

Announcements



Prayer List: Family of Bev Denyes, Sarah, Rhonda Silence, Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, 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, and Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After Fourteen weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$47,339.93.
After Fourteen weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$58,553.78.

-Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

This Week at the Church

Sunday, April 21

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM - **4th Sunday of Easter/Earth Day** –

The day after the Earth Day Fair and the day after Earth Day, we will be centered on Psalm 98 that calls the whole world to join in worship and make a joyful noise. We will be having communion on this Sunday as Pastor Enno was gone the week before.

Fellowship to Follow

2:00 PM - Worship at Care Center

4:00 PM - Journey Discipleship Group (ZO)

Monday, April 22

2:00 PM-6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

3:00 PM-5:00 PM – Food Shelf (LL)

7:00 PM – Al-Anon (FS)

Tuesday, April 23

12:00 PM – Group Music Class (SA)

2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (ZO)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

Wednesday, April 24

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

6:00 PM - Confirmation Class (PO)

6:00 PM - Sing-along (N)

Thursday, April 25

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)

12:00 PM – Women’s AA (FS)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public Health (MR)

4:00 PM - Pastor Relations Committee

5:00 PM - Library Board of Trustees

Friday, April 26

7:00 AM – AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch (Java Moose)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

7:30 PM – AA (FS)

Saturday, April 27

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Sunday, 28

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM - **5th Sunday of Easter** – Healing miracles just didn’t happen in the gospels and only by Jesus. This Sunday we will hear a story of Peter who is able to help a man walk again. We will continue exploring healing in this service and have a time of healing and laying on of hands.

Fellowship to Follow

Healing Prayers

Next week we will once again be offering anointing for healing, as well as laying on of hands for those who want it. In preparation for this service, I am asking everyone to spend some time in prayer each day. If you have a regular time or practice, **maybe an extra five, ten or twenty minutes of prayer.** It is my hope that in doing so, the Spirit may flow a little better through us and the service. There are lots of ways to pray, here are some suggestions that we have done in various ways in our church:

1. Praying the Lord's Prayer (repeating).

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

2. Breathe in saying, "**Ya**" and breathe out saying "**Weh**(way)" (repeating)

3. Variations of the Jesus' Prayer (repeating)-

- a. "**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me**"
- b. "**Brother Jesus Christ, Child of God, have mercy on me.**"
- c. "**Friend Jesus the Messiah, Beloved of God, bless us and keep us.**"

4. Sitting in Silence and paying attention to our breath.

5. Praying the Prayer of the Month (repeating):

By St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.