MODERATOR’S MINUTE
Margaret Chittaro

As the war on Ukraine enters its 2nd month, I ask that in this Lenten season, we focus not on what we can give up, but what we can take on.
The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and other war-torn countries, is growing.
Below are but a few of the many organizations asking for assistance.

Spiritually we pray for peace ... all over the world.
Practically, we give ... with our hearts, hands and wallets.

UCC's "Ukraine Relief Fund
https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-appeal-for-ukraine-calls-on-u-s-to-provide-humanitarian-aid/

Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders
https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
https://www.unrefugees.org/

International Committee of the Red Cross

World Central Kitchen
https://wck.org/
**WORSHIP MINISTRY**
Martha Mendoza, Jim Molina, Margaret Chittaro, Claire Richter

The worship team, along with the Diaconate, is gathering names of individuals that would like to receive a home delivery of palms this Palm Sunday, April 10th. Please connect with Claire Richter or Margaret Chittaro with your request.

The Worship Team continues to meet every Wednesday to plan out worship service. We are grateful for the insight and perspective the Diaconate brings to our meetings.

Thank you to Don Haraf for all your efforts.
We will miss our time with you!
And we welcome Claire Richter to the table as the Diaconate's new worship team rep.
We look forward to collaborating with you!

While our Sunday service is now mask-optional, we continue to monitor Illinois guidelines. We look forward to seeing all of your faces on Sundays ... with or without masks!

Upcoming Lenten services:
Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday: 'Arise' - An Easter Cantata
Friday, April 15, 7pm: Good Friday Service: Seven Last Words
Sunday, April 17, 10am: Easter

We look forward to continuing this Lenten journey with you ....

Marta Mendoza, Jim Molina, Margaret Chittaro, Claire Richter

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**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Amarelis Morales-Berent, Lynette Rosen

Don't miss out on this coming together of women TONIGHT! Our guest speaker is Dr. Adrienne Coleman, a woman of God, who will be talking to us about restarting and refocusing ourselves during these turbulent times.

Come and be strengthened by being with other women. Enjoy delicious appetizers, raffles, door prizes, and great company.

Our evening’s free-will offering will go to #LovePurse.
Palm Sunday Children’s Parade
Sunday, April 10, 2022

As children learn the story of Jesus, Palm Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to remember his purpose. On Sunday, April 10, at the beginning of the worship service, all children present are invited to participate in a fun parade in remembrance of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem before Easter.

As part of the cantata, 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!
Save the Date!

Your presence is requested as we commission our work trip delegation on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

In early June, a delegation representing our church will be traveling to the island of Puerto Rico. Please mark your calendars and invite family and friends to be a part of this send off and blessing over our work delegation.

THE DIACONATE BOARD
Bridget Bixler, Brian Brigman, Calvin Jackson, Raquel & William Roman

There are new members of the Diaconate as people transition from other boards to new ones. Joining the Diaconate are Brian Brigman, Bridget Bixler, William Roman and Raquel Roman. They are joining the current deacons Calvin Jackson and Claire Richter. A thank you is extended to Don Haraf and Carolee Luppino for their work and dedication while they were part of the Diaconate.

If anyone is interested in displaying fresh flowers on any Sunday, please contact the church office to let the staff know of the special event. Fresh purchased arrangements are welcome but need to be purchased by the church member and removed by the donating church member after the service.

The deacons want to wish everyone a very happy Easter!
Highlighting Synapse House –

Over the past few years, we have supported and uplifted the wonderful work of the Synapse House here in Elmhurst. Their purpose is to Engage, Empower & Employ individuals affected by Traumatic Brain Injury and Stroke.

They Engage individuals through productive and healing work during participation in the Clubhouse Day Program and through virtual services. They Empower individuals and families through innovative, effective programs that create community, provide practical solutions and foster change. They address vocational goals so companies can Employ their Members, giving them independence and pride.

Our congregation has been most involved with their bakery located at 561 N York – on the east side of York just north of the expressway.

The bakery program is called Flour to Empower and is a unique program offered by Synapse House. Each week Members may choose to participate in baking activities in our licensed commercial kitchen. There, they get hands-on, practical healing in a safe, controlled environment while creating delicious baked goods. The process involves Members teaming up with associates and volunteers to measure ingredients, follow-recipes, and carefully time these flavorful treats as they bake in our large oven.

After each baked item is cool, the work continues as Members carefully package the breads, brownies and cakes for sale at local events or for shipment nationwide. Baking is just one component of the therapy for Members, business skills and customer service are critical to the process as well.

Baked goods the Members create are:

- Served at Synapse House to celebrate Member birthdays and special achievements
- Packaged and shipped nationwide to those who support their mission
- Available for purchase at local festivals, community events and farmer’s markets

Proceeds from every bakery purchase go toward supporting the brain injury and stroke survivors they serve at Synapse House. Flour to Empower is just one more way they Engage, Empower and Employ their Members.

Besides the bakery, the Synapse House offers a Club House Program, Employment Programs, Community Support Services, Wellness & Personal Training, Family Support Services and Therapeutic Programs. Synapse House is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for Community Integration. Check out all they do at www.synapsehouse.org

And look for them at our Green Garden Fair on Saturday, May 7th where they will be selling their awesome baked goods – maybe find a special treat for Mother’s Day!
MUSIC MINISTRY
Jim Molina

The Music Ministry of First Congregational UCC of Elmhurst, 235 S. Kenilworth, is proud to present an inspirational Easter Cantata, “Arise!”, on Palm Sunday, April 10 @ 10 AM. We invite you to witness the power of the cross as we tell the story in song and spoken word. “Arise!” begins with palms and the Chancel Choir singing “Hosanna” from Jesus Christ Superstar.

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

Coming May 7— The Green Garden Fair

Thanks to everyone who preordered organic seedlings and to everyone who helped spread the word about our sale. It’s been another great year. We sold 1,595 seedlings, 92 bags of compost and 46 bags of growing mix. We couldn’t do it without everyone’s support and energy so the Green Team is grateful to everyone for their help.

We’re now looking forward to the Green Garden Fair which will be on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You will be able to pick up your preorder, buy additional seedlings and enjoy our many exhibitors there. So far we have 16 different organizations planning to be at our event and helping us learn how to live a more sustainable lifestyle, particularly as it relates to your garden. The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition will be there to promote their “Start In Your Yard” initiative encouraging native gardening and the University of Illinois Master Gardeners will be answering your growing questions. “Caroline’s Birdie Tweets” will be selling bird seed ornaments, City Bee Savers will be selling local, raw honey, you’ll be able to order a rain barrel from the Conservation Foundation and Sustain DuPage will be giving out heirloom pole beans. That’s just a few of the fun things that will be happening at the Fair, which will also include the sale of delicious baked goods by our perennial favorite - Synapse House’s “Flour to Empower” Bakery

The Green Team needs help to make this all happen. Our provider, West Start Organics, will make their delivery on the morning of Thursday, May 5th. We will need help getting everything off the truck. We could especially use help from some folks with strong backs that can lift bags of compost and growing mix. Seedlings will be taken to Fellowship Hall where they will be sorted into individual preorders on Friday, May 6th for pick up at the Fair the next day. We’ll need help sorting the plants on Friday and getting everything outside and set up on Saturday, beginning at 8:00 AM. During the
actual Fair, we’ll need folks to distribute the preorders, sell additional plants, compost and growing mix that will be available for purchase at the Fair and sit at a table sharing information about our church with our visitors. And then of course, there will be clean up after the event. There will be something for everyone to do, so please mark your calendar for May 5th, 6th and 7th and then look for a Sign Up Genius coming soon.

It will be a busy couple of days, but it’s always fun when we all band together to make our event a success! Proceeds from the sale support the church’s general ministries.

**Green Team Tip of the Month**

Carolee Luppino sent me the sign to the right and I wanted to share it with all of you. It’s right on – please be patient and it will go a long way to help all the beneficial insects that overwinter in your garden debris.

I also want to share with you that we will be having our Earth Day Service on Sunday, April 24th this year. Kay McKeen, Founder and Executive Director of SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting) will be delivering our message. You’ve heard me mention SCARCE many times. They are the organization that awarded us our Earth Flag and I’m proud to say we were the first church in Elmhurst to earn one. Now come meet the amazing and dynamic woman who started it all. Bring the kids because we have a fun Children’s sermon planned for them too. I hope to see you there!

Karen Pachyn
Chair – Green Team

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**HERITAGE BUNCH**

Greetings ...

We are called the Heritage Bunch
We meet 10 to Noon ...yes, just before lunch
Two Wednesdays a month and we really have fun
It’s interesting talk ... from when we start till we’re done!

We solve the world’s problems, of each other we care
We talk and we laugh and we end with a prayer.

If you’re looking for a group, but you don’t just know where
There’s nothing we’d like better than to have you right there.

Come join us ...On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
CHURCH APARTMENT FOR RENT

The 1-bedroom apartment in the church, located on the lower level south east side of the building, is currently vacant and available for lease. Please contact Carrie Stone (773-569-2444) or Margaret Chittaro (312-961-8067) if you would like more information.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

3  Brian Brigman
29  Amarelis Morales-Berent
30  Doug Stone

August (Augie) Carlson
Maxine Cassidy
Phyllis Crosley’s Family
Dan Dallas
Ed Eckert

Susan Graybill
Basia Rudy
Joyce Stevens & Family
Bob Tracy
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Women’s Spiritual Growth Gathering</td>
<td>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Worship Service with “Arise!” Easter Cantata</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Good Friday Service</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Easter Sunday Worship Service with Children’s Easter Party</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Annual Easter Bake Sale</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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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. Click HERE for more info on Tithe.ly https://get.tithe.ly/

Support First Congregational each time you make a purchase on Amazon. Sign up and shop at 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!

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=36-2374420&ref_=smi_ext_ch_36-2374420_cl
Partners in Christ's Service

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(630) 400-7747

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Jim Molina, Director of Music
Heather Cross, Bookkeeper
Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

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