

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



August 2018

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Partners in Christ's Service

Minister

FROM OUR PASTOR

by Rev. Mike Daly

Three factors strongly predict growth in congregations of all sizes: (1) doing a good job of caring for the children and youth; (2) promoting high levels of participation in small groups, leadership roles, and financial giving; and (3) using intentional efforts to meet the needs of new members. The unmentioned "glue" to make that statement work is the faith development of adult members in the church and regular participation in the life and work of the church. In other words, relationship building through our togetherness. The mutual care of one another and the nurture of the spiritual is a vital and on-going part of our mission. We gather in worship, pray, reflect on our daily life experiences with biblical insights and wisdom, and form friendship bonds through fellowship. As William Willimon once said, "There's a lot we don't know about Christ. But one thing we know for sure is that he brought people together. Christ begins his ministry by assembling twelve disciples, people who had nothing in common with one another except that Christ had called them to walk with him. Jesus got into trouble for uniting despairing sinners and presumptuous saints. He saves us by assembling us, by putting us in a group, by teaching us to call those whom the world regard as

Rev. Dr. Michael Daly, Senior Pastor

Christian Education

Martha Mendoza, Minister of CE

Music

Jim Molina, Minister of Music

Church Office Staff

Margaret Bixler, Office Manager
Mary Anne Bixler, Admin. Assistant

Emeritus Minister

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger

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www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc

[For general information about our Boards and Committees, click here.](#)

strangers or enemies as "sister" and "brother." Anybody who says, "Love one another...bless those who persecute you...pray for your enemies" has got to be somebody prejudiced toward unity, reconciliation, union, communion, and community."

Faithfully,
Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

by Mike Hennel, Moderator

It's been a busy summer here at FCC with our mission trip to Puerto Rico, ongoing building maintenance and improvement projects, and redesign of the church's website - an evolving work in progress!

While the summer is more than half over, though, things certainly aren't slowing down. As a matter of fact, our DeColores program kicks off next week for teaching conversational Spanish to children (K-5). More than 65 youth have enrolled already (making it our largest program ever), and there's plenty of room for more. Simply visit <http://www.elmhurstucc.org/de-colores/> to sign up your kids for this exciting educational program.

I'd personally like to thank everyone who has contributed their time to these projects. For them (and all who read this) may the remainder of your summer be filled with love, laughter and plenty of sunshine!

Mike Hennel

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

by Jan Davis

There will be no Heritage Bunch meeting on Wednesday, August 8, due to the De Colores Program.

The next meeting will be August 22 in the church parlor from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A Special Sunday Worship August 12, 2018



Please mark your calendar and join us for our De Colores Sunday celebration worship.

Families with their De Colores campers will be joining us for morning praises.
There will be special singing and musical gifts shared.

Immediately after worship we are hosting an Ice Cream Social.

It is our hope that you, your family, and friends will be a part of this global experience.
This is a great Sunday to invite a friend to church.





**Youth "All Church Car Wash" Fundraiser
Sunday, August 19, 2018
9:00am-12:00pm**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
235 S. Kenilworth Ave. Elmhurst, IL
(on the Church Street side)**

Please support our Youth's effort to raise funds for our future Mission Work Trips.
For a donation, we will wash your car and provide interior detailing.

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors!
Your support is really needed.



Our youth will be leading us in worship
Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:00 a.m.

With grateful hearts, members
of this Summer's Mission Work Trip
to the US Island of Puerto Rico
will be sharing their experience.

Immediately after worship there is a
Tostada Luncheon. Please join us for this festive Sunday.

MUSIC

by: **Jim Molina**

Music Ministry

The summer has found the Music Ministry busy with all kinds of good things. We have begun a process of recording anthems in our acoustically sound sanctuary. As the songs are recorded, mixed, and mastered, they will become available on line for all to hear!

The choir has also begun working on music for an upcoming Christmas Concert. More details will follow at a later date.

We are sad to say goodbye to long time choir members, Jean Schildbach, and Bertha Hahn as they have stepped down from singing with the choir this year. Bert has sung with the choir since 1974 and Jean has sung with the choir since 1936.

We have been blessed to have their voices lift God's praises for the many years at First Congregational. We wish them well and as always, we look forward to their presence every Sunday as they still lend their beautiful voices in congregational singing.

We continue to thank Michelle Maiers (vocals) and Mary Grittani (bells) as they continue to provide their musical talents to our Sunday worship service.

We look forward to the fall season but for the moment we are enjoying the relaxing but still busy summer.

THE GREEN TEAM

by Karen Pachyn, Chair, Green Team

Field Trip to Bob's Fresh & Local CSA Farm

Saturday, August 25, 10:00 to noon
Brunner Forest Preserve Farm
18N681 Illinois Rt. 31
Dundee

Join the Green Team and the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition for a field trip to Elmhurst resident Bob Vierow's farm, home to Bob's Fresh and Local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). You will know Bob as the gentleman who has sold the free range eggs at our Green Garden Fair. Bob is opening his farm to us to demonstrate the organic methods he uses to grow the vegetables, fruits and herbs that he shares with his CSA members. And you'll get a chance to meet the hens who lay his delicious eggs. We'll take a hayride out to the fields, stop to see the farm animals, and visit the greenhouse. Bring a picnic lunch and eat on the property after the tour. This is a great event for families. It's FREE but Attendees must RSVP by August 18. ecoolcities@gmail.com; 630/426-9789 Let Karen Pachyn know if you'd like to carpool with someone.



MISSIONS

Dan Briggs, chair



synapse
HOUSE

Please attend the August 5th Sunday worship service to listen to the Mission Moment from Executive Director, Deborah Geisler of the SYNAPSE House located at 561 N. York Rd. Elmhurst, IL 60126. Synapse House is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ENGAGE, EMPOWER and EMPLOY individuals that are affected by brain injury and stroke. They will have samples of their wonderful scratch bakery goods from "Flour to Empower" in the parlor before and

after service. They will also have packaged baked goods available for you to purchase. All baked goods help fund their program.

We are further supporting this organization by collecting supplies from their "wish list" for the whole month of August. You can bring these items with you to church on Sunday or drop them off at the church office during the week. If you would prefer to make a donation, please make your check payable to SYNAPSE HOUSE. For more information check out their website at www.synapsehouse.org.

Wish List

Copy paper
Plain envelopes (letter size)
Labels (size 2x4)
Labels (address size)
Paper towels
Paper napkins
Packing tape
Single ply toilet paper
Bleach wipes
Laundry soap
Bleach
Liquid hand soap
Garbage bags kitchen size
White dishcloths
HP Ink 61
Dry erase markers
Sharpies
Paper clips
White card stock
Black 2 pocket folders
Post-Its
Gloves (non-powder) sizes M & L
Canned vegetables
Canned fruits
Chicken or vegetable broth
Tomato sauces
Pasta noodles
Powdered sugar
Sugar
Brown sugar
Baking soda
Baking powder
Flour
Semi-sweet chocolate chips (mini)
Postage stamps
Gift cards to Target, Office Depot or Jewel

Looking for a tasty treat? Go to www.flourtoempower.org to purchase now.

SAVE THE DATE! 7th Annual DuPage Human Race, Saturday, April 28th. Walk, run or make a donation for Synapse House! www.dupagehumanrace.org.



Annual 'Cue for a Cause coming September 2nd!

The registration deadline to compete in the annual 'Cue for a Cause, a barbecue competition benefitting the Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network is fast approaching. You must sign up by August 24. Teams will compete in rib, chicken, and sauce categories. Best combined score in all three will be named Grand Champion. The 'Cue is on September 2 in the lot at York and Vallette. For details, rules, and to register, visit the EWAN website at www.ewanet.org.



We are seeking volunteers for the 'Cue as well. Service hours are available for teens! If you would like to volunteer that day follow these links to Sign Up Genius: <http://signup.com/go/NHZDHFEM> for kids seeking service hours, or <http://signup.com/go/UuRJqrU> for adults who want to help out.

We hope everyone will come out and enjoy the food, music, and fun on the 2nd from 12 noon-8 pm. All proceeds will go towards helping Elmhurst neighbors in need.



Mission Ride

Please call Linda Donahue's cell phone at 630-564-5808 if you need a ride. You can also call the church office at 630-832-2580. Thank you.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



August

- 1 Chris Hamby
- 2 Luke Brigman
- 3 Beth Schacht
- 7 Bobbie Schultz
- 16 Erica Huntzinger
- 21 Terry Hennen

23	Barb Holtz
26	Carson Hicks
29	Jean Schildbach
29	Paul Myers
29	Mary Anne Bixler
31	Amelia Morrow



Peggy Bates	Clare and Jean Jacobi	Dan Norton
Matty Beuke	Lynn Johansen	Claire Richter
Craig Bixler	Lu Krass	Mike Robicheau
Robert Cooper	Amy Kritz	Bert Robins
Steve Culliton	Amy Lynch	Kim Rudakas
Wayne Dreyer	Joan Lynch	Basia Rudy
Yvonne Dreyer	Michael Magana	Charlotte Schenk
Katherine Ehrenberger	Maureen McCormick	Mary Strock
Jack Feldman	Dorothy Moncrieff	Jack Thoele
Earleen Graham	Jim Mowers	Emma Underwood
Susan Graybill	Sung Lee Moy	Grace Watry & Family
Bertha Hahn	Lori Myers	Jeanne Warp
John Hampton	Shirley Myers	Juliet Warren
Roberta Hilliger	Tom Myers	

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!

August	Event/Room	Time
2	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
5	Communion Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
6 - 10	De Colores Summer Program	9:00 - 1:00 p.m.
8	Heritage Bunch (CANCELED)	
9	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12	De Colores Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
14	Missions Meeting - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
15	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
16	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
19	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
21	Trustees Meeting - Blue Room	6:00 p.m.
23	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
26	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
28	Council Meeting - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
29	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
30	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.



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