

Tree of Life Newsletter

First Congregational United Church of Christ
235 S. Kenilworth Avenue – Elmhurst, Illinois 60126



June & July 2018

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Partners in Christ's Service

Minister

Reverend Dr. Michael Daly, Sr.
Pastor

FROM OUR PASTOR

by Mike Daly

Back in 2009 a journalist by the name Rob Walker wanted to find out how powerful storytelling can be. And in order to do this, he went online and he bought 200 objects from eBay. The average price of the objects was about \$1. Next, he contacted 200 writers and authors and he asked them if they would like to be part of the significant study. They all agreed and each wrote an elaborate story about one of the objects. So now, Rob had 200 objects and he had 200 stories. He went back on eBay with all the 200 objects, but this time each had a story. Would there be a difference? Would there be a change? As you can imagine, there was a significant positive difference. For example, one of the objects, a "beautiful" porcelain horse head, he bought for 99 cents and resold with a story added for \$62.95. That is a slight increase of 6395%. So was this a one-off situation? It was not, because he bought the 200 objects for a total of \$129 and after reselling each with a story, he made \$8000.

Good story telling adds a kind of value to all facets of life. I remember working for my uncle's painting company one summer. At lunch, everyone quickly gathered around my uncle Larry. At first I thought everyone was "kissing up to the boss" but I soon realized they wanted to hear him tell stories. He was hilarious. And as he told one story after another about life on the farm or painting jobs gone horribly wrong, I could see how the levity helped us relax, cleared our minds, made the day go faster and seem more

Christian Education

Martha Mendoza, Minister of CE

Music

Jim Molina, Minister of Music

Church Office Staff

Margaret Bixler, Bookkeeper

Mary Anne Bixler, Admin. Assistant

Emeritus Minister

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger

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www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc

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enjoyable. Everyone on the crew, including me, couldn't wait for the next day's lunch to hear what Larry would say next.

This has me thinking about church and the many, many fantastic personal "memories" and "stories" we acquire in a community of faith. Interesting stories that shape and change our lives. As we talk about our church and invite friends, neighbors, and family to church, let us remember to keep sharing our personal connections to the story of God's love. They are stories others want to hear. In doing so, we enliven God's love and make it real. As Maya Angelou once said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

Faithfully,

Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

by Mike Hennel

Last Sunday's Installation Service for Pastor Mike Daly was a very well done, inspirational event. Many thanks to the following individuals who worked hard to ensure its success:

- Terry Hennen - for coordinating the service
- Karen Pachyn, Dorothy Hamby, and Don Haraf - for helping with the food and setup
- Reverends John Gibbon, Jan Davis and Suzy Daly - for their assistance during the service

It's a wonderful feeling to have the installation of our new minister behind us now and to look forward to FCC's continued growth and flourishing in the months and years to come under his guidance.

I hope all of you enjoyed your Memorial Day weekend. Let's be sure to keep the families of those who have lost their lives protecting us in our thoughts and prayers!

Mike Hennel

Rev. Daly's Installation

It was cloudy for Rev. Mike's big day and just a bit cool for the 20th of May but inside the temperature was friendly and warm and no one worried that there could be a storm.

There were many ministerial leaders there plus families and friends and many who care about this church and the good things we share, and what we've accomplished with planning and prayer.

We now have Rev. Daly - our minister today and from his picture on the cover of the bulletin Sunday you could almost predict it would be a fine day.

We can always count on an uplifting story with a message to guide us and lead us to glory, but you can also tell by the smile on his face he's a fun-loving man who is full of grace.

When the service was over, we had a fine brunch so well planned by so many, and I have a hunch everyone left satisfied from the start - and always, yes always, with a song in their heart.

Jean

5-20-18

NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE

by Allen Sloma and Bob Kanzler, Co-Chairs

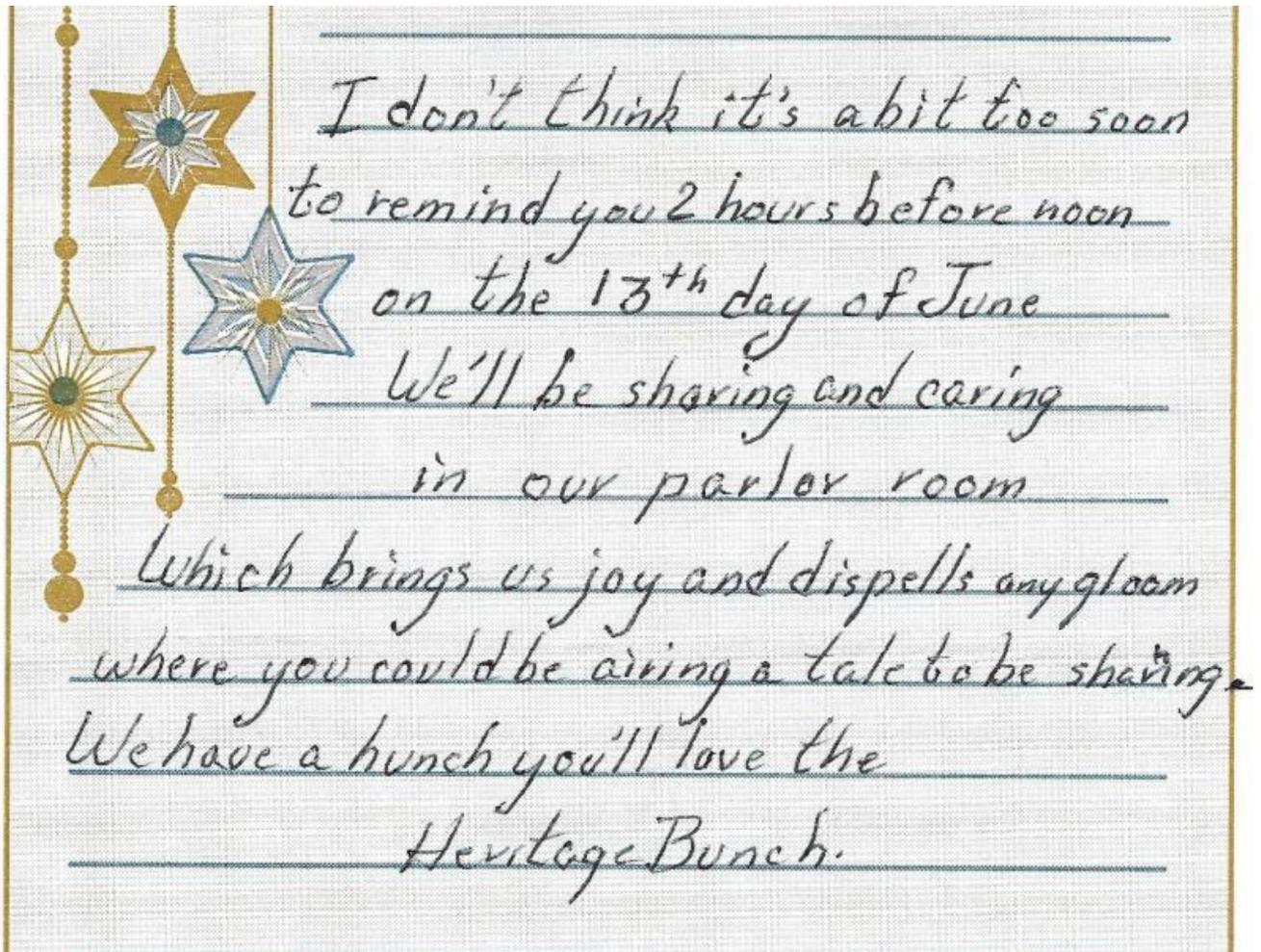
Altar Flowers

Please note that we have had many Sundays where folks have not signed up for flowers. Dedicating altar flowers is a wonderful way to celebrate and honor family and friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. On the Sundays where there is no one signed up, there will be no arrangements purchased.

It is our hope that you will extend a warm invitation to family and friends to join us on Sunday mornings for our 10:00 am worship.

HERITAGE BUNCH NEWS

by Jean Schildbach



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Summertime Sunday School
Kicks Off on Sunday, June 3, 2018**



This year's theme is Summer Road Trip. Together our children will follow the path of one of the most famous road trips in the Bible - the journey of God's people from slavery in Egypt, to their new home in the Promised Land.

Parents and grandparents, please mark your family calendar and have your children join us as we hit the road.

"Into your hands I commit my very life. Lord, set me free.
You are my faithful God." Psalm 31: 5(NIrV)



Mission Work Trip to the U.S. Island of Puerto Rico.

Over eight months after Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico in September of 2017, the island continues to struggle with rebuilding a destroyed electrical grid, homes, schools, hospitals, safe places for children, and its roads.

First Congregational of Elmhurst has been a mission partner with half a dozen ministries on the island of Puerto Rico since 2006. Our church has been sending youth and adults to work on a variety of projects throughout the northeast and southern communities (barrios) of the island. Dozens of our church youth and adults have spent time working with the people of Puerto Rico and learning about their rich culture.

Our church's 2018 work delegation departs on Saturday, June 23 and returns on June 30. We will be prepping them for their trip with a commissioning ceremony on Sunday, June 17 during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. We hope you will join us. Click here to learn more about our mission. <http://www.elmhurstucc.org/christian-education/youth-mission-work-trip/>.



Volunteers Needed!

There are so many ways you can help with our
All Church De Colores Program



- Display a De Colores yard sign on your lawn.
- Sign up to volunteer during the week of the program. There is a sign-up clipboard in the foyer or reach out to Martha Mendoza at marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net or 630-440-1187.
- Direct family and friends to our website to download registration forms [athttp://www.elmhurstucc.org/de-colores/](http://www.elmhurstucc.org/de-colores/)

We have gotten very few registrations and need your help to spread the word.



The Music Ministry is looking forward to a summer of continued service and worship. Though you may not see the choir as often in the loft, we will still be practicing all summer long! You may also find us in different areas on a Sunday morning singing in the pews with everyone; lending our voices to yours as we lift up a joyful sound!

Some members of the choir are looking forward to singing at the UCC Illinois Conference being held at Hammerschmidt Chapel in Elmhurst, June 8 and 9. We will be singing with a collective choir consisting of singers from many other churches. Once again, Jim Molina will be leading and coordinating the services along with Meg and Dave.

The Music Ministry would like to congratulate Parker Hicks, Carina Kanzler, Julia Morrow, and Erin Stone, as they all head off to college. We extend a deep and sincere heartfelt thank you for all their dedication to the choir over the many years. We know that great things await their future and we look forward to seeing them again over the holidays...and of course we look forward to them singing with us again whenever they are around.

If you or anyone you know of plays an instrument and would like to perform at any of our services, please contact Jim Molina at 630-865-6681. We look forward to a diverse musical experience over the summer.

Some things you may not know of but might be interested in:

Meg McGarry performs in lots of musical theatre productions and is usually a lead role. She is currently in the production, "She Loves Me" at the Village Theatre Guild in Glen Ellyn, until June 16. Feel free to chat with her after our service, if you are interested in seeing one of her shows. You will not be disappointed!

Dave Benziger is not only a phenomenal guitarist on Sunday mornings, but also on Friday and Saturday nights and many other days during the week too! You can catch Dave playing with several bands over the summer as he plays many festivals and other gigs! Feel free to ask him about any of his upcoming shows. They are lots of fun.

Jim Molina will be taking the "Westmont Joyful Voices Show Group" on tour this summer through the western suburbs. It is a vibrant group of more than 40 senior singers that really have a great time and act more like teenagers than seniors! This summer they will be singing a concert of patriotic music. If you are interested in singing with this group speak to Jim. If anyone is interested in piano lessons or vocal coaching, please speak to Jim about getting into his schedule this summer.

That's all for now. Once again we look forward to a summer filled with music glorifying God and bringing a feeling of peace, joy, and spirit!

GREEN TEAM

by Karen Pachyn, Chair, Green Team

Rain Didn't Dampen the Green Garden Fair

The weather for the morning of Saturday, May 12 was less than ideal for an outdoor garden fair, but we did not let the cold, damp weather deter us. A last minute decision to set up our plant sale and exhibitors in Fellowship Hall worked great. With the Clutterbug, our Green Team banner, and a working rain barrel exhibit (complete with running water pouring out a downspout) to guide the way, gardeners still found our fair. We had consistent traffic throughout the morning, making it worthwhile for our exhibitors, who all said they enjoyed it very much.

Including preorders, we sold 789 organic seedlings. Of course, we couldn't move the compost sale inside, so a few intrepid souls dressed warmly and stayed outside. They shoveled over 500 gallons of compost. All of this netted us, after expenses, \$1,633 in sales for the day of the fair. We sold additional seedlings and compost after the service the next day and continue to sell the leftover compost. It looks like we could hit at least \$1,800 when all is complete! This money will go into the Church's General Fund.

Equally, if not more importantly, with exhibitors like the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, the DuPage Monarch Project, Midwest Pesticide Action Center, and the Master Gardeners, we helped educate the public about living more sustainably. We received hardy congratulations for our work from Reverend Terry Gallagher, environmental justice minister, who stopped by to join us. It was a great effort by everyone. We had a large contingent of church members at the event and many who helped out ahead of time, helping with publicity, collecting buckets for compost and in so many other ways. Thanks to everyone who made our Green Garden Fair a huge success.

There's still compost available. If you would like some, bring over a container and help yourself. We're asking for a \$5 donation for a five gallon bucket and a \$15 donation for a 32 gallon garbage can. Provide cash or check to the church office and please make sure to indicate that the donation is for compost. Don't wait too long, as the pile will eventually need to be cleaned up.



Scenes from the Green Garden Fair



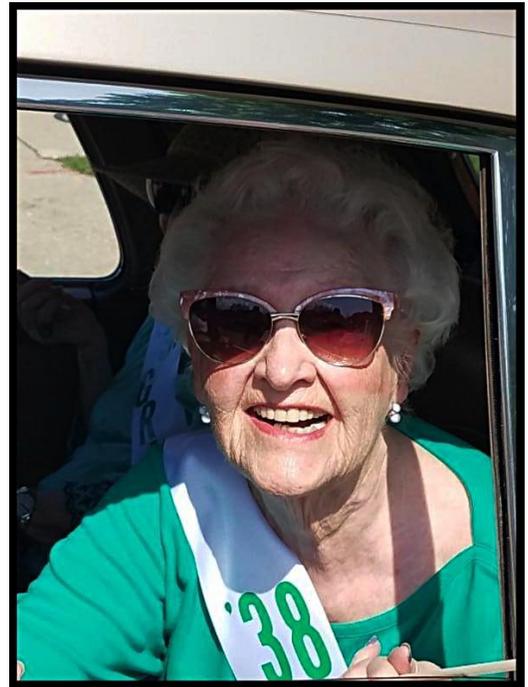
Planning Ahead - Field Trip to an Organic Farm



Mark your calendar for a late summer activity that's great for everyone, but especially for families with kids. On Saturday, August 25, the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition will be hosting a field trip to Elmhurst resident Bob Vierow's Farm, home to Bob's Fresh and Local CSA (Bob is the one who sells the fresh eggs at our Green Garden Fair). Bob uses crop rotation to control weeds and pests, purchases organic seed and grows all his produce using organic methods, never using chemical fertilizers, weed killers, or pesticides on any food he grows. We'll take a hayride out to the fields, stop to see the farm animals, and visit the greenhouse from 10:00 to noon. Bob's farm is in Dundee, in the Brunner Forest Preserve, so we can bring a picnic lunch and eat on the property after the tour. We're going to try to get a group together and car pool there. You won't want to miss this unique, and free, experience. To join in the fun RSVPs are required by August 18: ecoolcities@gmail.com; 630-426-9789.

Memorial Day Parade

"Our very own Jean Schildbach and Margaret Kerr were honored at the 100th Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade. Both graduated from York High School in 1938, so they were invited to ride in style behind the York Marching Band that kicked off the parade."





June

Kendall Kurzweil	1
Jack Hennel	12
River Pitlock	17
Claire Richter	20
Mason Schacht	23
Don Haraf	28
Mary Loss	29

July

Dave Ogdon	1
Nancy Walters	4
Paul Loss	7
Mary Swanson	8
Alex Stone	8
Jordan Marinez	11
John Hamby	11
Shirley Myers	13
Jeff Morrow	14
Janet Russell	16
Tammy Hicks	23
Mike Hennel	25
Nolan Dubois	26
Pheobe Daly	29
Becky Swanson	29



Peggy Bates

Lu Krass

Bert Robins

Matty Beuke	Amy Kritz	Kim Rudakas
Craig Bixler	Amy Lynch	Basia Rudy
Robert Cooper	Joan Lynch	Charlotte Schenk
Steve Culliton	Michael Magana	Allen Sloma
Wayne Dreyer	Maureen McCormick	Karen Sloma
Yvonne Dreyer	Dorothy Moncrieff	Mary Strock
Katherine Ehrenberger	Jim Mowers	Charles Sullivan
Earleen Graham	Sung Lee Moy	Mary Swanson
Bertha Hahn	Lori Myers	Emma Underwood
John Hampton	Tom Myers	Grace Watry & Family
Clare and Jean Jacobi	Dan Norton	Jeanne Warp
Lynn Johansen	Mike Robuicheau	

If you would like someone added to the prayer list contact Mary Anne Bixler at maryanne.elmhurstucc@yahoo.com or 630-832-2580. Thank you

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June	Event/Room	Time
3	Communion Sunday Worship	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
3	All Church Picnic	11:00 a.m.
7	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
10	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
12	Mission Board/Blue Room	7:00 P.M.
13	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
14	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
17	Sunday Worship Service Commissioning of the Summer Mission Work Trip Delegation	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
19	Trustees - Blue Room	6:00 p.m.
21	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

23	Summer Mission Trip Delegation Departs	
24	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
26	Council - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
27	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
28	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
30	Summer Mission Trip Delegation Returns	

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July	Event/Room	Time
1	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
4	Office Closed	
5	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
8	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
10	Missions - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
12	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
15	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
17	Trustees - Blue Room	6:00 P.M.
19	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
22	Sunday Worship Service with a Guest Minister	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
24	Council - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
26	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
29	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.



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