



**Congregational United Church of Christ**  
1001 West Kirchhoff Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
847-392-6650 ● office@congucc.org ● www.CongUCC.org



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you're welcome here.

## January 2019 Newsletter

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### **De- Decorating Event**

Saturday, January 5 at 10:00 am. ALL are welcome to come and help transform the entire building as we depart the season of Advent!



Happy New Year, Beloveds!

I want to take this space to inform you about two things happening in the first couple weeks of January.

### **Epiphany Star Gifts**

To celebrate Epiphany this year, we will do something that I hope will become a new tradition for us. On Epiphany we celebrate the magi who, we are told, followed the star from the east until they arrived at the manger to gift the baby Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh. Epiphany is an ancient celebration dating back to the 300's. "Epi", means 'on' or 'upon', and "phaneros", means 'visible', 'apparent' or 'manifest'. An epiphany is more than just a "lightbulb" or "aha" moment. An epiphany is something that is revealed to you. Something where light shines and makes something clear and manifest. And so too, we hope our star gifts will be just that for you.

Star Gifts are just words written on stars— what makes them gifts is that the word is meant to be an epiphany for you, one you will look out for and watch for all year long. Each time it pops up, it is a reminder that we are always in the presence of the Holy. If you are in worship on January 6, you will have the opportunity to receive a star gift in worship. If you can't be here, we will keep the star gifts around for a while. You can pick one up in the New Year. If you live far away and would like one sent to you, send an email with your address to Pastor Emily (pastor@congucc.org) and she will send you one in the mail! As the year goes on, I hope to include a Star Gift Story in the newsletter each month. If you have a serendipitous moment with your word, I hope you'll write about it and share that with CUCC!

## Pastoral Town Hall

On January 13, following worship, I will be convening a Pastoral Town Hall. The purpose of this congregational conversation is for us to take the opportunity to discuss some of the changes that have taken place in the last six months and address any concerns. The conversation will last a total of an hour. I'll begin by laying out some thoughts about the last six months. We'll also talk a bit about how faith communities navigate change. Our time will conclude with sacred conversation and there will be ample time for questions. I pray you will attend— whether member or friend, new or long-time CUCCer, lay leader or Sunday morning worshipper—and bring your questions. All are welcome to participate in the conversation. This is a crucial gathering for us as a faith community. If you have any questions about this gathering please contact me directly. See you there!  
Pastor Emily

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## Moderator's Moment

Lou Guagenti

As this past year went by, I kept a log of events and noticed definitive themes arising, listed below:

It was a year of **REST**.

It was a year of **COMMUNITY**.

It was a year of **ORGANIZING AND TIDYING UP**.

It was a year of **ASSESSMENT**.

It was a year of **INNOVATION**.

It was a year of **SPIRITUAL DEMOCRACY**.

It was a year of **JOY AND CELEBRATION**.

And, it was a year of **LOSS AND SORROW**.



If I could summarize the year 2018 in one word, it would be the word **SPRINGBOARD**— **something that provides an opportunity to achieve something**. To me, it was a year of positioning ourselves for even better things to come, a **springboard year** for our church. Changes were made, new things were introduced, definitely not without some discomfort, resistance or ruffled spiritual feathers. Yet I believe that all these things are normal signs of a small yet very healthy church going somewhere new, as we must, led by the Holy Spirit. With that, I end my term as Moderator feeling very positive, optimistic and hopeful for the future of CUCC, a church that has captured my heart.

I would like to thank CUCC for giving me an opportunity to serve and grow spiritually by serving as Moderator in 2018. Please join me in supporting our incoming Moderator, Lisa Loeffler, and 2019 leadership team by attending the all congregational Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, January 26th. Please bless them and empower them with your time and talent in the year ahead.

Last chance to fill out an evaluation form for the routine yearly **Pastoral Evaluation** for Reverend Emily Snowden taking place in January. Evaluation forms for congregational input and a collection box for them are available in the Lounge. An electronic version who prefer to fill it out that way is available by clicking [here](#). 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

Church School will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be learning about Jesus at the age of twelve and then study the story of the beginning of Jesus' ministry in his hometown synagogue. January is also the month the children will again ask for new underwear for our PADS clients with our "Undies Sunday", starting on Mission Moment Sunday and going for a month. Look for further information in the bulletin and e-news.

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, January 20 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!

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

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](http://www.wingsprogram.com). If you would like more information about the CUCC clothing collection, please contact Roberta Ward or Laura Robinson.



## January Events

Sundays 10:30 am Worship

Tuesdays @ 7pm Arlington Squares dance class

Thursday @ 10:30 am TOPS weight loss

Thursdays @ 7 pm PADS Shelter for Homeless

1/1 Happy New Year!

1/2 Men's lunch at Noon at Uptown Cafe, Arlington Heights

1/5 Women's breakfast 9am at Elly's on Golf

1/5 De-decorating church 10am

1/7 Book Group 9:45am at CUCC, Garden Room

1/7 Coloring Group 7pm, Garden Room

1/13 Pastoral Town Hall after worship

1/14 Mindful Meditation 7pm

1/16 Church Council

1/20 Friends of Social Justice 11:45am

1/20 Worship Committee 1:00 pm

1/20 Gift card orders due

1/26 Potluck and Annual Meeting 6/7pm, Fellowship Hall

1/27 Gift card pickup

## JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> Pastor away 10:30 AM Worship	<b>31</b> Pastor away	<b>1</b> Happy new year (office closed)	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Men's lunch at Uptown Cafe	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Cluster One Clergy 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast at Elly's on Golf Rd, All Women Welcome 10:00 AM Sanctuary de- decorating
<b>6</b> 10:30 AM Worship	<b>7</b> 9:45 AM Morning Book Group (Garden Room) 7:00 PM Coloring Book Group - Garden Room	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	<b>9</b> 12:00 PM AH Ministerial Assoc 7:00 PM Building SP Cmte (Garden Room)	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Worship, Church School & Reflections 11:45 AM Pastoral Town Hall	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Mindful Monday Meditation (Lounge)	<b>15</b> 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless 7:00 PM Small conf room in use	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Gift card orders due! 10:30 AM Worship, Church School & Reflections 11:45 AM Friends of Social Justice (Garden Rm) 1:00 PM Worship Committee (Garden Rm)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00 PM 6/7 pm CUCC Annual Meeting & Pot Luck
<b>27</b> Gift card pick up! 10:30 AM Commissioning of new church council 10:30 AM Worship, Church School & Reflections	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30 AM Dwell Scripture study 7:00 PM Arlington Squares (Fellowship Hall)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM TOPS Weight Loss Group 7:00 PM PAD S shelter for homeless	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 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, January 20 along with payment payable to CUCC.**

**Cards can be picked up Sunday, January 27**

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.

**Daytime Book Club** meets the first Monday of the month at **9:45 am**. For January 7 read *Molokai* by Alan Brennert. 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, **January 7 at 7:00 pm** in the Garden Room. Enjoy an evening of meditative coloring! Contact Linda or Laura Janus for more information.

## January

### Birthdays

- 12 Whitney Waters
- 12 Lynn Perry
- 17 Craig Silet
- 21 Stephanie Schmitz Bechteler
- 22 Renee Doktorczyk
- 22 Roger Charles
- 23 Lillian Houle
- 26 Rachel Hogreve
- 28 Karen Brooks
- 28 Tara Brooks
- 28 Bonnie Everhart

### Anniversaries

- 9 Lessi Smebakken & John Geier



*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.*

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## PADS Update

To recap the first three months, we have had an average of 35 guests each week with the appropriate level of volunteers for each shift during the evening. Our site is one of the few sites in all the PADS program that has relatively little problem finding volunteers. Shift volunteers are made up of congregational members and non-members. There are several changes from last year that have made this year's PADS program run as smoothly as it has.

First our site now has a maximum number of guests we will accept each Thursday. The number is 44, comprised of 36 men and 8 women. We no longer accept families. We have eliminated families from our church due to lack of space and privacy required for them. In addition to the limit, all guests are required to enter a lottery to stay at our site on Thursdays. The lottery is run by Journeys and ensures we do not exceed our maximum number on any given evening. This lottery list of guests is sent to the Site Directors on Wednesday, so the information is in place by check in on Thursday evening. These changes have been noticed by the guests as several have said the new limits provide a guarantee of a bed and food that was not necessarily there last year.

Secondly, with our Church's new PADS organization now in place, we have team members focused on key responsibilities. There are leaders who manage the laundry, clean-up, food and document control.

We have a new laundry service which has run without a problem this season. Journeys is paying for this firm to manage our site. Clean linens arrive on time every week. All linens are marked "Site 18" (our code) and we only receive back linens with that code. Maggie Peshek manages the Laundry Team.

The Clean-up Team has volunteers from our church and other groups. The good news is there is a large pool of volunteers available that have many years of experience. Jim Schiavone manages the Clean-up team. Jim also see the leftover perishable food is brought to Journeys to use on Fridays.

The Food Prep team is run by two volunteers not members of our congregation. With the fixed maximum of guest, they have been able to have plenty of food. Food is prepared and delivered on Thursday from volunteers within and outside our congregation.

All documents generated each Thursday are collected, downloaded into a PDF file and emailed by 9 AM on Friday to Journeys, our Site Directors and the PADS Liaisons. This ensures all key members of our Site have the latest info first thing on Friday mornings. Our PADS Liaisons manage the document process.

For an overall PADS system update, PADS need 100 beds each night. For Thursdays, we can host 44 and Willow Creek can manage 60. With Willow having the room layout to handle families. And as of this writing, PADS has not found a replacement site for our headcount on Thursdays.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve those in need this season,  
PADS AD-HOC Committee



**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. Sign-up sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board! 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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Email: [office@CongUCC.org](mailto:office@CongUCC.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/congucch](http://www.facebook.com/congucch)

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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month), children & youth are in church. (No church school.)