

Announcements



Prayer List: Family of Bev Denyes, Arlene Cleberg, The Family of Nex Benedict, The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After ten weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$33,814.23.
After ten weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$48,678.56.

This Week at the Church

Sunday, March 17

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)
10:30 AM -- 5th Sunday in Lent –
Prophesy! End Times! Keep awake!
Let's dig through what Jesus says and
what Jesus doesn't say about when the
world is 'coming to an end.'
Does this have anything to do with us
today?

Fellowship Following.

Monday, March 18

2:00 PM-6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)
3:00 PM-5:00 PM – Food Shelf (LL)
Al-Anon is taking a break

Tuesday, March 19

12:00 PM – Clergy Cluster
2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (ZO)
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)
5:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)
5:00 PM Worship Committee (PO+Z)
6:00 PM – Confirmation (LL)
6:00 PM – Sing-A-Long (N)

Thursday, March 21

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)
12:00 PM – Women's AA (FS)
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)
3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public
Health (MR)

Friday, March 22

7:00 AM – AA (FS)
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch (Java Moose)
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)
7:30 PM – AA (FS)

Saturday, March 23

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons
(SA)

Sunday, March 24

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)
10:30 AM – 6th Sunday in Lent/Palm
Sunday – In our Narrative Lectionary, we
sort of bypass the triumphal entry into
Jerusalem because it happens before
our stories we have been reading. Today,
we will focus on the gift of the unnamed
woman who anoints Jesus for his death.

Fellowship Following.

MISSION MOMENT

“WELCOMING NEIGHBORS: REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS”

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees reports that there are currently almost 110 million people forcibly displaced from their homes. This figure includes at least 36.4 million refugees, in addition to another 6 million Palestinians. It is the highest number of displaced in recorded human history.

Most often, we think of displaced persons as those who have fled wars, violence, or persecution, but there are many other reasons for migration, such as lack of economic opportunity, lack of access to natural resources like water, food, and energy, and climate change. In the Middle East and Europe, One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs of partners in Morocco, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, and Palestine that respond to the needs of those who have been forced from their homes. The Evangelical Church in Morocco is a church that is predominantly made up of people from more than 15 African countries.

It has opened its doors through its International Mutual Aid Committee (CEI) to provide basic immediate needs for new arrivals, who have come to Morocco from many of the same African countries as its members.

The migrants in Morocco have experienced much hardship before arriving there, such as human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. They are desperate to pass through the country to Europe, to rest and remain, worn out from their experience, or simply wish to return home. They arrive in need of physical, mental health, and spiritual care.

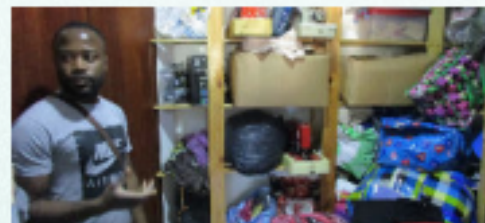
CEI attempts to address these needs, living out Jesus' teaching that, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). It offers care for newborn children and their mothers, medical assistance, vocational training, micro-loans for entrepreneurial projects, and scholarships for study.

In these ways, people who are in the greatest of need are able to enjoy something of the fullness of life, as the Evangelical Church in Morocco welcomes, loves, and cares for the most vulnerable of people.

Dr. Peter E. Makari, Ph.D., Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ



Migrant beneficiaries with the CEI team, near Agadir, Morocco



Local CEI coordinator in Agadir, Morocco