



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



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

Fleeing for Your Life

"Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters...They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity; they reeled and staggered like drunkards, and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and God brought them out from their distress...and God brought them to their desired haven." - Psalm 107:23, 26-30

The number of people forced to flee conflict, violence, human rights violations, and persecution has now surpassed 100 million for the first time on record. Even though World Refugee Day falls on June 20th every year, I would like to share some thoughts of Quinn G. Caldwell, published in the UCC Daily Devotionals, on June 20, 2015.

They that go down to the sea in ships do so for all manner of business, and it's strange how much of it is romanticized, at least among landlubbers. There are fishers. There are merchant mariners. There are marine biologists. There are cruisers and pleasure-boaters. There are pirates, and there are warriors. Each of these has its own kind of mystique, its own romance in the popular imagination. But there are some occupations at sea nobody paints heroic pictures of. Slave trader comes to mind. People-smuggler. And perhaps most of all: refugee. The open sea loses every ounce of its romance when what's sailing over the bounding main is an ancient boat full of people fleeing terror in their homelands and refused permission to land anywhere. Have you ever heard of a kid playing refugee dress-up? The psalmist claims that God pays special attention to those tossed about on the sea. The rest of the Bible makes clear God's particular concern for migrants and refugees.

Refugees are people who have fled their countries due to war and persecution. Most refugees prefer to return home, but it is often too dangerous because of ongoing conflict and unrest. Some languish in refugee camps for a decade or more. Others remain in neighboring countries. Some seek asylum in the U.S. on their own, taking great risks, facing the dangers and despair of detention or deportation.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of providing welcome and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees and the protection of asylees within the United States while advocating for and responding to the needs of the displaced globally. We've also accompanied

asylum seekers as they have sought permanent sanctuary in the United States. Around the world, the UCC supports local communities that welcome people fleeing the effects of war, violence, persecution and political disruption – whether those people are displaced within their country of origin or across a border into a neighboring country. This helps strengthen a delicate social balance for the well-being of all.

We are excited to welcome Exodus World Service (Project Survivor) on Sunday, October 2 at First Congregational during our worship and for their *Fleeing for Your Life: Refugee Journey Simulation* following our worship service. The simulation will be approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. There are 5 modules that the participants go through, in different rooms and each takes approximately 15 minutes. The group will experience on a small level what refugees experience on their journey to find a safer place to live. They will problem solve and work as a "family" as they journey together.

Some go down to the sea in ships for business. Some do it to save their lives. Let's join God in steering them to a safe haven.

Rev. Co DuToit

Worship Ministry

September 4

Hymn Sunday/Outdoor Worship

Service of Worship 9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship 10:00a
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Communion/Rally Day

Service of Worship 9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship 10:00a
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Service of Worship 9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship 10:00a
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Service of Worship 9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship 10:00a
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading Luke 16:19-31

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry

Rally Day to Kick Off New Sunday School Year

Our new Sunday School year begins on September 11, when students initially will join their families in the sanctuary at 9:00am and then be dismissed for class. Registration will take place afterwards, and ice cream will be served in Webster Hall. Questions? Please speak with Sue Almerigi.

Diaconate Ministry

'Got Pop Bottles?

The Diaconate Ministry wants **your** two-liter wide bottom plastic pop bottles! The bottles are used to transport flowers to church members and friends dealing with illness and other special circumstances. You can bring your bottles to church and leave them on the back kitchen counter, inside the door closest to the women's washroom.

Membership & Communications Ministry

Creative Conversation Starts New Year September 12

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 September selection is ***Sarah's Key***. For details speak with Marcia Urban.

Evening Circle Begins New Year on September 13

Evening Circle monthly meetings are starting up again, in person, on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00pm in the Barwick Room. All women of the church are invited to come and join in the fun, fellowship, planning and refreshments. We will be electing new officers and are looking for ideas for future meetings. We will make detailed plans for the Bake Sale Evening Circle is coordinating for the September 24 Craft & Market Day. We will also start talking about our own fundraiser, the Bake & Craft Sale in November. We expect to conduct the sale "virtually" and distribute on a Sunday in Webster Hall, as we did last spring.

Walk in the Woods

What better way to welcome autumn than with a leisurely walk in the woods? Join your fellow church members and friends at The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave. in Glenview on Thursday, September 29. We'll meet at the Interpretive Center at 4:00pm and walk at 4:30pm. Dinner afterwards (optional) at North Branch, 4520 W. Lake Ave. in Glenview. (Just north of The Grove) Sign-up sheet coming soon!

Capture Your Favorite Summer Moments!

Maybe you have a family wedding to attend this summer. A family reunion? Do you have a new grandchild? A spectacular garden you're proud of? Or, maybe you finally took that long-awaited vacation. Whatever you do this summer, remember to take a picture to share in our *What I Did This Summer* photo display in September. Questions? Please speak with Debbie Walusiak.

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



These shelves are just waiting for your CBP donations – thank you in advance!

Backpack Program Gearing Up for Fall

The District 62 Community Backpack Project (CBP) starts up again this month. First Congregational Church will be supplying weekend meals and snacks for children at North School as we have the past few years. The generosity of the congregation has made this a very successful outreach program, and we hope to continue to help students who have need for weekly nutrition. The items required for supplying this mission have been printed on sheets provided on the credenza by the Church Office and on the table by the sanctuary. Anyone may drop off supplies on the bench at the bottom of the stairs from the West Entrance at any time, and they will be processed [at least] on a twice weekly basis. It will be very helpful if items are labeled for the CBP Ministry. For details, please contact Lowell Handy at handytrees@att.net.

Meals on Wheels Seeks Drivers – Can You Help?

Beginning October 10 and going through November 4, First Congregational Church is slated to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Des Plaines area. Additional volunteer drivers are sought to deliver meals to the homebound. To learn more about how you can help, contact Richard Schacht at ilcpa95@hotmail.com.



Church members Joanne Kimball and Nancy Brink deliver a Welcome Pack to a Chicago apartment in August.

Project Survivor Makes Two Deliveries

Our church's Project Survivor team made two Welcome Pack deliveries in August to clients of Exodus World Service, which helps new refugees settle in the Chicago area. The team delivered household goods to a single man from Afghanistan and also to a Burmese family of four. The family actually had been living in Chicago for a while but a house fire left them homeless and living in their car for two weeks, according to Exodus. Project Survivor currently seeks donations of new kitchen pots/pans, cookie sheets, muffin tins and cake pans. For details contact Nancy Brink.

Property Ministry

Sign-up Open for AED Training This Month

Training for use of our church's Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is open to all and will be held at 10:00am on Sunday, September 11 and Sunday, September 18. The sessions will last about 30 minutes and will be held in the Barwick Room. Sign-up in the Church Office or call 847/299-5561 to register. (Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm) Questions? Contact Jim Foster at 224/361-6735.

Youth Ministry



Members of our Senior PF volunteered with special needs youth at Adam's Camp (above) and also made time for sightseeing in Colorado (below).



PFers Travel to Colorado for Summer Service Trip

Three of our church's Senior PFers and chaperones spent five days in August volunteering with special needs youth at Adam's Camp in Colorado. According to Matt Cameron, Youth Ministry coordinator, the FCC group worked with campers to overcome fears and show them how to function more independently. The Adventure Camp also provided a much needed respite for campers' parents. The PF group included Caiden and Caitlyn Claussen and Mia Thomas.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

During Fiscal 2022, which ended on June 30, we had total income in our Church's general fund of \$347,017 and expenses of \$339,254. Special thanks to church members and friends who gave of their financial resources to meet and exceed their pledges - and who gave of their time and talents in many fundraising efforts throughout the year. And special recognition and thanks to our church staff and Ministries, who continue to do more with less, to maintain and expand church programs in our building, the community, and beyond. The Finance Committee is pleased to report that at year end, we were able to transfer \$7,763 to our Contingency Fund to cover possible future budget shortfalls and unbudgeted expenses.

Craft & Market Day This Month – All Hands on Deck!



After a 2-year absence, Craft & Market Day is returning to FCCDP on September 24. Crafters and vendors will have tables in Webster Hall. Sellers are also able to reserve spaces outside on the church's front lawn. Once again, we will have a raffle for a giant basket of gift cards, certificates, and services (valued at \$1,000+). An all-church bake sale will be conducted by Evening Circle. A Food Truck will be on site from Tiki Terrace in Des Plaines.

This is one of our church's largest fundraisers of the year. Although it's not nearly as big as the Second Time Around Sale, we still need everyone's help to make it a success! **We hope that all church members will participate in some way and commit to doing at least one thing to make this event successful!** Can you volunteer to help us for an hour or two?

- Several volunteers are needed to help vendors bring in their merchandise from the parking lot, before the sale starts (from 7:30 to 9:00 am on Sept. 24).
- Volunteers will also be needed to help vendors bring their supplies and any unsold items back to their cars at the end of the day, take down tables, and return Webster Hall to "Sunday-ready" condition (approx. 2:45 to 4:00 pm).
- We will need people to help us greet shoppers and direct traffic flow during the event.

- We need people to sell raffle tickets.
- If we want to have the Book Nook stocked and open during the sale, we need a volunteer/volunteers to oversee it.
If you can't be there that day, perhaps you could...
- Donate a gift card or certificate to add to the raffle basket.
- Bake something yummy for the Bake Sale.
- Distribute flyers to your friends, neighbors, or community organizations.

However you can help, it will be greatly appreciated. Contact Sharon Urry at surry1024@comcast.net, to let her know that we can count on you! Any questions, please contact Sharon or Daisy Farley at craftvendorfccdp@gmail.com.



Church members Daisy Farley and Jana Haas display the huge raffle basket featured at a previous Craft & Vendor Fair.

Church Fundraising Calendar Submissions Sought

We're currently assembling a calendar of all fundraisers planned by Church Ministries, Committees, and other groups during Fiscal 2022-2023. This calendar will be submitted to the Church Council for approval at their September meeting. It's important that the calendar includes all planned fundraisers, so we can be sure that multiple groups aren't planning events for the same dates. If you have not yet submitted your fundraising plans, please email them to surry1024@comcast.net by Friday, September 23.



Bulletin Board of Bills Wraps Up; Still Time to Participate!

Thanks to everyone who has already participated in this year's Bulletin Board of Bills. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, there's still time! The fundraiser continues through Labor Day. Watch Co's Notes, where several bills are posted each week, or check out the Finance Committee bulletin board in the church, between the sanctuary and the office. Select a bill that fits within your budget and make a donation to the church in that amount. Mail a check, payable to FCCDP, to the church; drop your check in the offering plate during worship; pay via PayPal; or call the church office to pay by credit card.

"Second Time Around" Sale set for April 29, 2023

(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 first early drop-off date was in August, and the **second date is September 25**.* 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.

Nina Potempa	01-Sep	Paul Whittenhall	01-Aug
Sandy Crocker	03-Sep	Dan Fink	21-Sep
Angela Hinderliter	06-Sep	Rhonda Yost	21-Sep
Ralph Murdy	06-Sep	Kirsten Tangeros	25-Sep
Brandonn Deadwyler	09-Sep	Connor Thomas	25-Sep
Ansebel DuToit	09-Sep	Gail Deadwyler	27-Sep
Chris Donoghue	10-Sep	Cody Meincke	29-Sep
Lauren Muhr	13-Sep		

Save These Dates!

October 2 – Refugee Sunday (simulation), at church 10am-11:30am

October 2 – Pet Blessing (front lawn) in the afternoon

October 23 – Anniversary Sunday

In Memoriam

Brian A. Gray

July 29, 2022

Gifts & Memorials

From the Preschool

Save the date of Thursday, September 22 and help support the First Congregational Preschool by dining at Charcoal Delights, 1090 E. Oakton St. in Des Plaines. Dine in or carry out from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

All receipts placed in the collection box at the restaurant will benefit the Preschool. For details speak with Preschool Director Elizabeth Liston.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

One Sunday in August we were delighted to have Carolyn Scheuer surprise us with her attendance at our worship service. She didn't say that her late husband, Garry, was our senior minister from 1972 to 1979, just that she was happy to be back....and that she now has 13 great-grandchildren. Wow! This is how those of us who were members 50 years ago remember them and the "six-pack"!



Rev. Scheuer and his family when they joined us in 1972: Garry III, Markay, Terri, Chris, Shawn, Paul

And, their family now includes: son Garry Scheuer III (wife Sheree), daughters Markay Suevel (husband Eric), Terri Zinke, Christine Molinowski (husband Stephen) and Shawn Killebrew (husband James), and son Paul Scheuer (wife Betsy); grandsons Ken Scheuer, Joshua Suevel, Justin Suevel, Ryan Suevel, Garrett Zinke, Trey Zinke, Levi Zinke, Mark Killebrew, Addison Killebrew, Parker Killebrew, Joseph Scheuer and Samuel Scheuer; granddaughters Korissa Calcagno, Sierra Walsh, Brittany Ramsdell, Savannah Molinowski, Emily Molinowski and Lindsey Arn, and 13 great-grandchildren.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraiser: Craft-and-Vendor Fair				1 7:00p Membership & Communications	2	3
4 Hymn Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	5 Labor Day	6 Pre-School Starts	7 9:00a WWC	8	9	10
11 Rally Day Communion PF - Presentation 9:00a Worship Chancel Players 10:00a Ministry Staff 10:00a AED Training 4:00p PF - Drop-In	12 Rev. Co on vacation until Sunday, Sept. 18 11:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	13 7:00p Evening Circle	14 9:00a WWC 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	15	16	17 8:00a Exodus World Service Run/Walk-for-Life
18 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a AED Training Rev. Co on Vacation	19 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	20 Tidings Deadline 12:00p Administrative Staff 6:30p Chair Meeting	21 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	22	23	24 9:00a Craft-and-Vendor Fair
25 9:00am Worship Wholly Ringers 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation K1- Buffalo Grove	26 7:00p Wholly Ringers	27 7:00p Council	28 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	29 4:30p Walk-in-the-Woods and Let's Eat Out Dinner to follow at North Branch	30	01