

# Tree of Life Newsletter

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



August 2019

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## FROM OUR MINISTER

Rev. Mike Daly

Jennifer Brownell, wrote a lovely piece in the UCC Devotional that I think fit so well with summer time but also anytime. She tells the story of her kids and her kid's friends playing on the trampoline while she was inside trying to get dinner ready. Through the open window she could hear the squabbling over taking turns. Their agitation with each other was growing and about to turn into shrieking. She says she likes to stick with the "let-them-work-it-out" school of parenting. This makes sense to a point, because there's always going to be stuff to work out throughout life, and it's a good idea to figure that out early. But she knows that judicious intervention from time to time also makes sense.

"I didn't add my yells to theirs," she says, "but instead I called out, mildly and said "Kids, listen. Take a break from the trampoline. You can try to work it out again later.""

They stopped and stopped arguing. And more than that, they all look relieved. And when the youngest (who had been loudly proclaiming himself King of the Trampoline) jumped off, just like that, the rest of children run off and ran through the grass to play something else.

Jennifer says, "Consider the possibility that

## ***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

### ***Contact Us***

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[www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc](https://www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc)

sometimes you need to be a voice too. A voice that doesn't join the yelling but says, mildly and consideringly, "Let's all take a break today."

This is something to ponder on these long summer days. Consider the possibility that the peace you've been looking for-whether in your own backyard or on the national stage-may come by simply as stopping for a moment (or a little while) and letting your feet touch the good, cool, firm earth again to have fun doing something else.

Faithfully,  
Mike

## **FROM OUR MODERATOR**

### **Mike Hennel**

It's been a busy summer here at FCC with our work trip to Lac du Flambeau (Wisconsin), extensive outside cleanup, and a basement rejuvenation project featuring new drain tiles, flooring and freshly-painted walls. What's most amazing is that we'll be able to accomplish all of this before De Colores gets started.

While the summer is more than half over, though, things certainly aren't slowing down. As a matter of fact, our De Colores program kicks off next week for teaching conversational Spanish to children (K-5th). We still have room so if anyone needs to register, simply visit <https://elmhurstucc.org/de-colores-registration/> to sign up your kids for this exciting educational program.

I'd personally like to thank everyone who has helped make all of these projects happen so quickly without impacting De Colores. For them (and all who read this) may the remainder of your summer be filled with love, laughter and plenty of sunshine!

## THE TRUSTEES

Terry Hennen

### Brief Notes on a Busy Summer

- The small, one-bedroom apartment in the back of the church is open to rent as of September 1. The cost is \$700 per month, plus a \$1,400 deposit. Please refer any interested parties to Terry Hennen at 630-222-2221. We need to be particular about whom we rent to as the apartment is part of the church and any renter will have access to a large part of the church premises. It is ideal when the renter is well known by someone in the congregation.
- Rehabbing of the Tree Town area is almost complete. The new drain tile system is complete and has kept us dry through two heavy rains. Water damaged walls have been replaced and a new closet was constructed to house a sump pit. The entire Tree Town area has fresh paint and installation of new floor tile is taking place as I write.
- Four of our air conditioners have needed serious attention this year. Everything is working now, but these 30 year old units will need replacement in the next couple of years.
- The church grounds have become overgrown this summer. Martha and a crew of volunteers took a whack at it a week ago (thank you) but it's too much to do. We have therefore hired an outside crew to get us back in shape.
- We have seen some interest in the lot we have for sale, but no offers yet. The current asking price is \$899,000.
- It's been a wild summer for the Trustees, but that's another good sign that "things are happening" at First Congregational.

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## Board of Christian Education

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



**Sunday August 18, 2019**

We hope you will take advantage of another opportunity to have your car washed and detailed on Sunday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Your donation will support our 2020 work trip to the island of Puerto Rico. Please mark your calendars and plan on having your car washed. We are so grateful for your support!



## Youth Led Worship Sunday, September 8, 2019

Our Youth Led Worship is just around the corner on Sunday, September 8. Please join us for a morning of beautiful prayers and music. We will also be making a presentation on our summer work trip to the Native American tribe of the Ojibwe people in Lac du Flambeau Wisconsin. We hope to see you for what promises to be a wonderful morning service.

## Women's Spiritual Growth Gathering

As we prepare for our Fall Women's Spiritual Growth Gathering, all women interested in helping out are invited to our planning committee meeting on **Sunday, August 25** immediately after our worship in the CE office (Martha's office).

We are planning on having our next gathering on Friday, October 4 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Please save the date. Details are soon forthcoming.



## Fall Sunday School Kick Off Sunday, September 15, 2019

Our Sunday School ministry begins on September 15. Children from preschool through 6th grade come together to learn from biblical stories. As we kick off this new school year, we have five overarching goals.

- To help children respect, appreciate and utilize the Bible
- To teach children how to navigate the Bible
- To give children a chance to ask questions
- To develop a community of believers
- To plant spiritual seeds

Our Board of Christian Education invites each of you to help us transform the lives of our children by volunteering to teach Sunday School. There is a signup sheet in the foyer with available teaching dates. You will be provided a lesson plan and support to carry out your lesson by our Director of Christian Education, Martha Mendoza.



**Our first confirmation class is on Sunday, September 22 from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m.** This gathering is for confirmands and at least one parent. We will be meeting in the Youth Room on the upper level of the church building. Together we will discuss the program schedule, expectations and topics that we will cover throughout the year. Parents, please mark your family calendars and plan on joining us.

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## THE MISSION BOARD

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

### A message from one of our partners, the Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network (EWAN):

The Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network continues to work hard to provide emergency assistance to Elmhurst residents, church members, and school families in need. Your partnership with us has been essential in this work. Below are our financial updates to keep you informed of the trends we have seen in our service delivery.

EWAN served 231 people in the second quarter of 2019, 18 more than in the first quarter. Compared to 2018, we have seen slightly fewer clients (444 versus 498), but of those seen we have increased the amount of financial assistance given by 24%. Much of the increase is in the form of our new programs offering medical and dental assistance, as well as ongoing increases in rent and utility assistance.

We welcomed 14 new clients this second quarter, and 189 visits were made to the Immaculate Conception food pantry. Overall we spent \$23,161 on client services this quarter.

Thank you again for the various ways you support our ministry. To learn more about EWAN as a client, volunteer, or donor, please visit our website at [www.elmhurstwalkin.org](http://www.elmhurstwalkin.org), or visit us Monday-Friday 10 am to noon on the side of St. Peter's United Church of Christ at 125 W. Church Street, Elmhurst. Look for the purple door!

### EWAN's Cue for a Cause Fundraiser

Sunday, September 1, 2019

12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This fifth annual Labor Day Weekend party is centered around a BBQ competition. Backyard grill masters compete for the best ribs, chicken, and sauce and work for Grand Champion fame. Attendees can cheer on the competitors while enjoying great food from BBQ Jim Lawshe, drinks, live music all day long, a fun children's play area, root beer floats and more! All funds go to EWAN's mission to help local families in need. The event takes place in the Farmers Market lot at York and Vallette. Admission is free and tickets are not required.

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

Jim Molina, Minister of Music



On Sunday, August 4, raise your voice in joyful community as we sing some of our favorite hymns during our worship service from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. From old classics such as "He Lives" to newer gospel songs "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". A Sunday filled with your favorites played on organ and piano led by Jim Molina along with our very own Chancel Choir!

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## 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!

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## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



### August

1	Chris Hamby	26	Carson Hicks
2	Luke Brigman	29	Jean Schildbach
3	Beth Schacht	29	Paul Myers
7	Bobbie Schultz	31	Amelia Morrow
23	Barb Sullivan		



Clare and Jean Jacobi	Mike Magana	Roberta King
Kim Rudakas	Amy Lynch	Fred "Rick" Leppien
Basia Rudy	Betsy Schultz	Susan Graybill
Ken Stratton	Janet Russell	Wayne Dreyer

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August	Event/Room	Time
1	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
3	De Colores Team Meeting	10:00 a.m.
4	Sunday Worship Service - Hymn Sing Sunday	10:00 a.m.
5-9	De Colores Conversational Spanish Program	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
8	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
11	De Colores Sunday Worship Service & Ice Cream Social	10:00 a.m.
13	Board of Christian Ed Meeting	7:00 p.m.
13	Mission Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
14	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
15	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
18	Youth Fundraiser- Car Wash	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
18	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
20	Trustees Meeting	6:00 p.m.
22	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
25	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
27	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
28	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
29	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.