



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



March 2024 - Vol. 85 – No. 3

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

Turn down the volume....

"Be still and know that I am God!"

-Psalm 46:10

In our fast-paced society, amidst the loud noises of daily life, finding moments of peace and stillness can seem only like a distant dream. We are constantly bombarded with noise and distractions, continually rushing from one task to another. However, it is in the midst of this chaos that the wisdom of Psalm 46:10 rings especially true.

Lent offers us a precious opportunity to pause, reflect, and turn down the volume of our lives. It is a season of intentional introspection, a time to examine our hearts and minds, seeking forgiveness and renewal. As we journey through Lent, let us not only look inward but also outward, contemplating the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and our response to it.

Lent is a good time to decrease the volume and increase devotion and meditation time. While it may initially seem like a daunting task to carve out this additional time, the rewards are immeasurable. Amidst the demands of our daily routines, devotion and meditation serve as anchors, grounding us in the presence of God and helping to quiet the noise that surrounds us.

Life's demands often drown out the gentle whispers of God's voice, leaving us feeling disconnected and overwhelmed. Yet, it is precisely in moments of stillness that we are most receptive to his guidance. Just as God often speaks in a still, small voice, so too can we find clarity and peace when we quiet our hearts and minds.

During this Lenten season, consider what steps you can take to reduce the noise in your life. This may involve practical measures such as limiting screen time or avoiding crowded spaces, as well as inner practices like letting go of worry and stress. By tuning into the quiet whispers of God, we open ourselves up to profound moments of spiritual transformation.

May each of us be attuned to the gentle voice of God, finding solace and strength in the stillness of our hearts.

With Love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

March 3	Communion/3rd Sunday of Lent/Church Brunch at Gail's Carriage Inn	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
	Scripture Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
March 10	4th Sunday of Lent	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ellen Alde
	Scripture Reading	Ephesians 2:1-10
March 17	5th Sunday of Lent	
	Service of Worship	7:00p - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Dave Horwitz
	Scripture Reading	Hebrews 5:5-10
March 24	Palm Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
	Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:5-11
March 31	Easter Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	
	Scripture Reading	Acts 10:34-43

***Please plan to join us for our Maundy Thursday worship service
at 7:00pm on Thursday, March 28***

Children's & Adult Education Ministry



Have you seen this bin inside our West Entrance? Join our Sunday School students in a plastic recycling campaign, with the chance to receive an outdoor park bench made of recycled plastic when we reach our goal of collecting 1,000 pounds. Check the side of the bin for the many types of plastic that are accepted. For details refer to the Des Plaines-based Clean Up, Give Back website.

Easter Egg Hunt This Month

Join us for our annual Easter Egg hunt after the worship service on Sunday, March 24. Watch Notes from Co and your Sunday Tidings for details.

Diaconate Ministry

Easter Lily Ordering Underway

Did you know you can order an Easter Lily in honor of/in memory of a loved one, to be displayed in church on Easter Sunday? Deadline to order is March 17. Cost is \$15. Look for an order form in your Sunday Tidings or call the Church Office at 847/299-6651. Questions? Speak with Nancy Brink.

Membership & Communications Ministry



Let's Eat Out! Church members and friends enjoyed an evening meal and fellowship in February at Rose Garden Café. Our special guest, Mavis Donlea (right) is pictured with her proud Grandma Ellie.



Our Womens Fellowship members and friends enjoyed a lively game of Uno during their February meeting.

Womens Fellowship Schedules March Meeting

The next meeting of our Womens Fellowship is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 1:30pm in the Barwick Room. All are welcome. For more information, speak with Nancy Meyer. Calendar shown below does not reflect the change.

Book Sale Underway – Check it Out!

The annual Creative Conversation book sale is underway in Webster Hall. Any donations can be placed on the stage, behind the curtain. Unsold books will be available for sale during our April *Second Time Around* rummage sale. Questions? Speak with Marcia Urban.

Dive Right In!

Thanks to all those who have signed up for our FCC Pool Party at Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center on Friday, March 8 from 7:30pm – 9:30pm. We will have use of the entire aquatic center--lap pool, wellness pool, splash pad, locker rooms and party room and a "Wibit" feature for the lap pool (kids love the challenge!). Bring a snack to share. Photos coming soon!

Coffee Helpers Sought for Sunday Mornings

Our church is fortunate to have a great group of “regulars” who prepare and serve coffee each Sunday during Fellowship in Webster Hall. A big Thank You to Anthony, Barry, Jim & Kathy and the team of Bob, Ralph and Gloria! We’re hoping to add a few more volunteers to this rotation, to give these folks an occasional break. Won’t you please consider helping out? To learn more, please contact Debbie Walusiak at 847/337-1443 or speak with one of our “regulars.”

Creative Conversation Welcomes All for Lively Discussions

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 **March 11** selection is ***This Tender Land***, by William Kent Krueger. 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.



Congratulations to Marisa Cameron, who was nominated recently for Kane County Teacher of the Year. Marisa teaches Health Education and Health Occupations at St. Charles East High School.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Update from Backpack Ministry

As of mid-February the number of backpacks delivered to North Elementary has risen again, to 20 children. Due to the increase, the mission could use a few more items. Those most in need items include: boxed Mac & Cheese, fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups, peanut butter (in plastic) and jelly (± 18 oz., in plastic). Snack items are still welcome: Rice Krispie Treats, granola-type bars and fruit bars most useful; however, please no more fruit flavored snacks (the gummy kind) or plain candy (we're still working through Halloween donations!). For details contact Lowell Handy at lkhandy@att.net.

Gearing Up for ACS Relay 2024...

Our church once again will be represented in the 2024 *Relay for Life* in June, in Palatine. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Last year, our church team raised more than \$6,100 and achieved Gold Level status. Our fundraising campaign will begin in April. One way to help is to place "Relay" cannisters in local businesses, to collect monetary donations. See Paul Schmitt, FCC Relay team captain, for cannisters and for further information.

Project Survivor Lists Current Needs

Thank you to all who have given items for Project Survivor/ EXODUS, in support of refugees who are new to the US. Our current needs include:

Pots and Pans **NEW** (No frying pans) (Set of 7 or 9 pieces) Walmart

Twin Blankets **NEW** (Walmart)

Twin Comforters **NEW** (Walmart) Darker Colors

Towels **NEW** (Bath, Hand, and Wash Cloths)

Disposable Razors (10 pack)

Shaving Cream

Hand Lotion

Small Tool Kits

Scissors

Laundry Detergent (Medium size)

All-purpose cleaning spray (No Bleach)

Silverware for 8 with Tray (Walmart)

4 – 8OZ. drinking glasses

Set of 3 plastic mixing bowls

Tea kettles

Paper Towels

Electric Alarm Clocks

See Nancy Brink for any questions. JFOSTERNBRINK@ATT.NET or 847-981-0734

Thanks from Exodus

Our church recently received a note of thanks from Abigail of Exodus World Service, whose letter states (in part) *Thank you so much for your recent collection of two single Welcome Packs! We were able to warmly welcome a newly arrived Afghan man to Chicago and a newly arrived Venezuelan woman to St. Charles. We are so grateful for your partnership...*

Celebration of Hope Next Month

All are invited to register for the Exodus World Service “Celebration of Hope” dinner and program on Thursday, April 4 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. There is no charge. Register by March 21 at exodusworldservice.org. Please indicate that you wish to be seated with Nancy Brink.

Music Ministry

Save the Date!

Our Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will present a spring concert and potluck supper at church on March 17. Yes, this falls on St. Patrick's Day! This year we are traveling from "C to C" around the circle of keys, hearing from Queens and Irishmen alike. Bring your favorite recipe, Irish or otherwise, to the potluck at 5:00pm and then join us in the sanctuary for the concert at 6:00pm. No charge but a free will offering will be collected.



Youth Ministry



Our Junior and Senior PF traveled to The Rock Snowpark near Milwaukee for snow tubing in February.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

For the month of January, the church had income of \$21,012 and expenses of \$25,187, for a monthly shortfall of \$4,174. However, year-to-date, we are still in a positive position of \$18,563. Thank you for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings, supporting church fundraisers, and making special contributions throughout the year. Your financial support of FCCDP is greatly appreciated!

Annual Church Audit

Our Annual Church Audit took place during February. After a random review of financial reports and transactions from Fiscal 2023, no evidence of significant errors or omissions were discovered. The Committee commended Director of Finances, Eliud Alvarez, former Director of Finances, Larry Schimka, and Finance Committee Chair, Sharon Urry, for their fine work during the year. And special thanks to our members of this year's Audit Committee: Kevin Donoghue, Nancy Schacht, Andre Deadwyler, Jim Ruedisueli and Bob McCullough.

“Second Time” Rummage Sale Updates

STA sale update from co-chair Ellen Alde:

First things First: STA March drop-off dates: Sunday March 3rd and Wednesday March 20.

The Sale date of April 27 is rapidly approaching, so many things to cover in this blast of news.

- Thank you to those who have donated treasures and memories for the April 27 sale and for labeling those items. Keep up the good work!
- As promised last month, VOLUNTEER FORMS are now available on the credenza outside the church office.
- This is the link for the online version of the 2024 STA volunteer form. Not sure if it will connect directly but if you copy and paste into your browser it should work. <https://forms.gle/E8HXfXdxLY6CacLf6>
- We will need the forms [paper or online version] returned to the office by April 14. If you have family, friends or neighbors that would like to help, by all means give them a copy of the form.
- Just an FYI we are also going to need baked goods for the sale, more information as we get closer to the sale date.
- At this point in time, we are taking SMALL furniture [has to fit in your car]. As we get closer to the sale, we will be able to start taking larger furniture such as outside furniture; however, no sofas, overstuffed chairs, bedroom sets, breakfronts, tube TV's, appliances [washers, dryers, etc.]

- Don't forget that volunteers get to shop early on Thursday, April 25, 6 pm to 7 pm.

If you have questions, please contact either Ellen [ealdefccdp@gmail.com] or Chris [ctomsic@mac.com]. That's all for now. Thanks for your continuing support. Be safe.

From the Community

Save the Date!

Our Scout Troop 6 will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in Webster Hall on Sunday, April 7. Details to follow.

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.

Marcy Vedral	01-Mar
Clay Thompson	05-Mar
Evan Tomsic	05-Mar
Zensanna Yost	07-Mar
Kallie Haas	11-Mar
Barb McCullough	11-Mar
Madeleine Larson	11-Mar
Mia Thomas	11-Mar
Cahlan Cameron	11-Mar
John Lodewyck	12-Mar
Rebecca Quam	14-Mar
Betty McMillan	15-Mar
Jimmy Larson	19-Mar
Nate Bryers	19-Mar
Ralph Engler	21-Mar
William Hinderliter	26-Mar
Ann Schwiger	27-Mar
Jim Larson	27-Mar
Olivia Pelletiere	28-Mar
Ryan Johnson	30-Mar
Cindie Hoch	30-Mar

In Memoriam

Alice F. Tucker
February 22, 2024

Dr. James Spicer
February 9, 2024

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Flo Hoffman from Mr. Paul R Schmitt

In Loving Memory of Alice F. Tucker from Rob McCullough

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

During the month of February there were two banners in the chancel, as they are every February. I thought it was time to “explain” them. Don Cameron’s sister, Ellen Knutson, (also my dear friend, classmate, fellow FCCDP confirmand) made them. I asked her to share why she made them and their significance. Best just copy exactly what she replied. Thanks, Ellen!



The one with all the singers represents our family. All of us sang in the choirs. When there were 5 choirs, we had someone in each one. Mom and Dad sang in the adult choir and we covered the high school choir, junior high, boys, and children’s choirs. If a choir was singing, there was a Cameron there. [Dick and Lillian, Jack, Ellen, Don and Marj]

At least three of us also have directed choirs so the director could be any - Dad often directed the Amen after the adults recessed to the back. Thus, we all “SING PRAISES”.

The PRAISE HIM banner represents the many ways Camerons made music. Obviously, we all sing, but the flute, French horn, drum and handbells also have been played by us.

I think the banners may have been for their 50th wedding anniversary but I can’t verify that. Perhaps 1983? It’s nice that the banners were in the sanctuary. [Normally in choir room]

I remember the story of how we got to the church. Jack Wills [long time tenor in our choir] had been to a concert in Chicago at the big hall (can't remember its name). Sunday Evening Club? Dad had at least two solos in the concert. One day after we moved to Pearson Street, Jack Wills came to the door and asked Dad if he was that Richard Cameron. When he told him he was, Jack asked him to come and sing in the First Congregational choir. That was how we became part of the church.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fundraisers: Bake Sale – Orders from 3-17 – pick-up on <u>24th</u>		31 - Easter 09:00a Worship 10:00 am Fellowship				
3 Communion Lent 3 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation 10:30a Sunday Brunch STA – Drop-off PF – Drop-in	4 7:00p Wholly Ringers	5 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Ministry	6 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	7	8 7:30p Pool Party @ Prairie Lakes	9
10 Lent 4 9:00am Worship Chancel Players 10:00 am Fellowship 10:05am Ministry Staff	11 10:00a Creative Conversation 1:00p Alice Tucker Memorial Service 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	12 12:00 Administrative Staff	13 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:15p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	14	15	16 FMSC
17 Lent 5 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation Bake sale starts 5:00p Potluck 6:00p Bells Concert	18 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	19 1:30p Womens Fellowship 6:00p Chair Meeting	20 Tidings Deadline 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:00a STA – Drop-off 7:00p Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Easter Bunny 9:00a Worship 10:00a Fellowship Confirmation	25	26 7:00p Council	27 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	28 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday	30

