



**“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”**

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A Caring Church for Thinking People

## OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

**Senior Minister: Brandon Perrine**

**Church Administrator: Shelley Lund**

**Director of Children’s Ministries: Desiree Guzman**

**Director of Youth Ministries: Katie Jepson**

**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**

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**Moderator: Heather Azem**

**Moderator-elect: Laura Pittman**

**Treasurer: Andy Sprau**

**Clerk: Ida Dunham**

New England  
Congregational Church  
UCC  
Aurora, Illinois

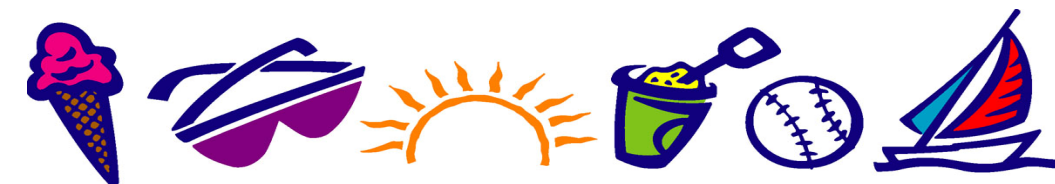


**TIDINGS**

Volume 95, Number 7-8

July/August 2024

## Musings



Dear Friends,

As June gives way to July and to summer in its fulness, I can honestly say that I’m missing the cicadas. I know that sounds like an odd admission. And I guess it is. But its true. I was looking forward to the “great emergence” of the double brood this year. I wrapped the young trees in my yard with tulle to protect them from the tiny incisions of teems of cicadas looking for places to lay their eggs. I checked my yard every morning, looking for signs of our subterranean visitors. Eventually, they began to emerge. Never in the numbers that I’d expected – those came to other suburbs – but enough that I didn’t feel like I completely missed out. I heard stories from friends of cicadas in their yards, and pockets, and purses...not here. But their rhythmic song echoed in the trees around my house and it felt special – the way it feels special when someone you rarely see comes for a week-long visit. Now they’re gone. And I miss them.

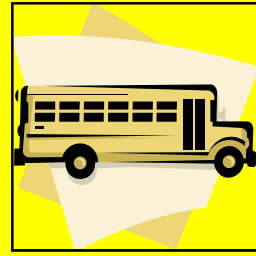
Whether it’s cicadas or vacations or holidays like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it’s easy to get caught up in the hype – to spend so much time planning and prepping and waiting and longing that when the special time finally arrives, it’s a disappointment or it’s simply over too fast. I don’t want that for you this summer. I don’t want the time to “fly”, as it were, and find you looking back and wondering where it went or wishing you’d spent it differently. The fact of the matter is, we get a few months of sunshine and green when kids are out of school and vacations don’t involve planning for the possibility of snow; when flowers and gardens are blooming and fruiting; when wearing shirtsleeves and flipflops isn’t underdressing; when ice cream and watermelon and sweet corn and garden-ripened tomatoes taste like heaven; when cicadas and crickets and bullfrogs provide the soundtrack. It’s just a few months, so enjoy every moment.

And when you’re in town for the weekend, spend an hour with us at New England Church. Paul has arranged for an excellent slate of special music; First Sunday Worship on the South Lawn has returned and so have the yummy seasonal treats; and your friends and neighbors all have stories and experiences of their own to share. It’s a good way to stay grounded and present to this special and all-too-short season of summer.

As you garden, travel, swim, picnic, grill, camp, spend time with your kids, and play, may you be blessed with the presence of mind and spirit to enjoy every beautiful moment. Soon enough, exoskeleton shells and memories will be all that’s left of summer. Don’t miss it!

Blessings,

Brandon Perrine  
Senior Minister



The Giving Bus will be returning to NECC ready to deliver shoes and school supplies in early fall.

Please consider picking up some extra supplies when the back-to-school sales start. A list of supplies will be posted on the bulletin board.



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.

## Students of the Beloved Community

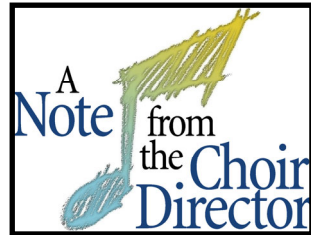
Summer heat brings multi-cultural ways to cool off in downtown Aurora. You can find family-friendly restaurants to try Bolivian, Costa Rican or Mexican foods. On First Fridays, starting at 5:00 pm are food trucks as well. Then there is the music. Try strolling on the weekends and follow your ears.

Aurora is alive with faces and laughter from every ethnicity and race. Did you know 52% of us are something other than white?

We had fun at the Juneteenth celebration, where children played in water jets, dancers reveled on stage and everyone ate Bar-B-Q or other treats.

The Mahogany Tour of Bronzeville was particularly memorable, a fun way to learn more. Kudos to the committee that made New England's part in Pride Parade a success.

The Beloved Community Committee is planning ways to hear from you when summer is over. Think about what you want to see in New England's future when it comes to diversity. We want to know.



"When is the POP-UP CHOIR?" This seems to be the question most frequently offered to me this summer.

I am not sure if vacations will make this endeavor difficult, but try we will! We will be holding our 2024 Summer Pop-Up Choir on Sunday, August 11, with our usual 9:15 am gathering and rehearsal, with

yours truly on the piano. This will be a simple but lovely piece, in two parts. Your family, relatives, neighbors, and even casual acquaintances are invited to join us, as we welcome everyone. Please write this date in your calendar! NECC is blessed to have so many wonderful musicians in our congregation. Here is a list of some of the members of our church who will offer a ministry of music for the remainder of Summer 2024.

### JULY

- 7: Outdoor worship with Ron and Victor Vavrinek, bells (hymn medley with piano)
- 14: Heather Azem, soprano AND Arlene will play but not for this piece
- 21: Ina Heup, soprano, and Gary McCann, piano
- 28 Cathy Canfield-Jepson and Kate Jepson, bells (What A Wonderful World and Galop)

### AUGUST

- 4: Outdoor worship with Ron Vavrinek, Steve Kierstead, and Kate Jepson, bells
- 11: Charles Martin, sax and our SUMMER POP-UP CHOIR
- 18: Jim Heup, guitar and vocals
- 25: Heather Azem, soprano

Your Music Director, Paul

## NECC Cougars Game



Join us for a night out at the Ballpark for a Kane County Cougar Summer Baseball Game! On Friday, August 2 the game starts at 6:30 pm, gates open at 5:30 pm. 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 \$9 each and you must sign up on or before July 28.

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 7, July 14, July 21, July 28. If you won't be at church in July, you can still go to the game; please email Kimberly to arrange for an alternative way to get tickets.

Sign up online at: [www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org)

Your tickets will be given to you when you buy them at church and parking passes (if you paid for one in advance) will be emailed to you, on July 30 or 31.

If you have any questions, please email Kimberly Adams at [kimberly@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@newenglandchurch.org).

## MUTUAL GROUND UPDATE



The Board of Community Outreach would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all members of the NECC congregation for their generous donations to the Mutual Ground collection drive that was held during April/May. We were able to donate two car loads of much needed household items for the local community members currently receiving services from Mutual Ground in Aurora. The staff members were blown away by the support from our church!



Join us on Sundays: July 7, and August 4 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.