

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



April 2018

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Partners in Christ's Service

Minister
Rev. Dr. Michael Daly, Senior
Pastor

Christian Education

FROM OUR PASTOR

by Rev. Mike Daly

A contemporary Easter story is found in the movie *Field of Dreams*. It is as unbelievably engaging as the one Matthew tells us about. It is about the impossible becoming possible. It is about following the voice to the dead parts of our lives and the surprise that new life exists there. If you haven't seen the movie recently, visit it again. It will be a good Easter adventure.

In the movie, an Iowa farmer keeps hearing a voice that says, "If you build it, he will come," soon realizing that "it" refers to a baseball diamond in the middle of his farm and "he" refers to Shoeless Joe Jackson and 7 other long-dead members of the Chicago White Sox accused of throwing the 1919 World Series. He builds the field in the middle of the corn, and sure enough people who had left this life many years ago with unfinished business come out to finish the game. It offers a second chance, it becomes a field of dreams for the dead and the living. Here the controversy of that World Series is put aside to live the dream as those 8 players come out of the cornfield each day to play ball with those who come out of their house to join them.

Through the power of everything a person does, some spiritual power is awakened. By doing what we believe we must do, we awaken in the universe a power that is far beyond anything we could hope to understand.

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.](#)

Amid all the ridicule of neighbors, family, and logic, the Iowa farmer follows the voice, and at the end of the movie the camera pans up from the field into the distant evening, and on the road, as far as one can see, are the headlights of seemingly thousands of cars silently winding their way toward the grandstand in the corn field. Their dream intertwines inextricably with the dream of the White Sox, the believable and the unbelievable are indistinguishable. The past and future are present with no line of demarcation.

Drawn by a force we don't even know, we are called from death to life. Shoeless Joe Jackson asks if this is heaven. "No, it's Iowa," responds Ray. But we know better. We get this very real sense that when we respond to the God who calls us out of the grave to the playing field of each ordinary day, heaven is on earth.

Faithfully,
Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

by Mike Hennel, Moderator

So much positivity surrounds us these days thanks to our great new minister, music director, and overall enthusiasm by church membership as we continue to revamp and move forward in serving the community! Everyone agreed during our recent council meeting on March 27 that we really need to step up our efforts in publicizing all the great things offered by the church - using our website and various public relations tactics to do so. If you'd like to help with this initiative, please let us know. And also be sure to continue to get the word out yourself and to invite family, friends, and neighbors to visit the church and experience what we're all about.

Thanks much!

Mike Hennel

NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE

by Allen Sloma and Bob Kanzler, Co-Chairs

Altar Flowers

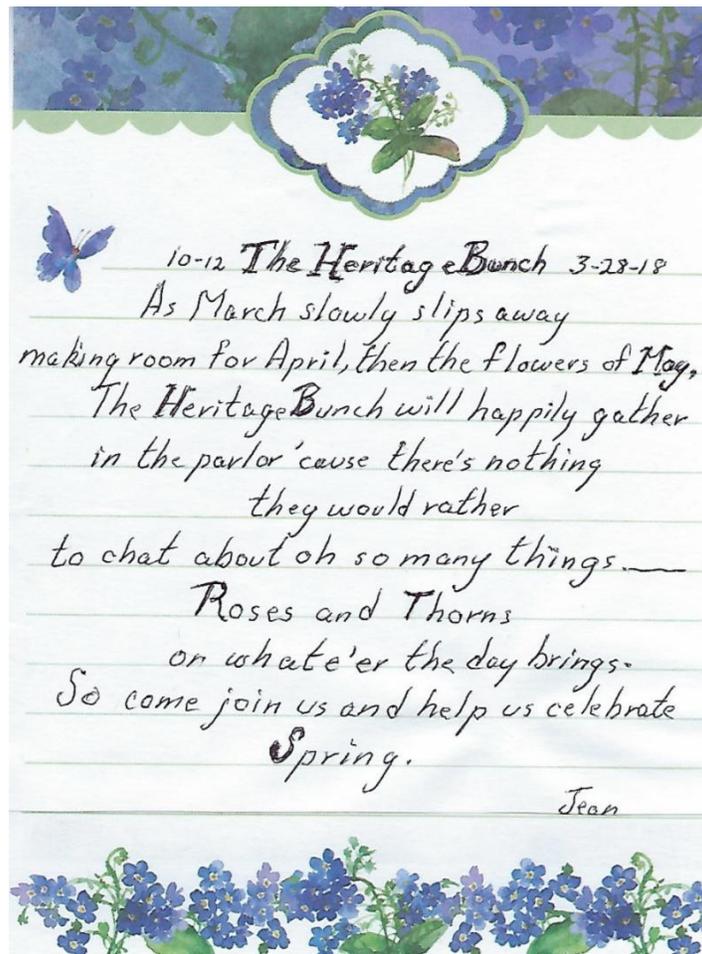
Please note that we have had many Sundays where folks have not signed up for flowers. Dedicating altar flowers is a wonderful way to celebrate and honor family and friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. On the Sundays where there is no one signed up, there will be no arrangements purchased.

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

by Jan Davis



Please join us for our meetings this month on April 11 and April 25 in the church parlor from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace-
in peace because they trust in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for in the Lord God
you have an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26: 3-4



**Children's Easter Party
Sunday, April 1, 2018**

On Easter morning we will be hosting a
Children's Easter Party during Sunday School
in Fellowship Hall. We hope that you will use this
opportunity to invite family and friends
to celebrate with us.



During this month, Confirmands are assisting with worship on
Easter Sunday. There will also be a gathering on Sunday, April 15.
We look forward to having Confirmands participate at both events.
Thank you.



About 40 miles from San Juan, construction is just beginning to replace a bridge that was washed out in Morovis, a municipality in North Central Puerto Rico. For now, vehicles drive across a platform on the riverbed. The far end of the lost bridge is seen on the upper right. This image was shot January 20, 2018. Photo credit: Newsday/Mark Chiusano.

Here is what is happening in Puerto Rico more than six months after Hurricane Maria slammed through the island.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is still providing food and water after mistakenly prompting fear it would stop. Tarps cover roofs across the island. Approximately a third of the population is still without power.



No power usually means no hot meals and no refrigeration. It also means no air conditioning in tropical heat that is already reaching the 80° mark.

Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico is the town where Camp Caribe is situated. Camp Caribe, or Campanmento Del Caribe, is a Christian based camp where our church's delegation will be staying for an entire week. Only 60% of the electric power is on throughout the Juana Diaz area. Our church is looking forward to working in the barrios of this town, learning, and walking with the people of Puerto Rico. Please continue to pray for the success of this trip. Another great way of staying connected with the island is to **tweet #PuertoRicoSeLevanta**. Your support for this trip means everything. Martha Mendoza



MUSIC NEWS

by: Jim Molina

As a Music Ministry, the choir, soloists, and instrumentalists are always so eager to share the "gospel" through music. Whether it is the heartfelt lyrics, or familiar melodies, or new songs, we lift our voices each Sunday in a humble effort to spread the love and grace of Jesus. From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday our journey took us through some emotional pieces ultimately leading us to Easter where we sang with enthusiasm and a newly invigorated spirit! We continue to look forward to sharing our musical gifts and talents with you. Wishing you a spring filled with new life, hope, and spiritual connection.

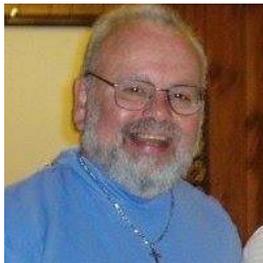


NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

by Karen Pachyn, Chair, Green Team

The Elmhurst College Recycling Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 to noon. It's a great time to get all those old electronics out of the basement. Clean out your files too because you can take papers for shredding to the event. At the time of writing this, Elmhurst College hasn't published any details for this year's event, but here are the details from last year's Extravaganza: <https://www.elmhurst.edu/news/elmhurst-college-host-recycling-extravaganza-april-29/> Things should be similar in 2018.

Sustaining Creation - A Faith Journey



The Green Team would like to invite you to join us on a "**Faith Journey**" led by the Reverend Terry Gallagher. You may remember Reverend Gallagher who filled the pulpit in our church a couple of times during our interim period. Reverend Gallagher is an advocate for eco justice and has produced a series of 8 half hour videos for small group discussion. Called "Sustaining Creation", the series shows us how scripture guides us to care for our environment. We will be watching the first four of his videos on each of the four Sundays in April following

Easter: **April 8, 15, 22 and 29.** We'll have a light lunch before the videos and afterwards we will have a chance to share our thoughts on what we've just seen. Please join us in the Blue Room as we celebrate the month of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Mark Your Calendar for the Green Garden Fair - May 12

Be sure to mark your calendar to be in our church parking lot on Saturday, May 12, between 9:00 and Noon. We will be having our fourth annual Green Garden Fair. You will be able to pick up the seedlings you preordered, as well as purchase some of the wonderful compost that is donated every year by Compost Supply. You'll also be able to get fresh eggs from Bob's Fresh and Local, order a rain barrel or compost tea, and get your gardening questions answered by a University of Illinois



Master Gardener. We'll need volunteers to make it all work, especially those with strong backs who can help us shovel the compost, so keep an eye out for a sign up genius. We look forward to seeing you all there!

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



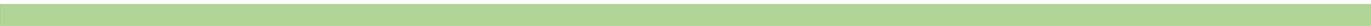
April

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 3 | Brian Brigman |
| 4 | David Myers |
| 14 | Michael Daly |
| 16 | Colin Dubois |
| 17 | Rachel Ogdon |
| 20 | Sue Achen |
| 24 | Samantha Gregg |
| 26 | Duffy Pitlock |
| 28 | Jorge Morales, Jr. |
| 28 | Matt Schacht |
| 29 | Bertha Hahn |
| 29 | Amarelis Morales |
| 29 | Suzie Hamby |
| 30 | Doug Stone |



Peggy Bates	Dorothy Moncrieff
Matty Beuke	Sung Lee Moy
Robert Cooper	Lori Myers
Steve Culliton	Tom Myers
Wayne Dreyer	Dan Norton
Yvonne Dreyer	Mike Robicheau
Katherine Ehrenberger	Bert Robins
Earleen Graham	Kim Rudakas
Bertha Hahn	Basia Rudy
John Hampton	Charlotte Schenk
Claire & Jean Jacobi	Allen Sloma
Lynn Johansen	Karen Sloma
Lu Krass	Mary Strock
Amy Kritz	Charles Sullivan
Amy Lynch	Mary Swanson
Joan Lynch	Emma Underwood
Michael Magana	Grace Watry & Family
Maureen McCormick	Jean Warp

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!

April	Event/Room	Time
1	Easter Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
1	16th Annual Youth Bake Sale	11:00 a.m.
4	Staff Meeting - Office	9:15 a.m.
5	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
8	Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
8	Sustaining Creation - A Faith Journey - Blue Room	11:00 a.m.
10	Missions Meeting - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
11	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
14-15	PADS	
15	Sunday Worship Service and Baptism - Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
15	Sustaining Creation - A Faith Journey - Blue Room	11:00 a.m.
15	Confirmation Gathering	11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
17	Trustees Meeting - Blue Room	6:00 p.m.
19	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
22	Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary Earth Day Celebration during Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
22	Sustaining Creation - A Faith Journey - Blue Room	11:00 a.m.
24	Council Meeting - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
25	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
27-29	Rev. Roth Ohio Youth Group	
29	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
29	Sustaining Creation - A Faith Journey - Blue Room	11:00 a.m.



STAY CONNECTED

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