

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



April 2019

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FROM OUR MINISTER

Rev. Mike Daly

A poem by Rabbi Alvin Fine entitled Life Is a Journey:

Birth is a beginning
and death is a destination.
And life is a journey;
from childhood to maturity
and youth to age;
from innocence to awareness
and ignorance to knowing;
from foolishness to discretion
and then, perhaps to wisdom;
from weakness to strength
or strength to weakness-
and often, back again.
From health to sickness
and back, we pray, to health again;
from offense to forgiveness,
from loneliness to love,
from joy to gratitude,
from pain to compassion,
and grief to understanding-
until, looking backward or ahead
we see that victory lies
not at some high place along the way,
but in having made the journey, stage by stage,
a sacred pilgrimage.

Partners in Christ's Service

Minister

Rev. Dr. Michael Daly, Sr. Minister

Christian Education

Martha Mendoza, Minister of CE

Music

Jim Molina, Minister of Music

Church Office Staff

Heather Cross, Bookkeeper

Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Emeritus Minister

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger

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Birth is a beginning
and death a destination.

But life is a journey,
from birth to death
to life everlasting.

Happy Easter!

Faithfully,

Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR

Mike Hennel

My thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting on February 24th. We were able to wrap up the session within an hour while enjoying a great breakfast sponsored by Christian Education as a fundraiser for their next mission trip to Puerto Rico.

With our annual budget now approved, your lay leadership and staff are focusing on making this year even more successful than last. Thanks very much to all of you for your unwavering support and dedication to the church and its mission.

I look forward to serving you as Moderator for another year!

THE TRUSTEES

Terry Hennen

Storm Water Remediation

Seepage on our lower level continues to be a problem, especially in the Tree Town classrooms. Heavy rains bring it on, and in the winter, melting snow adds to the problem. Previous efforts to remediate the situation have not been effective, so the trustees are pursuing more extreme measures. One possibility being explored is to clean out the drain tiles that surround our buildings at the foundation level. If they have not collapsed, but are simply clogged, it may be possible to clear them. Just in case this approach doesn't solve our problem we are also getting quotes to have new drain tiles installed either inside or outside the buildings. This latter solution would be a somewhat major project and would be done this summer when Tree Town Pre-School is not in session.

Parking Lot

The Parking Lot Committee took a big step forward this week as they signed a contract with Manhard Consulting, an engineering firm that will handle the preliminary engineering and design work that needs to be done prior to construction. This includes things such as topographical surveys, development of a site plan, assistance in obtaining approvals from the City, estimation of construction costs, and preparation of a storm water management plan. The Committee is also investigating interim financing to cover expenses we incur prior to the sale of a portion of the current parking lot. Our goal is to begin re-construction of the parking lot in the latter half of June.

THE DIACONATE

Fritz Baumgartner, Will Baumgartner, Jan Davis, Don Harag, Dave Schacht

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Tuesday, April 2nd, 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Special guest and NT scholar: Rev. Greg Skiba

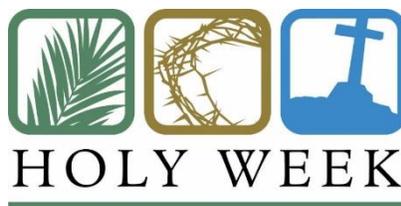
Great conversation, a few laughs and tasty refreshments

Hot soup, cold beverages

No RSVP required, invite a friend

Contact Rev. Daly if you have any questions

INQUIRERS MEETING on April 7 at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. If you are interested in learning more about this church and have some questions, please join Mike Daly, Jan Davis, and some members of the church staff.



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 14 , 10:00 a.m. - featuring a children's processional with palms

Good Friday Service

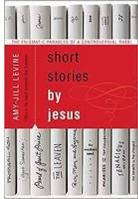
Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. - featuring the Extinguishing of Lights and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata

Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. - featuring our choir and guest singers and instrumentalists

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Brian Brigman, Dorothy Hamby, Tammy Hicks, Martha Mendoza, Lynette Rosen, Jeff Sloma, Karen Sloma, Carrie Stone



Lenten Study: Short Stories by Jesus
Wednesdays, April 3 and 10
Soup Supper and Conversation
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the church parlor

There are only two more sessions remaining of our Lenten study. These are interesting discussions and study preparation is NOT necessary. Please join us even if you haven't attended any of the prior sessions.



Parent/Youth Summer Work Trip Meeting
Sunday, April 7, 2019
11:00 a.m.

Parents and youth are invited to an informational meeting regarding this summer's work trip on Sunday, April 7 at 11:00 am. We will be meeting in our Youth Room on the upper level of our building. It would be great to have at least one parent attend the meeting with their youth.

This year we will be immersing ourselves in the Tribal Nation of Ojibwe (Oh jib way) in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. There is much to talk about and your participation is truly important. For further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Martha Mendoza at 630-440-1187 or marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!



Palm Sunday Children's Parade
Sunday, April 14, 2019
10:00 a.m.

As children learn the story of Jesus, Palm Sunday allows us all the opportunity to remember his purpose. On Sunday, April 14 at the commencing of worship all children present are invited to participate in a fun parade in remembrance of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem before Easter.

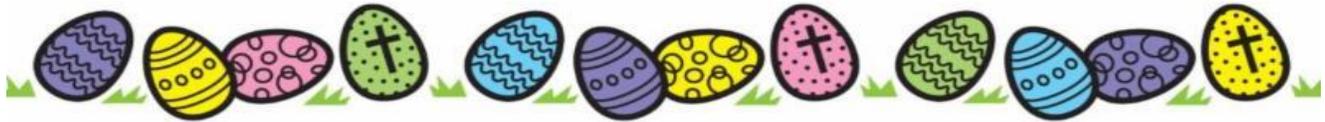
Children will parade in with palms in hand to the sounds of uplifting music. In order to have the children ready at 10:00 a.m., please have them at church at 9:45 a.m. Looking forward to seeing your family on Palm Sunday!



**Annual Youth Easter Morning Bake Sale
Sunday, April 21, 2019**

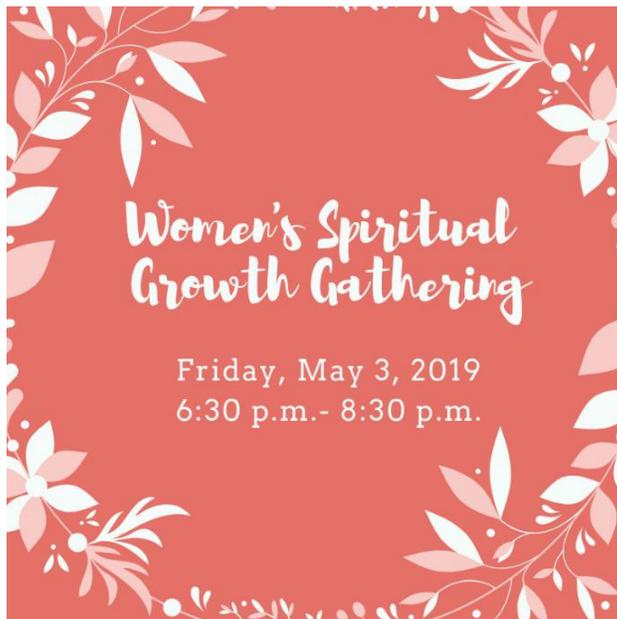
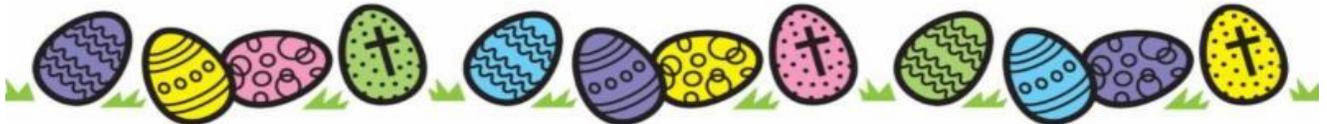
As it has been our tradition, we are gearing up for this year's Easter bake sale. The success of this fundraising event is possible because so many of you generously donate your delicious baked goods.

Please help us make this year's bake sale a success by bringing your favorite baked goods, packaged to sell. A sign-up sheet is available on the hospitality table in the foyer. You can also call the church to let us know what you are bringing. For more details, please reach out to Amarelis Morales at amerlism@gmail.com



**Children's Easter Party
Sunday, April 21, 2019**

The celebration of Easter is an awesome opportunity to share the message of Jesus with children. It is our hope that along with your family's Easter traditions you will join us on Resurrection Sunday. Our Sunday School will be hosting an Easter party immediately after the children's message downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Together children will hear the Resurrection story and participate in several interactive activities. All are welcome!



In it Together: Discovering the Art of Blessing One Another in Friendship and Community

Join us for a conversation on how to strengthen and deepen our friendships and relationships. In the fragment, frenzied world we share, meaningful connection can be rare, and the gift of presence feels elusive. Discover how to strengthen our connections with God and one another as we discuss what it truly means to be blessed and practice the art of blessing one another.

Tracey Bianchi is a local pastor (Christ Church of Oak Brook) and a freelance writer and speaker. She is the author of four books and numerous articles. She speaks at events across the country but makes her home in Elmhurst, IL. We hope that you and a friend can come out for a delightful evening of appetizers, great company and conversation at our Spring Women's Spiritual Growth Gathering on Friday, May 3, 2019.



**Please Join Us for Confirmation Sunday
May 5, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

Together as a congregation with family and friends, we will celebrate the faith journey of four of our confirmands. Member participation is crucial at this service as we recognize and lift up God moving in the lives of these Youth.

Please mark your calendar and plan on being in worship on Sunday, May 5.

THE MISSION BOARD

Kim Brigman, Mary Moy-Gregg, Amy Reshamwala, Allen Sloma, Diane Wells

Please join us as we host Grace Café on Monday, April 29, 2019.

Grace Café is a night where churches throughout Elmhurst take turns opening their doors to the Elmhurst community to serve a delicious, hot meal to anyone who wants to come in. Our church will host Grace Café on Monday, April 29, 2019 in Fellowship Hall from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

This program began because there was a need right here in our community. While there are food pantries to turn to, this is meant to be a special night-out where people can find not just food, but a home-cooked meal and camaraderie with people who care.

We are expecting over 100 guests for our upcoming dinner and we need your help to set up, clean up, serve or to simply make our guests feel welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to provide various food items for the dinner.

A Sign-Up Genius will be sent in the next few weeks with details on how you can help. This is a great opportunity to help serve those in need in our community and we know you will find it rewarding. Please direct any questions you may have to Kim Brigman at brigmankb@yahoo.com.

THE GREEN TEAM

Karen Pachyn, chair

Special Earth Day Celebration - April 28

Earth Day falls on Monday, April 22 this year, the day after Easter. We'll be having our annual celebration of Mother Earth on Sunday, April 28. Our theme this year will be native plants and the strong roots they grow to help them survive in all sorts of circumstances. Bring the kids for a fun children's sermon that will help them see how growing their own strong roots in faith will help them survive through thick and thin too.



Green Team Members Needed

The Green Team is a key ministry team at our church, especially during the Spring with the Organic Seedlings Sale and the Green Garden Fair coming up. And we appreciate everyone's participation to help make the events a success. But did you know the Green Team is active all year long? We've got ongoing recycling collections, our Earth Day Service, our participation in the Memorial Day Parade and special discussion programs, as examples. We're always looking for ways to help make our church building more sustainable as illustrated by the fact that we recently worked with Faith in Place to have an audit of our church building done. We should be receiving a report shortly from the auditors that will give us a long list of things we can do to make our building more efficient and tell us what rebates are available to help us get there.

We need members to help us plan and organize all of this. The Green Team is not one of the official church boards so we don't get any help from the Nominating Committee finding members each year and our very dedicated group of volunteers has been shrinking to the point where we may melt away, just like the polar icecaps. If you'd like to help make changes to bring about a more sustainable church community through education, action and prayer, please consider joining us. We're very informal and only hold meetings when we need to, usually after church on Sunday mornings. Check out our Mission Statement on the Church Website: <https://elmhurstucc.org/missions/> and if you would be able to help out, please contact Karen Pachyn at kpachyn@comcast.net. Thanks. You can make a difference!

Mark Your Calendar for the Green Garden Fair - Saturday, May 11

Be sure to mark your calendar to be at church on Saturday, May 11 between 9:00 and Noon. We will be having our fifth annual Green Garden Fair. You will be able to pick up the seedlings you pre-ordered as well as purchase some of the wonderful compost we have donated every year by Compost Supply. You'll also be able to get fresh eggs, order a rain barrel and enjoy some wonderful pastries from Synapse House Flower to Empower Bakery. We'll have the Wild Ones, Crestview Garden Club and the University of Illinois Master Gardeners on hand to help with your garden questions and an assortment of other exhibitors to help you learn how to live more sustainably. New this year, we'll also have experts on solar energy to answer your questions about whether that's a viable alternative power source for your home.



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!

HERITAGE BUNCH

Re. Jan Davis

Heritage Bunch meets regularly on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Drop-in guests and surprises occur every month. Males and females are welcome.
Just bring a "show and tell" or "rose or thorn" or just listening thoughtful ears.

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in the parlor.
All are welcome!

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



April

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



Clare and Jean Jacobi
Kim Rudakas
Basia Rudy

Ken Stratton
Mike Magana
Amy Lynch

Betsy Schultz
Janet Russell
Claire Richter

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| April | Event/Room | Time |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 2 | Men's Fellowship Night- Parlor | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. |
| 3 | Lenten Study - Parlor | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Sunday Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| 7 | Parent & Youth Summer Work Trip Meeting- Youth Room | 11:00 a.m. |
| 7 | Inquirer's Meeting- Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m. |
| 10 | Heritage Bunch- Parlor | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| 10 | Lenten Study- Parlor | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. |
| 11 | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. |
| 13 | PADS | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 a.m. |
| 14 | Sunday Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| 16 | Trustees Meeting- Blue Room | 6:00 p.m. |
| 18 | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. |
| 21 | Easter Sunday Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| 21 | Easter Bake Sale- Foyer | 11:00 a.m. |
| 24 | Heritage Bunch- Parlor | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| 25 | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. |
| 28 | Sunday Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| 29 | Grace Cafe- Fellowship Hall | 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. |