

# 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

MAY 3, 2017

### RUMMAGE

#### WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT!

**A huge thank you to all who were part of Rummage! It was our second largest sale ever—BRINGING IN OVER \$38,000! The amount of work put in by so many (especially the committee!) is truly remarkable.**

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. The outreach of Rummage is absolutely amazing!



### COMING UP SUNDAY, MAY 7

At the 9am service, we will welcome new members, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, and Rev. Dr. Rich Kirchherr will offer a reflection on the story of Jesus turning water into wine.

At the 10:30am service, we will confirm our 2017 Confirmation class as they confirm their baptismal vows and participate in the ancient rite of the laying on of hands. Rich will offer the sermon: Lost and Found.

The Spirit Worship Band will share their spectacular musical gifts at both services.

Confirmands and their parents will gather in Plymouth Hall for the confirmation breakfast at 9am.

At 7pm, all are invited to "An Evening at the Opera" in the Sanctuary featuring Janet Mensen Reynolds. The free event is sponsored by Thomas Ford Memorial Library, and will followed by a reception in the parlor.

PF Election Dinner, 6pm, Seim Room.

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### LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY, MAY 14

On Mother's Day, Rev. Dr. Rich Kirchherr will preach on the Psalms as an encounter with a person of faith who has known all of the human condition: love and loss, faith and doubt, and hope and despair. We will be blessed with the voices of the Chancel Choir at 9am and the Quartet at 10:30am, and the Children's Choir at both services. We also welcome Amy Halm as our Mother's Day speaker.

## AGELESS GRACE, TIMELESS FITNESS

Interested in experiencing an anti-aging and fun fitness program for your body and brain? On May 23, from 9:30-10:30am in the Seim room, the Tai Chi group will host Certified Ageless Grace instructor Carol Bottari (courtesy of Villa St. Benedict Retirement Community). Instead of doing Tai Chi that day, Carol will introduce us to The Ageless Grace Timeless Fitness program. Join us to learn exercises for balance, breathing, flexibility and increasing the plasticity of your brain. All are welcome!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*There once was this lady at church.*

*For Sunday School teachers she did search.*

*She needs a few more.*

*For our children galore.*

*Please keep them from being left in the lurch.*

Please consider sharing your time with the children of our church by teaching Sunday School for 2017-2018. We provide all the information and materials, and we promise it will be fun for all! Contact Hope Sabbagha for additional info or to sign up: 246-1900, x-215 hope@wscongo.org

## HAPPENINGS AROUND CHURCH

**MOMS OF TEENS.** Talking to your teen about sex, Part II. On Wednesday, **May 10** we will continue the discussion (in small groups) from last month's speakers.

**STYROFOAM #6 COLLECTION!** The Green Team is sponsoring a STYROFOAM #6 collection on Sunday, **June 11** from 9am—12pm. As you may know, these products cannot be put in our blue recycling bags. The Styrofoam should be clean, and items like meat trays, cups, restaurant clamshells should be in separate bags from BLOCK/packing type Styrofoam. FYI, Peanut Styrofoam cannot be accepted.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR BLANKETS AND PHOTOS.** Attention parents of high school seniors! Please join us on **May 17** from 6:30-9:00 in Plymouth Hall to make a no-sew blanket for your senior. The blankets will be blessed at Baccalaureate Sunday on June 4. We also need a baby picture and senior picture for the baccalaureate video, which will also be part of the June 4th service. Please contact Cheryl Napoli with questions, cheryl\_napoli@msn.com

**MEN'S BREAKFAST.** Saturday, **May 13th** in the Seim Room we will be joined by Cathy Pierson, Director of Volunteer & Community Relations at The Leadership, to discuss mentoring opportunities. Please join us!

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP.** Families are welcome to join a caring group that helps one another by utilizing collective lived experiences and learned wisdom. Starting on **May 11**, the La Grange FSG will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm. Please reach out to Meredith Onion with any questions. monion@wscongo.org 246-1900, x222 [http://www.wscongo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NAMI-FamilySupportGroup.flyer\\_.pdf](http://www.wscongo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NAMI-FamilySupportGroup.flyer_.pdf)

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.** Sign up for the new Pictorial Directory is open LifeTouch will be taking photos on various dates and times from **June 7-24**. We hope 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.

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

**SAVE THE DATE!** On **June 11** after the worship service, we will celebrate Linda Conlin's 30 years of service to our congregation and welcome everyone to attend!

**MEN'S CANOE TRIP.** Sign up for the Men's Canoe Trip to the boundary waters is open! The trip is from August 31 to September 4, and the cost is still to be determined, but will mostly likely be \$250-\$300. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or have never been to the boundary waters, all are welcome! Contact Mike Tilden for additional information or to sign up.

**PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER.** Let someone else do the cooking! On May 10 from 11am-7pm, Di Nico's pizza will donate 1/2 of their proceeds to our preschool. To get credit, you must present the flyer, available on our website (<http://www.wscongo.org/dinicos-preschool-5-2017/>). Please feel free to share this with your friends and neighbors!

**NEXT GATHERINGS DEADLINE.** Submissions are due on Tuesday, **May 9 by 5pm**. Please email the information to Erica Alletto at Erica@wscongo.org (the next issue will go out the week of May 15.)

## Mental Health Awareness

### 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.

To register: <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, please visit: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/> If you have questions, please contact Meredith Onion, [meredith@wscongo.org](mailto:meredith@wscongo.org) or 246-1900/ext. 222

## Off The Street Club

*Please help us fill the "Camp Closet" for Off The Street Club's Summer Camp, which helps at-risk boys and girls have a safer summer.*

For many years, our community has assisted **Off The Street Club** prepare for the summer camp season by donating much needed items to be used at Camp Mathieu in Wheaton, IL. From **May 1st-19th** we are collecting new or gently used items for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade children for summer camp. A list of requested items is available on our website and includes things like twin bed sheets & pillowcases, towels, bathing suits, swim goggles, and mosquito repellent. <http://www.wscongo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Off-the-Street-Club-Camp-Closet-2017-Flyer.pdf>

Off The Street Club is Chicago's oldest boys and girls club that currently serves more than 3,000 kids in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country, West Garfield Park. They are a place where kids can truly find hope and where every child can seek a safe place to go, and is welcome to join in games, play, and mentorship. Please visit their website to learn more! <https://offthestreetclub.com/>

## Pillars—Community Collaborator Award!

Pillars will be honoring First Congregational Church with its Community Collaborator Award on May 15. The spirit of this award reflects the values Pillars and its collaborators embody: diversity, innovation, respect, accessibility, accountability. The relationship with Pillars began in 1992, and through the Mission and Outreach Committee, the Woman's Society, and many congregants, we have enriched the services to the community in myriad ways.

**Congratulations to everyone and thank you for being part of this recognition!**

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Plymouth Fellowship:

The Election Dinner is on Sunday, **May 7**, from 6-8pm in the Seim Room. Our last meeting is on May 21 at 7pm in the youth room.

Freshman Work Tour kicks off on June 4th! Balance payments are due to Mike Tilden by Sunday, May 7.

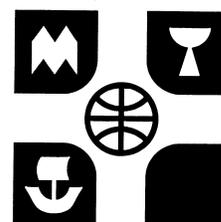
### JRneys:

Sign up is under way for the pumpkin planting in Mazon, IL, on **June 3!** Contact Mike Tilden if your son/daughter wants to participate.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, **May 3**, and the final meeting is on **May 10**. Both are at 7pm in the youth room.

### Confirmation:

**May 7, Confirmation Sunday:** Breakfast at 9am, Confirmation at 10:30am service.



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](mailto:gatherings@wscongo.org).

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

## BITS & PIECES

**IN OUR PRAYERS.** Please hold **Amy Evans** in your prayers as she recovers from hip surgery at Marionjoy.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Kathryn Price** as we celebrate her graduation from Chicago Theological Seminary with her Master of Divinity. What a monumental achievement—way to go!!!

**WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.** Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of **Harriett Brown** on her recent passing.

**WATERCOLORS.** Please take time to enjoy the beautiful watercolor paintings that will be on display in the light court from May 8—May 22. All works of art have been created in the watercolor classes, held on Wednesdays.

**BEDS Plus.** Many members of our congregation were present at the BEDS Plus Ogden Ave. Supportive

Housing Groundbreaking Ceremony on April 21. Our church was a major donor to the capital campaign that made this project possible, and many church members contributed time, talent, and treasure to the endeavor. What a beautiful example of faith in action!

**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](http://wscongo.org)), or pick up a contribution flyer in the light court.