

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



May 2018

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Partners in Christ's Service

Minister

FROM OUR PASTOR

by Rev. Mike Daly

Pentecost is coming on May 20! A special day of celebration always and this year we will add to the celebration with an Installation Service during the 10:00 Worship Service. The liturgy of an installation speaks to our new and ongoing covenant together as pastor and congregation. I am very excited and I hope you are too.

In the Christian church we consider Pentecost to be "the birthday" of the church. In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost always came 50 days after the celebration of Passover, that time when God miraculously delivered the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. Pentecost was the celebration that brought Jewish people from all over the then-known world. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, names 17 national origins of people at that year's feast.

Rev. Emmanuel McCall reminds us that a strange thing happened when those 120 people came down from an upstairs banquet hall. They were acting unusually strange. They were singing, shouting, hugging, jumping, chattering excitedly, and acting as though they had been affected by mass hysteria or lunacy. Observers judged them so. Some said they were drunk or struck by a moon beam. As they commented on this strange behavior, Peter, a follower of Jesus Christ, felt compelled to come to their defense

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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and explain what was happening. His commentary may have gone like this:

I know you think our behavior strange. Perhaps it is. We've never acted like this before. We are followers of a prophet named Jesus. For three years we followed him. We saw him do great miracles and unusual wonders. We saw him give sight to blinded eyes, cause diseases to vanish, make lame people leap and run, cast out evil spirits from those possessed, feed multitudes of people from mere scraps of food. We even saw him restore life to dead folk.

Well, today it happened. While we were praying and meditating, it seemed like flames of fire darted from the air and fell on all of us.

It is what God promised. Pentecost is always a great reminder that a new age has come upon us. God is constantly doing a new thing with us. It must be the power that Jesus promised. We can't control it. It will control us. This is it!

Faithfully,
Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

by Mike Hennel, Moderator

The renewed vibrancy of First Congregational Church is so welcoming to see, thanks in great part to our wonderful new minister and highly gifted music director who have taken the quality of our services up several notches and increased our turnout rates dramatically as a result. As a matter of fact, 95 worshipers attended our Palm Sunday service and nearly 150 people joined us on Easter Day for a full-house celebration of Christ's life!

As we head into May, please be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience the rejuvenated spirit of FCC first hand during these two special events:

- Our formal **Installation Service** for Pastor Mike Daly on Sunday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m., with a reception immediately following.

- Our **4th Annual Green Garden Fair** on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Think Spring and get your garden supplies, fresh produce, and other related items while there!

We look forward to seeing you at both events!

Mike Hennel

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



On Sunday, May 20, four of our youth leaders will be graduating from York Community High School.

Carina Kanzler, Julia Morrow, Mason Schacht, & Erin Stone.

We are so proud of each of you! Together we lift up prayers for the next phase of your life, asking God to continue to guide your future and inspire your path.

Never forget how much your church family loves you and is here for you.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and that will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6



NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE

by Allen Sloma and Bob Kanzler, Co-Chairs

This year has gone by quickly. We have been busy and want to take the time to say thanks.

So "Thank You" to all the scripture readers, ushers, everyone that helps with coffee hour, and everyone coming to service on Sundays. Martha was busy helping us with getting minsters scheduled each week and John and Jan for filling in with pastoral care and Communion. Now we have called a minister and things are settling down. We are now getting ready for another big year. We will be welcoming Pastor Daly in May.



June will be our all church picnic. On our team is Carol Ringhoff, Jan Davis, Allen Sloma, Luke Brigman and Bob Kanzler. Thanks for your service.

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

*Heritage Bunch is meeting on
Wednesday, May 9 and May 23
in the church parlor.*

*Halt what you are doing and join us as we gain in HOPE by
(Hearing Other People's Experiences)*

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, " plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



Confirmands leadership during Communion Sundays (first Sunday of every month) has been well received. The class will be entering a process of better understanding worship and its different components. This will allow our six youngsters to learn about our religious heritage, our local Sunday experience here at First Congregational, and how they can contribute to the future of our church's service of worship.

For the months of May and June, Confirmands are responsible for assisting with worship on the following Sundays:

- **Sunday, May 6, 2018 - Sunday, June 3, 2018**
- Confirmands are also encouraged to be in worship on **Sunday, May 20**, for our pastor's installation.

Parents, please incorporate these dates into your family calendar and speak to your Confirmands about the importance of their participation. Thank you, Martha Mendoza.



Middle School Outing - Sunday, May 6

Immediately after worship on Sunday, May 6, all middle school students are invited to Jus-Fun Amusement Park. Together youth will enjoy the go-karts, mini golf, and other attractions. We will depart from church at 11:15 a.m. Adult chaperone/drivers are needed. Permission slips are being sent out to family and are also available on the hospitality table in the foyer. Friends are welcome! For more information, please contact Martha Mendoza at 630-440-1187 or at marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net.



Jus-Fun Amusements
480 S. IL Route 83
Villa Park, Illinois
630-530-1313



Youth Service Opportunity Green Garden Fair



On Saturday, May 12, our church is hosting a Garden Fair. Youth volunteers are very much needed for the following shifts where the most help is needed.

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
(setting up)
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(to help at fair and for take down)

Parents, please talk to your 7th through 12th students to give of their time at this all church effort. Please confirm your youth's participation by email to Martha Mendoza at marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net. For your convenience, please click on the following link to volunteer at the Green Garden Fair.
[Sign-Up Genius link](#)



**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.

Parent 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)**



A commissioning service for our 2018 Summer Mission Work Trip to the US Island of Puerto Rico will be held on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

This ritual is important for many reasons. Among them, the affirming of the church's commitment to our inter-generational delegation that will be serving on our church's behalf during the week of Saturday, June 23 through Saturday, June 30.

Please mark your calendar and join us for this send off.

MUSIC NEWS

by: Jean Schildbach

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Now a piano is surely a musical creation,
Its black and white keys create a wondrous sensation,
and when firmly struck by someone with rhythm,
makes you wanna tap your toes and sing along with him.

But an organ has gadgets and buttons inside
and pipes that respond as smart fingers glide
o'er the keys creating a whisper or roar
with sounds that thrill and make spirits soar.

And there are brass bells that are played by a bevi —
Some are small, some are large and really quite heavy,
combined and directed make a magical sound
that thrills the soul and makes your heart pound.
But whatever instrument you're lucky to hear —
and each brings a different song to your ear,
Please know that it also brings joy to the heart
of each talented person who performs the art.

Jean 4-9-18.

NEWS FROM MISSIONS

by Pam McCann

On Mother's Day we will again kick off our special offering for Teen Parent Connection with a young mom by the name of Shannon. The collection will run through Father's Day, June 17. Contributions will be accepted during this time. Please use the special offering envelope or any envelope with notation for Teen Parent Connection. The funds donated help groups and individuals as they negotiate preparing for parenting and thru the first few years of a child's life. Teens are helped to balance pregnancy, parenting, school, and work. They are provided classes, support groups, meals and baby supplies. A scholarship for education is awarded to an individual.

Thank you for considering making a contribution. Your investment will help to make a powerful difference and provide opportunities for teens and their children.

Happy Mother's and Father's Day from Your Mission Board

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

by Karen Pachyn, Chair, Green Team



Sustaining Creation Discussion Series a Big Success

Those of us who participated in April's Sustaining Creations Discussion Series had a great opportunity to learn about the importance of living a more sustainable life. For four Sundays in April, we enjoyed a light lunch together and watched a series of videos by Reverend Terry Gallagher, after which we had a lively discussion about what we can do to take care of this beautiful planet God has given us. If you weren't able to attend, you can watch the videos by going to https://sustainingcreation.org/?page_id=18. You'll also find "48 Action Steps to Living Sustainably" listing what you can do to help our planet. And be sure to subscribe to Reverend Gallagher's weekly ten minute videos "Come and See" to stay abreast of all that is happening. You'll find a spot to do so on the Home Page of the website.



Green Garden Fair is Saturday May 12

Our fourth annual Green Garden Fair is coming soon. It will be from 9:00 to Noon in our parking lot on Saturday, May 12. If you pre-ordered organic seedlings, they will be available for pick up at the Fair. And if you didn't, don't worry. We'll have additional plants available for purchase. Bring your own container and get some food scrap amended compost for your garden too.

We have a great selection of exhibitors coming this year too. As usual, the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners will be back to help you with your gardening questions. And Bob's Fresh and Local will again be selling his free range eggs. If you join Bob's Community Supported Agricultural Group on the day of the Fair, you'll receive two dozen eggs free. New this year will be Dig Right In Landscaping, taking orders for compost tea to feed your lawn. And we'll have the Synapse House Flour to Power Bakery selling fresh baked goods made by individuals with Brain Injuries. That's just a few of the many organizations that will be available to help us learn how to live a more sustainable life.

Of course, this doesn't all happen without the help of volunteers. Please plan on attending the Fair to help out. We'll need people to set up and take down, help sell the seedlings, sell and shovel compost, and man our church table. If you can spare some time between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on May 12, we'll have a role for you.



Click on this [Sign Up Genius link](#) to volunteer.

Green Garden Fair

Saturday, May 12

9:00 a.m. to Noon

First Congregational Church

235 S. Kenilworth - Elmhurst



- ✓ Organically-grown Herb & Vegetable Seedlings
 - ✓ Food Scrap Amended Compost
 - ✓ Fresh Organic Eggs
 - ✓ Organic Lawn Care Tips
 - ✓ Master Gardener Help Desk
 - ✓ Exhibitors to Help You Lead a Greener Life
- More Info at 630-832-2580 or ELMHURSTUCC.ORG



Memorial Day Parade



Join us again this year as we march in the Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade. The parade will step off at 9:30 on Monday, May 28. We'll need lots of marchers to help us pick up recyclables from parade goers, pass out milk weed seeds, share with families news of our upcoming De Colores Program and escort our Clutterbug down the street. It's a great way to start the holiday. We'll share with you where we will be gathering before the parade as we get closer to the date.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



May

- 5 Diane Kafka
- 10 Martha Mendoza
- 12 Chloe Daly
- 13 Scott Kurzweil
- 16 Janet Rowe
- 25 Ernie Huntzinger
- 26 Nancy Huntzinger
- 27 Carolyn Landweir
- 28 Phyllis Crosley
- 29 Mike Hennel, Jr.



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

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!

May	Event/Room	Time
2	Staff Meeting - Office	9:30 a.m.
3	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
6	Communion Sunday Worship Service with Rev. John Gibbon	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
6	Middle School Youth Outing	11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
8	Missions Meeting - Blue Room	7:00 p.m.
9	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
10	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
12-13	PADS - Elmhurst Presbyterian Church	
12	Green Garden Fair - Parking Lot	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
13	Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
15	Trustees Meeting - Blue Room	6:00 p.m.
17	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
20	Rev. Daly's Service of Installation - Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
20	Installation Reception - Parlor	11:00 a.m.
22	Council Meeting - Blue Room	6:00 p.m.
23	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
24	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
27	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
31	Choir Practice - Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.



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