

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



September 2019

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Partners in Christ's Service

FROM OUR MINISTER

Rev. Mike Daly

It has been a great summer and I hope you are feeling the same way. As most of you know, I took a part-time gig as an usher for the Kane County Cougars single-A baseball team in Geneva. Every game, without fail, swarms of kids flock to the field and line up along the fence in the outfield hoping to get a ball from one of the players. The kids are never disappointed. The best part of that experience, for me, is seeing the expressions of joy and excitement on their faces. It's a "small act of kindness" by the players to toss a ball to a young person but the positive reactions are huge. Our faith teaches us this very thing, doesn't it? I am reminded of a story documented by John Feinstein, in "Pride of the Yankees." "One afternoon, many years ago, in Philadelphia, New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre was about to walk into the players' entrance at Veterans Stadium when a middle-aged man called his name. Torre is not one of those celebrities who walk past people head down as if they didn't hear a thing. So he stopped, assuming he would be asked for an autograph. He was wrong. "I met you almost 30 years ago," the man said. "I was in high school, and I wanted to drop out. My parents asked you to talk to me one day because they thought I might listen to a ballplayer. They were right. I'm a lawyer now. I just wanted to tell you thanks." Torre was pleased by the story, albeit a bit stunned. "I had a little, tiny, vague memory when he brought it up," he said. "But that was

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

Phone: 630-832-2580

Fax: 630-832-9142

Email: elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.elmhurstucc.org

Facebook:

[FirstCongregationalUCCofElmhurst](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCofElmhurst)

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/elmhurstucc

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

it." Before he could take the last few steps to the players' entrance, Torre was stopped again, by a younger man.

"Twenty years ago I had cancer," he said. "They thought I was terminal. You were with the Mets. You came to see me and gave me a pep talk. I never forgot it. When you were sick, I realized I never said thank you." Again, Torre was rendered almost speechless. [Later, he said,] "It makes you realize what all of us in sports can do if we put just a little effort into things. And I mean just a little. A word here, a pat on the back there, a phone call. It can have a tremendous effect on people." Anyone else thinking, "Golden Rule?"

Faithfully,

Mike

FROM OUR MODERATOR**Mike Hennel**

Thanks to everyone who helped make this summer's De Colores program a huge success. We had more than 50 participants this year and could not have pulled it off without the dedication of those volunteers who not only assisted with the program's logistics, but with getting the church ready beforehand, too. Thanks to all of you for your help.

In addition to De Colores, our summer has been filled with numerous building projects that have kept several church members very busy. Thanks to all of you who contributed your time and financial support to these projects. We couldn't have done it without you!

As we wind down the summer now, please keep in mind that our Sunday School ministry will begin on September 15th. We look forward to having many of our youth join together to listen to and learn from biblical stories during this year's program. Our current ministry is available for children from preschool through 6th grade with a goal of expanding to periodical classes for 7th through 12th graders depending on volunteer teacher commitments.

THE TRUSTEES

Capital Campaign and Celebration

As you've seen over the past few months, the church is abuzz with building improvements both inside and out. After the safe removal of hazardous asbestos floor tile, the Tree Town area in the basement had a new drain tile system installed to alleviate the water issues we've faced over the last few years. With that brought a new floor and freshly painted walls of all the rooms and hallways that Tree Town uses on the lower level. A second major undertaking has been in the works by our superb Parking Lot Committee to replace the eyesore that we call our parking lot. We have listed for sale one of the three parcels that make up the parking area and have secured a loan to begin work on our new parking lot.

Both these endeavors plus many more behind the scenes undertakings by our dynamic duo of Terry Hennen and Larry Myer are taking us a step closer to having a wonderful working, great looking building. The Trustees feel this, along with our terrific staff and awesome website will enable us to more easily attract potential new members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank several of our generous church members who saw the tremendous work going on and were moved to help with the costs of these repairs and upgrades. It got us thinking we need to highlight more of what has been done and what is needed in the coming months and years. We feel we have a solid handle now on the building and its maintenance needs going forward. We would like to share our upcoming projects and wish lists with the congregation as there is only so much that can be built into the budget each year.

Please plan to join us for an open house celebration of our newly renovated space on the lower level and see what's in store for our church community going forward on Sunday, September 15th after our worship service. Refreshments will be served.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Please join us at our upcoming Youth Led Worship Service.



**Sunday, September 8, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

Together we will enjoy awesome music and hear about this summer's work trip to the Ojibwe nation in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. We hope you can be a part of this celebration and support our youth.



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

Life can be hectic and sometimes it's challenging just to make it to worship. First Congregational stands committed to supporting you and your children through Sunday School. Starting on Sunday, September 15, we are **striving** to expand our classes. We will continue to have weekly classes for infants through 5th grade and will have periodic classes for 6th - 12th graders.

Infants through 2nd Grade, Classroom #100, Main Level
3rd through 5th Grade, Classroom #101, Main Level
6th - 7th grade, Classroom #204, Upper Level
8th- 12th Grade, Youth Room, Upper Level

Our Board of Christian Education invites each of you to help us meet our teaching goal by volunteering to teach Sunday School. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer with available teaching dates. As a volunteer teacher, you will be provided a lesson plan outline and support so that you have a wonderful experience.



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.



**Come On Out and Join Us for Lunch
Sunday, September 29, 2019
Tostada Sunday
11:15am to 12:30pm**

Our youth are hosting an Authentic Tostada Luncheon, right after Worship on Sunday, September 29 in Fellowship Hall, lower level of our Church building. It is our hope that you and yours will come and enjoy music, festivities, and a delicious authentic Mexican lunch. Your participation at this Youth Ministry Fundraiser will not just be delicious, but will help our youth prepare for our next mission trip.



**Women's Spiritual Growth Gathering
"Beautifully Rooted"
Friday, October 4, 2019
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

We hope you will mark your calendars,
plan on bringing a friend, and join us.

Our evening will include delicious appetizers,
raffles, and games.

THE MISSION BOARD

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



All are invited to the 5th annual 'Cue for a Cause **today**, Sunday, September 1 from noon to 8 pm in the City lot at York and Vallette. While teams compete to prove that their BBQ is the best, attendees will enjoy live music, a kids' play area, raffles, and great food and drink. All proceeds will benefit one of our community partners, the Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network.

The Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network provides financial assistance to local families going through a difficult time. To learn more about their work, visit elmhurstwalkin.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jim Molina, Minister of Music



As the summer winds down, the choir continues to prepare new and exciting music for the Fall Season. We are also now starting our rehearsals for our 2019 Christmas Cantata that will be held on December 22nd during our worship service. We had an eventful summer as we bid farewell to Tim and Bradley Kirby, but welcomed a new singer, Albert Thurkow. Our Hymn Sunday was a great celebration in singing collectively in spirit. We were also blessed to have the extraordinary violinist, Daniel Ziesemer, accompanying us that morning.

On Sep. 22nd, Jim Molina will be conducting the Westmont Joyful Voices Show Group (a Senior-aged choir of 35 singers) in a benefit concert to help raise funds for Alzheimer's. This concert will be held in Westmont at the Westmont High School Auditorium. It is a 90-minute production of great Broadway and famous movie music. Flyers and tickets will be available this month. Please see Jim Molina. Tickets are \$15. You can also visit the site at westmontjoyfulvoices.org

GREEN TEAM

Karen Pachyn

Green Team Tip of the Month - September

There aren't too many things in life that are free, but we actually found one and I'm so excited. I wanted to share it with you!

Don and I had a ComEd home energy assessment done. It was easy to schedule and resulted in having a friendly ComEd energy expert come to our home. As part of the assessment, he looked at every single light bulb on the interior. We thought we had done a decent job of replacing our light bulbs with "greener" alternatives, but he found all sorts of bulbs we hadn't thought about, like the ones in our shower stalls or the ones in the back basement. After identifying what kinds of bulbs we had, he updated every single incandescent and halogen bulb with an LED. He was able to reach all the bulbs in our lofted ceilings that we have a terrible time changing and had bulbs in every shape and size to fit, including candelabra bulbs, and can lights. We now have a completely LED lit house.



He also left us with advanced power strips for our TV's and PC's that reduce the use of standby power. We already had them, but he also would have installed energy efficient showerheads and aerators. And all this didn't cost a penny! You can't find a deal like that anywhere these days. They also offered us a discount on programmable thermostats.

To find out more, just go to the ComEd website and follow the instructions <https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/SingleFamily.aspx>

Then sit back and enjoy the savings on your utility bills!

Karen Pachyn

On Behalf of the Green Team: Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carolee Luppino, Shirley Myers, Gail Ogdon, Claire Richter, Robert Tracy

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!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Elmhurst College

Tommy Emmanuel in Concert at Elmhurst College

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel

Contact Information: Kate Reeter, kate.reeter@elmhurst.edu

A special performance by the Grammy-nominated guitarist and composer, with all proceeds to benefit the Emmanuel Family Guitar Endowed Scholarship at Elmhurst College. The opening performance will be by the Elmhurst College Gretsch Guitar Ensemble.

General admission: \$50

The Extraordinary Impact We Can Create: Lessons from My Journey Co-founding the Malala Fund to NOW

Thursday, October 3, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel at Elmhurst College

Contact Information: Office of Marketing and Communications, marketing@elmhurst.edu

THE ROLAND QUEST LECTURE SERIES

An entrepreneur and impact leader, Shiza Shahid co-founded the Malala Fund with Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai to create access to high-quality education for all children around the world. At Elmhurst College, Shahid will describe her work with Malala, her funding platform NOW Ventures, her struggle to create social change, and how ordinary people can make extraordinary waves.

Admission is \$20

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



September

1	Dale Stevens
15	Jonathon Gregg
21	Joy Vastola
23	Linda Donahue
26	Gail Ogdon
29	Joyce Stevens



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 or 630-832-2580. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September	Event/Room	Time
1	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
5	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
8	Youth Led Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
10	Board of Christian Ed Meeting	5:30 p.m.
10	Mission Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
11	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
15	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
17	Board of Trustees Meeting	6:00 p.m.
19	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
22	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
24	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
25	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
26	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
29	Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
29	Tostada Sunday Youth Fundraiser	11:00 a.m.