



# Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



## October 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 10

*Following Christ, We Connect a Diversity of People with each other and with God*

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### **Embracing the Seasons of Our Lives"**

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."  
-Psalm 104:24

As we witness the gradual arrival of fall, we are reminded of the beauty that lies within the changing seasons. Apple orchards are heavy with ripe fruit, about to fall to the ground. The trees around our church grounds will soon be filled with leaves of orange, red and yellow, captivating the eyes of the passersby, who would maybe stop to take a nice picture.

In these moments, we see the divine tapestry of God's creation in truly amazing ways. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a place where I could experience the change of seasons, and these little hints of fall continue to astonish me. May we never become too accustomed to these wonders, always maintaining our childlike wonder and appreciation.

Yet, we are also aware that in the coming months, there will be days when everything seems to blend together into dullness. The landscape will be covered in cold, and the ground with a blanket of snow. It won't be the unspoiled, new snow; instead, it will be the harsh, compacted ice that clings to sidewalks, ready to trip up those who dare to walk on them. By the time March arrives, our hearts will long for the arrival of spring.

It doesn't take much to recognize God's goodness when we look at the splendor of creation on its most picturesque days. However, it becomes harder when the world around us is covered in gray and shivers with cold. Yet, it is these harsh winters that grant us the privilege of experiencing vibrant springs, beautiful summers, and autumns worthy as postcards.

In many ways, the seasons of our lives mirror the seasons of the natural world. There are times when our lives shine as brightly as the church's tree-lined landscape, and there are days when it feels as though everything is withering away. Yet, it is during those seemingly dull and gray days that we often undergo transformations, like the caterpillar in its cocoon, preparing to burst forth into the world in a burst of color and vitality. Learning to cherish the ordinary and seemingly unremarkable moments may be the most profound way to honor God's creation, both in the world and within ourselves.

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, even on the grayest of days, may you reveal to us the subtle reminders of your ongoing work in our lives. Help us find hope in the midst of uncertainty and appreciate the beauty that can emerge from even the most ordinary moments. Amen.

With love,

Rev. C

# Worship Ministry

**October 1**

**World Communion Sunday/Brunch at Sunrise Grill**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Corrine Bachar
Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:1-13

**October 8**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a – Potluck in Webster Hall
Lay Reader	Les Stein
Scripture Reading	Philippians 3:4b - 14

**October 15**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4: 1-9

**October 22**

**Anniversary Sunday**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Dave Horwitz
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 1 :1-10

**October 29**

**Youth Sunday/Trunk or Treat**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Youth
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 2 : 1-8

## Children's & Adult Education Ministry



A Back to School blessing was held on Rally Day in September, for students in Sunday School and in general. Included in the group photo are two graduate students, FCC members Rhonda Yost and Matt Cameron.

## Diaconate Ministry

### Have You Heard?

Did you know about the Upper Room? It is a daily devotional that is available in a rack outside the Church Office. If you need some extra inspiration, you might want to take a look.

## Membership & Communications Ministry



Our first “Movie Day” was held in September and featured *A Man Called Otto*. Participants enjoyed popcorn and other snacks in Webster Hall during intermission.

### **Pet Blessing Here October 1**

Pets and their people are invited to our annual Blessing of the Pets, to be held on the church’s front lawn at 2:00pm on Sunday, October 1. Marcia Urban, a retired pastor and member of our congregation, will officiate.

### **Womens Fellowship to Bake, Discuss History of Church Sanctuary**

As we are not having our own Bake & Craft sale, all members are encouraged to provide baked goods and help at the upcoming Craft & Market sale on October 7. We will have an interesting meeting on Tuesday, October 10 at 1:30pm in the SANCTUARY! As our building is now 94 years old, we thought maybe we should talk about changes that have been made in the sanctuary over time. Our church Historian, Nancy Meyer, and a couple of our longtime members will share what they know and/or remember! No refreshments this meeting. Then, on Sunday, November 5, we are going to see “Hello, Dolly” at Prairie Lakes Theater. The play starts at 2:00pm. Watch for an announcement for taking reservations/payment. All church members are welcome.

## Creative Conversation Underway – All are Welcome

Creative Conversation is FCCDP's book club. It meets once a month, on the second Monday of each month, at 10 a.m. for about an hour. All are welcome. Each member of the group has the option of reviewing a book of her/his choosing, which others can read from the library (ordered ahead), audio book or on a tablet. The choice is the reviewer's and every genre is open for discussion. Reviewers may choose their own patterns for the review, which will ultimately involve opening the discussion to the others present. There have been some really powerful discussions in the past. The **October 9** selection is *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah. Whether you've had a chance to read the book or not, we hope you'll join us for what we expect to be a lively discussion.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**AT**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**When:** Sunday, October 29 at 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** 766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines  
In the parking lot  
Street parking on Marion, Graceland

**Who:** Everyone!

**For more info:**  
sewnspark@sbcglobal.net  
or 847-299-5561

**ALL FAMILIES WELCOME!**

**CANDY! FUN!**

**BOO**

Our second annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 29. Church members and friends are encouraged to participate by decorating their cars and distributing candy to trick or treaters in our church parking lot. Watch Notes from Co and Sunday Tidings for details!

## Mission & Outreach Ministry

### **FCC to Assist 20 CBP Students from North School This Year**

North Elementary School's social worker has identified three more students in need of weekend sustenance through the Community Backpack Project (CBP); this brings our weekly bags of provisions to 20. This is expected to be the number for the rest of the academic year. Items we are currently in need of for the packages include: single-serve oatmeal packages; small cans of Vienna sausage *or* tuna *or* chicken; beef stew [as well as its equivalents: chunky soup, chili, hash, chicken a la king]; and instant hot chocolate packets [as the temperature drops]. As always, cans of vegetables [±15 oz.] and boxed macaroni and cheese are always ready for resupply. For questions contact Lowell Handy at [handytrees@att.net](mailto:handytrees@att.net)

## Music Ministry

### **Any Church Music Favorites?**

Our accompanist Anna Kovalevska would appreciate suggestions from the congregation for church music to play in the Sunday worship services. If you have favorite pieces from Classical, Traditional Church, Modern Ecclesiastical, or even other appropriate music for a worship service, please let Anna know. Classical music is almost entirely available on-line, but other requests may require supplying the musical score with the request. Thank you for this consideration.

### **Save the Date!**

A Christmas Cantata presented by our own Chancel Choir and accompanied by Anna Kovalevska is scheduled for 4:30pm on Sunday, December 17. There will be many moments during the *Joy to the World* performance where you can sing your favorite Christmas carols, too. Afterwards, you are invited to share your favorite holiday main dish, side dish, appetizer, salad or dessert at a festive potluck in Webster Hall. To learn more, contact Scott Emerick at [scott\\_fccdp@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_fccdp@yahoo.com).

## Youth Ministry



Our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) youth shared their summer mission trip experience with the congregation during Rally Day in September. The group spent a week in Colorado, where they worked with special needs campers at Adam's Camp. Pictured (l to r) enjoying some free time are Mia, Eddie, Caiden and Caitlyn with PF co-director Matt Cameron.

# Finance Committee

## Financial Report

Church income for July and August totaled \$51,357. Expenses over the same period totaled \$50,650, putting us \$707 in the black after the first two months of our new Fiscal year. But remember, with winter approaching, expenses will soon be going up to cover heating and snow removal costs. Please help us keep the budget in balance by keeping up-to-date with your pledges and offerings.

## Craft & Market Day October 7

This year's Craft & Market Day will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. And we need your help to make it a success!



**2023**  
**CRAFT AND**  
**MARKET**  
**DAY**  
**FREE ADMISSON!**

**Join us at our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Craft & Market Day!**

There'll be local crafters, artisans, local businesses, talented artists, woodworking, jewelry, holiday gifts and more!

Vendors will be located both inside and outside the church.

- Purchase a yummy treat at the all-church bake sale.
- Enter a raffle for a basket of gift cards and certificates, valued at over \$1,000.
- Stay for lunch. Boy Scout Troop #6 will handle food sales.
- Border Tails Rescue with Puppies for Adoption!

Come and Enjoy this community event!

**OCTOBER 7,**  
**2023**

**9 AM – 3 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF DES PLAINES  
766 GRACELAND AVENUE DES PLAINES



**Volunteers needed!** Can you help us for an hour or two on Saturday, October 7? Volunteers are needed to help vendors bring in their merchandise from the parking lot before the sale starts (from 7:30am to 9:00am). Volunteers will also be needed to help vendors bring their supplies and any unsold items back to their cars at the end of the day, take down tables, and return Webster Hall to “Sunday-ready” condition (9 pprox.. 2:45pm to 4:00pm). Volunteers will be needed throughout the day to greet shoppers, direct traffic flow, sell raffle tickets, and more. Contact Sharon Urry at [surry1024@comcast.net](mailto:surry1024@comcast.net) if you can help.

**Bake something yummy for the Bake Sale!** Baked good can be dropped off in the church kitchen on Friday evening, October 6. Volunteers also are sought to help during the Bake Sale 9:00am-3:00pm on Saturday. Questions? Contact this year’s All Church Bake Sale coordinator, Faith Engler.

**Distribute flyers to your friends, neighbors, and community groups!** Flyers are available in the church office. Looking for other ways to help, contact our Event Chair, Daisy Farley at [craftvendorfccdp@gmail.com](mailto:craftvendorfccdp@gmail.com).

**Most of all ... come out and shop on October 7!** Find that perfect something for yourself or as a gift. Buy a raffle ticket, to win a basket of gift cards valued at over \$1,000. Take home a special Bake Sale treat. Stay for lunch (food sales handled by Boy Schout Troop #6). Check out the dogs from Border Tails Rescue. It promises to be a fun day for all!

## **Gift Card Sales Begin Next Month**

Gift cards for a wide range of businesses will once again be available for purchase through FCCDP this holiday season. Orders will be taken beginning Sunday, November 5 and continuing for the following six weeks. Watch for the full list of available cards and complete sale details coming out later this month. All profits from the sale will benefit the church’s general budget. For each card sold, our church will receive 3%, 5%, 10% or more of the card’s face value. So, start to think about cards you may want to purchase for yourself or as holiday gifts for others. Thanks to Rod Beets for once again organizing and overseeing this important church fundraiser.

## **Bulletin Board of Bills**

Thanks to everyone who supported this year’s Bulletin Board of Bills. Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$2,600 for the church’s general budget.

## **“Second Time” Drop-off Dates and More...**

STA sale update: Our October drop-off dates will be Sunday, October 1 following the worship service and Wednesday, October 18 from 10:00am to 11:00am. We really appreciate your labeling your boxes and treasures as to which location they will be eventually heading to [clothing, housewares, toys, electronics, holiday, antiques]. Speaking of housewares, if you are donating bed linens, please help by indicating what size [T, D, Q, K– maybe pin a note Inside the bag/box?]. Thank you in advance. Regarding furniture, we are still in discussions as to the best location to store such items and what type of furniture we would accept. We will keep you posted. If you have any questions, please contact STA co-chairs Chris Tomsic [ctomisc@mac.com] or Ellen Alde [ealdefccdp@gmail.com].

## **From the Community**

### **Senior Assistance Center Hosts Fall Festival This Month**

The Senior Assistance Center of Norridge will hold a Fall Festival from 12:00pm to 3:00pm on Sunday, October 15 at the Harwood Heights Recreation Center, 7300 W. Wilson Ave. The event features food, beverages, bingo, raffle prizes and more. Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained through Paul Schmitt of our congregation.

## **Pre-School News**

### **Help Rocky the Rock Snake Grow!**

**You can help the Pre-School by painting a rock to Help Rocky the Rock Snake Grow and see how long he can get! Starting the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can paint your own rock or pick up a rock by the Church Office Door. Let Rocky show his colorful scales!!!**

## Happy Birthday to You!!

Congratulations to the following church members/friends on their birthdays!!

***If you would like to add a birthday, please contact the church secretary,  
Paul Whittenhall at 847/299-5561.***

Dave Alde	04-Oct	Eric Walusiak	18-Oct
Jon Grice	04-Oct	Margaret Cruz	21-Oct
Jessica McMillan	05-Oct	Lea Masciopinto	21-Oct
Luke Engler	06-Oct	Marcia Alban	26-Oct
Joyce Beets	11-Oct	George Bielat	30-Oct
Cathy Wiesner	13-Oct	Marlene Laws	30-Oct
Ellen Alde	15-Oct		

## Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of John L. Donoghue from Kevin Donoghue

## From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The last couple of my Tidings articles were about the building of the “new” parsonage on Oakwood Avenue back in 1950. One former member replied, asking where the “old” one was. I told him he’d have to wait. Here is what I have learned.

From the Congregational Centennial book, pg. 54: The church parsonage at 1321 Prairie Avenue, next door to the former church building, was a product of the 1890’s. Although it was redecorated for the coming of the new minister’s family in 1941 and received minor improvements thereafter, it was clearly lacking in comfort and conveniences. When Trinity Lutheran Church, occupying the old Congregational building, found itself in need of additional space it seemed wise to sell the parsonage to Trinity Church and to build a more suitable residence for our minister. [FCCDP moved to 766 Graceland Ave. in 1929.]

From former member Jake Jacobs several years ago: *The Wintczak family lived in a white house next to the alley on Prairie adjacent to the Masonic Temple (There's an apartment building on the site now.) The Masonic Temple was the predecessor to our first church edifice, built in 1872. The Wintczak's house became our first parsonage, built in 1894.*

I have not been able to find a photo of the house, either from FCC files, DP History Center or Mary Ethel (Meth) Brehm Norris, but History Center provided the church image and Meth found these taken at her pajama party!



You can see part of parsonage on right.



Dr. and Mrs. Barwick in their living room in 1940.



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

[www.fccdp.org](http://www.fccdp.org)

847/299-5561

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> World Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation 10:45a Sunday Brunch STA Drop-off 4:00p PF Drop-In	<b>2</b> 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>3</b> 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Mtg.	<b>4</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00a Craft-and-Market Day
<b>8</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:05am Ministry Staff Potluck Rev. Co on vacation 10/09 – 10/15	<b>9</b> Columbus Day 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance	<b>10</b> 1:30p <del>Womens</del> Fellowship	<b>11</b> 9:00a WWC 7:00p Chancel Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PF Corn Maze
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>16</b> 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>17</b> Pre-school Rodeo night 5:00p Chair Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Tidings Deadline	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Bible Sunday Anniversary Sunday Grandparents Day 9:00am Worship Wholly Ringers 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	<b>23</b> 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation Trunk-n-Treat	<b>30</b> 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>31</b>	<b>Fundraisers:</b>			