

## Announcements



**Prayer List:** Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

**At home and Care Center:** Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar, and Tom Hedstrom.

### **Measure of our Faithfulness:**

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After fifty-three weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$164,110.00. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$156,288.72.

-Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

## This Week at the Church

### **SUNDAY, January 7**

9:30 – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – 1st Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is beginning his ministry and word is quickly spreading about his teachings and his healings. In today's story, we have a group of people who literally go above and beyond what is expected to bring their friend to Jesus so that he can walk again. Jesus also takes it up a notch and proclaims this man forgiven to which the religious leaders respond that it is not possible.

Fellowship to Follow.

### **MONDAY, January 8**

11:00 AM - Spring Forest Qigong

2:00 - 6:00 PM Piano Lessons

3:00-5:00 PM - Food Shelf

Al-Anon is taking a break until March

### **TUESDAY, January 9**

12:00 PM Clergy Cluster

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

5:00 PM - Board of Directors

7:00 PM – Exploring the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – In Media Room  
Downstairs

### **WEDNESDAY, January 10**

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

6:00 PM – Pizza and Social Justice

### **THURSDAY, January 11**

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

12:00 PM – Women's AA

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

5:00 – 7:00 PM Care Partner Board in  
Fellowship Hall

### **FRIDAY, January 12**

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

9:00 AM - Pride

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lesson

7:30 PM – AA

Fire and Ice Staying Overnight

### **SATURDAY, January 13**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

### **SUNDAY, January 14**

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. This is the first parable that Jesus tells in the Gospels and his ministry. It's a story about planting seeds and, depending on the soil/hearer/person/community, how they flourish or die. How many seeds are we sowing, and what kind of soil is our church to grow the seeds of love?

Fellowship to Follow.

2:00 PM – Worship at the Care Center

# **Exploring the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

## **Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 PM**

### **– In Media Room Downstairs**

Dear All,

In this church season where we have been focusing on the birth of Christ, we are watching a in real time where innocent children are being killed on our television screens and social media. Unlike back then when it took weeks, months, or even years (the three kings/magi) to travel and discover the news, we can view the bombs and see the injured and the bodies as part of our daily life.

This Israel/Palestine Conflict is not a new fight, but it is a conflict that doesn't seem to find a path for peace in what we and others consider the Holy Land. While we may not have a direct hand in the conflict, we can have a direct role in the path to peace, and in the relief aid given to the innocent people, especially children, who have been affected. There has also been a rise in antisemitism against Jews, Muslims, and Palestinians here in the United States because of this conflict and the way it is reported.

You, and everyone, are invited to meet on Tuesday, January 9th, to discuss and maybe plan some actions that we, as Cook County Community, could work on in this time of war. Some of those options could be:

- A community forum that could help look at the history over the last hundred years that brought us to this point and discussion of different viewpoints.
- A fundraising event for those who are suffering and in need of help.
- A petition to our President and other elected leaders to push for a ceasefire and a just end to this conflict.
- A community demonstration in support of an end to this conflict and the stopping of killing of innocent civilians and children.

This conflict is very complicated in dealing with ownership of land, religious groups, local and global politics, and history going back thousands of years. There have been times of peace between the Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle East and we hope there can be again.

We will gather at First Congregational UCC on Tuesday, January 9th, at 7:00 pm in our Media Room beside the Fellowship Hall downstairs. You can also join us on Zoom at:

Meeting ID: 896 5849 5406  
Passcode: 450113

Peace