



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



November 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 11

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

An Attitude of Gratitude

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name."

-Psalm 100:4

In a world swamped by challenges and uncertainties, the age-old wisdom of Psalm 100 is significant. The concept of gratitude is not only a timeless virtue but has also got attention from modern science for its potential health benefits.

An attitude of gratitude is not always an easy path, but even in the face of life's difficulties, gratitude can take on a deeper, selfless meaning. In our lives, there are countless occasions when well-meaning advice reminds us to be thankful, even in the face of adversity. *"Things could be much worse,"* they say, or the ever-popular phrase, *"God never gives you more than you can handle."* While these sentiments offer comfort, they don't take away the very real struggles that many people face. There are moments when gratitude is overshadowed by anger, sorrow, or frustration. These are times when it's challenging to see the silver lining, as witnessed after yet another senseless mass shooting.

The psalmist's wisdom invites us to approach worship, and life, not as seekers of comfort, but as bearers of thanksgiving and praise. It's an approach that sets the stage for experiences that are "delightfully different" or, at the very least, less burdensome. This shift in perspective acknowledges that gratitude is not about seeking immediate relief from our problems. Instead, it's about bringing a sense of thankfulness with us, regardless of our circumstances.

While gratitude is often intertwined with self-care and mood-lifting exercises, it's a concept that is much wider than the boundaries of personal well-being. True gratitude, as we find in the Psalms, is about giving thanks despite what is happening, not because of it. It's also about recognizing that our lives are not lived in isolation but are intricately connected to the well-being of others.

Surrounded by challenges, practicing gratitude can be a beacon of light for both ourselves and those around us. It's a reminder that we are not alone in our struggles. Gratitude invites us to look beyond our own difficulties, to keep a watchful eye on the well-being of others, and to extend a hand in support. In this way, our thanksgiving becomes more than a personal ritual; it becomes a force for good, a source of strength for our communities, and a witness to the human spirit's resilience.

An attitude of gratitude isn't just a cliché but a powerful principle that can transform our lives. While it's not always easy to embrace, especially in the face of life's adversities, it becomes a symbol of hope when we hold fast to it. In an ever-changing world, where challenges can often overshadow our blessings, gratitude serves as a reminder of the goodness that surrounds us. When we work on an attitude of gratitude, we don't just find comfort for ourselves, but we also become a source of comfort for others, cultivating a world that is not just thankful but truly caring and compassionate.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

November 5 Communion/All Saints Sunday/Brunch at Sunrise Grill

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 12

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a – Scout pancake breakfast

Hall

Lay Reader	Tom Tucker
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

November 19

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Linda Opalka
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 26 Reign of Christ Sunday/Thanksgiving Food Drive

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23

Children's & Adult Education Ministry



Three of our Sunday School students were presented with Bibles in October. Pictured with CAE coordinator Sue Almerigi and Rev. Co are (l to r) Max Alde, Nicky Pelletiere and Andrew Dahl.

Night Ministry Collection Underway

Our church once again is collecting needed items for clients of The Night Ministry in Chicago. The items will be stuffed into stockings during the holiday season by our Sunday School students and interested members of the congregation. Donations will be accepted at church through December 1. A complete list of needed items plus additional information on The Night Ministry can be found on the credenza outside the Church Office. For details speak with Sue Almerigi.

Diaconate Ministry

About those Flowers...

Our Diaconate Ministry is looking for people to make a \$25 donation in honor or memory of a special person for the Altar Flowers each Sunday. Just call the Church Office and give the name and date. After the worship service, these flowers are taken to members and friends of our congregation who are ill or shut in or for special occasion or sympathy.

Membership & Communications Ministry



***Anniversary Sunday
October 2023***

***Happy 154th birthday
to our church!***

Womens Fellowship Outing This Month

We hope you purchased your ticket(s) by October 29 to join us for our November “meeting,” which actually is going to see the musical “Hello, Dolly!” at Prairie Lakes Theatre on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00pm. See you there? All church members are welcome.

FCC’s Got Talent – Let’s See Yours!

Our church’s annual Talent Show is scheduled from 4:00pm to 6:00pm on Sunday, November 12, in Webster Hall. Please sign up ASAP in the Church Office if you plan to participate. Questions? Speak with Marcia Urban or contact her at pastormarciaurban@gmail.com.

Creative Conversation Underway – All are Welcome

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 **November 13** selection is ***Remarkably Bright Creatures***, by Shelby Van Pelt. Whether you've had a chance to read the book or not, we hope you'll join us for what we expect to be a lively discussion.



Congratulations to the Grice family on the birth of *Gabriella Clara Marie*, born at home in Aurora on October 11 to Christopher and Ashley Grice. She is the sister of Caleb, Daniel, Joshua and Gracelyn and the granddaughter of Rev. Dr. William & Ann Grice (pictured).

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Backpack Ministry Prepares for Holiday Season

For the end of this year our Backpack Ministry will be supplying an extra pack for the long holiday weeks when school is not in session. For these special contributions we intend to include food for the breaks at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. In order to fill the holiday bags we can use congregational help in supplying the following items: large canned chicken (10 oz. — multiple packs are available at discount), cereal boxes (±12 oz. in kid-friendly varieties; recently these have been available on sale @ 4 for \$10 at various grocery chains), canned corn (±15 oz.), canned green beans (±15 oz.), canned cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes (±15 oz.), canned fruit (±15 oz. select something you would have liked as a child), spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, stuffing mix, and packets of mashed potatoes (add water only). As for the Fall and Winter months inclusive, individual hot cocoa packets will also be included. Any extra donated items will be saved to be used later or (if a use by date is imminent) turned over to the broader Community Backpack Project. Many thanks and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. Questions? Contact Lowell Handy at handytreesh@att.net



Nancy Brink and John Foster made a delivery to Exodus World Service in October, to benefit a refugee new to the Chicago area.

Project Survivor Lists Current Needs

Our church's Project Survivor is seeking the following supplies to benefit Exodus World Service and its work with refugees new to the Chicago area: Paper towels, new 3-bowl mixing sets, four lightbulb packs (60,75 or 100), medium laundry detergent, one-cup measuring cups plus new twin sheets, comforters and blankets. For more information, speak with Nancy Brink.

Music Ministry

Christmas Concert Here December 17

A Christmas Cantata presented by our own Chancel Choir and accompanied by Anna Kovalevska is scheduled for 4:30pm on Sunday, December 17. Soloists will include Cindie Hoch, Corrine Bachar, Mary Pittman, Nancy Novak, Mary-Lou Cameron, Dee Hardesty, Rev. Co, Don Cameron, Rick Warren, Rob Bachar and Garrett Pittman. The Concert will begin promptly at 4:30pm. There will be many moments during the *Joy to the World* performance where you can sing your favorite Christmas carols, too. Nursery care provided, and there might be a visitor from the North Pole! After the concert, you are invited to share your favorite holiday main dish, side dish, appetizer, salad or dessert at a festive potluck in Webster Hall. To learn more, contact Scott Emerick at scott_fccdp@yahoo.com.

Property Ministry

Notes from Our Property Manager

Did you know that our church has a small supply of special needs equipment for use by the congregation – canes, shower chairs, walkers and a “knee scooter.” We also have an assortment of gently used wood tables (six foot and eight foot in length) that are free to a good home because Property Ministry has replaced them with new tables. For details speak with Jim Foster.

A reminder to those who use the women’s washroom on the main floor to **please turn off the light** when you are finished!

Youth Ministry



Rainy weather prevented our Jr./Sr. PF from visiting the Richardson's Corn Maze in October so the group enjoyed an impromptu "Drop In" in Brehm Hall instead.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Income for the month of September was \$36,435 while expenses were \$25,058. This puts us \$11,377 in the black for the month and \$12,259 in the black year-to-date. Thank you to everyone for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings and to the Church Ministries for holding the line on expenses.

Craft & Market Day Recap

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Craft & Market Day a success! With everyone working together, we were able to net a total of \$4,000 for the church's general budget.

Thanks to all the vendors and crafters who participated, all the volunteers who made everything run smoothly, our bakers, raffle donors, and to all the shoppers. We couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks to Jana Haas, who recruited donations and coordinated our raffle; Faith Engler, who oversaw the all-church bake sale; and most of all to Daisy Farley, who put in countless hours planning, organizing, and overseeing the event.

And, congratulations to our Raffle winners! Mary Cameron won the Grand Prize basket, valued at \$1,300; Nancy Carvajal (one of our vendors) was awarded 2nd prize, valued at \$400; and Trish Romza took home the 3rd place basket, valued at \$200.

Holiday Gift Cards Coming!

The FCCDP 2023 Gift Card Sale is now underway! Pick up an order form and full list of available cards from the credenza outside the church office. Or call the church secretary at 847-299-5561 to have one sent to you. All profits from the sale will benefit the church's general budget. Gift cards make great holiday gifts for those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list. And plan ahead for other events and occasions throughout the year, when you may need gift cards. You're also encouraged to buy gift cards for yourself, for businesses you regularly frequent. It's a great way to earn money for the church on purchases you'd be making anyway.

- The first order will be placed on Sunday, November 5, and will continue for six Sundays, with the final order being placed on December 10. Cards will be available after worship on the Sunday following the day the order was placed.

- Orders will be accepted after Sunday worship, by emailing Rod Beets at rodbeets99@gmail.com, or by calling Rod at 847-253-3293. Deadline for both phone and email orders is 2:00 pm on the Sunday order date.
- Gift cards should be paid for at the time of order. To maximize profits from the fundraiser, we will only be able to accept payment by check (made payable to the church) or cash.

Thanks in advance for your support!

“Second Time” Rummage Sale Updates

STA sale update from co-chair Ellen Alde: Mark your calendars - our November drop offs will be Sunday, November 5 following the church service and Wednesday, November 15 from 10:00am to 11:00am. Thank you to everyone who has been dropping off items. (We still have plenty of storage room - in case you were wondering) Thank you for the continued labeling of boxes and bags. Also, if you are donating bed linens, please indicate the bed size they would fit. We are in the process of taking small furniture items- if it will fit in your car, please consider bringing that to us as well. Just a reminder - no TV's, sleeper sofas, couches, refrigerators or freezers. For details please contact your co-chairs: Chris Tomsic (ctomsic@mac.com) or Ellen Alde (ealdefccdp@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support, have a great month, see you in December!!

Pastoral Relations Committee

In Case You Were Wondering...

The purpose of FCCDP's Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is to maintain an open relationship between the Minister and members of the congregation. It helps the Minister and church members share ideas, hopes, and dreams. It lets the Minister know what people in the church are thinking and provides a framework for dealing with conflict creatively. It also serves as a resource to the Minister and the Congregation Council for information and special projects throughout the year.

This year's PRC consists of:

Sharon Urry (liaison with Youth and Education Ministries)

Bob Crocker (liaison with Mission & Outreach Ministry)

Quinn Yost (liaison with Property Ministry)

Jana Haas (liaison with Worship and MAC Ministries)

Joyce Petersen (liaison with Diaconate Ministry)

Corrine Bachar (liaison with Music & Drama Ministry)

Please feel free to reach out to any PRC member with your questions, concerns, or comments.

From the Community

Scout Pancake Breakfast on November 12

Scout Troop 6 will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser in Webster Hall from 8:00am to 12:00pm on Sunday, November 12. Tickets are available through Tommy Almerigi. Watch Notes from Co for further information.

FCC Preschool News

Dine-N-Share on November 6

The First Congregational Preschool is holding a “Dine-n-Share” fundraiser from 11:00am to 9:00pm on Monday, November 6 at Mr. Beef & Pizza, on Elmhurst Rd. in Mt. Prospect. Bring a flyer (***shown below***) from the Preschool and show it to the cashier, and 15 percent of your order will be applied to the fundraiser. Questions? Speak with Elizabeth Liston.



**1796 S. Elmhurst Rd. at Algonquin • Mt. Prospect
847-228-1210**

Dine-n-Share Day

November 6, 2023

Support Des Plaines

1st Congregational

Preschool!

Bring this flyer to Mr. Beef & Pizza on Monday, November 6th, any time between 11am and 9pm and Mr. Beef & Pizza will donate 15% of your order to your school!

Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers and grandparents to help support your school!

no coupons or discounts will be accepted, no private parties or catering

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 Office at 847/299-5561.

Teena Whittenhall	01-Nov
Tommy Almerigi	03-Nov
Katie Sheahan-Gray	06-Nov
Nancy Schacht	07-Nov
Nicky Pelletiere	09-Nov
Aubria Cameron	11-Nov
AJ Almerigi	12-Nov
Jim Foster	13-Nov
Linda Opalka	14-Nov
Sarah Liston	17-Nov
Chris Potempa	17-Nov
Jacob DeHart	18-Nov
Ryan Cooper	21-Nov
Zoe Cooper	21-Nov
Georgia DeHart	27-Nov
Joanne Kimball	27-Nov
Bob McCullough	30-Nov
Henry Nutley	30-Nov
Heather Zomchek	30-Nov

Craft & Market Day October 2023



Pictured (clockwise from top left) are Joyce Beets at the Bake Sale table; Daisy Farley, Craft & Market Day coordinator, who was called in at the last minute to help with grilling; Mary Cameron, winner of the Grand Prize raffle basket, with André Deadwyler and Rev. Co; and representatives of Border Tails animal rescue, under their tent on the front lawn.

Trunk or Treat October 2023



Everyone got into the “spirit” on Sunday, October 29, from our Sunday School students (pictured during Rugtime with Rev. Co) to our Ministry Staff (also pictured, minus a few members).





FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

As my recent articles have been about our parsonages on Prairie Avenue and Oakwood Avenue, I thought maybe I should remind us of the second parsonage. Our Centennial Book says "The need for a second parsonage arose when plans were made for our student youth worker to bring his family to Des Plaines and become assistant minister, giving a larger share of his time to our work. A second advantage of this new acquisition was that it made possible the construction of a badly needed parking lot. The careful planning of Elmer Passow resulted in places for 88 cars. The Poyer property, adjoining the church to the south at 794 Graceland Avenue, was purchased for this purpose in 1954 at a price of \$23,000."

Several years ago, I received this from Larry Poyer: "Here is an old memory to share with you: that parking lot next to the Church belonged to a distant Poyer relative of mine named Marion Poyer; her husband Lester passed away back in the 40's. My mom always felt sorry for her, living alone in that big white house next to the church with that huge yard of grass to mow, so Mom always volunteered me to cut her grass (the old push type mower) and it took a good three hours to finish the job (and she would always come out to inspect if I had



trimmed all around the big trees in the yard and her garden in the back of the yard. Then she would give me five quarters for doing this, and I would walk back down to my house thinking what a cheapskate she was. I made more money on my Daily News paper route."

Your Historian's personal memory of that Poyer house? I remember it well, as our 1960's youth minister Rev. Jack Alford occasionally would host PF breakfasts on Saturday mornings...with all of us piling in for donuts and juice...and his three little ones still running around in their pajamas!

In 1969 the old house was demolished, the church parking lot was enlarged and a lovely grass-covered lawn was created south of the church, now a space for youth activities and a playground for our preschool.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraisers:						
5 Communion All Saints Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation 10:30a Sunday Brunch	6 7:00p Wholly Ringers	7 12:00p Administrative Staff 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Mfg.	8 9:00a WW/C 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	9 	10	11
12 8:00am Scout Pancake Breakfast 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Staff Meeting Wholly Ringers 4:00p Talent Show	13 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Wholly Ringers 7:00p Finance	14 1:30p Womens Fellowship	15 9:00a WW/C 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship SHCFP Food Drive	20 Tidings Deadline Pre-school closed 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	21 6:00p Chair Meeting	22 9:00a WW/C 7:00p Chancel Choir	23 Office Closed Thanksgiving	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	27 7:00p Wholly Ringers	28 7:00p Council	29 9:00a WW/C 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	30		

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561