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The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

## This Week at Church

**Wed. Mar. 25**

1:30 p.m. Rev. Mark's Virtual "Coffice" Hours (online)

**Sun. Mar. 29**

10:00 a.m. Worship (Online)



join us on  
**Sunday**

## Pastor's Notes

### Advancing God's Love and Justice

Greetings friends,

During this time of social distancing, we're all doing new things! I was hoping to share a cup of coffee or beverage of some sort with you all during Lenten Wednesday afternoons. Alas, the coronavirus had other plans!

So I invite you to join me in "Coffice" Hours of a different type. Join me for a meeting via Zoom, a video conference app which is currently sweeping the nation. You can use your computer, tablet, or smart phone if you want to both see and hear. Or you can just call in from any phone and it'll be like a conference call.

There are three ways to join.

1. [Click here](#). Your computer will do open it up for you.
2. If you don't have the Zoom app, go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) from your internet browser, click "join a meeting," and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 316 015 523

Password: 141529

3. By phone, call 1-312-626-6799, and enter meeting ID: 316 015 523, then #.

I look forward to seeing you later today, Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m.!

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Mark

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## **PADS Update**

For more than 30 years, our church has been the site of a Wednesday night PADS shelter for the homeless. We've provided spaces to sleep, hot suppers and breakfasts, a place to shower and supplied socks and underwear. For the first time we're suspending those services until the end of April. DuPage PADS recognizes the threats of Covid-19 and closed our shelter and, as of right now, is moving all their clients to hotel rooms.

It is important to note that this is just a suspension of our shelter status. Ours is a social action church, we are a bunch of doers! We are active in everything from offering prayers to supplying food to the homeless in Chicago to mission trips to Guatemala. The PADS Team thanks the 60+ congregation members who make our shelter happen! And to thank the entire congregation for contributing funds making the shelter effort possible.

Please pray for the homeless in DuPage County.

We hope to be helping them again in May!

## 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 during the past few weeks. 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. We plan to call each person/family in the church this week to check in. 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, Barb Kling, Carol Patterson**

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



## **Celebrate Birthdays**

**March 25**

Haley Wilson

Sharon Robson

**March 26**

Jack Holzhauser

Jon Brusha

**March 28**

John Healey

**March 30**

Everett Day

**March 31**

Dave Wise

**April 1**

Sophie Winters

**April 4**

Zachary Lyonsford

**April 5**

Michael Healey

**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**

Ben Mitchell

**April 20**

Allison Trezona

Tina Giehler



## **Green Team Tip**

What are you doing to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle as we shelter in place? Share your procedures, practices, tips and wishes!

**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!



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.**



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