



Congregational United Church of Christ
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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.

December 2018 Newsletter

Advent Decorating Event

Saturday, December 1 at 9:00. ALL are welcome to come and help transform the entire building as we enter the season of Advent!



The Light is Surely Coming!

You know, it's funny. We don't often talk about it like this, but when we celebrate Advent, we celebrate waiting. How often do we do that in our lives? We often despise waiting...waiting in lines, waiting for test results, waiting for family members to arrive for the holidays... or in my case, waiting for babies to fall asleep! We don't like waiting. We like results. We like the finished product. We like the end goal. But here we have four full weeks of waiting. Waiting for Christ to be born. Waiting for Light to enter a world of Darkness. Waiting. And we celebrate that! We celebrate waiting by exploring themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. We celebrate waiting by progressively lighting candles. We celebrate waiting by singing familiar carols: "O come, o come, Emmanuel... Bind all peoples in heart and mind/ Bid envy strife and quarrels cease/ Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace."

That is what we are waiting for. Not just the birth of a child, but the birth of vulnerable Jewish baby born in a stable to young refugee parents; *and*, that in this birth we would also see the peace of God's realm made manifest among us.

Our theme for the Advent season is, "The Light is Surely Coming!" This theme represents the hope that dwells with the expectation of that vulnerable baby boy, the one that comes to stand against the powers of evil and oppression to show us again and again that love wins. The one that shows us the Holy is present among us. The one that brings Light that shines in the darkness, so much so that the darkness cannot overcome it.

May your patience be great this Advent season and may you have a very Merry Christmas.

With hope,
Pastor Emily



The Advent Season is here!

Join us as we journey through this most Holy of seasons, waiting with abundant hope for the birth of Jesus Christ!

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 for our Advent services following the theme, Surely the Light is Coming!

We will gather for a Longest Night service on Friday Dec. 21 at 7:30 pm for those struggling with loss and grief.

Then on Christmas Eve, Monday December 24th, we will have a 4pm Family Service and a 9pm Candles and Carols service.

We hope you'll join us!

Moderator's Moment

Lou Guagenti

“Tis the season” and “tis my penultimate newsletter.” For those of you who actually take the time to read these, I truly appreciate it. You are a blessing and indeed very kind.

This time I would like to use this space to write about two things coming up, Pastor Emily's yearly evaluation and the all congregation Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner.

Pastor Emily will have a yearly evaluation in January. It will be supplemented by evaluation forms filled out prior to that by council members and staff, as well as a self-



evaluation form filled out by Pastor Emily herself. Perhaps the most important part of the evaluation process involves input by you, our members.

Evaluation forms will be available to the congregation in the Lounge beginning Sunday, December 9. Please pick up a form, take it home and fill in your thoughts, then return it to the collection box, also in the Lounge. An identical online version will be sent out that Monday if you'd like to submit it that way. Forms will be accepted until Sunday, January 6, 2019 and must be signed for consideration. Please take the time to submit your thoughts so the process will be a fruitful one. Thank you in advance for your help.

Also, please save the date for the all congregation Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, January 26, 2019. All members are welcome to enjoy fellowship over dinner at 6 pm, followed by a meeting where we approve the annual budget, conduct business, and culminate with welcoming and blessing our new leadership team. I'd like to especially reach out to our newer members to please attend. It's a great opportunity to meet new folks, get acquainted with the new leadership team, and see how our church government operates. Thank you!

A routine yearly **Pastoral Evaluation** for Reverend Emily Snowden will take place in January. Beginning **Sunday, Dec. 9**, evaluation forms for congregational input and a collection box for them will be available in the Lounge. An e-mail version of the same will also be sent for those who prefer to fill it out that way. Input will be accepted **through Sunday, Jan. 6**. Your participation and input are valuable and essential for a proper evaluation. **Forms must be signed for consideration.** Please take some time to share your thoughts. Thank you!
Lou Guagenti, Personnel Chair



Church School

by Meg Ulery, Coordinator

We will be having Church School for just two Sundays this month – December 9th and December 16th. The mysterious visitors from “the East”, the Magi, will be our focus. Advent calendars have been given to the families in preparation for the first Sunday in Advent, December 2nd. Family worship that day will include the lighting of the first Advent candle and communion. There will also be family worship on December 23rd and December 30th.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

If you are interested in supporting the social justice activities of our congregation and community, please **join Friends of Social Justice at their next meeting, Sunday, December 9 at 11:45 am in the Garden Room!** We welcome new friends and new ideas for where we can support peace and justice in God's world!

Candlelight Vigil to #EndGunViolence

On Tuesday, December 11, Northwest Suburbs Organizing for Action (NWSOFA) will partner with Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist (1025 N Smith Street, Palatine) to stage a Candlelight Vigil from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm to #EndGunViolence. This will be in commemoration of the 6th Anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, as well as the approximately 180,000 American victims of gun violence who have been killed since December 2012. The vigil will be part of the nationwide tribute also in partnership with Newtown Foundation, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivor Network and the Women's March. Your presence at the vigil will help give a voice to the tens of thousands of victims and survivors of gun violence and allow you to play a vital part to help #EndGunViolence. A time of reflection and fellowship with light refreshments will follow from 8:00 pm to 8:45 pm.

Can you come?

I Have a Bean Coffee and Tea available for Purchase

If you (or someone in your life) enjoys quality coffee and/or tea, I Have a Bean, the coffee served at Hospitality time after worship, is now available for purchase. It would make a great complement to your holiday meals, or great gifts. Look for this order form on the Friends of Social Justice kiosk. Here is the order deadline/delivery schedule:

Order by December 9 for pickup on December 16

Order by December 30 for pickup on January 6

Coffee is available in whole bean, ground, and K-cups (and their K-cups are recyclable!!).

I Have a Bean/Second Chance Coffee's mission is to provide meaningful work to post-prison people, thus reducing the incidence of re-incarceration. Our purchases support that mission.

Payment (payable to Congregational UCC) is due at the time of order. Checks can be placed in the Financial Secretary mailbox or left on the office desk. Questions? Contact Laura Robinson at robinsonlaura31@gmail.com or 847-414-1069.



Friends of Social Justice (FOSJ) is 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 CUCC clothing collection, please contact Roberta Ward or Laura Robinson.

Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Fest Touches So Many Lives in Different Ways

by JoAnn Rapp, Coordinator

CUCC's seventh annual Fair Trade Fest over the Thanksgiving weekend of November 24 and 25 may be considered successful in different ways this year. Gross sales totaled \$9,932, pretty good for nine hours of sales. During November 18th worship, Sarah Ruthven and Reflections shared the animated cartoon they created to convey the meaning of many communities working together for each other's livelihood. More first-time volunteers experienced the fun of setting up displays of the uniquely crafted items. Seasoned volunteers knew exactly how to unpack and repack boxes and boxes and boxes. Sunday night truck loaders coped beautifully with Chicagoland's all-too-early major snowstorm. Shoppers wanting to know a bit more about the Ten Thousand Villages program picked up a sheet telling the story of the 1946 founder and highlights of the fair trade business model. Greeters handed shoppers a special Ten thousand Villages thank you card so gift givers could carry forth the message of Ten Thousand Villages. Shoppers could read the displayed personal stories of artisans and their specialty products. Our event got coverage in different local print editions, thanks to our member Tracie Padal. During November 25th Sunday worship, Joseph Meyer, manager of Evanston's Ten Thousand Villages store, delivered a compelling message about the Ten Thousand Villages mission. When we reflect upon values shared across cultures—personal safety, stability of family income for housing and feeding one's family, self-esteem growing from one's ability to earn a living wage, providing for our children's formal education, and pride in sustaining one's cultural richness — we see more fully the beauty of the Ten Thousand Villages non-profit program. Thank you, thank you one and all for coming together to make this labor-intensive social and economic justice event, newly packed with educational opportunities, a more meaningful outreach experience!





Have you seen the awesome new staircase? The emergency exit from the sanctuary was rotting and unsafe, so David K, Ann M., Ralph E., Jim S., and Craig B. put their skills together and built a new one! **Amazing!**

THANK YOU!

December Events

Tuesdays @ 10:30 am Dwell Scripture Study
Tuesdays @ 7pm Arlington Squares dance class
Thursday @ 10:30 am TOPS weight loss
Thursdays @ 7 pm PADS Shelter for Homeless
12/1 Sanctuary decorating begins at 9 am
12/1 Women's bfast 9am at Elly's
12/1 Cantata rehearsal 7:30 pm
12/2 Advent begins
12/3 Book Group 9:45am at Donna Blankfield's
12/3 Building & Grounds Committee 7pm
12/3 Coloring Group 7pm
12/4 Men's Lunch, Noon at Uptown Cafe, AH
12/4 Cantata rehearsal 7pm
12/8 Cantata rehearsal 7pm
12/9 Friends of Social Justice 11:45am
12/10 Mindful Meditation 7pm
12/11 Cantata rehearsal 7pm
12/12 Church Council 7pm
12/15 Cantata dress rehearsal 3pm
12/16 Choir cantata 10:30 am
12/21 Longest Night service 7:30pm
12/24 Christmas Eve family service 4 pm
12/24 Christmas Eve Candles & Carols service 9 pm
12/25 Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Pastor away 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Ten Thousand Villages marketplace	26 Pastor away	27 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellows hip Hall) 7:00 PM Canatata rehearsal	28 7:00 PM PRC	29 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM Cantata rehearsal 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	30	1 9:00 AM Sanctuary Christmas decorating 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast at Elly's on Golf Rd, All Women Welcome 7:30 PM Canatata rehearsal
2 Advent 10:30 AM Worship 2:30 PM Jessica Feffer recital	3 9:45 AM Morning Book Group (@ Donna B's) 7:00 PM B&G Committee (Lounge) 7:00 PM Coloring Book Group - Garden Room	4 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 12:00 PM Men's lunch at Uptown Cafe 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellows hip Hall) 7:00 PM Canatata rehearsal	5	6 9:30 AM Cluster One Clergy 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	7 6:00 PM Foreman wedding rehearsal	8 4:00 PM Foreman wedding 7:00 PM Canatata rehearsal
9 Gift card orders due! 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Friends of Social Justice (Garden Rm)	10 7:00 PM Mindful Monday Meditation (Lounge)	11 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellows hip Hall) 7:00 PM Canatata rehearsal	12 12:00 PM AH Ministerial Assoc 7:00 PM Church Council	13 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	14 CE set-up in Fellows hip hall	15 CE's et-up in Fellowship hall 1:30 PM Cantata instrumentalist rehearsal 3:00 PM Cantata dress rehearsal
16 CE's et-up in Fellows hip hall Gift card pick up! 10:30 AM Choir Cantata 10:30 AM Worship	17	18 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellows hip Hall)	19	20 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 6:30 PM Norreen Klemens recitals 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	21 First Day of Winter 7:30 PM Longest Night Service	22
23 10:30 AM Worship	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve family service 9:00 PM Candlelight Christmas service	25 Christmas Day	26	27 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	28	29
30 10:30 AM Worship	31	1	2	3 9:30 AM Cluster One Clergy 10:00 AM T OPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	4	5 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast at Elly's on Golf Rd, All Women Welcome

Two Great Ways to Shop AND Help the Missions Budget!

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, December 9 along with payment payable to CUCC.

Cards can be picked up Sunday, December 16

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

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. So when you are ready to shop, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and log in using your Amazon login and password. (The link is also on the front page of the church website.) Thank you for all you do to help the missions budget!

Good for the Soul



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.

Come **Dwell!** Tuesdays, from 10:30-11:30 am, Pastor Emily invites you to **Dwell** with the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. We will listen intently to what the Spirit is saying to us and to one another. This is not a Bible Study in the traditional sense. It's an opportunity to **Dwell** with God in community. We will gather in the lounge at 10:30 each Tuesday. Bring your lunch if you wish to stay after and eat together! Email or call Pastor Emily with any questions.

Daytime Book Club meets the first Monday of the month at **9:45 am**. For December 3 (which will meet at Donna Blankfield's home) read *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. Call Donna Blankfield or Barbara Goldsworthy for more info!

Coloring Book Small Group All Ages Are Welcome! The Coloring Book Small Group will meet Monday, **December 3** at **7:00 pm** in the Garden Room. Enjoy an evening of meditative coloring! Contact Linda or Laura Janus for more information.

Rainbow Callers book group is on break for December.

December

Birthdays

2 Vincente Lopez
15 Meg Ulery
15 Rene Pecson
16 Molly Lopez
20 Jenni Kitchka Phelan
21 Maggie Peshek
28 Shannon Staley
29 Ellen Pecson
31 Tom Harris



Anniversaries

1 Paul & Marianne Houle
28 Tom & Pat Harris
29 Andy & Lisa Loeffler

*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.*

PADS Update

Thanks to all who have volunteered for PADS this season. As of November 26, all required spots for 1st or 2nd shifts have been booked thru the end of April 2019. There are a few openings on 3rd shift (3 AM to 7 AM) where you help make lunches (if not completed by 2nd shift) and then prepare and serve breakfast. Those shifts dates are:

December 28th - one woman
February 22th - one woman
March 22nd - one woman and one man
March 29th - one woman
April 19th - one man
April 26th - one woman

Please contact Rodger Reaume (630-220-0914 or rodger.reaume@cati.com) if you can take one of those dates.

Thanks,
PADS AD HOC Team



Please Save the date for the All Congregational Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, January 26, 2019. All members are welcome! Dinner will be at 6:00 pm, followed by the Meeting at 7:00. Look for a sign-up sheet right after Christmas in the Narthex! New members are especially welcome!

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
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

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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.)