

# Tree of Life Newsletter

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



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

---

## **FROM THE MODERATOR**

**Janet Russell**

Hello again,

Well as expected the summer has flown by. We here at First Congregational don't let that slow us down. We had a very successful De Colores week. Lots of children, lots of learning, lots of good food and lots of fun.

Our parlor has had a complete makeover and is beautiful. Many thanks to our decorators and thanks to the congregation for their patience while the remodel took place. Also, thanks to the Diaconate for going with the flow during the remodeling and still getting our morning coffee made.

Now on to the new school year. We have the youth lead worship service on the 10th of September followed by the Tostada Luncheon. We know that our young people will have put a lot of thought and care into the worship service and the luncheon will taste great. We do know how to make good food.

I look forward to a busy fall season and hope you all join us. It will be great to see people back from summer break.

Take care,  
Jan

---

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

**Margaret Chittaro**

For your convenience, payment for any event, fundraiser, or offering can be done multiple ways.

Below are our giving options.

**For online givers, we urge you to switch to PayPal or Venmo as both of these services greatly reduce our processing fees.**

1. PAYPAL: Use [paypal.me](https://paypal.me/fcucceIm) @fcucceIm

**We prefer and recommend PayPal for electronic giving at this time.**

**We receive a reduced processing fee, which is a benefit for both you as the donor, and First Church as the recipient.**

Paypal users can setup an account and store their credit card and bank to make payments.

## **2. VENMO: User is @FCUCCEImhurst**

We are excited to offer the option to use Venmo.

Click the icon below, or simply enter @FCUCCEImhurst in your Venmo app.

<https://account.venmo.com/u/FCUCCEImhurst>

## **3. You may mail a check to:**

First Congregational UCC  
Attn: Bookkeeper  
235 S Kenilworth  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

## **4. Tithely**

We continue to keep our legacy e-giving platform, Tithely, active. <https://tithe.ly/give?c=317447>

---

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Amarelis Morales-Berent, Lynette Rosen (chair), and Donna Scumaci





## Children's Sunday School Kicks Off for the Fall Season

Our Children's Sunday School kicks off on Sunday, September 17. The Board of Christian Education is so excited to bring age appropriate biblical learning and fun activities to children in preschool through 8th grade.

Our Sunday School teaching team is looking for adult volunteers. By volunteering once every three months you would be making a great contribution to our church. Please reach out to Martha Mendoza at [marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marta.elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net).

We look forward to your children's participation. Thank you.

---

### THE DIACONATE BOARD

Claire Richter, chair; Bridget Bixler, Brian Brigman, Rev. Jan Davis, Calvin Jackson, Carolee Luppino, William Roman, and Ann Thoele

The end of summer is upon us, the children returned to school, our college students and our first timers are off to new adventures. Some families are "empty nesters" for the first time.

September 10 is Friendship Sunday, everyone is encouraged to bring a friend; our Tostada Luncheon follows the service.

Our Sunday bell ringers, the Hodina children, are ready every Sunday to call us to worship. What a wonderful job they are doing.

Our parlor is now open, the new coffee service is available and anyone who wishes to bring "goodies" are always welcome.

We are in need of Scripture readers; please contact Brian Brigman at [bbrigman9700@gmail.com](mailto:bbrigman9700@gmail.com) if you would like to read on Sundays.

We look forward to a large attendance now that vacation time is closing. It's time to welcome everyone back. It's been a wonderful summer and fall is just around the corner.

The Diaconate is looking forward to welcoming you.

---

### THE GREEN TEAM

Don Haraf, Carolee Luppino, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn, and Claire Richter

#### Green Team Tip of the Month—September, 2023

Celebrate "World Car Free Day" on Friday, September 22 by leaving your car at home and walking, biking, or taking public transit to work, school, or errands.

The average American drives 13,476 miles every year. That equates to about 4.7 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year – not



to mention other pollutants that negatively affect the air we breathe. Many of the trips we make each day are short enough to be done walking or by bike (28% are less than one mile, while 40% are less than two miles).

Then learn about a more long term way to reduce your car's impact on the environment by attending a presentation at the Elmhurst Public Library entitled "So You Want to Buy an Electric Car?" on Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00. The presentation will go on a deep dive into the pros and cons of electric vehicles and how to purchase and maintain one. The presenter will be virtual and you can either attend via Zoom or at the library. To register, use this link: <https://elmhurstpubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/list?df=list&nd=90&kw=electric+car&nomobile=1>

---

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

---

## PASTORAL CARE

### **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.

If you find yourself needing pastoral support, please contact our church office at 630-832-2580. We will reach out to Rev. Jan Davis or a member of the pastoral care support team to contact you.

---

## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS



14 Jessica Bresnahan	23 Rose McGarry
21 Joy Vastola	26 Gail Ogdon
21 Tracy D'Alessandro	28 Kevin Loeper
23 Linda Donahue	29 Joyce Stevens



Cyndi Bermis	Susan Graybill	Jean Schildbach
The Buckner Family	Virgina and Jim Moss	Ann Thoele
August (Augie) Carlson	Chris Murray	The Family of BobTracy
Maxine and Wade Cassidy	Randy Price	
Cheryl and Ed Ekert	Basia Rudy	

---

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September	Event	Time
3	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
7	Choir Rehearsal	7:00–8:30 p.m.
10	Youth-Led Sunday Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
10	Annual Tostada Luncheon Fundraiser	11:00 a.m.
13	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
14	Choir Rehearsal	7:00–8:30 p.m.
17	Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School Kick-Off	10:00 a.m.
21	Choir Rehearsal	7:00–8:30 p.m.
24	Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
26	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
27	Heritage Bunch	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
28	Choir Rehearsal	7:00–8:30 p.m.

---

***Partners in Christ's Service***

**Pastoral Care**

Rev. Janet Davis  
[revjcd40@aol.com](mailto:revjcd40@aol.com)  
(630) 400-7747

**Church Staff**

Martha Mendoza, Associate Pastor  
Jim Molina, Director of Music  
Heather Cross, Bookkeeper  
Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

**Contact Us**

Phone: (630) 832-2580  
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)

---