



Tidings

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June 2022 - Vol. 83 – No. 6

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

The Gifts of Summer

"O taste and see that God is good."

Excerpt from Psalm 34

In less than a month we will officially celebrate the first day of Summer! Yes, I can't wait for it myself. As I'm typing this, I'm still wearing my light winter jacket. Summer is my favorite season, even if it comes with a little humidity every now and then. Like all the other seasons, Summer is a gift from God. Martin B. Copenhaver shares my sentiments beautifully in the UCC Daily Devotional, published on July 14, 2011.

In recent years the summer has become the repository of my unfulfilled plans and dreams from the rest of the year. During other seasons, I often say to myself, "In the summer I will have time to ____." Fill in the blank:

De-clutter my desk.

Clear some rebellious brush in the backyard.

Paint the garage door.

Write that article.

Organize all those family photographs.

Read all of the books that are playing "king of the hill" on my bedside table.

Summer was made for such tasks, I suppose. But as I make only the slowest headway through that to-do list, I have concluded that it was made for so much more. Summer was given to us for high purposes, like tasting tomatoes that ripened on the vine. It was made for getting salt water up your nose.

Summer is for lingering over the dinner table and sipping drinks that one would never touch in the winter. It is for gathering with friends, instead of just exchanging e-mails with them.

Summer is for reminding us that the world goes on even when we are not productive. It is for being, and not just doing. It is a season to savor God's gifts, to "taste and see that God is good."

A sage parishioner once said to me, "By the time we get to the Fourth of July, the summer is half over." So, it is time to ask: How is your summer going?

Or perhaps I should put it this way: How is your savoring going?

Let us praise God again for the gifts of summer and receive them with a grateful heart. Our God is truly the best.

Enjoy the Summer!

With Love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

June 5	Pentecost	
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Cindie Hoch
	Scripture Reading	John 14:8-17
June 12	Trinity Sunday/Annual Meeting	
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Deb Alde
	Scripture Reading	John 16:12-15
June 19	Father's Day	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
	Scripture Reading	Luke 8:26-39
June 26		
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Katy Berman
	Scripture Reading	Luke 9:51-62

Call to FCC 2022 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Des Plaines, Illinois, will be held during the 9:00am worship service on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

The purpose of this meeting will be to approve the 2022/23 budget, review annual reports, vote for church officers and entertain comments from the Congregation.

Children's & Adult Education



Confirmation 2022: Pictured (l to r) with Rev. Co are Angela Hinderliter, Ava Olsen and Ben Cooper. Best Wishes to our newest church members!

Godstock, Other Summer Camps Registration Open

Registration is underway for Godstock summer camp at Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI, which is part of the United Church of Christ Conference. The camp will run July 24-29 for children completing 3rd to 9th grade or a shorter camp July 27th-29th for grades kindergarten to 2nd. This is a great way to expand your child's faith while building friendships and connections that will last for years to come. **The Children's Ministry has scholarships available for every child wanting to attend regardless of income.** Talk to Sue Almerigi for help registering. Here is the link for online registration: [Tower Hill](#)

Registration also is underway for retreats, camps and special events at Tower Hill 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

Save the Date!

Join us for an outdoor worship service and picnic on Sunday morning, July 3 at Lake Park in Des Plaines. Details to follow – check Notes from Co and Sunday Tidings for more.

Coffee Helpers Sought

For the past several months, a small group of volunteers have prepared and served coffee during our Sunday morning fellowship time at church. They include Anthony Almerigi, Barry Haas, Jennifer & William Hinderliter, Gloria Kurtz, Bob McCullough and Ralph Murdy – Thank You, all! If you would like to join this group and volunteer on a rotating basis about every four to six weeks, please speak with Debbie Walusiak. Small time commitment = Many happy churchgoers!

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.

Congratulations to our 2022 Grads!

This month we recognized the graduates among our church family. The following names were submitted: **Natasha Stojanovska**, former FCC accompanist, earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Bienen School of Music/Northwestern University; **Luke Engler** graduated from Maine West High School and plans to major in Marketing at Illinois State University; **Amelia Toporek**, granddaughter of Deb Alde, graduated from Huntley High School; **Nathan Shirley**, grandson of Deb Alde, graduated from Northwoods Middle School in Woodstock; **Jason Beets**, grandson of Rod & Joyce Beets, graduated from Round Rock High School in TX and plans to attend automotive school; **Andy Olsen** graduated from Maine West High School and will attend University of Iowa; **Samuel Jerome Pelke**, grandson of Joanne Kimball, graduated from McHenry Community College with two associate degrees and plans to continue his education at

Roosevelt University; **Daniel Raymond Cellucci**, son of Jennifer Brink Cellucci, grandson of Nancy Brink and great grandson of LaVerne Johnson, graduated from Woodstock High School and will attend Western Illinois University; **Jacob Kaplan**, son of Michael & Jill Kaplan and grandson of Nancy & Dave Quam, graduated from Naperville North High School and is heading to Arizona State University/Barrett Honors College.



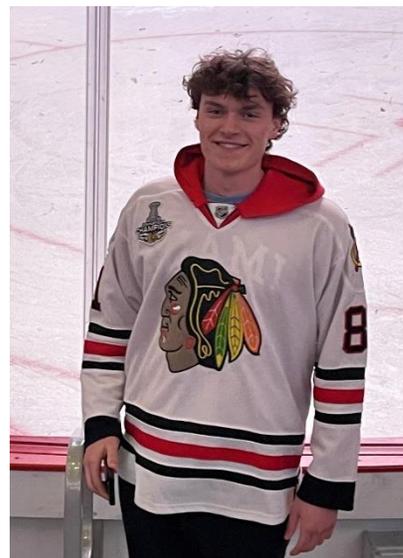
Amelia Toporek



Daniel Cellucci



Samuel Pelke



Andy Olsen



Luke Engler



Nathan Shirley

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 17 (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. *Our church's current total raised as of 5/30/22 is \$2,635.* 'Hoping to see you on June 17 in Palatine. For details contact Paul at pschmitt9@hotmail.com.

Community Backpack Project Update

The final delivery for this school year is June 1. We wish to thank everyone who donated food, delivered bags, packed the donations, and helped coordinate all of the aspects that went into this mission. Due to the generous response to the need for weekend food some students at North School have had, this has been a truly successful church mission. We will have delivered 555 weekend bags + 51 holiday bags. Information regarding the Fall term resumption should appear in late July. Monetary donations to support this ministry may be made through the Church Office, designated for the Backpack Fund. Again, many thanks for the congregational support throughout this past academic year. For further information, contact Lowell Handy at handytrees@att.net.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

For the month of April, we had income of \$27,652 and expenses of \$35,116, for a monthly shortfall of \$7,464. Year-to-date, we are still running \$14,880 in the black. The Finance Committee wants to note that we started off this fiscal year with proceeds from the second PPP Loan of \$38,895, which has enabled us to maintain a positive budget balance throughout the year.



Stewardship 2022

The Finance Committee would like to thank every one of our church members and friends for your continued, faithful, and generous support of First Congregational Church of Des Plaines. Your generosity makes our church stronger.

Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes for the upcoming fiscal year, please contact our Financial Administrator, Larry Schimka, at fcc766finance@gmail.com.

Church Budget for Fiscal 2023

At the Church's Annual Meeting on June 12, you will be asked to approve the proposed Church Budget for the Fiscal year that begins July 1, 2022 and continues through June 30, 2023. The budget for the coming year totals \$346,246, a decrease of just under 2% from the current year's budget. The budget is allocated by Ministry as follows. For a detailed breakdown of the budget categories, see Co's Notes.

125,020	Worship Ministry
107,400	Property Ministry
41,101	Administrative Expenses
12,700	Children & Adult Education Ministry
31,852	Music & Drama Ministry
13,690	Youth Ministry
6,500	Mission & Outreach Ministry
7,368	Membership & Communications Ministry
500	Diaconate Ministry
125	Heart of the Church/Stewardship Expenses
\$346,246	

More about the “Second Time Around” Sale...

Our church netted \$24,736 from the April 2022 rummage sale. Thanks to all who contributed and a special thanks to co-chairs Ellen Alde and Chris Tomsic.



Sue Almerigi & Deb Alde in Toys.



Tom Tucker, Roger Alde, Frank Potempa, Richard Weihsmantel and Paul Schmitt in Electronics.



Our capable Scouts handled the food tent.



Kevin Donoghue and Jim Foster in Furniture.



Stacy Hahn and Robbin Muhr in Toys.



Finally relaxing at the “after party” celebration at Rev. Co & Ellie’s home are Joyce Beets, Nancy Brink and John Foster.

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.

Jim Ruedisueli	01-June	Katy Berman	02-June
Deb Alde	03-June	Zach Masciopinto	16-June
Christy Santos	03-June	Heather Doyle	19-June
Hans Eschenbach	06-June	Chris Cooper	24-June
Bobbi Pelletiere	06-June	Zack Meincke	26-June
Rob Fink	10-June	Rob Bachar	28-June
Mark Muhr	10-June	Rob Urry	29-June
Kathy Ruedisueli	13-June		

You're Invited!

Church member Jeff Brown would like to invite church friends to his "Going Away" celebration, scheduled for 4:00pm on Saturday, June 11 at Pap's Sports Bar, 1904 S. Elmhurst Rd. in Mt. Prospect. He plans to relocate to Florida this summer. For details contact Jeff at 847/553-8433.

In Memoriam

William J. Morey
May 8, 2022

David J. Radloff
May 15, 2022

Robert C. Wayman
May 23, 2022

Gifts & Memorials



We remembered the life of Alex Smith in church over Memorial Day weekend. The grandson of Bob & Sandy Crocker and son of Lillye Crocker Smith, Alex passed away unexpectedly earlier this year, at the age of 21. Alex grew up in Des Plaines and California and joined the Navy after high school graduation. He eventually became an electrical engineer on the USS Howard, a naval destroyer. He also had attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He is pictured at church on Scout Sunday 2015. Also pictured (l t r) are Paul Whittenhall, sister Amanda and mother Lillye.

From Our Preschool



FCC Preschool staff past and present gathered in May to honor retiring director Nancy Quam and teacher Robyn Strentz, who served preschool families for 29 years and 23 years, respectively. Pictured (back l to r) are Sue Almerigi, Kelly Skiple, Patty Platz, Dianne Kuehn, Nancy Quam, Robyn Strentz, Karen Johnson and Jackie Schmitt; (front l to r) April Cho, Elizabeth Liston and Colleen Tomenillie.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

Speaking of the Second Time Around Sale, occasionally the Historian is asked when FCCDP started calling it that! It was time to search the records in the Historian closet to see if I could find the answer. Since the “rummage sale” was previously coordinated by Woman’s Fellowship, I decided to start by looking in their metal 4-drawer file cabinet, which the Historian had inherited. There were alphabetical files in drawer #2. And there, behind “S” was a folder labeled “Second Time Around Sale”. Eureka! Right in the front of the folder was a 2-page typed report written by Carole Bates, Vice President – Ways & Means. The first sentence? “The first Second Time Around Sale, combination flea market and rummage sale, was held April 28, 1978 from 10 am to 4 pm. The chairmen were Jane and Gil Horn and Carole Bates. Most of the church basement and first floor was used.” The rest of the report was fascinating reading.

Here are some sentences: The church was reserved many months ahead of the sale. Gil Horn picked up and kept track of consignment articles. Each chairman was asked to recruit her own sorting and sales crew, if possible. Name tags were made for all chairmen, hall monitors and workers. On Friday evening an auction was held for chairmen and workers only. Marsha Claus, treasurer, gave each chairman \$20 in silver and small bills on Saturday morning. A policeman was on duty from 10 until approximately 2 pm.

I thought these entire paragraphs needed to be shared too. “People were asked to bring their items to the church the week before the sale and they were stored in the boiler room and the Sunday School room next to Brehm Hall. Sorting and pricing were done on Thursday and Friday.” “A pick-up service was run by Lou Galvin to remove the left-over stuff. The Self-Help Closet went through first and picked up whatever they wanted. We did allow \$1.00 clothes bags after 3 pm. The contract stated we would box and bag the leftovers, and they would haul away. They received the goods free and we were not charged for hauling. This arrangement raised some controversy. Antiques and collectibles were not hauled away. The Barwick Room was open at coffee hour on Sunday to sell what we saved from the sale. The sale was repeated at the following Woman’s Fellowship meeting.”

A handwritten note at the bottom of the report “Profit \$2,750.54”

The rest of the items in the folder were primarily floor plan layouts, treasurer’s reports and handwritten notes for the next few years.



Also included were the lists of all the wonderful chairmen of the various departments over those years and a couple of news clippings. This photo is from 1981: Carole Bates, Carol Svoboda, Gil & Jane Horn, with Carol Svoboda listed as the STA Chairman.

Here is a footnote about THIS year’s “left-over clothing” (from the Clothing Room Chairman...me):

No matter how many bags we sell, we always have LOTS of it!!
All the blue jeans were delivered to the Self-Help Closet by Ken

Walusiak.

Another church member delivered 4 bags of clothing to a halfway house called Ashanti. They have two houses, one for men and one for women, on the west side of Chicago. It is for people getting out of rehab and trying to get their lives back.

All the shoes were bagged and picked up by ROAR (Roll Over Animal Rescue) in Des Plaines. I asked what they do with them. “We wrap matched pairs and have them sent overseas to teach villages about business. They learn to sell the shoes.”

Friends of FCCDP offered to deliver 14 bags (as many as would fit in their car) of good, clean baby and children’s clothing to a social service agency in DuPage County that runs a free clothes closet and food pantry. Almost all the people who come there are mothers with children and adult immigrants from many countries.

Children's clothing is always high in demand. The agency is Peoples Resource Center and they have two locations: Westmont and Wheaton.

And still there were many, many more bags of clothing that were delivered to Good Will and The Salvation Army by our wonderful church members. Even though we have lots of clothing when our sale is over, many needy people (even around the world) benefit, so THANK YOU!



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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WWW.FCCDP.ORG						
5 Pentecost Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Pilgrim Park Mission Trip	6 Preschool Summer school through 30th Mondays - Thursdays Pilgrim Park Mission Trip	7 Pilgrim Park Mission Trip	8 Pilgrim Park Mission Trip 6:15p PRC	9 Pilgrim Park Mission Trip	10	11 10:00a CMA – Spring Mtg.
12 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Summer Choir Annual Meeting Ministry Staff	13 11:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance	14 12:00p Administrative Staff	15 9:00a WWC	16	17	18
19 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Summer Choir	20 Tidings Deadline 6:30p Property Ministry	21 7:00p Chair Meeting	22 9:00a WWC	23 7:00p Worship Ministry	24	25
26 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Summer Choir	27	28 7:00p Council	29 9:00a WWC	30 Preschool Summer school ends		