

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

August 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 8



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

"Cultivating the Garden of Life"

"In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground...the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there God put the man whom God had formed." - Genesis 2:4b-7

Even though I don't have a natural fondness for gardening, I am always captivated by the beauty of it. Gardening has been an integral part of our existence since the beginning of time. It is a profound act of co-creation between humans and our natural world.

A beautiful garden requires dedication, money, and a lot of energy! I remember there was a time we gave a vegetable garden a go, but despite our initial excitement, we weren't very successful at keeping the creatures away from enjoying the fruit of our labors before we could. Nevertheless, in that fleeting moment, we harvested a couple of splendid acorn squash, reminding us of the rewards and challenges that gardening brings.

While our vegetable garden was eventually abandoned, we redirected our focus towards plants. Admittedly, our lawn still bears witness to the tenacious invasion of various weeds, rendering it an eclectic assortment of greenery. The best way I can describe it would be as UCC grass, since it is so diverse in nature. Amongst these, the resilient dandelions remind me that there exists a distinction between true flowers and mere imitations.

Contemplating the passage from Genesis, we find an interesting revelation—the very act of gardening is deeply woven into our existence. At the start of creation, God created a world without any greenery until a garden was brought forth, followed by the introduction of humankind to take care of it. Gardening emerged as one of the defining characteristics bestowed upon us as human beings!

This interaction between human endeavor and the soil and flora forms the essence of a garden. Because of this, it becomes evident that no corner of the earth remains untouched by our gardening, whether it's intentional or not. Even our most protected wilderness areas bear the lasting marks of human impact—pollution, genetically modified organisms, invasive species, and the relentless forces of climate change leave an undeniable imprint.

Our journey as gardeners began with a little patch of earth in Eden, and like the shoots of a vine, our plots have extended to encompass the entirety of our planet. Thus, we are faced with a pivotal question: how shall we take care of this massive garden that we have inherited? Shall we, like our vegetable garden of the past, surrender to discouragement

and neglect? Or shall we, instead, embrace the responsibility with a renewed sense of purpose?

Let us not forget that beauty demands work and care. As gardeners of this world, we are called to be mindful of the impact of our actions. We are called to work diligently to preserve and protect the harmony and beauty of our garden, mindful of the interconnectedness of all life.

And, even amidst our sincerest efforts, let us also find moments of rest to enjoy the majesty of creation. As we nurture this wondrous garden, let us take joy in its ever-changing canvas, enjoying the colors and smells, and rejoice in the simple pleasures that nature so generously bestows upon us.

May our hearts be filled with gratitude and wonder as we embrace our role as custodians of this extraordinary garden. May we continue to cultivate a world of beauty and grace, ensuring that our legacy is one of nurturing and cherishing the precious gift of life itself.

With love and hope,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

August 6

Communion/Monthly Brunch

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Ellen Alde
Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Katy Berman
Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27

“Second Time Around” Early Drop-off

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Tom Tucker
Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:13-20



Our planned July outdoor worship service and picnic turned into a worship/potluck in Webster Hall when the weather wouldn't cooperate. The change of pace was appreciated and the food was delicious!

Membership & Communications Ministry

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



“At 95, I’m still playing with a full deck. I just shuffle slower.” Church member Ann Schwiger models the shirt given to her by her son, Ted, on her recent milestone birthday. A 63-year resident of Des Plaines, Ann is a longtime member of the Des Plaines Harmonaires and still sings with the group. She also has sung with various FCC choirs over the years. Next up – a Mayflower Motorcoach Mystery trip in August, with her daughter Debra. The two women have taken the annual trip together for many years and welcome the adventure and the surprise of not knowing their destination until they get on board. Safe travels, Ann, and keep on shuffling!

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

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.

Backpack Project Prepares for New School Year

The Backpack Ministry begins again in September. We are collecting food in preparation for this outreach mission. We supply weekend food for students at North Elementary School in Des Plaines as we have for the past few years. In addition to food donations, we will need volunteers to pack the individual bags, and to deliver them (usually on Fridays, but the school schedule sometimes dictates other days of the week). A signup sheet for the Fall semester will be placed in the church office once the social worker at North School has been consulted on the school calendar.

A list of items is available on a handout on the credenza outside the church office and on Sundays beside the bulletins at the west sanctuary door. The most needed items include: Boxed macaroni and cheese, canned pasta with meat, condensed soup, canned stew [or chunky soup, hash, chili, or the like], canned vegetables [± 15 oz.], peanut butter [± 16 oz. in plastic], and jelly [± 20 oz. in plastic].

Deliveries can be made in any vehicle from compact hatchback to SUV. The Community Backpack Project has estimated that this year it will cost \$23 per bag, or \$870 for one student for the entire school year. This past year we were fortunate to have generous contributions from church members; however, we were still dependent on donations provided by the Community Backpack Project to meet our commitment. The church maintains a Restricted Account expressly for this mission and it would be greatly appreciated if those seeking to aid in this mission could make a contribution to First Congregational Church with Backpack Fund designated on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support. For further information, contact Lowell Handy at handytrees@att.net

Putt for the Pantry

Lake Park Golf Course 1015 Howard
Des Plaines

Tickets at SelfHelpPantry.org
or onsite:

- Adult \$15
- Child 12 and under \$10

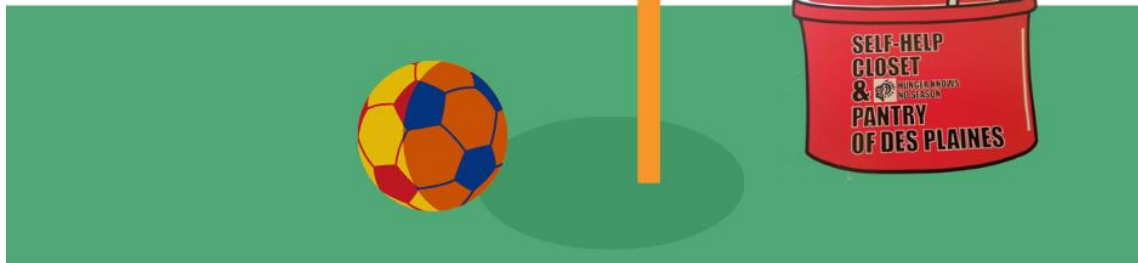
 Add a hot dog, chips and
a drink for \$5!

 Beer and wine
available for \$5

• Foot Golf
• Edition •

Sept. 9
2-6 pm

Split the Pot
\$1/ticket or
6 for \$5



Save the Date!

Music Ministry

Ring Those Bells!

The Wholly Ringers intergenerational handbell choir will begin the new playing year on August 21 at 7:00pm, in the church sanctuary. We rehearse weekly for one hour, play in church on Sunday morning about once a month and present a concert in March. If you are interested in joining this **fabulous** group, please contact Ellen Alde at ealdefccdp@gmail.com.

Property Ministry



Our Wednesday Work Crew (WWC) was quite busy in July, filling the cracks in our church parking lot. This project is just one example of the extensive work completed by WWC volunteers, involving the maintenance and repair of our church building and grounds. Parking lot workers included Don Cameron, Les Stein, Bob McCullough, Ralph Murdy, Roger Alde, Jim Foster, Dave DeHart and Richard Weihsmantel. Thanks, gentlemen!

Finance Committee

Craft and Market Day Returns to FCC This Fall!

Mark your calendar! FCCDP's 2023 Craft & Market Day will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. 8-foot tables will be available inside Webster Hall for \$40. An additional \$10 for electricity. Outside spaces (10' x 10') will also be available for \$40. Plus, there will be a bake sale, raffle, food, and more!

Reserve a table to sell your crafts or other items. Tell your friends. Plan to shop. Volunteer a couple of hours on October 7, to help with the event. We hope everyone will be able to participate in some way.



Bulletin Board of Bills

Every year during the "lazy days of summer," our church conducts a Bulletin Board of Bills fundraiser. We've tried to make it as easy as possible for everyone to participate. Each week 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 hundred dollars and more. Just select one that fits 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 one and drop the bill and your check (made payable to FCCDP) in the offering plate on Sunday morning. This important fundraiser will continue through Labor Day. Please consider how you can participate.



ACH Electronic Giving an Option

Many people have started giving their offerings on the church website, via PayPal. But, did you know that you can schedule your giving to happen automatically - weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly? Even if you're sick, on vacation, or just forget, you can still feel comfortable knowing that your contribution is available to further God's work in our church and the community. Just contact Larry Schimka or the church secretary for more information.

"Second Time" is Closer Than You Think!

It's not quite time for our "Second Time Around" sale but it will be here before we know it. Next year's sale date is April 27, 2024 so please start planning now. And, speaking of planning, our first Sunday drop-off for treasures will be August 27 after Sunday morning worship or at about 10:00am. Thank you for your continued help in labeling your treasures. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact either Ellen Alde [ealdefccdp@gmail.com] or Chris Tomsic [ctomsic@mac.com].

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.

From the Preschool

The First Congregational Preschool will hold an Open House from 1:00pm to 2:00pm on Sunday, August 6. For details contact the Preschool through calling the Church Office at 847/299-5561.

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.***

Riley Whittenhall	01-Aug	Johanna Lodewyck	13-Aug
Sandy Crocker	02-Aug	Roland Hand	14-Aug
Elinor Bergdolt	03-Aug	Philip Deadwyler	16-Aug
Michael Bryers	04-Aug	Judy Mahr	17-Aug
Caitlin Farrell	04-Aug	Roger Alde	23-Aug
Faith Engler	06-Aug	Jackie Schmitt	24-Aug
Philip Weber	10-Aug	Jan Schuller	26-Aug
Arlyne Mross	11-Aug	Alice Tucker	27-Aug
Brian Farrell	12-Aug	Tom Tucker	27-Aug
Marilyn Juister	13-Aug	Faith Almerigi	28-Aug
Caroline Lodewyck	13-Aug	Michelle Herrera	29-Aug

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Midge Wolfram from Sharen Gasior

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

Although I'd been in the 1151 Oakwood Ave. parsonage many times, including being part of the group who cleaned it from top to bottom in preparation for the arrival of Rev. Co DuToit in 2008, my most recent visit to the house was for a delicious lasagna dinner after the Second Time Around Sale. (The DuToits purchased it from FCCDP in 2013.) I was amazed at the recent upgrades to the first-floor bathroom and the kitchen and was allowed to take pictures. I shared them with Mary Ethel (Meth) Brehm, older daughter of Dr. Brehm, who was our minister when the parsonage was built in 1950. Meth emailed back, saying she'd just been looking at old photo albums with one of her sons and saw the pictures taken when it was under construction. She mailed them to me to share with you. Meth was in college when the parsonage was built so she didn't spend much time there, graduating from college in 1953 and moving to Albuquerque, but Dr. and Mrs. Brehm enjoyed it until his retirement to New Mexico in 1967. Minister's study was on far right as you went in front door so when people came for counseling, they could easily exit without disturbing the family, and for privacy. Meth also added the sloping roof was modeled after the church's roof.

From our Centennial book: Charles Edward Stade, just beginning his career and soon to become one of the outstanding church architects in America, was retained to plan a home especially suited to church purposes. When his design proved to be beyond the available finances, Charles and his father, Chris E. Stade, came to our rescue by building the new parsonage at cost strictly as a service to the church. The land at the corner of Oakwood and Jeannette was made available at a nominal price by its owners, Walter L. Plew, A. L. Webster and Dr. A. M. Purves. The total cost including the land was \$28,000. Later when it became apparent that the adjoining lot to the south was needed, the Christian Builders Class undertook to raise the \$1,500 needed for its purchase. Spurred on by a challenge gift of \$750 from Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Webster, the class soon accomplished its goal. Men of the church organized work parties for the planting of the lawn and the Social Union paid for the shrubbery.

The new parsonage was dedicated in a simple ceremony attended by church officers and board members on March 14, 1950. A series of open house receptions was held for all people of the church and numerous church boards and organizations were entertained at their regular meeting times. By the end of the year over 800 visitors had been received in the new home of the minister's family.





First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraisers: 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:45a Sunday Brunch		1 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	2 9:00a WWC 6:30p Music & Drama	3	4	5
6 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:45a Sunday Brunch	7	8 12:00p Administrative Staff	9 9:00a WWC	10	11	12
13 9:00am Service on the Lawn 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Ministry Staff	14	15	16 9:00a WWC 6:15p PRC	17	18	19
20 Tidings Deadline 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	21 7:00p Finance	22 5:00p Chair Mtg.	23 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	28 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	29 7:00p Council	30 7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC	31	Fundraisers: Bulletin of Board of Bills	