



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



January 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 1

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

Have a Blessed New Year!

"Put off your old self."

Ephesians 4:2

If you've started thinking about your resolutions for the New Year, maybe you've noticed that some of them are depressingly familiar. Lose 40 pounds, take ballroom dancing lessons, get that tattoo removed. Or maybe this year, you can try something new: "Put off your old self."

Donna Schaper

How to put off your old self and put on a new one? It is not as easy as changing clothes or making New Year's resolutions. It has to do with walking the same street but in a different way. It might be as easy as looking around for what others have left behind or adding what others have abandoned to your own repertoire or costume or garden.

Do you miss kindness in your life? Become kind. Do you miss tenderness, a touch on your shoulder after a hard day? Touch someone's shoulder. (Make sure you have permission.) Do you miss adventure? Do something you've never done before. Do you miss justice? Howl for it at the next full moon. Make sure someone in Congress is listening.

And all the while you are tying yourself up with New Year's Resolutions, imagine that you already are a pretty good person, always ready for a Resurrection, but also full of color and life. Notice who you already are. Notice what you already have. Appreciate it. Then put on a new self.

Prayer

O God, release us from the personal oppression of New Year's resolutions as performance art and join us to a resolve that replaces what we miss. Amen.

May you all have a very blessed 2023!

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

January 1

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Communion

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
Scripture Reading	Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Deb Alde
Scripture Reading	John 1:29-42

January 22

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Katy Berman
Scripture Reading	Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Youth Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	
Lay Reader	Youth
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:1-12

Worship Ministry seeks additional members to help plan worship services to enhance the spiritual life of our church. Interested? Contact Mary Pittman for details at 847/721-6423.

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry



Our Sunday School students presented a festive Christmas pageant in December.

Membership & Communications Ministry



A group of FCC members and friends enjoyed Christmas Caroling in December. Our first stop was at Midtown Crossing, our neighbors across Graceland Ave.



Dashing through the Snow...

Our Christmas Caroling caravan traveled to the homes of (counterclockwise from left) Tom & Alice Tucker, Laurel Hoke and Bill & Marcy Vedral.





An enjoyable *Men's Night Out* was held in December, at Dad's Slot Cars in downtown Des Plaines. Pictured (l to r) are Don Cameron, Barry Haas and Matt Cameron.

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 January 9 selection is ***Violeta***, by Isabel Allende. 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.

Evening Circle Continues Daytime Meetings

Evening Circle's next meeting is at **1:30pm** on Tuesday, January 10 in the Barwick Room. All women of the church are invited to come and join in the fellowship and stay for refreshments and fun games.

With the wonderful support of the congregation at our virtual Bake and Craft fundraisers in March and November 2022, we had \$3,700 available for benevolence giving in December. We were pleased to make a donation of \$2,700 to FCCDP's General fund and \$100 each to Des Plaines Self-Help Closet & Pantry, Miracle House, Covenant House, Tower Hill Century Club, WINGS, The Harbour, Exodus World Service, The Salvation Army, Relay for Life/American Cancer Society and the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

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



Our congregation donated personal care items, gift cards, hats/gloves/scarves knitted by Jackie Schmitt and more and filled 48 stockings in December for The Night Ministry. The Chicago-based organization aids those experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Backpack Thanks...

A great big “thank you” is extended to the congregation for making the Christmas Backpack delivery such a success. The bags were delivered December 16, prior to North School's Winter break. It will be 2023 before the next backpack deliveries will be made [Jan.13, 2023]. Donations of regular food items will be welcomed. Those basics most in need include: small cans of sausages/tuna/chicken, condensed soup, fruit cups, oatmeal (individual packets), canned kidney beans, jelly (\pm 20 oz.), and small cans of vegetables (\pm 8 oz.). Again, your support is much appreciated. Questions? Contact Lowell at handytrees@att

Music Ministry



Our Chancel Choir and guests presented a beautiful Christmas cantata in December. The choir was directed by Scott Emerick and accompanied by Anna Kovalevska, with videography by Wendy Ellis.

Youth Ministry



PF Holiday Cookie Walk Fundraiser 2022

Thanks to all those who baked, bought and supported this annual event. Special thanks to Generations at Oakton for their donation of cookies, baked by their pastry chef. Sale proceeds will benefit the PF's 2023 Summer Mission Trip. (Pictured at right are Kirsten Tangeros and Joyce Beets)



Finance Committee

Talent & Gift Auction Begins January 14

Our 2023 Talent & Gift Auction is set to begin on January 14 and we need your help to make it successful! Once again this year, bidding will be done via email or telephone. Last year's Auction raised over \$3,500, because a record number of church members donated items to the auction and then participated in the bidding. What can you donate to make this year's Auction even more successful? Baked goods or a home-cooked specialty? A craft project or artistic creation? A service or lessons? Possibly a themed gift basket, gardening or landscape work, admission to a museum or the Arboretum. Or maybe you have an idea of your own. In past years, some of our most popular auction items were theatre tickets, sporting events, vacations, outings and activities. If you can donate an item for this year's Talent & Gift Auction, please contact Sharon Urry at surry1024@comcast.net, or call her at 847-421-1491, no later than January 10.

Gift Card Sale Results

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Holiday Gift Card Sale. Because of your purchases, we were able to raise \$1,365 for our church's general budget. Special thanks to Rod Beets for all his hard work organizing and overseeing this important church fundraiser.

Annual Church Audit

Every year there is an audit of the church's finances, completed by a team of FCCDP volunteers. This year's audit team consisted of Kevin Donoghue, Nancy Schacht, Richard Schacht, Ralph Murdy, Andre Deadwyler, Jim Ruedisueli, and Roger Alde. During the audit, random months' records from both the general budget and restricted accounts were selected and reviewed. Deposits and checks were matched up and verified against bank statements. While this year's audit team found no evidence of significant errors or omissions, they did make two recommendations:

- 1) Develop an up-to-date manual of accounting procedures.
- 2) Update or add an addendum to our inventory of the church's non-cash assets/property.

Thank you to our volunteer auditors for taking on this important job at the church.



About Our Church's Tree of Life

If you're considering making a large contribution to our church, above and beyond your regular pledge, remember that contributions of \$2,500 or more will be recognized with a leaf on our Tree of Life. Four different donation levels are recognized: a green leaf for a donation of \$2,500 to \$4,999; a bronze leaf for a donation of \$5,000 to \$9,999; a silver leaf for a donation of \$10,000 to \$24,999; a gold leaf for a donation of \$25,000 or more. Donations to the Church Foundation, a specific Church Ministry, or general gifts (outside of regular pledges) will be recognized. Personal property, securities, and real estate will be recognized at market value when received by the church. For more information, contact the church office.

"Second Time Around" Sale Coming Soon!

Thank you to those who have donated items for the April 29, 2023 sale, which is just around the corner. Our storage areas still have plenty of room for your donations. Our next drop-off date is Sunday, January 22 following the worship service. We greatly appreciate your labeling of your treasures to help us stay organized. As a reminder, we are not accepting household furniture this year. We will begin asking for volunteers soon for the week leading up to the sale, set-up and clean-up. Questions? Please contact STA sale co-chairs Ellen (caldefccdp@gmail.com) or Chris (ctomsic@mac.com).

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.

Francois DuToit	01-Jan	Sean Nutley	16-Jan
Alex Masciopinto	01-Jan	Erik Nanstiel	17-Jan
Dave DeHart	03-Jan	Ava Olsen	19-Jan
Heather Larson	03-Jan	Will Grice	22-Jan
Ann Grice	08-Jan	Jeannie Johnson	22-Jan
Andy Olsen	09-Jan	Vito Pelletiere	24-Jan
Rev. Co DuToit	10-Jan	Dan Meincke	27-Jan
Ken Santos	11-Jan	Matt Cameron	28-Jan
Jana Haas	12-Jan	Rod Beets	29-Jan
Connor Tomsic	12-Jan	Michael Liston	30-Jan
Jennifer Nutley	15-Jan	Patti Fink	31-Jan

Congratulations!



Best Wishes to Paul Meincke & Wendy Ellis on the birth of their third grandchild. *Ruth Frances* was born December 23 and is the daughter of Zach Meincke & Katie Lynch, of Tulsa, OK.

Gifts & Memorials

In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Cindie & Dave Hoch
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Carl & Judy Mahr
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Rick & Charlie Warren
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Barbara Dopp
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Rod & Joyce Beets
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Nancy Schacht
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Jana & Barry Haas
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Hans & Inge Eschenbach
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Roger & Ellen Alde
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Kathryn Reiten
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Dee Hardesty
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Flo Hoffman
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Lori Martens
In Loving Memory of Melanie Schimka from Jim & Kathy Foster
In loving memory of Melanie Schimka from Mary & Garrett Pittman
In Loving Memory of Melanie Schimka from Debbie & Ken Walusiak
In Loving Memory of Ada Groja from Ann Schwiger
In Loving Memory of Florence Boyer from Arline Epstein
In Loving Memory of Michele Weber from Debbie & Ken Walusiak
In Loving Memory of Vera Fager from Debbie & Ken Walusiak
In Loving Memory of Michele Weber from Debbie & Ken Walusiak

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is blessed to have two outdoor ministry sites: Pilgrim Park Camp and Tower Hill Camp. Both Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park are open throughout the year in order to serve the needs of individuals, families, and churches of the Illinois Conference and the areas surrounding each camp.

The oldest site, Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer Michigan, began in 1923 with the generous gift of 55 acres of land from the Warren Family. In addition, the Warren Family donated 200 feet of beach along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan for the use of camp patrons. Over its 100 year history, Tower Hill has constructed and improved a number of buildings, including the new St. Philippus Retreat Center, completed in June 2007.



Tower Hill July, 1948



Tower Hill – The Pines 1987



MADD Camp 1987

Have YOU enjoyed the facilities at Tower Hill? Jake Jacobs believes his mom, Shirley, attended back in the 1930's. I know many of our young people spent several years going to MADD Camp (Music, Art, Drama & Dance) coordinated by Dr. Grice and Janet Thompson.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	2	3 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Mtg.	4 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	5	6 Undecorating and Ski/tubing	7
8 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05am Ministry Staff Chancel players	9 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	10 12:00p Administrative Staff 1:30p Evening Circle	11 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	12	13	14 Time-and-Talent Auction Starts through January 29.
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation	16 MLK Jr. Day 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	17	18 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	19 7:00p Let's Talk	20 Tidings Deadline	21
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation STA-Sale Drop-Off Pre-School Open House 4:00 PF Drop-In	23 7:00p Wholly Ringers	24	25 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	26	27	28
29 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation Wholly Ringers Time & Talent Auction ends	30 7:00p Wholly Ringers	31	7:00p Chancel Choir			