

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
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March 2022 - Vol. 83 – No. 3

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

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent. This is the season every year when we take 40 days, actually 47, but Sundays don't count, to prepare our hearts for that great weekend in our faith that begins with Good Friday and ends with Easter Day, the most important day in the spiritual life of Christians.

Let us consider for a moment the meaning of Lent:

- This is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand God a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church, but an opportunity to receive the overflowing grace God has to offer.
- Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what God really did for us on the cross. It does not stop at sadness and despair but points us to the hope of the resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried.
- It is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing reparation, repentance of sin, charity, and denial of ego.

It seems that this is at the heart of Lent's meaning, in that Lent begins with Jesus, not us:

- As there came a moment when Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem, followers of Jesus are asked to focus on the final events leading up to his death, during this time of the year.
- Indeed, the Gospels seem to encourage this, devoting considerable space to the events of his last week.
- It is as if the action slows down, until it stops at the foot of the cross.
- It is only when we consider Jesus' life and his death, that we have a measuring stick by which to reflect on our own lives in comparison to his.

Self-denial is not about doing without chocolate so we will look good in the summer. It is about remembering how much he gave to be our Savior, and, in a small way, imitating him by living our lives for God and for others.

Why not live Lent differently this year?

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

March 2	Ash Wednesday Service of Worship	7:00p – www.fccdp.org
March 6	Communion Service of Worship Fellowship Lay Reader Scripture Reading	9:00a – www.fccdp.org 10:00a Ralph Murdy Luke 4:1-13
March 13	Service of Worship Fellowship Lay Reader Scripture Reading	9:00a – www.fccdp.org 10:00a Les Stein Luke 13:31-35/Luke 9:28-36
March 20	Service of Worship Fellowship Lay Reader Scripture Reading	9:00a - www.fccdp.org 10:00a Ellen Alde Luke 13:1-9
March 27	Service of Worship Fellowship Lay Reader Scripture Reading	9:00a - www.fccdp.org 10:00a Dave Horwitz Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry



Our confirmands and guests, along with Rev. Co, toured the new location of the Self-Help Closet & Pantry in February.

Diaconate Ministry

About Sunday 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.

...And, Easter Flowers

Easter Lily plants to decorate our church altar will be available to order this month. You can take your plant home after the Easter Sunday worship service or leave it for delivery to out homebound members and friends. Cost is \$15. Watch for order forms in the Sunday Tidings or contact the Church Office for details.

Membership & Communications Ministry

'Got Talent?

Maybe your passion is painting, or perhaps you have a desire to draw. Color by number? Did you take up a new hobby during the pandemic? Regardless of whether you are an "accomplished" artist or just having fun, why not consider sharing a piece or two of your artwork with your church family? This spring we'd like to display your artwork - any medium - in the church hallway glass cabinet. Please submit (preferably unframed) along with a **brief description** to the Church Office on Sunday morning or during the week (9am - 1pm). Questions? Speak with Debbie Walusiak.

Save These Dates...

The Easter Bunny returns to our church on **Palm Sunday**, just in time for an Easter Egg Hunt. And, our Pool Party at the new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center has been rescheduled (hopefully, for the last time) to 7:30pm on **Saturday, May 7**. Check your April Tidings and Notes from Co for further information.

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.

In Case of Emergency (ICE)

A friendly reminder that all persons should carry an In Case of Emergency (ICE) card, with current contact information, especially if you live alone. Perhaps you become ill at church, whether on a Sunday morning or maybe while attending Bible Study or choir practice. Who would you want notified – a relative, neighbor or close friend? Hopefully, you'll never have to use this card but just in case!

News from Evening Circle

(From Nancy Meyer)

At our February meeting we enjoyed watching the commemorative video marking the 50th anniversary of the Self-Help Closet & Pantry, founded in the basement of First Congregational Church. It is available at www.selfhelppantry.org.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend our next Evening Circle meeting on Tuesday, March 8. It will be on zoom unless restrictions have been eased by then. We look forward to seeing you!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366718741?pwd=dDlXcmdpVG8rUEl2UjJmRi84VE04Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 6671 8741

Passcode: 755514

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

Our upcoming Bake and Craft sale, to benefit our church and several local charities, again will be held virtually. Order form will be available in a future Notes from Co. Orders will be taken from Sunday, March 27 thru Sunday, April 3 with pick up on Monday, April 11 at the West entrance from 10am to 11 am unless other arrangements have been made between baker/crafter and buyer.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Backpack Update

A huge thank you to those who generously donated hash, hot chocolate packets, oatmeal packets, and individual cereal boxes during the month of February. The items we most need at present are: small (ca. 8 oz.) cans of vegetables, condensed soup, beef stew (16 oz.), chunky soup, instant mashed potato packets (requiring only water), individual fruit cups, pudding cups, and small snack items like individual packets of crackers, small boxes of raisins, peanut butter or cheese sandwich crackers, etc.. This school year we will be making deliveries through the first week of June. Any extra donations will be saved for next school year, shared with the larger Community Back Pack Project, or passed on to the Self-Help Closet & Pantry. A signup sheet for making deliveries is posted in the Church Office. If there are questions, please contact Lowell Handy at handytreesh@att.net.

Busy Time for Project Survivor

Project Survivor delivered two Welcome Packs in February. The first one was delivered by Nancy Brink and John Foster, to an apartment in Rogers Park. They were two single men living together, from Afghanistan. The second one was delivered to the Exodus Office by Sharon Urry, Joanne Kimball and Nancy Brink, for an uncle and his nephew. The men also were from Afghanistan.

Current Project Survivor needs include any **new** household items such as pillows, twin blankets, tea kettles and towels.

The Exodus Office seeks donations of diapers, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, soap, body lotion, laundry detergent and shampoo.

Our next church drop-off dates are March 14 and March 28, from 10am – 11am, outside the West Entrance.

Thank you for your continued support!

Music Ministry



Our intergenerational Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir performed during a Sunday worship service in late January.

Handbell Concert Here Next Month

Speaking of bells, our Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir will present a free concert (freewill offering will be collected) at 6:00pm on April 3, at our church. They will be joined by our Chancel Choir. Bring your friends and plan to enjoy a solid hour of beautiful music! Details to follow.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

For the month of January, we had income of \$31,297 and expenses of \$25,352, for a monthly surplus of \$5,944. Year-to-date, we are in a positive position of \$34,567. Thank you for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings - and special thanks to those who made extra contributions over the holiday season. Your support is greatly appreciated.



The family of Flo Hoffman purchased a “Singing Telegram” during our church’s recent Talent & Gift Auction, and the Chancel Choir surprised Flo by “delivering” the telegram on a Sunday morning in February. Well done, everyone!

Talent & Gift Auction Results

This year's Talent & Gift Auction raised over \$3,500 for our church's general budget. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction: The FCCDP Chancel Choir, Joyce & Rod Beets, Nancy Brink, Don & Mary Cameron, Gail Deadwyler, Dave & Georgia DeHart, Jim Foster, Co & Ellie DuToit, Faith Engler, Jana Haas, Lowell Handy, Jennifer Hinderliter, Joanne Kimball, Carl & Judy Mahr, Bob McCullough, Nancy Meyer, Garrett & Mary Pittman, Jackie Schmidt, Elmer Sweet, Marcia Urban, Sharon Urry, Rhonda & Quinn Yost, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Wolves, Lynfred Winery, Metropolis Performing Arts Center, Northlight Theatre, and Steppenwolf Theatre. And most of all, thanks to all our bidders! We couldn't have done it without you.

Zanies Night of Comedy

Thanks to those who attended our recent fundraiser at Zanies Comedy Club in Rosemont. It was a relatively small group, but from all reports, a fun evening was enjoyed by those in attendance. Through your support, we raised approximately \$400 for the church's general budget.



[Laughter, fun, and fellowship was enjoyed at Zanies on February 25](#)

“Second Time Around” Fast Approaching

Thank you to everyone who has brought donations and filled out volunteer forms. It is not too late to do both! Our next drop-off date will be March 13 after the church service. Volunteer forms are available on the credenza outside the Church Office. If you have large items (furniture but no sleeper sofas, entertainment centers) to donate and need to schedule a pick-up please contact the Church Office. If you have additional questions please contact Ellen at ealdefccdp@gmail.com or Chris at ctomsic@gmail.com



Pastoral Relations Committee

Do You Know about our PRC?

The Pastoral Relationship Committee (PRC) at our church is the committee you would contact if you have a compliment or a complaint that would be relevant to Rev. Co. The members are a liaison between the congregation and the many ministries in the church. The following PRC Committee members and the ministries they serve are: Quinn Yost, liaison to Music & Drama; (Open) liaison to Membership & Communications; Doug Laws to Worship; Robbin Muhr to Diaconate; Barry Haas to Mission & Outreach; Sharon Urry to Property; AJ Almerigi to Youth; Deb Alde (Chair) to Children's & Adult Ed. For further information, contact Deb at debraalde3@gmail.com.

Congratulations!

Best Wishes to Riley Whittenhall upon her recent graduation from Oakton Community College, where she received an Associate in Arts degree. Riley has been accepted for the fall semester at Elmhurst College, where she plans to study psychology.

A New Address

Rod & Joyce Beets
818 Butternut Lane-B
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

A Message From Flo Hoffman

My birthday card shower was a huge success thanks to all of my loving church members and friends. You overwhelm me with your thoughtfulness.

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.

Ella Hubert	01-Mar	Nate Bryers	19-Mar
Marcy Vedral	01-Mar	Jimmy Larson	19-Mar
Matt Koulentes	04-Mar	Ken Urry	19-Mar
Clay Thompson	05-Mar	Ralph Engler	21-Mar
Evan Tomsic	05-Mar	Lindsay Skarbek	21-Mar
Zensanna Yost	07-Mar	Dave Warda	22-Mar
Midge Wolfram	08-Mar	William Hinderliter	26-Mar
Kallie Haas	11-Mar	Laura Hubert	26-Mar
Madeleine Larson	11-Mar	Jim Larson	27-Mar
Barb McCullough	11-Mar	Ann Schwiger	27-Mar
Mia Thomas	11-Mar	Veronica Warda	27-Mar
Colleen Alde	12-Mar	Marissa Skarbek	28-Feb
John Lodewyck	12-Mar	Cindie Hoch	30-Mar
Rebecca Quam	14-Mar	Ryan Johnson	30-Mar
Betty McMillan	15-Mar	Colleen Skiba	31-Mar

In Memoriam

Reba Pettetiere
February 6, 2022

Ruth Reinhold
February 16, 2022

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of André Du Toit from Carl & Judy Mahr

In Loving Memory of Reba Pelletiere from Carl & Judy Mahr

In Loving Memory of Ruth Reinhold from Evening Circle

In Honor of Flo Hoffman from Evening

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

I forward the monthly Tidings to many of our former members who have moved away from our area. Occasionally I get a reply from someone, prompted by what they read. Our recent Tidings have been mentioning that flowers have returned to the altar.

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.

I want to share this from Tom Baranski of Memphis TN. Tom is a direct descendant of FCCDP's charter member, George M. Jefferson.

My mother, Jeannette Jefferson Baranski, was in charge of securing flowers for the church every Sunday back in the 1940's and 50's. My grandfather had a huge garden with several rows of Peonies and the back of the garden with lilacs. We had tulips all over our yard, so she was able to furnish flowers for most of the season from early spring to late fall. As I recall, she was able to use fall branches or evergreen with some color into the winter season by adding ribbons, etc. With weddings and other affairs donating their used flowers, she bought very few flowers.

Could that be repeated today???

What do you think?

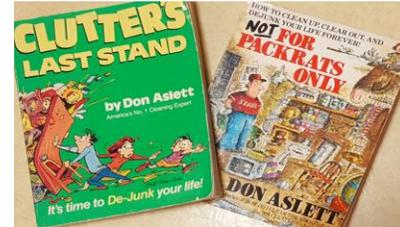


MARCH IS A GREAT MONTH to start working on Spring Cleaning and getting rid of the junk in your house. Freezing weather is ending and it is too early to start working outside in the garden.

Many of us were raised by parents who lived thru the 1930's Great Depression. They hoarded things for the future (just in case we needed it); we learned to keep stuff and never throw it out. I grew up on a small farm downstate where baling wire, wood, metal, antiques, pots, crocks, dishes, old vehicles were all saved in the farm buildings, garages, attic, closets, unused bedrooms and the damp basement.

In college, I was introduced to dejunking by the books *Clutters Last Stand*, by Don Aslett. While reading it, I recall hauling 5 large garbage barrels of waste and paper to the dumpster when I finally moved out of my U of I fraternity house that I lived in for 5 years. There are lots of How-To manuals for getting rid of stuff – I cite this one because of the author's humor and ridicule. Some words of wisdom:

Clutter makes Cleaning Take Longer	Even cookbooks can be clutter
Clutter is Stressful and Distracting	That Gadget doesn't really save time
Attacking the Paper Tiger of Junk	File It doesn't mean Pile It
The Cost of Clutter, Storing costs money	Your Junk on Wheels
25% of our house is devoted to storage	Facing the Clutter Hot Spots
Junk is a Health Hazard in multiple ways	There's a Little Pack Rat in all of us
Keep it in your Heart, Not your Closet	Don't Junk from the Grave
Feeble excuses for hanging onto clutter	Inheritance generates 50% of our clutter



The value in our stuff is actually using the things we have! Enjoy the reward of Living without JUNK.

In 2019, Netflix introduced *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo* suggesting you keep things that Spark Joy. My sister watched the *Mountain of Stuff* episode and was able to let go of more of the things in her home when she stopped asking “Will I ever need it again?” Other episodes include:

Empty Nesters Downsizers After a Loss Tidying with Kids and a new series *Sparkling Joy* in 2021.

Over the years, I came to realize that our Second Time Around rummage sale is incredibly GREEN.

1. We take things we purchased, enjoyed and loved and then we sell it to others who give it a second life to enjoy just like we did. We opened the Friday Night STA sale to give those shoppers that can't stand waiting any longer to get the first chance at the stuff from our homes.
2. Our Sale allows the repurposing of our items and keeps our junk out of landfills.
3. The STA is also much more efficient than hosting our own garage sale; our community knows to come to our annual sale every April and we turn over everything in 24 hours.

I do know that members of First Congregational Church are very good at donating our stuff.

Every month we are reminded to drop it off after church. But I would guess that you have an area of the house that has stuff that is wasting space, that guests never see or that is too crowded to find anything you are looking for. Set a goal to hit that trouble spot this month, to find things that Bring You JOY. In the process you will find things that will bring Joy to others. You will gain the satisfaction of bringing that part of the house under control again.

If you need help or don't know where to start, I am volunteering to help anyone with one of their tough areas. Just like the commercial, if you point to it, I will make it disappear to wherever it belongs. In this way, I have helped empty our old farmhouse, and a couple of family member's homes. I have books and videos to share that will help you embrace Decluttering. I feel that if I help others to get rid of their clutter, it will help me to “Walk The Walk” to also clean up my own messes in the attic, garage, basement and my office. You are not alone in this journey.

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraisers: Souper Bowl Sunday Zanies Comedy Club		1	2 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	3	4	5
6 Communion Lent 1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation 1:00p Pre-School Open House	7	7:00p Worship Ministry 12:00p Administrative Staff 7:00p Evening Circle	7:00p Ash Wednesday 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	7:00p Membership & Communications 10	11	12
13 Lent 2 Daylight Savings Richter Baptism Reinhold Memorial 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05am Ministry Staff	14 10:00a Drop-Offs 11:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance	15	16 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	17	18	19
20 Lent 3 Tidings Deadline DuToit Baptism 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05a Confirmation	21 6:30p Property	22	7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	24	25	26
27 Lent 4 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05a Confirmation Chancel Players Craft-and Bake Sale	28 10:00a Drop-Offs	7:00p Council 29	30 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	31	Fundraisers: Craft-and-Bake Sale One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Appeal Lenten Coin Folders	