

# Announcements



**Prayer List:** Family of Bev Denyes, Sarah Cleberg, The Family of Nex Benedict, The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

**At home and Care Center:** Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, 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 Twelve weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$40,577.08.  
After Twelve weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$51,430.86.

Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

## This Week at the Church

### **Sunday, March 31**

9:15 AM – Choir Practice (SA)  
10:30 AM - Easter Sunday – Jesus is resurrected! Or is he? In the Gospel of Mark, we have the women being told that he is resurrected, but this Gospel ends without them telling anyone. What a cliffhanger to be a part of.

### **Fellowship Following.**

### **Monday, April 1**

8:00 AM – 8:00PM – All Day Silent Retreat and Sauna (PO)  
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 2**

2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (ZO)  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

### **Wednesday, April 3**

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)  
6:00 PM – Confirmation (LL)  
6:00 PM – Sing-A-Long (N)

### **Thursday, April 4**

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)  
11:00 AM – Building and Ground Committee  
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)

### **Friday, April 5**

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 6**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

### **Sunday, April 7**

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)  
10:30 AM - 2nd Sunday of Easter/Holy Laughter –  
On this Second Sunday of Easter, we hear the story from the Book of Acts how Jesus spent a little more time before ascending into heaven and telling the disciples they are to be his witnesses. This is to be a time of Joy and laughter. This Sunday we will try to bring them into our worship with humor and silliness that witnesses to God’s love and joy that they have in our world and in us, human beings, even when, especially when we don’t always get it right.

### **Fellowship Following.**

## MISSION MOMENT

### INYATHI MISSION FARM ZIMBABWE SYNOD OF THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (UCCSA)

The UCCSA Zimbabwe Synod serves communities predominantly in the south-western part of the country affected by genocide in the 1980s. That experience left communities and members of the church hurt, brokenhearted, and traumatized. The trauma experienced by victims and survivors, especially women and youth, has resulted in poverty, hunger, disillusionment, and substance abuse. The church takes the gospel into public space, to transform society. One of the "public spaces" that the church uses is Inyathi Farm. At their farm, they carry out agricultural initiatives including animal husbandry and horticulture aimed at fulfilling the church's missional role of addressing socioeconomic issues, needs, and pain within and outside the church. For communities in the Makhaza Nkala region, which includes the farm, the Inyathi Farm project provides employment, economic sustainability, food security, and independence through agriculture.



The community can now purchase produce within the community rather than traveling long distances to buy from markets 60 km away. Sehliselo Khumalo, who was born near Inyathi Farm, states, "The farm is helping because my work with the farm makes me get something to put in my pocket (an expression of receiving money) because people come here and buy sweet potatoes, cabbage, and maize cobs to feed their families. It helps the community especially during drought seasons." Elizabeth Sibanda, states, "As community members, we find the Inyathi Farm very helpful. There was little water in the past, but the farm now has large water containers and now waters a big area. As a result, our community is able to get buckets of maize that will feed our children. The farm once had one employee but now we see the farm has an influx of employees from our local community and children are now able to continue their education."



*Workers from the Inyathi Farm in Zimbabwe*

The Inyathi Farm project creates life-transforming opportunities and a sense of renewed hope in the life of the Church and community. "The youth, community members, and church members get employment at the farm," states Mr. Marko Tshabalala, Inyathi Farm caretaker. We pray for continued blessings as the church continues to take the 'Gospel to the public space.' This work builds a bond among communities nearby and improves the lives and well-being of individuals and families.