

OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

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

New England  
Congregational Church  
UCC  
406 W. Galena Blvd.  
Aurora, IL. 60506  
Phone: 630.897.8721  
Fax: 630.897.8744  
Email:  
[office@newengland  
church.org](mailto:office@newenglandchurch.org)

A Caring Church for  
Thinking People

“God  
Is Still  
Speaking”

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  
Custodian: John Hett  
Facilities Engineer: Todd Jones

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Moderator: Laura Pittman  
Moderator-elect: Maureen McKane  
Treasurer: Andy Sprau  
Clerk: Sue Hard



TIDINGS

Volume 96, Number 6-8

Summer Edition 2025

MUSINGS



Dear Friends,

I don’t know about you, but the last couple of weeks of sunnier, warmer weather was exactly what I needed. I’m not sure I’ve ever been more ready for summer and all that it entails. As it peeks at us, just around the corner, I hope you’re ready too.

Perhaps you’re looking forward to traveling somewhere new or taking the family on a road trip. Or you’re planning to spend a lot of time on the golf course. Perhaps you’re a gardener and your happy place is in the backyard with your flowers or veggies. Or you’re just looking forward to slow evenings with something on the grill and a comfortable chair on the deck to watch as the lightening bugs come out. Whatever summer means to you, I hope you get to enjoy it.

I hope it’s grand!

In her wonderful poem “The Summer Day,” Mary Oliver reminds us that prayer is really about paying attention to the moment we’re in. She writes:

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?


Like the flowers and veggies in the garden or the long summer days, they can be gone before we know it. Best to pay attention to them now, to enjoy them now, to soak up all the summer we can now, to live all the life we can now. On the precipice of summer, it’s good to be reminded not to take even a moment of it for granted. And as you’re summering, I hope you’ll make services at New England Church part of your routine. Things slow down around here after Pride Celebration Sunday, but *Al Fresco* worship will take place the first Sunday of each month on the south lawn; our other services will be infused with special music by members and guests; and we’re planning a 2-part educational program for July, complete with summer potlucks.

Enjoy your summer and make sure to take at least a little time to simply “be idle and blessed.”

Brandon Perrine  
Senior Minister

<sup>1</sup> Mary Oliver. *Devotions*, New York: Penguin Books, 2020, pg. 316.





**Tidings Change:**  
Beginning in June 2025, The Tidings Newsletter will come out on a quarterly basis on June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1. Submissions are due to the Church Administrator on the first day of the preceding month (Ex: May 1 deadline for June 1 issue).



for our Annual Fall Festival.  
Please join us on Sunday, September 7 after the 10:00 am worship service, for our CELEBRATION!

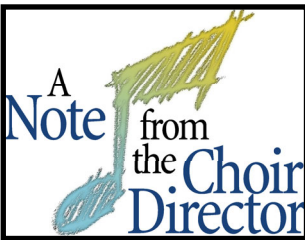
**Adult Education and Potluck:**  
*From New England to New England Church!*



Join us after worship on July 20 and 27 for a summer potluck and 2-part learning opportunity! We'll be exploring Congregationalism and tracing its roots from the New England Pilgrims to New England Church. We'll also learn how Congregational churches function independently and as part of the wider United Church of Christ. We hope you'll join us!

**SUMMER MUSIC**

Our NECC Summer Services are special times when we can celebrate the gifts and talents of our many members. These wonderful members of our congregation have volunteered their voices and instrumental abilities to support our liturgy. Have you been thinking about adding your name to this list? If so, contact me at paul@newenglandchurch.org --there is always room at the inn when it comes to music and liturgy!



**JUNE**

- June 1 Outside service with Paul
- June 8 Pride Sunday Service
- June 15 Marsha Foxgrover and Heather Azem
- June 22 Bell Quartet
- June 29 Jim Heup

**JULY**

- July 6 Outside Service with Daniel
- July 13 Chuck Martin and Marsha Foxgrover
- July 20 The Vavrinek Intergenerational Bell Duo
- July 27 Jim and Ina Heup

**AUGUST**

- August 3 Outside Service
- August 10 POP UP CHOIR!
- August 17 Ina Heup with Gary McCann, and Marsha Foxgrover
- August 24 Chuck Martin
- August 31 Heather Azem

**SEPTEMBER**

Wednesday, September 3 – Choir Rehearsals resume!  
Sunday, September 7 Chancel Choir returns!  
Thanks to everyone who has been a part of our ensembles and who offered their gifts in the past year.

Paul Laprade,  
Choir Director

**PRIDE CELEBRATION SUNDAY**



We invite you to march with our NECC Group in the 2025 Aurora Pride Parade on Sunday, June 8. If you have ordered a new NECC Pride T-shirt you can pick it up on June 1 after worship service.

**Pride Celebration Sunday:**

8:30 am: Enjoy a delicious Pride Breakfast in Friendship Hall, provided by our friends at Wesley United Methodist Church.

10:00 am: Participate in a very special Pride Celebration Worship Service in the Sanctuary. We will be joined by eight local churches as we celebrate Pride together.

10:30 am: Gather in the parking lot and walk down to the downtown parade area together. Parade step off time is noon.

Sign up online to join this fun parade marching group at [www.newenglandchurch.org](http://www.newenglandchurch.org). If you have questions, contact Kimberly Adams at [kimberly@newenglandchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@newenglandchurch.org).

*Al Fresco* Worship



The first Sunday of each month during the summer, join us on the south lawn for worship and seasonal treats! Bring a lawn chair and settle in under the big Maple for music, meditation, and communion. This year, dates are June 1, July 6, and August 3.

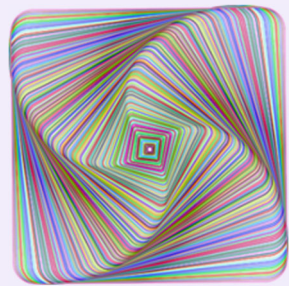
**From the Students of the Beloved Community Committee**

Are you up for major family fun on 20 acres of grass, with food, games, vendors, lots of music and dancers, not to mention BBQ trucks and more food? Help us honor our fellow Americans at Aurora's Juneteenth Celebration at MLK Jr. Park on June 14. If you don't know what this is all about, here is the history. Before Emancipation, people who were enslaved had a pretty ironic view of July 4<sup>th</sup>, a celebration of freedom. Whose freedom? Their descendants later picked a date to honor freedom from slavery. Two years after the Emancipation law was passed on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Texas, the last of the slaves were told they were free. Now July 4<sup>th</sup> marks America's independence and Juneteenth marks all Americans' freedom. We will meet at the church parking lot at 3:30 pm on June 14 and caravan together, or you can meet us at the park, 51 N. Farnsworth. Good time guaranteed.

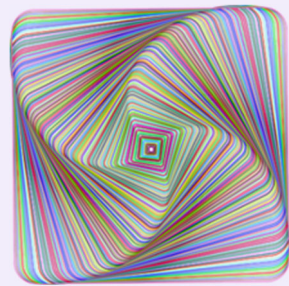


As for the rest of the summer, engage your generous spirit and have fun. We will come back in the fall and answer your questions about the Social and Racial Justice Committee. Thank you to all those who responded to our requests for feedback. The Listening Sessions and surveys were helpful to our desire to follow the congregation's lead.





## 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. If you have some time and would want to donate your energies to a worthy organization over the summer, we offer a number of options to you:

**Join Mutual Ground on June 7** at the beautiful Waubonsie Lake Park pavilion at 9:00 am for our 17<sup>th</sup> annual Walk For Hope! Lets come together to raise awareness, show support, and empower survivors and individuals in recovery. Together, we can create a community of hope and healing! Support the event by becoming a sponsor, making a donation, becoming a fundraiser, or recruiting a team to fundraise together!

**Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry**-There are regular volunteer opportunities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but the pantry also hosts “pop-up events” that provide one-off volunteer jobs as well as the NECC group that meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 3:00-4:00 pm to re-stock the shelves. No sign-up required. Please arrive at 1110 Jericho Rd. in Aurora.

**Kane Senior Council**-The needs facing our seniors is growing, and while we are meeting the needs of the seniors in Kane County, we cannot do it alone. We depend greatly on volunteers to help us achieve our mission. Please consider volunteering a small amount of your time in one of the many areas where we serve seniors. Below are a few of the ways you can volunteer with us:

Home Meal Delivery  
Well-Being Checks  
Pet Food Assistance  
Community Dining Volunteer  
Network Volunteer

For more information, please call us at 630-338-0999.

### **VOLUNTEERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT HESED HOUSE, HELPING US CARE FOR OUR GUESTS WHILE PROVIDING HOPE AND DIGNITY!**

As the are the second-largest homeless shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago, we rely on over 7,500 volunteers every year to help fill the unique needs and help care for all of our guests!

Here are some ways you can partner with our mission of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and giving people the chance to hope again!

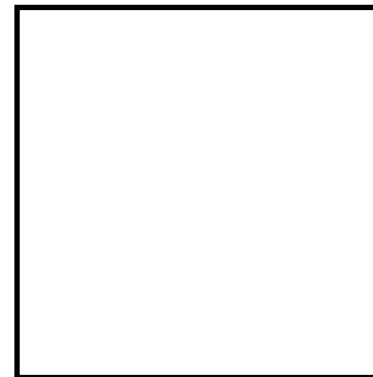
### **Can't come on-site with your group? Check out these mobile impact ideas:**

- Gratitude and Greetings program
- Brown Bag Lunch Initiative
- Host a “Hike for Hesed”

For more information, please email  
volunteer@hesedhouse.org



## FROM THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful NECC congregation members who so generously purchased items from the Mutual Ground wish list! Thanks to your kindness, the Board of Community Outreach was able to deliver two full carloads of much-needed supplies. These gifts will support not only the clients of Mutual Ground but also the dedicated staff as they continue their vital mission of serving our local community. Our donations were received with deep gratitude and joy — a true reflection of Christ's love in action.

Thank you for being a blessing!

Looking ahead, the Board of Community Outreach will be collecting school supplies again for Greenman and Hall schools. We will also be adding Alive, that shares our church space to serve young people in the neighborhood. When you see the store shelves begin to fill with endless rows of paper, colorful folders, crayons, and pencils all at sale prices, please consider picking up a few extras to donate. A list will be posted on the bulletin board. Happy summer to all!

### Lawn Clean-Up Days

We're calling all gardeners to assist with landscaping maintenance at New England Church this summer. Bring your snips, shears, and dandelion diggers and join us for 2-3 hours at 10:00 am on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work!

Join us for a night out at the ballpark for a Kane County Cougars Summer Baseball Game!

Friday, August; game starts at 6:30pm, 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 27.

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 6, July 13, July 20, July 27.

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.

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



Thank you to everyone who has done an excellent job of keeping their 2025 pledge payments up-to-date!

We would also like to remind you that while you're off vacationing this summer, pledge payments may be made by mail, or you can consider setting up automatic payments through the church's website, [newenglandchurch.org](http://newenglandchurch.org), click on Donate or download the Vanco App.