



Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.

Des Plaines, IL 60016



May 2024 - Vol. 85 – No. 5

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

Imagine Together

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." John 3:3

Nicodemus was a wealthy and devout Jew, a Pharisee, and a member of the Sanhedrin. In the quiet of the night, Nicodemus sought Jesus, driven by a longing for understanding the mysteries of faith. His encounter with Jesus enlightens not only his path but also ours, revealing the importance of spiritual rebirth and the transformative power of curiosity.

Nicodemus, puzzled, asked how this spiritual rebirth could occur. Jesus explained that it involves being born of water and the Spirit. He emphasized that this transformation is not physical but spiritual, like the wind's mysterious movement.

Nicodemus, initially criticized by Jesus, turns into a vibrant follower. His story highlights the importance of spiritual curiosity in maintaining vitality, addressing the tendency for stagnation and fear of change. How could a commitment to curiosity be transformative for us?

As we navigate the landscape of the post-Covid era, our congregation stands at a crossroads, where the familiar beckons with its comforting embrace, yet the call to innovation sounds with urgency. The pandemic thrust us into uncharted territory, compelling us to explore new avenues of ministry, to reimagine the ways in which we connect and serve.

Yet, amidst the uncertainty, there exists a subtle temptation to retreat into the safety of the known, to relinquish the spirit of experimentation that propelled us forward. It is in this pivotal moment that we invoke the spirit of Imagine Together, inviting each member of our community to join in the sacred exercise of creativity and renewal.

Imagine: Let us envision a future where the voices of prophets mingle with the voices of today, where God's revelation flows through our hearts, igniting the flames of inspiration. Let us dare to dream beyond the confines of convention, embracing the divine invitation to co-create a world filled with hope and compassion.

Together: Bound by the ties of faith, we journey as companions, walking the path of discipleship hand in hand. United in purpose, we form a tapestry of diversity. Faith is

not an individual pursuit but a communal endeavor, an invitation to embrace the sacred interconnectedness of all life.

The story of Nicodemus serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that transformation is not a sudden burst of light but a gradual unfolding, a journey marked by curiosity and courage. As we “Imagine Together,” let us embark on this journey of discovery, forging ahead with unwavering faith and boundless imagination.

During our Stewardship Drive, may we be mindful to the call to generosity, recognizing that our resources are not merely possessions but catalysts for change, instruments through which our dreams take flight. Together, let us sow the seeds of possibility, nurturing a future brimming with promise and potential.

With hearts filled with anticipation and gratitude, let us dare to imagine together, for in our collective vision lies the power to shape a world transformed by love.

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| May 5 | Communion/Confirmation/Baptism/Church Brunch at Brunch Cafe | |
| | Service of Worship | 9:00a - www.fccdp.org |
| | Fellowship | 10:00a |
| | Lay Reader | Les Stein |
| | Scripture Reading | 1 John 5:1-6 |
| May 12 | Stewardship Sunday/Mothers' Day | |
| | Service of Worship | 9:00a - www.fccdp.org |
| | Fellowship | 10:00a |
| | Lay Reader | Jackie Schmitt |
| | Scripture Reading | 1 John 5:9-13 |
| May 19 | Pentecost/Sunday School Teacher Recognition | |
| | Service of Worship | 9:00p - www.fccdp.org |
| | Fellowship/Potluck | 10:00a |
| | Lay Reader | Marcia Urban |
| | Scripture Reading | Romans 8:22-27 |
| May 26 | Memorial Day Weekend | |
| | Service of Worship | 9:00a - www.fccdp.org |
| | Fellowship | 10:00a |
| | Lay Reader | Bob Crocker |
| | Scripture Reading | Romans 8:12-17 |



Best Wishes to the DuToit and Donlea families on the April baptism of Mavis Donlea, pictured with Rev. Co. Mavis is the daughter of Ansebel DuToit and Jacob Donlea.

Membership & Communications Ministry

Womens Fellowship Plans May Luncheon

Womens Fellowship is ending the year with a luncheon. We will make a reservation at Sunrise Grill (1930 E. Touhy, Des Plaines) for Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30am. Please RSVP to Nancy Meyer by phone (847/824-1150) or email (nwmeyer255@aol.com) no later than Saturday, May 11 if you plan to join us. We hope you can!

Graduating?

If you or a family member are graduating this year (high school, college, etc.) and would like to share your news in the June Tidings, please forward details by **May 20** to Debbie Walusiak at ecire58@sbcglobal.net. Feel free to include a photo of the graduate and their plans upon graduation, if known.



Our monthly Sunday brunch was held at the Brunch Café in April and was enjoyed by all.

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.”



Our church's "3 x 7" social dinners wrapped up in April and will begin again in September. Pictured with Sharon Urry at her home is the 3 x 7 group of Paul & Jackie Schmitt, Bob & Barb McCullough and John Foster & Nancy Brink.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

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 is underway, with the current total at nearly \$900. One way to help is to place "Relay" canisters in local businesses, to collect monetary donations. See Paul Schmitt, FCC Relay team captain, for canisters and for further information or look for the link to our FCC Relay page in Notes from Co.



Our church table at the Exodus World Service dinner and program in April included (l to r) Rev. Co, John Foster, Nancy Brink, Jackie & Paul Schmitt, Joanne Kimball, Sharon Urry and Mary Pittman.



Our Project Survivor donations were delivered to Exodus World Service in April, to benefit two individuals from Venezuela who recently arrived in Chicago. Nancy Brink is pictured with an EWS staff member.

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.

Finance Committee

Financial Reports

For the month of March, our church had income of \$37,817 and expenses of \$27,087, putting us in the black by \$10,292 for the month. Year-to-date, we are running \$18,022 in the blank, which gives us a nice cushion for the final few months of this fiscal year. Thank you for your ongoing financial support of FCCDP, with your regular offerings, special contributions, and support of fundraisers.

Easter Offerings

Thank you to everyone who made special donations to the church over the Easter holidays. Your generosity resulted in donations of more than \$2,000.

Budget Requests Due from Ministries

All ministries are reminded that budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year are due by May 5. If you have not yet submitted your request, please email it to surry1024@comcast.net, as soon as possible, to assure that funding for your ministry is included in the budgeting process.

Stewardship Drive

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.



During this year's Stewardship Drive, we ask you to take some time in prayer to consider what you can do to further God's work during the year ahead. On Stewardship Sunday, May 12, we will consecrate our pledges and promises made between you and God. We hope you will be able to join us during worship on Stewardship Sunday, as **Together We Imagine** all we can accomplish throughout the coming year and beyond.

“Second Time” Rummage Sale Wrap-Up

(From Ellen Alde, STA co-chair) I know you have heard this from me for the past few weeks but **THANK YOU**, to a fantastic church family. Every one of you has contributed in some way to the success of the **STA** sale this year!

We, Chris and Ellen, could not have done this without you. A very special thank you to the **Wednesday Work Crew** – you have worked behind the scenes from the beginning. The **WWC** moved boxes, bags, tables, furniture and tents before the official move date of April 20. Thank you to our room chairs, bakers and all of the volunteers. Thirty-plus volunteers on April 20 and 65-plus on April 21 for setup and countless more on the actual day of the sale. Thank you to the shoppers!! Thank you to Amanda, the finance team, Co, the PF - I know we have forgotten someone so please forgive us. All of you have earned some well-deserved time off. One last time: **THANK YOU!**

2024 STA Sale

Preliminary Results

| Department | Before Sale | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total | % of Total | 2023 sale |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Antiques | | 253.00 | 543.00 | 983.00 | 1,779.00 | | 2,278.00 |
| Babysitting | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Bakery | | 0.00 | 422.86 | 500.00 | 922.86 | | 1,551.00 |
| Books | | 8.75 | 90.00 | 70.00 | 168.75 | | 692.20 |
| Clothing | | 89.00 | 803.00 | 1,145.00 | 2,037.00 | | 2,101.48 |
| Electronics | | 103.50 | 487.00 | 568.00 | 1,158.50 | | 1,176.50 |
| Furniture/Tent | | 120.00 | 260.00 | 1,070.00 | 1,450.00 | | 1,091.00 |
| Holiday | | 114.75 | 270.50 | 305.00 | 690.25 | | 1,016.20 |
| Housewares | | 287.25 | 989.30 | 932.60 | 2,209.15 | | 2,567.06 |
| Jewelry | | 51.50 | 234.00 | 520.50 | 806.00 | | 2,365.25 |
| Misc. (Bag Check) | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Outside Food | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Popcorn | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 118.00 | 118.00 | | 72.50 |
| Toys | | 101.95 | 242.60 | 450.00 | 794.55 | | 633.56 |
| Unassigned | | 5.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | | 1.50 |
| Door | | 0.00 | 1,560.00 | 0 | 1,560.00 | | 1,069.00 |
| Donations | 838.00 | 19.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 538.00 | | 5,805.00 |
| Tent | | | | | | | |
| Net Raffle Proceeds | | 120.00 | 0.00 | 1,621.00 | 1,741.00 | | 745.00 |
| Net Income | 838.00 | 1,273.75 | 5,902.26 | 8,283.10 | 15,978.06 | | 23,165.25 |
| Anticipated Expense | | | | | 0.00 | | |
| Worker Food | 360.00 | | | | 360.00 | | |
| Credit Card Fees | | | | | 0.00 | | |
| Net Income | 1,198.00 | 1,273.75 | 5,902.26 | 8,283.10 | 16,338.06 | | |

“Second Time Around” sale 2024 involved great food, great fellowship and lots of great finds! Special thanks to STA co-chair Ellen Alde and all the volunteers and to Bob Crocker, who won the \$870 “Split the Pot” raffle and donated his winnings back to the church.





STA co-chair Ellen Alde is pictured above with her grandson, Max Alde, and with Rev. Co and raffle winner Bob Crocker.

From the Community

Please Donate!

The annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) food drive takes place on Saturday, May 11 in Des Plaines and many other communities across the US. Food collected in Des Plaines will benefit clients of the Self-Help Closet & Pantry. Please remember to leave a bag of nonperishable food for your letter carrier or community volunteer to pick up on May 11. For details or to learn how you can help with this event, contact Debbie Walusiak at 847/337-1443.

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.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Melanie Donoghue | 01-May |
| Eric Jancsovics | 01-May |
| Ellie DuToit | 01-May |
| Nancy Quam | 02-May |
| Ken Walusiak | 02-May |
| Nina Masciopinto | 07-May |
| Izaan DuToit | 07-May |
| Jennifer Muhr | 10-May |
| Kathy Foster | 14-May |
| Sue Almerigi | 13-May |
| Corrine Bachar | 15-May |
| Betty Nanstiel | 17-May |
| Debbie Walusiak | 17-May |
| Anthony Almerigi | 18-May |
| Paul Meyer | 20-May |
| André Deadwyler | 22-May |
| Ben Cooper | 22-May |
| Keith Liston | 23-May |
| Nancy Wilson | 23-May |
| Amy Quam | 27-May |
| Chris Thomas | 27-May |
| Richard Weihsmantel | 28-May |

In Memoriam

Denise Bolman

April 23, 2024

Gifts & Memorials

In memory of Alice F. Tucker from Joyce & Rod Beets

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

As our Confirmation class is being confirmed this Sunday, May 5, it brought back to mind MY confirmation.

As you can see, we were a lot younger than our confirmation classes of today. The February 1946 Tidings says, "Our 1946 Confirmation Class will hold its first session in the Loesch Chapel this Saturday, Feb. 9 at 10 o'clock. Young people of the seventh grade and older are invited." [Note: Back then, Loesch Chapel was located on the main floor, where Rev. Co's space and the office are now.]

I remember those Saturday morning classes in 1956 and sitting in the front rows of church (or the balcony) every Sunday morning, taking notes, as we had to submit a synopsis of each sermon as part of our confirmation requirements. On Confirmation Sunday, May 20, we received our very first communion. Again, as you can see, all the girls wore white dresses, with the guys in suits and ties!



May 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Fundraisers: | | | | | | |
| 5 Communion and Confirmation Sunday Svedberg Baptism 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:30a Sunday Brunch at the Brunch Café | 6 7:00p Wholly Ringers | 7 6:00p Membership & Communications 7:00p Worship Mfg. | 1 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study | 2 | 3 | 4 8:00a CMA Spring Meeting |
| 12 Mother's Day Family Worship 9:00am Worship Financial Commitment Dedication 10:00am Fellowship | 13 10:00a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers | 14 12:00 Administrative Staff Brunch 1:30p Womens Fellowship | 8 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Pre-school show 15 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir | 9 6:30p Pre-school Show | 10 | 11 |
| 19 Pentecost Baptism 9:00am Worship Teacher's Recognition 10:05am Ministry Staff Wholly Ringers Chancel Players 10:00am Potluck | 20 Tidings Deadline 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Wholly Ringers | 21 6:00p Chair Meeting | 22 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 10:30a Pre-school Graduation 7:00p Chancel Choir | 23 7:00p Let's Eat Out @ Plateia | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 27 Memorial Day Office Closed | 28 7:00p Council | 29 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study | 30 | 31 | |

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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847/299-5561