



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

May 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 5



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



Stewardship 2023

Because of You, our church changes lives... is a statement that is both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the Gospel says so.

It boldly challenges us to engage in the work of breaking down barriers and dismantling systems which deny the fundamental truth that God loves the world. This radically inclusive belief leaves no living thing out of the Divine embrace or allows anyone to be separated from the hope of that promise.

We can be bold because we know it is true. Our own life stories bear witness that being part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be part of something larger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the kingdom of God. Our church matters because of you!

Our theme, **Because of You, our church changes lives**, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity enables the church to increase the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give, even a lit bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives – even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple. The choice is yours!

Rev. Co on behalf of our Stewardship Committee

Worship Ministry

May 7

Communion

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Les Stein
Scripture Reading	John 14:1-14

May 14

Mothers' Day

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Jackie Schmitt
Scripture Reading	John 14:15-21

May 21

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	John 17:1-11

May 28

Pentecost Sunday

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Flo Hoffman
Scripture Reading	John 20:19-23/John 7:37-39

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry



Our annual Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday proved to be lots of fun for children of all ages. Special thanks to Sue Almerigi and Ralph Murdy for coordinating

Membership & Communications Ministry

Monthly All-Church Brunch May 7

Our monthly all-church brunch at Sunrise Grill, typically held after the worship service on the first Sunday of each month, is scheduled for May 7. All are welcome.

Calling All Graduates...

The June Tidings will include news of our 2023 graduates. If you have a graduate in your family to include, please forward the information to Debbie Walusiak at ecrire58@sbcglobal.net or leave info in the Church Office. Photos welcome. Also, if applicable, please include the individual's plans after graduation – college, employment, etc. **Tidings deadline is May 20.**

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.



Pictured (l to r) are Flo Hoffman, Ann Schwiger, Betty Brodie and LaVerne Johnson.

Meet Our Very Own Golden Girls!

Four members of our congregation, all born during a certain decade and otherwise known as “nonagenarians,” happened to be in church one Sunday in April. We salute these vibrant women and all other “nonagenarians,” near and far, who are affiliated with FCC. About these four: Flo, a church member since 1957, joined First Congregational after she and her husband moved to Des Plaines and met Dr. Earl Brehm, FCC pastor at that time. Ann, who joined FCC in 1960, previously attended an Evangelical church in Chicago and became interested in First Congregational after the merger of the Evangelical and Congregational denominations. Betty, a native of Ft. Thomas, KY, joined FCC in 1959 because her husband had belonged to a Congregational church in his hometown of Somonauk, IL. LaVerne, an FCC member since 1953, came to First Congregational shortly after moving to Des Plaines where her Brother-In-Law, Howard Johnson, and his wife were church members. These ladies and others of their generation certainly are an inspiration to all!



Rising Stars Theatre Co.

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)

Womens Fellowship (aka Evening Circle) annual luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 9, at 1:00 pm at Gail's Carriage Inn, 1145 Elmhurst Road, Des Plaines. If you have not already done so, please contact Cathy Wiesner (847-436-9987) NOW if you are planning on attending, as reservation is required.

On Saturday, June 24, we will be attending the musical comedy whodunit "Curtains" at Prairie Lakes Theater, 515 E. Thacker St, Des Plaines, at 2:00 pm. The tickets are \$20 each. We are meeting for lunch at 11:30 at Gail's Carriage Inn prior to the play. Again, if you haven't already done so, please contact Cathy Wiesner if you are planning to attend the play and/or the lunch NO LATER than Thursday, May 4. Payment for ticket(s) required to Cathy by May 4 also. (After May 4, you are on your own to purchase tickets.)

Mission & Outreach Ministry

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, is underway 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

Summer Choir Open to All

Our church's June (Summer) Choir will begin soon. There will be one rehearsal on May 31, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, with refreshers each Sunday morning in June. The choir will be singing anthems from the past year throughout the month. For details please contact Scott Emerick at scott_fccdp@yahoo.com.

Property Ministry

Please Return Those Unused Church Keys!

A reminder to those who hold church keys but aren't currently using them to please turn them in to Jim Foster, church property manager. Also, please note that the door at the top of the stairs near the West Entrance **cannot** be propped open, according to local fire officials. For details please speak with Jim.

Youth Ministry



Our PF Youth enjoyed a spring retreat at Pilgrim Park. Pictured (l to r) are Caiden Claussen, Caitlyn Claussen, Mia Thomas and Eddy Petrenko.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

During the month of March, our church had income of \$18,567 and expenses of \$26,344, for a net monthly shortfall of \$7,777. But due to the "cushion" we had built up over the first nine months of our current fiscal year, we are still running \$21,757 in the black, year-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support of our Church's Ministries.

Easter Offering Thanks

Thank you to everyone who made special donations to the Church over the Easter holidays. Your generosity resulted in donations of more than \$2,400.

Your Stewardship Changes Lives

Once again this year, we are not asking you to submit a pledge card to the Finance Committee, during our Annual Stewardship Drive. Instead, we ask you to take some time alone (or with your family) to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our Church during the year ahead. Your "faith promise" to God to help underwrite church expenses, expand our programs, and provide outreach and love to the community and beyond. On Stewardship Sunday, May14, we will dedicate our "faith promises." Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. By choosing to give even a little bit more, you will be helping our church change even more lives!

Zanies Comedy Club Fundraiser Coming Up

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 are available through the Church Office and can be purchased with cash, check, or credit card.

**An Evening of
Comedy**

At

ZANIES
STANDUP COMEDY

Zanies Comedy Club
Parkway Bank Park
5437 Park Place, Rosemont

Thursday, May 18, 2023
7:30 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm

2 item minimum purchase required. All attendees must be 21 or over, with valid photo ID.



*Join us for an
evening at Zanies!
Rated the Best
Stand Up Comedy
in Chicago*

\$30

Proceeds benefit:
First Congregational Church of Des Plaines
Call 847-299-5561 for more information

Thank You, All!

(From Ellen Alde & Chris Tomsic, rummage sale co-chairs) THANK YOU to everyone for making this year's church's sale a success. A special shout out to the room chairs and the volunteers for your continued support. THANK YOU to the Wednesday Work Crew for moving bags and boxes since October, setting up tents and doing so many other tasks when asked. For all the people who helped with setup and cleanup thank you. Thank you, Co and Ellie, for a restful meal after the sale. And, thank you to those of you who donated items and then came and shopped for new treasures. As you can see, without everyone's help we could not have done this. THANK YOU Again!



Ellen Alde, *Second Time Around* sale co-chair, prepares signage for the big day. Watch for more rummage sale photos in the June Tidings!

2023 Second Time Around Sale

Department	Before Sale	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	% of Total
Antiques	20.00	586.50	784.00	887.50	2,278.00	13.7%
Bakery	0.00	3.50	476.00	1,071.50	1,551.00	9.3%
Books	0.00	-3.50	176.45	519.25	692.20	4.2%
Clothing	0.00	48.00	635.48	1,418.00	2,101.48	12.6%
Door	0.00	0.00	1,069.00	0.00	1,069.00	6.4%
Electronics	0.00	37.00	476.00	663.50	1,176.50	7.1%
Furniture/Tent	0.00	572.00	130.00	389.00	1,091.00	6.6%
Holiday	0.00	146.25	343.00	526.95	1,016.20	6.1%
Housewares	0.00	263.00	701.95	1,602.11	2,567.06	15.5%
Jewelry	1,300.00	116.00	339.00	610.25	2,365.25	14.2%
Popcorn	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.50	72.50	0.4%
Toys	0.00	25.50	220.00	388.06	633.56	3.8%
Unassigned	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.0%
Department Totals	1,320.00	1,795.75	5,350.88	8,148.62	16,615.25	100.0%
Donations	5,805.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,805.00	
Net Raffle Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	745.00	745.00	
Total Income	7,125.00	1,795.75	5,350.88	8,893.62	23,165.25	
Anticipated Expense	-1,518.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,518.05	
Worker Food	-522.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	-522.12	
Credit Card Fees	-1.55	-4.28	-13.12	-12.18	-31.13	
Net Income	5,083.28	1,791.47	5,337.76	8,881.44	21,093.95	

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.***

Melanie Donoghue	01-May	Debbie Walusiak	17-May
Ellie DuToit	01-May	Anthony Almerigi	18-May
Eric Jancsovics	01-May	Paul Meyer	20-May
Nancy Quam	02-May	Ben Cooper	22-May
Ken Walusiak	02-May	André Deadwyler	22-May
Izaan DuToit	07-May	Keith Liston	23-May
Nina Masciopinto	07-May	Nancy Wilson	23-May
Jennifer Muhr	10-May	David Pittman	25-May
Sue Almerigi	13-May	Amy Quam	27-May
Kathy Foster	14-May	Chris Thomas	27-May
Corrine Bachar	15-May	Richard Weihsmantel	28-May
Betty Nanstiel	17-May		

In Memoriam

Margaret "Midge" Wolfram
April 8, 2023

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Midge Wolfram from Women's Fellowship
In Loving Memory of Midge Wolfram from Garrett & Mary Pittman

From the Community



Solo Piano Recital
Natasha Stojanovska

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 at 1PM



Program:
Rameau
Ravel
Faure
Nikolovski
Glass
Beach
Aleksova
Stojanovska

Prairie Lakes Theater
515. E. Thacker Street,
Des Plaines, IL, 60016

Tickets:
General Admission \$25
Children \$10
at the Door or
Online at:
<https://natashapianorecital.eventbrite.com>

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Food Drive May 13: Volunteers Sought

The 29th annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) food drive will be held in Des Plaines on **Saturday, May 13**. Residents are asked to donate nonperishable food items to be picked up by their letter carriers and community volunteers on this day. Food collected in Des Plaines will benefit residents in need who are clients of the Self-Help Closet & Pantry (SHC&P) of Des Plaines. Volunteers are needed on May 13 to collect and transport food in and around Des Plaines. For details or to volunteer, contact Debbie Walusiak (SHC&P) at 847/337-1443 or Luis Rivas (NALC Des Plaines) at 630/464-2397.

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer



The WWC (l to r): Jim Foster, Paul Schmitt, Bob McCullough, Dave DeHart, Ralph Murdy, Richard Weihsmantel, Jim Ruedisueli, Don Cameron, Barry Haas, Roger Alde, Les Stein.

This group of men have, for 20 years, met every week (except for two holiday weeks a year) to maintain and improve the property of the First Congregational Church.

It started January 2003 when three members observed several pews in the sanctuary collapsing, and they decided to repair them. They met the next Wednesday and spent several hours trying to clamp, glue and screw a couple pews to stabilize them. One man was an engineer and the next week he brought a jig he designed to hold and clamp the pew. That made the job much easier, and they were able to more efficiently repair them all.

Then they realized that the church needed to upgrade the overgrown bushes and trees around the building, and they worked with a nursery to remove and replace the old vegetation. At this point another retired member joined the effort and they developed a comprehensive plan to upgrade the landscape. Church members raised funds and bought new plants, bushes and trees. Again, the group met on many Wednesdays to complete the work. Later another member joined, and they started to find more projects within the building that needed repair or replacement.

The Wednesday Work Crew (WWC) got serious! The Barwick Room (our main conference room on the first floor) needed an upgrade. The Congregation rejected a \$48,000 proposal from a contractor. The WWC took the project on and replaced old florescent fixtures with drop lights and ceiling fans, had a licensed electrician replace and enhance the 1929 wiring, removed the 1950's dark paneling and plastered the ceiling and walls. They finished it a new paint job, at a total cost of approx. \$18,000, a savings of \$30,000!

The WWC removed the 1950's dark paneling from the main hallway and replastered the wall and painted it. More people joined WWC and currently we have nine members every Wednesday.

When weather permits WWC maintains the landscape – raking, trimming, cleaning, picking up debris outside the church building. (*More to come next month*)

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00p Wholly Ringers	6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study			8:00a CMA Spring Meeting
7 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15a Sunday Brunch	8 10:00a Creative Conversation	9 Noon: Staff Meeting 1:30p: Womens Fellowship	10 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	11	12	13
	7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers		6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir			
14 Mother's Day 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Financial Commitment Dedication	15 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	16	17 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Pre-school show	18	19	20 Tidings Deadline
		6:00p Chair Meeting	7:00p Chancel Choir	6:30p Pre-school Show 7:00p Zanies Comedy Club	26	27
21 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Diaconate 10:05a Ministry Staff Wholly Ringers	22	23	24 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:30a Pre-school Graduation	25		
	7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Council	7:00p Chancel Choir			
28 Pentecost 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	29 Memorial Day	30	31 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study		Fundraisers: Rent a PF Zanies Comedy Club	
			7:00p Chancel Choir			