



The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

## This Week at Church

### Tues. June 2

7:00 p.m. Virtual Executive Team Meeting

### Fri. June 5

National Gun Violence Awareness Day **(Wear Orange)**

### Sun. June 7

10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service

### Tues. June 9

7:00 p.m. Virtual Stewardship Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Virtual Trustees Meeting

### Wed. June 10

7:00 p.m. Virtual Community Life Meeting

### Sun. June 14

10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service

### Mon. June 15

7:00 p.m. Virtual Women's Spiritual Gathering



### Greetings From Your Missions and Social Action Ministry!

Though we are isolated in body, we on MSA are continuing the radical work of justice and social action so valued by First Congregational UCC. Our hearts and minds are with those peacefully protesting unconscionable police brutality and racism, and our fervent hope is that out of these tragic times, some real change can emerge.

Here's an update on our efforts during these last few months to meet the needs of those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

#### Contributions:

We used the generous donations from the Pick-a-Party collections to fund a number of organizations helping to feed needy families in the Chicago area including the West Suburban Food Pantry, the Night Ministry, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the People's Resource Center in Wheaton. Additionally, MSA made a \$1,000 donation to PADS to help defray the cost of housing homeless families and individuals in hotel rooms during this crisis.

We are also acting on our continuing concerns for mental health issues by contributing to SamaraCare counseling and to Family Shelter Service, an organization in Wheaton that provides domestic violence help as well as contributing to the Career & Networking Center in Naperville, an organization that provides help to those who are facing unemployment and underemployment.

#### Angola Partnership:

The goal of our partnership with Acadmico Church (IECA) in Huambo, Angola is to create and sustain relationships between members of each congregation and to extend the mission of the Illinois Conference-IECA Angola Partnership Team to "build the one body of Christ in two different places." Due to the state of the coronavirus pandemic, the implementation of most partnership activities will need to continue to be delayed - Acadmico is not holding traditional or able to hold virtual church services during this time and so has not been able to install their new pastor. During this time of uncertainty, please keep the people of Acadmico, of IECA, and of Angola at large in your prayers.

#### Fair Tax Zoom Meeting:

On May 17, MSA co-sponsored with ACE (Act. Connect. Engage.) a virtual seminar on Illinois' Fair Tax proposal that will be voted on this November. The speakers were from the Community Renewal Society, and they explained the social justice benefits of this important proposal. We urge you to become active, informed, and engaged in learning about this important piece of legislation.

#### Action:

Action is a bit limited during these times of social distancing, but the Green Team has collected Styrofoam for recycling, we are working on another drive-by food collection scheduled for June 20, we are looking into purchasing a rainbow bench made from recycled lids, and we are organizing some kind of virtual event to celebrate Pride Month this June. Watch for details to come!

#### Upcoming Virtual Events:

This Friday, June 5, is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. **Please consider wearing orange this Friday to demand action on our national epidemic of gun violence.**

We are blessed to be a part of this active and engaged congregation dedicated to social action and justice issues.

Sincerely,

Susan McNeal-Bulak, Chair

### Email Caution

If you receive an email that says it's from Rev. Mark, please verify that the email address is real. Again this week, some individuals in the congregation have received emails that are allegedly from him, seeking immediate response, and will follow up by asking you to purchase something, e.g., gift cards from Amazon, etc.

Please do not ever respond to such requests.

If you have any questions about an email, do not reply, but open up a new email to [mark@loveandjustice.org](mailto:mark@loveandjustice.org) and verify. Thanks!



### Green Team Tips

Good news! You can keep the staples on packages and documents when you recycle them. The new equipment sucks them off with magnets.

### A Salute to Marscha!

Lots of good things go on in this church. One that many of us have enjoyed for years is participation in the Women's Spiritual Gathering.

The books we discussed every other week through the years were intellectually challenging and relevant to our lives. They stimulated conversations that were often deeper and more satisfying than those in graduate-level classrooms.

The authors of these books taught us much, but we also learned from each other. Over time, we were able to become a strong and vibrant unit within the church.

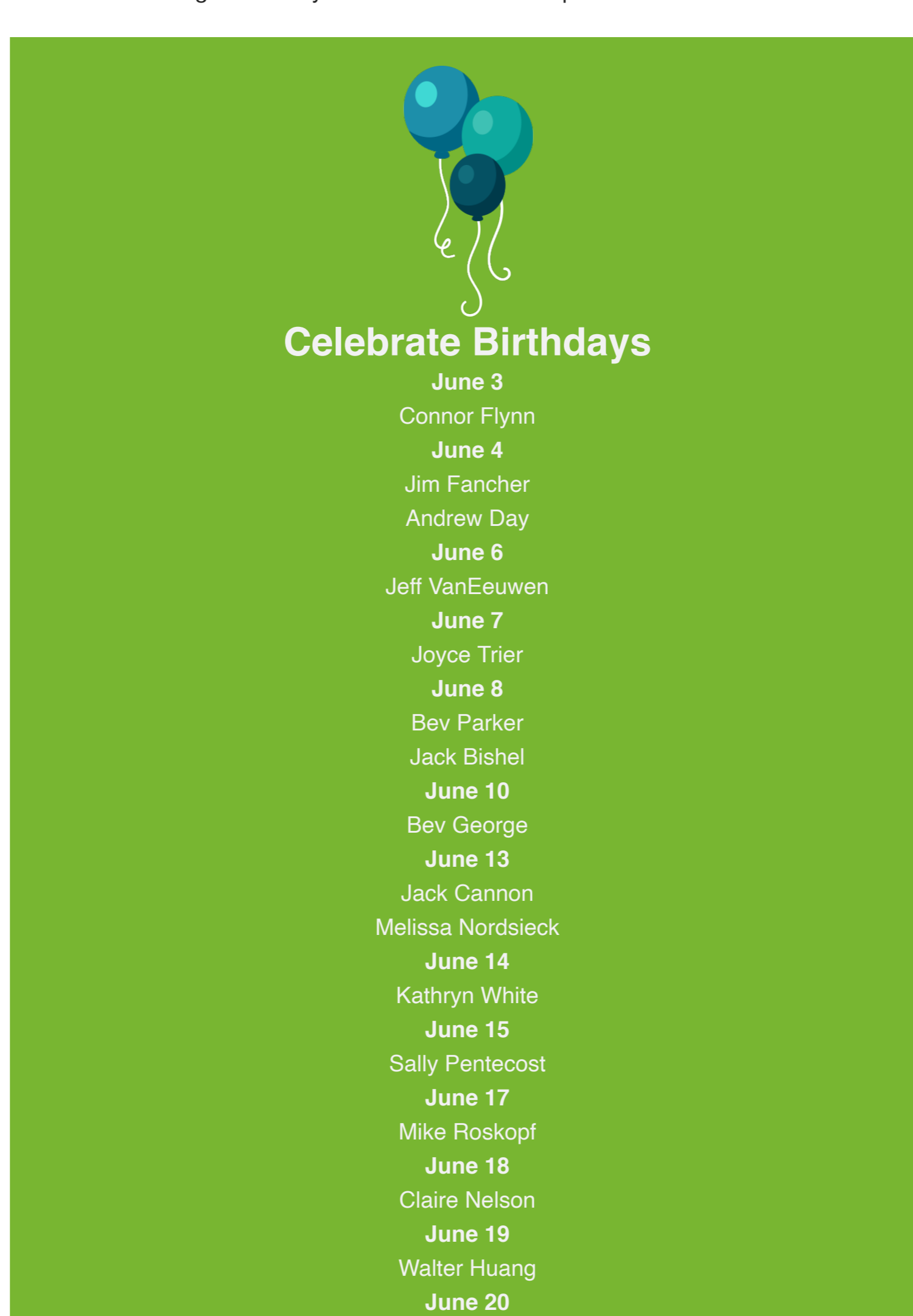
One person gets the credit for this vitality, and that's Marscha Chenoweth.

Marscha founded the group and attracted the first members. She led the selection of books and scheduled leaders for each session. She welcomed feedback and encouraged our thinking "outside the box."

Our meetings opened with a round of "checking in" (a sure way of building community) and always closed in a circle with the Lord's Prayer.

Thanks, Marscha, for keeping WSG on track these many years. What a mind-opening, heart-touching journey it has been.

We will be forever grateful for your dedicated leadership.



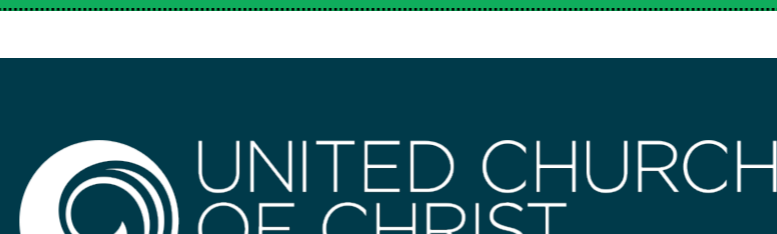
### Food Drive, Take 2

We're doing it again - collecting food for the West Suburban Food Pantry and cash donations for Loaves & Fishes. On **Saturday, June 20, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**, please bring donations of non-perishable food items to the church parking lot. A flyer with suggested donations will be in future Leaflets and bulletins.



### 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 Kopf, 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.**

