



The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

## This Week at Church

### Thurs. April 9

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meditation

(live-streamed on [facebook.com/loveandjustice](https://facebook.com/loveandjustice))

### Fri. April 10

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Eccumenical Service

(pre-recorded and posted on [facebook.com/loveandjustice](https://facebook.com/loveandjustice))

### Sun. April 12

10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship

(live-streamed on [facebook.com/loveandjustice](https://facebook.com/loveandjustice))



join us on  
**Sunday**

The Mission Statement of Community Life Ministry includes the passage "offering care for members and friends....and to offer opportunities to connect with one another." Little did we know when we took on the duties of co-chairing this ministry how meaningful these statements would be.

Our ministry primarily consists of two aspects, one being to provide care and support in times of need. Ministry members Lee Ann Huang and Theresa Hus created a "PeopleTree" where we can stay connected and supported while being sheltered in place. Our Stephen Ministry Team is available to offer comfort to those who need a listening ear. The Care Team can offer help in running errands. In happier times, this ministry can offer rides, meals, and generally helping hands. Our goal is to maintain connections during these troubling times, and we hope you will reach out for help if the need arises.

In less trying times, our ministry also finds opportunities to engage with others outside of worship. Most of you are aware that we are responsible for Coffee Hour, but our reach goes well beyond that. We welcome new members into our congregation. Small groups and events that we oversee have included potlucks, dinners out, book club, women's fellowship and lunches out, concerts in the park, theater outings, game nights, and, most recently, Pick-a-Party. While these activities have had to be postponed during the current crisis, we hope to resume them later.

All of these are ways to make you feel more connected to our church family. We are always excited to hear more ideas, and we welcome your suggestions. In the meantime, stay safe and stay connected.

Carol Patterson and Barb Kling  
Co-Chairs





Send us pictures of you in your Easter best!

We want to see the hats! The dresses! The bowties! Send us photos of you, your family, heck – even your dog, in your Easter finest! Please email photos to Catherine Ross by April 10 at noon and they will be included in a special presentation on Easter Sunday.

### **Making Computer Work Safer at Home for Kids and Adults**

See this short video [here](#).





**375**  
**Pounds of food donated**

You delivered church! 375 pounds of food went to West Suburban Community Pantry, with additional online donations going directly to Loaves and Fishes.

These donations come at a vital time. West Suburban Community Pantry has seen a 40% increase in demand these last few weeks; the number of individuals that have lost their jobs has skyrocketed and these numbers are anticipated to continue to climb. Grocery stores are challenged as demand has increased significantly as a result of customers stocking up on food. As a result, grocery stores have less food they can donate to WSCP.

Thanks to your generosity, more families will have groceries on the table this week! Special thanks to the Worship and Missions and Social Action Ministries for making this event possible.

## Easter Lily Orders

To everyone who ordered Easter lilies: we plan to deliver yours to your home after we receive the order from the nursery. A delivery date has not yet been set, but we will email you when that date is scheduled. While we won't be able to gather at church on Easter, you'll be able to have the lily at home.

Please email Tina Giehler if you have any questions.

## Pick-a-Party Donations Distributed

This year, many of us enjoyed a variety of parties and experiences through our wonderful Pick-a-Party celebrations. Funds donated to the Missions and Social Action Ministry from these parties totaled nearly \$2,000! A special thank you to Lori Shepard who organized and promoted these terrific opportunities for sharing and connection.

At its last meeting, the Missions and Social Action Ministry voted to distribute these funds to four organizations that are especially tuned to providing help in these difficult

medical and economic times. The four organizations each receiving \$500 include the Northern Illinois Food Bank, West Suburban Food Pantry, The Night Ministry, and The People's Resource Center. All of these organizations serve the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, and we are happy to offer our support.

## 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!

## People Tree

**We want to be sure our church family stays connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

For many of us, life has become more stressful and more isolated. We know that members of our church family may be feeling worried, anxious, and fearful with all the changes going on in their lives, and we want to make sure that even if we can't come to Benton Avenue, we can stay connected and care for each other during this time.

The Community Life Ministry has implemented a "People Tree" to ensure that everyone is in contact with someone from church on a regular basis. It will help us maintain social connections and identify any concerns, needs, or prayer requests, while still maintaining social distance. To all those who responded to our request for volunteers, thank you! It is

a testament to the kind of members we have that we were able to fill every volunteer slot so quickly.

To our church family: when someone calls you, please pick up if you are able. We will ask your communication preference (phone call, email, text), and we'll use that after the initial call, but we would love to touch base by phone with each member at least once. Although our regular channels of communication remain the same, your caller can also help connect you with resources (if you have a prayer request, would like to speak to a Stephen Minister, or need help from the Caring Ministry). If you are able to help others in need, and you aren't in a high-risk group yourself, you can also let your caller know that.

If you have questions or feedback about the FCC People Tree,  
feel free to contact one of our coordinators:

**Lee Ann Huang**

**Theresa Hus**

**Community Life Co-Chairs:**

**Barb Kling**

**Carol Patterson**

**Let's make sure we take care of everyone  
in our church family during this difficult time!**



**Celebrate Birthdays**

**April 7**

Ann Montgomery

**April 8**

David Giehler

**April 11**

Nathan Breithaupt

Ben Hus

**April 13**

Madeline Willson

**April 14**

Frank Breithaupt

Amy Freitag

Penelope Walker

**April 15**

Christopher Lorimer

Ben Mitchell

**April 20**

Allison Trezona

Tina Giehler

**April 21**

Jackie Dupuis

**April 23**

Pete Fales

**April 24**

Austin Lewis

**April 26**

Elizabeth Huang

**April 27**

Meg'n Braid

**April 30**

Gene Wollaston

JoLynn Mitchell



## **Green Team**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the benefits of recycling to the planet are clear. Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy needed to make new cans from raw materials.

Recycling steel and tin cans saves 60 to 74 percent; recycling paper saves about 60 percent; and recycling plastic and glass saves about one-third of the energy compared to making those products from virgin materials. In fact, the energy saved by recycling one glass bottle will [operate a 100-watt light bulb for four hours](#).



## 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!



### 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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