

Tree of Life Newsletter

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



SEPTEMBER 2021

SAVE THE DATE

How good and pleasant it is when God's people come together! Psalm 133



Youth-Led Worship Service & Tostada Luncheon Fundraiser
Sunday, September 12, 2021
10:00 a.m.

As we make our way back to in-person worship, we find ourselves having much to give thanks for. Please accept this enthusiastic invitation to join us for our Youth-Led Worship Service and Tostada Luncheon. A team of youth will be leading our worship and the Rev. Robert Buckner, II will be our guest minister. We encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us for this special Sunday.

PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

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

The Search Committee has completed the draft of the video presentation of the congregational survey, which is currently being reviewed by the moderator. We expect to post the video soon for all members of the congregation to see.

The Search Committee has also sent the necessary materials to our Conference minister so that the position can be posted on the UCC website for ministerial positions. We've been told that the posting will be active by the time the newsletter is published. We hope to begin reviewing candidates in the next several days.

We are also expecting to refine our criteria for evaluating applicants by the time the newsletter is published, to soon be followed by finalizing our interview process.

THE TRUSTEES

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

The Trustees are responsible for facilities, finances, and personnel. We appreciate the opportunities and challenges present within these areas! This summer we are working closely with the Search Committee to provide required funding to hire our next called minister. We pray for a called minister who can inspire growth in our ministries and membership and lead us into our next chapter!

Our team has been attending to maintenance of our air conditioning, gardens, floors, locks, and other areas that need attention. Many thanks for Terry Hennen, Larry Meyer, and Martha Mendoza who regularly take on these projects! Can you volunteer to help out with some projects?

We are excited to be adding tenants to our building schedule - Elmhurst Children's Theater will rent Pilgrim Hall and the two adjacent classrooms several evenings Aug-Oct. We have also added a cello teacher to the rotation. We are delighted to see our facility in use for wonderful purposes!

As the world shows us constant change and plenty to fear, we more clearly see the importance of our community of faith holding together and sharing our message of hope with each other and all we meet. Please reach out to any of us with your questions or concerns as we want to stay connected with you - - quite simply, we do this work FOR you!

Carrie Stone (Chair), Bob Kanzler (Building & Grounds), Fritz Baumgartner (Personnel), Jan Davis, Margaret Chittaro (Treasurer), Mike Hennel

THE DIACONATE

Don Haraf, Calvin Jackson, Carolee Luppino, Claire Richter



Due to changing COVID conditions, for the short term if someone wants to have fresh flowers on the altar for a special occasion, they will need to be purchased by the church member themselves. Please contact the office to request your special occasion Sunday and to submit an announcement to be listed in the Sunday bulletin. Your purchased flowers will be displayed on the altar during the service and are encouraged to be taken from the altar by the purchaser when service is over. Calling the office to request altar flowers to be delivered or purchased will not be possible.

With COVID numbers on the rise again parlor coffee hour is temporarily on hold. We want to be cautious with everyone and masks are recommended again regardless of vaccination status.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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



Seasons Change But God Never Changes

Yes indeed seasons change! As autumn makes its beautiful entrance, we are all reminded of how lucky we are to have the different seasons in our part of the world.

This particular season the change goes beyond the foliage or weather. Many of our children are doing school in a new way with many restrictions and at time may have to deal with hiccups that come with living in a pandemic.

During the month of September, our Sunday School lessons will be aimed at sharing biblical stories that address "change" and how certain people of the Bible dealt with it. Christians today can draw from these lessons to provide comfort, strength and perseverance.

It is among our prayers that your schedule allows for your children to join us on Sundays to be edified with those biblical stories. *Your Board of Christian Education*

High School Gathering (Rescheduled from August)

As we kick off the school year, all high school youth are invited to a special dinner and gathering.



Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021

Time: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Flavah Underground, 570 S. York, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Together high schoolers will have an opportunity to catch up, eat an amazing dinner prepared by Chef Kevin and participate in games. To confirm your youth's participation, RSVP by clicking on the box below. Please be prompt as Chef Kevin will begin meal introduction at 3:00 pm.

MISSION BOARD

Mary Moy Gregg, Gail Ogdon, Amy Reshamwala, Jan Russell, Diane Wells

The Mission Board is excited to invite Deborah Geisler from Synapse House to join us on September 19. Bakery items baked by members of their Flour to Empower program will be for sale before and after church with all proceeds going to Synapse House.



synapse
HOUSE

Synapse House is first & foremost a Clubhouse, a community. At a Clubhouse, individuals join together for a common goal. It is a community. Our community stands

together as we continue to open up more services and look to the future. If you or your loved one has sustained a brain injury or stroke, we are here to help.

Flour to Empower is the social enterprise bakery of Synapse House. 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 has cooled, the work continues. Members carefully package the breads, brownies and cakes for sale in our bakery shop 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. Proceeds from every bakery purchase go toward supporting the brain injury and stroke survivors we serve at Synapse House. Flour to Empower is just one more way we *Engage, Empower and Employ* our Members.



From the UCC - An Appeal to Help Haiti

Thank you for your support of the United Church of Christ's International Disaster Efforts. Because of you, we have helped thousands in the midst of devastation and loss. We turn to you again as we assist with relief efforts in Haiti.

The UCC is working with Global Ministries, Church World Service and the ACT Alliance among other partners, all of which are currently assessing the situation for damages and needs.

With you, the United Church of Christ can help provide the needed resources for those experiencing extreme loss in Haiti. We appreciate your gift. Please click the button below to donate to support this cause.

GREEN TEAM

Karen Pachyn

Green Team Tip of The Month - September 2021

If you were inspired by all our lessons about “granjas” at De Colores, have I got a follow up for you! If you were at our Earth Day service last spring you will remember the very energetic Reverend Cyndy Ash who filled our pulpit that Sunday. Reverend Ash is the sole proprietor of Jubilee Farms, whose mission is to provide the community, both those with financial means and those without, with locally grown produce, farmed sustainably without pesticides or synthetic fertilizers and to serve as a gathering place for the wider church community for gathering, serving, education, and community building.



As we learned then, Bethel Church has been making regular visits to Jubilee Farms in Clinton Illinois to provide volunteer help (with the exception of 2020). They are again planning a visit to her farm on Saturday, September 25th and have invited us to join them for the day. Here's the information Jean Bruno from Bethel provided me about the opportunity:

- Cyndy Ash has had a rough year and can really use our help
- We will be working out of doors
- Bring your masks anyway
- We will start about 9:30-10:00 and end by 3:00.
- Lunch will cost about \$5.00 per person (Subway sandwiches)
- Wear comfortable clothes you don't care about!
- You can drive down to Clinton, IL and drive back the same day (2.5 hours each way)
- If you don't want to drive it all in one day, she suggests you make a reservation at the Wyndam Super 8 in Lincoln, IL (217-717-9622) for the lowest rate at a clean place for Friday, September 24th (\$60-\$70).

Questions? Feel free to call or email Jean Bruno: jean@jeanbruno.com or 312-504-9948.
And if you would like to go please let both Karen Pachyn and Jean know.

Note that because of liability issues, participation is limited to those who are 14 years or older.

If you can't make it on 9/25, you'll have another opportunity to learn more about what Cyndy does on Sunday, October 17th when she will once again be our guest minister.

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.

Now if you'll note the picture, you'll see over there
One thing we don't like .. it's an empty chair.
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 ...
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jan Davis

Caring for One Another

Supporting our members during everyday occurrences, ailments, and even the passing away of a loved one is highest among our calling as a church. During this period of a pastoral search, Rev. Jan Davis, Rev.

Jorge Morales, and Martha Mendoza will be available for pastoral care. They will be reaching out to those of us that have enjoyed regular pastoral visits and for any emergency that may arise.



If you have any pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 630-832-2580.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



1 Dale Stevens
21 Joy Vastola
23 Linda Donahue

26 Gail Ogdon
29 Joyce Stevens



Bob Tracy
Phyllis Crosley
Angela Burrell
Janet Rowe

Mary Loss
Louis Reed
Amy Lynch
Basia Rudy

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.

AMAZON SMILE

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!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September	Event/Room	Time
5	In-Person Communion Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
8	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m.
12	In-Person Youth-Led Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
12	Tostada Luncheon Youth Fundraiser	11:00 a.m.
19	In-Person Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
19	High School Gathering – Flavah Underground	3:00 p.m.
22	Heritage Bunch – Parlor	10:00 a.m.
26	In-Person Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
28	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Partners in Christ's Service

Pastoral Care

Rev. Janet Davis

(630) 400-7747

revjcd@aol.com

Church Staff

Martha Mendoza, Director of Christian Education

Jim Molina, Director of Music

Heather Cross, Bookkeeper

Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

Contact Us

(630) 832-2580

Email: elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.elmhurstucc.org

Facebook: [First Congregational UCC Elmhurst](#)
