



# Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
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**August 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 8**

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

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## In Hindsight

*"Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug." –*

Isaiah 51:1-2

So we are entering the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the Covid-19 pandemic, with mixed results with the numbers. In the meantime, some of our members had been tested positive and some more of our members have been exposed to someone that had been tested positive, and thankfully have tested negative themselves! It is trying times as we move ahead to safely return back to our church building as we continue to be church in a "different" way.

If you now look back to March and know what you know now, is there anything that you would do differently? As they say, hindsight is 20/20. Originally, I expected it to last only a couple of weeks and everything would be fine. If I knew then, what I know now, I would have used my time and effort to train myself in a better video editing program. Maybe I will say the same in December if we are still busy with online worship!

Hindsight is 20/20. This saying is based on the idea that there are things we only see when looking backward, and hopefully, will make better decisions. The same is true of our spiritual journeys. We may have made decisions that if we had hindsight, that we would have done differently. Or maybe not, after all most spiritual insight is hindsight. With the benefit of hindsight and the blessings of the whole Bible at our fingertips, we can take solace in the fact that whatever challenge we face, it will only be a little while and we will notice grace and mercy again.

In our text, Isaiah urges his audience to "look to the rock from which you were hewn." It is there he believes they will find the hand of God helping to carve out their stories, the hand they may have missed in the busyness of their lives. God is chiseling away at each one of us, mostly in ways we don't always recognize. But when we stop to look back, we can see the chips of stone that have accumulated around us. We can measure the distance we have come from the unformed block we once was. Patterns of grace and challenge emerge, and we recognize, with relief, the mark of God's handiwork, a mark we could only see in hindsight.

Spiritual insight is hindsight: may you also look back at your life these past five months and notice the difference God has made in your life.

With Love,  
Rev. Co

## Worship Ministry

**August 2**

### **Communion/Annual Meeting**

Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Teena Whittenhall
Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:13-21

**August 9**

Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
Scripture Reading	Matthew 14:22-33

**August 16**

Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Jackie Schmitt
Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:21-28

**August 23**

Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Flo Hoffman
Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:13-20

**August 30**

### **Youth Sunday**

Service of Worship	9:00a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Youth
Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:21-28

## Membership & Communications Ministry

### Evening Circle Thanks

*(From Nancy Meyer)* Evening Circle wants to thank everyone who participated in our virtual fundraising events the past couple of months. Between our virtual Bake & Craft Sale, Flo Hoffman's strawberry & rhubarb jam and Lou Malnati's pizza coupons, plus many cash donations, we raised \$2,435. THANK YOU!! And, we're hoping to have a “real” Bake & Craft sale before Thanksgiving.



Members of our virtual “fundraising team” received donations and distributed bake/craft sale purchases in July. They include (l to r) Nancy Meyer, Sharon Urry, Marcia Urban, Nancy Brink and Wendy Wallace.

## Mission Ministry

### Help Fight Pulmonary Fibrosis

Save the date of September 12, 2020 and join us for a Virtual Pulmonary Fibrosis Walk. Our church team this year is dedicating efforts to the memory of Mary Pittman's mother, Nancy Sidhu, who passed away from this disease on July 4. Last year our church had 16 walkers join up for a walk near Chicago's Diversey Harbor but because of Covid-19, we will do a virtual walk this year. Details are forthcoming. **Registration is free** but walkers are encouraged to raise funds to support vital programs that help people with Pulmonary Fibrosis and their families to live better lives. For further information, speak with Wendy Wallace.

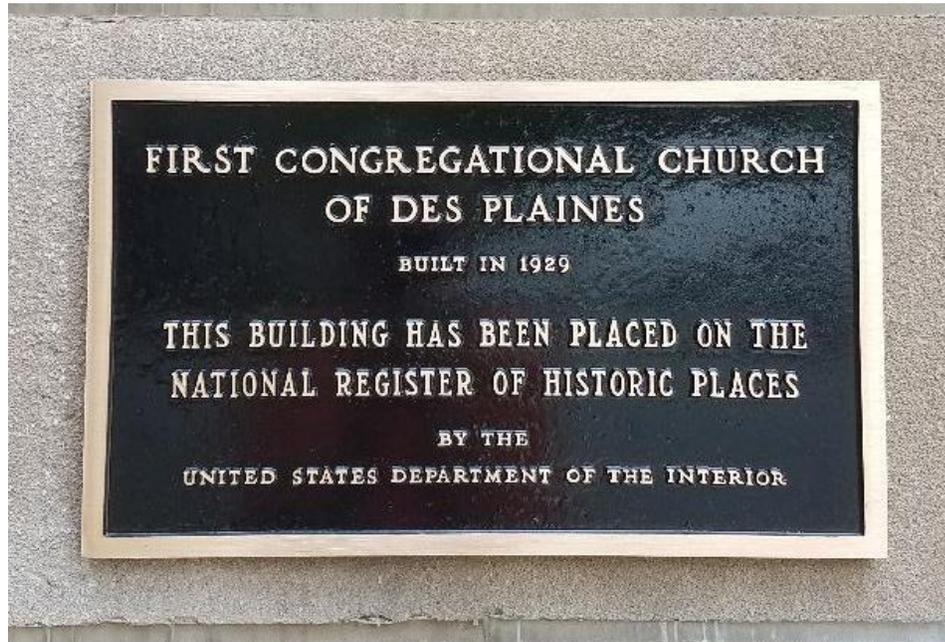


Thanks to those who continue to contribute to our church's drive-by drop-off collections for Project Survivor/Exodus World Service and the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. Our next drop-off is set for 10am – 11am on August 3. Pictured in July with Project Survivor donations is Sharon Urry.

## Property Ministry



New railings have been installed outside our church's Graceland Avenue entrance, ready to greet churchgoers when it's safe to go back in the building.



A new sign has been installed outside of our Graceland Avenue entrance, marking the church building's addition in 2019 to the National Register of Historic Places.



Paul Meincke (front) and Don Cameron (back) fix up used bicycles that were donated to FCC in preparation for a July bike sale that raised just over \$1,000.



Thanks to all those volunteers that helped with our July metal recycling collection/transport, which involved 12,620 lbs. of metal and included twenty-seven water heaters. Pictured above (l to r) are Ralph Murdy, Rich Weihsmantel, Jim Ruedisueli, Jim Foster, Bob McCullough, André Deadwyler, Roger Alde, Ralph Engler and Don "Mr. Metal" Cameron.

# Finance Committee

## DONATIONS AND OFFERINGS

With Sunday worship taking place on-line, we don't have the opportunity to drop our donations in the offering plate. We hope you'll be able to continue to keep up with your pledges and offerings via mail, telephone or on-line.

**Mail:** You can mail your donations to First Congregational Church of Des Plaines, 766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Please indicate whether this is your regular offering or an additional donation for a specific fund.

**Telephone:** Call 847-299-5561 to make a credit card donation. Although our physical church office is closed, our church secretary is available by phone, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**On-line:** Log on to [www.fccdp.org](http://www.fccdp.org). Click "donate" on the home page, to make a one-time or recurring contribution to our church via PayPal.

**ACH:** Contact Jana Haas, at [jhaas@fccdp.org](mailto:jhaas@fccdp.org) to schedule your regular offering to be paid via electronic transfer from your bank checking or savings account, on a monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly basis.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for the new fiscal year that began on July 1, are now available. If you have not yet received yours, you can pick them up at the church's west entrance on Monday, August 3, between 10:00 and 11:00 am, during our Drive-By Drop-Off for the Self Help Closet & Pantry and Exodus World Service.

## A VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD OF BILLS

Every year during the "lazy days of summer," our church conducts a Bulletin Board of Bills fundraiser. The only difference this year is that the Bulletin Board is virtual. Each Thursday in Co's Notes, you'll see a selection of typical bills that the church receives - in a variety of different amounts ranging from just a few dollars to a hundred dollars or more. Just select one that fits within your budget and make a donation to the church in that amount. Mail a check, payable to FCCDP, to the church; call the church office to pay by credit card; or click on the link in Co's Notes to pay via PayPal. This important fundraiser will continue through Labor Day. Please consider how you can participate.

## From The Community



Church member Lindsay Skarbek has been holding her Twisted Tree yoga classes outdoors on our church lawn, on recent weekends. She plans to continue until it's safe to move indoors. "This church is really special to me – it's where I went to preschool and was confirmed...the place of our family baptisms," she said. "And, a youth group that was an integral part of my teen years." She and her husband, Dave Alde, have two children and reside in Des Plaines.

## A Note of Thanks

*(From Kathy Reiten)* Thank you for all the get-well cards and good wishes I have received. I am coming along well. 'Hope to see all when services can resume.

## Happy Birthday to You!!

Congratulations to the following church members/friends on their birthdays!!

8/1	Lisa Vedral	8/14	Orin Luu
8/1	Riley Whittenhall	8/16	Philip Deadwyler
8/2	Sandy Crocker	8/18	Max Makuch
8/3	Elinor Bergdolt	8/17	Judy Mahr
8/4	Michael Bryers	8/23	Roger Alde
8/4	Caitlin Farrell	8/24	Jackie Schmitt
8/6	Faith Engler	8/25	Dan O'Brien
8/10	Philip Weber	8/26	Jan Schuller
8/11	Arlyne Mross	8/27	Alice Tucker
8/12	Brian Farrell	8/27	Tom Tucker
8/13	Marilyn Juister	8/28	Faith Almerigi
8/13	Caroline Lodewyck	8/28	Aileen Kahle
8/13	Johanna Lodewyck	8/29	Michelle Herrera
8/14	Roland Hahn	8/29	Tom Koulentes

## Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Betty Brodie  
In Loving Memory of Shirley Doyle from Heather Doyle  
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Bill & Ruth Murphy  
A Gift from Heidi Mayer

## From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

Alan Alda, in the AARP magazine I just received, says: "Laugh! LAUGHTER is good! That's one of the greatest benefits of this isolation." So here are some cartoons drawn by our late FCCDP member, Art Henrikson. Hope they will make you laugh!!



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois

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## August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Annual Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
			6:30p Music & Drama	7:00p Membership & Communications		<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
	7:00p Finance					
<b>16</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Tidings Deadline	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
	6:30p Property Ministry		6:30p PRC	7:00p Worship Ministry		
<b>23</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
		7:00p Council				
<b>30</b> Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>31</b>					