



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.

