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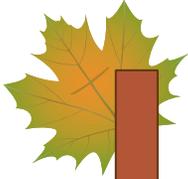
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Highlight

Increasing Our Love for God & Neighbor

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Charles (Campton Hills) • cuccstc.org August 7, 2014 • Issue 8



United Fall Fest

On September 6th, our church will be hosting the wildly popular United Fall Fest. For the fourth year, we provide our friends and neighbors in the community a day filled with food, music, and family fun. All proceeds from the fest go to fund our church's mission budget.

So, the Fall Fest is a great party for a great cause and success is only guaranteed with your help. If everyone volunteers, the hungry will be fed, the thirsty will drink, and the children will all be well-sugared and exhausted!

There is something for everyone. Want to police a bouncy house? Pull some pork? Set up picnic tables? Help with cleanup? Sling some slaw? Check the sign up in Fellowship Hall. Please remember to include your contact info and t-shirt size. A UFF t-shirt, which is sure to become a treasured family heirloom, is your prize for helping out! Makes it all worth it!

In addition, last year the United Fall Fest smoked sausage debuted. For many, this was the highlight of the event! If you tried it, you might agree. Once again, this sublime sausage, created for us by Randy Ream of Ream's Elburn Market, will be available to sample and pre-order on Sunday, August 31 after church, with pickup the following Sunday, September 7.

Bottom line? Volunteer. Pre-order some sausage. Pray for sunshine!

Thank you so much!
The Fall Fest Committee

SATURDAY • SEPT. 6 • 3PM - 10PM

KIDS

Play. Take a hay ride. Win an ice cream eating contest. Watch puppet shows. Jump. Bounce. Laugh. Throw things. Do firefighter stuff. Listen to bands. Dance. Have a great day

FREE

Kids at heart might want to bring a few bucks

Live Music • Bags • Classic Car Show • Food Tent • Beer & Wine
Kids Corner: Games, Costume Photos, Entertainers, Contests

United Fall Fest

Congregational United Church of Christ • LaFox Rd & Fox Mill Blvd • Campton Hills

Family. Friendly. Fun.



**Pray for each other so
that you may be healed....**

James 5:16 (NIV)



Please Pray for

**Bob Beavan's brother Russ
died on July 24**

Melinda Burton

Marc DeSilva

Marla Hecht

**David Hinderliter
(Barb Fairbairn's son)**

Katelyn Keck

Barney Lykins

**Gunnar Nagy
(4 yr old son of Matt & Bernadette)**

Hannah Nieman

Connor Speck

Dee Zimmerman

Thank you to everyone for donating socks for our friends with The Night Ministry (NM). We took 400 pairs of socks, distributed many on Tuesday evening and the NM staff was pleased to be able to take socks to individuals in the shelters. Thanks again for your generosity.

Ann Richards

Marc and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and well wishes - we feel it! According to the last two MRIs, the tumors are shrinking, which we never thought possible. He has returned to work, is enjoying the summer and living life joyfully. It means so much to both of us that people in all of the churches with whom we have been members, continue to pray for him - from Montreal (our childhood church), to Southern Ontario (where Matt was born), to Easton, PA (where Chris and Greg were born), to St. Charles and finally to here, in Victor, NY. That's a lot of prayers! Thank you God, and thank you to all of you.

Much love, Janet Zohorsky and Marc DeSilva.



Manna News

Thank you for your generous support of the Manna for Marklund fund raiser held July 20 and 27. Profit of \$288 is going towards a project that Grace Caldwell is heading to provide fleece blankets in holiday fabrics for each bed at Marklund Home.

The Manna Team

Women's Fellowship Meeting Wednesday, September 3

Join us on Wednesday, September 3 for the first meeting of our program year. All women of the congregation are invited and encouraged to participate as we plan our programs and activities. We enjoy getting to know each other better as we work together to fund projects within our church, our community and around the world. Our principal fund raising activity is the annual rummage sale, to be held the week of October 20.

We meet at 9am in the parlor for socializing and begin the meeting at 9:30am. We hope to see you then.

Carol Ludemann

Intentional Travel "Treasures of Northern Italy"

Brochures are now available for the September 2015 Intentional Travel experience to northern Italy. The dates are September 20 - October 3 and will include Milan, Verona, Venice, Lake Maggiore and the Cinque Terre area. Pick up a brochure in the church office or on the Intentional Travel bulletin board. Speak with John or Susan Rodgers if you have questions

Adult Work Camp 2014

Sign up for this year's Back Bay Mission adult work camp. The dates are November 8 - 15. As usual some will be flying and some driving. Mark your preference when you sign up on the Mission Board. We only have 4 spots left, so sign up soon!



Food on the 4th

Your choice throughout the summer.

On **AUGUST 24** please bring non-perishable food of your choice for the St. Charles Salvation Army Food Pantry and the Elburn Food Pantry.

Planning for Rev. Rodgers' Retirement

Shared Ministry Committee Update

IMPORTANT DATES: *Sept. 14 – Informational meeting after worship; Sept. 21 – Congregation vote*

As mentioned in the June and July issues, Church Council, aided by past Council Presidents, is preparing for the pastoral transition following Rev. John Rodgers' planned retirement.

On September 21, at a special Congregational Meeting after the 9:30 service, the Congregation votes on whether to approve the Shared Ministry transition model to accommodate the calling of a new Senior Pastor when Pastor Rodgers retires. The Shared Ministry Task Force is working to educate members about the proposed transition plan, so individuals can make an informed decision on Sept. 21. We share some more questions and answers below.

Q: What is the vote about?

A: There are two primary paths to pastoral succession in the UCC: the traditional and most prevalent Interim Ministry model, and the more contemporary Shared Ministry (or co-pastor) model. The Interim model employs an Interim Minister for typically 12-24 months, thereby allowing time and space for the new senior pastor to be called and to have a clean start. In the Shared Ministry model, instead of a hard break between pastorates, there would be a transitional period of shared leadership, with the Senior Minister and Senior Minister Elect spending 3-6 months working together.

Both approaches are valid, and each can work well, depending on the particular circumstances. The Congregation will be asked whether to approve the Shared Ministry succession model, as recommended by the full Church Council and past Council Presidents. This will be a (yes or no) ballot vote.

Q: What happens after the vote?

A: If the Shared Ministry model is approved by the Congregation, then a Senior Pastor Search Committee will be appointed by Council. Jonathan Knight, Associate Conference Minister for the Fox Valley Association and IL Conference of the UCC, will work with the Search Committee, whichever route we choose.

If the Shared Ministry model is not approved, then the alternative is the Interim Ministry approach. At some point Rev. John Rodgers will notify the Council of his retirement date, and a Search Committee would be named to find an Interim Minister to serve while a Senior Minister is sought. Later, a second Search Committee would be formed to find a new Senior Pastor. The Rodgers would be required to stay away from our church for a 2 year period of time.

Q: How do I find out more information about these two models?

A: The Shared Ministry task force has provided a variety of documents to inform members about the options. There are five informational binders available in the Church Library (Parlor), or see our church web site under Downloads > Pastoral Transition Documents (<http://www.cuccstc.org/pastoral-transition-documents/>).

Look for more updates and information via the Highlight, emails, postal mail, and discussion. A representative from Council will be available to answer questions during Coffee Fellowship after worship most Sundays. You may also submit questions or comments via the Shared Ministry Question Box in the parlor, or email Kathy Westman, chair of the Shared Ministry task force, at kwestman911@gmail.com.

Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 14 for a Congregational discussion hosted by Church Council.

- Lisa Sidor

**Jesus Has Left The Building
Is In the News:
Published in the Kane County
Chronicle on July 18, 2014!**



**Our View: Thumbs-up to
Campton Hills Church Volunteers**

Thumbs-up to volunteers from a Campton Hills church who took part in service projects throughout the community as part of a special program.

Last weekend, more than 70 members of the Congregational United Church of Christ conducted community service projects, part of a program called "Jesus Has Left the Building ... and We Are Following Him!"

Participants worked at the Anderson Animal Shelter in South Elgin, Corron Farm in Campton Township, Garfield Farm Museum in Campton Hills, Marklund in Blackberry Township and the St. Charles Heritage Center in St. Charles. Volunteers also helped a church member in need at home.

Members kept busy performing tasks that needed to be done, and recipients were grateful. Lisa Mertz, program manager for the Campton Township Open Space program, described volunteers as "our workforce."

It is a noble endeavor, worthy of praise. But it's certainly not an isolated act of kindness in Kane County. It's not uncommon to hear of such programs in the Tri-Cities and Kaneland areas. There are those who volunteer at food pantries, churches, libraries, animal shelters and other places, and they help make our area a wonderful place to work and live.

The church program's spirit is inspiring, and it's something other groups can emulate. As important as it is to learn, study and identify the needs of those in a community, the time eventually will come for action. It's impressive to watch such plans go into action.

**LAZARUS HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20, 6:30 PM**

In terms of Lazarus House, too many cooks definitely do not spoil the broth! Here's a way to help others and yet maintain your busy summer schedule. Please sign up to provide only a portion of the meal to be served on Wednesday August 20th. We will be preparing a baked ziti casserole as the main course. Ground beef for the casserole is provided and you can find it already browned in the freezer in the church kitchen. We have also provided a suggested recipe. Too busy to cook? You can help by providing milk, juice, cereal or sack lunches. You can also volunteer to serve the meal that evening. Deliver the food anytime during the day but 6:30 pm is optimal. Sign up sheet and the recipe are on the Mission Board. Questions? Call Grace Caldwell at home: 630 762 1347 or cell: 630 886 3482 or email: gracecaldwell@comcast.net.

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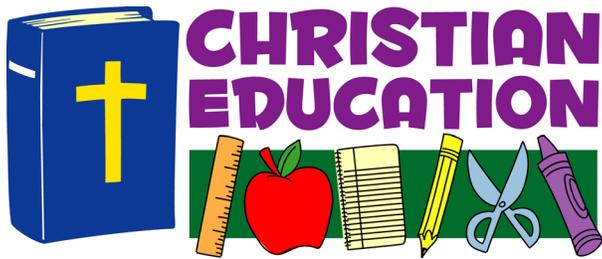
**Highlight Newsletter Copy Deadline
Monday, August 25 BEFORE NOON**



*Please pray
for them
on their
birthdays.*

Amy Bishop	1	Cindy Hardy	14
Katie Hardison	1	Violet McCann	14
Sarah Hill	1	Corrin Stines	14
Kevin Kiesel	1	Samantha Kiesel	16
Peggy Lorenz	1	Casey Klotz	16
Cynthia Schif	1	Aubrey Mandat	16
Katherine Altergott	2	Jax Moran	16
Stephanie Gregory	2	Rozella Nagy	16
Nicholas Lancor	2	Amelia Larson	17
Natalie Michels	2	Heather Veldhuizen	17
Diana Sandberg	2	Ted Heise (Sr.) Sr.	18
Tyler Stewart	2	Hank Hoepfner	18
Megan Baer	3	Miya Megliola	18
Jack Bils	3	Henry Provencher	18
Bryan Fank	3	Mila Englert	19
Taylor Hecht	3	Flora Lipke	19
Anthony Rickard	4	Megan Mackowiak	19
Chelsey Trembley	4	Meredith Mateja	19
Sue Evans	5	Bob Broeker	21
Kate Nickols	5	Joe Innis	21
Ryan Bata	6	Grace Algrim	22
Bob Keck	6	Michael Gonzales	22
Emily Lorenz	6	Doug Shuman	22
Elliott Churchill	7	Rebecca Reber	23
Nathaniel Field	7	Kathy Roland	23
Colleen Hofmeister	7	Dawn Turner	23
Sue Prigge	7	Bill Chapman	24
Carrie Miller	8	Michael Murtaugh	24
Maggie Hoepfner	9	Anne Stoner	24
Hannah Chapman	10	Susan Rodgers	25
Angela Churchill	10	Jacob Taft	25
Sarah Klemm	10	Eliese Miller	26
Steve Munz	10	Helena Miller	26
Stacey Wodrich	10	Randy Nelsen	26
Bob Beavan	11	Colin Turner	26
Jake Borst	11	Cathy Flesher	27
Claudia Field	11	Madeline Heise	27
Andrea Plamondon	11	Matthew Munz	27
Tinsley Schroeder	11	Nicholas Rickard	27
MacKenzie Smith	11	Jamie Breseman	28
Laine Balzanto	12	Tony Giamberdino	28
Lauren Gaydos	12	Pat Wasmond	28
Becky Hale	12	Josie Ball	29
Matt Ritchie	12	Jake Mroz	29
Tom Scorby	12	Beth Grimaldi	30
Joshua Turyna	12	Linda McCullagh	30
Daniel Ackerman	13	Lexie Rosborough	30
Fonda DeMaar	13	Audrey Bowie	31
Katie Johnson	13	Cort Kormos	31
Kevin Morton	13	Larry Weber	31
Anne Valsa	13		

**Men's Fellowship Walking Group
3rd Saturday of each month, 7am
Contact George Mohn for information
and location. 847-488-9179,
sangeomohn@att.net**



Tassie Brautigam
Christian Education Coordinator
christianed@cuccstc.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 25: All teachers will gather to kick off the new Sunday school year at 7pm in room 115/117 downstairs to review curriculum, write welcome back cards to our kids, go over new programs for the Sunday school, along with getting to know new teachers. I look forward to being back in the office on Monday, August 18 and hearing about everyone's summer. Thanks to each and everyone who teaches and works with our kids in so many different ways. We are so blessed.
LET IT SHINE!!!!

Tassie Brautigam



What is Bright Stars of Bethlehem? Bright Stars of Bethlehem is an organization that supports Palestinians living in the Holy Land. Bright Stars is dedicated to helping people in the Holy Land have life and have it abundantly.

The members of our congregation who were on the Holy Land trip had the opportunity to visit the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, where the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is the pastor. It was because of the vision of Rev. Raheb that Bright Stars of Bethlehem came to be.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem promotes the many outreach ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem that serve the educational, medical, professional and spiritual development needs of people living in Palestine. They work together to help and empower children and youth, college students, young families and seniors.

I am sure you can recall the fabulous art exhibit we had last year, which showcased Palestinian artists. Perhaps you were one of those who were able to hear Ruth Nelson talk about Bright Stars and their work in the West Bank during an adult education session.

For the past several months I have had the pleasure to work with a group of women and men to plan a fundraiser, *Room For Hope, Celebrating Palestinian Culinary Arts*, to be held on September 17 and 18. Featured will be opportunities to dine in one of two Palestinian restaurants as well as participate in a cooking demonstration put on by students of the Dar al Kalima University near Bethlehem. More information is on the invitation found on page 12 of this Highlight.

All proceeds from this two day festival will benefit the work of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a U.S. 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

To learn more, please see the Stars of Bethlehem website, brightstarsbethlehem.org.



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Keep those pop tabs coming! Here's how they are helping:

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC-CNI) will open the new Ronald McDonald House near Central DuPage Hospital to provide care and comfort to the families of children receiving lifesaving care at CDH. Tucked within landscaped walking paths, a pond, and a wooded river basin in the oxbow of the DuPage River, the new House will be a comforting 'home away from home' for families in need of community, togetherness and housing.

Construction on the new House in Winfield began in mid-March 2014 and is projected to be complete by the end of December. The grand opening is set for Valentine's Day (February 14, 2015), allowing additional time for House leadership to move in furniture, set up operational systems and train its staff.

The 19,000-square-foot craftsman-style House will have 12 guest rooms. Eight will feature two queen beds, and the remaining four guest rooms will be suite-style with a queen bed, twin bed and pull-out queen. In total, the House will have an overnight capacity of 52 family members.

Amenities of the House will include comfortable living and play spaces, spacious dining and kitchen area, a fitness center and laundry facilities. Design elements of the new House will reflect its natural surroundings, weaving an array of cool blues, browns and cream colors, complemented by natural-tone stained wood floors, trims, doors and windows.

To learn more about Ronald McDonald House near Central DuPage Hospital and available volunteer opportunities, please fill out an application at <http://rmhccni.org/volunteer-cdh/>.

Pat Kitner

Wyonne Hegland



Patti Molloy, RN
Parish Nurse
nurse@uccstc.org

Recently I was replenishing the CareNote display just outside the church office and discovered I was running low...again...on two that I replenish most often. Guesses, anyone? "Easing the Burden of Stress" and "What Everyone Should Know About Stress" are tough ones to keep in stock. It appears we are not out of the ordinary. 54% of Americans say they are concerned about the level of stress in their daily lives.

Everyone experiences stress, and in fact stress is a necessary part of life and growth. Because it's a natural part of living, stress can be a good thing in our lives. However, unrelieved stress experienced over a long period of time can cause illness, depression, and even lead to an early death.

Stress symptoms may be affecting your health, even though you might not realize it. You may think illness is a to blame for that nagging headache, your frequent insomnia or your decreased productivity. But stress may actually be the culprit.

Being able to recognize common stress symptoms can give you a jump on managing them. Stress that's left unchecked can contribute to health problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and diabetes.

Common effects of stress include headache, muscle tension, chest pain, fatigue, change in sex drive, stomach upset, sleep problems, anxiety, lack of motivation or focus, irritability and sadness. If you have stress symptoms, taking steps to manage your stress can have numerous health benefits. Here are some stress reducing remedies worth trying.

Progressive Relaxation. This is the exercise where you tense and then release each muscle group in the body. Start from your toes and work your way up to your eyes. Once the body is relaxed, the mind may soon follow.

Light Yoga. The combination of deep breathing techniques and poses makes this activity work to reduce stress. If you're not ready to join a class, there are plenty of great videos on You Tube. Just search "yoga to reduce stress", "yoga for beginners", "yoga for seniors" etc. The choices are endless. You are sure to find a few that work for your situation, including seated yoga if getting on the ground (or up off the ground) is an additional stressor!

Meditate. The "mental silence" that goes along with meditation may have positive effects on stress.



AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
located near office door. Look for overhead AED sign.
Phone is on the adjacent wall.
To call for help, press an outside line and dial 911.

Breathe Deep. Taking a deep breath has been shown to lower cortisol levels, which can help reduce stress and anxiety.

Show a little "good scents". Studies suggest aromatherapy can be a good way to relieve stress. Certain aromas, like lavender, have been consistently shown to reduce stress levels.

Listen to Music. Research points to multiple ways in which music can help relieve stress, from triggering biochemical stress reducers to assisting in treating stress associated with medical procedures. On a personal note, I have found having music playing in the house decreases everyone's stress and seems to lighten the mood.

Laugh it off. Laughter is not a way to avoid problems or deny their seriousness but it can be a way to release anxiety and to balance the stress with healthful, positive feelings. Be intentional about this. Watch an old, funny movie (Caddyshack, anyone?) or perhaps an episode of America's Funniest Videos. If you just have a few minutes and need a quick laugh, do a You Tube search for "Laughing babies" or one of my all-time favorites "Twin babies talking".

Exercise. The post-exercise endorphin rush is one way to sharply cut stress. (You didn't think I'd skip the chance to encourage exercise, did you??)

Take a walk. A quiet, meditative stroll can do wonders for stress relief, especially when the walk is outside.

Guided Visualization. Visualizing a calm or peaceful scene may help reduce stress and ease anxiety. There are many of these on You Tube as well. I especially like the ones done by Jason Stephenson. Specifically search for what you need (stress relief, sleep aid, anxiety, panic attacks, etc).

Write it out. Keeping a journal may be one way to effectively relieve stress-related symptoms due to its meditative and reflective effects. A gratitude journal really helps put things in perspective. Pick a time every day to write down a few things that you are grateful for. This can be especially effective at bedtime if stressful thoughts keep you from falling asleep.

If you're not sure if stress is the cause or if you've taken steps to control your stress but your symptoms continue, see your doctor.

The amount of stress in your life may be out of your control but how you deal with it most certainly is not. Put some of these techniques in to practice and see what happens!

MEAL MINISTRY

If you could provide an occasional meal for a church member, please contact Patti Molloy at nurse@uccstc.org or Mary Lou Bracken at marylou1206@att.net or sign up on the Parish Nurse bulletin board.



Parlor Art

About the Parlor Art Gallery Exhibit

*"You know me. I am your daughter, your pastor.
You nurtured me, encouraged me, ordained me.
Yet I cannot tell you my name. For me the risk is still too great.
I work and pray for the day when I am free to say who I truly am."
- Anonymous stole*

The Shower of Stoles Project is an extraordinary collection of stoles representing the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of faith. These religious leaders have served in over thirty denominations and faith traditions, and come from six countries on three continents.

This collection celebrates the gifts of LGBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Project bears witness to the huge loss of leadership that the Church has brought upon itself because of its own unjust policies.

The Shower of Stoles tours constantly around the country, being exhibited in local congregations, universities and seminaries. If you are passionate about the full inclusion of LGBT people in every aspect of the life of the Church, both at the congregational and denominational levels, there are many ways to create change. Parlor Art Gallery hosts Shower of Stoles August and September. The exhibit acts as a powerful tool to create awareness in building an inclusive church it is meant to be - just, loving and extravagantly welcoming. For more information visit www.WelcomingResources.org

*Kathy Westman
Parlor Art Gallery*



Elmhurst College to Offer Free Graduate Course to UCC Members

Thanks to an innovative partnership developed through Elmhurst College's religious affiliation with the United Church of Christ, members of the UCC denomination who enroll in one of Elmhurst's [master's degree or graduate certificate programs](#) can take their first course for free.

The free graduate course voucher, offered through the Elmhurst College-United Church of Christ Partner Program, will be available beginning this fall to members of any of the more than 100 Elmhurst College-UCC partner churches located around the country.

The free course voucher program is the most recent example of Elmhurst College's continuing effort to make its longtime affiliation with the UCC more relevant and meaningful. Elmhurst College President S. Alan Ray presented the first graduate course voucher to the Reverend Geoffrey Black, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, on May 31 when Black attended Elmhurst's Commencement to receive an honorary doctorate of divinity.

"The Elmhurst-UCC voucher program is another example of the College's continued commitment to working with the UCC to build a vibrant, vital relationship," said Elmhurst College Chaplain H. Scott Matheny. "It's a clear message from both institutions about the value of higher education for an educated faith in an educated society."

The voucher program is for students who have been admitted to an Elmhurst College master's degree or graduate certificate program, and vouchers are offered on a space-available basis. For more information, please contact William Kartsimas in the School for Professional Studies, at (630) 617-3069 or william.kartsimas@elmhurst.edu.



Pottawatomie Partnership

Volunteers are needed each Saturday at 8:30am.
#13, 1620 S. 13th Ave, St. Charles.



Wine and Canvas Workshop

August 15 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall, we will be learning to paint with step-by-step instructions from artist, Keri Ann. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Please make checks payable to the CUCC and designate in the memo line Wine and Canvas night. Keri Ann will provide the canvas, the paint and the knowledge. If you would like, please bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share.



Who's in the Pews? (And sometimes up front?) **Tony Giamberdino** by Sue Peterson

Tony is in the pews but usually every second Sunday of the month he'll also be up-front playing guitar and singing. Rev. John Rodgers approached Tony about three years ago to play for the 8:30 service that summer. (You know how convincing John can be!) Tony now plays for both the 8:30 and 9:30 services. How he finds the song is an interesting process. He has an extensive music library. He plays mostly secular music with a spiritual theme. Come to 8:30 and you'll hear him talk about how God works in his choices and the reasons for each song he plays - coordinating the songs with the Sunday themes or time of year, etc.

In 1977, Tony met Donna when they were undergrads at Loyola University where he was attending medical school. (That's right, our guitar playing singer is a doctor.) They married in 1984 and celebrated their 30th anniversary this year on Memorial Day.

Tony and Donna were members of the Catholic Church when they first married. Then in 1991 they joined the Unitarian Church in Geneva where they were active members for 17 years. About 5 years ago, wanting to find a church that talked about God, they went to 4 or 5 places and found our church to be the perfect fit. Tony and Donna both became active members right away, searching where they best could make a difference.

Tony and Donna have three children and one granddaughter. Daughter Nina (25) will be married next year in September to Alex Sheridan. They have a beautiful baby, Nadia. Son Joe (21) spent one summer as a SEM (summer experience in ministry) student at our church. He is attending Macalester College in St.

Paul majoring in international studies and religion. He spent last semester studying in Peru, an unbelievable experience. Daughter Tessa (16) is active in GF (Galilee of Friends, our high school youth group). Both Nina and Tessa were adopted from Guatemala. As Tony says, it was a very tough process but with beautiful results.

Tony has a great philosophy to live by - it's a balancing act. You need to balance work, play and service. Life can't be all about you but it also can't be all about service either. If your work, play or service is with a glad heart, then it is the right thing to do. If anything feels like a burden or you resent doing it, then it is not the right thing to do. Saying no sometimes is ok. Saying yes sometimes can be a very rewarding experience.

HIS WORK - Tony did his residency at Northwestern Hospital. In 1991 he joined Valley Ambulatory Surgical Center (VASC) in St. Charles, the leading provider of out-patient surgical care in the Fox Valley. Over 165 surgeons are on the medical staff, providing an alternative to hospital surgery. Tony is an anesthesiologist. I know some of our church members have seen him there.

HIS PLAY - Tony enjoys some "me" time. He is an avid reader and a history buff. He's probably the guy you'd want on your trivia team. And as you know, he loves music - to play, to sing, to listen to. If you have seen him around church or town, you also know he loves his family. He takes time to be with them and play.

HIS SERVICE - Tony serves with a glad heart. He is on the advisory board for the Illinois Professional Health Program. At the Unitarian Church, Tony served on several committees and played music there as well. When they were expanding, he put in about 150 hours of work wiring the electrical for their classrooms. Tony served a term on the Congregational Life Committee at our church and just started on the Church Council. This fall he will be point man for the stewardship campaign. Of course these volunteer duties are in addition to his commitment to playing and singing monthly for worship.

Tony not only talks about a balanced life but lives one - balancing work, play and service. You are a gentle, kind, giving person, Tony. Thanks for being you.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Upcoming Night Ministry dates for 2014 are October 16, and 2015 dates are January 27, April 21, & July 14. Look for the sign-up sheets on the Night Ministry bulletin board soon.



My Experience with The Night Ministry

I am fairly new to the church and knew I wanted to get involved in some way to delve deeper into UCC to see what it was all about. When the opportunity came about to serve on the Night Ministry, I felt it was the perfect opportunity.

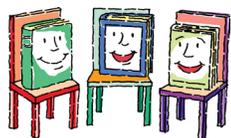
I've worked many soup kitchens and donated time and money to numerous shelters, but this was different. The mission was to feed the homeless in Lakeview, also known to many as the "boys town" neighborhood. For you not familiar, it is a highly diverse area when it comes to sexual orientation, and this particular mission was geared towards feeding the youth.

It brought tears of happiness and hope to my eyes to see kids, essentially, who are too often shunned or discriminated against for their sexual orientation, being fed, cared for, and made feel a little less hungry for at least one day. Knowing that I was a part of that feels good.

I look forward to serving the mission again,

Abby Drommerhausen

Novel Approaches



2014-2015

At the June meeting of Novel Approaches the group chose the novels that will be discussed next year. Below are the titles, dates, locations and a brief synopsis of the books. Hope you will join us.

September 12 - "*Goldfinch*" by Donna Tartt.
Location - Debby & Ken Graham.

Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

As an adult, Theo moves silkily between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty labyrinth of an antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love--and at the center of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle.

Goldfinch is a mesmerizing, stay-up-all-night and tell-all-your-friends triumph, an old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate.

November 7 - "*Edge of Dark Water*" by Joe Lansdale.
Location - Kathy & Jim Mizgalski.

Edgar winner Lansdale channels Mark Twain in this chillingly atmospheric novel set in Depression era East Texas. "Mark Twain meets classic Stephen King." "Nonstop adventures that edify, terrify and deepen the bond between Sue Ellen and Jinx."

January 23 - "*Benediction*" by Kent Hauf.
Location - Susan & John Rodgers.

From the beloved and best-selling author of *Plainsong* and *Eventide* comes a story of life and death, and the ties that bind, once again set out on the High Plains in Holt, Colorado.

When Dad Lewis is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife, Mary, must work together to make his final days as comfortable as possible. Their daughter, Lorraine, hastens back from Denver to help look after him;

her devotion softens the bitter absence of their estranged son, Frank, but this cannot be willed away and remains a palpable presence for all three of them. Meanwhile, the town's newly arrived preacher attempts to mend his strained relationships with his wife and teenaged son, a task that proves all the more challenging when he faces the disdain of his congregation after offering more than they are accustomed to getting on a Sunday morning. And throughout, an elderly widow and her middle-aged daughter do everything they can to ease the pain of their friends and neighbors.

Despite the travails that each of these families faces, together they form bonds strong enough to carry them through the most difficult of times. Bracing, sad and deeply illuminating, *Benediction* captures the fullness of life by representing every stage of it as well as the hopes and dreams that sustain us along the way. Here Kent Haruf gives us his most indelible portrait yet of this small town and reveals, with grace and insight, the compassion, the suffering and, above all, the humanity of its inhabitants.

March 6 - "*Crossing to Safety*" by Wallace Stegner. Location - Anne & Bob Graham.

Called a "magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom" by Howard Frank Moshier in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

May 15 - "*Pearl*" by Mary Gordon.
Location - Marilyn & Dave Schave.

On Christmas night of 1998, Maria Meyers learns that her twenty-year-old daughter, Pearl, has chained herself outside the American embassy in Dublin, where she intends to starve herself to death. Although Maria was once a student radical and still proudly lives by her beliefs, gentle, book-loving Pearl has never been interested in politics--nor in the Catholicism her mother rejected years before. What, then, is driving her to martyr herself?

Shaken by this mystery, Maria and her childhood friend (and Pearl's surrogate father), Joseph Kasperman, both rush to Pearl's side. As Mary Gordon tells the story of the bonds among them, she takes us deep into the labyrinths of maternal love, religious faith, and Ireland's tragic history. *Pearl* is a grand and emotionally daring novel of ideas, told with the tension of a thriller.



NEW Member Class

New Members Received

September 21, 2014

An orientation evening will be held on
Tuesday, September 16 at 7:30pm.

Contact the church office for more information.

IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN: SISTERS, SAINTS AND SINNERS

Fourth Annual Women's Retreat

Join us as we explore fascinating women from scripture: sisters we can relate to, saints we admire and sinners we can learn from. Prepare yourselves for good food, new and renewed friendships, and yes, much fun as we share stories and are refreshed in God's presence.

Who: Women of all ages and walks of life are invited. Feel free to invite friends!
When: Saturday, November 1, 2014, 10:30am – 3:30pm.
Where: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091

Facilitators

Reverend Dr. Lillian Daniel is the senior minister of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn for ten years. Lillian is the author of: *When "Spiritual But Not Religious" Is Not Enough; Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony* and *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers* (co-authored by Martin B. Copenhagen). She has taught at Chicago Theological Seminary, the University of Chicago and her alma mater - Yale Divinity School.



Reverend Merlyn Lawrence is the associate pastor at the United Protestant Church of Grayslake. She is also a licensed clinical social worker with decades of experience working with women. For two years she served as Moderator of the UCC's 26th General Synod presiding at the UCC's historic 50th anniversary in 2007. She has taught at various colleges and universities and is an international speaker, presenter and author.

To register, please write a check to Trinity United Methodist Church. Note "Woman's Retreat" on the Memo Line. Send check and registration form to:

**Amy Reimer,
Trinity United Methodist Church
1024 Lake Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091**

For scholarship information or questions, please contact:

Amy Reimer (847) 251-7333 or amy@trinitywilmette.org or
Merlyn Lawrence (630) 890-6814 or merlynlawrence@prodigy.net

RSVP by October 24, 2014

Lunch will be served. Participants will receive a copy of Lillian Daniel's book: *When "Spiritual But Not Religious" Is Not Enough*.

The Congregational United Church of Christ Calendar

August 2014

Visit cuccstc.org for current calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion Summer Sunday School through 3rd Grade Van Rental 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 11:30 AM - 5:00 PM Lincoln Park Zoo Trip 4:00 PM Staff/Council Picnic at Specks	4 Beiermann Lessons Highlight Newsletter Deadline NOON 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S)	5 Beiermann Lessons	6 Beiermann Lessons 7:00 PM Swing Set BD Mtg (111)	7 Beiermann Lessons 9:30 AM Mail Highlight (O) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM NAMI (114)	8 Beiermann Lessons 1:00 PM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112)	9 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Richards Anniversary Party (FH)
10 Summer Sunday School through 3rd Grade 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)	11 Beiermann Lessons 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)	12 Beiermann Lessons	13 Beiermann Lessons 7:00 PM Congregational Life Cm (P)	14 Beiermann Lessons Wine and Paint Party Setup? (FH) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	15 Beiermann Lessons 1:00 PM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112) 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM Congregational Life Wine and Paint Party (FH)	16 7:00 AM Men's Fellowship Walking Group
17 Summer Sunday School through 3rd Grade 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)	18 Beiermann Lessons 8:30 AM Building Maintenance 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga with Donna Burg (S) Ends 7:00 PM Church Council (P)	19 Beiermann Lessons 7:00 PM Mom's Group (114)	20 Beiermann Lessons 6:45 PM Lazarus House Homeless Shelter 7:00 PM Christian Education Committee (114)	21 Beiermann Lessons 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Back to School Night & Setup (FH) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	22 Beiermann Lessons 1:00 PM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112) 4:00 PM Karstedt/Wendorf Rehearsal (S)	23 3:00 PM Karstedt/Wendorf Wedding
24 Food on the 4th Summer Sunday School through 3rd Grade 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 9:30 AM Zabler Baptism (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)	25 Highlight Newsletter Deadline NOON Swinget paperwork check (115/117) 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112)	26 Swinget paperwork check (115/117)	27 Swinget paperwork check (115/117)	28 Swinget paperwork check (115/117) 9:30 AM Mail Highlight (O) 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Fox Valley Justice & Witness(P) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	29 1:00 PM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112)	30
31 Bill Nagy Preach Summer Sunday School through 3rd Grade 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Brief Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)	1 Labor Day Office Closed 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112)	2	3 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship (P) 7:00 PM Swing Set BD Mtg (111)	4 9:30 AM Clergy Cluster Mtg (P) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM NAMI (114)	5 1:00 PM - 5:45 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112)	6 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM United Fall Fest

The Congregational United Church of Christ



CUCC

-1837-

No matter who you are, or where ever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am Brief Worship Service (1/2 hour)

A hymn, prayers, scripture and reflections on the scripture. Communion offered the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care. No Sunday school.

9:30am Worship Service with Sunday School

Sunday school for children through 3rd grade. Nursery care. Communion offered the first Sunday of each month.

cuccstc.org



YOU ARE WELCOME

Striving to increase our love for God and neighbor, we welcome persons of every age, health condition, race, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and religious background.

We encourage you to become an active member of our church, sharing your God-given gifts in all areas of church life: worship, education, mission and ministry.



**Handicapped
Accessible**

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as a community in Christ, shall provide and administer a continuum of opportunities for worship, education, fellowship and outreach. It is our mission to serve individual, local, national and world needs.



CUCcStCharles

Church Office 630-584-0929 • FAX 630-584-1433

office@cuccstc.org • financial@cuccstc.org

Summer Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30am-2pm, Fri 9am-12



Congregational UCC St. Charles

STAFF

Rev. Dr. John R. Rodgers—Senior Minister
Rev. Suzy R. Daly—Associate Minister
Rev. Patricia G. Kitner—Assistant Minister
Patti Molloy, RN—Parish Nurse
Tassie Brautigam—Children's Ministry
Kim Barth, Connections Coordinator
Tricia Steele-Trish Thompson, Office
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Denise Beiermann—Bell Choir Director
John Speck—Council President
Susan Klopmeier—Congregational Life Chair
Steve Sidor—Christian Education Chair
Susan Rodgers—Mission Chair
Ginny Minard—Worship Chair
Bob Brautigam—Facilities
Carol Ludemann—Women's Fellowship President
Jeff Graham—Youth Director
Rev. William L. Nagy—Pastor Emeritus
All Members—Ministers



Our denomination is the
United Church of Christ
ucc.org

Swing Set Preschool

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