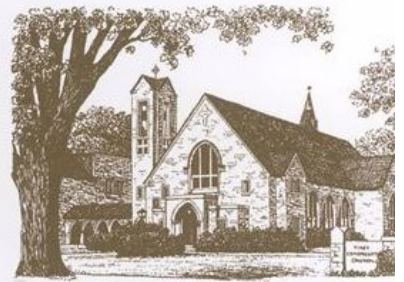


# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Western Springs*

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



## GATHERINGS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

AUGUST 29, 2016

### Ride Tour de Farms & Help Fight Hunger



*Bike enthusiasts of all ages are invited to our second Tour De Farms ride through the Mazon countryside and corn fields on Sunday morning, September 4. The ride starts at 10:30am from Park Street Congregational Church. Riders can choose from a 10-mile or 5-mile route to Harford Woods (complete with petting zoo), where at 11:30 there will be a communion and thanksgiving worship service, followed by a BBQ lunch. A free-will offering will support our Foods Resource Bank growing project with the people of Park Street Congregational Church.*

*To sign up/learn more, email [amynbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:amynbaldwin@gmail.com).*

## COMING UP IN WORSHIP & MORE

### SEPTEMBER 4 at 9:30am

Meredith will preach in our last summer Sunday worship service at 9:30. (Childcare will be available for children in second grade and younger, but Sunday school will not be in session.)

At 10:30 in Mazon (approximately 60 miles from church), our FRB growing project partners at Park Street Congregational Church will host a family-friendly bike ride, harvest celebration and barbecue lunch. (See side bar.)

### SEPTEMBER 11 at 9:00 & 10:30

We return to two services at 9:00 and 10:30 and won't waste any time delving in deep.....Rich suspects you have probably read how the Church in America is in decline. "Most of the statistics show negative trends in attendance, giving and even in belief in God. So, is the church failing? Dying? Or, is this also a great time to be the Church?" Rich will offer a hopeful vision for our congregation's future and offer several possibilities for our life together.

During both hours, Sunday school classes resume with 70 teachers sharing their faith with kids ages three to 7th grade. Classroom and curriculum info will be emailed in September. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact Hope Sabbagha at ext. 215 or [hope@wscongo.org](mailto:hope@wscongo.org).

(Many thanks to the 33 teachers who taught Sunday school over the summer months.)

Also on Sept 11, our preschool will host its Back-to-School Party from 3-5 (see page 3).

At 6pm, an introductory meeting for our eighth grade confirmands AND their parents will be held in the sanctuary. Mike Tilden looks forward to seeing everyone and welcomes your questions at ext. 232 or [tilden@wscongo.org](mailto:tilden@wscongo.org).

### LOOKING AHEAD:

*The next discussion on issues of Race and Racism will be on September 18 at 11:45 in the Seim Room. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. The group will discuss Ta-Nahisi Coates' essay, "The Case for Reparations" (<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>). All are welcome, including newcomers.*



## SAVE THE DATES & GET HEALTHY

Our Annual Flu Shot Clinic will take place in Plymouth Hall from 8:30am-Noon on Sunday, Oct 2. Shots are \$20 each, and appointments are not necessary. Shots will be available for ages 10 and older. Check, cash and Medicare B accepted.

Our Annual Health Screening will take place on Saturday, Oct 29, from 7:30-10:30am at Grace Lutheran Church.

Members ages 18 and older are invited to have a basic blood screening for \$50, (CBC, blood sugar, cholesterol, chemistry panel) and to add accompanying tests if desired at an additional cost. Through Advocate Health Care, our Parish Nurse Deb Stankiewicz is able to provide these tests at greatly reduced prices. These screenings are a valuable tool for assessing baseline health and are not included in most annual exams. Copies of test results will be provided to share with your doctor.

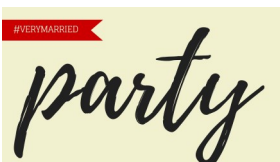
Appointments are necessary and can be made by contacting Deb directly at ext. 218 or Debbie @wscongo.org.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## MINISTRY AND CHURCH COUNCIL

**MEETINGS** will take place on Sept 19. Committee members will gather for a brief devotional at 6:55pm in the chapel then head off to their committee meetings. Church Council will follow at 8:30 in the Seim Room and is open to all church members.

**WOMAN'S SOCIETY** is set for the new year. The board will meet for its monthly meeting on September 6 at 1pm in the Seim Room. New chapters (day and evening) will meet on Thursday, September 8. All women are welcome to join this intergenerational fellowship and service organization. Contact Cynthia Kos to learn more at [cynbobty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynbobty@sbcglobal.net). (Member or not, we hope you're putting aside time and rummage for our fall rummage sale on Oct 18 & 19.)



## BOOK RELEASE PARTY.

Katherine's latest book, *Very Married: Field Notes on*

*Love and Fidelity*, hits bookstores on September 27, so please join us for a book release party on Friday, Sept 30, from 7-9pm in Plymouth Hall. The Spirit Worship Band will play, refreshments will be served, and Dr. Kelly Flanagan will offer a toast. **RSVPs are requested:** [rsvp@wscongo.org](mailto:rsvp@wscongo.org).

**AN INVITATION TO VISITORS.** We invite friends of the church who are interested in becoming members to consider joining this fall. Our two new member orientation classes will be held on Sunday, Sept 18 at 10am in the Chapel and on Tuesday, Sept 20 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. New members will join during worship on Sunday, Sept 28. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Linda Conlin at 708-246-1900, ext. 216 or [linda@wscongo.org](mailto:linda@wscongo.org).

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP TO BEGIN IN

**OCTOBER.** On October 3, Meredith Onion and Deb Stankiewicz will start a six-week grief support group. The group will meet from 1:30-3:00 in the Seim Room and use *The Grief Recovery Handbook* as its guide. Sign-up is underway and book orders will be placed shortly. Please notify Meg Heinz ASAP if you'd like to participate (ext. 210).

## OKTOBERFEST PARTY FOR PRIMETIMERS

**& MIDSHIPPERS.** Jim and Rochelle Heinz will host this year's Oktoberfest party at their Western Springs home on Saturday evening, October 22. Folks in the PrimeTime AND Midship age range (50-60 & 70+ish) are invited to attend. Watch for details in the next issue of Gatherings.

## ANNIVERSARY WALK.

A guided labyrinth walk will be held after both services on Sunday, September 25, marking the one year anniversary of the Stiffler Labyrinth dedication.

**DINING FOR WOMEN** will meet for a potluck dinner at 6:30 in the Seim Room on Tuesday, Sept 13. Proceeds will benefit A Breeze of Hope Foundation of Cochabamba, Bolivia. To learn more about this monthly women's benevolence group, contact Laurel Seidelman at [lseidelman@comcast.net](mailto:lseidelman@comcast.net).

## SAVE THE DATES



*All-Church Rummage Sale:*

*Drop-off Oct 15 & 16;*

*Sale: Oct 18 & 19*

*All-Church Day of Mission:*

*Saturday, October 29 1-6pm*

# YOUTH NEWS

## FALL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

**PROJECT: FEED MY FLOCK!** Our Children's Ministry Committee will launch its fall family faith formation project on Sunday, Oct 2. By way of take-home kits and activity prompts, the program is designed to raise awareness about hunger and starvation both locally and abroad. Coins will be collected in worship on Oct 23 and will benefit Feed My Starving Children. (Feed My Starving Children is the organization we will support on our Day of Mission on Oct 29.)

## ACOLYTES TO SOON LIGHT UP

**WORSHIP.** Children in 4th-6th grades are invited to serve as candle-lighters on Sunday mornings. Acolytes will process down the aisle and light the altar candles at the beginning of our worship services. (The kids will be dismissed to Sunday school after First Steps.) Parents can sign their kids up through the online Child/Youth/Teen program registration form or by emailing Jeannette Lloyd at [Jeannette@wscongo.org](mailto:Jeannette@wscongo.org).

## PRESCHOOL PREPARES FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

On Sunday, September 11, our preschool will host a back-to-school party for all incoming children and their families. The party will be held on the south lawn from 3-5pm and will feature ice cream, games, moon jump and live entertainment, beginning at 3:15. (If the weather doesn't cooperate, the party will be held in Plymouth Hall.)

Dorothy Schmude will be joining the preschool staff this year. She will help fill the void left by Patti Mink, who—despite great progress—is not quite ready to return to work after suffering a stroke last spring. Dorothy lives with her husband and two young children in the Old Town area of Western Springs.

**YOUTH GROUPS KICK-OFF.** Parents, please mark your calendars for the following start dates:

JRneys*	Oct 5, 7pm
PF	12:30 pm on Sept 18 at Sereda Park in WS

\*Our Moms of Teens groups will meet at 7pm on Oct 5, so feel free to drop off your teen at the JRneys kick-off ice cream sundae party and join this group of encouraging moms.



*Dayna Rittenberg  
September 23, 9am*

*Our Moms in Faith group looks forward to a visit from author and speaker Rabbi Danya Rittenberg.*

*Dayna writes books about the messy business of trying to be a person in the world, and how spirituality can inform and transform that work.*

*Sometimes that's about parenting, sometimes feminism, sex, God, justice, or joy. "It's all interconnected," she says, "isn't it?"*

*Dayna has been named by Newsweek and The Daily Beast as one of ten "rabbis to watch," and one of the top 50 most influential women rabbis.*

*Her newest book is Nurture the Wow: Finding Spirituality in the Frustration, Boredom, Tears, Poop, Desperation, Wonder, and Radical Amazement of Parenting.*

*This event is free of charge to registered Moms in Faith members and \$5 for guests. We hope you'll join us on Sept 23 in the Seim Rm.*

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

For the Guatemalan children of Common Hope

See needed supplies under latest news at [wscongo.org](http://wscongo.org).

Bring your donations to the Light Court by September 15 and bring hope and opportunity to children in desperate need of both!

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 Meg Heinz at [gatherings@wscongo.org](mailto:gatherings@wscongo.org).

*Gatherings* is emailed to members and posted on-line at [www.wscongo.org](http://www.wscongo.org).

## BITS & PIECES

**WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.** Our condolences go out to **Betty Boyd and her family** on the recent passing of Max Boyd. Max's Memorial Service will take place at 4pm on Saturday, Sept 17. If you can help with the reception that will follow, please contact Harriet at [hkv13@aol.com](mailto:hkv13@aol.com).

*(Bill Emshoff's Memorial Service and reception is this Saturday at 11am.)*

**AID SENT TO LOUISIANA.** Our Mission & Outreach ministry team recently voted to send \$2,500 from its Emergency Relief Fund to assist those devastated by the recent flooding in Louisiana. The flood victims in Louisiana have been lifted up during Joys and Concerns, and so we ask for your continued prayers for these residents. (If you would personally like to help, see the following article about ways to be of assistance: <https://sojo.net/articles/5-ways-help-flooding-victims-louisiana> .)

**CONGRATULATIONS** and best wishes to **Bea Yount and Nic Diorio** who were married in our church on Saturday, Aug 27.



**THE PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** is looking for a place to store the oversized attic stock of carpeting and tile left over from last year's capital renovation. If you or someone you know would like to buy or store it, please contact Brian at [brian@wscongo.org](mailto:brian@wscongo.org).

**MANY THANKS** to the members of our church committees who graciously hosted our summer coffee hours:

Welcome Team, Music Committee, Nominating Committee, Diaconate, Moms in Faith, Dal and Meb Ingold, Properties Committee, Christian Ventures, Finance Committee, Christian Education, Executive Committee, Thursday Women's Book Group, Mission & Outreach, and Preschool Committee.