



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.
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Following Christ, We Connect a Diversity of People with each other and with God!

Stewardship 2022 - Be the Church

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. - Isaiah 51:1

After two years of living under the cloud of a global pandemic we found creative and meaningful ways to do church and to be the church. Being the church, doing justice, seeking peace, and building community are central to the identity of our denomination, the United Church of Christ. It has become something of a hallmark of progressive Christianity to ramble on what we think and believe about Jesus. Social justice? Absolutely! Black Lives Matter? Take me to the next protest. Charity? I'll see your soup kitchen and raise you a shelter.

For Isaiah, it is also our identity as beloved children of God that is most important. In God, all the identities by which we are known become one whole reflection of the God who loves us. People who've never had their lives cut short or their opportunities foreclosed because of who they are often have a hard time understanding why identity is so important to others. What is your go-to identity? American? Person of faith or follower of Jesus? Black, Latino, Asian, First Nation, or white? LGBTQIA? Male, female, or genderqueer? Poor? Republican or Democrat? Baby Boomer or Millennial? Successful? Myers-Briggs or Enneagram? Traditionalist or proud smasher of all things binary? How does your identity shape your worldview? How does your identity reflect what is important to you?

When we look around us, we see a world where violence, discrimination, and hunger are weapons of greed and fear. We notice those who are ignored are often victims of other's self-interest—left in poverty with little hope. We wonder how long the world, our environmental home, can take the stress and depletion of human want. We scratch our heads in amazement that nations war against nations and religions against religions—destroying the lives of the world's children. By God's grace, we extend our hands to others through generous acts of service and compassion. We reach across cultural, racial, and religious divides reconciling ourselves to one another. In solidarity with those who are most vulnerable in our world, we do justice.

I invite you to check off the list below those issues you can identify with:

- Protect the Environment
- Care for the Poor

- Forgive often
- Reject Racism
- Fight for the powerless
- Share earthly and spiritual resources
- Embrace diversity
- Love God
- Enjoy this life

May God give us the courage to come out as Christian and Be the Church

Rev Co on behalf of our Finance Committee/Stewardship Committee



Worship Ministry

May 1

Confirmation & Communion

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
Scripture Reading	John 21:1-19

May 8

Mother's Day/Family Worship/Stewardship Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Jackie Schmitt
Scripture Reading	John 10:22-30

May 15

Children's Day

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Flo Hoffman
Scripture Reading	John 13:31-35

May 22

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	John 14:23-29

May 29

Memorial Day Weekend/Youth Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Youth
Scripture Reading	John 17:20-26

Children's & Adult Education



The Easter Bunny visited during our Children's Message on Palm Sunday. Afterwards, an Easter Egg hunt was held on the church playground. Pictured (at left) is Bob McCullough with his great grandson, Ronan.

Tower Hill Camp Summer Registration Open

Registration is underway for retreats, camps and special events at Tower Hill (Sawyer, MI) and Pilgrim Park (Princeton, IL). Call for availability (Tower Hill 269/426-3881 and Pilgrim Park 815/447-2390) or log on at www.il-outdoorministries.org for details.

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.

Membership & Communications Ministry



Thanks to those church members and friends that contributed to our March art display in the church hallway cabinet. Featured artists include Angela and Jennifer Hinderliter, Riley Whittenhall, Katy Berman, Gloria Kurtz, Lowell Handy and Larry Schimka.

Come to Our Pool Party!

Join us for a very exciting Pool Party on Saturday, May 7 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center on Thacker St. in Des Plaines. We will have the whole complex to ourselves, and it includes lap lanes, a heated wellness pool, a splash pad for the kids as well as a room where we can enjoy our snacks. Cost is a free will donation; remember to bring some snacks and drinks for yourself to enjoy. Also, feel free to invite your family and friends, as well as your neighbors. Please sign up in the Church Office if you plan to attend or through our church website www.fccdp.org.

Graduation Time...

News of graduates from our church family will be published in the June Tidings. If you have a 2022 graduate in your family and would like to share, please forward the info to Debbie Walusiak at ecrire58@sbcglobal.net by May 20. Photos 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.



Evening Circle women enjoyed the game of Farkle at their April meeting. Pictured (l to r) are Inge Eschenbach, Nancy Schacht, Kathy Ruedisueli, Pam Lorvig and Jackie Schmitt.

News from Evening Circle

(From Nancy Meyer) Evening Circle wants to THANK EVERYONE for their support of our semi-annual Bake and Craft Sale. In addition to the pre-orders, we had more bake and craft items sold in Webster Hall on distribution Sunday (April 10), plus many generous donations, for a total of over \$1,700 to benefit FCCDP's General Fund and several local charities. And, you will get another opportunity to pre-order in November!

Evening Circle is looking forward to our final gathering of the year, a luncheon at the Elks Club on Saturday, May 14 at noon. All ladies of the church are invited to join us, but please contact Cathy Wiesner no later than Sunday, May 8 (if you haven't said YES already) so we know how many to expect. Order from the menu and separate checks.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Let's Relay!

(From Paul Schmitt) This year's local Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society will be held June 19 (tentatively in person), from 6:00pm to midnight in Palatine, and our church once again has put together a team that's off and running. Through your efforts, our church team last year was able to reach the Silver Level by raising \$4,800 to fight cancer. My sincere thanks once again to all who have helped in the past to support our church in the fight against cancer. 'Hoping to see you on June 19 in Palatine. For details contact Paul at pschmitt9@hotmail.com.

Drive-by Drop-offs ending; THANK YOU for Your Support!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Bi-Weekly Monday morning Drop-Offs. Over the past 2 years, we have made a difference in the lives of thousands of men, women, and children - through your donations to the Self-Help Closet & Pantry, Exodus World Services, Project Survivor, the Backpack Ministry, and more. When we started the Drop-Offs in April 2020, the pandemic had just begun. Schools, restaurants, entertainment venues, offices, and church buildings had all shut down. But at FCCDP, we know that our church is more than just a building ... We are the Church! So, we brought our donations to FCC's West Entrance, to help those in need, within our community and beyond. While we've discontinued our scheduled Monday morning Drop-Offs, we're not discontinuing our community support. You're invited to continue supporting the organizations listed above (and perhaps others as the need arises). Just bring your donations with you to Sunday Worship - or at other times during the week. There's a Red Barrel inside the West Entrance where you can leave donations for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry. Other donations can also be left at the West Entrance, next to the Red Barrel. Just be sure to label them with the name of the organization where

they should be delivered, and we'll do the rest. Remember ... We are the Church. And, together, we can make a difference!

NALC Food Drive May 14 to Benefit SHC&P

The annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) food drive will be held on Saturday, May 14 in Des Plaines and many other communities across the US. You can help by leaving a bag of nonperishable food for your letter carrier or community volunteer to pick up on that day. To volunteer or to learn more, contact Debbie Walusiak at 847/337-1443.

Backpack Update

Many thanks for all the support for the back pack ministry this school year. We have supplied weekend food and snacks for 17 students at North School. Our last delivery will be June 1, 2022, and we still can use a few more donations. We are well supplied with hash, oatmeal, fruit juice and cereal; many thanks for your continued donations. Items we will need to complete the year include: beef stew, chunky soup, chili, chicken a la king, condensed soup, canned pasta (with meat), packets of instant mashed potatoes (that require only water), small cans of vegetables (± 8 oz.), and individually packaged snack items (crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks, peanuts, cookies, etc.). There are still opportunities for making deliveries on the sign-up sheet in the Church Office. For further information, contact Lowell Handy at handytresh@att.net.

Music Ministry



Our Wholly Ringers intergenerational handbell choir, under the direction of Ellen Alde, performed several selections during the Spring Concert in April. The Chancel Choir also was featured.



Our Chancel Choir and guests performed Faure's Requiem during the Maundy Thursday worship service. The program was directed by Scott Emerick and accompanied by Anna Kovalevska.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

During the month of March, our church had income of \$18,507 and expenses of \$27,322, for a net monthly shortfall of \$8,814. But due to the "cushion" we had built up over the first nine months of our current fiscal year, we are still running \$22,344 in the black, year-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support of our Church's Ministries.

FCC Supports Ukraine Relief Efforts

Thanks to your generosity, our Church has sent a \$4,500 donation to the UCC to help with Ukraine disaster relief efforts. One hundred percent of UCC disaster relief funds are used for direct service to individuals, communities and rehabilitation programming. Thank you to all who participated in this important aid program.



Stewardship Sunday Set for May 8

Once again this year, we are not asking you to submit a pledge card to the Finance Committee, during our Annual Stewardship Drive. Instead, we ask you to take some time alone (or with your family) to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our Church during the year ahead. Then, make your "faith promise" to God to help underwrite church expenses, expand our programs, and provide outreach and love to our community and beyond. Remember, We are the Church - and your generosity makes our Church stronger!

We hope you will join us for worship on Sunday, May 8, as we dedicate our offerings and "faith promises" to God.

STA Thanks

(From Ellen Alde, submitted prior to actual sale date) THANK YOU, to a fantastic church family. Every one of you contributed to the success of the sale this year. Chris and I could not have done this without you. A very special thank you to the Wednesday Work Crew – you worked behind the scenes from the beginning, when it was determined that the church was going to have the sale. The WWC moved boxes, bags, tables and shelving and furniture before the official move date of April 23. Thank you to the room chairs, bakers, and all of the volunteers. I know I have forgotten someone – please forgive me. All of you have earned some well-deserved time for yourself. **Thank You** again! *Also, a reminder to please return your yellow T-shirt and yard sign.*



“Second Time Around” set-up. (Pictured l to r and below) are co-chair Ellen Alde, Anita Donoghue, Jackie Schmitt and Tom Olsen. More photos coming after the sale!



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.

Ellie DuToit	01-May	Betty Nanstiel	17-May
Eric Jancsovics	01-May	Debbie Walusiak	17-May
Megan O'Brien	02-May	Anthony Almerigi	18-May
Nancy Quam	02-May	Paul Meyer	20-May
Ken Walusiak	02-May	Ben Cooper	22-May
Izaan DuToit	07-May	André Deadwyler	22-May
Nina Masciopinto	07-May	Keith Liston	23-May
Jennifer Muhr	10-May	Nancy Wilson	23-May
Sue Almerigi	13-May	David Pittman	25-May
Kathy Foster	14-May	Amy Quam	27-May
Corrine Bachar	15-May	Chris Thomas	27-May
Lauren Rust	15-May	Richard Weihsmantel	27-May

With Appreciation

Ginny VanScoyoc, a former longtime church member who resides in Florida, would like to express her thanks to all those who sent well wishes on her recent 95th birthday.

Check It Out!



This original artwork by Katy Berman will be on display with other artwork by residents of The Moorings. Katy completed her painting, done on wood, in college while studying Art and Anthropology in Africa. The show opens on May 5 and runs for about a week at The Moorings, 811 E. Central Rd.

In Memoriam

Doris Evans
April 2, 2022

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Ruth Reinhold from Ken and Debbie Walusiak

In Loving Memory of Alex Smith from Ken and Debbie Walusiak

In Loving Memory of Doris Evans from Scott Evans

In Loving Memory of Doris Evans from Evening Circle

From Our Preschool

Join us for special refreshments after worship on May 15, when we will honor retiring preschool director Nancy Quam and teacher Robyn Strentz.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

I received this email from Jake Jacobs back in February that I need to share with you! Jake [William Jacobs III] lives in Singapore. He graduated from Maine West in 1969. He is one of many former members that I email the monthly Tidings to.

Hi Nancy: I was thinking about the spring trip in 1967, the first (at least in my era) and most ambitious trip. When someone during a council meeting proposed it, more or less as a joke, Dave Russell said: "Why can't we?"

The cost per student was \$110.00, \$45 from the student, \$45 from the parents, and \$20 through fundraising activities, car washes and the like. If my memory is accurate, we left on Saturday, and returned on Saturday, two eighteen-hour bus rides. That would have meant seven nights and six days in New York.

We were three to a room at the Grand Central YMCA, with two twin beds, and an air mattress in between. Breakfasts were eaten at the Y. Otherwise, we ate in restaurants. We did most of our traveling using subways and buses, I think, but remember at least one cab ride, four to a cab. There were probably others. We saw five shows, three Broadway, and two Off Broadway. Sure, it was fifty-five years ago, but how did we manage all that for \$110?

There must have been planning, and budgeting. I wonder what became of the records? Those would make fascinating reading. You'd think the church would have all that, but if not, maybe Dave Russell has them. Best, Jake Jacobs

I have not contacted Dave, but did dig out The Tidings from 1967 and found several references to the "New York Seminar", as it was referred to.

1/8/67: About 9 tons of paper were collected in the initial drive by the P.F. in their effort to raise money for the spring seminar. They are still asking for more paper. They can only accept newspapers, and request that they be bundled.

1/15/67: The opportunities for our P.F. are limited in the ways in which they can raise the necessary funds for their planned New York Seminar. The paper drive is one way in which they can both raise money and also render a service. Because of certain difficulties, they are setting just 2 dates on which they will collect paper.... January 28 and February 25.

2/5/67: Since the big [recordbreaking] snow storm interrupted the PF's paper drive, the pickup date has been moved up to this Saturday.

3/5/67: P.F. will schedule and plan a program to take place during the Spring Vacation for those who won't be going east for the New York Seminar.

3/12/67: The P.F. New Yorkers will meet at 7:00 Sunday night for a final session on the trip to get itinerary, room and group assignments, packing information, etc. Do not miss this

important meeting. "Next stop-New York City" will be the word when the bus pulls out from the church on Friday, March 17, as Pilgrim Fellowship gets started on its New York Seminar. The weeks of working are over, and it is time to begin. The group will go by chartered bus directly from our church to the New York City Central YMCA-YWCA. There the group will stay for the whole time, and return by chartered Greyhound bus to the church door. They will return on Saturday, March 25 about 9:00 am. When the bus pulls out on Friday about 5pm, it is not for just a fun trip. Further orientation concerning New York and program will take place during the trip. And when they are in NY, they are going to see what is moving in this speeded up world, and what the church can do in it. Plays will tell them what the dramatists are saying about life. The United Nations and Wall Street will show them other facets of our life together. There are many windows of the world to be opened on the trip. A fine group of parents have volunteered to be a part of this experience. Mrs. Virden Waters, a registered nurse, is a key person in the group. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson will help guide our youth, as well as Mrs. Ernest Grant and Mr. Clarence P. Lorentz, and Mr. Donald Cameron, junior leader. And, of course they will be working with Mr. David Russell, the Youth Minister. They are planning a feedback session on April 9, when all of us can hear what went on in NY. We wish them all a wonderful time, one that can last a lifetime.

4/2/67: Many people are asking about the experiences of our Pilgrim Fellowship young people on their recent trip to New York. The young people are planning to tell about the trip and show pictures at a meeting on Sunday evening, April 9. In the meantime, we hear nothing but great joy and satisfaction on the part of those who were privileged to take part in this venture. Our able Youth Advisor, David Russell, reports that he was much impressed with the attitude and spirit of the young people in their "mature opening to new experiences." He found the excellent cooperation of the 38 young people and 7 leaders to be outstanding. The young people are unanimous in expressions of thanks over the abundance of valuable things which they were able to see and do. All speak with gratitude for the tremendous job of organization and leadership on the part of David Russell.

Wow! Jake's memories of 55 years ago are very close...and ARE lasting a lifetime!

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation and Communion Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Ministry Staff	2 7:00p Wholly Ringers	3 7:00p Worship Ministry	4 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	5 7:00p Membership & Communications	6	7 7:30p Pool Party
8 Mother's Day Pledges Dedication Be The Church 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	9 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	10 12:00p Staff Meeting	11 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	12	13	14
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Children's Day Chancel Players Wholly Ringer Diaconate Mtg. PF-Drop-Inn	16 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	17	18 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Preschool show	19	20 Tidings Deadline	21
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	23 7:00p Wholly Ringers	24	25 7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC 10:00a Preschool Graduation 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Brunch	26 6:00 Pre-School Show	27	28
29 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	30 Memorial Day	31 7:00p Council	7:00p Chancel Choir			

