

# Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

June 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 6



---

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

---

## Summer 2023!

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* - Psalm 111:10a (NRSV)

It's not officially the first day of summer yet (June 21) but it certainly feels like summer! I love summer more than winter. Everything around us is green and alive with beautiful plants and flowers blooming. Even the yellow dandelions look great. People seems slightly less stressed and some of us will be travelling to catch up with family and friends, or just to finally take that trip that had been postponed by the pandemic. I also love the ocean and I certain miss the Indian Ocean in South Africa, as well as the Gulf of Mexico from our Florida days. The Atlantic Ocean is not my favorite one to swim in! I also remember that I almost drown in the ocean if my oldest brother wasn't there to save me! Despite that, I still love the ocean.

Tina Villa shared the following UCC Devotional entitled: "*It's Really God*" published on May 27, 2023.

My family loved the ocean. My mother taught me that salt water would heal your cuts; its buoyancy would lift your spirits; and the frigid temperatures of the Atlantic would make you resistant to colds in winter. My father taught us about tides, marine life, currents—always conveying a sense that the sea was much more ingeniously arranged than land. And nothing was tastier and better for you than seafood. The ocean seemed to me to be a vast and bountiful source of all things good and fascinating.

One summer when I was four or five years old, I was playing in the waves, letting each one pick me up and deposit me a few feet away on the shore. Then came a wave that sucked me underwater, flung me around, and spit me out headfirst onto the beach. Now I knew to keep an eye on those waves. I had the beginning of wisdom that was, if not fear, then brand-new respect for the fact that when you're in the ocean—even just standing up to your knees in it—you are not in charge.

If it's really God, and not actually the Atlantic Ocean, that is the vast and bountiful source of all things good and fascinating, then the beginning of wisdom must be to respect—if we can't bring ourselves to fear—God's power. And to know that when you step into God's world, you're not in charge.

May we all remember not to fight God's currents and to swim with them, not only the summer of 2023, but for the rest of our lives.

May you all have a wonderful summer!

With love,

Rev. Co

## Worship Ministry

<b>June 4</b>	<b>Communion &amp; Trinity Sunday</b>	
	Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Cindie Hoch
	Scripture Reading	Matthew 28:16-20
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Katy Berman
	Scripture Reading	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
<b>June 18</b>	<b>Father's Day</b>	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
	Scripture Reading	Matthew 9:35—10:8
<b>June 25</b>		
	Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Deb Alde
	Scripture Reading	Matthew 10:24-39

### Annual Meeting June 11

During our church's Annual Meeting after the worship service on June 11, we will have a short survey for everyone to complete. We need your input to validate our mail and email accounts. The survey is short and simple and will be invaluable to our church going forward. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

### Coming in July...

Plan to join fellow church members and friends for an outdoor worship at Lake Park in Des Plaines on Sunday, July 2. Fellowship will begin at 9:00am, with the worship service to follow at 10:00am. Please bring a folding chair and a dish to share or, if you prefer, your own brown bag lunch. Watch Notes from Co for details.

## Membership & Communications Ministry

### Game Night Next Month

Join us at 6:30pm on Friday, July 14 in Brehm Hall for Game Night...something new! Watch Notes from Co for details.

### 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.



Dee Hardesty proudly shows off the shirt she wore to church on Mother's Day, honoring her 12 great grandchildren from her blended family. The shirt originally was a gift from Dee's daughter, Holly, with names added by Mary Cameron of two recent additions to the family.

## **Congratulations, FCC Class of 2023!**

This month we recognize the graduates from our church family. Thanks to those who submitted info/photos, and Best Wishes to all!

**Raegan Urry** graduated from South Elgin High School and will attend the University of Missouri/Columbia. She is the daughter of Ken Urry and granddaughter of Sharon and the late Don Urry. **Mia Thomas** graduated from Maine West High School, where she received the Business Department award, and will attend DePaul University to study business. Parents are Chris & Kirsten Thomas. **Ethan Roeder** graduated from high school in Colorado, where he lives, and will attend the University of Puget Sound after acceptance into the school's Business Leadership Program. He is the grandson of Doug & Marlene Laws. **Jennie Muhr** graduated from University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee with a BSN degree and is employed as a PICU nurse at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. Parents are Mark & Robbin Muhr. **Hanna Schmitt** graduated from University of Illinois/Urbana Champaign with a degree in Information Systems/Marketing. She is the granddaughter of Paul & Jackie Schmitt. **Alexander (Lex) Mannhardt** graduated with honors from North High School in Eau Claire, WI and will attend the University of Wisconsin/La Crosse. He is the grandson of Richard & Nancy Schacht. **Faith Almerigi** graduated from Maine West High School and will attend Oakton College to study Early Childhood Education. Parents are Anthony & Sue Almerigi. **Tommy Almerigi** graduated from Algonquin Middle School and will attend Maine West High School. Parents are Anthony & Sue Almerigi. **Ella Murdy** graduated from Prospect High School and will attend the University of St. Thomas (MN). She is the daughter of Brian Murdy and the granddaughter of Ralph Murdy and the late Val Murdy. **Evan Tomsic** graduated from Maine West High School and will attend Oakton College to study photography. He is the son of Chris Tomsic. **Sara Thomas** graduated from Buffalo Grove High School and is attending Harper College, where she is studying Graphic Arts. She is the granddaughter of Bob & Barb McCullough. **Abigail Shirley** graduated from Woodstock North High School and will attend Northern Illinois University. She is the granddaughter of Deb and the late Ron Alde. Zensanna Yost graduated from Maine West High School and will attend the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. Parents are Quinn & Rhonda Yost. **Caitlyn Claussen** graduated from Maine West High School and will attend Saint Louis University to study physical therapy. Parents are Mike & Beth Claussen. **Megan Mueller** graduated from Iowa State University with an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Systems Technology and is employed by John Deere in Moline. She is the granddaughter of Flo and the late Bud Hoffman.



Raegan Urry and Sharon



Mia Thomas



Ethan Roeder



Jennie Muhr



Faith Almerigi



Ella Murdy



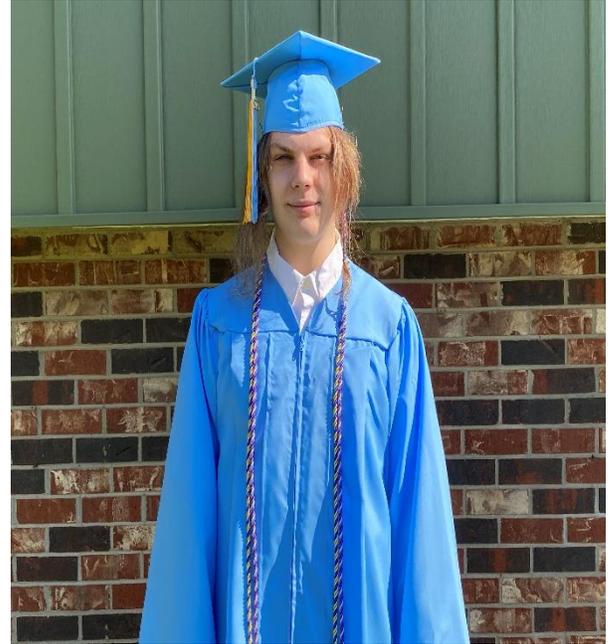
Evan Tomsic



Sara Thomas



Abigail Shirley



Zensanna Yost



Caitlyn Claussen



**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](http://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)

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. Many are going for lunch at 11:30 at Gail's Carriage Inn prior to the play. If you would like to attend the play but haven't purchased tickets, you can purchase online at [www.risingstarschicago.com](http://www.risingstarschicago.com). Also, we encourage you to attend various programs offered by local organizations this summer and if anything is of particular interest, please let Cathy Wiesner know so she can share info with Womens Fellowship members.

## Mission & Outreach Ministry

### ACS Relay for Life This Month

*(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. We must never forget the never-ending fight to eliminate all cancers. ***Check the link to our FCC team page in Notes from Co, and save the date of June 16 for this year's Relay for Life in Palatine. As of June 1, our FCC team has raised \$1,950.*** If possible, please come out on June 16 to support our team and plan to attend the moving luminaria ceremony in honor of loved ones lost to cancer. I look forward to your continued support in 2023.

### FCC Mission Team on the Move This Month

Our church's Mission Team heads to Pilgrim Park, the UCC conference camp in Princeton, IL, to help prepare the camp for summer guests. The group will be on site from June 3 to June 8. A total of 16 FCC members and friends are participating this year. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe trip.

## 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.

# Finance Committee

## Financial Reports

For the month of April, we had income of \$23,205 and expenses of \$22,321, putting us \$884 in the black for the month. Year-to-date, we are running \$22,641 in the black. Thank you for keeping up with your pledges and offerings.

## Stewardship 2023

The Finance Committee would like to thank every one of our church members and friends for your continued, faithful, and generous support of First Congregational Church of Des Plaines. **Because of YOU, our church changes lives.**

## Church Budget for Fiscal 2024

At the Church's Annual Meeting on June 11, you will be asked to approve the proposed Church Budget for the Fiscal year that begins July 1, 2023 and continues through June 30, 2024. The budget for the coming year totals \$380,333. The budget is allocated by Ministries as follows. For a detailed breakdown of the budget categories, see Co's Notes.

136,865	Worship Ministry
102,243	Property Ministry
66,045	Administrative Expenses & Insurance
12,700	Children & Adult Education
33,722	Music & Drama Ministry
13,790	Youth Ministry
6,900	Mission & Outreach
7,418	Membership & Communications
500	Diaconate
150	Stewardship Expenses
<b>380,333</b>	

## Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes for the upcoming fiscal year, please contact our Financial Administrator, Larry Schimka, at [fcc766finance@gmail.com](mailto:fcc766finance@gmail.com).

## Zanies Night of Comedy

Thank you to everyone who supported our latest fundraiser, a Night of Comedy at Zanies in Rosemont. There were lots of laughs, fun, and fellowship! 25 church members and friends participated, and we raised \$500 for our church's general budget.

***“Second Time Around” Sale 2023: Many hands contributed to this year’s successful sale. Thanks again to all who helped in any way and congratulations to Jana Haas, this year’s Split the Pot winner!***







## Personnel Committee

### **Youth Ministry Position Open**

The Youth Ministry of First Congregational Church UCC is seeking a co-Coordinator to work with Matt Cameron. The position will entail coordinating and participating in youth activities. A note of interest in the position would be appreciated by June 11, 2023, by contacting the chair of the Personnel Committee, Lowell Handy at [lkhandy@att.net](mailto:lkhandy@att.net)

# 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.***

Jim Ruedisueli	01-June	Kathy Ruedisueli	13-June
Katy Berman	02-June	Zach Masciopinto	16-June
Deb Alde	03-June	Heather Doyle	19-June
Christy Santos	03-June	Chris Cooper	24-June
Hans Eschenbach	06-June	Zach Meincke	26-June
Bobbi Pelletiere	06-June	Rob Bachar	28-June
Rob Fink	10-June	Rob Urry	29-June
Mark Muhr	10-June		

## Congratulations!



Best Wishes to Betty Brodie (pictured) on the May 9 birth of her first great grandchild, Henry Adam. Grandparents are Cindie (pictured) and Dave Hoch and parents are Kristen & Kevin.

In Memoriam  
Edith "Eddie" Johnson  
May 7, 2023

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Alex Smith from the Crocker/Smith Families

## 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.

*(Continued from last month)*

More ways the **Wednesday Work Crew** keeps busy!

WWC helps the First Congregational Preschool by keeping their premises up to date with requirements of the Illinois Department of Family Services. DCFS required the Preschool to remove paneling from all hallway areas. These were glued to the plaster and concrete walls. WWC spent all summer tearing the walls off when the school was not in session. They replastered walls that were broken or weak. The Boy Scouts painted those walls afterwards.

The WWC cleans up and replaces areas inside and out that are water damaged. Sometimes gutters overflow and cause plaster damage. After the roof is repaired WWC scrapes and replasters and repaints these areas.

WWC has remodeled and repainted every room in the building over 20 years – including the large community center room (Webster Hall) that at one time was a basketball court!

The 1960's vinyl floor in Webster Hall was breaking apart and was a potential trip-hazard. It needed replacement. [That's a story of its own...to come!]

After the floor was "done," WWC removed the vertical blinds from the gothic stained-glass windows and added a cove molding above the oak panels and removed white separators to "clean up" the appearance. WWC then repainted the 18-foot-high room entirely.

In 2011 WWC started collecting and recycling scrap metal. Churchgoers brought wrought iron, scrap metal, steel chairs, aluminum cans – anything metal – and WWC would load a pickup truck (later an 18' rented truck), drive to a recycler in Chicago and turn it in. For ten years WWC loaded and unloaded over 239,000 pounds of material and generated over \$31,000 for the church.

WWC has painted windows inside and outside. Some were painted from the roof. They installed new storm windows, remodeled and repainted both first floor bathrooms.

Their seasonal maintenance tasks include removing and installing air conditioning units, placing salt and shovels in the entrances, and doing the mundane tasks that keep a congregation viable.

The WWC has spent countless volunteer hours over the past 20 years to benefit our church and its budget. This group has also built memories and friendships to last a lifetime, which is priceless!

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

[www.fccdp.org](http://www.fccdp.org)

847/299-5561

# June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Fundraisers:</b> Relay-for-Life				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Adult Mission trip – Pilgrim Park through Thursday, June 8
<b>4</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:00p Worship Ministry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Annual Meeting 11:00a Sunday Brunch	<b>12</b> 7:00p Finance	<b>13</b> 12:30p Administrative Staff Luncheon 1:30p: <del>Women's</del> Fellowship 6:00p Membership & Communications	<b>14</b> 9:00a WWC	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:05am Ministry Staff Brunch	<b>19</b> 6:30p Property	<b>20</b> Tidings Deadline	<b>21</b> 9:00a WWC	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00p Relay-for-Life	<b>24</b> 2:00p Curtains Show
<b>25 Trevino Baptism</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00p Council	<b>28</b> 9:00a WWC	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	