



MUSINGS



Dear Friends,

Easter comes early this year. While it's been an unusually mild winter with hints of an early spring, I doubt that the earth will have fully awoken from its seasonal slumber by Resurrection Sunday, March 31. That's okay, though, because we know it's coming. Easter will point to the reality of a resurrected earth, even if that resurrection is still a few weeks from happening.

While it takes entirely too long to be fully "sprung," spring is really good news, isn't it? I wonder, though, do people in Los Angeles or the tropics think that spring is good news? Sure, they contend with slightly cooler, slightly grayer weather in their winter months, but I somehow doubt that the swelling of magnolia and willow buds, the return of robins, the greening of grass, and gradual lengthening of days has the same effect there as it does here in the Midwest. I just don't think spring would be such good news if it weren't for winter – real, Midwest winter.

Easter is kind of like that too. Throughout the season of Lent, we try and slow down to make space for different priorities and personal reflection. We may join the adult study, or take up a spiritual discipline, or give something up. But the full weight of the season really doesn't hit for us until Maundy Thursday and the Service of Shadows. It's only when we sit at the table with Jesus for the last supper, travel with him to the garden, experience his trial, and watch his death from a distance, that Lent really clicks. And it's only when Lent really clicks, that Easter does too.

Light overtakes the shadows of Maundy Thursday, life erupts from the tomb, and hope blossoms in our very midst. Easter! But, if there were no shadows, no tomb, no death, Easter just wouldn't be such good news.

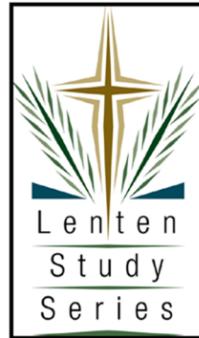
This year, if you've never done so (or even if you have), I hope you'll join us for our Maundy Thursday service of Shadows on March 28. Easter feels all the brighter after sitting in the shadows.

Blessings as you continue on the Lenten path,

Brandon Perrine
Senior Minister



ADULT LENTEN STUDY



Join us for "Finding God at the End of the World," a 5-week Lenten study. We'll be demystifying the literature of the Christian apocalyptic tradition, including the biblical *Revelation of John*, together on Wednesday evenings through March 20. We'll begin with dinner at 5:30 pm with the study to follow from 6:00-7:00 pm.

NECC POKER GAME NIGHT

Both Men and Women are welcome to participate on Friday, April 12 from 7:00-10:00pm in the church narthex. Organized Tournament. \$20 buy-in - bring cash that evening. BYOB and Potluck style snack foods. Sign up in the Marketplace on March 17, 24, or April 7. You can also sign up online at our website by clicking on the orange clipboard located on our Home page. Get your Poker Face ready - Don't miss this FUN evening.



THANK YOU!

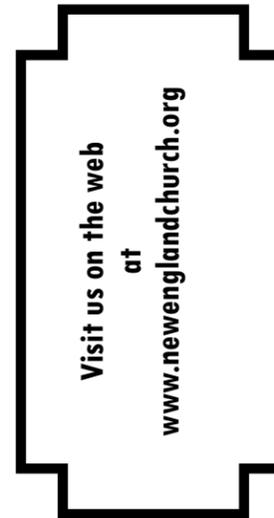


The Board of Community Outreach is grateful and thrilled to announce that \$1300 was donated at the annual meeting luncheon. We will be selecting backpacks and contacting CASA Kane County this month. We assembled and delivered over 30 Easter baskets to the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry in February, with the help of the Youth Group. None of this could be accomplished without the support of our generous congregation.

OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

*Senior Minister: Brandon Perrine
Church 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: Charlotte Adams,
Thaise Rodriguez, Josely Hernandez
Custodian: John Hett
Facilities Engineer: Todd Jones*

*Moderator: Heather Azem
Moderator-elect: Laura Pittman
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Ida Dunham*



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A Caring Church for Thinking People



Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact : shelley@newenglandchurch.org



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](http://InstantChurchDirectory.com).



Attention Gentlemen of New England Church...
Join us for a Guy's Night Out.
Thursday, April 25 at Fireside Grille,
49 Sugar Lane , Sugar Grove
6:00 pm -Social time
6:30 pm -Dinner ordered

We will have a private room, separate checks, and they have the following specials: *Thirsty Thursday* will be special prices on Craft Beers.

Sign up in church at the Marketplace table on April 7, 14, 21 or online at the church website by clicking on the orange clipboard located on our Home page.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or a co-worker - the more the merrier.

Students of the Beloved Community

Our committee collaborated with Friday Night at the Movies for a well-attended event during Black History month. We brought the Soul Food and Brian Kleemann showed the film, *Selma*. The crowd, larger than at last year's event, shared observations, memories and curiosity. The enthusiastic reception says we should do this again next year.



Look for Books of Note to keep us thinking about our relationship to race. Join them to discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* March 19 on Zoom at 7:00 pm. On April 16, the book will be *Waking Up White*. The more we share our thoughts, the more we understand and the more we question. Contact Sue Reimer for details.

Coming Attraction: Mavis Bates and Jon Koepke will share their professional expertise on the subject of Environmental Justice when a spring date is set. We all know waste from factories, landfills, smokestacks and more must go somewhere. Is it time we knew the impact of all that on our communities? Look for an announcement.

Want to support a Black-owned business? The barbeque wings and fried catfish at movie night came from Surf's Up Aurora, 481 Commons Dr, Unit A, Aurora, 60504. Think shrimp, fish, crab legs. Yum.



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 at 1110 Jericho Rd. Aurora.

Remember to set your clocks 1 hour ahead the evening of Saturday, March 9.



Time to Spring Ahead



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

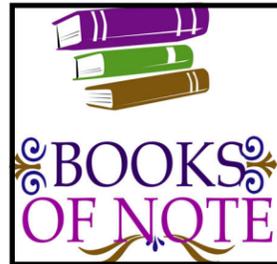


March 8 at 7:00 pm:
Roman Holiday (1953)
A princess spends a day in Rome, unaware that she is with a reporter who knows her true identity. Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck star in this classy, Oscar-winning romantic comedy. Presenter: Brian Kleemann

BOOKS OF NOTE

The Books of Note book discussion group is open to all. New members are welcome at any time. Attend via Zoom on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00- 8:00 pm. Read one book or all. It's up to you! Books are suggested by participants and voted on twice a year. Contact Sue Reimer to obtain a book and the Zoom link.

March 19: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature. Ross Ament to lead the discussion.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The Women's Circle of Friends will meet on Saturday morning at 9:30 am on March 9. Bring something "breakfasty" to share and bring a friend. Stay after breakfast and join in our annual SCRABBLE Tournament! Show off your word skills, and compete for prizes and bragging rights. Grand prize winner also gets a special trophy! Come join in the fun! Remember to sign up online or in the church office.

Youth Help with Project Shore



Chocolate Festival





YOUTH TIDINGS

MARCH, 2024

YOUTH EASTER SERVICE PROJECT:

Youth who are in 3rd-12th grade are invited to join us on March 10th from 11:00-12:30 to help make some special treats and surprises to share with our members and guests on Easter Sunday. A small snack will be provided for kids who stay to help and a few parent helpers would be greatly appreciated. If your child can stay and/or if you are willing to help, please contact desiree@newenglandchurch.org



YOUTH CALENDAR

- MARCH 3RD** Bible Sunday/Intergenerational Worship - Joy Ringers
- MARCH 10TH** Youth Group @ 10:00 - Youth Easter Service Project (3rd-12th Grade) @11:00
- MARCH 17TH** Youth Group @ 10:00 - ALL Ages St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- MARCH 24TH** Palm Sunday - Joy Ringers - Youth begin in the Sanctuary, until after Children's Time
- MARCH 31ST** Easter - (no KIDS' ZONE or Youth Group)

ALL-AGES ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION:

Join us at 11:15 on Sunday March 17th in the Friendship Hall for our All-ages St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Enjoy performances by the Keigher Academy of Irish Dance (including one of New England Church's own youth group members, Hayden Malloy) and theatrical storyteller, Terry Lynch, presenting: Patrick and the Saints of the Emerald Isle. Don't miss this fun intergenerational event.



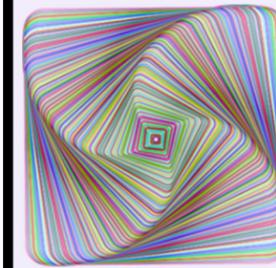
Treats Included!

PALM SUNDAY:

Even though Palm Sunday doesn't fall on our regular First Sunday schedule, Joy Ringers WILL play this week at the 10:00 service. Because so many of our youth participate in Joy Ringers, and to make sure that all our youth are included in some palm waving festivities on Palm Sunday, ALL YOUTH will begin in the sanctuary and will be dismissed to the youth room after Children's Time. This is just a one-time change. If you have any questions, please contact desiree@newenglandchurch.org

EASTER SUNDAY:

Any youth grades 6th-12th who plan to attend our 10:00 Easter Service, are invited to help serve treats at Coffee Fellowship. We need a few students to help us set-up the treat table at 9:15, and a few students who can help serve treats and drinks after the service. Watch your email for more details.



VOLUNTEER VORTEX



Sponsored by the Board of Community Outreach

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. This month, we are featuring two organizations: Maddie's Mitten March and the Aurora Food Pantry community baby shower.



A young girl named Maddie, while at school, started to collect used clothes and wanted to give them to folks who need them. Now, several years later she and her family have created a not-for-profit organization and collect used clothing with no tears or irreversible stains for children and adults such as gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, coats, pants, and boots. They have a bus dedicated to pick up and deliver these clothes. Check out their website: Maddie's Mitten March Donation | Maddie's Mitten March United States (mittenmobile.com).

Aurora Food Pantry Community Baby Shower for Healthy Moms and Babies

Starting in March thru April, the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry will be hosting a community wide event to collect essential items for local, at risk mothers and their babies.

Donated items include:

- Diapers; all sizes (sizes 3 -6 are most requested)
- Baby Wipes
- Infant Formula
- Feminine Pads,
- Adult Diapers (open packages accepted)

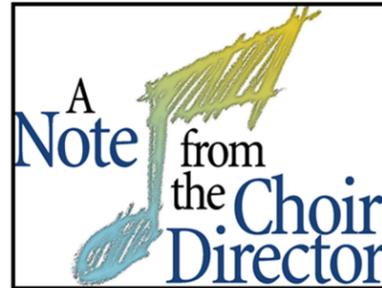


Marcy Robles
Volunteer Coordinator
1110 Jericho Road, Aurora IL 60506
(630) 692-3056

Make it a family activity!

BEING HEARD

Have you ever been a part of a discussion in which you try to offer a valuable or unique perspective but feel unheard? I have seen situations in which ideas and contributions are not considered simply because they are not given an opportunity to be voiced. In these situations, I wonder: What if these voices were a part of the discussion? What else could we have learned?



When celebrating Black History Month or Women's History Month, I am reminded that some voices were silent, silenced, or ignored in some circles.

As a musician who teaches a course in choral literature to graduate students, I find that these students' fascination with composers (and compositions) that were absent from textbooks I once read is a reflection of their desire to hear unfamiliar voices in our narrative. In some cases, they delight when hearing of a 'new composer' from the 18th century and revel when they discover beautiful works that were excluded from the canon due to gender-based discrimination, a lack of economic access, or changes in governmental support. In other cases, my students chuckle after an initial discovery of someone new to them and understand why the name and compositions have not stood the test of time—and I point out that it is the search and willingness to listen that is most valuable. Interestingly, some very familiar composers and canonic works do not appear as unique or essential as one might expect when compared to the beautiful contemporaneous pieces that were, at least for a time, forgotten or ignored. Ideas and music of value are best identified when all voices are allowed to contribute.

Many reasons underlie why someone is not heard—some social, some economic, some hegemonic in nature, and so forth. Yet, as children of God, we are all given a unique voice that seeks recognition and respect. It is hoped that when unfamiliar music and musicians find their way to our church's musical offerings, they provide a glimpse of other types of beauty that lie in our common humanity. These voices need to be heard, for they help us understand and connect with one another in this family of God.

In appreciation of our common journey,

Paul Laprade
Director, NECC Chancel Choir

Church Parking

Remember that there is overflow parking to the west of our church parking lot, behind the Law Office of Don Dickinson. A sign on the front lawn on Galena Blvd directs you to the lot.

Children in Kids Zone act out Moses and the Hebrew people enslaved in Egypt.



Parent - Child Playgroup Fridays 9:30-11



Tiny Tidings

MARCH, 2024

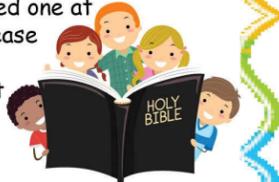


MARCH KIDS' ZONE CALENDAR

- MARCH 3RD** Bible Sunday/Intergenerational Worship - Joy Ringers
- MARCH 10TH** Lesson: Do Unto Others - Youth Easter Service Project (3rd-12th Grade)
- MARCH 17TH** Lesson: Expressing Gratitude - ALL Ages St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- MARCH 24TH** Lesson: Standing Tall - Palm Sunday
- MARCH 31ST** Easter - (no KIDS' ZONE or Youth Group)

BIBLE SUNDAY:

On Sunday March 3rd during the 10:00 service, we will present Bibles to our third graders and to any fourth or fifth graders who have not yet received one at New England Church. Please plan to join us to help celebrate this important day in the lives of our children.



ALL - AGES ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION:

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EASTER SUNDAY:

We are asking any kids in PK-5th who attend our 10:00 Easter Service, and are willing, to help us hand out special messages to the congregation as they leave the service on Easter Sunday. Interested kids can exit the sanctuary with Desiree Guzman during the last hymn to get instructions.



March 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE—SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Join us on March 28 at 7:00 pm for a service of Communion and Tenebrae. This special service will feature a variety of special music, readings, and the extinguishing of candles. While meditative, it is also interactive and appropriate for people of all ages. We hope you'll join us.

March 29

GOOD FRIDAY

Self-directed Communion and Meditation
11:00 am-1:00 pm in Johnson Chapel

March 31

EASTER MORNING SERVICES

We will have two Easter Morning service offerings on March 31. Our Chapel service at 8:30 am will have special music, piano-led hymns, and an abbreviated version of the second service. Our Sanctuary service at 10:00 am will feature the Chancel Choir, New England Carillon, pipe organ, brass and Children's Time. We hope you'll participate in one of these joy-filled Easter services this year.



**EASTER FLOWERS
ORDER DEADLINE: March 17, 2024**

I would like to order Easter flowers to be used as a chancel decoration on Easter Sunday. Anyone who donated a plant, may take one home after the 10:00 am service. *****PLEASE PRINT*****

Easter Flower _____ x \$20.00 each = _____

I have enclosed my check or cash for \$ _____

To Remember _____

Name _____