

Congregational Church of Algonquin 109 Washington Street Algonquin, Illinois 60102 847-658-5308
email: algonquinucc@gmail.com website: algonquinucc.org
"Living our faith in Jesus Christ through acceptance, service and love."



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Inserts

March Calendar, Easter
Corn Beef & Cabbage

HEAVENLY CHOCOLATE FEST

(and all things sweet)

March 28, 2015
10:00 am

Can you tell it is coming? Can you hear the Easter Bunny warming up his muscles to hop all over and deliver his goodies? We want to help out the Easter Bunny by providing a one-stop shop to fill your Easter Basket. We transform every inch of space on the main floor of Church with vendors who specialize in Chocolate and all things sweet. Admission is free! Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Many volunteer opportunities are available, please see bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

"That they may all be one." John 17:21

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





Dear Friends,

Philip Jenkins, a professor of History at Baylor University, has been called one of our most foremost scholars on religion and society. He has written 20 books concerning different aspects of the history of the Christian Church in the world. In 2008, he wrote a book that he entitled, **The Lost Christianity**. I can say without exaggeration that it is one of the most surprising books that I have ever read.

The book concerns itself with the history of the first 1,000 years of Christianity – a subject which wouldn't excite many people. But that is only because we have always heard the story of Christianity as the story of Western Civilization and Europe. Thus, most of us are familiar with the fact that Christianity blossoms from 12 apostles through persecution by the Roman society to become the preeminent religion and political power throughout all of Europe. That is what we have always been taught.

Jenkins, however, tells us that our history lessons have been lacking. In fact, the truth of history is that the European expansion of Christianity was only one of three expansions of the Christian message that began in Jerusalem and went out into the world to make disciples of all nations. The other two mission fields were Asia and Africa. Did you know that in the first 300 years after Christ's death, the church was established throughout Asia Minor, China, India and Japan, with bishoprics spread throughout the land (over 300 bishoprics – which are regional area of churches much like our Conferences)? Africa could boast that its bishoprics were formed across Africa and down to the equator.

Now here is surprise #1 for me – These churches did not just last for a few years after their establishment, nor were they forcibly killed out during the rise and expansion of Islam after the 600's. No, these churches flourished and were the influential cultural leaders of the communities until the 1400's! In fact, the learning and scientific discoveries that the Western thinkers would take from their interaction with Muslim learners, originally came from the Eastern Christian Church. This church lived peaceably with the Muslims even when they (the Christians) were in the minority.

Here is surprise #2 – when the Eastern Christian Church did die out – and it did die out – it was not because of persecution from other religions. In the 1400 years of their existence, the Christians lived peaceably with their neighbors (though there may have been some persecutions during this time, they were relatively rare, and came, often, from other Christians). What this information means to me is that Christianity and Islam need not be opposed to each other, but can work side by side - even with Judaism - very productively.

Surprise #3 is that not only did this flourishing Christianity die out (both in Asia and Africa), it died so completely that its history has been very difficult to discover. As Jenkins states, when religions die out, they do not take the time to write the history of their death.

Jenkins purpose in this book is three-fold: (1) to educate about this lost history of our church, (2) to emphasize to today's society that Christianity and Islam can peaceably co-exist, and (3) to give us the crucial warning that the church can certainly die, and that we in the Western church desperately need to know this and learn from our history. As one church leader wrote in the Middle of the Dark Ages when it looked as if all of Western civilization was on the verge of collapse: When Jesus promised to be with us to the end of the ages, he did not say that he would be with us in Europe! To bring that quote into our times, when Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of the ages, he did not promise that we would be in America.

Want to learn more about the history of the Christian Church? Come to Tuesdays with the Pastor – we meet at 4 pm every Tuesday! We would love to have you join us.

Rev Cope



A REALISTIC LOOK...

To be human implies that strange combination of strengths and weaknesses. Each of us has both! Let's take a brief realistic look at whatever one might consider weaknesses.

It is said that the more one feeds a weakness, the more food it wants. There is also an old American proverb that goes, "there is always free cheese in a mouse trap." Whether it be a triple chocolate dessert, expensive jewelry, or a fancy car, we all have soft spots in us for one thing or another.

Unlike our simple preferences and/or tastes, our weaknesses (however we define them) often cost us more than we think they will. Somehow giving in rarely satisfies for long because soon we will want more of the same.

The reason our indulgences don't work for long is that they are "outside remedies" for "inside needs." Chocolate deprivation is not the answer. Our faith journey teaches us that our solutions are INSIDE not OUTSIDE. We feel better when we become better. Every indulgence in the world will never be enough. Outside fixes more often than not only produce added pounds or bigger bills or stresses we don't need. Emptiness needs fullness, not embellishment.

This another Lenten season is a time to do a periodic self-assessment of both our strengths and weaknesses. It is a time "to begin again" to make some of the changes that could help us grow spiritually and advance us on our faith journey. Consider the thought that our weaknesses might be "wake up calls" or teachers to us to direct us to the greater journey that lies ahead. As Paul wrote:

"Three times I appealed to the Lord about (a matter), that might
leave me, but inside the message came:

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER
IS MADE PERFECT IN YOUR WEAKNESS."

Blessings for the journey....

Rev. Arn

Remember in Prayer

As well as with a card, call, or visit the following individuals who are not always able to be with us:

Betty Blair
Clare Oaks Rehab Center
825 Carillon Dr
Bartlett, IL 60103

Ed Brandwein
11436 Russell Dr.
Huntley IL 60142

Louise Dahm
1005 South Rd.
Fox River Grove, IL 60021

Marge Hanley
808 Menominee Drive
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

Joyce Horn
Alden Terrace
803 Royal Dr.
McHenry, IL 60050

Erna Houdek
Valley Hi
2406 Hartland Rd.
Woodstock, IL 60098

George & Betty Imhoff
731 Ocoela Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102

Donna Krueger
Sunrise Senior Living
790 N. Plum Grove Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Janet Larsen
Valley Hi
2406 Hartland Rd.
Woodstock, IL 60098

Edna McCormick
1215 Geringer Road
Algonquin, IL 60102

Frances Newberg
c/ Bob Newberg
532 S. Kennicott Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Thea O'Connor
c/o Liberty Estates
2080 W. Navajo Dr.
#341
Freeport, IL 61032

Ron Reed
Florence Nursing Center
546 East Grant Hwy.
Marengo, IL 60152

Claudette Treadwell
731 Longwood Dr.
Algonquin, IL 60102

Glen True
25 Lincoln
Dundee, IL 60118

Barb Whitaker
Sunrise Assisted Living
751 Terra Cotta Avenue
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Ethel Yamashita
Sunrise Senior Living
790 N. Plum Grove Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Send a card and let our friends know we miss them.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Tom Houp Mekever Jr
Roman Tatarinowicz
Paul Finch
Max George
Ryan Williams
Sean Hackney

Patrick McMahon
Michael Hartman
Travis Primrose
Chris Higgins
John (Jay) Hogrewe
Steven Canington

Would you like a visit from Rev. Cope?

If you are going to have surgery, or would like Rev Cope to visit you at home, please contact him directly by calling the church office or his cell # at 224-535-1778. Whenever possible, he likes to have a word of prayer with you before you have your surgery. If you know ahead of time that you are having surgery, you may put a note in the offering plate.

You do not need to be ill or recovering from surgery to request a visit. Please call the church office or his cell number to request a visit.

HELP US HONOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

Not all of our church members can come to church. Through no fault of their own, circumstances force them out of the church building. Over the years, we have labeled them "Shut-Ins" or "Homebound" to identify them, but the labels themselves end up isolating them from our fellowship. What we want to know especially when we can't get to church is that our fellowship is not bound by space. We want to know that as a part of this congregation, we belong together as a family.

To help people who cannot come to church feel a part of our family, we are asking you for three things:

Remember them in your prayers
Send them a note or card letting them know that you are thinking of them.
If possible, call them to say "Hello".

This month we are lifting up two of our members: **Ron Reed and Claudette Treadwell**. You will find their addresses listed above. Let them know that they are a part of our family and that they are missed and thought about.

The following individuals have been recently hospitalized and/or had surgery since our last newsletter.



None this month

March Anniversaries

March Birthdays

06 George & Betty Imhoff 66 years

31 Dick & Barb Elke 20 years

01 Robert Woertendyke 15 Gayle Wohlert

02 Joseph Scheske 16 Liz Albandia

02 Claudette Treadwell 17 Betty Maicke

05 Betty Imhoff 20 Mark Hanley

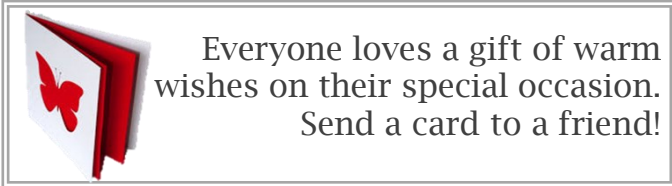
05 Judy Stauffer 22 Verna Loacker

05 Brett Teichmann 27 Donald Schmidt

06 Jack Bockrath 28 John McMahon

10 Martha Wallace 29 Anna Benjamin

10 Jessica Stengel



Easter Flowers

Name: _____

Order Form



Phone#: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

In Celebration of: _____

In Memory of: _____

<u>Easter Plants</u>	<u>How Many?</u>		<u>Price</u>		<u>Total Amount</u>
6" Kalanchoe	_____	X	\$9.00	=	_____
6" Reiger Begonia	_____	X	\$10.00	=	_____
6" Easter Lily	_____	X	\$10.00	=	_____
7" Jonquils	_____	X	\$10.00	=	_____
7" Tulips	_____	X	\$10.00	=	_____
7" Hyacinths	_____	X	\$9.00	=	_____
6" Azalea	_____	X	\$15.00	=	_____

Please order an Easter plant to help decorate the Sanctuary on Easter. All orders are due by Sunday, March 29, 2015. No late orders can be taken. Please fill out this form and hand in to the office with payment. Checks can be made payable to The Congregational Church of Algonquin. Plants may be taken home after the 10:00am service on Easter Sunday. Thanks!

Shop Heavenly Attic Resale Shop



307 South Main Street
Algonquin, IL 60102-2655
Phone: 847-854-4552

**Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm
Saturday 10am to 2 pm**

The Heavenly Attic Resale Shop stocks gently used items and is open to the public. Proceeds from the Attic support the missions and ministries of the CCA

Church Calendar



The Church Calendar is available on line for all to see at any time. Just go to our website algonquinucc.org and choose the "Calendar" page and that is where you can see an up to date calendar of events for the Church year.

If you wish to have an event/meeting put on the calendar, please use the Form for adding/ changing/cancelling an event.

Using the forms will indicate to the office your needs for the meeting and allow the Church Office to keep our meetings up to date and make sure you have a room when you need one. You can find the form in the mailbox marked "forms" or attached to the office desk calendar.

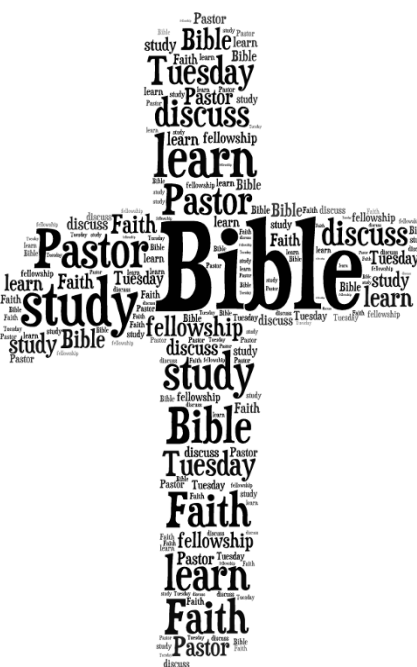


March 14th 8am
Fellowship Hall

"Living our faith in Jesus Christ through acceptance,
service and love"



Every 1st Wednesday is Game Day
2nd-4th Wednesday's are focused on
fellowship



Tuesdays with the Pastor

4:30 - 6:00

We invite you to join us every Tuesday for a Bible study with Pastor Cope. New people are always welcome for a stimulating study and discussion.

Senior Center

TUESDAYS 9:00 AM – NOON

The Senior Center meets weekly at the Congregational Church. It provides a gathering place for senior adults where fellowship, socialization, educational and enrichment opportunities are available. The center is open each Tuesday from 9:00 am to noon. If you have any questions, please contact the church at 847-658-5308 and leave a message for WynnAnn Roggeveen.

Yarn Works

We knit, crochet, and all other type of hand work. New people are always welcome: we have supplies to get you started, and absolutely lovely people to teach you if you want to learn. Our work helps support our Prayer Shawl Ministry, Snug Hugs for Kids, and our own personal projects.

**Join us Thursdays at 10:00 am
In Fellowship Hall**



Public 1st Saturday of the month

March 7th

Action **Volunteer your time
or a meal to help
someone in need**

Deliver **See the sign-up sheet
in Fellowship Hall**

Shelter **Community and School Service
hours are given**

Check us out on the web!

www.algonquinucc.org

You can view important church information, upcoming events, the most updated monthly calendar, and you can even order Fair Trade items online!

Keep an eye out for the most up to date Information by staying connected!

TEEN FAITH in ACTION

“Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”
James 2:18

March 8th & 22nd

10:00 am

**We meet on the Second and Fourth Sundays each month to plan ways to make the world a better place, using Scripture to guide us how to put our Faith into Action.
All Youth are Welcome.**



2nd Friday of every month

**7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
\$5 cost to play**

**March
13th**

*Play for a cause!
Winnings are donated to a
charity/mission*

See Sign-up Sheet in Fellowship Hall

**Thursday
March 19th
7:00 pm**

faith^{IN}
action



WA Literacy Tutoring Update

Two members of our congregation are already tutoring. Twelve others have completed (or almost completed) their training for certification and will soon be assigned to at least one adult student each.

How is the Congregational Church of Algonquin involved in literacy tutoring?

Our church is making public space available for tutors to use. In addition, plans are being made to offer support group meetings for tutors and to make some resource books and supplies available.

What do I need to do to become a tutor?

If English is your primary language, you are already an “expert.” All you need to do to be qualified to tutor, is to become certified. You can do that by taking **free tutor training classes**. These are available through:

The Literacy Connection of Elgin (12 hours of instruction plus \$25 purchase of textbook)

McHenry County College (12 hours of instruction plus 10 hours of practicum experience)

The organization you choose will then assign you to an adult learner(s). There are brochures available at the **Literacy Tutoring display in Fellowship Hall** that explain more about their classes and tutor/learner assignments.

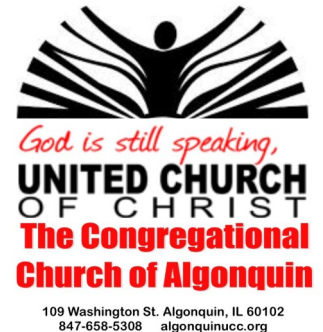
Any questions? Please talk to Pastor Cope, Sandy Ferguson or Lynn Brown.

More information is also available on:

The church’s website: algonquinucc.org. (Get Involved/Current Projects.)

The Literacy Connection’s website: elginliteracy.org

McHenry County College’s website: mchenry.edu/volunteer



Do you speak Polish or do you know someone who does? The Literacy Connection of Elgin, a volunteer tutoring organization, is looking for someone who speaks Polish and would be willing to be an occasional volunteer translator. For more information, contact Sandy Ferguson.



On March 8, at 11:15am we are blessed to have Hashim Han, a Muslim American, who will speak to us about Islam. He has a power point presentation and will answer questions we may have about the Islamic Faith.

MISSION: POSSIBLE

A Tale of Love in Action



Pat Kramer began volunteering at our church's Heavenly Attic Resale Shop in 1995.

"What I love most is talking with the many interesting customers," says Pat. "Some come looking for a bargain, others for a treasure. Occasionally people have lost many of their necessities through a tragedy like a fire, and we can help them get started again. Then there are the regulars who come every week to see what's new, and maybe mostly to visit."

One woman used to arrive by bicycle, her only transportation. About every other week she would buy a set of sheets. When Pat asked her what she did with all of those sheets, she said, "It's cheaper to buy them here than to wash sheets at the laundromat!"

Pat says she likes to tell customers that the shop is affiliated with the Congregational Church. She wants them to know that the church is there and is available to them.

The Heavenly Attic sells gently used items, and is open to the public. Donations are collected at the church and CCA volunteers staff the shop. Proceeds support various missions of CCA.

We are in need of candy to stuff our Easter Eggs, if you would like to donate some, please ensure it will fit within a plastic egg and bring it to the church office!



Items currently needed:
Infant Car Seats (new), Over the Door Hooks



Items currently needed:
Macaroni & Cheese

THE TUESDAY WITH THE PASTOR study group is challenging themselves and the congregation to "Go the Extra Mile, and Give More" whenever possible. Towards this goal, we are choosing two items every month for us to give above our regular giving to the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry and the Home of the Sparrow Women and Children Shelter. For **February**, if you would like to help out the Food Pantry, please bring **macaroni & cheese**. If you can help the Home of Sparrow, please bring **infant car seats (new) and over the door hooks**



Fair Trade

**March 8th
is Fair Trade
Sunday!**

It is a good time to stock up on your favorite coffee in flavors and regular, and they make nice gifts this time of year.

We're on the church website: algonquinucc.org

Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

A few more happening's in March;

Durty Nellies Night - March 8th

See the sign up sheet!

VBS Save The Date

Mark your calendars now, VBS is

Aug. 4-6 from 6-8:30pm

Daylight Saving Time

begins March 8th!





COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- Mar. 1 Peg Schwab, Shirley Basler & Kathy Dittmann
- Mar. 8 Wilson Family
- Mar. 15 Corn Beef & Cabbage
- Mar. 22 Erion Family
- Mar. 29 Richard Noxon, Barb Hess & Martha Wallace



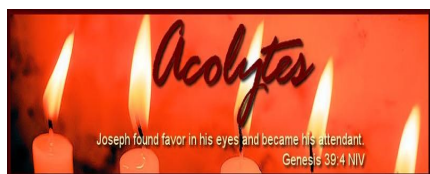
Ushers Greeters

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Mar. 1 | Main: Ron Martens
Corner: Dick Elke | Desk: Sally Cope
Corner: Dave Carris |
| Mar. 8 | Main: Ron Martens
Corner: WynnAnn R. | Desk: Peg Schwab
Corner: Sharon Stengel |
| Mar. 15 | Main: Ron Martens
Corner: Lori Martens | Desk: Sally Cope
Corner: Ed Turk |
| Mar. 22 | Main: Ron Martens
Corner: Ann Armato | Desk: Sandy Ferguson
Corner: WynnAnn R. |
| Mar. 29 | Main: Ron Martens
Corner: Lori Martens | Desk: Donna Brown
Corner: Ed Turk |



TEACHER SCHEDULE

- Mar. 1 Liz Albandia & Stephanie Barham
- Mar. 8 Sharon Stengel & Wynn Ann Roggeveen
- Mar. 15 Pam Elliott & Alice Woertendyke
- Mar. 22 Karen Guenther & Dede Gray
- Mar. 29 Karen Guenther & Alice Woertendyke



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- Mar. 1 A.J. Albandia
- Mar. 8 Nolan Pocijewski
- Mar. 15 Scott & Abby Kapusinski
- Mar. 22 Macy & Ella Barham
- Mar. 29 Robert Woertendyke



LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- Mar. 1 Norm Stengel
- Mar. 8 Dick Elke
- Mar. 15 Sally Cope
- Mar. 22 Lynn Brown
- Mar. 29 Pam Elliott



Treasurer Report

Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2014

Total Operating Fund Income

for month of January \$35,331.83

YTD \$35,331.83

Total Operating Expenses

for month of December \$30,105.79

YTD \$30,105.79

Mortgage Balance \$149,858.27

If you would like a copy of the entire monthly Treasurer's Report, please contact the Church Office.

Notes from the office...

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!



Disclaimer: It is our policy to display photos of our events on Social media of events and fellowship activities of our members and not to include personal names. If any member/friend of the church does not wish for their image to be used in our media publications, it is their right to request that their image is removed or not used. A file will be maintained in the church office to keep all posters on behalf of CCA informed of those who wish to decline participation in Social Media.



Dear Congregation friends,

Your prayers & wishes are appreciated—it is great to be remembered. I am well and wish everyone great health and happiness. Hope to attend services soon.

Betty Blair

Dear UCC Church Family,

Thank you so much for a beautiful baptism ceremony for our sweet Caroline. We appreciate all the love and well wishes we received. Pastor Cope, you were wonderful with Caroline and she was so peaceful the entire day! Also, thank you for Caroline's lovely baptismal gifts, especially the dolly - what craftsmanship! We are so blessed that Caroline is now a part of God's family. God Bless you all and we will see you soon!

Love, The Wodziaks, Chris, Connie, and Caroline



Offering received March 15th

When the early followers of Jesus suffered a famine in Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul organized an appeal to respond to their needs. Christian communities in distant places contributed to this ecumenical offering, just as we do all these centuries later through One Great Hour of Sharing.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet. God provides the resources so that we can give back.

Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. What if we all lived as if this is our call?

We would change the word!

Please give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

About CCA and the UCC

**The Congregational Church
of Algonquin
A United Church of Christ
109 Washington Street
Algonquin, Illinois 60102**

**Phone:
847.658.5308**

**Website:
www.algonquinucc.org**

**Email:
algonquinucc@gmail.com**

Senior Pastor
Rev. Brian Cope
Pastoral Counseling
Rev. Dr. Arn Schaper
Administrative Assistant
Wanda Siverio

The Congregational Church of Algonquin is a congregation affiliated with the United Church of Christ. It is one of the oldest churches in McHenry County. Members have been worshiping in its current sanctuary since 1868.

The church is located a block east of Main Street (Route 31) and a block south of Algonquin Road (Route 62) in downtown Algonquin.

The United Church of Christ is a denomination with over 1.4 million members in nearly 6,000 congregations. The UCC was founded in

1957 by uniting several different Christian traditions. From the beginning we were a church that affirmed the ideal that Christians did not always have to agree to live together in communion. Our motto - *"that they may all be one"* - is Jesus' prayer for the unity of the church. The UCC is one of the most diverse Christian churches in the U.S.

Affirming that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, the UCC claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of

Protestant reformers. Yet the UCC also affirms the responsibility of each generation and community to make faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world.

For more information about the United Church of Christ, go to www.ucc.org.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALGONQUIN
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
109 WASHINGTON STREET
ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS 60102**