



# Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



**April 2024 - Vol. 85 – No. 4**

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

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## **Welcome to the Eastertide!**

Easter Sunday has passed, but for Christians following the church calendar, a new season has dawned: Eastertide. Also known as Easter Season, Paschaltide, or Paschal Tide, Eastertide extends from Easter Sunday to the Feast of Pentecost, spanning 50 days dedicated to celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord. But what significance does this season hold, and why do we observe it?

### **Roots in Jewish Tradition**

Many Christian feasts trace their origins back to the Old Testament and the festivals observed by Israel. Before Easter, there was Passover (Pesach), and before Pentecost, there was the Feast of Weeks (Shavu'ot). It's crucial to recognize that the story of the church is deeply intertwined with Israel's narrative. As Paul emphasizes in Romans, Christians are grafted into the lineage of David and are part of the new Israel.

Passover commemorates Israel's liberation from bondage in Egypt, a story central to both Jewish and Christian faiths. The Last Supper, a pivotal event in Christian theology, occurs within the context of Passover, linking Jesus' sacrifice on the cross with the Passover narrative. Similarly, Shavu'ot, occurring seven weeks after Passover, celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and serves as a harvest festival, marking the culmination of the grain harvest. Shavu'ot is also the backdrop for Pentecost.

### **Christian Significance**

Scripture recounts Jesus appearing to his disciples and numerous others after his resurrection, culminating in his ascension to heaven. This period, celebrated as the Feast of the Ascension during Eastertide, is a time of Jesus' final teachings and commissions to his disciples. As Jesus ascends, he imparts his authority to his followers, instructing them to spread his message to all nations.

Pentecost, known as the Greek equivalent of Shavu'ot, holds profound significance for Christians. Just as Israel celebrated the giving of the Torah, the Church commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This event marks the beginning of the Church's ministry empowered by the Spirit, fulfilling the promise of God to inscribe his law upon the hearts of believers.

### **Transformation of tradition**

Passover and Shavu'ot are not replaced but renewed in the Christian context. They provide a framework for understanding God's actions through Jesus Christ. Easter and Pentecost occur within the broader narrative of Israel's story, emphasizing the continuity between God's covenant with Israel and the fulfillment found in Jesus.

### **Implications for believers**

Eastertide is a season of celebration, symbolizing Jesus' presence among his followers post-resurrection. It contrasts with the preceding season of Lent, which emphasizes repentance and fasting. However, believers are cautioned against excessive indulgence, as the focus should remain on God rather than personal gratification.

Furthermore, Eastertide invites believers to perceive time through the lens of salvation history, prioritizing God's redemptive acts over secular calendars or events. It encourages a deeper reflection on God's ongoing work in the world.

Lastly, Eastertide serves as a reminder to cling to Jesus, who offers peace and understanding in the wake of his resurrection. As believers await the gift of the Holy Spirit, they are encouraged to embrace joy and gratitude for all that Christ has accomplished.

As we enter into Eastertide, let us feast and celebrate the Risen Lord, anchoring our lives in the transformative power of his resurrection. May our lips and lives resound with the proclamation, "Alleluia, He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

With love,

Rev. Co

## Worship Ministry

**April 7**

**Communion/Church Brunch at Brunch Cafe**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccd.org">www.fccd.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	1 John 1:1-2:2

**April 14**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccd.org">www.fccd.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Cindie Hoch
Scripture Reading	1 John 3:1-7

**April 21**

Service of Worship	7:00p - <a href="http://www.fccd.org">www.fccd.org</a>
Fellowship/Potluck	10:00a
Lay Reader	Linda Opalka
Scripture Reading	1 John 3:16-24

**April 28**

Service of Worship	9:00a - <a href="http://www.fccd.org">www.fccd.org</a>
Fellowship	10:00a
Lay Reader	Confirmands
Scripture Reading	1 John 4:7-21

## Children's & Adult Education Ministry



After distributing palms to the congregation on Palm Sunday, our Sunday School students and many others headed outside for our church's annual Easter Egg hunt. Thanks to Marissa Anderson, Matt Cameron and Sue Almerigi for coordinating this special event, which even included a visit from the Easter Bunny!





UPDATE: We have collected 109.1 lbs. of plastic to date! 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.

## Membership & Communications Ministry

### **Womens Fellowship Skips April Meeting**

Our church's Womens Fellowship will not meet in April; instead, the group will enjoy "fellowship and fun" while volunteering during "Second Time Around" rummage sale week. For more information about Womens Fellowship, speak with Nancy Meyer.

### **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.

### **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."

**FCC Pool Party:** Our all-church pool party at the Prairie Aquatics Center in March attracted about 85 participants of all ages. We had the use of the entire facility, including the lap pool, wellness (warm water) pool, splash pad and party room. An excellent time was had by all!



## 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 **April 8** selection is ***We All Want Impossible Things***, by Cathleen Newman. 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.

## Mission & Outreach Ministry

### Update from Backpack Ministry

Thank you all for the generous donations. Which, along with the materials supplied by the Community Backpack Project, enabled us to provide each of the 20 children served at North School with an additional bag to cover this year's Spring Break. We have nine deliveries left to the end of the school year. Each week's delivery consists of 20 bags, so a fair amount of food is still required.



Currently we are well supplied with snack items [PLEASE no fruit gummies or plain candy — we are STILL using Halloween donations — so you can see how very generous you have been in this area]. What we do need from the congregation are  $\pm 15$  oz. cans of vegetables (especially corn, green beans, peas), canned pasta with meat, mac & cheese, individual packets of oatmeal, condensed soup ( $\pm 10.5$  oz. — child-friendly varieties). A huge thank you to everyone who has packed and delivered this year. All of the slots for the rest of the school year have been filled. Any questions? Contact Lowell Handy at [handytreesh@att.net](mailto:handytreesh@att.net)

## 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](mailto:JFOSTERNBRINK@ATT.NET) or 847-981-0734

## 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 **begins April 1**. 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.



## Music Ministry

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

SPRING CONCERT UPDATE!! You helped to make it a success, **thank you for joining us**. It was fabulous to see so many of you for the potluck before the concert and for the concert. The food was awesome!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

- To those who helped set up for the potluck and cleaning Webster Hall afterwards.
- To our live stream team [Jim, Kathy, Quinn], our sound technician [Scott] and Debbie for publishing and helping to get the word out in the papers.
- To the Wholly Ringers, Chancel Choir and Anna, for your dedication to the music program.
- The string quartet: Lawson, Lydia, Olga and Piper for your hours of preparation.

THANK YOU from your directors,  
Ellen and Scott

## Property Ministry

### Have You Seen Our Memorial Garden?

Our church once again is accepting orders for engraved bricks, to be added to our Memorial Garden. Bricks can be ordered in honor of or in memory of loved ones or to commemorate special occasions. Order forms are available on the credenza outside the Church Office. Completed forms must be received by June 30. Questions? Speak with Bob McCullough.

## Youth Ministry



Our church's PF contributed to this year's Easter Egg hunt in a huge way by filling 800 plastic eggs with candy and hiding them around the playground area.

# Finance Committee

## Financial Report

For the month of February, FCCDP had income of \$19,142 and expenses of \$29,975. This is a shortfall for the month of \$10,833. But due to a cushion we had built up over the past several months, we are still in a positive position of \$7,729 through the first eight months of the current fiscal year. Special thanks to all of our church members and friends for keeping up-to-date with their pledges and offerings. 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!

## Easter Bake Sale a Success

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Easter Holiday Bake Sale - either by baking or by purchasing some of the available treats. Because of you, we were able to raise over \$500 for the church's general budget. Special thanks to Garrett Pittman for all his hard work planning, organizing and overseeing this fundraiser.

## ...and, More Thanks...

*(From Garrett Pittman)* Thanks to everyone who participated in our Spring Holiday Bake Sale, either by baking or purchasing some of your favorite goodies. We had 6 bakers and orders from 17 families, resulting in over \$500 raised for our church. It is amazing that our church continues to bake and consume throughout the year with the Craft & Market Day, Christmas Cookie Walk, two Holiday Bake Sales and baking for the big Second Time Around fundraiser. An army marches on its stomach and our church worships asking "Is the coffee hot and where's the sweets?"

I was glad to continue the tradition of helping to provide favorite baked goods for our members. I hope to host another Holiday Bake sale next November in time for Thanksgiving. Happy Easter to you and your families.

## Automate Your Giving with ACH

Many of our church members have come to appreciate the convenience of electronic giving for their pledges and offerings. They like the convenience and comfort of knowing that even if they are not able to attend worship, their contribution is still available to further God's work in our church and the community. Through ACH, you can schedule your regular offering to be paid via electronic transfer from your bank savings or checking account, on a monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly basis. It's easy to get started! Just contact our Financial Administrator, Eliud Alvarez, or the church secretary for more information.

## Budget Requests Due from Ministries

All Ministries are reminded that budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year are due by May 5. Please review your expenses from the current year, consider your plans and goals for the coming year, and email your budget request to [surry1024@comcast.net](mailto:surry1024@comcast.net), to assure that funding for your ministry is included in the budgeting process.

## Imagining Together

The theme of this year's Annual Stewardship Drive is **"Imagine Together."** Imagine what generosity looks like to you. Generosity of your time. Generosity with your talents. Generosity with your financial contributions. Now imagine what we can do together. For our congregation. For our children and youth. For our community. For those in need, both near and far. **Your generosity makes it possible to turn what we imagine into reality.**



Your offerings and donations are vital to the funding of our ministries. But your contributions only cover a little more than half of the dollars needed. Proceeds from fundraising efforts and outside groups using our building provide the other half.

To learn more about where our funds come from ... and where they go, plan to attend one of two special **Stewardship Meetings to be held in the Barwick Room, after Sunday worship, on April 14 and April 28.**

Join us as **Together We Imagine** all we can accomplish throughout the coming year and beyond.

## “Second Time” Rummage Sale Updates

STA sale update from co-chair Ellen Alde:

**STA APRIL drop-off dates: Sunday APRIL 7 and Wednesday APRIL 17.**

The Sale date of April 27 is rapidly approaching.

- 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!
- VOLUNTEER FORMS are available on the credenza outside the church office. PLEASE SIGN UP to help – there are many ways to help.
- 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 need the forms [paper or online version] returned to the office by April 15. If you have family, friends or neighbors that would like to help, then by all means give them a copy of the form or send them the link.
- Volunteers get to shop early on Thursday April 25, 6 pm to 7 pm.
- Just an FYI we are also going to need baked goods for the sale. Drop-off date for bakery items will be any time beginning on Friday, April 26. We will need baked goods for Friday evening and of course all day on Saturday. For more information, please contact Faith Engler.
- Speaking of food – if you are planning on eating lunch or dinner the week of the sale, we will need that information by April 15. We need to have a head count to order no later than Thursday, April 18.
- We will begin accepting larger furniture after April 9. If you have larger outdoor furniture you would like to donate, please contact the church office [847-299-5561]. So that arrangements can be made for someone to be at the church to help unload. Remember however that there are items that we will not accept [they just don't sell] - no sofas, sleeper couches, overstuffed chairs, bedroom sets, breakfronts, tube TV's, large appliances [washers, dryers, refrigerators...] We are also taking SMALL furniture [must fit in your car].
- You may continue to drop off items Monday - 22, Tuesday -23 or Wednesday - 24 during the week of the sale – just take them to their designated rooms.
- 50/50 RAFFLE tickets are available for purchase - \$20 for 5 tickets or \$5 A ticket. See Ellen
- As we encounter other information to pass along, it will appear in Co's Notes.

*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

### Pasta for a Cause!

Our Scout Troop 6 will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in Webster Hall from 5:00pm-7:30pm on Sunday, April 7. Cost is \$10 and includes spaghetti with meatballs, garlic bread and salad. There also will be a “split the pot” raffle (tickets \$5 each), and the scouts are hosting a bake sale. Come hungry!

### Calling All Music Lovers...

The Park Ridge Chorale will present a spring concert, *Still Singing After All These Years*, at 7:00pm on Saturday, April 13. The concert will be held at St. Luke's Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Advance tickets (\$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors) can be purchased from Corrine Bachar, FCC choir member, or at the door (\$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors). The Park Ridge Chorale is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. For more information, contact Dave Dadabo at 847/501-1203.

## 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.***

Anna Lodewyck	02-Apr
Sharon Urry	02-Apr
Jason Schacht	04-Apr
Bill Meincke	06-Apr
Quinn Yost	07-Apr
Alex Liston	08-Apr
Brian Cameron	09-Apr
Jenna Cooper	16-Apr
Rick Johnson	18-Apr
Don Cameron	26-Apr
Zaphillia Yost	26-Apr
Cindie Hoch	30-Mar

## In Memoriam

Margaret Brehm Hall

March 20, 2024

Georgia A. DeHart

February 29, 2024

## Gifts & Memorials

## From our Historian, Nancy Meyer (Thought you might like to re-read this from May, 2011!)

The Second Time Around Sale has been everyone's mind and calendar for months. Some historical questions had been asked of me that I couldn't answer at the time. How long has FCC been having rummage sales? When did we start calling it "Second Time Around" sale?

I located Church Clerk annual meeting minutes from the 1920's and 1930's, but saw no reference to rummage sales. The Social Union did read reports at those meetings, but I haven't found those reports (yet). The earliest reference to rummage sales I've found so far in 'The Tidings' was in May, **1943**, "Don't forget the rummage sale which is to be given the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May at 714 Lee St." *That's in the 3-story yellow brick building just north of Prairie Av., maybe an empty storefront then?* In Nov. 1943, "Watch for Rummage Sale SOON", but I found no more references to that sale. However, during 1944, 4 boxes of used clothing were collected for destitute people of Greece, and used clothing was donated to the Leyden House in Chicago where it was remade and repaired for the needy. And in Oct. 1944, the United Nations asked the churches of America to collect 15 million pounds of clothing for people in countries being liberated by our armies....our church participated in that effort.

The first rummage sale at FCC I found with dollar results reported? May, 1946 - **\$424.71**. Leftovers from the 1947 \$450 sale were delivered to the Assyrian Church in Chicago. In 1950 the Social Union reported \$540 with leftovers to worthy social agencies. In 1951 our Constitution's revision renamed the Social Union as Women's Fellowship, who continued to sponsor the rummage sales for many years. The 1955 sale, held Thurs. eve from 7-9pm and Fri., 9-3pm, netted over \$600. The 1960 sale was on Wed., 7-9pm, and Thurs., 10-1pm & 7-9pm. with "French Room" shopkeepers asking for your "better things" in way of dresses, jewelry, hats, etc. Results? Total of \$543, of which \$245 was from French Room. *Seems I remember the 'French Room' being on the stage or in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Bennett Room in those years.*

In 1965 a 'French Room Coffee Break' was held on Monday from 9:30 to noon, with admission being "better rummage". Of the total \$696.35 sales on Wed. & Thurs., \$331.25 was from the French Room. A committee boxed up 53 boxes of unsold clothing and household goods for worthy agencies in ND, KY, MO and several in Chicago. The 1970 Tidings stated the 4/29-30 rummage sale would be the first of 2, but I found no reference to the second one. In fact, as far as I can tell, there were no more rummage sales until 1979. But during that time, FCC was sponsoring many other fun activities and fundraisers. *I'm guessing our "surplus" clothing during those years found a home in the "Self-Help Closet", founded in FCC's basement in 1971.*

In 1979 "**Second Time Around**" sales began, being held in Brehm Hall, just from 10-4pm on Saturday. Requests were for rummage, furniture, toys, books, collectibles/antiques, all kinds of stuff. In 1985, Women's Fellowship reported \$3,685 net profit, which helped purchase new stage curtains, drapes for pastor's study, new card tables, helped toward new Chapel Choir robes, PF summer service project and Bell Choir travel expenses.

Skip to 1996: In January a plea went out from Women's Fellowship...wanted to have a rummage sale, but needed someone to be chairman. I believe this is when the sale really became an "all-church" effort, co-chaired by staff and laypeople. The familiar triangular logo-graphic was introduced. By then we had expanded to many rooms in FCC. Canopy tent, popcorn cart, grilled hotdogs, and babysitting "Drop & Shop" were all advertised...inviting the entire community. Over \$10,000 was netted, going to FCC's general fund. In 2000 we





netted over \$13,000, in 2005 \$14,692 and in 2010 **\$20,343**. We've come a long way since the \$424.71 almost 70 years ago!!

Physical spaces used for the sale changed, days of the week and times of day changed, pricing methods changed, ways of displaying 'merchandise' changed, but no matter what year(s) YOU were involved, the 'Thank You' message published in The Tidings by the co-chairmen in 1996 really says it for every year. "The rummage sale exceeded all our expectations! We are grateful to those who volunteered many hours of their valuable time to help out. We are equally appreciative of all the wonderful items that were so generously donated. This cooperative effort raised over \$10,000 for our church. Not only that, it sparked new friendships, rekindled old ones and provided numerous opportunities for outreach in our community, including leftovers to the needy and recruiting new members. We feel fully blessed by our success and thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts."

*I should add that, during my research, the names of all the wonderful women (and men) who were willing to take on the daunting task of chairing these rummage sales over the years brought back many memories of those dedicated and generous souls. I wish I'd had the space to mention them by name! THANK YOU!!*

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

[www.fccdp.org](http://www.fccdp.org)

847/299-5561

## April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 31 Easter</b> 09:00a Family Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Anna – Maternity Leave until end of June	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Communion</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Confirmation STA – Drop-off 10:30a Sunday Brunch	<b>8</b> 10:00a Creative Conversation	<b>9</b> 12:00 Administrative Staff	<b>10</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:00p Celebration of Hope – Drury Lane	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship Wholly Ringers 10:00 am Fellowship 10:05am Ministry Staff	<b>15</b> 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:00a STA – Drop-off	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Tidings Deadline</b> 8:30a STA-Sale Set-Up
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30p Property 7:00p Wholly Ringers	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00p Chancel Choir 9:00a WWC	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
9:00am Worship 10:00 am Potluck Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	STA-Sale Set-Up STA-Sale Set-Up	STA-Sale Set-Up	7:00p STA-Sale	9:00a STA-Sale Volunteer party at DuToit home
<b>28 Donlea Baptism</b> 9:00am Worship Confirmation Class Conducting worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>29</b> STA-Sale Set-Up	<b>30</b>	STA-Sale Set-Up	STA-Sale Set-Up	<b>Fundraisers: STA – Sale</b>	
7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Council				