



News from the Pews

September 2018



The Newsletter of **Congregational United Church of Christ**

One Body

Rev. Emily Snowden

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Cor. 12: 12)



You've heard of a Rube Goldberg machine, right? A Rube Goldberg Machine is "intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overcomplicated fashion. Often, these machines consist of a series of simple devices that are linked together to produce a domino effect, in which each device triggers the next one, and the original goal is achieved only after many steps" (wikipedia.com). So the marble goes down the track then dings the bell which hits the domino which makes a series of dominoes fall, which triggers a lever that moves a thing that hits another thing and eventually, something very simple happens. (If you're having

trouble imaging this, come to worship on September 9. Our 'Food for Thought' will feature a Rube Goldberg machine!)

The Body of Christ is a bit like a Rube Goldberg machine. A lot of unique and intricate parts working together in an indirect and complex way to get something done. Now, the building of up of the Kin-dom of God is no simple task— but stay with me here. You and I have different traits. Perhaps you are a mover and shaker. You like to get things done. You like to go places, meet people, and share your story. You might resonate with the functions of the feet and mouth. I like to listen to others and I trust my instincts. I resonate with the heart and the gut. Take a moment to think of your unique and God-given characteristics. How do you fit into the Body of Christ? What are your gifts? Your strengths? Now remember, you are not the whole body. You do not have all the gifts. **We, together, are one body.** We share these gifts, leaning on the strengths of others, so that we may accomplish our goals.

Throughout the month of September I will be preaching a sermon series called One Body. Each week, we will explore a different piece of the 1 Corinthians 12 text. We will explore our spiritual gifts, the ways in which our strengths resemble the function of different body parts, take ownership of those gifts, and be reminded that we are worthy of this work. Additionally, we will have a workshop facilitated for us about the Enneagram on September 22. The Enneagram is an ancient tool used to help us discover our unique characteristics through a nine-point interconnected typology. Sound like a bunch of mumbo jumbo? I promise, it's not! It's a wonderful tool akin to the Myers Briggs or DISC surveys. However, it's more holistic and will help us learn about ourselves and each other. Then in November I will conduct a workshop for us to begin to think about our ministry teams and individual bodies of Christ. How can we utilize our strengths and gifts to make the most effective and faithful use of our team members?

I'm really looking forward to this fall. We will welcome our kiddos back from summer break, enjoy the many voices of the choir, and grow in our faith together. Join us as we start up the year on September 9th. See you soon!

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Emily



ONE BODY:

A SERMON SERIES

Join us for Sunday worship at 10:30am!

September 9: Spiritual Gifts

September 16: Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

September 23: Owning It

September 30: Worthy of the Call

PLUS: A free workshop, "The Enneagram & Me"

Date: Saturday, September 22, 9a-1p

Congregational
United Church of Christ

You are welcome here... and we really mean it!

1001 W. Kirchoff Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005



Ph. 847.392.6650
www.congucc.org
facebook.com/conguccah

From your Moderator by Lou Guagenti



During the past two years and just recently at our all congregational meeting to decide the future of PADS, I got to experience spiritual democracy in action. At my previous faith home, when the congregation needed a new pastor, it was decided by officials outside the church. They decided who we needed, not us, the congregation.

Here at CUCC, when we found ourselves in need of a new pastor, we formed two committees of our own members. The TMT invited the congregation to explore our history, our present, and to envision our future. Then another committee used that information to discern numerous candidates, finally selecting the one they felt the congregation was seeking. The congregation affirmed the choice. We are grateful to have Pastor Emily among us.

When an important issue arose this past month regarding the future of PADS at our church, our member-lead council, entrusted by the congregation, recommended that we end our affiliation with Journeys/PADS after one final 2018-19 season. The congregation came together civilly, prayerfully and respectfully to discuss various issues and hear all voices. A committee of ten members came forward to form the much-needed ad-hoc committee to work together with St. Simon's Site Directors, Journeys and other volunteers to help ensure that this last year goes well. Please keep them all in your prayers as they rise to their tasks.

Church School Begins September 16!



I've been gone all this summer, on Sundays, travelling with Kent to his interim church setting. So I need to get re-acquainted with CUCCA and all of its recent activities. Certainly, it is good to get back to all the delights of church school and its wonderful teachers and eager children. I missed you all!

The 2018-2019 church school year is the last year of our six-year rotation model church school. By the time we complete this year the whole curriculum will have covered in excess of 100 different Bible stories! This year's theme is "God at Work: Moses to the Messiah." This will be a really fun year full of some of my favorite Bible stories, many of which may be your favorites, too.

This fall we will take three months to cover the whole story of Moses. We will look at the early years of Moses in September, the Exodus story in October, and the story of our Ten Commandments in November. I wanted to take time with this storyline because it is such a reference point to so many other stories in our Bible and the themes are critical to our understanding of the faith.

In December we will look at the final set of characters in the Christmas story - the Magi. Hopefully we can plan an event surrounding our Epiphany celebration.

In January we look at the story of Jesus, at 12, amazing the elders, and Jesus' call to ministry. In February we will look at Jesus' relationship to children. During Lent we will study Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem, the Temple cleansing, and the widow's mite. We will follow those stories with the Easter Story told from the perspective of the women and hear the story of the Ascension. Finally, in May we will hear about three women of the early church - Priscilla, Lydia, and Dorcas.

As I look at the whole six years of the curriculum I am pleased to see how many lessons focused on stories of young people and women. This is a challenge to do with such a patriarchal focused resource!

Our fall schedule looks like this: September 9 - family worship and communion; September 16, 23 and 30 - church school. October 7 - family worship and communion; October 14, 21 and 28 - church school. November 4 - family worship and communion; November 11 and 18 - church school.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

Meg Ulery
Church School Coordinator



Highlights from Community Renewal Society Meeting Northwest Cluster, August 18, 2018

by JoAnn Rapp

Our congregation historically has fulfilled an annual donation to The Community Renewal Society, one of Chicago's oldest non-profit advocacy organizations. The five-year-old Northwest Cluster of CRS-member churches includes CUCC, St. John's UCC, First United Methodist of Arlington Heights, Southminster Presbyterian Arlington Heights, Schaumburg's Our Redeemer Catholic Church, and Our Saviour Lutheran Church of Arlington Heights, a first-year new member. Lots and lots of energy from the churches' Faith in Action teams around upcoming events!

*The seven Arlington Heights Faith in Action churches are already investigating the possibilities of a second Arlington Heights supportive housing project, right on the heels of Heart's Place ground breaking August 3.

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, is sponsoring an open event candidates' forum on September 23, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Several area candidates have made solid commitments to participate.

*St. James Catholic Church is organizing an ecumenical candlelight prayer vigil for October 21, 6:30 p.m., to raise awareness about abusive relationships within suburban family settings. WINGS will be a major participant. Details to follow.

*Jesse Rojo, CRS coordinator to member churches in our north/northwest area, presented and discussed a new CRS document, "Base Building and Leadership Development by Putting Our Faith in Action." A copy is on file in the church office. Jesse encourages churches to take advantage of CRS training programs. He is available to congregations for consultation and training sessions specific to individual churches.

*St. John UCC invites one and all to join them in their study of the black/white racial divide. Having completed a year's study around UCC's curriculum on white privilege, they have now planned three community meetings: (1) "The Role of Education in Combatting Racism" held at the Arlington Heights Library; (2) "The Role of Policing in Combatting Racism;" and (3) an upcoming event with Fr. Michael Pfleger, keynote speaker on "The Role of the Church in Combatting Racism." The September 9 *Daily Herald* will carry an article on media's role in combatting racism. Many media resources are also available from Southern Poverty Law Center.

First United Methodist Church, Arlington Heights, will host the next meeting in November.

COMMUNITYRENEWALSOCIETY

Calling All Budding Tree Huggers – Planning New Fall Landscaping

by JoAnn Rapp, a Creation Care Nudge

American Forests (www.americanforests.org), our country's oldest conservation organization that emerged in 1875 under the name of American Forestry Association, published a newsworthy little tome in July. Here are a few factoids to soak up.

*Chicago's 3.5 million trees—our precious urban and suburban forested land mass-- remove almost 888 tons of pollution from the air we breathe EVERY YEAR.

*ONE acre of forest can absorb all the pollution produced by ONE car driven 26,000 miles yearly.

* When properly sited around buildings, trees can reduce air conditioning needs by as much as 30% AND save between 20% and 50% in energy used for heating.

* ONE tree planted in your front yard can retain 760 gallons of rainwater, thereby reducing wasteful run off and problematic flooding on your property.



Creation care folk, ready to play your part by planting a new tree this autumn? Tree huggers, unite!



HEY! The updated directories are DONE and ready for pick up! Grab yours from the Gathering Space table, then scratch your name off the list, so the secretary knows who gets the leftover ones! If you want a digital copy, contact Nancy in the church office at office@congucc.org.

We have an updated Facilities Use Policy!

by Carol Petty

Our church council approved a Facilities Use Policy at the August 17 meeting. In order to maintain a consistent, flexible policy for both members and outside groups' use, a written policy spells out the responsibilities involved in using our property. There is a schedule of contributions for various uses. CUCC members are not expected to make a donation for the use of the property, but are subject to the policy guidelines. An application for facility use and the policy document are available from the church office.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Your Social Justice Deacons are
Laura Robinson and Roberta Ward

Are you looking for a local volunteer opportunity to get involved with a neighbor in need? **Faith Community Homes** provides rent assistance and mentoring to working, low-income families who want to achieve financial stability.

Working in pairs, volunteer mentors assist their family in making and following a realistic budget and developing reachable goals. Most of all, mentors develop a relationship with their family over two years and provide support and guidance as they get back on their feet. Training is

provided. If you want to learn more about this opportunity to shine a little more light in our community, please contact Sarah Harte, FCH Program Manager, at (847) 342-0846 or sarah.harte@fchomes.org



Friends of Social Justice (FOSJ) are excited to announce a new supportive partnership with **Wings**, a local non-profit agency that provides safe housing, counseling and mentoring to adults and children who have been victims of domestic violence. On **October 21**, Shelley Welch, Senior Manager of Community Resources for Wings, will be speaking with Pastor Emily during our worship service about domestic violence and the needs of those affected by it. That evening there will be a "Shine the Light" prayer vigil at North Park in Arlington Heights to create awareness and pray for an end to domestic violence in our community. Beginning on 10/21, FOSJ will be sponsoring a **monthly clothing and accessories collection** to support the Wings resale shops. 25% of Wings services and programs are funded by the proceeds from their resale shops. There will be an identified collection box in the Gathering Space and donations will be delivered to Wings once a month. We hope that you will consider sharing "gently used" items in support of this important cause. If you would like information about Wings, please go to: www.wingsprogram.com . If you would like more information about the October events or the CUCC clothing collection, please contact Roberta Ward or Laura Robinson.

In October, Friends of Social Justice will sponsor **our annual participation in the Bread for the World Offering of Letters**. This Bread for the World initiative urges elected leaders in



Washington, DC, to enable people in our nation and our world to feed their families and move out of poverty. It is an opportunity to advocate for just policies and help shape our government's response to hunger. There will be a table set up in the Gathering Space following worship on October 14 with sample letters and envelopes. Please consider taking a few moments to make an offering of a letter on behalf of the hungry in our nation and in our world.



“March to the Polls 2018” to Celebrate First Time Voters and Inspire Voter Turnout

Saturday, October 13 at 9 a.m. Find out more about it here: <http://womens121marchonchicago.org/faqs/>

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering supports UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. NIN also supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries.

On October 7, World Communion Sunday, we will once again have the opportunity to support UCC’s Neighbors in Need. The 2018 theme is "Love of Neighbor." We as people of faith must join together to stand alongside our most vulnerable neighbors.

Please give prayerfully and support the Neighbors in Need offering.



Tower Hill 2018

We had a wonderful weekend with a total of 42 people in Southwest Michigan the last weekend of July.

If you missed Tower Hill this year you missed: Beach, refreshing Lake temperature (really, it felt good), fire, camaraderie, helping put up someone else's tent, Karl racing around like a madman, Jake and Andy flying Star Wars drones, the Gates-Ehlers armada on the creek, baggo, pancakes, 10 lbs of bacon, roasted corn, campfire therapy, new folks, returning folks, old folks, really young folks, and lots of other really great stuff.

Dates for next year are July 26-28, 2019; hope you can join the fun.





SUMMER SUPPERS



September

Birthdays

1	Cindy Silet Felonk
8	Avery Johnson
8	Caelen Peshek
9	Caroline Blankfield
11	Paul Houle
11	Betsy Gates-Ehlers
15	Beverly Ryan-Darrah
15	Jonathan Klemens
17	Brenda (Nessler) Jentink
18	Josué Aguilera
20	Fran Onley
20	Dottie Sully
21	Robert C. Staley
22	Renate Martin
27	Steve Peshek
28	Charlie Houle
29	Lucas Phelan

Anniversaries

12	Mark & Annie Silet
30	Jonathan & Jacqueline Staley

After many faithful years, Linda and Laura Janus will be stepping down, so CUCC needs a **Summer Suppers Coordinator**.

CUCC hosts five summer suppers, the fourth Wednesday, May through September. The Coordinator:

- Plans each menu with John Messina who shops and prepares the food.
- Finds 10 volunteers for various tasks for each of the nights.
- Finds volunteers to provide take-away snacks, desserts and beverages.
- Supplies disposable plates, cups, cutlery, and napkins (reimbursed by CUCC).
- Supervises all site activities on each of the Wednesdays.

For more information, please contact either Linda or Laura Janus.

*If we've missed your special day,
please call or email the church office:
847-392-6650
office@congucc.org
and we will be sure you are added.*



A monthly **Mindfulness Meditation** group led by Roberta Ward, a certified Mindfulness and Meditation instructor, will be held the second Monday of each month from 7 - 8pm. The sessions will include ongoing education, guided meditation and group sharing. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Roberta with any questions at 847-909-6703.

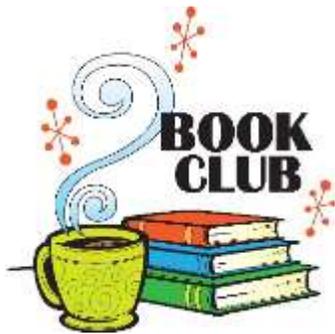


- Labor Day, Sept 3
- Rosh Hashanah, Sept 9
- Yom Kippur Sept 18

The calendar is a living thing. Find the most current one here, and navigate to future ones from here: <https://73899941.view-events.com/calendar/73899941/month/2018-09-01>

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Gift card pick up! 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational meeting 12:00 PM Choir rehearsal 8:00 PM 8 pm Parking lot closes for resurfacing project	27 Parking lot closed for resurfacing	28 Parking lot closed for resurfacing	29	30 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	31	1 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast at Elly's on Golf Rd, All Wbmen Welcome
2 10:30 AM Worship	3 Labor Day	4 12:00 PM Men's lunch at Eros	5	6 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	7	8 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ
9 10:30 AM Worship and communion 11:30 AM Picnic 11:45 AM Friends of Social Justice	10 9:45 AM Morning Book Group (Garden Rm) 7:00 PM B&G Committee (Garden Rm) 7:00 PM Mindful Monday Meditation (Lounge)	11 Patriot Day	12	13 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	14	15 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ
16 Gift card orders due! 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Worship Committee	17 7:00 PM Coloring Book Group (Garden Rm)	18	19 7:00 PM Church Council	20 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	21	22 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ 9:00 AM Enneagram workshop @ CUCC
23 First Day of Autumn Gift card pick up! 10:30 AM Worship	24	25 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	26 6:30 PM Summer Supper	27 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	28	29 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ
30 10:30 AM Worship	1 9:45 AM Morning Book Group (Garden Room) 7:00 PM B&G Committee (Lounge) 7:00 PM Coloring Book Group - Garden Room	2 12:00 PM Men's lunch at Eros 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	3	4 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group	5	6 7:00 AM Chicago Church of Christ 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast at Elly's on Golf Rd, All Wbmen Welcome



Daytime Book Club

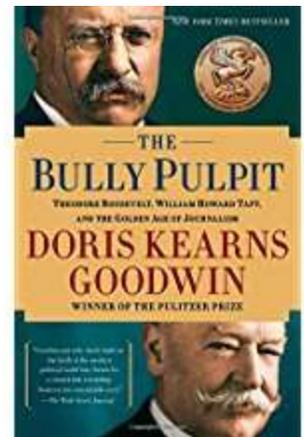
Daytime Book Club usually meets the first Monday of the month at **9:45 am**. Due to the Labor Day holiday, we will meet **Sept 10**. Read *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. For **October 1** read *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. Call Donna Blankfield or Barbara Goldsworthy for more info!

Rainbow Callers book selection for September is *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, a dynamic history of the first decade of the Progressive era, told through the intense friendship of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft - a close relationship that strengthens both men before it ruptures in 1912 - when they engage in a brutal fight for the presidential nomination. We'll meet at Helen Jensen's and Linda Janus will be leading the discussion on Sept. 25 at 7pm. If you would like to join our book discussion, please contact Laura Janus at 847-870-7290.



Coloring Book Small Group All Ages Are Welcome!

The Coloring Book Small Group will meet Monday, **Sept 17 at 7:00 pm** in the Garden Room. Enjoy an evening of meditative coloring! Contact Linda or Laura Janus for more information.



Two Great Ways to Support Mission Programs!

Please consider purchasing gift cards through the Scrip program. It is a great way to help someone else at no extra cost to you. You pay the face value of the gift card, and CUCC receives a rebate profit on each gift card you purchase. That money is used to support additional mission projects. The order box is on the short wall to the left of the prayer room, along with instructions!

This month, orders are due Sunday, Sept 16 along with payment payable to CUCC. Cards can be picked up Sunday, Sept 23

Call Lisa Loeffler if you have questions! Thank you for supporting Missions!



You shop. Amazon gives.

Here is an exciting way to earn money for the missions budget at no extra cost to you. **Amazon Smile** will return 0.5% (on eligible items) to CUCC when you shop through the program. Good news! Amazon Smile has made it super easy by assigning us a direct link. So when you are ready to shop, use this link (you may want to bookmark it for future use!) and log in using your Amazon login and password. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2549996> (The link is also on the front page of the church website.) Thank you for all you do to help the missions budget!

Congregational United Church of Christ

1001 West Kirchhoff Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-2420

Phone 847-392-6650

Website: www.CongUCC.org

Email: office@CongUCC.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/conguccah

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am all year

- ❖ Infant and toddler child care is offered in the Nursery (first floor)
 - ❖ Church School for children (downstairs) (Sept-May)
- ❖ Reflections for Youth (in the Garden Room, first floor) (Sept-May)
Children are always welcome in worship!

On Communion Sundays (1st Sunday each month), children & youth are in church. (No church school.)

CUCC Staff & Leadership

Rev. Emily Snowden pastor@congucc.org	Pastor
Norreen Klemens norreen@comcast.net	Pianist & Dir. of Choir Chimes
Megan Murray mmurray84@gmail.com	Choir Director
Nancy Pardo office@congucc.org	Church Secretary & Bookkeeper
Lou Guagenti	Moderator
Lisa Loeffler	Co-Moderator
Laura Janus	Treasurer
Shirley Guagenti	Financial Sec'y
Linda Janus	Asst. Fin'l Sec'y
Carol Petty	Clerk
	Delegates-CMA & IL Conf
Sarah Ruthven	Deacon, Spiritual Growth
Bruce Johnson	Deacon, Music/Worship/ Spiritual Space
Tom Harris	Deacon, Stewardship/ Nominating
Whitney Waters	Deacon, Evangelism
Laura Robinson & Roberta Ward	Deacons, Social Justice
Shelby Ricci	Deacon, Mission Support
Diane Lanigan	Deacon, Bldg & Grounds
Sandy Hake & Cindy Waters	Deacons, Hospitality
Sally Schiavone	Care Deacon

Open and Affirming Statement Adopted June 10, 2007

The Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights, IL, in accordance with our shared value of inclusiveness, declares itself open and affirming.

We welcome and accept into the full life and ministry of our church people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We maintain that every person has sacred worth as a unique creation made in the image of God. We believe that human sexuality is a gift from God.

We reach out to those who are disenfranchised from the religious community, and we seek growth and understanding as we continue toward inclusiveness.