

**“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

OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: *Brandon Perrine*
Office Administrator: *Shelley Lund*
Director of Children’s Ministries: *Desiree Guzman*
Director of Youth Ministries: *Becky Y’israel*
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: *Charlotte Adams,*
Thaise Rodriguez, Josely Hernandez
Custodian: *John Hett*
Building Maintenance: *Todd Jones*

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



TIDINGS

Volume 94, Number 11

November 1, 2023

MUSINGS



Dear Friends,

I’m grateful for you. I don’t think I’ve told you that enough. On October 8th, after our 8:30 a.m. worship service, members of the congregation came through the chapel doors with balloons, a clutch of cards, and grain-free mini cheese cakes for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I didn’t even know that it was Pastor Appreciation Sunday, but it was delightful. It felt great to be appreciated. So, I want to pay it forward – to let you know that I appreciate you.

I appreciate all the emails and phone calls of encouragement. I appreciate your warm and genuine smiles and kind words on Sundays. I appreciate the creativity, tenacity, and get-it-done spirit that you bring to board and committee meetings. I appreciate your willingness to try a new hymn, or a new way of distributing communion, or a new kind of program. I appreciate the way you make guests feel welcome and the way that you truly care when a long-timer has been absent for a week or two. I appreciate your generosity, your tireless dedication, and your contagious passion for this wonderful church. I am so very grateful for you – grateful to be in ministry with you.

As we enter this season of gratitude, I invite you to consider the people in your life for whom you are grateful. Then, make sure they know it. Pay gratitude forward.

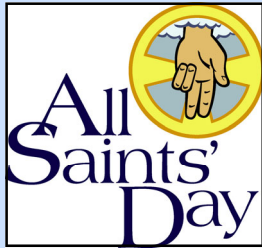
And as you consider your daily practice of gratitude, or the grace you’ll share around the Thanksgiving Table later this month, I commend this lovely little prayer by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

Blessings to you all.

Brandon

Brandon Perrine
Senior Minister



On Sunday, November 5 at both the 8:30 and 10:00 am services, we will remember those of our church family who have gone before us, calling special attention to those who have died since our last All Saints' Day celebration.



The Giving Bus

The Giving Bus delivered over 60 pairs of new sneakers to Greenman and Hall Schools. A wagonful of school supplies was also delivered to Greenman. The staffs are grateful for the support, and children will walk through the halls with happy feet. A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated. We show we care when we reach out to our neighbors.



Are you interested in learning about opportunities at NECC?

Do you want to learn more about what our Committees and Boards do for our church and the role they play in our church's decisions?

Are you considering getting more involved but just "don't know where to start"?

NEW ENGLAND INVOLVEMENT FEST

November 12, 2023
11:00 - 12:00
Held in the Narthex



Members of the following boards, committees, and other opportunities will be on-hand to answer questions and provide information regarding their duties and responsibilities.

Board of Education Ministries
Board of Deacons
Board of Community Outreach
Board of Building & Grounds
Board of Stewardship

Board of Finance
Music Committee
Special Gifts Committee
Memorial Garden Committee
Social & Racial Justice Committee

During Stewardship Month, we will also be asking for interested volunteers to complete a card in the Stewardship Booklet that can be returned with your pledge. These cards will be given directly to the appropriate board, committee, or staff person for follow-up.

If you have any questions about how the Stewardship Booklet pledging or sign-up will work this year, please don't hesitate to contact one of the members of the Stewardship Committee.

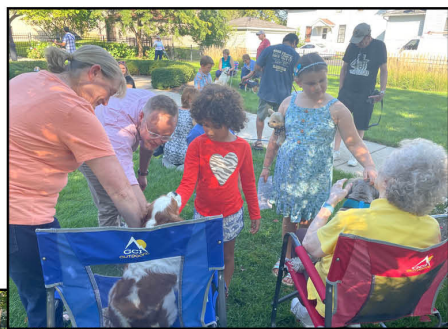
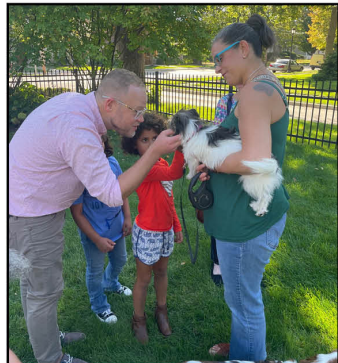
Bob Bridgman
Kathi Limoges

Maureen McKane
Julie Swindle

Cheryl Vonhoff
Scott Voris



Three Viking Cruises are being offered for travel in 2025: Panama Canal Ocean Cruise (Feb 17-27, 2025; France Bordeaux Wine River Cruise (Sept. 21-28, 2025); Christmas Market on the Rhine River (Dec. 2-9, 2025). If you are interested, contact Gary McCann(garymccann21@gmail.com). Space is limited so respond asap.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ON OCTOBER 1ST

YOUTH TIDINGS

NOVEMBER, 2022

YOUTH CALENDAR

- Nov 5TH** Intergenerational Service/Joy Ringers Youth Bell Choir/ Confirmation/ Cookie Walk Volunteer Sign-Up
- Nov 12TH** Youth Group @ 10:00am/ Involvement Festival
- Nov. 19TH** Youth Group @ 10:00am
- Nov 26TH** Youth Group @ 10:00am/Ornament Workshop

CONFIRMATION EVENING GATHERINGS SUNDAY NOV 5TH:

Join us for Confirmation on Sunday, Nov 5th and on the 1st Sunday of each following month until May 2024. This opportunity is for 7th and 8th graders to discover their faith and deepen their understanding. With the guidance of supportive leadership youth are encouraged to participate in various outings, service opportunities, and opportunities to build relationships with peers and mentors. Would you like more information on how to join, please contact Becky becky@newenglandchurch.org

Involvement Festival Sunday Nov 12th:

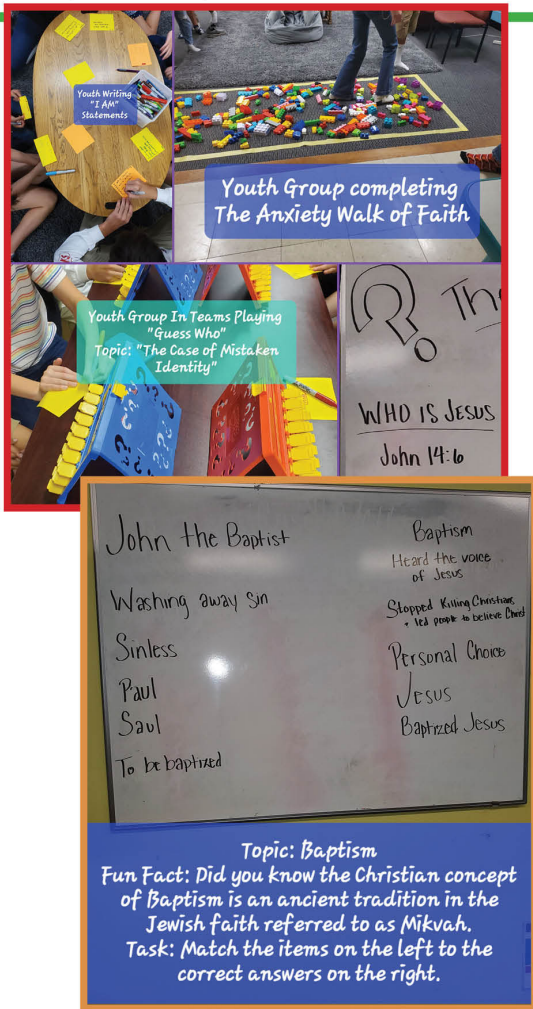
Want to learn about all the new directions NECC is going in? Have you ever wondered what can I get involved with this month? Well, we are offering an opportunity to share information regarding programs, events, activities, fundraisers, and so much more. This festival is for you to learn ways you can get involved. This is a great week to invite friends and neighbors!

ORNAMENT WORKSHOP SUNDAY, NOV 26TH:

Can you hear the sleigh bells ringing? Can you hear the carolers singing? It sounds like Christmas time is near. Join us for ornament making workshop. This a wonderful opportunity to get creative.

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

Wow have you heard the Good News!? Youth Group is in full motion. We are having conversations around our Faith and implementing skills that can help us throughout this life of trials and tribulations. Are we doing work? Yes! Do we have fun? It is actually a REQUIREMENT! We would love to openly welcome your contribution to the space. We could use adult volunteers to support our activities. If you are interested, please contact Becky becky@newenglandchurch.org Checkout some of the activities Youth Group participated in this past month!



Topic: Baptism
Fun Fact: Did you know the Christian concept of Baptism is an ancient tradition in the Jewish faith referred to as Mikvah.
Task: Match the items on the left to the correct answers on the right.

Cookie Walk

Do you like cookies? It's that time of year again! If you are interested in baking cookies for the event, please sign up in the Marketplace 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26 or contact Director of Youth Ministries Becky Yisrael at becky@newenglandchurch.org. Proceeds go to support our Youth Group. The annual Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, December 3 immediately following Hanging of the Greens in Friendship Hall. You can purchase a small box for \$5 or a large box for \$10.



NECC To Ring Bells For Salvation Army



NECC Men's Fellowship will ring bells for the Salvation Army once again (a twenty three year tradition!) this Christmas season. Please save the date of Tuesday, December 5, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Sign up includes one or two hour time slots. There will be online signup only at the Church website. Bells, buckets, and aprons will be at the ringing locations. Both men and women are invited to sign up for this annual tradition.

Jerry Roesner will notify you of your assigned locations by Sunday, December 3. In keeping with past tradition, we again assure moderate weather. And, of course, a delicious meal and other nourishment will follow. If you are not able to ring, we still invite you to join us for dinner and enjoy the fellowship of this giving season.

The Students of the Beloved Community

The Students of the Beloved Community invite you to celebrate the Christmas season through a global lens. Our sanctuary has long presented the nativity images and stories that reflect the European origins of most of our members. As we expand our viewpoint to include the wider world, throughout December we will display **World Nativities: Beyond Europe** in the Narthex. Do you have a nativity scene or artwork from your family's travels that fits this theme? We would like to display it. Please contact Kimberly Adams for more information, kimberly@newenglandchurch.org.



December 10, following 10:00 am service, we will launch the display with ethnic foods for coffee fellowship. If you loan us your treasure, we need to receive it by November 26. The church is safe, and we will return it intact by early January. Contact Kimberly.

Help support the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry!

Volunteers are needed to re-stock the shelves.

NECC Volunteer Days are:

The 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

From 3:00-4:00pm

No Sign-up required-

Please arrive at 1110 Jericho Rd. Aurora



Friday Night at the Movies-November 11 at 7:00 pm.

The Little Prince (2015)

In an animated film based upon the 1943 book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, a small boy from a tiny planet travels the universe seeking wisdom.

Presenter:
Diane Ellis



Winter Dinners Return In January!



On
Sunday,
December 3 at
10:00 am.

Join us as we
transform the
Sanctuary with
decorations for
Christmas and
celebrate the
First Sunday of
Advent.

If you would like to
participate by
placing one of the
decorations,
please stop in the
Narthex before
entering the
Sanctuary.

The signup period for 2024 Winter Dinners begins on Sunday, November 5. Everyone who would like to be part of this popular series of highly enjoyable NECC winter events is invited to participate. Couples and singles are welcome. Winter dinners have always been relaxed, informal occasions for getting better acquainted with other NECC folks, whether they are newcomers or longtime members. Past diners have appreciated the fellowship of gathering in a welcoming home for a hearty dinner and stimulating conversation. And the food is always great!



Here's how the dinners work:

They are scheduled for January, February and March. When people sign up they indicate if they wish to participate in one, two, or all three months of one dinner per month.

There will be as many dinners each month as are needed to accommodate everyone who wants to participate. Each dinner will consist of 8 – 10 randomly assigned people and will take place at the home of an NECC person who has volunteered to host. Every effort is made by planners to assign everyone different dinner partners each month.

Each host will contact the people in his/her group to find a date that works for everyone. All participants are expected to bring a dish to share: Main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert. The host will coordinate who brings what, and will also provide appetizers, bread, and beverages.

Look for the Winter Dinner signup table in the Marketplace beginning Sunday, November 5, between services and after the 10:00 am service. Someone will be there every Sunday through November 19. Other times you may contact Barbara King for information or to sign up: bhk430@att.net / 630-643-2263.

**POINSETTIAS
ORDER DEADLINE: November 19, 2023**

I would like to order _____ poinsettias through the church to be used as a chancel decoration during the Christmas holidays. At \$20.00 each, I enclose my check or cash for \$ _____. I will leave my poinsettia until after the December 24 worship service. **PLEASE PRINT**

To Remember: _____

Signed _____



KIDS AND PARENTS
ENJOYING MULTICULTURAL
PLAY GROUP

Tiny Tidings

NOVEMBER, 2023



CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Nov. 5 Intergenerational Service - Joy Ringers Youth Bell Choir. Kids & Youth will offer simple percussion for a special song with the Chancel Choir
- Nov. 12TH Lesson: The Lord's Prayer. Involvement Fest after the 10:00 Service
- Nov. 19TH Lesson: Living Joyfully
- Nov. 26TH PK - 12th Grade Christmas Ornament Workshop

ORNAMENT WORKSHOP:

On Sunday November 26th students from PK-12th grade are invited to join us for our Christmas Ornament Workshop during the 10:00 service. Kids PK-5th will start in the sanctuary as usual and be dismissed to make ornaments after Children's Time. Each child will get a chance to make something they can take home and something that will stay here to be hung on our church Christmas tree during our Hanging of the Greens Service. This is always a favorite Sunday for many kids. The more kids we have making beautiful ornaments, the more full and lovely our New England Tree will be this Christmas season. We hope you can join us!



KIDS' ZONE ACTIVE FUN:

This fall in KIDS' ZONE, we've been trying to offer hands-on activities that get our kids up and moving and learning through doing. We've used costumes to act out stories, played a giant board game on the floor with a giant dice, used plastic food to rank our favorites 1-6 on a number line, and gotten our hands wet in a water table full of shells and toy sea creatures; just to name a few. We've got a young, energetic group this year and we're doing our best to make sure each Sunday is fun, memorable, and meaningful! If you've gotten any feedback back from your kids about how they are enjoying KIDS' ZONE, I'd be happy to listen. You can contact me at desiree@newengland-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL PLAY GROUP DATES:

In November our play group for parents with children 0-5 will meet Friday November 3rd & 17th from 9:30-11:00AM. We are off November 10th because of a Half Day of School in West Aurora and we are off on November 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. This group is a great way to connect with other parents and children from a variety of cultural backgrounds. New England Church is hosting in partnership with World Relief and SPARK. Please spread the word!



Women's Circle of Friends

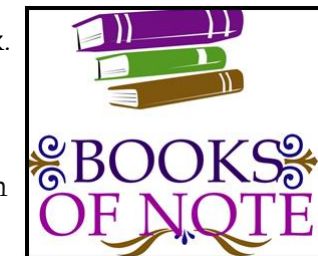


Back by popular demand! Come enjoy breakfast at New England Church with the Women's Circle of Friends, and then stay for GAMES! GAMES! and more GAMES! We will play some familiar games and some brand new ones. This event will take place on November 11 at 9:30 am. Please bring a dish to share and invite a friend to join in the fun! In the new year, we have exciting programs to look forward to, such as a bell concert, a visit by beekeepers, and sweet music in February to celebrate Valentine's Day. We will be accepting a good will offering at this meeting to help pay for these special programs. Please join us for good food and great fun! Don't forget to sign up online at the church's Signup Station or in the office.

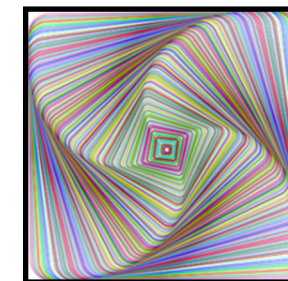
Books Of Note

November 21 on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Contact Sue Reimer for a copy of the book and the Zoom link. "For Everything a Season: Simple Musings on Living Well" by Phillip Gulley. Filled with a cast of lovable, quirky characters, punctuated with simple wonders, the everyday truths found in this book offer much needed clarity to our own befuddled world. No matter where you live, no matter what your season, come along for the journey.

When Philip Gulley began writing newsletter essays for the twelve members of his Quaker meeting in Indiana, he had no idea one of them would find its way to radio commentator Paul Harvey Jr. and be read on the air to 24 million people. Fourteen books later, with more than a million books in print, Gulley still entertains as well as inspires from his small-town front porch.



Volunteer Vortex



We, at NECC who desire to make the world a better place, continue to post volunteer opportunities in this section of the Tidings every month. However, this month, we want to hear from you. Do you have a relationship and/or contact with a community organization you support? Do you volunteer or have volunteered for any activities, fund raising, projects, etc. LET US KNOW if there are any upcoming events that you'd like us to publicize in the Volunteer Vortex section of the

Tidings along with information on our other strategic partners. We like to spread the word about worthy organizations in our community who offer opportunities for members of our congregation to volunteer our time and effort. Please contact Mike Imbrogno at m.imbrogno@comcast.net or H: 630-719-1629 or C: 630-220-6259. Thanks for joining us in making our community a better place to live.



Annual reports from board chairs are due in the church office by Friday, December 15. Please e-mail your report to shelley@newenglandchurch.org.

Thank you!



Don't forget to turn your clocks back the night of Saturday, November 4!