



The newsletter of First Congregational UCC, Naperville

This Week at Church

Sun. May 24

10:00 a.m. Live-Stream Worship
3:00 p.m. Virtual Missions and Social Action Meeting

Mon. May 25

Memorial Day

Tues. May 26

7:00 p.m. Virtual Worship Ministry Meeting

Sun. May 31

10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service / **Strengthen the Church Offering**



Pastor's Notes

Advancing God's Love and Justice

Greetings friends,

When we first moved into our house, some of the window seals had shown evidence of breaking, because the glass was quite foggy. We got a small concession from the seller, but hadn't spent the time to look into options, fearing how much it was going to cost to fix them. Over time, the problem got worse. The windows got even harder to see through, and as more of them were affected, it became apparent that the windows had not been installed correctly across the board.

This week, we replaced the worst offenders, the windows on the back side of our house, and it is like night and day! We can see our neighbors. We can see down the street. We can see the various greens of the trees' new leaves (except for our Maple that appears to have died - there's always something). We can watch the birds come to our bird feeder from several new vantage points, and our 8-year-old can actually open his window now! (It was too stiff for him to open, previously.) We have a completely different viewpoint on the world, even from the familiarity of a house we've lived in for 11 years.

What does that mean—to have a different view of the world, even from a familiar vantage point?

We're all spending A LOT more time at home now, not just because we're working or going to school from home, but also because we're not able to travel. And as beneficial as travel is, and as helpful as it is to get new perspective on things, what does it mean to look at something familiar, but see it in a new way?

People are constantly growing, and changing, as they experience new things. If we don't let ourselves see them in a new light, we lock them into a version of themselves that doesn't fit any more. As a parent, I sometimes fail at this - looking at one of my kids and reminiscing about them as a baby or toddler while they wince at me, wanting to be seen as the more mature and capable version of themselves that they are now. I do this, even though I too have experienced the frustration of being looked at through lenses of the past.

On a larger scale, some folks these days are looking at the world through the framework of what was - expecting to go back to "normal," when this is all over. But to disregard what we're experiencing is to fail to see the world as it is. We've now lost twice as many people to COVID-19 as we did in Vietnam. Vietnam affected multiple generations - in how we understand our relationships with each other, how we relate to government, how we understand our responsibilities as citizens, etc., etc. We need to recognize that while the world may seem familiar, this pandemic should change the way we see it. What might we see, with clearer vision, and a willingness to notice?

Grace and peace,

Mark

Attention Graduates and Families of Graduates

We plan to recognize those who are graduating this year from high school, college, or graduate school.

Please submit names of graduates, the school from which they're graduating, and the degree (if appropriate) to [Barbara](#) in our church office by **Tuesday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m.**
Thanks!

Pantry Pack Postponed

The Pantry Pack has been postponed. Watch for future Leaflets and bulletins for news of the new date.



Green Team Tips

Plastic Lid Recycling Has Ended! Lewis University is discontinuing its plastic lid project. While the project was very successful, it was also labor-intensive and took a lot of space. A recycled plastic bench requires 200 pounds of lids. If your lids have a recycling number, please do recycle them. If not, please throw them away.

Women's Spiritual Gathering Invites You to Join Their Zoom Meetings

Monday, June 1: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 15: 7:00 p.m.

Please email [Diana Lorenz](#) for more information.

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



Celebrate Birthdays

May 22
Linda Eifler
May 25
Chris Fleming
May 26
Chris Farthing
May 29
Steve Hyett
Kennedy Sobol
May 30
Dave Marchman
May 31
Lauren Mitchell
Lorelei Day
June 2
Tiffany Oken
June 3
Connor Flynn
June 4
Jim Fancher
Andrew Day
June 6
Jeff VanEeuwen
June 7
Joyce Trier
June 8
Bev Parker
Jack Bishel
June 10
Bev George



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.

