

# 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

OCTOBER 20, 2015



### LEARNING ABOUT OUR CONGREGATIONAL ROOTS

On Sunday, October 25, Rich will lead our Adult Christian Exploration hour with a presentation entitled, "From Puritans to Progressives: Our Congregational Roots." The Puritans, known for their firm scripture and theological boundaries, are the spiritual ancestors to the United Church of Christ. How then, did the UCC become such a powerful voice for tolerance and inclusivity? Join us at 10:15 in the Seim Room to find out.

### COMING UP PROMISE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

At our 9:00 & 10:30 services this Sunday, our handbell choirs will share their musical gifts, and Katherine will preach on the subject of forgiveness, one of the practices of Becoming Faithful Disciples. Members are asked to bring their 2016 pledge promises to worship, so they can be collected and blessed during the service. (If you did not receive the stewardship mailing, you can find the letter and pledge form under Latest News on our website.)

Our kids' choirs will rehearse together at 10:00, and our confirmands will have class at 10:15. Also at 10:15, Rich will lead an Adult Christian Exploration class on the roots of congregationalism. (See side bar.) Our Welcome Team will meet at 11:30 in the Parlor.

At 3pm, members of our Families in Faith fellowship group will have their annual Halloween party on the second floor of the Education Building. Members of our high school youth group, Plymouth Fellowship, will be on-hand organizing games for the kids. (If you'd like to come to the party, please contact Katherine for details regarding what to bring and what to wear — [katherine@wscongo.org](mailto:katherine@wscongo.org).)

### LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER 1 STRINGS, COMMUNION & LABYRINTH



Meredith will continue our sermon series on Becoming Faithful Disciples by looking at what it means to be a 'prophet and advocate for social justice.' Children in our Alleluia and Spirit Choirs will sing our call to worship, musicians from the WS School of Talent Education will mesmerize us, and communion will be shared. During the service, we will take a moment to remember those we lost this past year and toll the bell for each name read. After both services, members are asked to stay for five minutes to review and approve the preliminary budget for 2016. (Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed Saturday night.)

A special guided Labyrinth Walk will be offered in Plymouth Hall after both services. Folks are invited to walk in memory of loved ones lost. All walkers will receive a flower to place on our memorial cross. Guides will be available to assist newcomers or walk for those who cannot. Families are encouraged to walk together for this All Saints Walk.

MUSIC TO  
STIR THE SOUL  
*featuring*  
BEN BEILMAN



On Friday, November 13, anyone and everyone is invited to join a group of music lovers who will travel by bus to the Harris Theater in Chicago to see the "Golden Age of the Violin." An ensemble of strings and piano, part of the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, will present the program, which starts at 7:30pm

Our very "own" violinist, Benjamin Beilman, is part of the ensemble and will be playing several solos. The Harris Theater says about this event:

*"A cast of quintessential ensemble string players bring the Golden Age of Violin to life. The evening celebrates the zenith of expressive violin style that epitomized the legendary Fritz Kreisler."*

Tickets are \$23 each. If twenty or more attend, the bus will be only \$13 per person (cheaper than parking and less if more people attend). The group will leave from the church parking lot at 6:30pm.

Please act quickly to ensure the best seats. Call or email Kathryn Price at 708/246-5022 or [valandkathryn@msn.com](mailto:valandkathryn@msn.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### CHURCH COMMITTEES & COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Because of our rummage sale, our October committee meetings were moved from the third Monday of the month to Monday, October 26. Ministry meetings will start at 7pm; Church Council, which is open to all members of the church, will meet at 8:30 in the Seim Room.

### ANXIETY – OURS AND OUR TEENS

is the subject of Dr. John Duffy's presentation at 7pm in the Seim Room on Monday, November 2. Dr.



Duffy is a nationally-recognized expert in self-awareness, relationships, and parenting. He speaks extensively on "availability" in both public and corporate forums, presenting with great clarity, compassion and humor. This event is sponsored by our Moms of Teens group and is open to the public. To learn more about Dr. Duffy, visit his website at [drjohnduffy.com](http://drjohnduffy.com).



**JOIN THE FRIENDS OF PILLARS** for a fundraising event at LaGrange Country Club on Friday, November 14, at 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$25 (\$35 at the door) and include appetizers and one drink. (Additional drinks including soda, beer, and wine can be purchased at the event.) Live music will be provided by our Spirit Worship Band.

Raffle tickets are also available for purchase online (or they can be purchased at the event with cash or check). All proceeds will be donated to Pillars, which serves 12,000 people annually and offers 25 distinct programs and services. To purchase tickets, etc., visit [pillarscommunity.org/party-for-pillars-at-la-grange-country-club/](http://pillarscommunity.org/party-for-pillars-at-la-grange-country-club/).

**THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP.** All are invited to join us for a come-as-you-are 45-minute worship service on Thanksgiving morning at 9:30. We'll sing and pray together and hear a personal faith reflection from one of our members.

**MYSTERY OF THE SEASON.** Hinsdale Chorale will present its annual winter concert on Sunday, November 29. Tickets for the 3pm concert, which will take place in our Sanctuary, can be purchased online at [hinsdalechorale.org](http://hinsdalechorale.org) or over the phone by calling 312/510-1823.

**MEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** will meet for its November meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14. Men of all ages are invited to come to the Seim Room at 7:45 to enjoy fellowship and a light breakfast. Following breakfast, Advocate Healthcare President & CEO Jim Skogsbergh will talk to the group about the future of faith-based hospitals and health care.

**WOMAN'S SOCIETY** chapters will meet for lunch and fellowship on Thursday, November 5. The group's larger general meeting will take place at 12:30pm on November 19 in the Seim Room. A representative from Western Springs' new Safety Village will talk to the group about its mission and programs. Founded in 2010 by church member Amy Avakian, Safety Village educates young children on 55 facets of safety. Newcomers are always welcome and should call president Cynthia Kos to learn more or make a lunch reservation: 708/485-4760.

**PRIMETIME CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Mark your calendars, PrimeTimers, for this year's Christmas party on Saturday, December 12 and Brian and Zada Clarke' home. Watch for details next month.

## HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

**SERVE A THANKSGIVING LUNCH TO CLIENTS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (CCS).** On November 19th, CCS, despite looming budget cuts, will serve lunch at First Methodist Church of LaGrange and our help is needed. CCS is looking for folks to help cook turkeys/hams and some of the larger food items, as well as decorate the dining area. If you are interested in learning more and/or offering your help, please email Mike McNeily at [mikesmcneily@gmail.com](mailto:mikesmcneily@gmail.com).

To learn more about CSS, which serves individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities by offering respite and job placement services, visit their website at [cssservices.org](http://cssservices.org).

### **GIFT WRAPPING FOR FRIENDS OF AUNT MARY'S STORYBOOK PROJECT.**

Volunteers are needed for Aunt Mary's Storybook Projects' annual Gift Wrapping at the Chicago Ridge Mall. This fundraiser allows AMSP to fund many of the programs offered by Companions Journeying Together, including their storybook sessions. Please consider volunteering some time in December so AMSP can continue serving the men and women at the various jails in which it works.

The following shifts are available:

Sat Dec 5:	10:45am — 6:30pm
Sun Dec 6:	10:45am — 6:30pm
Sat Dec 12:	8:45am — 10:30pm
Sun Dec 13:	8:45am — 10:30pm
Sat Dec 19:	8:45am — 10:30pm
Sun Dec 20:	8:45am — 10:30pm
Mon Dec 21:	11:45 pm — 10:30pm
Tue Dec 22:	11:45pm — 10:30pm
Wed Dec 23:	8:45am — 10:30pm
Thu Dec 24:	7:45am — 7 pm

You can pick your own time frames—30 minutes, 2 hours, all day, or multiple days. Whatever you want and are willing to do. AMSP will provide all of the supplies for wrapping, so volunteers need only to show up ready to wrap.

**SUPPORT LITERACY IN CHICAGO THROUGH OPEN BOOKS.** Through the following two Instructional Programs, Open Books cultivates the literacy skills of thousands of children and youth each year, from those who need intervention to those who desire enrichment. Please consider volunteering for:

Reading Buddies – A weekly program that allows elementary students to work one-on-one with a trained, supportive mentor to help boost reading skills such as fluency and comprehension.

Creative Writing Workshops – Two-hour experiences in our West Loop classrooms where 3rd-12th graders develop their writing skills in meaningful and creative ways.

To sign up or learn more, visit [www.open-books.org](http://www.open-books.org).

## YOUTH NEWS



**PF**

Thanks to all who supported PF's car wash last month. The group raised \$600, which will help offset the cost of next year's two work tour trips.

PF will hold its annual Fall Retreat on November 6-8 at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI. Sign-up is underway, so don't wait. The cost is \$175/person.

**JRneys**

Next meeting is November 4th at 7pm in the Youth Room! The group will enjoy snacks and learn about social justice and the Native Americans. (A service project for the Native Americans is scheduled for Nov 11.)

### **UPCOMING CANDY COLLECTION**

Leftover Halloween candy will be collected in the Light Court again this year and will be used to help fill care packages that PFers will send to our college freshmen.



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).

**NEXT GATHERINGS  
DEADLINE  
5pm  
November 6, 2016**

## BITS & PIECES

**WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY.** Our condolences and best wishes go out to the family and friends of **Mary Linabury**, who passed away on October 7, at the age of 94 and **Roy Bressner**, who died on October 14. Roy's life was celebrated on October 19. Mary's Memorial Service is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, January 17, in our Sanctuary. A reception will follow. Mary's daughter, Peggy Gutzke can be reached at 4916 Stanley Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515.



**CAP COLLECTION CONTINUES.** Thank you for continuing to save and donate your plastic caps. Members of our Green Team and our high school youth group take turns each week picking up, sorting through and weighing the collection, which currently stands at approximately **140 pounds**.

Thanks to all who are helping with this project, including Nancy and George Sutherland who are sharing their garage space with us. (After collecting 400 pounds of caps, Green Tree Plastics will melt and mold the plastic into a park bench, which we will give to our beloved UCC camp — Tower Hill in Sawyer, Michigan.) The collection bins for plastic caps (as well as plastic grocery bags) are in the Light Court.