



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.
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January 2022 - Vol. 83 – No. 1

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

Eyes of Love

Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord's anointed right in front. But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

-1 Samuel 16:6-7

As the New year awaits us, we will be bombarded once again with messages of the perfect diet, the easiest fitness program, the most successful spiritual practices. All created to offer an opportunity to be a new you! Resolving to do things that will improve our lives and improve the world is certainly a good practice. But before we do it this year, take a few moments to ponder the words of our scripture reading.

It was the prophet Samuel's God appointed mission to anoint King Saul's successor. Ironically, even though God explained that he doesn't care about physical looks, our storyteller in 1 Samuel tells how good-looking God chosen one is to be King Saul's successor, a young shepherd named David. He didn't look at physical appearance but at his heart.

This is the way that God look at us: heart to heart, and we are encourage to do the same. But, we have to admit, that to know the human heart is no easy task for us. To fully understand someone takes a very long time. To accept one another ask us to look beyond their behavior to recognize the fear and pain that drives their behavior. If we want to make way for healing, we must pay attention with eyes of love – see each other and ourselves as God does, with eyes of love.

So, as this New Year begins, we are also need to remind ourselves that I am perfect exactly as I am, and that God loves me even if I didn't commit to a new way of eating, exercising or praying in the new year. May we all be awoken to the prayer that God will also receive me just as I am. To know that God will meet me where, and how I am, is faith that helps us to get through most of our days.

Well, Happy New Year everyone!

With Love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

January 2

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	John 1:10-18

January 9

Communion

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
Scripture Reading	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Tom Tucker
Scripture Reading	John 2:1-11

January 23

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Virtual Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Katy Berman
Scripture Reading	Luke 4:14-21

January 30

Youth Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Virtual Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Youth
Scripture Reading	Luke 4:21-30

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry



With the return of Rugtime, our Sunday School children once again gather in the sanctuary before heading upstairs.

'Still Time to Turn in Those Advent Calendars...

If you still happen to have an Advent coin calendar at home, no worries - fill it up and bring it to the Church Office. Proceeds will benefit our CAE Ministry...thanks!

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 used on the Altar, the flowers will be delivered to shut-ins or those dealing with illness or loss or perhaps celebrating a special occasion. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Membership & Communications Ministry



Beat those Mid-winter Blues!

Our church has **RESCHEDULED** and reserved the date of Saturday, February 12 for swimming at the new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center. All ages welcome! We will have all three pool areas to ourselves from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. (Lap swimming, a warm-water wellness pool and a splash pad for kids) Watch Notes from Co for details...sign-up information coming soon!

Thanks from Evening Circle

(From Nancy Meyer) Evening Circle thanks EVERYONE who supported our 2021 virtual Bake and Craft sales in March and November. Due to the generosity of both bakers/crafters and buyers, we had \$4,300 available for benevolence giving this year. Our church was presented with a BIG check for \$3,000 and given to Jana Haas (our retired financial administrator) on the morning of December 19. We were pleased to also make donations in 2021 to Des Plaines Self-Help Closet & Pantry, Miracle House, Covenant House, Tower Hill Century Club, WINGS, The Salvation Army, Church Women United, Relay for Life, Exodus World Service, The Harbour and Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

All ladies of the church are invited to join us for our next “in person” meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7:00 PM in the Barwick Room. After a short meeting we will have fun learning how to play “Farkle,” a classic family dice game, with its easy rules and simple contents. Please come!

If you are not able to come in person, you can join us on Zoom using the same link we’ve been using.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366718741?pwd=dDlXcmdpVG8rUEl2UIJmRi84VE04Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 6671 8741

Passcode: 755514

You can also dial in with your phone: 312-626-6799



Cathy Wiesner (Evening Circle president), presents a “big check” donation of \$3000 to our church. Accepting is Jana Haas (FCC retired financial administrator).



In December a group of FCC members spread some holiday cheer by caroling on foot, outdoors, to nearby households.



Mission & Outreach Ministry



Thanks again to everyone who donated personal care items, snacks and cold weather gear to fill stockings for The Night Ministry in Chicago. Pictured preparing to deliver the stockings are Nancy Brink and John Foster.

Music Ministry



Behold, A Savior!: A Christmas Cantata



Our Chancel Choir and friends performed a beautiful cantata in December. Choir members are pictured with Director Scott Emerick and Cindie Hoch, one of the featured soloists.

Youth Ministry



Our PF holiday cookie sale was a huge success this year, thanks to all those who baked/bought/helped out. Proceeds will benefit the PF's summer mission trip to Adam's Camp in Colorado, to work with special needs youth.

Finance Committee

Talent & Gift Auction Coming Up

Our 2022 Talent & Gift Auction is set to begin on January 16 and we need your help to make it successful! With Covid still a concern, this year's Auction will once again be "virtual." All bidding will be done on-line or by telephone. Last year's Auction raised over \$3,000, because a record number of church members donated items to the auction and then participated in the bidding. What can you donate to make this year's Auction even more successful? Baked goods or a home cooked specialty? A craft project or artistic creation? A service or lessons? In past years, some of our most popular auction items were theatre tickets, sporting events, and vacation packages. We're still welcoming those donations (that we're hoping can be comfortably used later in the year, when Covid is not so prevalent). But, we're also looking for items that can be enjoyed by the individual, family, or close friends. More low contact and "enjoy at home" focused. Possibly a themed gift basket, gardening or landscape work, a golfing foursome, horseback riding, or admission to the Arboretum. Or maybe you have an idea of your own. If you can donate an item for this year's Talent & Gift Auction, please contact Sharon Urry, at surry1024@comcast.net, no later than January 13.

Gift Card Sales Results

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Holiday Gift Card Sale. Because of your purchases, we were able to raise \$1,577 for our church's general budget. That's an increase of more than 20% over the previous year's sales. Special thanks to Rod Beets for all his hard work organizing and overseeing this important church fundraiser!

Annual Church Audit

Every year there is an audit of the church's finances, completed by a team of FCCDP volunteers. This year's audit took place on Thursday, November 11. Random months were selected and reviewed from both the general budget and the restricted accounts. Deposits and checks were matched up and verified against bank statements. This year's audit team - including Kevin Donoghue, Les Stein, Nancy Schacht Andre Deadwyler, Quinn Yost, and Dave DeHart - found no errors or inconsistencies in the records, and commended Jana Haas and the Finance Committee for their excellent work. Thanks to our volunteer auditors for taking on this important job at the church.

Evening Planned at Zanies Comedy Club

In 2019, church members and friends gathered at Zanies Comedy Club in Rosemont for an Evening of Comedy. From all reports, those who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening of laughter and fun. Plans are underway for another Zanies Fundraiser to be held on Friday evening, February 25. Tickets will be \$30 each for this "adults only" event, with \$20 from each ticket sold, going to FCCDP's general budget. For more information, or to purchase your tickets, contact the church office.

About Our Church's Tree of Life...



If you're considering making a large contribution to our church, above and beyond your regular pledge, remember that contributions of \$2,500 or more will be recognized with a leaf on our Tree of Life. Four different donation levels are recognized: a green leaf for a donation of \$2,500 to \$4,999; a bronze leaf for a donation of \$5,000 to \$9,999; a silver leaf for a donation of \$10,000 to \$24,999; a gold leaf for a donation of \$25,000 or more.

Donations to the Church Foundation, a specific Church Ministry, or general gifts (outside of regular pledges) will be recognized. Personal property, securities, and real estate will be recognized at market value when received by the church. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Charitable Gift from Your IRA

Thanks to Bob McCullough for reminding us of this option for making a contribution to the Church, or to another charity. The following is an excerpt from Terry Savage's column, that appeared in last Sunday's Tribune.

"As those over 72 know, there's a required minimum distribution (RMD) that must be taken before year-end. That RMD is considered ordinary income for tax purposes. But there is one helpful exception for people who don't need the distribution for their living expenses.

If you are at least 70-1/2 years of age, you can donate an IRA distribution of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charitable organization, and the distributed amount is excluded from your gross income for federal income tax purposes. And that contribution counts toward your RMD for that tax year. But you must follow some important procedures:

- The donation must be made to a registered 501(c)3 charity.
- Your IRA custodian must make that transfer directly from your IRA to the charity. (Don't take a distribution and then write your own check.)
- You must have a letter of acknowledgment from the charity."

Already taken your RMD for 2021? Most people have. But this is valuable information to keep in mind when considering your 2022 RMD. Contact your financial advisor or your banker for more information.

“Second Time Around” Donation News and More...

Mark your calendar for our next early drop-off date, which is January 23 after service. (10:00am - 10:30am) Please mark your containers according to where they will be placed for the sale. If you have large items such as furniture, please contact the Church Office so we can schedule a pick-up time for you. Volunteer sign-up forms will be available in February. For details contact Ellen Alde at ealdefccdp@gmail.com or Chris Tomsic at ctomsic@me.com. Thank you for your support!



A celebratory send-off was held in Webster Hall in December for Jana Haas, FCC financial administrator, who retired after 25 years of service to our church. She is pictured (at left) with Larry Schimka, FCC's new financial administrator, and (below) with her husband, Barry, and daughter, Kristina. Best Wishes, Jana!



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.

Francois DuToit	01-Jan	Sean Nutley	16-Jan
Alex Masciopinto	01-Jan	Erik Nanstiel	17-Jan
Dave DeHart	03-Jan	Ava Olsen	19-Jan
Heather Larson	03-Jan	Christine O'Brien	21-Jan
Jane Warda	04-Jan	Will Grice	22-Jan
Ann Grice	08-Jan	Jeannie Johnson	22-Jan
Andy Olsen	09-Jan	Vito Pelletiere, Jr.	24-Jan
Rev. Co	10-Jan	Matt Cameron	28-Jan
Ken Santos	11-Jan	Melanie Schimka	28-Jan
Jana Haas	12-Jan	Rod Beets	29-Jan
Connor Tomsic	12-Jan	Patti Fink	31-Jan
Jennifer Nutley	15-Jan		

Words of Appreciation

(From Jana Haas) I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the members and friends of FCC for their generous gifts, kind words and "shower of money" on the occasion of my retirement. It was a very special celebration, and one I will carry in my heart for a long time to come. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the congregation for the last 25 years. I look forward to a little more leisure time in the near future, but I will miss my office and the regular, personal contact I have had with each of you over the years. Wishing you all many blessings in 2022!

(From Inge Eschenbach) Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes for Hans' recovery. He had a successful heart valve replacement and is doing very well. Rehab has come to an end. The one problem that remains and cannot be cured is balance, but otherwise he is in excellent health. May God bless you all.

(From Teena Whittenhall) Thank you to all for the cards, messages, thoughts and prayers for the loss of my mother. Your care held me up during dark days.

(To Richard Weihsmantel) Thank you from your church family for serving as our FCC usher throughout the past year, despite the ups and downs of the pandemic. Your warm and friendly smile (through your mask, of course) is welcoming to both church members and visitors, and we appreciate you!

In Memoriam

Abraham Haque

December 4, 2021

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Florence Boyer from Arlin Boyer Epstein

In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Lowell Handy & Erica Treesh

In Loving Memory of Abraham Haque from Lowell Handy & Erica Treesh

In Loving Memory Of William Henke from Flo Hoffman

In Honor of Kathe & Lee Weinman for their 32nd Anniversary

In Honor of Michelle Herrera from Robbin Muhr

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

We haven't had a measurable snowfall yet (at least while writing this), and temperatures have been moderate, but a fire is always nice to have burning in your fireplace. I'm cheating with this article, which actually was one of the first I wrote, way back in 2009!

Did you know that when our church was built in 1929, the architects included five fireplaces? They are located in the Nursery, the Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 classrooms and in the Barwick and Bennett Rooms.

According to information that Dr. Grice provided to me, the church's policy on the fireplaces was that anyone could use them but they were responsible for carrying in the firewood, removing the ashes and cleaning up afterwards. Dr. Grice recalled that only the Barwick Room and Bennett Room fireplaces were used during his ministry at First Congregational. Dr. Grice remembers one winter evening in particular around 1980 or 1981, when the Church Trustees started a fire in the Bennett Room fireplace. They enjoyed the fire until the end of the meeting, when no one wanted to stay behind and wait for the logs to finish burning and, yet, they couldn't carry the logs and hot ashes out of the church building without filling the hallways with smoke. That was probably the last time the fireplace was used, Dr. Grice said!



Fireplace in the Bennett Room, on the second floor of FCCDP.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

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January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2 9:00am Worship 10:00am Online Fellowship	3 10:00a Drop-Offs 7:00p Wholly Ringers	4 7:00p Worship Ministry	5 9:00a WWC 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	6 7:00p Membership & Communications	7	1	
9 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Ministry Staff	10 11:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	11 12:00p Administrative Staff 7:00p Evening Circle	12 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	13	14	15	
16 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	17 10:00a Drop-Offs Time-and-Talent Auction Starts 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	18 7:00p Chair Meeting	19 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	20 Tidings Deadline	21	22	
23 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	24	25	26 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	27	28	29	
30 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation 10:00a STA-Chair mtg.	31 10:00a Drop-Offs 7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Council	7:00p Chancel Choir Fundraisers: Time-and-Talent Auction Starts January 17 through February 7				