

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Western Springs*

1106 Chestnut Street, Western Springs, Illinois 60558 † 708/246-1900



GATHERINGS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

APRIL 19, 2017

RUMMAGE DROP OFF

Saturday, April 22:
9am-1pm

Sunday, April 23:
1-3pm

We will gratefully accept:

Gently-used toys, books, clothing, jewelry, collectibles, housewares, home furnishing, linens and sporting equipment.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept:

TVs, computer/monitors, printers/fax machines, infant car seats, cribs, large sofas and other oversized furniture, unframed mirrors, chandeliers/other hard-wired fixtures, ceiling fans, paint/ toxic chemicals, mattresses, large area rugs, and appliances.

COMING UP SUNDAY, APRIL 23

At 9:00 and 10:30 services Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey will preach a sermon entitled *Impossible* and the hand bell choirs will lift us up with their stunning sounds. We will also welcome our Plymouth Fellowship Presidents, who will reflect on their recent work tour.

We will also enjoy a special presentation from the LORD OF THE RINGERS. They will be sharing their version of Paul & Silas. Join Dr. Luke (Juliette Pershey) and her brother Dr. Luke (Emily Kienzle) as they retell the story of Paul (Sam Alletto) and Silas (a Mario balloon). Special guest appearance by Lydia (Genevieve Pershey), the woman who has been waiting her

whole life to meet Christ, and the Slave Girl (Lenora Winkelman), who is freed from the bondage of the fortune-telling demon who are overjoyed by Paul's good news! All costumes were made by the actors themselves with the assistance of Erin Cleary.



LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey will offer a reflection on "Healing" at our 8am contemplative gathering in the chapel.

Rev. Dr. Rich Kirchherr will preach at both services and we'll be blessed with the voices of the Quartet at 9am and Chancel Choir at 10:30am. We will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of Rich's ordination! The Shrimp Boil dinner is **sold out**, but there is still an opportunity to show your appreciation of his lifetime of service by participating in the fundraising efforts to build a house through Back Bay Mission. Additional details are available on the next page.

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CONGRATULATIONS RICH!!!

Anniversaries are big! Even when they're small, they're big. They provide an opportunity to reflect on and remember important events and, celebrate perseverance and achievement. On April 30, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Rich Kirchherr's ordination, a grand occasion that began from a small, humble, gesture of gratitude.

Thirty years of service at First Congregational—it's genuinely amazing. To be clear though, it's really been a lifetime of service, because Rich has been a part of this church since he was a child. It has however been 30 years since Rich accomplished a personal goal that eventually culminated in his ordination—a goal that was born in Mississippi as an adult volunteer with the PFER's who were on a work trip with Back Bay Mission. Rich met Mama Lucy, a woman who "lived her life with gratitude" and it awakened in him his "calling," to know God in himself and in all of us.

In honor of this momentous occasion, we are going back to where this started for Rich: Back Bay Mission. He hopes to raise at least \$10,000 (hopefully more!) to help rehabilitate, repair, and build homes for some of the poorest people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. If you are moved to help those less fortunate in honor of Rich's anniversary, please feel free to donate via the special offering at the April 30th worship services, or visit the '**Give/Buy**' page on our website.

HAPPENINGS AROUND CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

Rev. Willis Pershey will be convening a group to study the Gospel of Mark this spring. The group will meet in the Kemper Library on Thursday evenings at 7pm for four weeks—**April 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th**. To sign up or for more information, contact Katherine at katherine@wscongo.org, 246-1900 x-220.

MOMS OF TEENS—Wednesday, May 10,

Talking to your teen about sex, part II. We will continue the discussion (in small groups) from last month's speakers.

GREEN TIP FROM THE GREEN TEAM:

As planting time approaches, make it a priority to plant NATIVE PLANTS—such as columbine, bee balm, coreopsis, purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, asters, goldenrod, big bluestem, goats beard, liatris, and wild ginger. Your yard will be filled with birds, butterflies, and pollinators saying thank-you, thank-you!

HINSDALE CHORALE SPRING CONCERT:

All are invited to "A Life's Journey." It is directed by Bob Boyd, and accompanied by our very own Kathy Christian. There are 2 performances:

April 29, 7 pm

April 30, 3 pm

The concerts will be at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 S. Kensington, LaGrange. Tickets are available at the door, or you can call 312-510-1823. www.hinsdalechorale.org

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.

A new Pictorial Directory is coming! LifeTouch will be taking photos on various dates and times from **June 7-24**. We are hoping everyone will participate (you can even include your furry family members, aka pets). Additional information and the link to the scheduling module is available on the website under latest news. Please contact Jeannette Lloyd with questions: Jeannette@wscongo.org.

NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome all visitors and look forward to new members joining the church on Sunday, **May 7**. The 2-part orientation will be on Sunday, April 30, 10am, and Tuesday, May 2, 7pm. Please contact Linda Conlin if you are interested in joining then or have questions, linda@wscongo.org.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY WITH REBUILD CHICAGO.

We are sponsoring the rebuilding of a house in Robbins, IL on **April 29** and looking for volunteers. Skills are not necessary, just a willingness to help, and time to donate. Additional information is at www.rebuildingtogether-chi.com. To volunteer, contact Steve Kruchko: steve@strombergallen.com.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE.

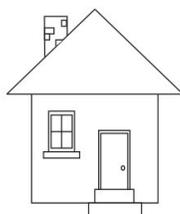
We will start the summer schedule of one worship service at 9:30 on Sundays starting May 28th (Memorial Day weekend).

SAVE THE DATE! On **June 11** after the worship service we will be celebrating Linda Conlin's 30 years of service she has given our congregation. We welcome everyone to join us. Additional details will be available soon, but for now, please mark your calendar!

NEXT GATHERINGS DEADLINE.

Submissions are due on Tuesday, **April 25 by 5pm**. Please email the information to EricaAlletto@wscongo.org (the next issue will go out the first week of May).

BACK BAY MISSION



- \$2,500 Floors the home
- \$1,000 Paints the exterior & interior of a house
- \$500 Buys the stove
- \$250 Buys a window
- \$100 Buys a door
- \$50 Provides the range hood
- \$25 Buys a pack of roof shingles

RUMMAGE!

It's Almost Time...

We hope you're putting aside your time and your gently-used rummage for our annual Spring Rummage Sale on **April 25-26**. There are numerous ways to help with this all-church event, including donating your rummage, helping feed the volunteers through donations of food and beverages, volunteering your time, shopping the sale, and praying for all who come through our doors the week of the sale – volunteers and shoppers alike.

The sign-up links for volunteering and food donations are posted under Latest News at wscongo.org. (While advanced sign-up is extremely helpful, it's not mandatory, so please come when you can as often as you can for as long as you can. Every hand and heart is needed!)

SET-UP: April 19, 6:30—8:30pm and April 20, 9am—3pm.

RUMMAGE DROP-OFF & SORTING:

Sat, April 22: **DROP-OFF from 9am-1pm** and sorting from 9am—5pm.

Sun, April 23: **DROP-OFF is from 1-3pm**, and sorting 2:30—5pm.

SORT & PRICE: April 24, 9am—5pm AND April 25, 9am—Noon.

SALE:

April 25: 6—8pm (volunteers can shop early Tue & Wed from 4:45-5:45).

April 26: 10am—Noon **AND** 6—8pm (half-price and bag sale).

TEAR-DOWN / CLEAN-UP: April 26, 8—10pm and April 27, 8am—Noon.

A portion of the profits support the work of the church, but the majority is given to charities close to home and around the globe. We hope you'll join us and be a part of something wonderful! And please help us spread the word!!!

did you know...

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID—IMPORTANT AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE.

One in four people are affected by substance abuse or a mental illness. Being educated about the signs and symptoms can be a life-saver for you, or someone you love. Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis.

In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. Mental Health First Aid will be presented here, at church, on May 13 and May 20, from 9am- 1pm, in the Seim Room; you will be expected to attend both sessions.

Registration: <http://namidupage.org/events/adult-mental-health-first-aid-51317-51917-9am-to-1pm-both-days-first-congregational-church-of-western-springs/>

To learn more about this program, go here: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/> Questions? Contact Meredith Onion, meredith@wscongo.org or 246-1900/ ext. 222

YOUTH MINISTRY

Plymouth Fellowship

April 23rd: PF Presidents (Meghan Bulger & Quinn Chudik) will share a reflection at both services about the mission trip to Baton Rouge.

Picnic and kickball at Spring Rock Park.

JRneys (Youth Room):

April 19: Assisting with Rummage set-up

Confirmation:

April 29—30: Annual confirmation overnight retreat at Camp Manitoqua!!

May 7, Confirmation

Sunday: Breakfast at 9am, Confirmation at 10:30am service.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jesus says: "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me". The children at First Congo welcome **YOU** to be part of this great ministry of our church. The 2017/18 Sunday school program needs about 19 more volunteer teachers. Teachers are needed in the 3 year old class, K/1, 2nd/3rd or the 4th/5th grade class. Contact Hope Sabbagha for additional information or to sign up: hope@wscongo.org; 246-1900 x-215



PASTORAL STAFF

Rich Kirchherr
Senior Minister

Katherine Willis Pershey
Associate Minister

Meredith Onion
Associate Minister

Deb Stankiewicz
Parish Nurse

Gatherings is a biweekly publication of the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Articles for inclusion should be submitted to Erica Alletto at gatherings@wscongo.org.

Gatherings is emailed to members and posted on-line at www.wscongo.org.

BITS & PIECES

STRAIGHT FROM HEAVEN. Our best wishes go out to Matt & Erin McNaughton on the recent birth of their son **Henry Harpen** on March 16.

WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP. Our heartfelt condolences go out to **Julie Jarabek** and **Elizabeth Mascio** who lost their sister and aunt, Peggy Miller, who passed away after a battle with cancer.

IN OUR PRAYERS. Please hold **Marj Stoub** in your prayers as she recovers from hip replacement surgery and **Anne Shay** as she continues rehabilitation following surgery.



GOD'S GARDEN is nearing completion! We are, however, hoping for additional participation in purchasing plants, flowers, and shrubs. The garden will be a haven for all, (including hummingbirds and butterflies!) We encourage you to visit the garden; to see the progress and envision the serenity and love that will fill the space. If you are interested in contributing, please go to the '**Give/Buy**' page on our website (wscongo.org), or pick up a contribution flyer in the light court.

