



New England Congregational  
Church-UCC  
406 W. Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL. 60506  
Phone: 630.897.8721  
Fax: 630.897.8744  
Email: [office@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)  
*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*  
*Church Administrator: Shelley Lund*  
*Director of Children's Ministries: Desiree Guzman*  
*Director of Youth Ministries: Katie Jepson*  
*Chancel Choir Director: Paul Laprade*  
*Organist/Pianist: Daniel Segner*  
*Assistant Pianist: Marilyn Parolini*  
*Organist Emerita: Marsha Foxgrover*  
*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*

New England  
Congregational Church  
UCC  
Aurora, Illinois



***TIDINGS***

Volume 95, Number 10

October 1, 2024

## MUSINGS



Dear Friends,

You know how sometimes there's a flavor or a scent that just seems to signal the start of a new season or a special holiday? It could be the scent of baking cookies at Christmas or lilacs in late spring, or the taste of watermelon on the Fourth of July. For me, fall is signaled by the aroma and flavor of pumpkin spice coffee. I know that the coffee snobs among us will judge me for ever drinking flavored coffee. Honestly, I don't like flavored coffee and I always choose bold and rich dark roasts, prepared in French press, Moka pot, or as espresso...except for pumpkin spice. Cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, and allspice perfectly married to my otherwise favorite beverage in a combination that I just can't get enough of. It's the smell and savor of the fall season perfectly distilled into a hot, caffeinated cup of perfection.

At New England Church, though it's not the smell of pumpkin spice coffee that grounds us in fall. It's the smell of grass, and leaves, and dogs at our annual Blessing of the Animals; the musty and unmistakable odor of paper and books at Books of Note; the sight of bright colors and costumes at Trunk-or-Treat; annual outings for apple picking; children and choir and bells returned to the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; the distinctive smell of new shoes for the Giving Bus. These are the things that signal fall for us here. And it's a time of energy, change – certainly, but also momentum and progress.

Behind the scenes, Stewardship is preparing the annual pledge booklets; Deacons are exploring new strategies for welcoming guests; Finance is preparing the '25-'26 budget; confirmands are exploring other faith traditions; children and youth gather for Kids' Zone and Youth Group; the choirs prepare for Reformation and All Saints Sundays; Buildings and Grounds completes this year's projects; our boards and committees are living into our new strategic vision and implementing the action plan; and so much more. While it's not pumpkin spice coffee, changes are in the air! May we all experience it together.

Blessings and peace this fall,

*Brandon*

Brandon Perrine,  
Senior Minister

# BOARD GAME NIGHT



Our Board Game Night is happening on Saturday, November 16 from 6:30-9:00pm! Join us for an evening of fun board game playing with other adults in the church. This night will not be your average board game playing - you will enjoy a variety games that are competitive, cooperative, silly, skilled based, luck

based, and just plain fun to play. Come and learn some new games and make new friends!

\$5/person to cover event expenses. Games will be provided, tableware and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Please Bring a potluck-style appetizer to share and BYOB or wine. 6:30-7:00pm Eat/Socialize 7:00-9:00pm Game Time

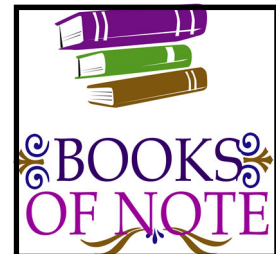
Prizes will be given out for various goals achieved during the evening. Sign up in the Marketplace or online at our church website.

## Blessing of the Animals

Blessing of the Animals- All creatures great and small are invited to join us on October 6 at 3:00 pm for a "Blessing of the Animals" service, held in New England's lovely garden on Downer Place. Refreshments for humans and pets will follow and all species are welcome!



## Books of Note



The Books of Note book discussion group is open to all. New members 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.

October 15: The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner.

A subversive and intoxicating novel of secrets, vengeance and the remarkable ways women can save each other despite the barrier of time. Set in eighteenth-century London, and the present.



OCTOBER, 2024

### Youth Calendar

- OCT. 6TH** Intergenerational Worship/Youth Helper Opportunities/Joy Ringers Performance  
Joy Ringers Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00AM  
Blessing of the Animals 3PM
- OCT. 13TH** Youth Group  
Joy Ringers Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00AM
- OCT. 20TH** Youth Group  
Joy Ringers Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:00AM  
Confirmation 5-7PM
- OCT. 27TH** Kids & Youth Halloween Costume Party/Trunk-or-Treat

### Alive Center

The Alive Center is a free drop-in center located at New England Church for kids ages 11-18. They are open M/W/F from 3:00-7PM. No registration is required. The center is adult supervised and teen-led. They provide choice-based activities like art, sports, games, snacks and more. This is a safe, fun space for students to connect with others, build self-esteem, and get off their screens. For more info contact [ady@alivecenter.org](mailto:ady@alivecenter.org)

### City of Lights Theatre & Cabaret

If you enjoyed the performances by members of the City of Lights Theatre & cabaret during our Fall Festival in September, consider supporting them by attending their Junior Halloween-themed Cabaret, "Howl at the MOON" on October 29th & 30th at Two Brothers Roundhouse. For more info or to purchase tickets visit [www.cityoflightstheatre.org](http://www.cityoflightstheatre.org)

### Confirmation

Confirmation is available to all 7th and 8th graders. Due to a scheduling conflict, our first CONFIRMATION NIGHT HAS CHANGED AND WILL NOW BE ON OCTOBER 20TH FROM 5-7 P.M. After this date, we will meet on the first Sunday of each month (starting Sunday, November 3rd). This year, Confirmation students will be participating in service projects and exploring various faiths by traveling to different places of worship within our community. In November, the Confirmation students will be traveling to the Islamic Center of Aurora. Expect more information on these experiences throughout the school year.

### Halloween Party & Trunk-or-Treat:

On Sunday, October 27th kids and youth of all ages are invited to come to church in costume and enjoy Halloween themed games and activities during the 10:00 service. After the service everyone is invited to stay for our 4th annual Trunk-or-Treat. The event will take place from 11:30 AM-12:00 PM in our church parking lot (shortly after the morning service). Children from NECC and from the community will be invited to trick-or-treat from trunk to trunk in our parking lot. To make this event possible, we're encouraging everyone to decorate your vehicle trunks, dress-up in your favorite costume and bring treats to pass out. Don't forget, the Golden Gourd Award will be given to the trunk with the most votes. Sign-up in the Marketplace via the Sign-up Genius link. If you have any questions you can contact Desiree Guzman, [desiree@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:desiree@newenglandchurch.org)





BOUNCE HOUSE

BALLOON  
ANIMALS



FIRST DAY OF YOUTH GROUPE



## NECC AAIFP Volunteer Days



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.

## 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 Shelley in the church office.

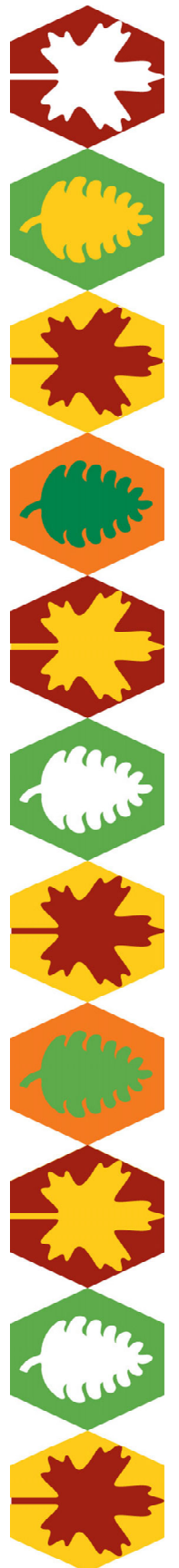


## NECC Poker Game Night



Both men and women are welcome to participate on Friday, October 18 from 7:00-10:00pm at Chestnut House.  
Organized Tournament, \$20 buy-in - bring cash that evening.  
Bring your own beverage and potluck style snack foods.

Sign up in the Marketplace October 6, or 13.  
You can also sign up online by going to the church website and clicking on the orange clipboard.  
Get your Poker Face ready - Don't miss this FUN evening.





# WOMEN’S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



To ALL the women in New England Church - please join us for breakfast at Mother's restaurant on Galena Blvd in Aurora. We are meeting on Saturday morning, October 12 at 9:30 am. Join us for food, fun and conversation. Please sign up online or in the church office. While you're at it - bring a friend!

# The Students of the Beloved Community

On October 1, 1952, Joe Black was the first African American pitcher to win a World Series game, Dodgers vs Yankees, 4-2. On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as Supreme Court Judge, another Black first. On October 14, 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr won the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest recipient ever. October 27, 1964, saw B. O. Davis, Jr become the first Black US Air Force general.



October is a good month to reflect on the achievements of Black Americans, mostly behind the scenes, absent in the history books many of us grew up with. From Joe Black to Dr. King, they were all told by society that they should aspire to be janitors and maids. Today we know better, but we do not necessarily know enough.

The 1950's and 60's saw a lot of African American firsts. It took a while to get to the seconds, thirds, etc. Today we expect to see Blacks as accountants, professors, Aldermen, police and military officers. So, why do we White folks still feel awkward in Black spaces? What is to be done? Our New England congregation is still predominantly White. With so much to be proud of in our church, may we keep asking ourselves the important questions.

# Fall Festival



Good Food



FACE PAINTING



FUN ACTIVITIES



# Tiny Tidings

OCTOBER, 2024



## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- OCT. 6TH Intergenerational Worship/Blessing of the Animals 3PM
- OCT. 13TH Lesson: Many Ways, Indigenous People
- OCT. 20TH Lesson: Asking Questions
- OCT. 27TH Kids & Youth Halloween Costume Party/ Trunk-or-Treat

## SPARK PLAY GROUP

Join us Fridays from 9:30-11:00 for a free play group for children ages 0-5. No registration required. Connect through play. Strengthen your relationship with your child. Get to know other parents. Support your child's path to kindergarten. This group is lead by the Fox Valley United Way's Early Childhood Collaboration and co-sponsored by World Relief and New England Church. If you have questions you can contact [desiree@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:desiree@newenglandchurch.org)

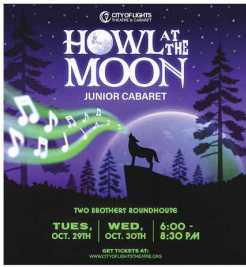
## ALIVE CENTER

The Alive Center is a free drop-in center located at New England Church for kids ages 11-18. They are open M/W/F from 3:00-7PM. No registration is required. The center is adult supervised and teen-led. They provide choice-based activities like art, sports, games, snacks and more. This is a safe, fun space for students to connect with others, build self-esteem, and get off their screens. For more info contact [ady@alivecenter.org](mailto:ady@alivecenter.org)



## CITY OF LIGHTS THEATRE & CABARET

If you enjoyed the performances by members of the City of Lights Theatre & cabaret during our Fall Festival in September, consider supporting them by attending their Junior Hall-oween-themed Cabaret, "Howl at the MOON" on October 29th & 30th at Two Brothers Roundhouse. For more info or to purchase tickets visit [www.cityoflightstheatre.org](http://www.cityoflightstheatre.org)



## HALLOWEEN PARTY & TRUNK-OR-TREAT:

On Sunday, October 27th kids and youth of all ages are invited to come to church in costume and enjoy Halloween themed games and activities during the 10:00 service. After the service everyone is invited to stay for our 4th annual Trunk-or-Treat. The event will take place from 11:30 AM-12:00 PM in our church parking lot (shortly after the morning service). Children from NECC and from the community will be invited to trick-or-treat from trunk to trunk in our parking lot. To make this event possible, we're encouraging everyone to decorate your vehicle trunks, dress-up in your favorite costume and bring treats to pass out. Don't forget, the Golden Gourd Award will be given to the trunk with the most votes. Sign-up in the Marketplace via the Sign-up Genius link. If you have any questions you can contact Desiree Guzman, [desiree@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:desiree@newenglandchurch.org)



## Friday Night at the Movies

October 11: The Power of the Dog (2021)  
Rancher Phil Burbank (Benedict Cumberbatch) inspires fear and awe. When his brother brings home a new wife and her son, Phil torments them while dealing with his own feelings. 12 Oscar nominations.  
Presenter: Maureen McKane



## Candlelight: Best Horror Movie Soundtracks Friday, October 18—6:00 pm and 8:15 pm

*Candlelight* concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Chicago. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Best Horror Movie Soundtracks at New England Congregational Church under the gentle glow of candlelight.

- "Tubular Bells" from The Exorcist – Mike Oldfield
- "Prelude" from Psycho – Bernard Herrmann
- Theme from A Nightmare on Elm Street – Charles Bernstein
- Theme from Halloween – John Carpenter
- The Nightmare Before Christmas Suite – Danny Elfman
- "Ave Satani" from The Omen – Jerry Goldsmith
- Theme from The Shining – Wendy Carlos
- "Hello Zepp" from Saw – Charlie Clouser
- "The Shape of Water" from The Shape of Water – Alexandre Desplat
- "Suspiria" from Suspiria – Goblin
- Theme from Beetlejuice – Danny Elfman
- "Time Warp" from The Rocky Horror Picture Show – Richard O'Brien and Richard Hartley
- "Transylvanian Lullaby" from Young Frankenstein
- "Main Title" from Sleepy Hollow – Danny Elfman
- "Lullaby" from Pan's Labyrinth – Javier Navarrete
- "Love" from Under the Skin – Mica Levi

Performers—Listeso String Quartet

For tickets, go to <https://feverup.com>

