



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



October 2022 - Vol. 83 – No. 10

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

Savoring Our Season

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

We already is past the official first day of fall, which was September 22 just in case you were wondering. This means that Fall will soon be unfolding in full glory. Yes, there are some places in our country where the season of fall may be a little more charming and some people may live in states with few seasons. When we lived in Florida we experienced only two seasons, the hot season, and the hot-and-humid season.

I see God's creation in amazing ways this time of year. Soon, the leaves of the rows of trees lining up to decorate our streets will change, filled with leaves that blaze orange, red and yellow. And some that just stays green. That is for some of us who is too lazy to rake leaves.

But these small signs of fall still amaze me, and I hope that I will never get used to them. And now we know that the cold days is just around the corner. It will be cold, and snow will cover the ground. Soon it won't be the wondrous new snow that's soft and shiny, but dirty, hard packed ice that lines sidewalks, ready to trip up those who use the sidewalks. By March we may all be longing for the sort of season-less climate of Florida!

It's easy to point to God's goodness by looking at creation on the most beautiful days. It's a little harder when everything is gray and cold. And yet, without the hard winters, we don't get the colorful springs, beautiful summers, and postcard-worthy falls.

It's the same with our own creation. We have times when life is as bright as that tree in front of your house. Other days, everything feels like it's dying. But sometimes the gray days are the cocoons we need before we burst forth into the world in full color. Learning to appreciate the gray, the unextraordinary, might just be the most profound way of valuing God's creation, both in the world, and in ourselves. In the grayest of days, may God show us just a small reminder that God is still at work, and we can show the rest of the world our hope.

May you enjoy and see the small signs of God's goodness as you rake your leaves this Fall!

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

October 2	World Communion Sunday/Exodus World Service	
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Bob Crocker
	Scripture Reading	Luke 17:1-10
October 9		
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Les Stein
	Scripture Reading	Luke 17:11-19
October 16		
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ellen Alde
	Scripture Reading	Luke 18:1-8
October 23	Anniversary Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Dave Horwitz
	Scripture Reading	Luke 18:9-14
October 30	Youth Sunday – Wear Your Costume to Church!	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Youth
	Scripture Reading	Luke 19:1-10

Exodus World Service to Present Refugee Program Here October 2

We are excited to welcome Exodus World Service (Project Survivor) to our church on Sunday, October 2 for a *"Fleeing for Your Life: Refugee Journey Simulation"* following our worship service. The simulation will be approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. There are 5 modules that the participants go through, in different rooms and each takes approximately 15 minutes. The group will experience on a small level what refugees experience on their journey to find a safer place to live. They will problem solve and work as a "family" as they journey together. Rev. Jason Mohn will also be our guest speaker during the worship service. Please join us for this experience!

UCC Autumn Adult Retreat October 23 at Tower Hill

The retreat will start on Sunday afternoon, October 23 and continue through Tuesday, October 25. We'll explore what's brave and beautiful about aging by means of contemplation, community conversation, and adventures in nature. Our time together will include a range of contemplative practices, community activities, rest, silence, and fun! **Retreat leader Rev. Jeffrey Phillips** is a UCC pastor and certified interfaith/interspiritual spiritual companion. Guests will stay in one of our retreat centers, with their own bedroom, shared bathrooms, large gathering spaces, sunny decks and private fire circles. Meals include supper on Sunday, and breakfasts/lunches on Monday/Tuesday. Retreat participants will go out for dinner on Monday. The Tower Hill Staff and Retreat Leaders are fully vaccinated and follow Berrien County Health Department guidance. All guests must be fully vaccinated to attend.

Cost for the Retreat is \$350 / person (*scholarships may be available*)

To register contact: Rev. Tracy Heilman (she/her/hers) at

Phone: 269-426-3881

Email: TracyHeilman@ilucc.org

Online: <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry



Join Us for Trunk or Treat on October 30!

Our-all church Halloween celebration takes place on Sunday, October 30, when “kids” of all ages are invited to wear their costumes to church that morning. Afterwards, a festive “Trunk or Treat” will take place in our parking lot. Church members/friends and guests will be distributing Halloween treats from the trunk of their decorated cars beginning at 10:30am. Decorations can be as simple as orange and black paper tablecloths or as elaborate as you’d like. Our church will have some basic Halloween decorations on hand that morning to assist. Prizes will be awarded for the most creatively decorated trunks. Sunday School students, invite your friends to join you as you trick or treat from car to car! Questions? Speak with Sue Almerigi or contact her at sewnspark@sbcglobal.net.

Diaconate Ministry

‘Got Pop Bottles?

The Diaconate Ministry wants **your** two-liter wide bottom plastic pop bottles! The bottles are used to transport flowers to church members and friends dealing with illness and other special circumstances. You can bring your bottles to church and leave them on the back kitchen counter, inside the door closest to the women’s washroom.

About Those Flowers...

Were you aware that the altar flowers on Sunday mornings can be designated in honor or memory of a loved one? Make a contribution of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund and designate the flowers for a specific Sunday to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. The honoree and occasion will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. After they are displayed on the Altar, flowers will be delivered to church members who are shut-ins and those who are ill or offered as an expression of sympathy and for special occasions. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Membership & Communications Ministry



Thanks to those who contributed photos to our Summer Vacation display in the main hallway.

Pet Blessing October 2

Our annual Blessing of the Pets will take place outside our Graceland Ave. entrance at 3:00pm on Sunday, October 2. Rev. Marcia Urban, a member of our congregation, will officiate. For details speak with Marcia.

Let's Talk...

New this month – A chance to chat and socialize informally with fellow church members about whatever's on your mind. Open to all – just drop in! The first "Let's Talk" will begin at 7:00pm on Thursday, October 20 at Moretti's in Mt. Prospect. Appetizers provided, with beverages available for purchase. Watch for reminders in Notes from Co.

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 selection is *Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah. A comedian and talk show host, Noah brings his own brand of humor to his personal story of growing up with a black mother and a white father, during Apartheid in South Africa. The **October 10** discussion will be led by Sharon Urry. 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.

Evening Circle to Play Farkle in October

Evening Circle's next meeting is at 7:00pm on Tuesday, October 11, in the Barwick Room. All women of the church are invited to come and join in the fun, fellowship, planning and refreshments. After a brief meeting and refreshments, we'll play a family dice game called Farkle. A special thanks to all those who donated baked goods for our church's recent Craft & Market Day. Although the sale was coordinated by Evening Circle, many members of the church contributed homemade treats to this sale, which raised a total of **\$1,650.75** for our church!

Staying Connected

Printed copies of our updated FCCDP church directory are available upon request by contacting the Church Office. A digital version of the directory is updated regularly, with additions/revisions to addresses and phone numbers. For details contact Paul Whittenhall from 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday.

We Want to Hear from You!

Is there a particular social activity you'd like to enjoy with other church members and friends? If so, we'd like to hear your suggestions. Theater, sporting events, wine tasting – what might interest you enough to participate? Please share your ideas with MAC Ministry members Ralph Murdy or Debbie Walusiak. You also can leave a note in the Suggestion Box, outside of the Church Office. Thanks!

Mission & Outreach Ministry



Backpack Program Underway – Helpers Sought

The Backpack Ministry is up and running; we have 14 children that we are supplying with weekend food [the social worker at North School may alter this number]. We have had a generous outpouring of donations and we thank everyone for their support. Certain items, however, are in need (mostly because they are used every week) so we could use the following items: small cans of Vienna sausages, tuna or chicken; 8 oz. cans of vegetables; beef stew (± 15 oz. & lower fat and salt brands), chili, chunky soup, chicken a la king; canned pasta with meat; boxed mac & cheese; instant mashed potato packets (that require water); canned kidney beans; rice (1 lb. bags). We currently are urgently in need of 20 oz. plastic jars of jelly. As always, any individually-wrapped snack items you think children would enjoy are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be in the Church Office through October; deliverers are still needed. Thank you to everyone. For further information contact Lowell at handytreesh@att.net.

Meals on Wheels Seeks Drivers

Beginning October 10 and going through November 4, First Congregational Church is slated to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Des Plaines area. Additional volunteer drivers are sought to deliver meals to the homebound. To learn more about how you can help, contact Richard Schacht at ilcpa95@hotmail.com.

Project Survivor Makes One Delivery

Our church's Project Survivor team made one Welcome Pack delivery in September to a client of Exodus World Service, which helps new refugees settle in the Chicago area. The delivery was made to the Exodus office in Park Ridge, by Nancy Brink and John Foster. Project Survivor currently seeks donations of paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, **NEW** tea kettles, **NEW** twin blankets, and packages of 4 light bulbs (60 watt). Thanks to all who have donated various new items to help refugees. For details contact Nancy Brink.

Music Ministry



Our intergenerational Handbell Choir performed
In church, in September.

Property Ministry

Sign-up Open for CPR Training This Month

Training in CPR and First Aid is open to all and will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm on Friday, October 28, in the Barwick Room. Cost for the class is \$50. Space is limited. Questions? Contact Jim Foster at 224/361-6735.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Church income for July & August totaled \$63,908. Expenses over the same period totaled \$47,435. This means that after the first two months of our new Fiscal Year, we have a positive cushion of \$16,473. That's a great way to start the year! But remember, with winter quickly approaching, expenses will soon be going up for heating and snow removal, and we may have to access that cushion. But, you can help us keep the budget in balance. Please keep up-to-date with your pledges and offerings.

Bulletin Board of Bills

Special thanks to everyone who supported our summer fundraiser, the Bulletin Board of Bills. Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$5,900 for the church's general budget.

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. We're pleased to announce that our first order date of 2022 will be November 6, with the Sale continuing for the following six weeks. Our final order date will be December 11, with final card pick up on December 18. 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. And thanks to Rod Beets for once again organizing and overseeing this important church fundraiser.

Craft & Market Fair a Success!

Our September 24 Craft & Market Fair was a wonderful event that was made possible with the help of many – thank you, all! A complete financial report will be published in the November Tidings. Meanwhile, here’s a glimpse of the day...



Thanks to Mother Nature for lending great weather to this indoor/outdoor event!



Larry Schimka exhibits his “colorist” artwork.



Jackie & Paul Schmitt with Jackie's handiwork.



Deb Alde with some of the raffle basket contents.



And, the grand raffle winner is Pat Coy, a former FCC member! Pictured (l to r) are Jana Haas, Rick Warren and Sharon Urry.

“Second Time Around” Sale set for April 29, 2023

(Submitted by Ellen Alde) We to offer you this wonderful opportunity to meet and work with fellow congregants. This also gives you a chance to donate fabulous items that you may have held back for April 29, 2023. Our next early drop-off date is **November 6**. *Note: There will be two drop-off dates in November but none in October.* Please help us by labeling your containers (toys, clothing, housewares, electronics, etc.) for purposes of sorting and storing. New for this year, we will not be accepting furniture. If you have additional questions, please direct them to STA co-chairs Ellen Alde and Chris Tomsic.

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	Gavin Fink	24-Oct
Michael Miller	08-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	Andrew Pittman	31-Oct



Congratulations!

Best Wishes to the Ruedisueli family on the September 11 birth of **Wren Eliza** In Colorado. She is the daughter of Dan & Carrie and the little sister of Sam. Grandparents are Jim & Kathy Ruedusueli.

Save These Dates!

November 6 – Troop 6 Pancake Breakfast at Church

December 10 – PF Holiday Cookie Walk

In Memoriam

Michele L. Weber

September 13, 2022

Martin Louis Potter

May 27, 2022

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Michele Weber from Robbin Muhr

In Honor of Barb & Bob McCullough from Robbin Muhr

In Honor of Ken Jenks & Janet McCullough from Robbin Muhr

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

After a long hot summer, I decided it was just time for some smiles!

God's Plan for Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need.

In His wisdom He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will.

It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

- 9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- 8 Life is sexually transmitted.
- 7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- 6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- 5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- 4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- 3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- 2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- 1 Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 World Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Exodus: World Service Refugee Simulation	3 7:00p Wholly Ringers	4 7:00p Worship Ministry	5 9:00a WWC	6	7	1
9 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:00am Ministry Staff	10 7:00p Wholly Ringers 11:00a Creative Conversation	11 12:00p Administrative Staff	12 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	13 7:00p Membership & Communications	14	8 15
16 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:00a Confirmation	17 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	18 7:00p Evening Circle	19 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	20 Tidings Deadline	21	22
23 Church Anniversary 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	24 7:00p Wholly Ringers	25 7:00p Choir Meeting 7:00p Council	26 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	27	28	29
30 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship Wholly Ringers 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	31 Halloween 7:00p Wholly Ringers		7:00p Chancel Choir Fundraisers:			