



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



April 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 4

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

Consider the Lilies

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin...” - Matthew 6:28

The Easter Lily gets its name from the season which makes it popular – Easter – and from the Old English lillie, which means “pale, lovely, white.” Nicknamed the “white-robed apostle of hope,” this trumpet-shaped flower epitomizes purity and Christian love. They were discovered in the late 1700s and quickly rose to prominence in popular culture in England soon after that. However, it wasn't until after World War I that the Easter Lily hit the shores of the US, where it's been a hit ever since. Most Easter Lily plants produce trumpet-like white flowers and will grow between 12 and 15 blooms, with each stalk producing two or more blossoms.

Easter Lilies are quite fragrant, which is one of the reasons why they're so popular. The plant can grow up to 3 feet tall in ideal conditions. In more northern climates, Easter Lilies don't grow as tall. However, being grown in a cooler climate isn't all downsides. The plant produces more leaves when it's grown in cooler growing conditions, giving it a fuller, more lush appearance.

Despite being popular now in the Western world, Easter Lilies are actually native to Japan's Liu-chiu (Ryukyu) Islands, and were cultivated for many years in China and Japan before being brought to the West by explorer and plant enthusiast Carl Peter Thunberg, in 1777. By the late 1800s, Bermuda became a hotspot for Easter Lily growth. However, most exports of the flower came from Japan, until World War II, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor changed the trajectory of the flower's history forever. Nowadays, most of the world's Easter Lilies find their start in Oregon and California before moving on to other locations around the world. In all, about 10 Easter Lily growers produce all those flowers each year that people enjoy on their Easter tables. This is down from a high of 1,200 growers in the US in 1945.

The most predominant cultivar of the Easter Lily was created by grower James White. The Nellie White flower got its name inspiration from James White's wife, Nellie. Other popular varieties include the Deliana, which has flowers of a creamy yellow color. Lilies with bluish-pink flowers are called the Elegant Lady, though some people also call them the Pink Easter Lily. The White Elegance Lily is marked by many small white flowers, while the Triumphator produces white flowers with pink centers.

Because of their name, many assume that the Easter Lily is an Easter season flower. However, the liliun longiflorum is cultivated out of season to accommodate the holiday. Growers who grow the flower (so that it blooms in time for Easter) harvest the bulbs in the fall, sending them to the commercial greenhouses that will nurture the plants until the Easter season rolls around.

This is no small feat because Easter falls on a different day each year. However, experienced growers know the signs to watch for and can encourage blossoms from the plants, even out of season. Home growers aren't likely to go the same lengths that commercial growers do, however, to get these blossoms out of season. For them, it's best to go with the flower's natural growing season, which is summer, where they make lovely, fragrant additions to summer flower gardens.

It probably comes as no surprise that a flower that is associated with Jesus, the Great Healer Himself, has many healing properties. The Chinese use the plant as an expectorant for colds, as well as using it as a mild sedative. It also has compounds in it that are known steroids that fight breast cancer and leukemia.

The Easter Lily's lovely fragrance attracts pollinators of all sorts. However, as self-pollinating plants, they don't need insects like bees and other pollinators to reproduce. They bear hermaphroditic flowers, which will basically pollinate themselves when the wind begins to blow.

In the pagan cultures of Old, people associated the Easter Lily with fertility and motherhood. That's why so many people give these flowers to their moms as gifts. Easter Lilies also gets a nod in both Roman and Greek mythology. In Greek mythology, it is said that Hera's lilies bloomed in Hera's milk, while in Roman mythology, the goddess of love herself, Venus, cursed the lily plant, causing a large pistil to grow out of its center. The lily's offense? It was too lovely and pure, which made the goddess of love envious.

Mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments, the Easter Lily carries deep and significant meaning in Christianity. Its white color is a symbolic representation of hope, rebirth, new beginnings, and purity. For Christians around the world, it is synonymous with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Lily's message of hope lifts up those who are grieving, bringing the gifts of hope and joy in the midst of tears.

Source:

<https://www.petalrepublic.com/easter-lily-meaning/>

Happy Easter!

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

April 2

Palm Sunday/Communion/Easter Egg Hunt

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	Matthew 21:1-11

April 6

Maundy Thursday/Seven Last Words

Service of Worship	7:00p – www.fccdp.org
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April 9

Easter Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Cindy Hoch
Scripture Reading	John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 16

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Linda Opalka
Scripture Reading	John 20:19-31

April 23

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Confirmands
Scripture Reading	Luke 24:13-35

April 30

Youth Sunday/Sunday School Teacher Recognition

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

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry

First Congregational Church, 766 Graceland Ave.

EASTER EGG HUNT



5th Grade and under

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

FREE



Everyone has an opportunity to find eggs at our all-family event in a fenced playground area. (Please bring a basket or bag for each child.)

Registration is not required

Kindergarten and younger begin at approx. 10:00 am, promptly after the
9:00am Palm Sunday Church Service

Grades 1, 2 and 3 begin at approx. 10:15 am

Grades 4 and 5 begin at approx. 10:30 am

(In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be held indoors.) ***for further information call 847/299-5561 or on the web: fccdp.org***

Parking is available only in the Bank Lot at Prairie and Graceland Avenues.

Membership & Communications Ministry



An enjoyable “Men’s Night Out” was held in March, at North Branch in Glenview.
(Photo by Rev. Co)

Creative Conversation “Book Club” – 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 **April 10** selection is ***The Violin Conspiracy***, by Brendan Slocumb. 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.

Monthly All-Church Brunch Postponed Until May

Our monthly all-church brunch at Sunrise Grill, typically held after church on the first Sunday of each month, will not be held in April because of other activities taking place on April 2. Please plan to join us on May 7!



PRESENTS



Music By
John Kander,
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Original book and
concept by Peter Stone

SATURDAY June 24, 2023 2:00 PM

Sponsored by FCCDP – Womens Fellowship (aka Evening Circle)

Everyone invited to join us!

Prairie Lakes Theatre

515 E. Thacker Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Call 773-736-2490 or email
risingstarstc@gmail.com
for more information

www.risingstarschicago.com

TICKETS:

Adults: \$22

**Seniors 65 + children 14
and under: \$20**

(Face Masks optional)

**Contact Cathy Wiesner to order
ticket(s) and pay in advance.**

(Cathy's Cell#847-436-9987)

News from Womens Fellowship (formerly Evening Circle)

Evening Circle has renamed itself “Womens Fellowship.” (Apostrophe intentionally left out per the original name) The original Womens Fellowship met monthly on a weekday, with lunch included, as back then women generally didn’t work outside the home. The larger group had several groups under it, called “circles.” Evening Circle was for ladies who had daytime obligations. We are no longer meeting exclusively in the evening!

Our next meeting will be in the Barwick Room at 1:30pm on Tuesday, April 11. Everyone is welcome. Our future plans include a 1:00pm luncheon at Gail’s Carriage Inn on May 9 and an outing to see the musical comedy “Curtains” at Prairie Lakes Theatre on Saturday, June 24 at 2:00pm.

Distribution of items preordered for our Bake & Craft sale will be distributed this Sunday, April 2 in Webster Hall, during coffee hour. We expect there will also be some extra baked goods and crafts available for sale. Payment is by cash or check, payable to "Congregational Womens Fellowship."

Book Donations Sought

Creative Conversation's annual Book Sale is underway in Webster Hall, and **your** donations are encouraged. *All types of book donations welcome except for textbooks, encyclopedias and dictionaries.* Nominal book fees are posted, with payment on the honor system. All unsold books will be added to our *Second Time Around* rummage sale offerings.

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.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

News from the Community Backpack Project

The grants obtained by Jana Haas have supplied our shelves with jelly, peanut butter, canned pasta, soup, sausages, tuna, kidney beans, fruit cups, hot chocolate mix, pudding cups, and oatmeal packets. Items still needed by donation are currently fairly few: mostly individually wrapped snacks and (the ever continuously needed) boxed mac & cheese. Many thanks to all those who have signed up [and have already served] as volunteers for deliveries to North School. If there are questions, contact Lowell at handytreesh@att.net

Gearing Up for ACS Relay for Life...

(From Paul Schmitt, FCC Relay team captain) Through the combined efforts of members and friends of First Congregational Church, our church team in the 2022 Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society was able to reach a new level. Last year we raised more than \$6,000, placing us at the Gold Level and in fourth place among participating teams. Those who attended were able to witness a wonderful and meaningful event, particularly with the reading of names represented by each lighted luminaria. Organization for the 2023 Relay, to be held in Palatine, begins in April for our team. We must never forget the never-ending fight to eliminate all cancers. **Watch for a link to our FCC team page in Notes from Co, and save the date of June 16 for this year's Relay.** Once again, my sincere thanks to all who helped make 2022 our best year ever. I look forward to your continued support in 2023.

Music Ministry

This seven movement work is a beautiful choral journey through the Passion delivering a powerful story of the Seven Last Words of Christ. This will be presented during our Maundy Thursday Service.



MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

SEVEN LAST WORDS

Septem Ultima Verba

Guest Soloists Soprano Adrienne Grove, and Baritone Matthew Grove

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6th, 2023 7 p.m.

Led by Pastor Co DuToit,

Music Director Scott Emerick, and

Pianist Anna Kovalevska

FCCDP Chancel Choir -

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL

847-299-5561

www.fccdp.org



In case you missed it...Our Spring Handbell Concert in March featured our Wholly Ringers intergenerational choir, under the direction of Ellen Alde. A duet was performed during the concert by Rhonda Yost and Barbara Brodsky (pictured). Afterwards, the youngest ringers presented Ellen with a bouquet of flowers. And, after a long absence during the pandemic, a traditional FCC potluck supper before the concert was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the choir for a beautiful performance! (More photos on next page)





Finance Committee

Financial Report

For the month of February, FCCDP had income of \$20,432 and expenses of \$29,687. This is a shortfall for the month of \$9,254. But due to a cushion we had built up over the past several months, we are still in a positive position of \$29,534 through the first eight months of the current fiscal year. A special Thank You to all of our church members and friends for keeping up-to-date with their pledges and offerings - and even making additional donations when possible.

Automate Your Giving with ACH

Many of our church members have come to appreciate the convenience of electronic giving for their pledges and offerings. They like the convenience and comfort of knowing that even if they are not able to attend worship, their contribution is still available to further God's work in our church and the community. Through ACH, you can schedule your regular offering to be paid via electronic transfer from your bank checking or savings account, on a monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly basis. It's easy to get started! Just contact our Financial Administrator Larry Schimka, or the church secretary for more information.

Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send more than \$1,600 to the UCC, to aid those affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Thank you for supporting this much needed relief effort.

Budget Requests Due from Ministries

All Church Ministries are reminded that budget requests for the coming fiscal year are due mid-April. Please email your request to fcc766finance@fccdp.org to assure that funding for your Ministry is included in the budgeting process.

Zanies Comedy Club Fundraiser Next Month



You're invited to join us for an Evening of Comedy on Thursday, May 18, at Zanies Comedy Club in Rosemont. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Zanies has been rated the best stand-up comedy in Chicago. If you've been to Zanies in the past, with FCCDP or on your own, you know what a fun evening it is. And if you've never been there, mark your calendar and find out what you've been missing. Tickets are available for \$30 each, with \$20 from each ticket sold, going to benefit FCCDP's general budget. Invite your family members, neighbors, and friends to join you for this "adults only" event. Tickets will be available through the Church office (beginning in early April) and can be purchased with cash, check, or credit card.

SECOND TIME AROUND SALE

THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS' LARGEST RUMMAGE SALE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
766 GRACELAND AVENUE
DES PLAINES, IL 60016



Friday, April 28, 2023

6 :00 PM – 8:00 PM

(\$7.00 Entrance Fee- Friday Only)

Saturday, April 29, 2023

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



ANTIQUES – BOOKS – HOUSEHOLD GOODS – JEWELRY
BAKE SALE – CLOTHES – HOLIDAY SHOP – TOYS
ELECTRONICS – FOOD – SPORTING GOODS
OUTDOOR ITEMS – 50/50 RAFFLE



For more information: 847-299-5561

fccdp.org

THE Sale is THIS Month...Are You Signed Up to Help?

(From *Second Time Around* Sale Co-Chair Ellen Alde) THE BIG SALE IS THIS MONTH – April 29, 9:00am – 3:00pm; in case you forgot! Thank you to those who have already volunteered. However, we need **more** help during the week with organizing, sorting, pricing, etc. Volunteer forms are available on the credenza outside the Church Office and online, [click here](#) .

April early drop-off dates:

Wednesday, April 12 (10:00am-11:00am)

Sunday, April 16 (after the worship service)

Wednesday, April 19 (10:00am - 11:00am)

Remember that volunteers get to shop early on Thursday, April 27. Any amount of time you can spare is greatly appreciated. The STA Bulletin Board of Bills has been posted – check it out, this helps to cover SOME of the expenses. The Split the Pot Raffle Tickets are available for your purchase [\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20] starting April 1. See Ellen for tickets and details. We promise there will be more requests coming over the next few days and weeks – like baked goods and anything else I forgot. I never realized I was so needy. Questions? Please contact Ellen at ealdefccdp@gmail.com or Chris ctomsic@mac.com. Thank you for your help in making this sale a success. Be safe. BUT most of all – THANK YOU.

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.

Anna Lodewyck	02-Apr	Ken Warford	15-Apr
Sharon Urry	02-Apr	Jenna Cooper	16-Apr
Jason Schacht	04-Apr	Rick Johnson	18-Apr
Bill Meincke	06-Apr	Larry Meyer	23-Apr
Quinn Yost	07-Apr	Don Cameron	26-Apr
Alex Liston	08-Apr	Zaphillia Yost	26-Apr
Brian Cameron	09-Apr		

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Jerry Petersen from Kathryn Ladendorf

From the Community

The Park Ridge Chorale Presents

The Crown Jewels



Musical Gems from the British Isles

Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:00 PM

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
205 N. Prospect
Park Ridge, IL
(Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Sponsored by Dreamtown
Realty/Team Fallico
teamfallico.com



dreamtown REALTY
teamfallico.com

Featuring music from
PBS's *Victoria*
The film *Henry V*
Noel Coward
Gilbert & Sullivan
Madrigals, Hymns
& more!

TICKETS: Advance: \$16 Adults, \$14 Seniors.
Advance ticket sales end 04/14/2023
<https://squareup.com/market/park-ridge-chorale>
At the door: \$20 Adults, \$18 Seniors, Children 18 and under are free.
For more information call Dave Dadabo 847.501.1203

FCC Choir member Corrine Bachar, also a member of the Park Ridge Chorale, extends an invitation to all to check out this performance. For tickets and details, speak with Corrine.

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

As a conclusion to my articles on Tower Hill (at least for now), our pastor emeritus, Dr. William Grice, provided more current information about both Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI (celebrating 100 years) and Pilgrim Park in Princeton IL.

6) One of the issues with ODM is that while it wants to serve and attract the "less privileged" and under-served communities of the inner-city youth and adults and churches, the Community Renewal Society came to realize taking children or adults to a camp was a "foreign experience" to those who lived in the inner city and dealt with crime, gangs, drugs, and death on a daily basis. Money could be spent better on developing programs in the inner city neighborhoods where people live. (Such as the mission focus of San Lucas.) This still holds true today. Coming to camp for a week or a weekend had very little lasting results; and the idea of being in a "different" place to be "refreshed" or "relaxed" for a couple of days really did nothing to ease the pain and realities they faced in their neighborhoods on a daily basis. However, at Tower Hill, there is (or was) an inner city Jesuit group that worked with teenage boys considered "at risk". They had a very structured - almost military-type - of program; and would bring the boys they worked with on a year-round basis to Tower Hill for an intensive week of training. This Jesuit group was present for some of our Grandparent & Me Camps, so I learned more about them. Interesting group and I hope they've made a difference in the lives of the boys they worked with, many of whom had fathers who were absent, dead, or in prison.

7) You mentioned St. Philippus Retreat Center (completed in 2007). I was on the ODM at that time and persuaded them to give \$\$\$ to Tower Hill to have a lasting legacy for their congregation. They did. :) Also, I did the same thing and visited St. Mark's UCC when it closed. They also gave \$\$\$ from the sale of their church; and now the chancel window from St. Mark's is in the Schrag Retreat Center. :) I also chaired the 1985-1988 Capital Fund Drive for Tower Hill that purchased the land where the Schrag Retreat Center is located and built the building, updated the Dining Hall, added a roof to Marshall Hall; and lots of other smaller projects.

8) Somewhere around 2016 or 2017 the Cottages at Tower Hill were condemned. The sewer line to the septic system broke. It would have cost big bucks to fix it. The Cottages themselves were in terrible repair.... rotting wood, black mold, animal droppings and damage, etc. Tower Hill was able to get a donation from Advocate (now Advocate/Aurora, or something like that) for \$1.5m, but \$250k had to be shared with Pilgrim Park. Tower Hill used the \$1.25 to build three beautiful cottages that sleep up to 8 - each has a screened-in porch; and a Lodge that sleeps 20. These were completed around 2019, late in the year and right before the pandemic struck and closed everything down. --- Now This Is IMPORTANT....

9) Individuals and Families come to Tower Hill to rent Schrag, the Cottages, or the Lodge for personal or family retreats and gatherings. Tower Hill (and Pilgrim Park, too, although it doesn't have the same type of facilities) is AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO RENT. IT IS BY INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS TO GATHER. A great place for retired folks to come together. Weekday schedules are usually "Wide Open" other than in the summer & autumn!

10) Tower Hill & Pilgrim Park have their own websites. Each week there are "flyers" churches can download and attach to their newsletters or pastoral notes. MADD Camp has its own Facebook Page. If you find it and send Dr. Grice a "Friend Request," he will accept it. Occasionally some interesting things are posted from way-back-when.

Thanks once again to Dr. Grice for sharing all his knowledge and time invested in ODM over many years!

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Palm Sunday Easter Bunny Visit 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	3 7:00p Wholly Ringers	4 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	5 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	6 7:00p Maundy Thursday/Cantata	7 Good Friday	1
9 Easter 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	10 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	11 12:00p Administrative Staff 7:00p Evening Circle	12 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:00a STA-Drop-Off 6:15p PRC 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	13 3:00p Lira Funeral	14	15
16 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a STA-Drop-Off 10:00am Ministry Staff	17 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers	18 7:00p Council	19 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:00a STA-Drop-Off	20 Tidings Deadline 7:00p Let's Talk	21	22 8:30a STA-Sale Set-Up PF – Brunch
23 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00a Confirmation Wholly Ringers	24 STA-Sale Set-Up	25 STA-Sale Set-Up	26 STA-Sale Set-Up	27 STA-Sale Set-Up	28 STA-Sale	29 STA-Sale Volunteer party at DuToit home
30 Youth Sunday Confirmation Class Conducting worship Teacher's Recognition 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship			Fundraisers: STA-Sale STA- Billboard STA Split-the-Pot			