

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

July 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 7



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

Embracing Dependence: A Celebration of Interdependence

"When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die . . . When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground." - Ps. 104: 29 - 30

On the eve of celebrating Independence Day, a time when the world around us highlights the importance of self-reliance and individual freedom, let us pause and reflect upon the notion of dependence. In a society that often idolizes independence, it may seem counterintuitive to consider the beauty and significance of relying on others and on God. However, as we delve into the words of Psalm 104:29-30, we discover a refreshing perspective—one that reminds us of the blessings found in embracing our interdependence.

In our modern world, independence is glorified as a symbol of strength and self-sufficiency. Yet, as we navigate through life, we realize that we are not islands unto ourselves. We are intricately woven into the fabric of human connection and divine grace. Aging parents yearn for independence, fearing the loss of control and the burden of relying on others. Young adults, returning to their parental homes, often feel a societal stigma attached to dependence. It is essential, however, to remember that none of us truly live to ourselves alone. If we truly live, we live to God.

Psalm 104 unveils a joyful song to dependence, revealing the intricate dance of life and the Creator's sustaining power. It proclaims that every living thing finds gladness in its reliance upon the Divine. In this ancient hymn, we discover the wisdom that humility brings, reminding us that our existence is interwoven with the grand tapestry of creation. The rhythm of life itself is a testament to our deep-seated need for one another and for God.

While independence may hold its merits, we cannot ignore the profound loneliness that often accompanies it. In our fiercely independent society, a sense of isolation permeates hearts and minds, leaving a void that cannot be filled by material possessions or personal achievements alone. Beyond our yearning for human connection, we long for a spiritual relationship with a Higher Power. We crave the fulfillment that comes from surrendering to the love, grace, and mercy of God.

In the sanctuary of worship, we find comfort and grace in our dependence. We gather as a community, turning our hearts towards a power greater than ourselves—an all-encompassing mystery that transcends our limited understanding. In the act of worship, we acknowledge that we did not create life or ourselves. We rejoice in the truth that God is the ultimate source of our being, and through this dependence, we find renewal and connection to something greater than ourselves.

As we contemplate our existence, let us get rid of any shame attached to dependency and boldly declare our reliance on God. Just as the psalmist joyfully proclaimed, "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live" (Psalm 104:33), we too should embrace our dependence upon the Divine. In humility, we recognize that our lives are sustained by God's grace, mercy, and love. We express gratitude for the interconnectedness of humanity and the abiding presence of a loving Creator.

On this occasion of celebrating Independence Day, let us not forget the inherent beauty and significance of embracing dependence. As we navigate life's journey, may we cherish the bonds that connect us to one another and to God. In our interdependence, we find strength, fulfillment, and the true freedom that comes from surrendering to a power greater than ourselves. In the words of the psalmist, let our hearts resound with gratitude, proclaiming, "God, I depend upon You, on Your grace, Your mercy, and Your love. Thank You."

Happy Independence Day!

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

July 2

Service in the Park

Service of Worship

10:00a

Fellowship

Starting 9:00a and after worship

Lay Reader

Scripture Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

Communion

Service of Worship

9:00a - www.fccdp.org

Fellowship

10:00a

Lay Reader

Les Stein

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16

Service of Worship

9:00a - www.fccdp.org

Fellowship

10:00a

Lay Reader

Cindie Hoch

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23

Service of Worship

9:00a - www.fccdp.org

Fellowship

10:00a

Lay Reader

Corrine Bachar

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30

Youth Sunday

Service of Worship

9:00a - www.fccdp.org

Fellowship

10:00a

Lay Reader

Youth

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Outdoor Worship Coming Up

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. Meet at the Optimist Pavilion.

Membership & Communications Ministry



Enjoying lunch at Gail's Carriage Inn are (l to r) Nancy Wilson, Cathy Wiesner and Don & Mary Cameron.

News from Womens Fellowship (formerly Evening Circle)

A group of 34 church members and friends attended the musical comedy whodunit "Curtains" at Prairie Lakes Theater in June, and several also enjoyed lunch at Gail's Carriage Inn before the musical. Womens Fellowship encourages 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 this group.

Game Night This Month

Join us at 6:30pm on Friday, July 14 in Brehm Hall for Game Night...something new! There will be board games, card games and more, and you are welcome to bring your favorite game plus a snack to share. All ages welcome. Watch Notes from Co for details.

Capture Those Summer Memories...

Maybe you have a family wedding to attend this summer. A family reunion? Do you have a new grandchild? A spectacular garden you're proud of? Or maybe you finally took that long-awaited vacation. Whatever you do this summer, remember to take a picture to share in our "What I Did This Summer" photo display in September. For more information, please speak with Debbie Walusiak or email her your picture at: ecrire58@sbcglobal.net

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



Our 2023 Relay for Life team raised more than \$6,000 this year to benefit the American Cancer Society, placing third among 22 teams and once again reaching Gold Status.

Meals on Wheels Drivers Sought

From September 11 through October 6, First Congregational Church is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels to area shut ins. This means that we make a total of 40 deliveries or two different routes each day for four weeks. At this time, we could use several more individuals/teams to assist us in this undertaking. Please contact Richard Schacht at 847/824-5883 or at ilcpa95@hotmail.com for further information or to advise of your availability.



COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT

feeding kids and changing lives since 2011

"Christmas In July"

(a reverse Advent calendar)

Fill a box by adding each of the items to help support our D-62 students

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 [plastic] jar of peanut butter
2 [plastic] jar of jelly	3 Canned beef or chicken stew	4 Canned pasta (eg SpaghettiOs)	5 Canned tuna or chicken	6 1 pound bag of rice	7 Canned red beans	8 Canned vegetables
9 Fruit cups or canned fruit	10 Can of soup (please, no "cream of...")	11 Single serve cereal boxes	12 Single serve oatmeal packets	13 Water-add only pancake mix	14 Small plastic bottle of pancake syrup	15 Juice boxes
16 Canned pasta sauce	17 Box of pasta	18 Boxed macaroni and cheese	19 Small can of sausages	20 Boxed jello mix	21 Water-add only mashed potatoes	22 Can of heavy/hearty soup
23 Pudding cups	24 Individually wrapped fruit snacks or small box of raisins	25 Individually wrapped granola or Nutrifrain bars	26 Individually wrapped cookies or snack crackers	27 Individual bags of chips or snacks	28 Canned chili	29 Poparts
30 Personal care items- toothpaste, lotion, chapstick, shampoo	31 School supplies- pencils, pens, ruled paper, folders					

GOAL:

Help stock our shelves with items that fill backpacks for our District-62 students. One item each day is a huge help!

OR

Consider supporting 1 student this year. \$23 feeds a child for a wkend/\$850 for a yr

PLEASE:

- ***NO glass containers
- ***NO expired food
- ***NO containers larger than 24 ounces

MARK ALL DONATIONS "CBP"

Thank you for your continued support!

QUESTIONS?

Jana Haas
Coordinator, Community Backpack Project
847-951-5111

DROP OFF DONATIONS:

WED, AUG 2, 1-3PM OR WED, AUG 9, 5-7PM
769 HOLIDAY LANE, DES PLAINES, 60016

Backpack Project Kicks Off Christmas in July

First Congregational Church of Des Plaines will again be supplying food for North School children this coming school year. During the month of July, the Community Backpack Project (CBP) is forging a campaign to collect provisions. First Congregational extends an invitation to our church community to help with this mission. What can be used by the church's commitment to the children will be retained here, what few items that will not be used here can be used by the broader CBP and will be turned over to their headquarters at the Self-Help Closet & Pantry. Other donated food items will be routed to the SHC&P along with any items normally placed in the red barrels. This year we are going with regular size cans of vegetables [±15 oz.] for the simple reason that the smaller [±8 oz.] cans have become almost as expensive. (We know where the cheaper cans are but they are scattered widely) Jana Haas has provided the "Christmas in July" calendar for collecting needed items.



Our Summer Mission Team at Pilgrim Park.

FCC Mission Team Busy at Pilgrim Park Last Month

(Submitted by Jim Foster) Our 2023 FCC Summer Mission Team spent the first week of June at the Pilgrim Park UCC Conference Camp in Princeton, IL, helping to prepare the camp for the summer season.

The group rebuilt bathroom privacy panels, stained three decks, painted propane tanks, cleaned and painted and filled the swimming pool, repaired doors, used a "cherry picker" to clean the chapel windows, used a stump remover to clear many of the dangerous tree stumps and split many cords of wood for the upcoming campfire season. In all, the group completed a list of 60 chores necessary for opening the camp this season.

Group members included Jim Foster, Anthony and Sue Almerigi, Don Cameron, Karen and Sara Thomas, Ralph Murdy, Bob McCullough, Dave Dehart, Rick Warren, Jim Ruedisueli, Kevin Donoghue, Richard Weihsmantel, Mary Buchholz and Rev. Co.

This is the 16th year our Mission Team has travelled to areas devastated by natural disasters, to help them rebuild, or to area UCC Conference Camps, helping them improve facilities for churches and other groups that use the space.

Mitch, the manager of Pilgrim Park, was so pleased with our group that he invited us back next year (June 1 – June 6, 2024). This will be the third year we have worked at Pilgrim Park.



Nancy Brink is pictured with an Exodus World Service staff member.

Project Survivor Donates to Exodus in June

Last month church members/Project Survivor volunteers Nancy Brink and John Foster made up a welcome pack for a single man from Iraq and delivered it to the Exodus World Service office in Park Ridge. A big **“Thank You”** to all who have donated new items to help this man and other refugees being assisted by Exodus World Service. If you would like to donate, we are looking for **NEW** tea kettles, hand towels, twin comforter or twin blankets, tall trash cans, mixing bowls and paper towels.

Music Ministry



We heard beautiful music from a guest choir in June. The Sola Gratia Chorale, based in the Philippines, made a stop at FCC on their summer tour of Illinois and Michigan.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Income for the month of May was \$48,840, while expenses were \$29,116, resulting in a positive position for the month of \$19,724. This surplus was due primarily to proceeds from the Second Time Around Sale. Thank you to everyone who has kept up-to-date with their pledges and offerings, and to all those who have supported our fundraisers over the past year. Your generosity makes our church stronger!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new fiscal year can be picked up from the credenza, outside the church office. If you did not order envelopes, but would like to have them, contact Larry Schimka at fcc766finance@gmail.com.

Bulletin Board of Bills

Every year during the "lazy days of summer," our church conducts a Bulletin Board of Bills fundraiser. This year, it will take place from July 1 through Labor Day. We've tried to make it as easy as possible for you to participate. Each Thursday in Co's Notes, you'll see a selection of typical bills that the church receives - in a variety of different amounts ranging from just a few dollars to a couple hundred dollars or more. Just select one that fits within your budget and make a donation to the church in that amount. Drop off or mail a check (payable to FCCDP) to the church, call the church office to pay by credit card, or click on the link in Co's Notes to pay via



PayPal. A selection of bills will also be posted on the Finance bulletin board, on the wall between the church office and the sanctuary. Select a bill that you're able to cover and drop the bill and your check (made payable to FCCDP) in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please consider participating in this important church fundraiser.

Personnel Committee

Financial Administrator Position Open

First Congregational Church of Des Plaines is seeking a part-time Financial Administrator to replace Larry Schimka who will be moving out of this area. The hours are flexible. (Fifteen hours per week average.) Financial experience preferred. Please submit resume to: lkhandy@att.net. For more information, please speak to Lowell Handy.

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.***

Janet Farrell	01-July
Robert "Bud" Phillips	04-July
Joy Cooper	06-July
Norm Nanstiel	14-July
Karsten Hahn	15-July
Marcia Urban	15-July
Barry Haas	20-July
Grace Olsen	21-July
Troy Johnson	22-July
Emma Bryers	29-July
Dan Ruedisueli	29-July
Maggie Miller	31-July

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

Gifts & Memorials

In Honor of Gabrielle Elaine Trevino for her Baptism

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The Park Ridge Chorale
Edward Zelnis, Director *presents*

Summer Lovin'

Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:00 P.M.
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge, IL 60068
(Doors Open at 6:30)

TICKETS
Advance: \$16 Adults, \$14 Seniors
At the Door: \$20 Adults, \$18 Seniors
Children Under 18 are free

Sponsored By Dreamtown Realty
Team Fallico—teamfallico.com

online tickets-<https://squareup.com/market/park-ridge-choral>
For more information call Dave Dadabo 847.501.1203

Park Ridge Chorale members are preparing for their summer concert, Summer Lovin'. Contact FCC choir member Corrine Bachar for tickets at 847/903-4051.

Hard to believe it has been thirteen years since our wonderful original maple flooring in Webster Hall was brought back to life!

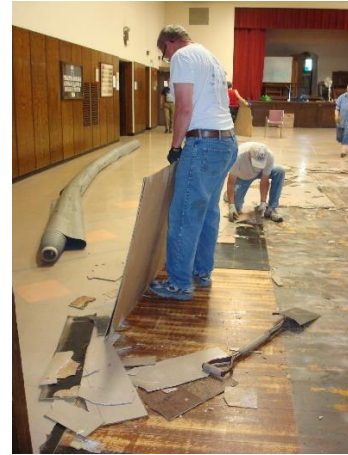
From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

One of the Wednesday Work Crew projects included members of the congregation helping us on a major project in Webster Hall. After years of repairing an aging *vinyl* floor we decided to remove it entirely and bring back the original maple floor.

Thanks to all these dedicated people who spent Saturday, July 13, 2010 in Webster Hall. They removed two layers of vinyl floor plus 1 ¼" thick *underlayment* and thousands of staples embedded in the original maple floor:

Anthony Almerigi	Doug Laws
Sue Almerigi	John Lodewyck
Joe Crigler	Bob McCullough
Don Cameron	Herm Meyer
Matt Cameron	Nancy Meyer
Andre Deadwyler	Ralph Murdy
Anita Donoghue	Christine O'Brien
Kevin Donoghue	Dan O'Brien
Co DuToit	Tom Olson
Faith Engler	Bud Phillips
Luke Engler	Garrett Pittman
Ralph Engler	Frank Potempa
Brian Farrell	Jim Ruedisueli
Jim Foster	Paul Schmitt
John Foster	Erica Treesh
Erica Hahn	Marilyn Tumey
Stacey Hahn	Wendy Wallace
Lowell Handy	Eric Walusiak
Pat Hurley	Ken Walusiak
Joanne Kimball	Cathy Wiesner
Jim Larson	Midge Wolfram

These people, in their four dedicated hours, made it possible for the Church to save \$3,000 - the cost of having the floor professionally removed.





PICTURES SAY A THOUSAND WORDS!
Before Up comes the old vinyl flooring
Thousands of nails Nails being pulled!
Original maple floor sanded & varnished
All done!

July 2013

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00am Outdoor Worship Service at Lake Opeka	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day	5 9:00a WWC	6	7	1
9 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	10	11	12 9:00a WWC	13	14 6:30p Game Night Brehm Hall	8 15
16 Benoit Baptism 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	17 6:30p Property Ministry	18	19 9:00a WWC	20 Tidings Deadline	21	22
23 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	24	25	26 9:00a WWC	27	28	29
30 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	31		Fundraisers: Bulletin of Board of Bills			