

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



September 2023 - Vol. 84 – No. 9

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

"He said to them, but who do you say that I am?" - Matthew 16:15

Labor Day is a time when we celebrate the value of hard work and the contributions we make to society. It is also a crucial time to remember that amidst our diligent efforts, there exists a profound importance in taking a break, finding rest, and understanding our true identity. In a world that often glorifies busyness and constant productivity, we can draw inspiration from unexpected sources, such as the tale of Rip Van Winkle and also from the teachings of Jesus, to reevaluate our perspectives on work, rest, and identity.

Rip Van Winkle, a character from American literature, stands as a symbol of the counter-narrative to the prevailing notion that virtue solely arises from ceaseless toil. While phrases like *"Up and at 'em"* advocate for early rising and industriousness, Rip Van Winkle's story challenges this by demonstrating the power of rest. His twenty-year slumber leads to a moment of awakening, a rediscovery of his own identity, and a realization that time spent in respite doesn't equate to idleness or laziness.

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks his disciples, *"But who do you say that I am?"* This question delves into the heart of identity and understanding. Just as Rip Van Winkle's identity became obscured during his long nap, we too can lose sight of our true selves in the relentless pursuit of success. The modern world, influenced by the Protestant work ethic and the pressures of industrialization, often blinds us to the significance of rest and self-reflection.

The busyness that surrounds us can lead to a misidentification of what defines us. Like Peter, who initially misunderstood Jesus' true identity, we can mistake our purpose, seeking prominence and worldly success rather than embracing the deeper, more fulfilling peace that Jesus offers. Jesus had a communion table that was round. The supper pictures have it wrong. The round table, challenges hierarchical structures. There is no head of the table. It invites all to partake without distinction, reflecting a broader message of unity and belonging.

In our pursuit of success, we can neglect the importance of shared experiences and the value of granting ourselves and others the grace of rest. The modern world can feel like two lines at the airport. With all my flying I have joined TSA pre-check, which most of the time had only a few people who were just zipping through and the lines. The regular lines, however, are typically super long. I saw Jesus standing there in the regular line, showing us an alternative perspective. He invites us to flip the script, just as Rip Van Winkle did, and find value in moments of rest and contemplation. Through these breaks, we can better perceive our identity, purpose, and the world that Jesus envisioned—a world that values each individual's well-being and contribution.

Jesus' teachings include the ministry of the nap, reminding us that true peace and growth arise from moments of stillness. Just as Rip Van Winkle's rest led to his reawakening, our periods of rest can lead to a deeper understanding of our identity and purpose. When we pause, we enable our minds and spirits to align with God's intentions for us.

As we approach Labor Day, let's reflect on the wisdom of Rip Van Winkle and the teachings of Jesus. Let's remember that taking a break doesn't negate our work ethic; rather, it enhances it. By embracing moments of rest, we gain clarity about our identity, release ourselves from the chains of relentless busyness, and align ourselves with Jesus' vision of a world where all are valued and included.

In the spirit of true rest, let us find comfort in the communion of nap and identity. Just as Jesus asked, "But who do you say that I am?" let us ask ourselves, "Who do we say that we are?" May we discover the answer not only in our work but in our moments of respite—a time to rediscover our true selves and to stand in unity with a world envisioned by Jesus, where all find their place at the table.

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

September 3	Labor Day Weekend/Church Brunch at Sunrise	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Bob Crocker
	Scripture Reading	Romans 12:9-21
September 10	Rally Day/Communion	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Lowell Handy
	Scripture Reading	Romans 13:8-14
September 17		
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Flo Hoffman
	Scripture Reading	Romans 14:1-12
September 24		
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
	Scripture Reading	Philippians 1:21-30



*Outdoor
Worship
in
August*

Diaconate Ministry

Have You Heard?

Did you know about the Upper Room? It is a daily devotional that is available in a rack outside the Church Office. If you need some extra inspiration, you might want to take a look.

Membership & Communications Ministry

Pass the Popcorn!

Plan to join us for the showing of *"A Man Named Otto"* on Sunday, September 17 at 3:00pm in the church sanctuary. We will have popcorn during intermission in Webster Hall. Please bring a snack to share. Watch Notes from Co for further information.

Womens Fellowship Resumes This Month

Womens Fellowship (formerly Evening Circle) monthly meetings are starting up again, in person, on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30pm. We will meet in the Barwick Room. All ladies of the church are invited to come and join in the fun, fellowship, planning and refreshments. We will be electing new officers and are looking for ideas for future meetings.

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

Backpack Project Prepares for New School Year

A huge thank you to the congregation for donations that have come in throughout August. Although we do not yet have a handle on the number of students for whom First Congregational will be supplying weekend nourishment at North Elementary this coming school year, we do know that the Community Backpack Project is expecting a hefty increase in requests, so however many we as a congregation can fulfill will be greatly appreciated. We expect to return to deliveries the week of September 4, after Labor Day. The following items can be used now and will be in continuous need: canned vegetables [± 15 oz.], canned stew [± 15 oz.], canned pasta [± 15 oz. with meat], boxed macaroni and cheese [several stores have their own labels, often on sale; just a hint]. Twice a month we have sent beans and rice, so canned kidney beans [± 15 oz.] and one-pound bags of rice will constantly be needed. Once we have conferred with the Social Worker at North School, we will post a sign-up sheet in the church office for packing bags and delivering them to the school. For information, contact Lowell Handy at handtreesh@att.net



Nancy Brink is pictured at right, with Exodus World Service staff members.

FCC Project Survivor Gives to Exodus, Seeks Additional Donations

Church members Nancy Brink and John Foster made a delivery in August to Exodus World Service. They transported items donated by FCC church members, to benefit refugees from Haiti and Ukraine. Our Project Survivor is in need of **NEW** Pots & Pans set of 7 or 9 pieces (Walmart), twin comforter, twin blankets, pillows, colored plastic shower curtain and hooks, towel sets (bath, hand and wash clothes), box fans, medium size laundry detergent, can scouring powder, 4 pack light bulbs (60 watt), small tool kit (Menard's), tall trash cans, mixing bowls and paper towels. Thanks in advance for your support.

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

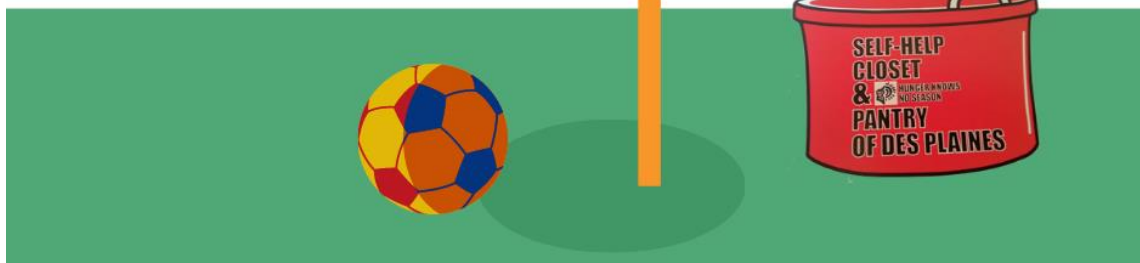
 **Add a hot dog, chips and a drink for \$5!**

 **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! All ages welcome.

Music Ministry

Ring Those Bells!

Rehearsals for our Wholly Ringers intergenerational handbell choir are underway in the church sanctuary. The group rehearses weekly for one hour, plays in church on Sunday morning about once a month and presents a concert in March. If you are interested in joining this **fabulous** group, please contact Ellen Alde at ealdefccdp@gmail.com.

Sing With Us!

Rehearsals for our Chancel Choir are underway each Wednesday at 7:00pm. To learn more, please contact Scott Emerick at scott_fccdp@yahoo.com.

Property Ministry

Welcome!

Starting on Sunday, September 3 we have a new church that will be joining us at 11:00am. The group is going to be using the third floor from 11:00am to 1:00pm every Sunday. Welcome to Eglise Primitive Compassion Church! For details speak with Jim Foster

Finance Committee

Financial Report

During Fiscal 2023 (which ended on June 30), we had total income in our Church's general fund of \$353,279 and expenses of \$322,416. Special thanks to church members and friends who gave of their financial resources to meet and exceed their pledges - and who gave of their time and talents in many fundraising efforts throughout the year. And special recognition and thanks to our church staff and Ministries, who continue to more with less, to maintain and expand church programs in our building, the community, and beyond.

The Church Council voted to move \$16,000 of the end-of-year surplus into the Minister's Housing Allowance Fund, to replace money withdrawn from that fund over the past year. An additional \$14,883 has been transferred to the Contingency Fund to cover unexpected future expenses, as well as staff recognition.

Join Us for Craft & Market Day...



The 2023 Craft & Market Day will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Crafters and vendors will have tables in Webster Hall, as well as outside on the church's front lawn. Once again, we will have a raffle for a giant basket of gift cards, certificates, and services (valued at over \$1,000). Boy Scout Troop 6 will sell food, an all-church bake sale will be included, we're exploring the possibility of musical entertainment, and much more! We hope everyone will participate in some way!

- If you're a crafter or vendor, tables are currently available for \$40 each. A limited number will include electricity, for an additional \$10. Reserve yours today through the church office.
- Not a crafter? Can you volunteer an hour or two of your time to make sure everything runs smoothly? We'll need volunteers to help vendors unload their cars, greet shoppers, sell raffle tickets, and much more.
- Can you bake something yummy for the bake sale?
- Donate a gift card or certificate to add to the raffle basket.
- Spread the word about the sale to neighbors, friends and relatives.
- Come out and shop on October 7.

How ever you can help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Daisy Farley at craftvendorfccdp@gmail.com or Sharon Urry at surry1024@comcast.net to let them know we can count on you!

...and, Remember Those Raffle Tickets!

Remember how successful our Raffle Basket was last year? (Over \$1,500 for our outreach and ministries!) So, we're doing it again this year!

Please consider donating a gift card (e.g.: restaurant, grocery store, gas station, movie theater, etc), a service (e.g.: cleaning, baking, babysitting, tutoring, etc) or a lovely gift item that would add to the Raffle Basket. We hope to have a value of at least \$1200 again this year. If you are not able to help, but know of someone who may, please contact Jana Haas ASAP. (847-951-5111)

Also, watch for the raffle tickets to go on sale for your chance to win!



The 2022 Craft & Market raffle baskets raised more than \$1,500 for our church.

Fundraising Calendar Submissions Sought

We're currently assembling a calendar of all fundraisers planned by Church Ministries, Committees, and other groups during Fiscal 2023-2024. This calendar will be submitted to the Church Council for approval at their September meeting. It's important that the calendar includes all planned fundraisers, so we can be sure that multiple groups aren't planning events for the same dates. If you have not yet submitted your fundraising plans, please email them to **surry1024@comcast.net** by Sunday, September 24.



Still Time to Participate in Bulletin Board of Bills

Thanks to everyone who has already participated in this year's Bulletin Board of Bill. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, there's still time! The fundraiser continues through Labor Day. Watch Co's Notes, where several bills are posted each week. Select a bill that fits within your budget and make a donation to the church in that amount. Mail a check (payable to FCCDP) to the church, drop your check in the offering plate during worship, pay via PayPal, or call the church office to pay by credit card. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

“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.* Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Also, thanks for labeling your boxes for ease of storage. Our next drop off will be Wednesday, **September 20**, from **10:00am to 11:00am**. As of this point in time we are not accepting large furniture, TVs, or scrap metal: if any of this changes, we will let you know. Thank you from your STA leaders. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact either Ellen Alde [ealdefccd@gmail.com] or Chris Tomsic [ctomsic@mac.com].

Pastoral Relations Committee

Did You Know...

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, and dreams. It lets the Minister know what people in the church are thinking. It gives a framework for dealing with conflict creatively. It serves as a resource center for information on church structure and acts as a facilitator for the resolution of questions and concerns of the congregation and the concerns of the Minister.

This year's Pastoral Relations Committee members are Sharon Urry, Jana Haas, Bob Crocker, Quinn Yost, Corrine Bachar, and Joyce Petersen. Please feel free to contact any one of us with your ideas, questions, or concerns.

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.***

Nina Potempa	01-Sep	Lauren Muhr	13-Sep
Paul Whittenhall	03-Sep	Dan Fink	21-Sep
Angela Hinderliter	06-Sep	Rhonda Yost	21-Sep
Ralph Murdy	06-Sep	Kirsten Tangeros	25-Sep
Brandonn Deadwyler	09-Sep	Connor Thomas	25-Sep
Ansebel DuToit	09-Sep	Gail Deadwyler	27-Sep
Chris Donoghue	10-Sep	Cody Meincke	29-Sep

In Memoriam

Lois Rieker Priester

July 17, 2023

Gifts & Memorials

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

Last month my article was about building the “new” parsonage at 1151 Oakwood Avenue in 1950, with Dr. and Mrs. Brehm, their 2 daughters and his mother as first occupants. Dr. and Mrs. James Spicer and their 3 daughters were next from 1969-1971. Rev. & Mrs. Garry Scheuer and their 6 children, 1972-1979, were followed by Dr. and Mrs. William Grice and their 4 sons from 1979 to 2008, and now Rev. and Mrs. Co DuToit as empty nesters with their 3 children now out on their own. I can’t imagine where all these children slept, especially the “6 pack”.

Although no addition has been made, the original construction provided plumbing for adding a 3rd bathroom, which never happened! Dr. Grice shared some information about some of the upgrades made over the years: “From what I understand, Jim Spicer added the flooring and paneling to the Oakwood parsonage basement, the Scheuers may have done some stuff, too. I also built a model railroad in a room Garry Scheuer used as his woodworking shop. Garry had also painted murals on several bedroom walls and had an old stand-up phone booth upstairs so his kids could have some privacy when they made phone calls to talk with their friends. Garry and Carolyn had their bedroom - as did the Brehms - on the main floor.” I know the DuToits made some wonderful upgrades to the lower level where gatherings have been held.

When I shared the picture of the recent upgrade made by the DuToits to the kitchen, removing window & adding doors to back yard, Mary (Brehm) Norris commented with picture: “Original kitchen with cabinets dividing the “cooking” area from the breakfast nook in the background.”



Also added by Dr. Grice: "While we lived in the parsonage, and because of the age of the house, the Church's Board of Trustees felt the need to make improvements to maintain the value of the property. Over the course of years, the kitchen was remodeled. Oak cabinets (the ones shown in the photo) were installed. Other upgrades included installation of a fence around the backyard, a new roof, new siding, new furnace and air conditioning, new carpeting, expanding the parking area when the concrete driveway was replaced, and installation of several second floor windows. These were accomplished in addition to the normal responsibilities to maintain the property on regular basis."

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

September 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:45a Sunday Brunch at Sunrise Grill Rev. Co on vacation 09/05 – 09/11	4 Labor Day Office Closed 7:00p Wholly Ringers	5 Pre-school starts 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry Rev. Co on vacation	6 9:00a WWC 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 Rally day PF Summer trip 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	11 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Wholly Ringers 7:00p Finance	12 12:00p Staff Meeting 1:30p Womens Fellowship	13 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	14	15	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00a Ministry Staff Wholly Ringers 3:00pm Movie: "A <u>Man Named Otto</u> "	18 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	19	20 Tidings Deadline 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation	25 7:00p Wholly Ringers	26	27 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	28	29	30
	7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Council	7:00p Chancel Choir			

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