

# Tree of Life Newsletter

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



JULY 2021

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. Mike Daly

It seems fitting and proper to share these words for my final newsletter article.

And now, good friends, go forth into the world and be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Together, let us all say, "AMEN!"

Faithfully, and always your friend,  
Mike

***By popular demand, here is Suzy's Coffee Cake Recipe. Enjoy!***

Preheat the oven at 350  
Spray a Bundt pan with cooking or baking spray  
Cook for approximately 35-40 minutes

Mix:  
1 box of yellow cake mix  
1 box of vanilla instant pudding  
3 eggs  
1 ½ cups of water  
1/3 cups of oil

In a separate bowl mix:  
½ cup of brown sugar  
½ cup of white sugar  
2 teaspoons of cinnamon

Alternate pouring cake mix and the sugar/cinnamon mix into the Bundt pan until gone.

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## PLEASE JOIN US!

July 11th will be a special Sunday as we gather together as a church family for our last Sunday with Rev. Mike Daly as our pastor. Immediately following the service will be a luncheon reception in the parlor so plan on staying for a time of fellowship and to thank Mike and wish him well as he continues on life's journey.

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## FROM OUR MODERATOR

Todd Hicks

What's your mission?

Do you sing in the shower, like karaoke or play an instrument? Are you interested in learning more about singing? Are you looking to have some fun and try something new? If you answered yes to any of the above, we'd love for you to join the choir.

As you know, our church choir is a pillar at FCUCC and our choir is in need of new voices!! This is an opportunity to take part of our Church's tradition that dates back past Jean Schilbach's 73+ years of participation. You can be part of a tight-knit, supportive community that loves to have fun!

Concerned your voice may not be up to par? Don't worry. You do not need to have a Celine Dion voice to participate. The choir has trained singers for each section. These singers will help guide and lead other choir members, keeping people in tune and on rhythm. Who knows, you may have a hidden talent and not even know it!

If you're looking to have some fun, make new friends and participate in a pillar FCUCC community, join us! Share your talents and be part of a group that is tighter than the Kardashians.

Please reach out to Jim Molina if you're interested.

*"Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all his wonderful acts." Psalm 105:2*

Todd Hicks  
Moderator

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## DE COLORES UPDATE



### De Colores Youth Orientation Meeting

All **adult volunteers** are invited to a De Colores volunteer orientation meeting. We will be meeting on **Sunday, July 18** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship

Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us. We would like to provide a light snack-like lunch so please confirm your participation with Margaret Bixler or Senora Mendoza.

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### PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Bixler, Margaret Chittaro, Gayle Dawson, Vanessa Jackson, Bob Kanzler, Janet Russell, and Ron Teuber

The search for a for a new minister to lead the congregation is underway. We have been fortunate to be able to build on the work of others and get things rolling before our conference advisor was able to meet with us. You have likely seen and participated in a congregational survey to gather information about what is important to members in a new pastor. We built on the survey sent out six years ago by the last pulpit search committee. The survey recently closed, and it has provided useful information to the committee. We will be updating the congregation on the results in the near future.

One of the key tools in the search is a profile of First Church. Used to describe our church and community to candidates, one was put together during the last search. It's surprising how much has changed in the last six years. We are updating the profile, and we are incorporating information from the survey into it. We will be completing the updated profile soon.

The committee did recently meet with our advisor from the UCC's Chicago Metropolitan Association, Rev. Terrill Murff, who counseled us on how the process typically works. We described the preparation work that we had begun, and he advised us on next steps. He will be our contact person when we begin reviewing candidates. We hope to begin doing so in July.

Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Bixler, Margaret Chittaro, Gayle Dawson, Vanessa Jackson, Bob Kanzler, Janet Russell, and Ron Teuber

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### THE TRUSTEES

Fritz Baumgartner, Jan Davis, Mike Hennel, Bob Kanzler, Carrie Stone, Margaret Chittaro (Treasurer)

The Trustees join the entire church in wishing Rev. Daly all the best as he begins his new call next week at First Congregational UCC in Geneva, IL. We will miss his smiling face and dad jokes a lot! Even more, we reflect on the amazing connections he built within our congregation these past few years. We know we have been inspired by his pulpit messages time and again. Mike takes the next steps in his journey with our affection and best wishes for he and his family.

With Mike's departure, we are approaching another time of change in our church's life and that is not entirely comfortable. Change is always hard and I think it's especially hard as we've been separated from each other for a while due to COVID.

I'm so glad we are back in the sanctuary able to greet and see each other again! If you have questions or concerns about the changes at church, I offer myself as a person happy to answer your questions and always interested to hear your thoughts. We need to come together in all the ways we can to take our next steps forward as a church - I pray we will do this with openness, trust, honest communication, and faith in each other.

We also want to thank Martha and Jim for the work they have done with Mike and lay leadership to ensure a smooth transition for the church over the next several months as we search for a new settled pastor. There is much to be done and our creative and talented staff are enthusiastic and committed beyond measure - we are truly blessed!

Finally, our facility continues to need attention. We are currently in the process of replacing the air conditioning unit in the staff area of the building. We need to eliminate the flooding on the south side of the building that continues to cause problems on the lower level. We are assessing the technology needs for streaming worship and producing other on-line video content. If you are willing to serve on the Building & Grounds Ministry Team, please reach out as we have a great need for leadership to shepherd these and other important projects forward.

Carrie Stone, Chair

Board of Trustees: Bob Kanzler, Fritz Baumgartner, Jan Davis, Mike Hennel, Margaret Chittaro (Treasurer)

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## THE DIACONATE

Don Haraf, Calvin Jackson, Carolee Luppino, Claire Richter, Allen Sloma

### **Sunday Morning Scripture Readers Needed!**

The Deacons would like to encourage participation of our congregation in Sunday service by reading scripture. People and youth can sign up for future Sundays by going to the church website under MEMBERS and they will see a box for SCRIPTURE READERS. Please list your email address in order to receive a confirmation reminder.



Until we have a new permanent minister, Rev. Jan Davis has agreed to lead the church Pastoral Care.

Guest ministers have been scheduled for Sundays through early October.

The membership list has been updated.

Parlor coffee hour is suspended until possibly late August.

Altar flowers signup will be discussed in the fall.

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## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Brian Brigman, Dorothy Hamby, Chair Tammy Hicks, Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Lynette Rosen, Jeff Sloma, Karen Sloma



### Olympic Games Train and Reach the Goal!

*"I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself." Philippians 3:14*

During this month of July, the 2021 Olympics begin in Tokyo, Japan. Starting Sunday, July 11th through Sunday, August 1st, First Congregational children will be having their very own Olympic Games. Each Sunday, children will enjoy games and learn from different Bible characters that show us that the ULTIMATE goal of our lives should be to live a life that honors God.

We look forward to your children being a part of the summer fun in person at 10:00 a.m. or via Zoom at 10:15 a.m.

### The Forge Here We Come!

As many of you may know, our outing to The Forge was cancelled due to rain on Saturday, June 26. We have regrouped and are moving forward to go on Friday, July 23rd. We are meeting at the church at 9am.



Please make sure to arrive at the church by 9am so we can be at the Forge park on time. Youth should wear gym shoes and bring a bottle of water. We will be having lunch together and enjoying all the fun activities.

We still have tickets for our new date of Friday, July 23rd. Please reach out to me if you would like to have your youth attend. Young adults are also welcome. Looking forward to coming together.  
Martha Mendoza



----- Save the Date -----

Our planning committee had its first meeting and we are all so excited for our upcoming gathering. Our guest speaker is Dr. Adrienne Colemon. Stay tuned for more details.

A big thank you to those of you that have agreed to be on the planning committee: Dorothy Hamby (chair), Kim Brigman, Margaret Chittaro, Rev, Jan Davis, Marcia Fleming, Martha Mendoza and Karen Sloma

If you would like to help with this event, please reach out to Dorothy Hamby at [gummydt@aol.com](mailto:gummydt@aol.com). Thank you.

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## MUSIC COMMITTEE

Jim Molina

With summer upon us we find ourselves in the spirit of community once again. Sunday services are looking fuller, hymns are being lifted, songs are being sung, and the smiles are once again being seen!

The music ministry has the choir once again rehearsing on Thursday evenings, putting together music for the summer, fall, and yes...even Christmas!

If you wish to sing or perform in any way during our Sunday services please reach out to Jim Molina and he will get you situated.

Happy Summer!

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## GREEN TEAM

Karen Pachyn

### Green Team Tip of the Month – July

The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, of which our church is a member, is initiating a program we are calling “Start In Your Yard”. The idea is inspired by the book “Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach To Conservation That Starts In Your Yard”. The book is written by noted entomologist and environmentalist Doug Tallamy. He points out that our wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. He urges homeowners everywhere to plant natives, thus turning their yards into conservation corridors, or “mini national parks” that provide the desperately needed habitat.

The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition is kicking off a citywide campaign to encourage individuals, businesses, and civic organizations throughout the community to follow Dr. Tallamy’s lead and replace all or portions of their grass with native plants. Unlike grass, native plants will attract beneficial insects, provide stormwater solutions and add color and beauty. To show how this might work in your yard, we are hosting a native garden walk on July 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to noon. You will be able to view three public gardens and three private gardens, including the gardens of our own Jennifer and Terry Hennen (see photo above). Tour the gardens on your own or join the Elmhurst Bike Club on a ride to all six (helmets required). A knowledgeable host will be available at each garden to help you “Start In Your Yard”. For more information and to register for the free tour, go to the Cool Cities website.

In August the Elmhurst Public Library will be kicking off a community wide read of Doug Tallamy’s book “Nature’s Best Hope” with book discussions scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. And in November, the author himself will do a live zoom presentation for our community. Many more events are scheduled for the next twelve months and beyond, so stay tuned.

We wish everyone a safe and happy July!

The Green Team

Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carolee Luppino, Chris Murray, Shirley Myers, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn, Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

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## HERITAGE BUNCH

Heritage Bunch meets in the church parlor from 10:00 to noon  
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.  
Everyone is welcome!

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## CELEBRATION GARDEN

### *Time to Celebrate and Remember!*

A reminder, First Church launched our Celebration Garden in the parking lot area for members to celebrate and remember loved ones with a permanent dedication of a garden plot or tree.

It's a wonderful way to honor a loved one, remember a passed family member, celebrate a special occasion or demonstrate a personal contribution to our stunning new garden.

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## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF ELMHURST UNIVERSITY

Our entire congregation has been invited to view a taped presentation of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Where Do We Go From Here?" Chaos or Community speech that he gave at Elmhurst University 55 years ago. The video presentation is on Thursday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m. It can be viewed by going to the university's website.



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ELMHURST WALK-IN ASSISTANCE NETWORK FUNDRAISING EVENT

**ARE YOU THE BEST  
GRILLMASTER  
IN ELMHURST?**

**IT'S ON....  
EWAN's ANNUAL COOKOFF**

Judges \* Awards \* Prizes  
Teams or Individuals  
Best Ribs, Chicken, & Sauce  
New! Pie & Cookie Competition

**Sunday  
September 5  
Noon - 7pm**  
City parking lot at York and Vallette

Visit [elmhurstwalkin.org](http://elmhurstwalkin.org) or  
scan the QR code  
to register by Aug 21st

ELMHURST  
WALK-IN  
ASSISTANCE NETWORK

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CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Dave Ogdon     | 16 Janet Russell |
| 7 Paul Loss      | 23 Tammy Hicks   |
| 8 Mark Swanson   | 25 Mike Hennel   |
| 8 Alex Stone     | 26 Nolan Dubois  |
| 11 John Hamby    | 29 Phoebe Daly   |
| 13 Shirley Myers | 29 Becky Swanson |
| 14 Jeff Morrow   |                  |



Phyllis Crosley  
Mark Swanson  
Jan Russell  
Janet Rowe

Russ Laine  
Mary Loss  
Angela Burrell  
Louis Reed

Ed & Cheryl Eckert  
Michael Magana  
Ken Stratton  
Amy Lynch  
Basia Rudy

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July	Event/Room	Time
1	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
4	In-Person Worship Service with Summertime Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
8	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
11	In-Person Worship Service with Summertime Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
11	Luncheon for Rev. Mike Daly	11:00 a.m.
14	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m.
15	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
18	In-Person Worship Service with Summertime Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
22	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
23	Youth and Young Adult Outing to The Forge	9:00 a.m.
25	In-Person Worship Service with Summertime Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
27	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
28	Heritage Bunch - Parlor	10:00 a.m.
29	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.

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## TITHE.LY GIVING



Give with Tithe.ly from anywhere at any time. Download the Tithe.ly giving app to get started. You'll find First Congregational United Church of Christ, Elmhurst, IL. Your gift is safe and secure and goes directly to our church.

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Support First Congregational each time you make a purchase on Amazon. Sign up and Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and a portion of your purchase will be donated back to First Congregational *at no cost to you*. This is an easy way for us to earn some extra money! Please make sure you sign up to participate. Thank you!



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*Partners in Christ's Service*

**Church Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Michael Daly, Sr. Minister  
Martha Mendoza, Minister of Christian Education  
Jim Molina, Minister of Music  
Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

**Church Office Staff**

Heather Cross, Bookkeeper  
Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

**Contact Us**

Phone: 630-832-2580  
Fax: 630-832-9142  
Email: [elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.elmhurstucc.org](http://www.elmhurstucc.org)  
Facebook: [First Congregational UCC Elmhurst](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCElmhurst)

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