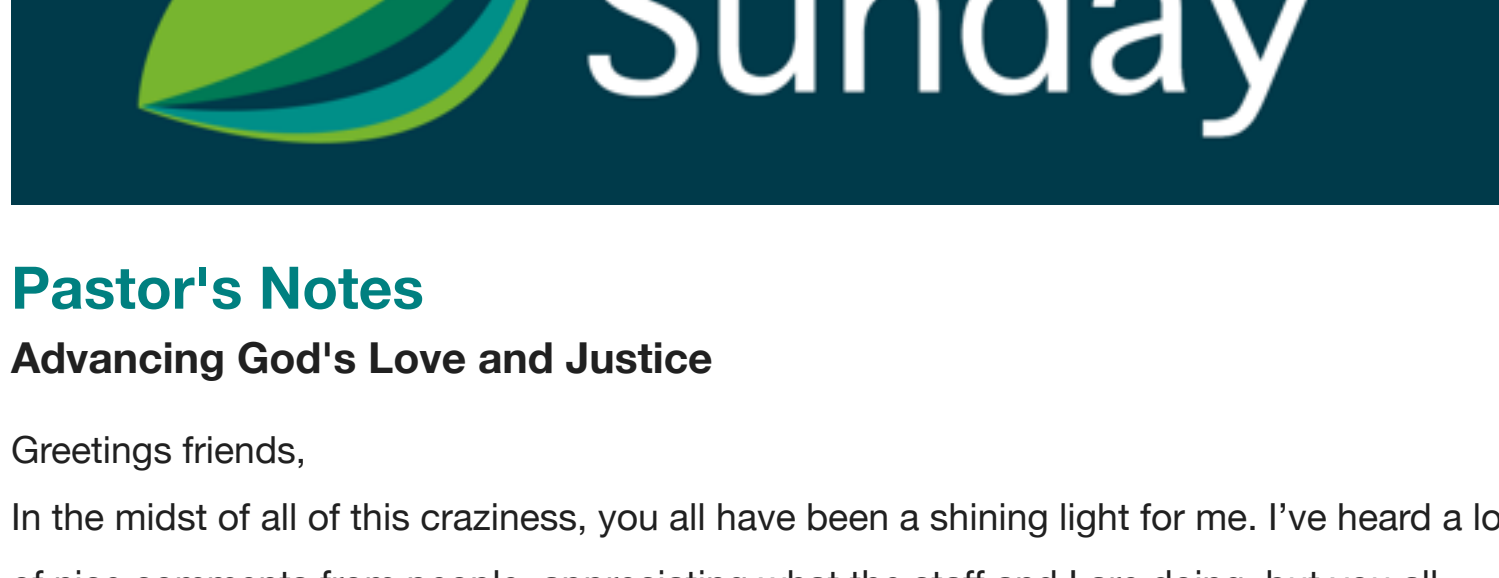




The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

### This Week at Church

- Tues. April 21**  
7:00 p.m. Virtual Council of Ministries Meeting
- Tues. April 28**  
7:00 p.m. Virtual Worship Ministry Meeting
- Mon. May 4**  
7:00 p.m. Virtual Women's Spiritual Gathering
- Tues. May 5**  
7:00 p.m. Virtual Executive Meeting



### Pastor's Notes

#### Advancing God's Love and Justice

Greetings friends,

In the midst of all of this craziness, you all have been a shining light for me. I've heard a lot of nice comments from people, appreciating what the staff and I are doing, but you all have been so understanding and supportive, I am very grateful to you all! This is indeed a challenge for me, but it makes it so much easier to have your encouragement and support.

As an example of that, I have had so many of you ask, in one way or another, "how can we help?" Catherine Ross was someone who did this in a Worship Ministry conversation, and out of that came the amazing **Palm Sunday Pantry Pack**. We collected 375 pounds of food, about 300 meals for people in need, plus financial contributions on top of that!

People have also asked me about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, wondering if I have enough to meet the increasing demands of individuals and families finding themselves in need. To back up for a second, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is a fund that has been set up primarily so we have some funds with which to help people who are needing assistance. From time to time, someone will stop by the church needing help with a train ticket, or groceries, gas, car repair, or perhaps it's a medical bill, or other unexpected expense here or there. Each Christmas, a portion of the Christmas Offering goes into this Fund.

I'm talking about this here for two reasons. First, I want to make sure you all know about it. If you are in need, please come to me for help. It's why this fund exists. The reason why it's called the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is because it gives me the discretion to judge a worthy cause, and to make sure payments are confidential.

The second reason I'm mentioning this here is to let you know that if you would like to contribute to this fund, you are welcome to send in a contribution to the church and designate it for the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund." This is one way you can help, in addition to supporting our wonderful local charities like [People's Resource Center](#), [Leaves and Fishes/CARES](#), [DuPage PADS](#), and so many more.

Through generosity, we can be the hands of God.

Grace and peace,

Mark

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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!

### Giving Options

As we navigate our way through the uncertainty of 2020, our collective ministries would like to recap the ways you can financially support the church and its missions. [Here are ways you can help.](#)

### Gratitude Campaign

[Here](#) is an invitation from the Fox Valley Association Justice and Witness Committee to join in a gratitude campaign.

### Celebrate Birthdays

- April 21**  
Jackie Dupuis
- April 23**  
Pete Fales
- April 24**  
Austin Lewis
- April 26**  
Elizabeth Huang
- April 27**  
Meg'n Braida
- April 30**  
Gene Wollaston  
JoLynn Mitchell
- May 1**  
Minniatta Heinen
- May 4**  
Nolan Majewski  
Val Runner
- May 5**  
Hannah Lorimer
- May 6**  
Joan Cooke
- May 7**  
Parker Healey  
Paul Spangler  
Andrea Lyonstford
- May 9**  
Mary Clare Graff
- May 11**  
Marilyn Wollenmann
- May 12**  
Zack Newman
- May 13**  
Diane Herr
- May 15**  
Nancy Harper  
Betty Robson  
Isaac Winters

### Green Team Tips

This week is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. To help us all celebrate, SCARCE is offering online activities.

For the entire family on **April 22** from 3:00 until 4:00 p.m.:  
<https://www.scarce.org/event/earth-day-virtual-meet-up2020/>

Just for kids - activities and a coloring page:  
<https://www.scarce.org/celebrating-earth-day-at-home/#earth-day-fun>

### It's a Styrofoam Squall

Suffering from the Styrofoam results of too much take-out? Are Styrofoam egg cartons crowding your kitchen? The Green Team to the rescue! Join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day by quelling the "Styrofoam Squall."

#### What You Can Do

1. Bring your Styrofoam food containers to church on Saturday, **April 25** from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. (NO packing materials, please. We will recycle those later.)
2. Make sure all the containers are rinsed, no food residue!
3. Please put the Styrofoam in plastic bags. This makes packing up our cars easier to take the Styrofoam back to its manufacturer, Dart Industries.

Questions? Contact Claudia Hackney or Susan Greenwood.

### FREE STAINED GLASS NOTE CARDS

**Saturday, April 25**  
**12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.**

When you come to drop off your Styrofoam (see above), we are going to hand out free packets of the church stained glass window cards. No styrofoam to drop off? No problem. You can still drive through and pick up packets of cards to write notes of gratitude.

### Would You Like to Contribute to Our Church?

You can make credit card or direct debit payments using the QR code. You may also use the QR code to donate to other special offerings. Thank you!

### People in Our Prayers

Rhonda Carpenter wishes to thank the many First Congregational folks who have phoned or written beautiful sympathy cards since Jack's passing. \*Steve Hyett, recovering from emergency surgery last week. \*Megan Palombella and Anthony Heintzelman welcomed new baby Stella Rose Palombella into the world early last Tuesday morning. \*Judy Payne's sister Jeanette is at Edward Hospital for tests. Jeanette's son Michael is also at Edward Hospital with a leg infection. \*The Roskopf family's Aunt Margaret is in her final days. \*Emily Huang, who is having surgery on Tuesday for her broken leg. \*Prayers for all military personnel, health care workers, and first responders. \*All who are trapped in domestic abuse situations forced to stay home. \*Those looking for work, and all who have lost income due to the pandemic.

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

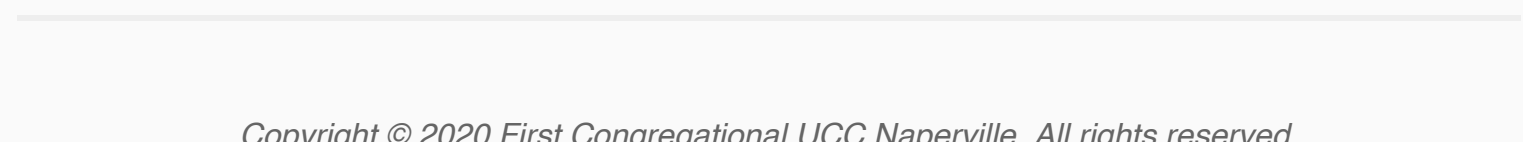
**Our Staff**  
Rev. Mark Winters, Minister  
Denise Majewski, Christian Education Coordinator  
Christopher Lorimer, Director of Music Ministry  
Sue Flaatten, Organist  
Barbara Bailey, Secretary  
Ann Marie Gajdalo, Bookkeeper

**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.



Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

