CUCC -1837-

Highlight

Increasing Our Love for God & Neighbor

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Charles (Campton Hills) • cuccstc.org December 17, 2015 • Issue 14

WORSHIP With US

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5pm Family Service

8 & 10pm Candlelight Worship Services with Lessons and Carols

Nursery at 5 & 8pm

Sunday, Dec. 27, One service at 9:30am, NO Sunday School, No nursery

Sunday, Jan. 3, One service at 9:30am

Church Office Closing at noon on Dec. 24th

Office Closed Dec. 25th, 31st, & Jan. 1st

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!
Tassie

Merry Christmas
John

Peace + Joy!
Tricia

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& JOYOUS 2016
Suzy

Merry Christmas
Kim Barth

Merry Christmas!
Fish Thompson

Blessings at Christmas
and in 2016
Rosemary

May God Bless!
Pat

Dennis Beiermann

All the best in
2016!
Nancy Scoby

Merry Christmas from the Staff

Pray for each other so that you may be healed....
James 5:16 (NIV)

Please Pray for

Josie Ball

Rob Beal

Lisa Clark

Edna Cline's sister passed away on December 8th

Jeff Fairchild

Marla Hecht

Barney Lykins

Ralph Minard

Devin Paul Moore was born on November 30. Proud parents are John & Brynn

Rozella Nagy

Pat Nerad

Beverly Piper

Carol Robbins father in law Les Robbins passed away on November 25th

Emerson Grace Rodgers was born on December 11th. Proud parents are Matt & Talia and big brother Beckett. Prouder grandparents are John & Susan Rodgers

Nancy Scorbys father Larry Shaffer passed away on November 21st

Bonnie Wallace great granddaughter Leighton Lynn was born on December 4th

Dee Zimmerman

Daisies, Lemonheads and Love,

I am surrounded by daisies and Lemonheads both at church and at home. Reminders of a fantastic celebration Sunday in my honor. I can not thank you enough for the outpouring of love for me and my family. For those of you who don't know...daisies represent happiness and loyal love (as well as a Christian symbol of the infancy of Christ). Lemonheads are sour. I guess together they represent life- the love, happiness and bitter moments that blend together. Sunday was such a bittersweet day for me. Seeing the faces, remembering moments and feeling the love were overwhelming. I truly appreciate the efforts of everyone there and those who planned, and worked to make it all happen.

Peace, Suzy

Men's Fellowship Walking Group
3rd Saturday of each month, 8am
Contact George Mohn for information and location.
847-488-9179 sangeomohn@att.net

Habitat for Humanity® of Northern Fox Valley

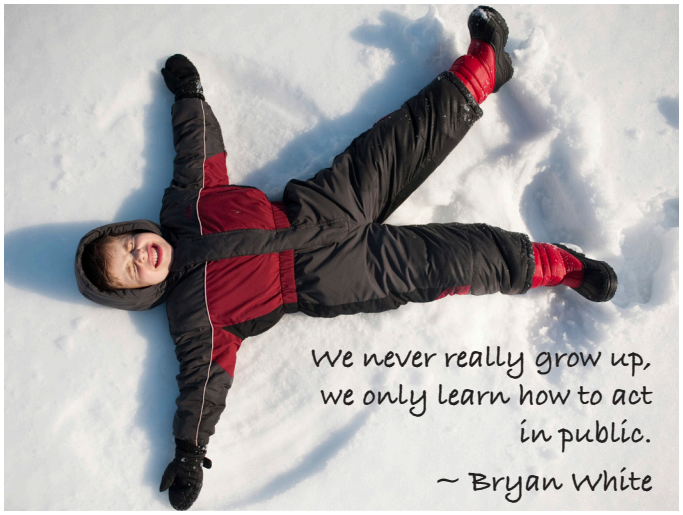
Pottawatomie Partnership
Watch for announcements in 2016.

MEAL MINISTRY

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

AED Automated External Defibrillator

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
is 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.
A second AED was recently donated to the church and is located on the lower level across from the drinking fountain. It will be maintained by Swing Set Preschool.



"I'll Be Your Friend, But…"

In the lives of local churches, as a rule, ministers come and ministers go. One exception to this rule is that ministers sometimes stay a long time in a church and can become the only minister some people know. Another exception is that when ministers go, they may not really go.

Congregational UCC of St. Charles is exceptional in many ways – in its members, its staff, its ministries. Our church also is exceptional in the fact that soon I will retire after more than 18 years as your Senior Minister and rather than moving from the area, we will be "around" as we travel, visit family and live in Chicago for a year. Only when my successor feels comfortable inviting us to be a part of the worshipping congregation will we return, sit with you, and enjoy your fellowship – desirous of being nurtured and renewed by the words that are spoken and sung, by the joy that comes from human relationships, and by the beauty of our sanctuary.

My words today, a couple of months before retirement, stem from the horror stories I know about ministers who have remained in the community and local church they served. They have stayed on the scene when their successors began their ministries. One minister took a prominent place in the narthex after services, weddings, and funerals to greet "his" flock. Many others made it clear, in attitude or actions, that they desired to hang on to the privileges of ministry in their former parish.

There are few greater stumbling blocks to a church's new minister, few greater barriers to a new minister becoming the pastor of a congregation, few greater hindrances to the life of a local church, few greater traps that cause a church to be past rather than future oriented, than a minister who retires and physically or emotionally will not let go of his or her former position. This is why I say to you – loudly and clearly – that as of February 15, I will continue to be your friend, but I will not and cannot be your pastor.

As strange as it might seem for you not to ask, as difficult as it will be for me to say "No," for the sake of our church, for the good of my successor, and for me to be true to the ethics of my profession, I will cease to be one of your pastors. Sermons, baptisms, marriages, memorial services, hospital visitation, counseling and the other privileges and tasks of ministry will be in the capable hands of the Reverend David Pattee, our new Senior Minister, and the equally capable staff of this church.

David will have my prayers and whole-hearted support. I ask you to give David the same type of acceptance, concern, and love that you have given to Susan and me. Fortunately, none of us can be cloned; so my successor will come with fresh, exciting and different concepts of ministry which I will celebrate and which I look forward to experiencing as a church member.

In this vein, I urge you never to think or feel that your complimenting or praising my successor for ministry well done will be interpreted by me as a lack of appreciation for my ministry among you. Remember, too, that nothing will give me more of a feeling of failure in my ministry than a member equating the importance of our church with me and saying, "That's not how John did it."

This, in essence, is what Paul was saying in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth. Some said that they were followers of Paul; others were giving their allegiance to Apollos. But, pointed out Paul, the church belonged to neither of them. Neither of them was to be the focal point. It was God's church. And God, made known through the Christ, was to be the sole focus. The love of God and Neighbor.

Let us never lose sight of this fact. The St. Charles Congregational UCC is not a building. This church is not a minister. This is God's church, composed of all of us. Again, I say, never lose sight of this fact!

After forty plus years of ministry, I look forward to retirement and though not being your pastor – remaining your friend. Susan and I look forward to a change of pace in life after nearly 45 years of marriage – a more flexible schedule, more discretionary time, and opportunity to take on new adventures wherever they may lead.

My hope and prayers are that we can celebrate these last few weeks that I will be your pastor, and then I will retire from the ministry as your friend, knowing that you will be in the care of God and the loving pastoral hand of my colleagues and successor.

May God bless us all!
John

2015 Contributions

To ensure 2015 income tax deductibility of your pledges/contributions, they must be received or postmarked by December 31st. The church office will be open until 3pm on Dec 30th if you wish to drop them off. The office will be closed on Dec. 31st. All funds received after Jan. 1st will be credited to 2016 pledge/contribution statements. Please contact the office for any questions.

Stewardship 2016

Building a Foundation for Our Future

If you have not done so already please return your pledge card. In order to budget accurately, we need a clear picture of the stewardship support we can expect.

If you are not able to make a pledge commitment this year, please return the card so we know not to make a follow-up call.

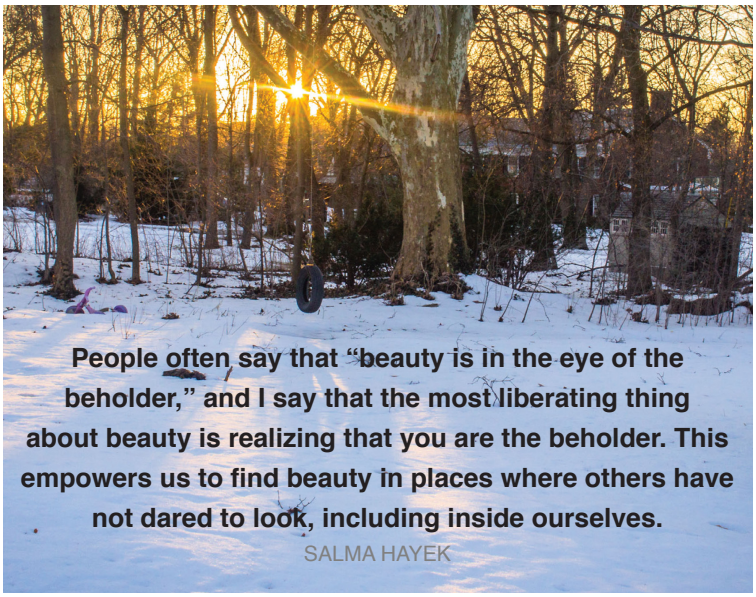
Help Wanted

CUCC is looking for a Part time Financial Manager for our Church Office. Hours are very flexible, and we are looking for someone with an accounting background. Fall and Winter hours are approx. 15-20 hours per week. Summer hours can be as few as 6 - 8 hours per week. Stop by our Church office to pick up a job description.

Nancy Scorby, Council President	630-712-7702
Tricia Steele, Office Manager	630-584-0929

Spud Sunday

Women's Fellowship is sponsoring Spud Sunday on January 17 in Rodgers Fellowship Hall following the 9:30am service. Baked potatoes with many delicious toppings will be available. Eat in or carry out. Monies raised will be donated to a local service agency. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Please pray for them on their birthdays.

Joe Bihner	1	Abigail Freedlund	18
Madison Bondi	1	Maya Illy	18
Barb Biddle	2	Cyndi Peterik	18
Emma Juby	2	Ally Piper	18
Jacob Schuster	2	Tegan Reyes	18
Hailey Warner	2	Bill Channon	19
Henry McGray	3	Natalia Fernandez	19
Scott Butikofer	4	Jordan Hayes	19
Scott Gregory	4	Chuck Reed	19
Dave Beckman	5	Ben Juszczyk	20
Rob Van Dinther	5	John Pokorski	21
Mary Lou Bracken	6	Quinn Sidor	21
Marcia McCracken	6	Cameron Claps	22
Sheila Albano	7	Chris Claps	22
Michelle Tams	7	Jacob Dieckman	22
James Vial	7	Chip Flesher	22
Mark Bishop	8	Gianna Schroeder	22
Sue Hamer	8	Lisa Sidor	22
Connie Rohlman	8	Andrew Van Dinther	22
Gerry Thiele	8	Graham Altergott	23
Andrea Williams	8	Connor Collins	23
Megan Banwart	9	Mackenzie Fairchild	23
Denise Beiermann	9	Michael Mastalski	23
Nicole Black	9	Rob Metzger	23
Paige VanBergen	9	Brynn Moore	23
Riley Andersen	10	Jack Amstadt	24
Kelly Cameron	10	Carol Fry	24
Cheryl Gaydos	10	Kyle McKittrick	24
Bob Bendeich	11	Mary Jane Timm	24
Molly McCullough	11	Kristen Etten	25
Charles Peterson	11	Jake Fulk	25
Kay Vargason	11	Mark Molloy	25
Lauren Caprini	13	LG Black	26
Adam Diorio	13	Rachael Freedlund	26
Bradley Hemmingsen	13	Brady Horan	26
Madison Kleba	13	Amanda Stinton	26
Willy Schulthess	13	Jim Diorio	27
Steve Wascher	13	Tom Gast	27
Hugh Cole	14	Erin Milhousen	27
Mary Ann Gochenaur	14	Patti Molloy	27
Carol Hundley	14	Jacob Thompson	27
Joanne Olson	15	Amy Leach	28
Sam Provencher	15	William Streeper	28
MacKenzie Santucci	15	Luke Goucher	29
Richard Sarvas	15	Justin McElderry	29
Makenna Collins	16	Natalie Morgan	29
Jimmy Schulthess	16	Adam Vial	29
Susan Cira	17	Jody Contorno	30
Terry Morton	17	Olivia Rohlman	30
Alyssa Nore	17	Roland Sargent	30
Mary Carol Smith	17	Sue Beckman	31
Carol Vial	17	Donna Giamberdino	31
Karen Balzanto	18	Jane Ritchie	31
Katie Burke	18	Stephanie Salb	31

Food on the 4th

DECEMBER 27

The theme is Protein. On **DECEMBER 27** please bring canned meats (tuna, chicken, turkey, ham), Spam, corned beef for the St. Charles Salvation Army Food Pantry and the Elburn Food Pantry.

Let's Roll Up Our Sleeves!

Blood Drive in Rodgers Fellowship Hall

February 28, 2016

Old and New Shrimp Boil
January 16, 5pm
Rodgers Fellowship Hall

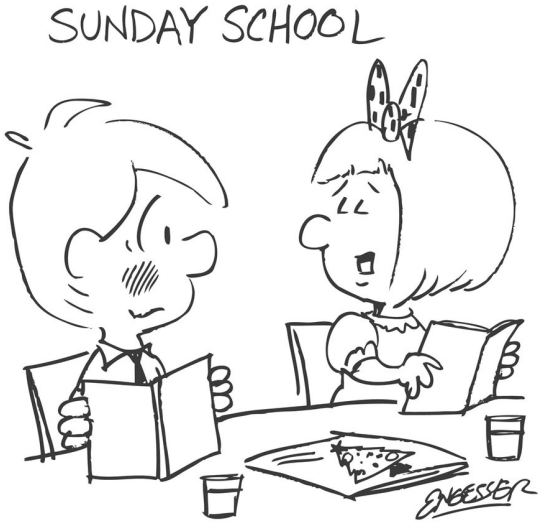
Please join in the festivities as our church welcomes the new Senior Pastor, Rev. David Pattee, to a valued place and tradition - **THE BACK BAY MISSION SHRIMP BOIL.** We will share bread, salad and shrimp with David and John celebrating old and new. Two members of the Back Bay Staff will join us to share the Back Bay story and meet old friends - Craig Steenkamp and Chris Marlin-Warfield.

The cost is $15/person and tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. There will also be free hot dogs for non-shrimp eaters. Sign up on the Mission Board.

If you can not attend this event but would like to make a donation to Back Bay Mission, send your contribution to the church marked Back Bay Mission.

Aging Well Series

Our Aging Well series continues in January with a discussion on end of life decisions. Rev. Bill Nagy will lead this important discussion. Please join us on January 10th at 10:45 in room 115/117 downstairs.



"'Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Monday of each month in the church parlor from 10am until noon. Knitters and crocheters can be part of this group even if they are unable to attend meetings. For more information call Mary Anne Rebernak at 630 377 9336 or email her at mrebernak@yahoo.com.

Manna News

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You

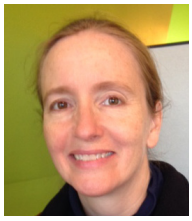
With your support of the Manna Gift Card Program we raised close to a whopping $5,000! These funds are managed by our Mission Committee for non-budgeted mission related projects. Thanks again for your help in 2015. Manna will return on January 3rd, 2016.

~ *The Manna Team*

Mel's Diner

Starving after a long sermon? Need a new place for lunch? Effective immediately Mel's Diner, located in Campton Hills Center, on the corner of LaFox and Rt 64, will be holding a year long fund-raiser for our church. 10% of all church members receipts will go towards our missions budget. All our church members need to do is write "Congregational Church" on the tab the waitress gives you. Help support our missions budget and a local business by dining out!

Highlight Newsletter Copy Deadline
Monday, Jan. 4th BEFORE NOON



Who's in the Pews?

Kelly Gagne

By Sue Peterson

Can you imagine joining the church and three weeks later being part of the search committee to look for a new senior minister. That's what Kelly Gagne did. She wasn't new to the building since both her children went to Swing Set Preschool but she had just joined our congregation in September of 2014 with her husband, Doug, and children Elise and Calder when she decided (after some encouraging from others) to join the search team in October and start on a remarkable journey with a group of people she ended up knowing very well. She was the newest church member on the team so she brought not only the perspective of a new member, but she offered her experience in editing, generating spreadsheets, and graphing data. As you know after a unanimous vote from the search committee and the vote from the congregation, we have Pastor David Pattee joining us in January.

Kelly's life has been quite a journey. She grew up near O'Hare but decided to go out east to college as a French major at Boston University. Soon into her classes though she discovered her love for math was much stronger than her interest in French so she started taking more engineering classes and switched her major to mechanical engineering. After college she got a job at Otis Elevator in Connecticut working on widgets. Otis Elevator was part of United Technologies where a young man named Doug happened to work in the research center. When a volleyball league brought the two departments together, Kelly and Doug were on opposite teams but soon decided to be on the same team and began dating. (I believe it had something to do with Kelly's team beating Doug's in volleyball but you'll have to ask them the details.)

After Kelly's sister had a child, Kelly realized she missed being near family and decided to come back to the Midwest. Doug was willing to join her and they both searched for jobs in the area. Kelly lived at home and Doug lived nearby until they were married in 1998 and lived in an apartment in Oak Brook Terrace. They then moved to the Windings, west of St. Charles in 1999. Kelly continued working as a mechanical engineer on widgets in Carol Stream for about 6 years and then at Emerson in South Elgin until Elise was born. She is enjoying life as a stay at home mom for now.

When Elise was preschool age, Kelly began her search for preschools in the area. She happened to be at the Elburn Library talking with a story time lady one day and found out her children went to Swing Set Preschool. So Kelly checked it out and immediately loved the welcoming atmosphere and philosophy of our preschool. Both Elise and Calder attended Swing Set and throughout those years Kelly joined the Swing Set board. She became the vice chair just as we were searching for a new director when Sue Farr retired. Kelly joined the team of church staff and Swing Set board in our search for the director who, as you know, is Kim Barth.

Through the process of this search, Kelly learned more about the church and decided she and her husband would visit. They both grew up Catholic but had not been attending a church. On their first visit she was drawn to the peace pole since her family also has one in their backyard. They found the beliefs and people of the church to be a great fit with their beliefs. Her children are growing in their faith and Kelly is thankful her family has found such a welcoming spiritual home.

Kelly also enjoys many hobbies. She likes to read, sew, cook, quilt, bike, hike, camp and more. Her family will be backpacking the ice age trail in Wisconsin this summer. Her extended family are all members of the GCS, the gourmet camping society. I think I would enjoy camping next to them!!

THE NIGHT MINISTRY

With an open heart and an open mind, The Night Ministry provides housing, health care and human connection to members of the Chicago community who are struggling with poverty or homelessness.

Friends,

Thank you for donating so many items for 90, yes 90, Holiday Stockings that were delivered to The Night Ministry offices for our friends. A special thank you to Helping Hands for filling the stockings with their love and care in addition to the socks, gloves, chap sticks, Kleenex, sweet treats and much more. We appreciate Bob Brautigam for dropping off the over filled stockings.

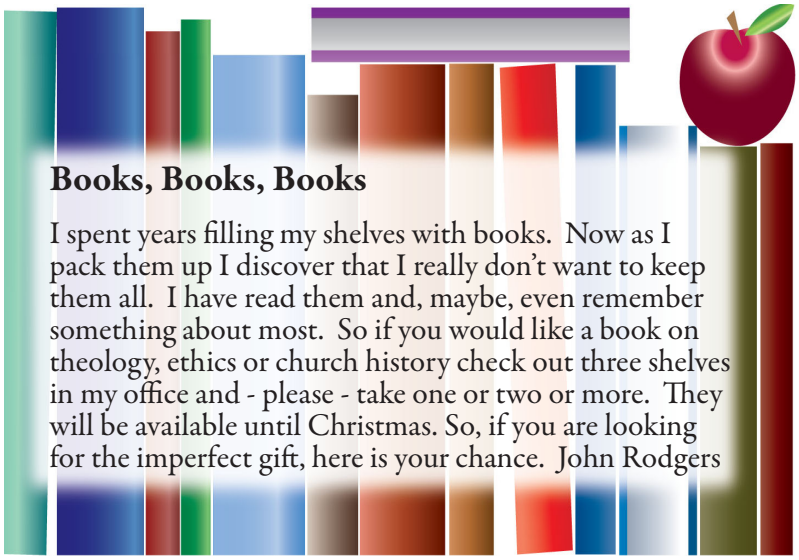
Our next date to serve meals with The Night Ministry is Sunday, January 17, 4pm, Humboldt Park. Sign up sheets are on Night Ministry board in Rodgers Fellowship Hall. Thank you again for "Increasing Your Love for God and Neighbor."

Ann Richards

Little Free Library

Take a Book, Leave a Book

There have been many recent additions to the Little Free Library, please check it out! You'll find ***The Little Free Library*** behind the church on the sidewalk near the back east lower level entrance to the church.



Books, Books, Books

I spent years filling my shelves with books. Now as I pack them up I discover that I really don't want to keep them all. I have read them and, maybe, even remember something about most. So if you would like a book on theology, ethics or church history check out three shelves in my office and - please - take one or two or more. They will be available until Christmas. So, if you are looking for the imperfect gift, here is your chance. John Rodgers

Peaceful Heart Yoga

with Donna Burg

Yoga is now being held in the sanctuary Mondays 9:00-10:15am and Thursdays 2-3:15pm. All are welcome to attend 1 or both of the sessions!!! Namaste...

New session beginning on Jan. 4
10 weeks, Mondays from 9-10:15am.
Jan. 4th - Mar. 21st
No class Jan. 18th & Feb. 15th
$100 for 10 weeks, $12 per week (drop in)
Pay at class. Sign up on Congregational Life Bulletin Board.

New class beginning on Jan. 7
12 weeks, Thursdays from 2-3:15pm.
Jan. 7th - Mar. 24th
$120 for 12 weeks, $12 per week (drop in)
Pay at class. Sign up on Congregational Life Bulletin Board.

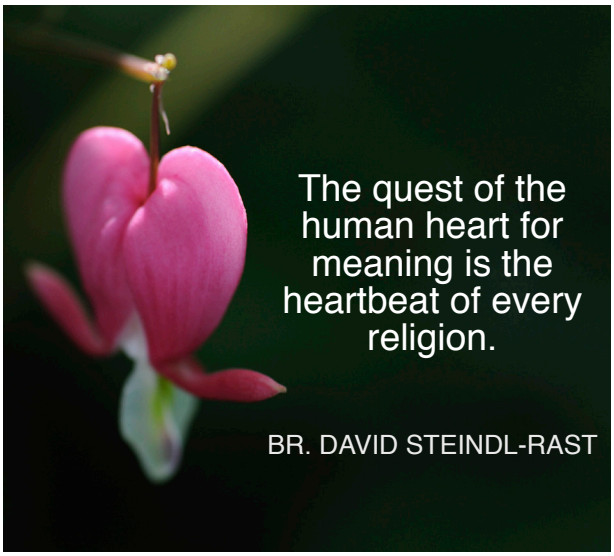
Donna Burg 630-309-0614 donnabbb@comcast.net

The Mitten Tree will again be up to receive new or gently used hats, scarves and mittens. It will be located in Rodgers Fellowship Hall. This year the items will be divided between the Salvation Army and CASA.

Swing Set Preschool Registration

Priority registration for the 2016 – 2017 school year will begin Monday, January 11, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. for church members, currently enrolled students and Swing Set alumni families. Open registration for the general public will begin on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. to fill any remaining openings. Forms will be available in Miss Kim's Office. If you would like to set up a tour, please feel free to email Miss Kim or call the office!

Registration forms accompanied by a nonrefundable registration fee ($80.00 for new students and $55.00 for returning students) may be dropped off at the school or left in the church office. Any questions, please call Kim at 630 443 8570 or email her at Kim@swingsetpreschool.com.



To All Women of the Church, on Wednesday, January 6, Women's Fellowship will be meeting. We will gather in the Parlor around 9:00 to meet friends, old and new, and enjoy some coffee and refreshments. Our meeting will begin at 9:30. We will be discussing Spud Sunday!

Please plan to come to the meeting with lots of ideas for the coming year. If you have never been to one of our meetings, do come and see what we are all about!!

~Ginger Krichbaum

Tassie Brautigam
Christian Education Coordinator
christianed@cuccstc.org

"INCREASING OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR" Our Sunday school kids carried out our church's motto on Sunday, December 6th working in our "Operation We Care Workshop". Thanks to the wonderful team of adults who gave of their time and talent to make this event happen. All the planning, buying, cutting, gluing, setting up, etc. etc. It was a fantastic coming together. And many thanks to everyone who purchased the 181 crafts made by our kids and a dozen of the crafts made by the adults. Every one of the crafts made by our kids was sold. Yeah!!! This Sunday the remaining cupcake ball ornaments made by the adults will be available for purchase in Rodgers Fellowship Hall. To date, our wonderful caring congregation has donated $833 to support the Syrian Refugees through our denomination.

Take a look at Matthew 25:34 – 40 This happens to be one of Rev. Suzy's favorites. (From the Bible in Contemporary Language) The final verse: "I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me." This sums up this event!!

What would this event have been without the dazzling puppet show under the direction of its talented leaders Jeanne Humke and Jen Megliola. The show was enjoyed by all. Thanks for all their time and talent writing the show and working with our marvelous team of puppeteers!

GF
Happenings

Work Tour 2016
The sign-up for is now available for all high school youth. If you are interested in learning more, please add your name to the list outside the youth room. This year we will be heading back to Rural Mission (ruralmission.org) located on Johns Island, SC over Spring Break. Send your teen with us, and give yourself a break!

An information meeting will take place in January, but we need to know now about how many are interested in going to determine vehicles and drivers needed.

GF CELEBRATE'S SUZY EVENTS

GF ALUMNI REUNION with Suzy
All Alums are invited to join us for a special celebration and reconnecting. Sunday December 27th 4-7p.m. Old Towne – Wasco

Contact Jeff Graham with any questions Cell phone: 630-301-9047 email: cubsjgraham@sbcglobal.net

FOUR!! Yes, that is the number of Sunday's in Advent but it is also the number of sheep we will be able to purchase with our Sunday school offering. So far we have $422.75. With only $57.25 to go we will make it! This Sunday, December 20th will be our last day to add our offering . Take a look at our thermometer in the Sunday school hallway to see where we are! For more information on Heifer International and how they work throughout the world to "have power over hunger and poverty" visit their website at www.heifer.org Thanks to everyone of our kids in Sunday school to serve our neighbors in need around the world.

PSALM READERS: New sign ups for Psalm reading for the start of 2016 are up on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway. We again look forward to having as many students from our Sunday school sign up to read a Psalm. The only requirement - being able to read. If your child would like to give it a test at the pulpit, please let Tassie know. We can meet after a worship service at the pulpit to get a feel for what it is like to be up there.

ACOLYTES: New sign ups for acolyting for the start of 2016 are up on the bulletin board in the Sunday school hallway. These are 2 students who light our candles on the altar each week. If your child would like to try this, but may need a little encouragement, please feel free to sign them up and walk down the aisle with them.

"LET KINDNESS AND GOOD WILL SHINE THROUGH LIKE THE BRIGHTEST STAR."
- from 101 Ways to Say Merry Christmas

Blessings,
Tassie Brautigam

YOUTH INFO

Signups and permission slips for all youth activities are on the bulletin board outside the youth room #119, lower level. Contact Rev. Suzy Daly with questions. suzy.daly@cuccstc.org

GF 9-12th graders
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:15pm

Helping Hands
4-5th graders, once a month on the 3rd Wednesday at 5-6pm.
Jan. 20th

TGIJ MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
Jan. 10th 1-3pm Movie at Church

Confirmation
Jan. 3rd, 11am-1pm
Jan. 20th, Lazarus House
Jan. 24th Annual Meeting with meeting after until 1pm

Followers Of God Puppet Troupe
Mondays, 5-7pm
Jeanne Humke, 630-584-7108,
humkegrp@aol.com

Novel Approaches 2015-2016

At the May gathering of Novel Approaches the group chose the books for 2015 and 2016. Titles, Dates and Locations are listed below. Please sign up on the Congregational Life bulletin board. Hope you will join us!

January 22 – "Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit" Jeanette Winterson

Winner of the Whitbread Prize for best first fiction, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit is a coming-out novel from Winterson, the acclaimed author of The Passion and Sexing the Cherry. The narrator, Jeanette, cuts her teeth on the knowledge that she is one of God's elect, but as this budding evangelical comes of age, and comes to terms with her preference for her own sex, the peculiar balance of her God-fearing household crumbles.

Our discussion will be held at the home of Rich & Nancy Doerr. They live at 4206 Prestwick Court, St. Charles.

March 18 – "How Green Was My Valley" Richard Llewellyn

Winner of the National Book Award in 1940 and the basis for the Academy Award Best Picture film of the same name, How Green Was My Valley is full of memorable characters, richly crafted language, and surprising humor.

Huw Morgan remembers the days when his home valley was prosperous, verdant, and beautiful—before the mines came to town. The youngest son of a respectable mining family in South Wales, he is now the only one left in the valley, and his reminiscences tell the story of a family and a town both defined and ruined by the mines.

Huw's story is both joyful and heartrending—a portrait of a place and a people existing now only in memory.

The Ball's have invited us to their home this evening, 43W213 Whirlaway Court, Elburn.

May 13 or 20 – "The Blind Assassin" Margaret Atwood

The Blind Assassin opens with these simple, resonant words: "Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." They are spoken by Iris, whose terse account of her sister's death in 1945 is followed by an inquest report proclaiming the death accidental. But just as the reader expects to settle into Laura's story, Atwood introduces a novel-within-a-novel. Entitled The Blind Assassin, it is a science fiction story told by two unnamed lovers who meet in dingy backstreet rooms. When we return to Iris, it is through a 1947 newspaper article announcing the discovery of a sailboat carrying the dead body of her husband, a distinguished industrialist. Brilliantly weaving together such seemingly disparate elements, Atwood creates a world of astonishing vision and unforgettable impact.

Our last gathering for the year will be at Ken & Debby Graham's home, 509 15th Court, St. Charles.

Congregational Life is looking for volunteers to help serve coffee fellowship. There are step-by-step directions available by the sign-up sheet on the Congregational Life bulletin board. Volunteer today - it's fun and easy!

2016 Altar Flower Donations

The sign up is now available for altar flower donations in 2016. Get your special Sunday while the date is still available! Sign up on the Worship Bulletin Board next to the elevator. You will be contacted to make arrangements for your flower donation and what you would like printed in the bulletin. And after church you get to take them home!

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION

In our desire to meet individual needs, the Worship Committee plans to offer gluten free bread on communion Sundays. Because we pass communion in the pews and the two breads cannot be on the same plate, we have made the following plans. There will be a special table in the narthex to the right of the central doors. If you need gluten free bread, please take some with you in a cup to your seat before the service. It can be placed in the pew holder until communion time. If you don't get it before the service, feel free to walk out at the time of communion and return to your seat with your piece of bread. We hope this works well and better meets the needs of all in our congregation.

About the Parlor Art Gallery Exhibit

Sonia McNally
Canterbury, UK
Trees of Life
November-December 2015

Sonia is a professional visual artist working in a space where the worlds of the imagination, spirituality and art converge. Her work explores themes of the sacred, mythology, folklore, and the related iconography. She works on-site in ancient and wild landscapes, which act as a portal to imaginal narratives and a connection to the divine.

She has a First Class degree in Fine Art. She lives in the Canterbury area of Kent, UK and paints and exhibits internationally. She also takes groups of artists on residential painting trips, produces public commissions and teaches in Canterbury Cathedral.

CELEBRATE!

Sunday, January 24, 2016

2:00 PM

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."
Psalm 100:1

All are invited for
Marvelous Music
& Divine Desserts

Congregational UCC
40W451 Fox Mill Blvd.
St. Charles, IL 60175

Donations appreciated.

Welcoming Rev. David Pattee…
and honoring Rev. John Rodgers' retirement.

2:00 PM **Prairie Brass Band Concert in the Sanctuary**
3:00 PM **Desserts in Rodgers Fellowship Hall**

Bring friends

Visitors welcome

Nursery Care Provided

About Prairie Brass Band—This is a joyous, eclectic program of music from the 35 member group that performs in the British brass band tradition. They are award winning and can't wait to share in our celebration.
www.prairiebrass.org

The Congregational United Church of Christ Calendar

December '15/January '16 **Visit cuccstc.org for current calendar**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School thru 7th grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 10:30 AM Cookies with Santa (FH) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Beiermann Recitals (P,S)	2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 7:00 PM Church Council (P)	Lessons (S)	3:30 PM - 7:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:30 PM GF	OFFICE CLOSED at NOON 5:00 PM Family Service 8:00 PM Worship Service 10:00 PM Worship Service		- 11:30 AM Beiermann Lessons (S)
27 Food on the 4th 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School thru 7th grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH)	**28** 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**29** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**30** No Staff/Presidents Book Study 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:30 PM GF	**31** OFFICE CLOSED	**1** OFFICE CLOSED	**2** 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Beiermann Lessons (S)
3 *Communion* 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School thru 7th grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Confirmation (P)	**4** HIGHLIGHT Newsletter Deadline NOON 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga (S) 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Puppets (FH)	**5** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 7:00 PM Mission Committee (O)	**6** 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship (P) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Book Study (O) 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:30 PM GF 7:00 PM Swing Set BD Mtg (114)	**7** 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Yoga (S) 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (S)	**8** 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 117) 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**9** 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Beiermann Lessons (S)
10 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Happy Hearts Practice (111) 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School thru 7th grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 10:45 AM Aging Well Workshop (115/117) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM TGIJ Movie (FH)	**11** 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Yoga (S) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (P) 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann (S) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Puppets (FH)	**12** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**13** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Book Study (O) 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM Beiermann (S) 6:30 PM GF 6:30 PM Worship Cm (O) 7:00 PM Christian Education Cm (114) 7:00 PM Congregational Life Cm (P)	**14** 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Yoga (S) 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (S)	**15** 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 117) 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**16** Acosta Wedding 7:00 AM Men's Fellowship Walking Group 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Beiermann Lessons (S) 5:00 PM Shrimp Boil (FH)
17 Spud Sunday (FH) 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Happy Hearts Practice (111) 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Worship (S) 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School thru 7th grade 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship (S) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship (FH) 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Sunday School Meeting (117)	**18** MLK Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 AM Building Main. 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Mandarin (112) 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Puppets (FH) 7:00 PM Church Council (P)	**19** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bible Study (P) 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S)	**20** Confirmation - Lazarus House 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Circle of Friends (P) 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM Beiermann (S) 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Helping Hands (FH) 6:30 PM GF 6:45 PM Lazarus House	**21** 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Yoga (S) 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 6:00 PM Bellissimo Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (S)	**22** 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Language Stars-Spanish (112 & 117) 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Beiermann Lessons (S) 7:30 PM Novel Approaches (Rich and Nancy Doerr's)	**23** 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Beiermann Lessons (S) 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM PEO Facility Rental (S,P)

The Congregational United Church of Christ

CUCC

-1837-

No matter who you are, or wherever 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 7th grade. Nursery care.
Communion offered the first Sunday of each month.

cuccstc.org

Handicapped Accessible

CUCCStCharles

Congregational UCC St. Charles

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.

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.

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Office Hours Mon–Thurs 8:30am-3pm, Fri 9am-12

STAFF

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Tara Moffitt–Congregational Life Chair
Steve Sidor–Christian Education Chair
Ann Keck–Mission Chair
Mary Lou Bracken–Worship Chair
Bob Brautigam–Facilities
Ginger Krichbaum–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

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