

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



November 2022 - Vol. 83 – No. 11

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

For All the Saints Who Love Halloween

"See, the home of God is among mortals... God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more." - Revelation 21:3a-4

We had a very successful Youth Sunday/Trunk-or-Treat event on Sunday, October 30. I'm impressed with our Ministry Staff with their performance of ZZ 'Top's "Sharp Dressed Man."

Many of our church members also dressed up, and not just our kids. The service was followed by a very successful Trunk-or-Treat after the worship service. We had many church people that decorated their trunks and many people from the community showed up.

Lillian Daniel, wrote a reflection entitled, "For All the Saints Who Love Halloween, in the UCC Devotionals, on November 1, 2018.

At least on my block, All Saints Day is overshadowed by Halloween. That irritates some people, so they take it out on Halloween, calling it a "wicked holiday" that should be scorned by the church.

The anti-Halloween crowd would not like the Haunted Halls Halloween event we just had at church, but it was all about the kids. By which I mean that the kids gave the adults the excuse to run screaming around the church in ridiculous costumes, to set up strobe lights and rubber snakes in the nursery, to put a scary mannequin and a dry ice machine in the toilet. The adults did all this while the children calmly painted pumpkins, perhaps wondering if the grown-ups would ever grow up.

Maybe I just like candy and costumes too much, but I've never felt a disconnect between Halloween and All Saints Day. Halloween was once All Hallow's Eve—not a competing event, but the evening vigil that prepared the saints on earth to remember the saints who had gone ahead.

It's natural to spend that night considering death and all that is scary. It's beautiful to spend the next day pondering the greater truth: One day God will wipe every tear from our grieving eyes, add us to the mighty cloud of witnesses, and wrap us in the love that knows no end.

We will remember all the saints who from their labors rest on Sunday, November 6.

With Love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

November 6

All Saints Sunday/Communion

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	Luke 20:27-40

November 13

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Tom Tucker
Scripture Reading	Luke 21:5-19

November 20

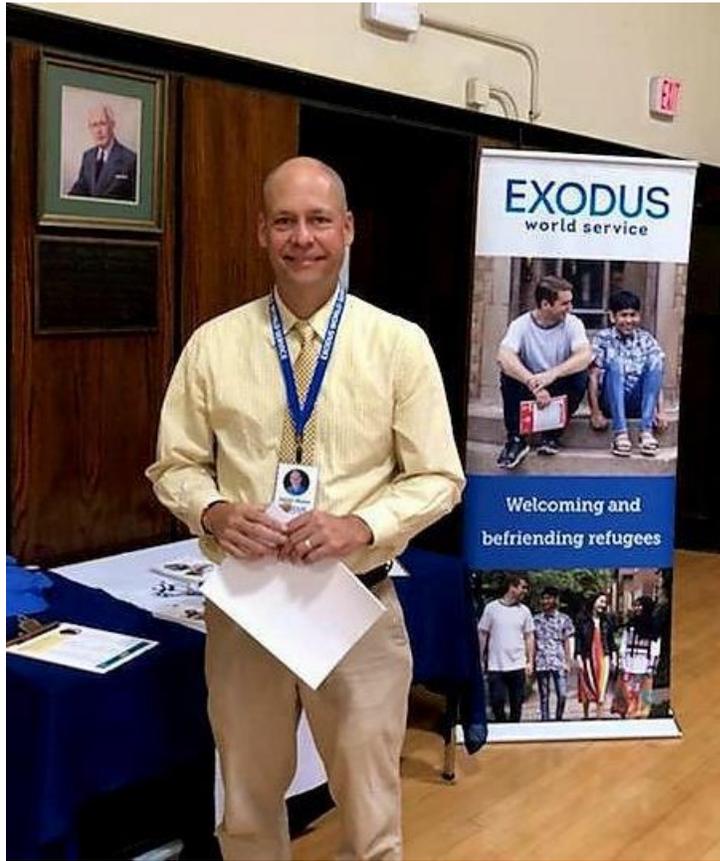
Thanksgiving Sunday/Food Drive for SHC&P and CBP

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Teena Whittenhall
Scripture Reading	Luke 23:33-43

November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
Scripture Reading	Matthew 24:36-44



Exodus World Service Refugee Simulation at FCC in October

Rev. Jason Mohn (pictured) of Exodus World Service (EWS) addressed our congregation in October and then led a “Fleeing for Your Life: Refugee Journey Simulation” for church members and guests. Groups experienced on a small level what refugees experience on their journey to find a safer place to live. Our church’s Project Survivor supports EWS in its efforts to help refugees settle in the Chicago area.

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry

Holiday News from our Sunday School

This year's **Christmas stocking donation for The Night Ministry** will include help from our Sunday School students. They will be collecting items from the congregation during the worship service and also do the stocking stuffing, under the direction of Sue Almerigi. Donated items can also be left in the sanctuary before the Sunday service or in the box marked Night Ministries during office hours. The items needed are 48 each of: pair of adult thermal socks, hats, gloves (keep in mind that even if gloves are stretchy, they can often run too small for men...please look for large sizes), full size deodorants, lotion, tissue packs, hand sanitizer, hand and toe warmers. Since the list of items needed is smaller than last year, we welcome extra hand and toe warmers, tissues and lotion. We also need assorted candy, mints, and gum (so we welcome your extra Halloween candy). Night Ministries is also looking for \$5 gift cards from fast food restaurants, \$10 cards from Walgreen and CVS and \$25 cards from Target, Jewel Osco and Walmart, which can be left in the Church Office with Paul. Thanks to everyone in advance. Please direct any questions to Charlie Warren at: cmwarren0920@gmail.com.

Our **Sunday School Christmas pageant** is back and scheduled for Sunday, December 11, with dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 10. Please help continue this longstanding FCC holiday tradition by encouraging your children to participate! Watch for details in Notes from Co and the December Tidings. Questions? Speak with Sue Almerigi.

Diaconate Ministry

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

It's Ladies' Night Out!

All adult women of the church are invited to attend Ladies' Night Out on Wednesday, November 9. Meet at Uncork, Unwind (1440 Miner St., Des Plaines) at 6:00pm for an evening of wine tasting and conversation. Food/beer/soda also available for purchase. Please sign up in the Church Office or through the church website if you plan to attend.

Let's Talk...

New this fall – A chance to chat and socialize informally with fellow church members about whatever's on your mind. Open to all – just drop in! The second "Let's Talk" will begin at **7:00pm on Monday, November 14** at Countryside in Des Plaines. 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 November selection is *Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. 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 Moves to Daytime Meeting in November

Evening Circle's next meeting is at **1:30pm** on Tuesday, November 8, 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 some fun games.

Evening Circle's Fall Bake & Craft Sale is just around the corner! A PDF order form will be available in Notes from Co during the first week of November. Order forms also will be available on the credenza outside of the Church Office. Place your order from November 2 to November 13 by emailing Nancy Meyer at nwmeyer255@aol.com. Baked/crafted goods can be picked up/paid for at church on Sunday morning, November 20 or by special arrangements with the seller. Checks payable to Congregational Women's Fellowship. Proceeds will benefit FCC and several local charities.



This fall we began meeting for an informal breakfast on the second Sunday of each month, at Sunrise Grill in Des Plaines. Please join us for our next gathering, at 11:00am on November 13. Separate checks. All are welcome!

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 Seeks Special Holiday Donations

Again this year, First Congregational Church will be providing special backpacks for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays that have extended days off from school. This year we are serving 16 children at North School.

Donations for these holiday packets would be appreciated; items needed include:

- Pancake mix (requiring only water),
- smaller plastic bottles of syrup,
- Sweet potatoes (±16 oz.),
- boxed stuffing mix,
- Canned corn and green beans (±15 oz.),
- Canned pineapple (8 oz.),
- larger packages of flavored mashed potatoes (that require 4 cups of water),
- boxed spaghetti (not over one pound),
- canned spaghetti sauce,
- Jello mix.
- Individually wrapped snacks are also welcome.

Donated items not needed for these holiday packs will be used at Spring Break or donated to the larger Community Backpack Project. We have already received the needed canned hams and cranberry sauce, so no more need to be donated. We continue to need donations for the weekly bags. Most needed items include: canned pasta, small canned vegetables (±8 oz.), small canned tuna and chicken, canned chili (with meat and beans), peanut butter, and jelly (plastic ±18 oz. jars). Donated items can be brought to the church and left on the bench at the bottom of the stairs at the West Entrance. Mark them CBP and we will take care of them; avoid bothering church staff as we will deal with the donations twice a week (Sunday & Wednesday). For further information contact Lowell at handytreesh@att.

As always, many thanks for your continuing support!

Music Ministry

Save the Date!

Our church's Chancel Choir and guests will present a Christmas music celebration, *His Name Shall Be....*, featuring Christmas classics and new arrangements on other Christmas favorites. The program begins at 4:30pm on Sunday, December 11, in the sanctuary and will be followed by light refreshments in Webster Hall. Watch Notes from Co and the December Tidings for details. Questions? Speak with Scott Emerick.

Property Ministry

Memorial Garden Dedication November 6

Join us for a dedication of our church's two Memorial Gardens, with recent brick additions, after the worship service on All Saints Sunday (November 6). The gardens are located on the church's front lawn, near Graceland Ave. & Marion St. Questions? Speak with Bob McCullough.

Youth Ministry



During Youth Sunday on October 30, our congregation heard special music from Lawson Wetendorf (left) and listened as Caiden Claussen (right) and other teens participated in the worship service.

Rent A PF, Cookie Walk Coming Up...

The annual "Rent A PF" fundraiser will be held on Saturday, November 19. This is a wonderful opportunity to get help with household chores, yardwork and more **and** raise money for our church youth at the same time! To schedule your job, contact Matt Cameron at matthew_kyle80@hotmail.com.

The annual Holiday Cookie Walk is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, with donation drop-off on December 9. Bakers needed! Watch Notes from Co and December Tidings for details.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Income for the month of September was \$26,585, while expenses were \$24,701. This puts us \$1,884 in the black for the month and \$18,347 in the black year-to-date. Thank you to everyone for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings and to the Church Ministries for holding the line on expenses.

Craft & Market Day Recap

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Craft & Market Day a resounding success. With everyone working together, we were able to net a total of \$5,679 for the church's general budget.

Thanks to all the vendors & crafters who participated, Tiki Terrace who brought their food truck, all the shoppers, and the volunteers who made everything run smoothly. And most of all, thanks to our Event Chairperson Daisy Farley, who put in countless hours planning, organizing, and overseeing the event.

Our All-Church Bake Sale made \$1,652, a record amount! Thanks to the Evening Circle ladies who coordinated and conducted the sale, all the bakers, and all the shoppers.

We made \$2,275 in raffle ticket sales! Congratulations to Patricia Coy, who won the Grand Prize basket valued at \$1,300+, and to Jo Anne Meza, who took home the 2nd Place basket valued at \$200. In addition, thanks to our raffle prize donors:

Anthony & Sons	Jana & Barry Haas
Charcoal Delights	Jimmy's Restaurant
Charlie & Rick Warren	Mariano's
Club Casa Cafe	Paul Meincke
CR Flowers and Things	Sandy Flink
Des Plaines Park District	Scharm Floor Coverings
Evolution Marketing	Sharon Urry
Faith Engler	Sunrise Grill
Giuseppe's Pizza	Zanies Comedy Club
Jan & Tom Wisocki	

Gift Card Sale Begins

The FCCDP 2022 Gift Card Sale is now underway! Pick up an order form and full list of available cards from the credenza outside the church office. Or call our church secretary at 847-299-5561 to have one sent to you. All profits from the sale will benefit the church's general budget. Gift cards make great holiday gifts for those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list. And plan ahead for other events and occasions throughout the year, when you may need gift cards. You're also encouraged to buy gift cards for yourself, for businesses you regularly frequent. It's a great way to earn money for the church, on purchases you'd be making anyway.

- The first order will be placed on Sunday, November 6, and will continue for six Sundays, with the final order being placed on December 11. Cards will be available after worship on the Sunday following the day the order was placed.
- Orders will be accepted after Sunday worship during the sale period, by emailing Rod Beets at rodbeets99@gmail.com, or by calling Rod at 847-253-3292. Deadline for both phone and email orders is 2:00 pm on the Sunday order date.
- Gift cards should be paid for at the time of order. To maximize profits from this fundraiser, we will only be able to accept payment by check (made payable to the church) or cash.

Thanks in advance for your support!

“Second Time Around” Sale: Two Early Drop-offs This Month

(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.

Teena Whittenhall	01-Nov	Christopher Potempa	17-Nov
Tommy Almerigi	03-Nov	Ryan Cooper	21-Nov
Kathleen Gray	06-Nov	Zoe Cooper	21-Nov
Nicky Pelletiere	09-Nov	Georgia DeHart	27-Nov
Aubria Cameron	11-Nov	Joanne Kimball	27-Nov
AJ Almerigi	12-Nov	Heather Zomchek	30-Nov
James Foster	13-Nov	Bob McCullough	30-Nov
Linda Opalka	14-Nov	Henry Nutley	30-Nov
Sarah Liston	17-Nov		

Congratulations!

Best Wishes to Paul Meincke & Wendy Ellis on the birth of their first grandchild on October 30. River John is the son of Cody & Jessica Meincke.





Nancy Brink and John Foster took a fall road trip and stopped to visit former longtime church members Ginny Van Scoyoc (left) in Florida and Michelle Herrera (right) in Georgia.

In Memoriam

Vera Fager
October 24, 2022

Gifts & Memorials

Trunk or Treat

“Kids” of all ages dressed in costume on Halloween Sunday, October 30 – during church and afterwards. The ZZ Top Band aka FCC Ministry staff got into the “spirit,” and there were 17 decorated cars in our parking lot for trick or treaters to visit. Of course, there also was **plenty** of candy to go around!







Band members (l to r) Anna, Ellen, Debbie, Sue, Matt, Rev. Co and (front) Scott.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

Having just celebrated our 153th anniversary, I remembered a question had been asked of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Grice, about moving to our current church in November 1929, as it is not specifically mentioned in our Centennial History book. Here is his reply, which will be continued next month!

Yes, (Aunt) Savena (Gorsline) had many stories about the first church building and especially the day the congregation moved from the first church building to its present home. Here are some of her stories and other recollections and insights to provide a historical context for the building of the new church 1928/1929.

The congregation's first church building - at the southwest corner of Prairie and Graceland - was built in 1871, two years after the "official" founding of the church in October 1869. Prior to that, Congregationalists met in homes and later in the first DP school house.

As the population of Des Plaines grew, and as more Congregationalists joined the church and the school house was somewhat unsuitable, the congregation built the 1871 church; and then extensively remodeled the original church in 1899. At this time the entrance was relocated from the front of the church as it faced Graceland to the side entrance that is along Prairie. This entrance remains. Classrooms and gathering space (for meals) were added on the west side. The interior sanctuary had a "slope" or "slant" that faced the chancel/altar which had also been changed (reversed) from the west side of the sanctuary to the east side.

Also, a parsonage for the minister was located west of the church property. This house remained the parsonage until the Oakwood Avenue Parsonage was built about 1950. -- Later, a second parsonage was purchased on the land next to the present church where the Furniture Tent is located for the Second Time Around Sale.

Savena spoke fondly of the day the congregation moved from the first church to its present building. She described it as a "bittersweet" (my word) moment. For many, the first church had been their spiritual home where they had grown-up, were married, raised children, and laid to rest their loved ones. The sanctuary and later, other rooms, were filled with personal memories. In a manner of speaking, these memories were being left behind as the worshippers walked out of their familiar sanctuary and church for the final time. Savena remembered many tears were shed.

And Savena spoke about the feelings of joy, hope, expectation, and anticipation as the congregation stepped into their future that would begin to unfold in the new and considerably larger church building. Considering the political, social, and economic ethos/environment of the "Roaring Twenties," (since the construction project began before the stock market's crash and the early years that led to the Great Depression) the congregation intentionally built a structure considerably larger than was necessary. The congregation was forward-looking and anticipated tremendous growth in membership and wealth.

The church building was to be their "gift" to future generations, something like the medieval cathedrals of Europe, it was meant to last for hundreds of years. Even the architectural style of the church is called (as I remember) "Neo-Gothic," which is different from the American Colonial Meeting-House style followed by New England Congregationalists, and in DP is represented by Christ Church. I always thought it curious that they chose the style of Neo-Gothic (European) rather than "American" since the denominational roots are with the Pilgrims and Puritans who loathed all the trappings of Catholicism and all things papish, such as the High Gothic cathedrals. I think selecting a "European" style may have had something to do with the strong German and first-generation European ties within the community and congregation, which held more significance and meaning than relating to and affirming the "Congregationalist" New England heritage. Although, the specific architecture of the new building is based on one of the English Churches, but I can't recall which one. I think it's mentioned and described more completely in the "Blue Book" from 1969.

(From an article in the Chicago Tribune in 1927 about our new building) The building, which is to be located at the southwest corner of Graceland avenue and Marion street, will be of modernized English Gothic architecture. It will be of face brick, trimmed with stone, blended to give "beauty, simplicity, and dignity."

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraisers: Rent a PF.I Gift Card Sales		1 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	2 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	3	4	5
6 Communion All Saints Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation STA-Sale Drop-Off	7 7:00p Wholly Ringers	8 12:00p Administrative Staff 1:30p Evening Circle	9 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Ladies' Night Out @ Uncork, Unwind 7:00p Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Wholly Ringers 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Ministry Staff 11:00a Breakfast	14 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Let's Talk 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	15	16 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	17 Pre-School Thanksgiving Feast	18 Pre-School Thanksgiving Feast	19
20 Tidings Deadline 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	21 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	22 7:00p Council	23 9:00a WWC	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 PF - Greening of the Church	26
27 Advent 1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation Chancel Players	28 7:00p Wholly Ringers	29	30 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	Fundraisers:		