



The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

This Week at Church

Wed. Mar. 11

1:30 p.m. Rev. Mark's Lenten "Coffice Hours" at Starbucks (75th St., Naperville)

6:00 p.m. Lenten Family Night (Clark rooms)

Thurs. Mar. 12

11:30 a.m. Ladies Do Lunch (Colonial Cafe)

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Community room)

Sat. Mar. 14

6:30 p.m. Pick-a-Party #15 (Shepards' home)

Sun. Mar. 15

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Elementary Sunday School

**11:15 a.m. Middle/Jr. High Youth Host St. Paddy's Day Coffee Hour
(Community Room)**

11:15 a.m. Missions and Social Action Meeting (Library)

2:30 p.m. ACE Meeting (Community Room)

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Mon. Mar. 16

7:00 p.m. Women's Spiritual Gathering (Library)

Tues. Mar. 17

7:00 p.m. Council of Ministries Meeting (Library)

Wed. Mar. 18

1:30 p.m. Rev. Mark's Lenten "Coffee Hours" at Starbucks (75th St., Naperville)

6:00 p.m. Lenten Family Night (Clark rooms)

7:00 p.m. PADS (Community Room)

Thurs. Mar. 19

10:00 a.m. Men's Discussion Group (Library)

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Community Room)

Sun. Mar. 22

8:30 a.m. C.E. Ministry Meeting (Library)

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Elementary Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Middle/Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Group



join us on
Sunday

SERMON

"Wealth and Taxes: Missing the Point"

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:1-17

LITURGISTS

Bev Parker

Tom Farthing

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rae Ellen Hostetler

GREETERS

Tom and Chris Farthing

LEAD USHER

Dave Wise

FLOWERS

Pastor's Notes

Advancing God's Love and Justice

Greetings Friends,

COVID-19 has a lot of us quite worried about the state of our health and how to avoid getting sick. It is not ebola, but there are a lot of things we can do to help our community. Some of us are more vulnerable than others, and it would also help to reduce the burden on our hospitals and health care systems.

I shared some info with you all in church a week and a half ago. I want to reiterate that to you here, and also let you know that our Council and Ministries will be making plans over the next several days so we can do our part to prevent the transmission of this virus.

1. Please **stay home** if you're feeling any symptoms—fever, cough, shortness of breath. Do not come to church. Not for worship, not for meetings, not for anything. Call your doctor and follow their instructions.
2. For healthy folks who do come to church, I encourage you to **avoid shaking hands** or hugging each other. Fist bumps, elbow taps, namaste bows are all ways to minimize contact but also show friendliness when greeting each other or passing the peace.
3. If you feel a sneeze or cough coming on, **turn your head away** from others, and sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue. (Then throw that tissue into a trash receptacle.)
4. Worshipers should **spread out** from each other. Don't be offended if when you sit down, the person already sitting there scoots away. They may be protecting you, themselves, and anyone either or you may come into contact with.
5. Before touching your face or any food or beverages, **wash your hands**. We have two bathrooms with sinks and soap adjacent to the community room. There are two more downstairs by the Sunday school rooms, and two more in the Clark rooms under the sanctuary. Good hand washing takes at least 20 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice), and uses warm water.
6. **Supply drops**—some of you are likely to need to stay home either because you're feeling symptoms, or because you're in the vulnerable populations and

want to stay away. If you are **healthy and willing to drop off food, medicine, etc.** to such folks so they can avoid unnecessary risks, **or if you need this kind of help**, please contact Bev Parker, me, or the church office.

7. Relatedly—**call each other**. The virus cannot be transmitted over phone or internet lines! Check in on those you know may be vulnerable and just let them know you're thinking about them and wondering if they need anything. Staying connected will help avoid feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The DuPage County Health Department has provided a few resources, including [this information sheet](#). We will be staying in touch with them, along with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control to make sure we're acting according to accurate and timely information.

Be smart. Be kind to each other. We can get through this.

Grace and peace,

Mark

Visibility Survey

The church is trying to gain some insight as to how you found First Congregational, what you like about it, and what could be done to increase awareness of our church in the community.

Through [this short survey](#), we ask that you please provide some information about the different activities you participate in throughout the community and events that you attend. This will give us an idea of potential spaces where we could have a presence as a church. Please note that our intention is not to create an outreach campaign advertising our church to recruit new congregants, but rather to increase awareness that a church like ours exists within the community for anyone searching for a church like ours. Thanks so much!

Rev. Mark's Lenten Office Hours at Starbucks

On Wednesday afternoons during Lent, Rev. Mark will be at Starbucks (860 W. 75th St., Naperville) from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m. Come hang out, drink coffee (or tea, or whatever) and

talk about whatever's on your mind! **March 11 (today!), 18, 25.** See you there!

Lenten Family Nights is Cancelled for Tonight, March 11

But, please join Rev. Mark and our Christian Ed Coordinator Denise Majewski next Wednesday evening, **March 18 (and March 25 and April 1)** at 6:00 p.m. in the Clark rooms for an intergenerational program of activities.

Please feel free to bring your own snacks.

Coffee Hour Help Needed!

We need congregational hosts in **April, May and June!**

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/coffeehour2020> to volunteer.

If you sign up by yourself, we promise to find people to help you.

Our "Coffee Hour Guide" has all the details, so you'll know exactly what to do.

(If you have any questions, please feel free to email/phone

Carol Patterson (carolpatters@gmail.com / 630-357-5228).

Thank you!

ACE Meeting March 15, 2:30 p.m. (Community room)

ACE will host former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois Daniel Purdom and DuPage County Circuit Court Judge Linda Davenport to discuss "The Judiciary." Where are cases decided – at the state or federal level? And what's happening to our third branch of government at levels below the Supreme Court?

Come join the discussion on **March 15** from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m.
in the Community Room.

Annual Palm Potluck Meal

Sunday, April 5

We invite everyone to gather on Palm Sunday, **April 5**, for an old-fashioned church-wide potluck! We'll meet in the Community room after the worship service.

We extend a special invitation to any newcomers to the church - we know that participating in a meal with people you do not know very well can be intimidating, but may be an enjoyable way to begin Holy Week.

If you are able, please bring a dish to share. If you are not able to bring anything, please come anyway! If your dish is safe for particular allergies or food preferences (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free, etc.), please label it so others will know. Bring your food to the kitchen before church, and the Community Life team will make sure it stays warm/cold and will get it ready for serving.

Let's all gather together to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week.

If you have any questions, please email
Carol Patterson or Barb Kling.



Celebrate Birthdays

March 15

Julie Holzhauser

March 16

Stephen Lodwig

March 18

Sam Hus

Aaron Newman

March 19

Diana Lorenz

Dylan Wiersema

March 25

Haley Willson

Sharon Robson

March 26

Jack Holzhauer

Jon Brusha

March 28

John Healey

March 30

Everett Day

March 31

Dave Wise



Green Team Tip

Refuse! That's the most important of the recycling motto. Refuse first before you think of reducing, reusing and recycling! During Lent, work on refusing single-use plastics and packaging that you don't need.



Would You Like to Contribute to Our Church Online?

You can make credit card or direct debit payments below.



You may also donate to special offerings, as well.

Thank you!



Our Staff

Rev. Mark Winters, Minister

Denise Majewski, Christian Education Coordinator

Christopher Lorimer, Director of Music Ministry

Sue Flaatten, Organist

Barbara Bailey, Secretary

Ann Marie Gajdalo, Bookkeeper

Lay Leaders

Susan Greenwood, Moderator

Cheryl Newman and Eliseo Martinez, A Joyful Sound!

Laura Kopff, Chimeringers

Ron and Vicki Keller, Chancel Band

Deb Zelman, Spirit Band

Tom George, Stephen Ministry Leader

Dale Bryson, Diana Lorenz, Steve Kilar - Pastoral Relations

Contact Us

630-355-1024 / 630-355-1072 - fax

Publication of the Leaflet

**Articles for the Leaflet must be in the church office no later than
Mondays at 10:00 a.m.**



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