

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

JULY 12, 2016

*“Peace does not mean an
absence of conflicts; differences
will always be there. Peace
means solving these differences
through peaceful means;
through dialogue, education,
knowledge; and through
humane ways.”*



Dalai Lama XIV

COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30AM

JULY 17

Rich will offer a reflection on recent national events and then answer our theological questions in his annual **Ask the Pastor** sermon. (Worshippers will have an opportunity to jot down a question at the start of the service, so start thinking about what you might want to ask Rich.)

Following worship, a special **labyrinth walk** will be held for parents and children. Guests will have the opportunity to learn a little about labyrinths, as well as walk together, draw, write, and/or participate in a labyrinth scavenger hunt. All of this will take place in Plymouth Hall from 10:30-11:15am. (The next guided labyrinth walk will take place on Sunday morning, September 25.)

JULY 24

Katherine will preach on the subject of race and racism during this family worship service. (**Family worship** is specifically designed for children in third grade and older. Childcare/Sunday school will be provided for infants up through first grade.)

After worship at 10:45, Katherine will lead a **book discussion** on “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson. This is the second of three summer book discussions, which are open to all and take place in the Seim Room. Free childcare is provided during the discussion. If you have questions about the discussion, contact Katherine at katherine@wscongo.org or ext. 220. (The last discussion will take place on August 21, and will be about the book “Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.)

JULY 31

Meredith will preach and our chancel choir will sing.

AUGUST 7

Rich will preach and communion will be served.

From Mint Box to Prayer Box



After church this past Sunday, children created prayer boxes with the help of Mrs. Sabbagha. Boxes were decorated by the children, and prayer prompts were included in their box. Children were invited to write down something they are thankful for, a concern for themselves or others, or something they are worried about. The box



symbolizes the lifting up of the prayers to God. Please visit Mrs. Sabbagha if you would like to create one for your family.

The following prayer was said at the end of First Steps.

*We thank you, Lord
for all you give. The food we
eat, the lives we live. And to
our loved ones far away,
please send your blessings
Lord we pray.
And help us all to live our
days with thankful hearts
and loving ways. Amen.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ADULT MISSION/WORK EXPERIENCE.

Plans are underway for an adult work trip to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi from October 2-7. Rich Kirchherr says, "Don't worry if you are not a skilled worker, there is landscaping, painting and scraping — as well as more challenging projects for those so inclined." Back Bay Mission is about a 90-minute drive from the New Orleans airport, so if travelers can't make the full week, perhaps an abbreviated trip is doable.

Not only would this be an opportunity to serve God by helping others, but it is likely to be a wonderful fellowship experience as well. Folks who are interested should let our trip organizers know — Mike Thiessen (mike.chicago@gmail.com) and Gary Doten (doten7@gmail.com).

MINISTRY AND CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETINGS. Our new program year will begin in a month's time. We hope all new and returning committee members will attend the first of our monthly committee and Church Council meetings on Monday, August 15. Committees meet on their own at 7pm, and chairs of those committees meet at 8:30 as the Church Council. Church Council meetings are open to all members.

SAVE THE DATES & GET HEALTHY. Our Annual Flu Shot Clinic will take place in Plymouth Hall from 8:30am-Noon on Oct 2. Shots are \$20, and appointments are not necessary. Our Annual Health Screening on Oct 29, however, does require an appointment (Debbie@wscongo.org). The screenings take place from 7:30-10:30am at Grace Lutheran Church.

BRIEFLY

A BIG BOX OF LITTLE DRESSES. Our group of 12 sewers (and faithful assistants) is off to a great start in making Little Dresses of Hope. On May 2, Julie Harps sent the group's first shipment of 42 dresses, and already another box with 72 dresses is ready to go to an impoverished area in the US or across the globe. If you'd like to learn more about this ministry or would like to get involved, contact Julie Harps at 246-0719.

WHAT'S BETTER THAN SENDING YOUR KIDS OFF TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Joining them in Sunday School! Yes, there are just a few open dates to teach summer Sunday school. The lessons are fun, easy and Mrs. Sabbagha provides you with everything you need. Sign-up is easy, just email hope@wscongo.org or check the "Latest News" section on our website.

REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY for new and returning members of Moms of Faith. Over the past several years, the group has gathered from 9-11am on Friday mornings to share honestly about their lives, pray for one another, grow as women of faith, and nurture deep and abiding friendships. Moms in Faith is not a clique or a club, but a community centered in Christ and open to all. Moms in Faith is coordinated by a Steering Team that works closely with Associate Minister Rev. Katherine Willis Pershey. To learn more, see the Ministries tab on the homepage of our website at wscongo.org or contact Katherine at katherine@wscongo.org.

FALL SPEAKER LINEUP




Dayna Rutenberg
September 16, 9am



Caryn Rivadeneira
October 21, 9am



Dr. Darius Loghmanee
October 25, 7pm



Lori Martin
November 5, 10am



Bromleigh McCleneghan
November 18, 9am

It's always a special treat to hear knowledgeable and gifted speakers and we are delighted to be welcoming a host of them this fall. Some speakers are sponsored by our Friday morning Moms in Faith group and some by Deb Stankiewicz and our Health Ministry department. Regardless, all events are open to all members and friends and will be held in the Seim Room. Please be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us. (A \$5 charge applies to guests of Moms in Faith; registered MIF members are free — as is childcare.)*

DAYNA: "Parenting can be glorious, and amazing, and frustrating and mind-numbingly boring." Dayna's talk will explore questions of heart and soul, faith and parenting, and their implications for parents of young children.*

CARYN: Caryn is the author of the book, *Mama's Got a Fake ID*, about rediscovering yourself and your identity in the midst of motherhood.*

DARIUS: Dr. Loghmanee is a highly-sought after pediatrician who specializes in sleep medicine. He practices out of Advocate Medical Group in Park Ridge, but shares his wisdom with eager (and tired) parents everywhere!

LORI: A Principal with Envision Benefits in Riverside, Lori loves educating people about choices for healthcare and long term care planning. Her presentation is entitled Medicare Coverage & Trends for 2017.

BROMLEIGH: Bromleigh is the Associate Pastor at Hinsdale Union Church and a highly-acclaimed blogger and author. Her latest book will be the topic of discussion: *Good Christian Sex*.*

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.

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

BITS & PIECES

IN OUR PRAYERS. Please hold in your prayers this week: **Chuck Kierscht, Al Pedersen, Bill MacIntosh, and Jan Norris** — all recovering at home.

WEeping WITH THOSE WHO WEEP. Our condolences go out to **Mary and Marty Brown and family** on the recent passing of Mary's mom, to **Ellen Upstrom and family** on the recent passing of Al, and to **Kevin and Karen O'Donnell and family** on the recent passing of Kevin's mom.

STRAIGHT FROM HEAVEN.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Laura and Ken Leonard** on the June 30, arrival of their daughter, Juniper (June) Anne.

WEDDING BELLS. Congratulations and best wishes to **Tyler Kos and Rebecca Pelka** who were married on July 2.

IN TRANSITION. Blessings to **Patty Sampson** who recently moved out of her Western Springs home and into an apartment at Plymouth Place. Her apartment number is 412, and her phone — 708/482-4135.

A HOBBY TAKES FLIGHT. Bert Griffith's model airplanes are on display at Western Springs' Thomas Ford Memorial Library through July and August.

The next *Gatherings* submission deadline is 5pm August 12:
gatherings@wscongo.org