

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



February 2019

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FROM OUR MINISTER

[Rev. Mike Daly](#)

Margaret Wheatley is a writer who often blends faith and science in interesting ways. She once wrote, "I crave companions, not competitors. I want people to sail with me through this puzzling and frightening world. I expect to fail at moments on this journey, to get lost - how could I not? And I expect that you too will fail. Even our voyage is cyclical - we can't help but move from old to new to old. We will vacillate, one day doing something bold and different, excited over progress, the next day, back to old behaviors, confused about how to proceed. We need to expect that we will wander off course and not make straight progress to our destination. To stay the course, we need patience, compassion, and forgiveness. We should require this of one another. It will help us be bolder explorers; and it might keep us from going mad."

This is a strange and beautiful world. It promises only to get stranger - to be more unique. Niels Bohr once said, "Great ideas, when they appear, seem muddled and strange. They are only half-understood by their discoverer and remain a mystery to everyone else. But if an idea does not appear bizarre, there is no hope for it." So we must live with the strange, bizarre, and unique. We must be directed to unseen lands of by glimmers of hope. Every moment of this journey requires that we be comfortable with uncertainty and appreciative of chaos' role. Every moment requires that we stay together. After all is said-

Partners in Christ's Service

Minister

Rev. Dr. Michael Daly, Senior Minister

Christian Education

Martha Mendoza, Minister of CE

Music

Jim Molina, Minister of Music

Church Office Staff

Heather Cross, Bookkeeper
Kim Brigman, Church Office Assistant

Emeritus Minister

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger

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YouTube:

www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc

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

and-done, we have the gift of each other. We have each other's curiosity, wisdom, and courage. And we have life, whose great powers, if we choose to work with them, will make us even more curious, wise and courageous.

Faithfully,

Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

Mike Hennel

As I reflect on the past year, it's amazing to realize how much we accomplished and how much momentum we gained in our continued journey to support FCC's mission. Our most notable undertakings included:

:

- The addition of new office and accounting staff;
- A brand new website thanks to the efforts of Jim Molina (our new webmaster), Rev. Mike and Martha Mendoza;
- The delivery of numerous inspirational services that no doubt touched the hearts and lives of our members and guests;
- And ... increased interest, visibility and participation in our programs.

In 2019, I expect this momentum and renewed energy to continue. Many thanks to all of you for your personal and financial support in keeping our mission alive.

Our Annual Meeting is on February 24th. Please plan to attend so we can approve the budget and officers for the year. We promise ... we'll keep the meeting short!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND ANNUAL MEETING



**Pancake Breakfast
and
Annual Meeting**

- February 24, 2019
- 11:00 a.m.

Everyone's invited to our Annual Congregational meeting and a delicious pancake breakfast. Come join us to reflect on last year's ministries and accomplishments. We will also be reviewing and acting on our 2019 budget.

A quorum of members is necessary to act on church business.

- The free will offering for the breakfast will benefit our 2020 long distance work trip.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
235 S. Kenilworth Avenue, Elmhurst
www.elmhurstucc.org
Facebook: FirstCongregationalUCCofElmhurst

THE DIACONATE

Allen Sloma and Bob Kanzler

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT Tuesday, February 5 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor

Come for some great conversation, a few laughs and tasty refreshments.
Hot chili, cold beer and iced tea will be available.

We'll play a couple of rounds of the card game, "9 Hole"
and discuss other activities we can do together.

Please bring \$5 - No RSVP required and invite a friend.
Contact Rev. Daly if you have any questions.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Brian Brigman, Margaret Chittaro, Dorothy Hamby, Tammy Hicks, Martha Mendoza, Amy Reshamwala, Jeff Sloma



Chili Cook-Off Thank You

Last Sunday's chili cook-off was an amazing success! Artic cold could not keep **you**, our amazing members away. Thank you for your generous giving, over \$600.00 was donated at the event and there are still some tithely.com online donations pending. This year we had four categories and our very own Tammy Hicks and Chief Kevin Gundlach from Elmhurst's Flavah restaurant selected the "Top Chef Award" chili. Congratulations to all the winners!

Top Chef Award

Most "Flavah"/Interesting

Fan Favorite

Love the Name

A-

Phoebe Daly & Family, "Phoebean 2.0"

Brigman Family, "Big Green Egg & Chili

Vanessa Jackson, "80 and Sunny"

Fritz Baumgartner, "Little Richard's A-Wop-Bop-

Loo-Mop-A-Lop-Bom-Bom! Tutti Frutti Chili"

**Everyone in attendance agreed that all the chili entries were FABULOUS!
Thank you for your entries!**

All the proceeds from this event brings us closer to meeting our financial goal for our long-distance trip in 2020. If you were not able to attend and would like to still give towards the Chili Cook-Off, please make sure to designate your giving to Youth Fund or Chili Cook-Off. So grateful for all your support. Brian Brigman and Tammy Hicks



Confirmation Retreat



During the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of January 20th through 21st our confirmation class participated in an overnight retreat at San Lucas United Church of Christ in Chicago. All eight of our confirmands attended. Together they learned more about Jesus and discipleship.

They got to know each other better and worked on several service projects in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It was a fun filled experience shared by all the confirmands.



High School Gathering Sunday, February 10, 2019 11:00 a.m.

As part of our summer work trip planning, all high school students are invited to a leadership meeting after church on Sunday, February 10. Looking forward to catching up with everyone and talking about this summer.

Lenten Study: Short Stories by Jesus

Wednesdays March 13th, 20th, 27th; April 3rd, 10th
Soup Supper and Conversation
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the church parlor

Explore a fresh and timely interpretation of Jesus' most popular teaching parables such as the Mustard Seed and the Good Samaritan. Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. In "Short Stories by Jesus," author Amy-Jill Levine analyzes the "problems with parables" taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them.

Books can be purchased on your own or reserve a book on the sign-up in the church foyer

All are welcome!

THE MISSION BOARD

Dan Briggs, chair

Through the generous contributions of our congregation, the Mission Board was able to enhance and impact many different groups and organizations in our community this past year.

From the Mission Rides program, we were able to give monetary donations to St. John UCC in Chicago, Elmhurst Walk in Assistance Network (EWAN), God Can Ministry in Ford Heights, SYNAPSE House in Elmhurst and our own Kitchen Mission supplies for our own kitchen. Many thanks to those who called for rides and those who volunteered to drive.

Our General Fund Budget for giving in 2018 contributed to the Elmhurst Presbyterian church for supplies for PADS and to purchase Christian Ed a new laptop. We also sent a contribution of \$3,000 to Church World Services for our annual donation to Our Church's Wider Mission through the UCC.

Besides these funds, we were able to contribute to various causes through quarterly and special collections. These included Elmhurst Yorkfield and St. John's Food Pantries with proceeds of the Souper Bowl squares game, One Great Hour of Sharing, PADS dinner/breakfast meals, Crop Walk, our church's Kitchen Mission project, Teen Parent Connection, Neighbors in Need and Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund.

The Noisy Offering collected each month by the children of the church helped to change the lives of two young girls in India as we continue with their sponsorship through Church World Services. We were also able to donate \$500.00 for supplies used on our youth's mission trip Puerto Rico.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness. We wouldn't have been able to make a difference without your support!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jim Molina, Director of Music

The Music Ministry is excited about teaming up with the chancel choir at Bethel UCC on February 10. The choir will be singing Mark Hayes' "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" and will be directed by Bethel's music director, Jeff Panko. On February 17th both choirs will be singing here at First Congregational. The choirs look forward to a potluck on Thursday, Feb. 7th to socialize and work together. We hope this is the first of many shared events that our music ministries will participate in.

THE GREEN TEAM

Karen Pachyn, chair

Green Team Tip of the Month - February 2019



Now that the winter is here in full force, it's a good time to think about how we survive it safely. Keeping your steps, sidewalks and driveways from icing over to avoid slips and falls is a wise thing to do, but please do it with the environment in mind. The salt we have traditionally used causes cracking on pets' paws, corrodes metal, damages concrete and is really rough on your lawn and garden. When the spring melt comes, it runs off into our waterways and causes serious harm to our wildlife.

Look for products that are labelled pet friendly and read the ingredients carefully to make sure you're using the right product. Chloride is an ingredient to be avoided. Get out quickly to shovel and clear surfaces before ice builds up on them to avoid the need to salt. Be safe and remember that spring will eventually come!

Think Spring and the 2019 Green Garden Fair

Start dreaming about your spring garden now. Order forms will be available soon for our organic seedling sale. Order your vegetable and herb seedlings and pick them up at our GREEN GARDEN FAIR. We will be getting them from Montalbano Farms in Sandwich, IL. again this year and experience has shown that they are always strong, sturdy, wonderful plants. We will post order forms on the church website when they become available.



The GREEN GARDEN FAIR will be on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please be sure to mark your calendar so that you will not only remember when your plants will be available, but can keep the day free to volunteer at the Fair. This is a fundraiser for our church and it takes many people to make it a success so everyone's help is wanted and needed. Plus we have a lot of fun!

HERITAGE BUNCH

The Heritage Bunch meets in the parlor the second and fourth
Wednesdays each month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please join us for fellowship and friendship!

POEM- JANUARY 30, 2019

Jean Schildbach

'Tis a day to record-surely no mystery
Twenty-four degrees below zero, the coldest day in our history.
A day neither fit for a man nor beast-
Still cardinals and sparrows at my feeder feast.

There's a half inch of ice on my window sill pane,
(Just a week ago we had a half in of rain).
The sun's beating down on the white scene below
But today its rays won't melt any snow.

Now we know these temperatures can quickly change
From way below zero to a warmer range.
So we'll just hunker down for a day or two
And wait for a warmer breeze to blow through.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Violin Virtuoso Maya Kilburn in Concert at Bethel UCC

Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
315 E. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst

From Waxman's fiendishly difficult Carmen Fantasy to the beloved Tchaikovsky Concerto, young violin virtuoso Maya Kilburn and pianist Jeff Panko will brighten this winter afternoon with glorious music to warm the heart. For tickets go to, www.MusicatBethel.com or call the church at 630.279.4040.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



1	Mary Swanson	15	Ron Teuber
2	Marcia Fleming	19	Steven Ogdon
4	Julia Morrow	19	Greg Hamby
12	Cady Hamby	22	Susan Graybill
13	Lu Krass	25	Lucais Hennen



Clare and Jean Jacobi	Ken Stratton	The Sanchez Family
Kim Rudakas	Mike Magana	Lou Cooper
Basia Rudy	Amy Lynch	

If you would like someone added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net or 630-832-2580. Thank you.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

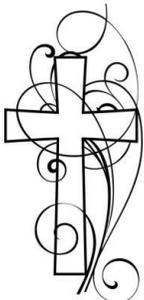
Rev. Jan Davis

Just a note to thank the First Church members once again for the many thoughtful gestures shown to our family during our loss. We were touched by your friendship to Champ while he was living, and your sympathy to us, his family, after his death.

Equally felt by your compassion were those people who came to the church, expecting to pay their respects, and yet were extended a warm welcome of hospitality in the foyer, a bountiful and delicious spread in the parlor on which to partake, and heartfelt words and inspirational music in the sanctuary on which to reflect. For those who drove a long way in bitter cold, every comforting word spoken, every kind act of participation by the church family towards them, was not only greatly appreciated by them, your kindness will be remembered by us as a cherished memory always.

With deep gratitude and love,
Jan and the Davis-Brown families

SAD NEWS



It is with great sadness we share the news of the passing of Jose Sanchez. Jose passed away on January 30 while visiting his family in Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Clementine, three adult children and several grandchildren. Jose was our building caretaker for many years and his presence will be missed. Our prayers are with the Sanchez family. Sympathy cards can be sent to the church at 235 S. Kenilworth Ave. to the attention of Richard Sanchez.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February	Event	Time
3	Communion Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
5	Men's Fellowship Night	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
7	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
9-10	PADS	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 a.m.
10	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
12	Mission Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12	Board of Christian Ed. Meeting	7:00 p.m.
13	Heritage Bunch- Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
14	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
17	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
19	Trustees Meeting	6:00 p.m.
21	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
24	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
24	Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser & Congregational Meeting	11:00 a.m.
26	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
27	Heritage Bunch- Parlor	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
28	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.