you all in the fall!



## **PRIDE** YOUTH PRIDE

On Sunday June 12th after a shortened 10:00 service, we invite students and their families to walk with us downtown Aurora and join a group representing New England Church in the Pride Parade. This is a great way to demonstrate to our community the welcoming, inclusive love of Jesus.

## BIG CONGRATS!!

What a joy it was to be back together in person for Confirmation this school year! And what a joy to welcome Will Klish, Olivia Koepke, and Luke Swindle as Confirmands and young adult members of our New England Church family on Confirmation Sunday, May 22nd.



August 21st  
Back to School  
Swim Party  
1-4PM



High School youth celebrate *Mother's Day* with their moms.



## YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ART SHOW



## OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

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

New England  
Congregational Church  
UCC

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Email:  
[office@newengland  
church.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)

*A Caring Church for  
Thinking People*

 *“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”*

*Senior Minister:* Brandon Perrine  
*Office Administrator:* Shelley Lund  
*Director of Education Ministries:* Desiree Guzman  
*5th & 6th Grade Education:* Kathy Kokkinos  
*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

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*Moderator:* Bart Grometer  
*Moderator-elect:* Josh Ream  
*Treasurer:* Andy Sprau  
*Clerk:* Ida Dunham