

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 Children’s Ministries: Desiree Guzman
Chancel Choir Director: Paul Laprade
Organist: Marsha Foxgrover
Assistant Organist: Marilyn Parolini
Handbell Director: Cathy Canfield-Jepson
Director of Community Life: Kimberly Adams
Wedding Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Attendants: Jenni Moses, Charlotte Adams
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Josh Ream
Moderator-elect: Heather Azem
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Ida Dunham



TIDINGS
Volume 94, Number 6
June 1, 2023

MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful spring it’s been! I don’t remember a time when the grass was green this early or the flowers bloomed in such abundance. If you’re like me, you’ve taken advantage of the extra nice weather and your pots are planted, veggies are sprouted, and you’re ready to coast through summer – ha! I am pleased to report that my good friend, Mr. Groundhog, has returned to his beloved environs somewhere beneath our yard and is making occasional guest appearances!

It’s been a rich and wonderful season for New England Church as well. I was particularly delighted by the crowd of members, friends, and family who gathered to support the nine students who were confirmed here on May 7th. The students’ projects were an excellent reflection of the kind of thoughtfulness and intentionality we hope for from NECC’s youth. The beautiful reception following the service was a time of intergenerational learning and celebration. The whole morning was a beautiful expression of community!

While school is out, or will be soon, and vacations have been planned and anxiously awaited, the summer months at New England Church will continue to offer opportunities to connect with life-giving community. Beginning with worship on June 4th, monthly outdoor worship returns to the Celebration Garden south of our building. These communion services will recur on the first Sundays of July and August and will be followed by a time of fellowship featuring seasonal treats.

On June 11th, 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 back to our building as we eat, rally, worship, and walk to the parade grounds together.

On June 17th, 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.

In addition to these community events, the Board of Community Outreach collection for Mutual Ground continues, our boards and committees remain active and meeting regularly, and weekly worship opportunities at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. continue with an exciting slate of special music. Summer takes on a pace of its own, but we’re definitely not standing still at New England Church!

We hope you’ll plan to worship regularly with us when you’re in town and continue connecting with your faith community. Wherever summer takes you, we hope it will be a time of refreshment and renewal.

Summer blessings to all,

Brandon Perrine

Brandon Perrine
Senior Minister



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



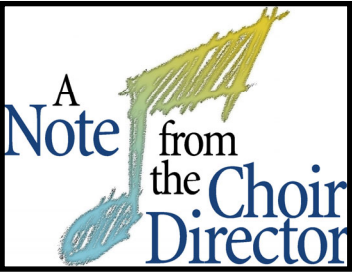
Help support the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry! Volunteers are needed to re-stock the shelves. NECC Volunteer Days are: The 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 3:00-4:00 pm. No Sign-up required- Please arrive on-time at 1110 Jericho Rd. Aurora.

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you! As I write this short contribution to Tidings, I am again filled with joy and gratitude for the gift of NECC, its music ministry, and the kind and warm welcome you have given to me and my family. It perhaps goes without saying, but we are very fortunate to have such a robust staff of musicians. The list is long: Cathy, Marsha, Marilyn, Arlene, Ina, Gary, our choir members, and so many more (including a certain pastor who plays the French horn). We are also blessed to have a great and talented staff behind the scenes of all you experience here...the list, again, is too long. I am grateful. And, of course, the congregation blesses one another with its warmth, its faith, and its grace. I have been driving past NECC for the past six years. Having been raised in New England, I always asked myself: “Why would a church in the Midwest call itself New England Congregational—why not Aurora Congregational or Prairie Congregational?” This church has been on my mind for some time! I finally attended church, incognito, on May 6, 2022, when Ina conducted the choir in a beautiful version of “The Lord Bless You and Keep You.” Brandon’s sermon was gripping, and I began to consider applying for the choir position that I had recently learned was open. I attended again in the next week and spent most of the time trying to hide from Kimberly Adams, who seems to surreptitiously attach a homing device to all new attendees. This time, I came with my sons, and they agreed that something special was going on at NECC. We were not searching for a choir position; we were searching for a church. It was then that I applied for the position of choir director—a process that Mike Imbroglio describes as ‘grueling and thorough.’ Nothing is perfect in leadership, and I have truly appreciated your grace when moments were less than perfect. Most of all, however, I thank you for this opportunity to be a part of the NECC family and for making my first year here a wonderful one!

In peace,

Paul

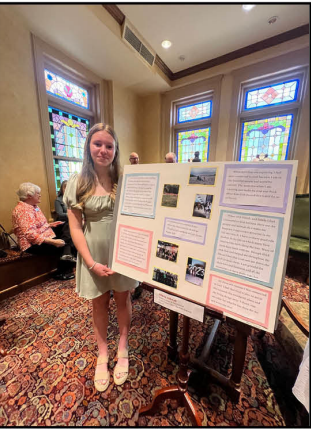
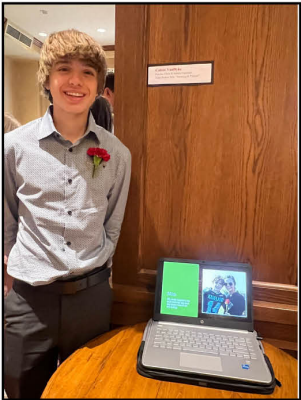


Articles for the next Tidings, which is a July/August combined issue, are due June 14. Thank you!



The “Actual” Easter Egg (tell us you’ve found the Easter Egg for your chance to win a prize)

CONFIRMATION PROJECTS





Youth Bell Choir plays in church
wearing their new Bell t-shirts.



In addition to the excellent book entitled *Through These Doors* authored in 2007 by Rev. Gary McCann, our church also benefits from a historical video produced by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley (CFFRV) in 2013.

This is a detailed summary of NECC in Aurora, IL; the history of church buildings to our present location at the corner of Galena and Chestnut; and the succession of 21 Senior

Ministers preceding our current Rev. Brandon Perrine.

This 41 minute video was authored by church member Sharon Stredde, President Emeritus 1985 – 2015 of the CFFRV, and includes organ music by Marilyn Parolini. You will find this video interesting, informative, and hopefully inspiring.

Go to New England Church at www.newenglandchurch.org.

On this Home Page, scroll down and click on "You Tube".

On the next screen, click on "Playlists".

On the next screen, click on "Our Church History".

You will then be connected to the CFFRV Video history of NECC.

ENJOY!

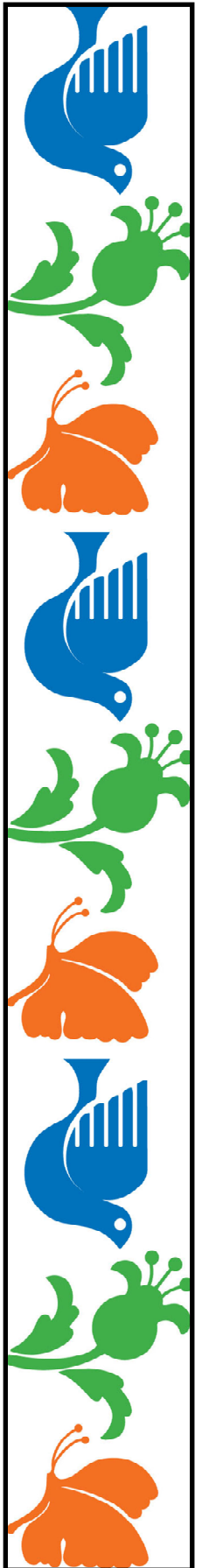
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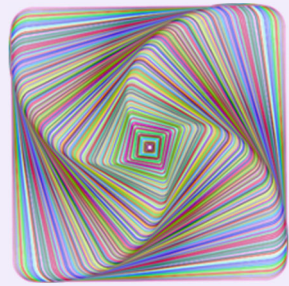


Thank you to everyone who has done an excellent job of keeping their 2023 pledge payments up-to-date! We would also like to remind you that while you're off vacationing this summer, pledge payments may be made by mail, or you can consider setting up automatic payments through the church's website, www.newenglandchurch.org, click on Donate or download the Vanco App. Thank you!

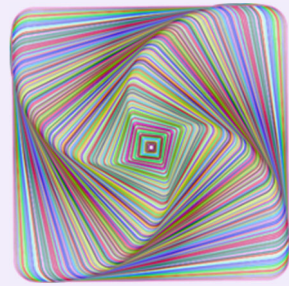


Join us on Sundays: June 4, July 2, and August 6 for an All-Ages Outdoor Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.! Bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on as we gather in the green space near our playground. The service will feature special music, a kid-friendly version of the Bible story, and Holy Communion. We hope you'll plan to attend.





VOLUNTEER VORTEX



Sponsored by the Board of Community Outreach

We at NECC, who desire to make the world a better place, will post opportunities to volunteer in this section of the Tidings every month. In June, Mutual Ground, one of our strategic partners is asking for our participation as described below:



The Board of Community Outreach is holding our annual donation drive to benefit Mutual Ground Aurora. Mutual Ground is a non-profit local organization with the mission "to empower individuals, families, and communities thereby eliminating domestic and sexual violence through education, awareness, and life changing services". The *new* household items collected through this donation drive will go directly to the women and children at Mutual Ground who are receiving emergency residential assistance as they seek safety from domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Baby hygiene products (powder, wash wipes, rash cream, lotion), Cell phones or tablets (new or used), Cleaning supplies, Clorox cleaning wipes, Diapers (all sizes, baby wipes), Dishwasher soap, Floor or bathroom cleaner, New bath towels (large) and wash cloths, Snack Foods for kids – healthy (Cheese-Its Goldfish, Granola Bars, Chips, etc. Fruit Juice boxes, Gift cards to Uber, Jewel, Meijer, Walmart, Home Depot Ace Hardware, Fast food restaurants Amazon, Best Buy, Walgreens, CVS, Gas Cards (\$10+ preferred), Hand soap, Headphones (all types, Bluetooth, wired etc.), New Pillows (HIGH NEED), Pillow case (standard) and fitted sheets (twin-XL) new, Paper towels, Quart or Gallon sized Ziplock Bags.

Financial contributions are always welcome. Your generosity helps us to serve those in need!

Donations and items due in the Marketplace no later than Sunday, June 4.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Join Mutual Ground for its 15th Annual "Walk for Hope" on Friday, June 9 from 5:30-8:30 pm at a **NEW location this year!** This year's event will take place at the beautiful Waubonsie Lake Park pavilion at 998 Kautz Rd. in Aurora! Join us for a wonderful evening in support of Mutual Ground's mission to provide education, awareness, and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and communities to end the cycle of domestic and sexual violence and the harms of substance use.

This year's reimagined family friendly event will feature a group 1-mile walk or the option to run the scenic 5K course around Waubonsie Lake! After the walk/run stay for our after-party featuring live music, food truck vendors, and impact displays. **As usual the event is completely free to attend!**

The Walk for Hope is one of Mutual Ground's biggest fundraisers of the year. This event not only allows us to continue to provide life changing services to those who need them the most, but it also brings hope to the individuals that we serve.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mutual Ground needs help to make this event a success. View the volunteer needs on their website Walk for Hope — Mutual Ground (<https://mutualground.org/walk-for-hope>) and sign up to donate your time to this event!

- Loading Van (1pm - 2pm)
- Set-up (2:30pm - 5pm)
- Check-in (5pm - 7pm)
- Race Marshals (5:30pm - 7:30pm)
- Breakdown (8pm - 9pm)

Volunteers are invited to stay for the After Party which will include live music and food truck vendors.



JUNE, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

COLIN HASTY: Graduating from Geneva High School. He plans to attend Kishwaukee College in the fall and play soccer there. He plans to attend a 4 year university after that and major in Finance and Accounting. Colin's parents are Kris Hasty and Rebecca Talavera.

ELLIOT LECHOCKI: Graduating from Kaneland High School. He will be attending Loyola University in Chicago and will be studying Secondary Education and History. Elliot's parents are Jeff and Christina Lechocki.

CHLOE DARCHÉ: Graduating from Metea Valley High School with honors and has been recognized as an Indian Prairie Scholar. She will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall and pursuing her degree in Physical Therapy. Chloe's parents are Rick and Audra Darché.



CHANGES COMING TO YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION:

New England Church is in the process of searching for a candidate to fill our new ten hour/week Director of Youth Ministry position. Our goal is for this new staff member to begin work on August 1st so they can be ready for the 2023-24 ministry year. We are very excited for the opportunity to have a single staff person with more dedicated hours to oversee Sunday morning youth group, Sunday evening Confirmation Gatherings (in partnership with Brandon) and other youth events and trips. Though Desiree will no longer be overseeing 6th-12th grade, she will definitely still work together with and support this new staff person in anyway that's helpful. We can't wait for our students to welcome our new Director in the fall. Confirmation will also look a little different going forward. Beginning next fall, we will transition to a two-year cohort model. This means that all students in 6th & 7th grade will be invited to be part of the cohort together. They will spend two years getting to know each other and discussing the big topics of faith. After two years, they will all be confirmed together in the spring of 2025 (at the end of 7th or 8th grade respectively.) Watch your email for more details in the fall.



Tiny Tidings

JUNE, 2023



SUMMER FOR KIDS AT NEW ENGLAND CHURCH:

Though budget considerations mean that there won't be Church School classes or Nursery care available for the summer, we still hope you'll make it a point to join us for worship whenever you are in town. Our very popular first Sunday outdoor worship services will be back again this year, and Desiree will provide a bin of fun outdoor activities for kids to use during these services. We will also be updating our activity bags/folders for kids to bring with them into the sanctuary when worship is indoors. And kids are welcome and encouraged to march with us in the PRIDE PARADE on Sunday June 11th and join our Students of the Beloved Community Committee on their outing to Aurora's Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday June 17th. (Two very important community events.) And why not bring Dad to church on Father's Day, June 18th? We wish all our kids a fun and relaxing summer and we look forward to the start of Church School and the reopening of the nursery on September 10th.

Have a good Summer!

CHURCH SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

This past year we've been creating and adapting our lessons from a Church School Curriculum called "A Joyful Path: An Inner Wisdom Series for Young Hearts and Minds." This curriculum is published by the Center for Progressive Christianity and is designed for ages 6-10, which works well for our multi-age classroom. Joyful Path uses the Bible, biographies, and sacred texts and wisdom stories from around the world to teach interdependence, self-awareness, respect for nature, stillness, forgiveness, prayer, integrity, racial inclusion, and experiencing God. This curriculum has been an affordable and flexible option for us, and we will continue to use it for 2023-24 and then, with feedback from parents, kids, volunteers, and staff, we will assess our needs and options going forward.

DESIREE GUZMAN'S SUMMER SCHEDULE:

Reminder: Because of the way we are shifting our staffing model in the Education Department to better meet our financial needs and to better align with our long term goals, the position of Children's Ministry Director will NOT be paid for any work in June or July. This means that Desiree will not have regular office hours during those two months and may not be able to respond quickly to emails that are sent to her church email address. If you have church related business that you need a quick answer to in the month of June or July, please contact Shelley or Brandon. Desiree will resume regular office hours beginning August 1st. Thanks!

KANE COUNTY COUGARS GAME



Join the Group for our Annual Kane County Cougars Baseball Game!

Friday, August 4; game starts at 6:30 pm, gates open at 5:30pm.

There will be a fireworks show after the game.

Tickets will be on sale in the Marketplace on July 16, 23, 30.

From the Students of the Beloved Community Committee

Two Fun Outings in June!

On June 11 we will walk in the Pride Parade, a rolling, marching party complete with bystander applause.

We will leave on foot after the 10:00 am service. The Marketplace has the details and the T-shirts. Bring your family and your smiles.



Then on June 17, a Saturday, we will party with our Black Aurora brethren at the Juneteenth Celebration at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Park (Farnsworth and Grand). We'll meet at church and attend as a group, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Last year we went too early while things were setting up. Now we know when to catch the most music, dancing and food. This annual event to honor the final emancipation of enslaved African Americans is a chance for us to show our solidarity with a community we want to understand more fully.

Come with the group on June 17 and bring your children. Besides having fun, our presence sends this solidarity message: "We are here to learn from you. We are humble in the presence of a people who have survived generations of treatment that we only barely imagine. Thank you for letting us partake in your food and your speeches and your joyful music."

Sign up for both events at the Marketplace, or on the newenglandchurch.org website.

