



**“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”**

New England Congregational Church-UCC  
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A Caring Church for Thinking People

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

## OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

**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**

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**Moderator: Josh Ream**

**Moderator-elect: Heather Azem**

**Treasurer: Andy Sprau**

**Clerk: Ida Dunham**

New England  
Congregational Church  
UCC  
Aurora, Illinois

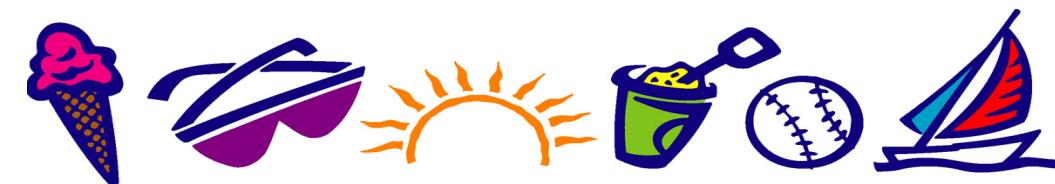


**TIDINGS**

Volume 94, Number 7-8

July/August 2023

## Musings



Dear Friends,

I saw my first lightening bug recently and it filled me with joy and memories of catching fireflies as a kid. Summer is magical: long days, sparkling nights, swimming, fishing, walking, traveling, reading – for fun! The brown patch of earth in the backyard is suddenly verdant green and overflowing the vegetables and berries grow wild in the woods and at the edges of roads. The scent of fragrant flowers and freshly mown grass fill the air. And there's a wonderful soundtrack of birds and bees, crickets, bullfrogs, and cicadas. It really is magical.

People are busier now. You are busy, I know, but I don't want you to miss the magic of summer completely. I don't want it to pass you by without at least a glimpse, a taste, a smell, an echo of the wonderful season in which we fleetingly find ourselves.

I'm sharing the following blessing for summer in hopes that summer will be a blessing for you, amidst all that occupies us. Words of Chicago-based author and playwright Beth Kander:

*For the lengthening of days, stretching sunshine far past its winter bedtime,  
For the bright blues and vibrant green and pops of color filling the warm world,  
For the unrelenting humidity that reminds us to savor the sweetness of cooler breezes,  
For all the sounds of summer – the jingling of ice cream trucks, joyful shouts of children splashing, lingering laughter over meals shared on patios, the shuddering clap of thunderstorms demonstrating something more powerful than us,  
For summer camps and vacations and time spent outside,  
For good AC when we're stuck indoors,  
For sun,  
For shade,  
For all these things and more, we thank You.  
And may God bless and keep the mosquitoes... far away from us.  
Amen.*

Summer blessings,

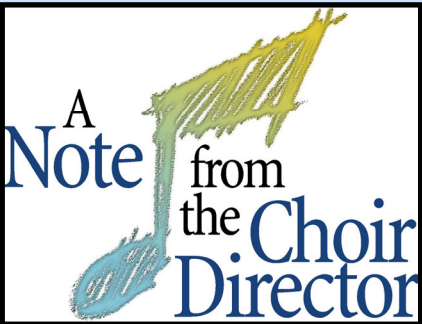
Brandon Perrine  
Senior Minister

<sup>1</sup>Beth Kander-Dauphin. "A Blessing for Summer," Myjewishlearning.com, June 7, 2018:  
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/2018/06/07/a-blessing-for-summer/>.

Music for Summer 2023

As I write this short contribution for the Tidings, I am still experiencing the angst of separation from our fine choir members. Summer is also a time when, nonetheless, we can enjoy the talents and offerings of our many wonderful musicians.

Although Marsha and I will contribute to the music of our outdoor services, and we will have many other wonderful musicians in store for our traditional services.



Here is a short summary of our plans:

- May 28 - Pastor Brandon on French horn, with Marsha Foxgrover
- June 4 - Outdoor service (Marsha and Paul)
- June 11 - Arlene and guests from other churches
- June 18 - Arlene, and Jim and Ina Heup
- June 25 -Arlene, and Jim Mamminga with Margaret Nickerson
- July 2 -Marsha and Paul (outdoor service)
- July 9- POP UP CHOIR, with Marsha on organ.
- July 16 -Steve and Ron play the bells! Marsha on organ.
- July 25 -Heather sings. Marsha on organ.
- July 30 -Ina Heup and Gary McCann with a special work, and Marsha
- August 6 -Marsha, and Paul...with a possible special guest
- August 13 -Marsha, with Ron and Victor on bells
- August 20 -Heather returns by popular demand, with Marsha
- August 27 -Marsha, with Jim and Ina
- September 3 -Marsha and Paul, with a possible special guest (outside)
- September 10 -NECC Chancel Choir is BACK!

This looks like an exciting variety of music for worship. I am curious...did you note that “Pop-Up Choir” is listed for July 9? Have you written it in your personal calendar? It is hard to keep the choral voices silent at NECC; we hope you will take that time to join us in your best summer wear.

Thanks, in advance, to all of these fine musicians for their support of liturgical music at NECC.

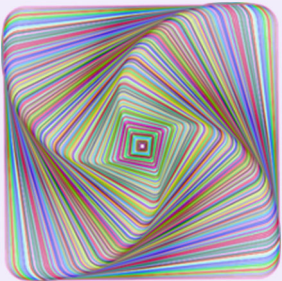
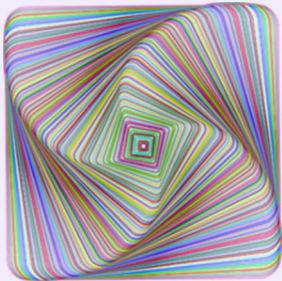
In peace,

Paul

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



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.



Are you looking for new and exciting volunteer opportunities? Check out what the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry has to offer - there's something for almost any day of the week! The mission of the AAIFP is to help end local hunger by ensuring everyone has enough access to enough nourishing food, thereby helping our overall community stay healthy and productive. They accomplish this through food distribution programs, where those in need select foods from the pantry or the pantry brings food to those who cannot come in person. There are opportunities to volunteer at the pantry or at off-site locations, called mobile pantries, or pop-up shops. Volunteers must be 14+.

**\*\*Monday Tuesday, & Thursday 8 am- 2 pm Food Distribution Days-** During this distribution, we have a need for volunteers to work in the market, warehouse, and outside. Our volunteers will be in position throughout the market directing our neighbors through their shopping journey. Volunteers will also be stocking grocery items from the refrigerator, freezer, and warehouse into the market area. Finally, there will be a team of volunteers working with traffic control and helping our neighbors load their groceries.

**\*\*Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** instead of our regular distribution we host an evening distribution. 11 am- 6 :30 pm.

**\*Wednesday 8 am- 12:30 pm OR volunteers can stay until 3:30 pm** -On this day of Service our crew of volunteers will pack food items for Pantry-to-Go delivery, and stock throughout the market & warehouse. Every 3rd Wednesday of each month we will also host a Pet Pantry. On this specific Wednesday, we will need more than usual volunteers.

**\*\*Friday 8 am- 12:30 pm OR volunteers can stay until 3:30 pm-** This is our Reset Day. We have a small crew of volunteers who will complete clerical work, packing food items, and cleaning throughout the facility.

**\*\*Pantry2Go Driver Wednesday & Friday 10 am- 11 am** -This is our grocery delivery program which occurs every Wednesday & Friday. A 25-pound box of groceries is delivered to individuals who are unable to come to the pantry & have requested this service. To receive this delivery households must be within a 10-mile radius of the Pantry. We ask all our volunteers to deliver to the lobby area of apartment buildings or the front door of individual homes. Respectfully we ask that you DO NOT deliver to the back or into a complex. Deliveries are ready for pick-up between 10- 10:30 am. All deliveries should be made by 11:30 am. There are opportunities to deliver as many boxes of groceries as you wish. This will depend on your willingness & vehicle space. When delivering multiple boxes, we try to keep them within a few blocks' radius.

**\*\*Mobile Pantry 2nd Monday of the month** -The pantry has recently added a pop-up at Anderson Farms Apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Volunteers will drive themselves in their own vehicles to the site. This pop-up is from 11 am - 1 pm. Some work will be outdoors, BUT a majority will be indoors. Activities include sorting items and helping the residents shop for the things they need.

To sign-up, go to <https://www.aurorafoodpantry.org/volunteer/> or contact Marcy Robles, Volunteer Coordinator at 630-692-3056 / [mrobles@aurorafoodpantry.org](mailto:mrobles@aurorafoodpantry.org).





# NECC Cougars Game



Join us at the Ballpark for a Kane County Cougar Summer Baseball Game!  
Friday, August 4; game starts at 6:30 pm, gates open at 5:30pm.

We have seats in Section III, on the third base line. There will be a beautiful fireworks show that evening and you and your children can run the bases after the game as well!

Tickets are \$8 each and you must sign up on or before July 30.

You can also purchase a discounted parking pass (one per car):  
General Parking Pass for \$6 (the regular cost for parking the day of will be \$10)  
Preferred Parking Pass for \$10 (the regular cost for parking the day of will be \$15)

You don't have to buy a parking pass through the church; you can just pay for parking at the regular rates the night of the game.

Tickets will be On-Sale in the Marketplace area at church on July 16, July 23, July 30. If you won't be at church in July, you can still go to the game; please email [kimberly@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@newenglandchurch.org) to arrange for an alternative way to get tickets.

Sign up online at [newenglandchurch.org](http://newenglandchurch.org) and click on the orange clipboard.

# THINK ABOUT JOINING THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH!



We currently have a vacancy on our board; we are looking for someone to join us in our work to serve our NECC community, our local community, and our greater church community.  
Please contact Lynn Gourley ([lynn gourley@hotmail.com](mailto:lynn gourley@hotmail.com)) or (Lois.imbrogno@yahoo.com), if you are interested or have questions.

# Now Rehearsing in Friendship Hall...

Founded in 2021 in Aurora, Illinois, City of Lights Theatre & Cabaret is a family business (awaiting 501C3 approval), entertaining Aurora and Chicagoland audiences with quality musical theatre selections in a relaxed atmosphere, featuring local, semi-professional artists. We are preparing for our next cabaret: *Turning Points*, which will be performed at Aurora's The Venue on July 15 and 22 at 3pm and 7pm each day.



*Turning Points* will present songs illustrating crisis moments in characters' lives and will feature many well-loved songs from musicals you would enjoy! Come hear "Get Me to the Church On Time" from *My Fair Lady*, "One Day More" from *Les Mis*, "Lullaby of Broadway" from *42nd Street*, "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked* and so many more - all sung by professional local artists with live combo accompaniment.

City of Lights Theatre & Cabaret provides a professional, yet refreshingly affordable musical experience to Fox Valley audiences through ticket sales, investments, and support from local businesses. They have performed at Two Brothers Roundhouse, Davenport's Piano Bar & Cabaret in Chicago, and Blackberry Farm Pavilion. In one year, the group produced three sold-out cabarets and will produce their first full-length musical in summer 2024.

Learn more about City of Lights Theatre & Cabaret at [cityoflightstheatre.org](http://cityoflightstheatre.org).

# A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!



In June, The Board of Community Outreach wrapped up their donation drive in support of Mutual Ground. They would like to thank each and every one of you for your incredible generosity and support! The response we received from our congregation was truly wonderful.

We were able to collect not one, but two full car loads of items- including household supplies, fresh new bedding, pillows, snacks, gift cards

and more. Mutual Ground was truly touched by the outpouring of support from our congregation.

Your donations have provided much needed assistance and hope to individuals and families in challenging circumstances. Sincere Thanks to all!!





# STUDENTS OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

It's time for family vacations and time to slow down at New England. On the other hand, 40 children from Aurora Township Youth Services will spend part of their Summer Camp at our church. Welcome to them.

Our Committee will retreat in July to plan the best ways we can serve the congregation with

**Our Mission:** To continue and expand the work of our church's abolitionist founders by fighting systemic injustice; breaking down walls of separation, advantage or exclusion based on race; and embracing the common humanity of all.

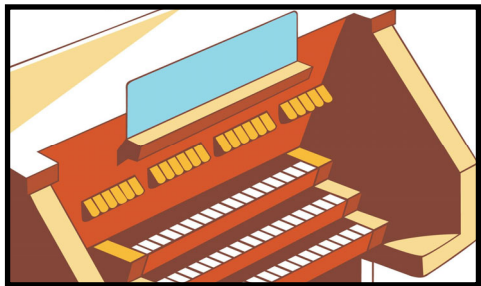
Breaking down walls means learning more about life on the other side. Learning leads to empathy. If your vacation includes any of these cities, here are some child-friendly museums to cue new thinking:

- Atlanta – Martin Luther King National Historic Park
- Houston - Buffalo Soldiers National Museum
- New York City - Lewis Latimer House and Museum
- Washington, DC - National Museum of African American History and Culture

There are 100's more choices out there. Wherever you go this summer, look for the next opportunity and write us a blurb. We'll put it on New England's Facebook page. Send to [kimberly@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@newenglandchurch.org)

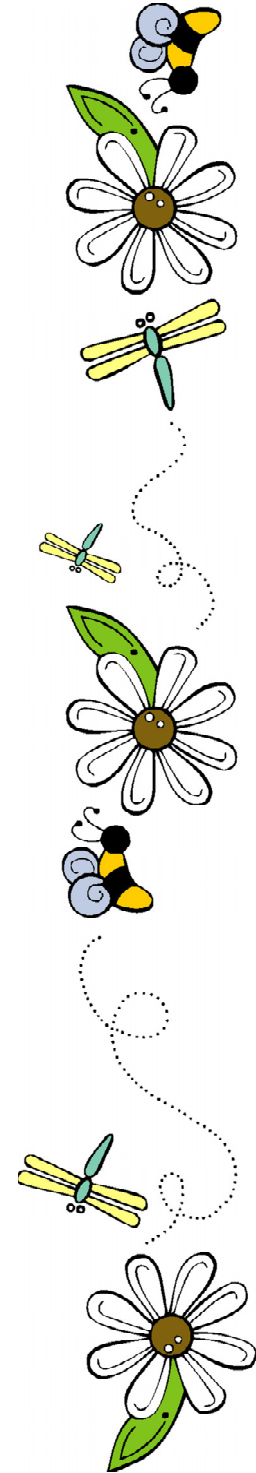


## ORGAN CONCERT



Participating in this year's Fox Valley American Guild of Organists "Bach and Beyond" at Marmion Abbey will be Marsha Foxgrover, our organist, recently recovering from a foot injury. She will play the first movement of the Concerto in a minor by Vivaldi, transcribed by J.S. Bach for organ.

The event is on Friday, July 28, 7:30 pm, at Marmion Abbey, 850 Butterfield Road, Aurora, 60502. The entrance road is just west of the main campus.



# Burial Plots Available

New England was given two burial plots and a bronze headstone in the River Hills Memorial Park in Batavia. River Hills has told us that the value of each burial site is \$1,050 and the bronze headstone's value is \$2,300, for a combined value of \$4,400. We continue to offer these items to members and friends of New England and we will accept any reasonable offer for the plots and headstone. If you have an interest or know someone who might, please contact the church office.



## NECC'S COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL



Join us Sunday, September 10, for an Outdoor Community Fall Festival Luncheon on the South Lawn (if raining, we will be in Friendship Hall), following our 10:00 am worship Service. We will provide the table service. Roasted chicken breasts, sloppy joes,

beverages, and delicious root beer floats will be provided by the Board of Community Outreach.

There will be a bounce house set up on the church lawn for the children to enjoy and fun glitter tattoos provided by Dots and Splashes. This year we will have NEW games and activities for all ages to enjoy.

We invite everyone to join the celebration and please bring a neighbor, a co-worker, and a friend along.

This event can't happen without your support! We do need your help with donations of side dishes, condiments, and desserts! Beginning August 1, you can sign up online to bring a food item on Sunday, September 10 by going to [newenglandchurch.org](http://newenglandchurch.org) and clicking on the orange clipboard.

You can also sign-up in person after church in the Marketplace area during the few Sundays leading up to our big event.

