



The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

This Week at Church

- Thurs. May 14**
11:30 a.m. Virtual Ladies Do (Their Own) Lunch
- Sat. May 16**
12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Second Styrofoam Squall and Plastic Lid Pick-up! (Church Parking Lot)
- Sun. May 17**
10:00 a.m. Worship
2:30 p.m. Virtual ACE Meeting
- Mon. May 18**
7:00 p.m. Virtual Women's Spiritual Gathering Meeting
- Tues. May 19**
7:00 p.m. Virtual Council of Ministries Meeting
- Sun. May 24**
10:00 a.m. Live-Stream Worship
- Mon. May 25**
Memorial Day



Pastor's Notes

Advancing God's Love and Justice

Greetings Friends,
The world keeps turning, even amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

As you may have seen in other announcements, the Missions and Social Action Ministry is cohosting an event on the Fair Tax proposal this Sunday afternoon with ACE (Act. Connect. Engage.) and the Community Renewal Society. It will be at 2:30 p.m. over Zoom. (Please [click here](#) to register.)

You may know ACE, the organization Beverly George and others set up a couple of years ago to help local folks on issues of political, economic, and social interest. The [Community Renewal Society](#) (CRS) is an organization founded in Chicago by Congregational churches in 1882. They are dedicated to social justice advocacy in Illinois, and I am glad to get a chance like this to help First Congregational Naperville get to know them a bit better.

Amongst us we have differing opinions, of course, on Governor Pritzker's plan to change the state's income tax structure from a flat tax to a progressive, income-based tax. We are cosponsoring this conversation for a few reasons, first of all, to help us understand it better before we vote on it in November. There will be opportunities to both learn and ask questions on Sunday afternoon. In this era of rapidly flying rumors and fake news, we all need to seek out good information from reliable sources. CRS does have their perspective on this, but whether or not you agree with their conclusions, I would trust their information to be accurate.

Secondly, we are inviting this conversation because it's critical for all of us to reflect on the justice implications of this. All budgets - whether personal, congregational, or governmental - are moral documents. How and where we gather income, and how and where we spend it, have moral implications. Who benefits, and who suffers? Who is helped, and who is hurt? As Christians, we want to know how the least of our fellow citizens might be affected. If we want to love our neighbors as we would ourselves, these issues have a serious impact on the welfare of our neighbors. And it's not just about how much we pay into the system through taxes, but also about how taxing impacts the condition of the state's financial health, and the services the people of our state need.

So I encourage you all to set aside some time Sunday afternoon to join us. It should take about an hour to an hour and a half, depending on questions. I pray that we all might take this, and every voting decision, seriously and prayerfully. And I am grateful for conversations like this where we might benefit from collective conversation and deliberation.

Please click on the link in the beginning paragraph to register. I look forward to seeing you online!

Grace and peace,
Mark

Please join ACE and MSA for a virtual presentation on the proposed Illinois Fair Tax. Sarah Yousuf, associate director of city and county policy for the Community Renewal Society, will discuss how the fair tax could disburse social services funds more equitably. This half hour presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. This is a great opportunity to learn about this Illinois tax proposal and to get your questions answered.

Please register in advance with this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoommeeting/register/4JludOCrrDkqH9UPBmXBVF7xcDer6DYHrBzN>

You will receive the meeting ID when you register. The password to join the meeting will be emailed to you after you register.

Submit questions in advance to Rev. Mark Winters. You will also be able to submit questions after the presentation using the chat feature.

New Church FB Group

One mission of the Community Life Ministry is to provide connections, and one way we can do that is to share a love of books. All members and friends are invited to join a private Facebook page called **'Bibliophiles of 1st Congregational UCC Naperville.'** (Because it's private, you'll have to request to join.)

The purpose of this group is to serve as lending libraries for each other while our public libraries are inaccessible. It's a place to recommend, share, loan, and/or donate books that are collecting dust on our home shelves. (Transfer of books will be left up to the sharers to figure out, in the safest way possible.) We hope that having new reading material will help pass the time during the COVID-19 shutdown.

So join our page, and start sharing and reading! Contact us if you have questions.

Carol Patterson and Barb Kling
Co-chairs, Community Life Ministry

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

May 15
Nancy Harper
Betty Robson
Isaac Winters

May 17
Alek Van Eeuwen
Fiona Kudrys

May 22
Linda Effler
Chris Fleming

May 26
Chris Farthing

May 29
Steve Hyett
Kennedy Sobol

May 30
Dave Marchman

May 31
Lauren Mitchell
Lorelei Day

Green Team Tips

Hooray, Naperville's Electronic Recycling site reopened this week!
Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Accepted are computers, laptops, servers, computer monitors, televisions, printers, facsimile, scanners, VCR and DVD players, video game consoles, cable and converter boxes, satellite receivers, electronic keyboards, mice, portable music players, holiday string lights, wire, cables, adapters, power supplies, cell phones, modems, tablets, phones and docking stations. Charges for all TVs, CRTs, flat screens and monitors are: under 21 inch screen = \$25 per unit; 21-inch screen and over = \$35 per unit. Cash or credit card accepted. Please, no checks.

Second Styrofoam Squall and Plastic Lid Pick-up!

Saturday, May 16 - 12:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Take part in this second Styrofoam Squall to "wash away" all your remaining Styrofoam - packing materials, more food containers, even packing peanuts. Bring any Styrofoam and plastic lids you send "drained out" of your house. Bring everything to the church parking lot and we'll send that Styrofoam back to its maker! (That's Dart Industries in North Aurora!). **We will hand out free packets of the church stained glass window cards!**

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.

