

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



January 2024 - Vol. 85 – No. 1

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

Accountability

"After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.'" Acts 15:36

On Sunday, December 31 we are going to have a reflective session during our worship hour -at 9:45am – a moment to journey through the past year and envision our path ahead. Evaluation is a powerful tool. Paul and Barnabas are doing a review. They are taking the risk of looking back to better move forward.

When our love for something, like the gospel, is great, we willingly hold ourselves accountable to it. You will count. You will count new members—and whether they're still around a few years after their arrival. You will count pledges—and whether any of them increased over time. You will count attendance and be aware of who came and didn't come back. You will notice if the parents who trusted you with their five-year-old still trust you with their seven-year-old.

Counting and evaluating can carry negative connotations, often due to misuse by those without our best interests at heart. But what if we embraced evaluation as a joyful exercise? Imagine doing a review with trusted partners. Consider the faith it takes to acknowledge when something isn't working, or when our attempts don't produce the expected results and what it would take to try something different. There is liberation in fully committing to something, where failure is not feared but seen as an opportunity to try again in a different way.

The good news Paul and Barnabas shared was about trusting in God's encompassing love through Jesus. This calls for constant self-assessment and evaluation within our self as well as in our faith community. To grow in freedom and joy, we must fear mistakes less than we do avoidance of accountability. Maybe we need new criteria for success. Numbers in a congregation might offer one perspective, but the spirit of our conversations tells another story. As we embark on a journey as Paul and Barnabas did, let's do so eagerly, facing whatever comes our way. Let's recommit ourselves to spreading love, freedom, and joy. And next year, when we do this again, we see how far we got towards those gospel goals and gifts.

It's not about superficial assessments but about engaging in the reviews aligned with the spirit of God's desires for us. May we find joyous accountability in his promises, paving the way for growth and deeper connections.

Warm regards,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

January 7

Communion/Church Brunch at Sunrise

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 3:1-12 or Acts 19:1-7

January 14

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 6:12-20

January 21

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Church Potluck	10:00a
Lay Reader	Deb Alde
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 7:29-31

January 28

Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Katy Berman
Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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Children's & Adult Education Ministry



The Story of Christmas Our 2023 Sunday School Pageant



Membership & Communications Ministry



A group of church members and friends continued our holiday tradition of Christmas caroling in December to local assisted living facilities.

Creative Conversation Underway – All are Welcome

Creative Conversation is FCCDP's book club. It meets once a month, on the second Monday of each month, at 10 a.m. for about an hour. All are welcome. Each member of the group has the option of reviewing a book of her/his choosing, which others can read from the library (ordered ahead), audio book or on a tablet. The choice is the reviewer's and every genre is open for discussion. Reviewers may choose their own patterns for the review, which will ultimately involve opening the discussion to the others present. There have been some really powerful discussions in the past. The **January 8** selection is ***The Heirs***, by Susan Rieger. Whether you've had a chance to read the book or not, we hope you'll join us for what we expect to be a lively discussion.



Inge Eschenbach (pictured) and other members of Womens Fellowship (formerly Evening Circle) enjoyed a holiday gift exchange in December.

Womens Fellowship Schedules Game Day for January

Due to scheduling conflicts, our next Womens Fellowship gathering will be one week later than normal, on Tuesday, January 16. We're looking forward to playing fun games. If you have one special to you, please bring it! All ladies (men, too) are welcome to join us in the Barwick Room at 1:30 pm on January 16. Questions? Speak with Nancy Meyer.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Backpack Ministry Prepares for New Year

We would like to begin by passing on a thank you we received from Rosie Hankes, the School Social Worker at North Elementary School: "Thank you so much for the holiday food bag delivery! The families were so grateful to have extra supplies to get them through the week." Please know that each backpack child we serve helps their entire family and often others. Now, with the holiday season behind us, we return to the weekly backpacks. Our first delivery will be January 11, 2024. At the moment, we have supplies to cover the first two weeks of the new year; however, thereafter our supplies will begin to diminish. Items that will need replenishment in the next few weeks include: canned pasta with meat, canned vegetables [± 15 oz.], beef stew [or substitutes like Chunky Soup, chili, hash, or Chicken ala King (this last often in stock at Dollar Tree)], small cans of tuna, sausage or chicken, individual oatmeal packets, Mac & Cheese. As always, individually wrapped snack items will be appreciated by us and, trust me, by the children. The sign-up sheet has been posted in the Church Office; if you have questions, contact Lowell at handytreesh@att.net

Project Survivor Thanks, Current Needs

Thank you to all who have given items for Project Survivor/ EXODUS World Service. Exodus completed 10 Welcome Packs in December, and our church was responsible for three of those. Please know your efforts are greatly appreciated by the Exodus staff. In preparation for the year ahead, our current Project Survivor needs include the following:

- Pots and Pans **NEW** (No frying pans) (Set of 7 or 9 pieces) Walmart
- Twin Blankets **NEW** (Walmart)
- Towels **NEW** (Bath, Hand, and Wash Cloths)
- Disposable Razors (10 pack)
- Laundry Detergent (Medium size)
- All-purpose cleaning spray (No Bleach)
- Plastic Hangers
- Silverware for 4 with Tray (Walmart)
- 4 – 8OZ. drinking glasses
- Set of 3 plastic mixing bowls
- Cutting boards
- Tea kettles
- 4 or 6 pack of light bulbs (60, 75 or 100 watts)
- Dish rack (\$ store)
- Baking pans and Cookie sheets (\$ store)
- Set of Cooking Utensils (\$ store)
- Dishing washing soap (\$ store)
- Plastic wrap (\$ store)
- Scouring powder (\$ store)

Thank you for your continued support for Refugees. We wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season. For further information, contact Nancy Brink at JFOSTERNBRINK@ATT.NET or 847/981-0734.

Music Ministry



Joy to the World: A Christmas Cantata was presented by our Chancel Choir in December. The performance was directed by Scott Emerick and accompanied by Anna Kovalevska.



After the Cantata, a festive potluck was held in Webster Hall. The evening included a “Secret Santa” gift exchange and a visit from Santa Claus. Anna Kovalevska is pictured with her son, Leo.

Save the Date

Our Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will present a spring concert and potluck supper at church on March 17...please join us!

Property Ministry

Need a table?

A reminder that our church has a few 8 ft. tables that are available for free to a good home. To learn more, contact Jim Foster at 224/361-6735.

Youth Ministry



PF Holiday Cookie Walk

Thanks to all those who baked/bought/
contributed to our annual fundraiser.
Proceeds from the 2023 cookie walk
will be applied to the PF's 2024
summer trip to the Boundary Waters.



Finance Committee

Holiday Bake Sale

A big thank you to Garrett Pittman who organized our recent All-Church Holiday Bake Sale, to all of our bakers, and to everyone who purchased these yummy holiday treats. Because of you, we were able to raise \$950 for the church's general budget.

Gift Card Sale Results

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Holiday Gift Card Sale. Church members and friends purchased almost \$30,000 in gift cards, which resulted in a profit of \$1,339 for the church's general budget. Special thanks to Rod Beets for all his hard work organizing and overseeing this important church fundraiser.

Talent & Gift Auction Begins January 13

Our 2024 Talent & Gift Auction is set to begin on January 13 and we need your help to make it successful! Once again this year, bidding will be done via email or telephone. Last year's Auction raised over \$3,500, because so many of our church members and friends donated items to the auction and then so many more participated in the bidding. What can you donate to make this year's Auction even more successful? Baked goods or a home-cooked specialty? Possibly a themed gift basket, gardening or landscape work, admission to a museum or the Arboretum? Or maybe you have an idea of your own. In past years, some of our most popular auction items were theatre tickets, sporting events, restaurant gift cards, vacations, outings and activities. If you can donate an item for this year's Talent & Gift Auction, please contact Sharon Urry at surry1024@comcast.net, or call her at 847/421-1491, no later than Sunday, January 7.

FCCDP Tree of Life

Have you ever wondered about the FCCDP Tree of Life, that's located in the hallway across from the Church Office? The Tree was erected in 2011 to recognize special contributions made to the life and growth of our church. It was made possible through a generous donation by long-time church member Betty Wayman and constructed by Paul Meincke. If you're considering making a large contribution to our church, above and beyond your regular pledge, remember that contributions of \$2,500 or more will be recognized with a leaf on our Tree of Life. Four different donation levels are recognized: a green leaf for a donation of \$2,500 to \$4,999; a bronze leaf for a donation of \$5,000 to \$9,999; a silver leaf for a donation of \$10,000 to \$24,999; a gold leaf for a donation of \$25,000 or more. Donations to the Church Foundation, a specific Church Ministry, or general gifts (outside of regular pledges) will be recognized. Personal property, securities, and real estate will be recognized at market value when received by the church. For more information, contact the Church Office.



Our Tree of Life, in the main hallway.

“Second Time” Rummage Sale Updates

STA sale update from co-chair Ellen Alde: Thank you to those who have donated treasures and memories for the April 27, 2024 sale. Our storage areas are still in need of items for the sale. Our first drop-off for the new year will be Sunday, January 7 following the worship service and then again on Wednesday, January 17. We greatly appreciate your labeling of your treasures and memories to help us stay organized. I know the workers in Housewares really appreciate the effort you are making in labeling bed linens. If you are wondering how you can help with the sale, volunteer forms will be available in March for the week of the sale in April. If you have any questions, please contact either Ellen [ealdefccd@gmail.com] or Chris [ctomsic@mac.com]. Thanks for your continuing support.

From Our Congregation

GO GREEN - Get rid of your junk responsibly!

Submitted by Garrett Pittman

It is now easier to recycle and get rid of the junk in your house. During the Christmas break, you can gather the family, tell them to go through their stuff to find items they no longer play with or are just taking up space. **OUR NEXT Second Time Around drop-off is Sun January 7**, the last day of break for most of us. Take advantage of the STA for recycling and giving new life to items laying around the house, bedrooms, and basement. Dejunk your house before the kids go back to school!

For Des Plaines Residents, from the desplaines.org website: **Des Plaines Public Works will accept all computer components, phone equipment, hand-held electronics, DVDs, VCRs and televisions for recycling from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., every Wednesday, at the Public Works Garage, 1111 Joseph J. Schwab (Campground) Road.** The City's contracted recycling company will wipe all computer hard drives to the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) standards. Computers that meet requirements are then refurbished while unusable equipment is recycled responsibly in accordance with the Illinois Electronics Reuse & Recycling Act. Household appliances (white goods) will **not** be accepted. SWANCC, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County runs several recycling events like **free Electronics recycling and Chemical & Paint disposal**. They will host **Document Shredding events on Jan 20 and March 9, 2024, 9-11:30am** at their waste transfer station, 3 Providence Way, in Des Plaines (just east of Maryville Academy). Up to six (6) boxes / paper bags of paper can be shredded. Please review the instructions on the [Swancc.org](https://swancc.org) website

I recently found out that ABT has run a recycling center for the last 18 years. I was visiting my sister, and she was replacing her chest freezer. I put her huge **old freezer in my van, the box with Styrofoam packing, grabbed her dead microwave ovens and 2 dehumidifiers from my house** and dropped them off for free at ABT Recycling. (hip, hip, hooray!) Small appliances are free. ABT does charge to recycle old tube type TV's and new Flat Panel TV's because those are sent to an off-site recycling firm. Their recycling facility is open every day. **ABT Recycling Center** can be found on google maps at 1000 N Milwaukee Ave, Glenview IL on the far south side of their massive complex. I used the bay on the North side of the building.

New this year, Mount Prospect Public works offers **Styrofoam recycling** at 1000 W Central Rd, Mount Prospect. They take clean Styrofoam on Tuesdays 10am-12pm and Thursdays 1pm-3pm. Expanded Polystyrene (EPS - #6 plastic) is 98% air and will take 500 years to decompose. The village purchased a foam densifier to compress the packaging and food service foam into EPS ingots, which are then used to make new foam packaging. The program is open to all Illinois residents. For more info, please review mountprospect.org/Home/Components/News/News/9769/1042

Many grocery stores take our plastic bags. Drop-off containers are at the front of the store. Please do NOT put plastic bags and Amazon plastic packaging in your recycling bin. Some communities encourage you to put specific food waste in with the yard waste clippings. All our communities have recycling programs available to us. You don't have to throw it away.

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 Office at 847/299-5561.



Church member LaVerne Johnson celebrated her 100th birthday in December! She is pictured with her daughter, Nancy Brink, and son-in-law, John Foster.

Francois DuToit	01-Jan	Sean Nutley	16-Jan
Alex Masciopinto	01-Jan	Erik Nanstiel	17-Jan
Dave DeHart	03-Jan	Ava Olsen	19-Jan
Heather Larson	03-Jan	Will Grice	22-Jan
Ann Grice	08-Jan	Jeannie Johnson	22-Jan
Andy Olsen	09-Jan	Vito Pelletiere	24-Jan
Co DuToit	10-Jan	Dan Meincke	27-Jan
Ken Santos	11-Jan	Matt Cameron	28-Jan
Jana Haas	12-Jan	Rod Beets	29-Jan
Connor Tomsic	12-Jan	Michael Liston	30-Jan
Jennifer Nutley	15-Jan	Patti Fink	31-Jan

Gifts & Memorials

Gifts & Memorials given in memory of Flo Hoffman

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from J Draeger

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Robert Rose family

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Hans & Inge Eschenbach

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from J Glass

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Rev R Backus

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from C O Snyder

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from J Graham

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from M Muller

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from S J Muller

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from M Avina

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from K Reiten

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Rick & Charlie Warren

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Maria Kruse

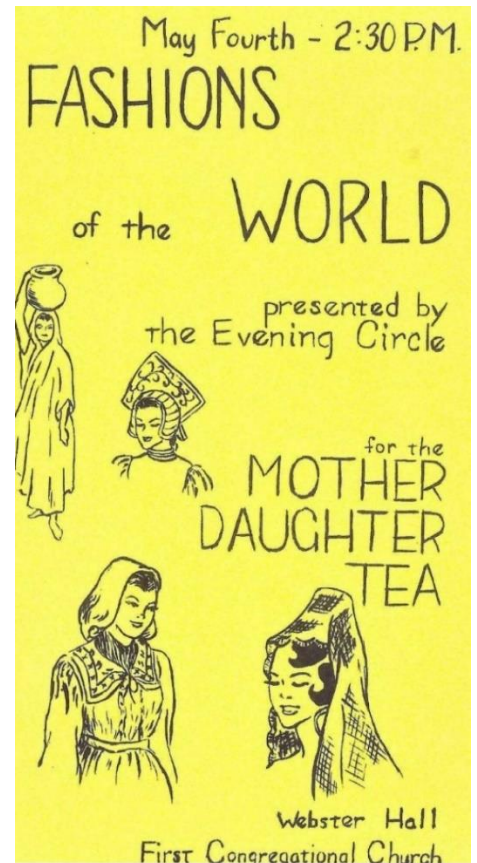
In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Joyce Petersen

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Carl & Judy Mahr

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

Joyce (Kaminski) Petersen recently lent me this memorabilia she's held onto since 1986. Decided it was time to share it with all of you... those were the days!

Judith Yoshimura of Diamond Head Drive, Des Plaines, who hails originally from Hawaii, holds flowers she won as the Mother Who Traveled The Farthest to attend the Mother-Daughter Tea given Sunday, May 4 by Evening Circle of First Congregational Church. Surrounding Judy are mothers and daughters who modeled costumes from the Hawaiian Islands in one of the more than 20 scenes of the "Fashions of the World" program presented that afternoon. Front row, from left, Joyce Kaminski, chairman of the event, Mrs. Yoshimura, Jennifer Meisterheim, Jane Burrows and Rachel Bayster. Back row, Roberta Bruhn, Phyllis Groff, Betty Nanstiel, Ginny Van Scoyoc, Judy Ruicker and Karen Hoffman. Costumes of Norway, Scotland, The



Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Austria, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Israel, Pakistan, India, China, Korea, Japan, The Philippines, Mexico, Ecuador, Spain, Tahiti and American Indians were modeled by Womens Fellowship members and friends of the church for the entertaining program. (This narrative was under the newspaper clipping.)

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 09:45a Family Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	3 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	4	5	6
7 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30a Sunday Brunch STA – Drop-off De-greening of church	8 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	9	10 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama	11	12	13 Talent-and-Gift Auction begin
14 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	15 MLK Jr. Day 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	16 1:30p: Womens Fellowship	17 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	18	19	20 Tidings Deadline
21 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:05a Combined Staff Potluck	22	23 6:00p Chair Meeting	24 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship STA-Chair mtg.	29 7:00p Wholly Ringers	30 7:00p Council	31 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	Fundraisers: Talent-and-Gift Auction		
	7:00p Wholly Ringers					

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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www.fccdp.org

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