



# Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-299-5561



**February 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 2**

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

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## **The little things in life...**

I love the month of February. The first thing that comes to mind is that February will be hopefully filled with snow - yes, I'm still a sucker for snow. Lo-and-behold, as I look outside this morning there is a beautiful white dusting that has transformed our yard into a magical winter wonderland.

I also think of Valentine's Day. I'm sure we all remember the early days when it was compulsory in school to make Valentine's Cards. Later on, you had the courage to send a card to someone you really like, hoping that she/he would miraculously know that the card was from you. I also think fondly of "Cookie Sunday" and the freshly baked cookies that are brought into our sanctuary and the aroma that brings worship to a standstill for a brief moment.

On that note of food, Fat Tuesday is just around the corner. Lent begins on February 26 with Ash Wednesday, when we will look at our excesses in light of Christ and acknowledge our mortality. I know, it's hard to get excited about something so morbid as our own mortality – but it reminds us not to take any day for granted.

On that note of mortality, this year is also a Leap Year, which means that each and every one of us has been granted a full extra day. If I remember correctly, it is also Bob Crocker's birthday – congratulations to all our Leap Babies - talk about being forever young!

Snow, love, our own mortality – what's not to love about February. And, especially this year we have a full extra day to love God and our neighbor, as we love ourselves. It is these little things in life....

With love,

Rev. Co

## Worship Ministry

### February 2 – Communion & “Souper Bowl” Sunday

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Lowell Handy
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:1-12
Usher Team	John Foster

### February 9

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:13-20
Usher Team	John Foster

### February 16 – “Chocolate Sunday”

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Marcia Alban
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:21-37
Usher Team	John Foster

### February 23

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Bob Crocker
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:38-48
Usher Team	John Foster

### Join Us on Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service of worship will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, February 26. All are welcome as we begin the season of Lent.

## Thank you, Church Ushers!

Week after week our church is blessed to have a group of people who arrive early, stay late, clean up the sanctuary, and are present for any emergency that might arise. These people are our Church Ushers. Week after week and service after service, these men and women contribute to every one of our worship services. We have three teams of men and women who keep everything running smoothly during the 9.30 service. For the 8.00am service, Andre Deadwyler and Chuck Allen coordinates a team of volunteers. To all of our Church Ushers, THANK YOU! We are grateful for everything you do.

Ralph Engler	2 yrs	Jeff Hubert	2 yrs
Sandy Flink	2 yrs	Larry Daniels	4 yrs
Les Stein	4yrs	John Foster	6 yrs
Deb Fogarty	8 yrs	Joanne Kimball	8 yrs
George Bielat	9 yrs	Cathy Wiesner	10 yrs
Linda Opalka	12 yrs	Brian Farrell	12 yrs
Paul Schmitt	19yrs	Carl Mahr	19yrs
Marlene Laws	19 yrs	Paul Meincke	21yrs
Ralph Murdy	22 yrs	David DeHart	23yrs
Kevin Donoghue	24 yrs	Robert Goerne	27 yrs
Jim Foster	32 yrs		
Robert Phillips	33 yrs	Milton Pick	38 yrs

## Children's & Adult Education Ministry

### **"Souper Bowl" Sunday Coming Up**

Our Sunday School students will be serving delicious hot soup in Webster Hall after the 9:30am worship service on Sunday, February 2 – don't miss it! Free will offerings will be donated to the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. *And, remember to bring your nonperishable food donations to church that day!*

## Membership & Communications Ministry

### **Save These Dates!**

Planning is underway for our church's series of 2020 Lenten activities so please note the following and check Notes from Co and your March Tidings for further information: **March 1** – Potluck and Handbell Concert at FCC **March 8** – Scout Troop 6 Spaghetti Dinner in Webster Hall **March 15** – Walk in the Woods/Dinner Out **March 22** – Bowling & Pizza **March 29** - TBA

### **Looking Ahead with Evening Circle**

**Tuesday, February 11** 7:00pm Webster Hall: Lindsay Skarbek is co-owner of Twisted Tree Yoga at 681 Graceland Ave. She is the wife of David Alde, daughter-in-law of Ellen and Roger Alde and attends FCCDP. David and Lindsay were both confirmed at FCCDP. We will be doing Chair Yoga. This is what her website says: "Chair Supported Yoga is a style of yoga that allows everyone to enjoy the benefits of yoga (increased flexibility, deeper relaxation) without the need of full range of motion in the knee and shoulder joints." Wendy Wallace and Flo Hoffman are our hostesses.

**Tuesday, March 10** 6:00pm at Jimmy's Restaurant (1440 Rand Road, DP) for our 'annual' meal out. We will be making a reservation so eventually you will have to sign up!

**Tuesday, April 14** We will be going to Schaumburg for a two-hour evening session at "Feed My Starving Children" 740 Wiley Farm Ct. Those at our recent meeting who have done this before, said it was a wonderful experience, very rewarding, and can't wait to do it again! **ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WELCOME** Plan to carpool. Signup sheet in church office or you can sign up through our church website, [www.fccdp.org/](http://www.fccdp.org/)

**Sunday, May 17** 3:00pm matinee. We will be going to the Metropolis Performing Arts Theater, 111 W Campbell St, Arlington Heights, to see a musical. *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, based on the popular 1988 MGM film, takes us to the French Riviera for hijinks and hilarity. Sophisticated, suave with a good dash of mischief, this hysterical comedy features a delightfully jazzy score by David Yazbek (*The Full Monty*) and was nominated for a staggering eleven Tony Awards. We are inviting all church members to join us. We will be getting the group rate of \$28.00 per person. We may go out for a meal before or after the show.

And don't forget our **Bake and Craft sale** dates are **Sunday, March 29 and April 5, 2020**.

### **Join Church Women United on March 6**

Church Women United invites all women of the church to attend World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6 at Christ Church UCC, 1492 Henry, Des Plaines. Registration begins at 9:30am and the program *Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk* will be followed with a potluck lunch. For more information, please contact Pat Hurley at 847-977-8730 or [phurley1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phurley1234@sbcglobal.net).

### **'Want to Promote Your Ministry?**

The display cabinet in the main hallway at church is available on a monthly basis for use by church ministries, committees and other church groups. You can sign up on the dry erase board, on the left side of the cabinet.

### **Check Out Our Website...**

A reminder to check out our church website, [www.fccdp.org](http://www.fccdp.org), and to use it for submitting upcoming events and signing up for church events. Our webmaster, Ellie DuToit, welcomes your feedback! Contact her at [elliedutoit@outlook.com](mailto:elliedutoit@outlook.com).

## Mission Ministry

### FCC Mission Team Prepares for Tower Hill trip

Our church's Mission Team is getting ready for the annual service trip to Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI. This year's trip is set for May 31 to June 6. This will be our fifth year of volunteering at Tower Hill. In the past, our Mission Team has built decks on both sides of all four of the A-frame cabins, built a deck on the dining hall, built a handicapped ramp on the dining hall, built a storage building for the fire wood supply, painted and constructed five fire pits. To learn more about the Mission Team and the trip to Tower Hill, please contact Jim Foster.

## Music Ministry

### Wholly Ringers Plan Spring Concert

Our FCC Wholly Ringers handbell choir is rehearsing for a concert at church on Sunday, March 1. There will be a potluck supper at 5:00pm and the concert begins at 6:00pm. Details to follow or speak with Ellen Alde for more information.



In January our Wholly Ringers were invited to play at Christ Church UCC, with their handbell choir. Both choirs currently are directed by Ellen Alde.

## Property Ministry

### News from our Property Manager

Early donations for our church's annual Second Time Around rummage sale include two, new 32-in. pre-hung exterior doors. Approximate value is \$200 but reasonable offers will be considered. Also for sale are eight, 4-ft. light fixtures (T5 HD high output bulbs) that previously were in Webster Hall before the upgrade to LED fixtures. Great for a workshop! Suggested price is \$25 each or \$150 for all eight fixtures. See Jim Foster for details.

## Finance Committee

### Financial Report

Income for the month of December was \$38,464, with expenses totaling \$29,933. Year-to-date, we are running \$24,670 in the black, as compared to budget. Thank you for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings and for continuing to support FCCDP Ministries within our church, our community and beyond.

### Star of Bethlehem

A special thank you to everyone who responded to the recent Star of Bethlehem appeal. Through your generosity over the holidays, we were able to raise more than \$1,800.

### Zanies Comedy Club Fundraiser

Please join us for an Evening of Comedy on Thursday, February 27, at Zanies Comedy Club in Rosemont. This is a special fundraiser being held jointly by FCCDP and the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. You can purchase your tickets for just \$20 each, with the entire amount going to benefit our Church's general budget. (Tickets sold by the Self-Help Closet will benefit that organization.) Invite your family members, neighbors and friends to join you for this "adults only" event. More details are included on the flyer in this issue of the *Tidings*. Tickets are available through the Church office and can be purchased with cash, check or credit card.

## Save the Dates

February 2	Talent & Gift Auction
February 2	“Souper Bowl” Sunday
February 27	An Evening of Comedy at Zanies
March 1	Handbell Concert
April 24/25	“Second Time Around” Rummage Sale

### Update from Our Wednesday Work Crew (WWC)

Most people in the church have heard about the WWC. In this issue of *The Tidings* we are going to talk about our mission and how we fulfill it. In the next issue we will continue our story with the various jobs we have done to make FCC a better church.

In 2002 Jim Foster, Tom Holtz and Paul Schmitt decided to repair some of the pews in the sanctuary. The pew backs were separated from their seats, glue joints had dried out, end plates were loose and a few pews were in danger of collapsing. These three volunteers came in and fixed, re-glued and tightened as many pews as they could. The next week they again came in and used a “jig” Tom built that allowed them to tighten and glue pews more efficiently. This continued on Wednesday mornings throughout that winter.

#### ***Thus began the WWC, or Wednesday Work Crew.***

These volunteers then began doing other repair and maintenance in the church: fixing exit signs, re-staining woodwork, painting railings and stairs etc. Such tasks either never got done, or the church contracted for the services. The following year Rich Weihsmantel and Dave DeHart joined and the group removed old plants and shrubs around the building. Guided by a nursery’s custom landscaping plan they replaced them with new plantings. This was financed by many memorial gifts.

Wednesdays became a routine and the worklist got longer. Don Cameron, Bob McCullough, and Ralph Murdy joined – but only after the hard, difficult landscaping work was completed.

#### ***On an ongoing basis WWC now:***

- Maintains outside landscaping: trimming bushes, removing weeds, leaves etc.
- Replaces burned-out light bulbs and cleans light fixtures.
- Inspects and re-glues pews in the sanctuary.

- Installs window air conditioners and seasonally installs storm windows and screens.
- Sets up all holiday candelabras, plant stands, banners and decorations, as needed.
- Re-ropes all broken double hung window weights.
- Inspects and cleans or repairs tables and chairs.
- Picks up, sorts and hauls scrap metal into the church and to the recycler.
- Replaces mechanical door closers on various doors including the Narthex doors.



WWC is an unpaid volunteer group. We try to maintain the premises in good order with minimum expense. We have done many large and small projects. Our congregation has saved well over \$70,000 in the past 18 years because of WWC. (We do drink the church's coffee every Wednesday morning. And, we reward ourselves by going to lunch.)

***Next month we will share more of the WWC story.***

## From the Community

Rainbow Hospice will hold a service of remembrance at First Congregational Church of Des Plaines at 2:00pm on Sunday, February 23. Refreshments will follow. The service is open to families of Rainbow Hospice patients as well as to members of the host church (First Congregational) and their guests. If you would like the name of a loved one read during the service, call 847/653-3141 or email [MemorialServiceRSVP@rainbowhospice.org](mailto:MemorialServiceRSVP@rainbowhospice.org) by **February 18**. According to service leader Vicki Scalzitti, reservations are preferred but are not necessary to attend, and names of loved ones also may be added at the end of the service.

# An Evening of Comedy



with

First Congregational Church of Des Plaines

and

Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines



**Thursday, February 27**  
**8:00 pm**



Zanies Comedy Club  
Parkway Bank Park at Rosemont  
5437 Park Place, Rosemont

Join us for an evening at Zanies!  
Rated the Best Stand Up Comedy in Chicago

**\$20**  
per person

For more information, call First Congregational Church at  
**847-299-5561**

Doors open at 7:00 pm. Show starts at 8:00 pm.  
2 item minimum purchase. All attendees must be 21 or over, with valid photo ID.  
All proceeds benefit First Congregational Church and Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines.

# ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM

*Kentucky "...a tour  
of Biblical proportions!"*



**4 Days -3 Nights**

**Dates: Monday, April 27 Through Thursday, April 30,  
2020**

**\$619.00 Per Person**

Double Occupancy

**Package Includes:**

- ❖ 3 Nights Lodging
- ❖ 3 Breakfasts
- ❖ Dinners including a Riverboat Dinner Cruise & Dinner with Entertainment
- ❖ Admission to the Creation Museum
- ❖ Admission to the Ark Encounter
- ❖ Guided Tour of Cincinnati
- ❖ Souvenir Gift
- ❖ Luggage Handling
- ❖ Taxes & Meal Gratuities
- ❖ Motorcoach Transportation

Cancellation insurance available: see reverse side for details

**FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**

First Congregational Church

Flo Hoffman @ 847-824-7561

Or the Church Office @ 847-299-5561

In Cooperation with Immanuel Lutheran Church

Susan Sipich



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## Happy Birthday to You!!

Congratulations to the following church members/friends on their birthdays!!  
*(Please notify the Church office if there are additions, deletions or corrections to be made.)*

2/1 Doug Laws	2/19 Carl Mahr
2/5 Barb Franzen	2/20 Frank Potempa
2/5 Shelby Lauterburg	2/20 Norm Boyer
2/6 Florence Hoffman	2/21 Joy Olson
2/7 Mary Spiegler	2/22 Jayme Villa-Alvarez
2/7 David Hoch	2/22 Katie Meyer Termion
2/8 Jennifer Foster Nelson	2/22 Deb Fogarty
2/9 David Kaplan	2/23 Erika Hahn
2/9 Elizabeth Liston	2/23 Joyce Masciopinto
2/10 Ben Whittenhall	2/23 Vito Pelletiere
2/12 Robert Pittman	2/26 Harrison Nutley
2/14 Karen Potempa	2/27 Paul Schmitt
2/16 John Foster	2/27 Louise Whisler
2/16 Emily Cruz	2/28 Bob Crocker
2/17 Erik Lodewyck	

## In Memoriam

Eve Hill

January 1, 2020

Shirley Doyle

January 9, 2020

## Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Vivian & Paul Rivard & Karen Rivard Cronin from Gretchen Nicholoff

A gift from William Morey & Yvonne White-Morey

In Loving Memory of Shirley Doyle & Eve Hill from Joanne Kimball

In Loving Memory of Shirley Doyle from Lowell Handy & Erica Treesh

In Loving Memory of Shirley Doyle, Edith Beverly & Eve Hill from Evening Circle

In Loving Memory of Eve Hill from Wendy Wallace

In Loving Memory of Eve Hill & Shirley Doyle from Pat Hurley

In Loving Memory of Eve Hill from Jerry & Joyce Peterson

In Loving Memory of Eve Hill from Doug & Marlene Laws

In Honor of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Charles & Janice Lodding

## From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

We've not had much snow so far this winter, but certainly lots of dreary days. I spotted these two activities in 1994 Tidings (26 years ago?!) that FCCDP sponsored to brighten up those days!

### Winter Doldrums Dance, Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm 'til 9:00pm Webster Hall



The Winter Doldrums Dance is a 'Sock Hop' for the entire family! There will be a DJ present to provide the music and there will be refreshments – soda pop, popcorn, pretzels, and coffee! There will be fun dances and line dances, too – something for the entire family – Moms and Dads, Kids and Friends, Ones and Twos, Folks of All Ages! Also, the Winter Doldrums Dance is free; however, please bring your wallet, purse, or checkbook because we'll be asking for a donation to help pay for the DJ and the refreshments. Please RSVP with the Church Office in order to let us know how many people are attending. The Winter Doldrums Dance is sponsored by the Health and Wellness Committee! Everyone is Welcome!

### Folk Music & Pizza At Pizza House – February 20

You've heard of a *Coffee House*, now plan to attend an evening of live folk music at PIZZA HOUSE on Sunday, February 20 at *Giuseppe's Ristorante-Pizzeria* at 1062 Lee Street in Des Plaines! At 5:00 and 7:00 Dr. Grice, Doug Hubbard, Barbara Silvis, Donna Becker, and Mark Gilbert will present two fun-filled sets of folk music designed to delight the entire family!



The Health and Wellness Committee has reserved a large, private room for this all church event. Buffet offering a variety of pizza, salad, bread, and pop. The cost is only \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 3-12, free for children 2 and under. Also, *Giuseppe's* will donate 20% of the proceeds to the church!

Both of the two sets will offer a variety of folk music from long-time favorites and traditional songs, to ballads, spirituals, songs for children, sing-alongs, and contemporary selections. Plan to come to PIZZA HOUSE and be sure to invite your folk-music-loving neighbors and friends. PLEASE RSVP to the Church Office or by calling 299-5561.

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

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

847/299-5561

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Fellowship – Webster Hall Chancel Choir – Music Room Council – Barwick Room Bible Study – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Knit Wits – Panera’s Chair Mtg. – Co’s Office</p>	<p>Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Finance – Jana’s Office Property – Little Villa Wholly Ringers – Sanctuary Music &amp; Drama – Co’s Office PRC – Barwick Room</p>	<p>Sunday School during the 9:30am worship service following our Rugbytime</p>				1
<p><b>2 Communion</b> “Souper Bowl” 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Time-and-Talent Noon - Shirley Doyle Memorial Service</p>	<p><b>3</b> 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:00p Membership &amp; Communications</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> 8 &amp; 9:30am Worship 10:30a Fellowship 11:00a Ministry Staff</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:30 Creative Conversation</p>	<p><b>11</b> 6:30p Pre-School Morn’s Night Out 7:00p Evening Circle</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
	<p>7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p>7:00p Joyful Noise 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30p PRC 7:00p Joyful Noise 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30p Chair Meeting</p>		
<p><b>16 Termon Baptism</b> 8 &amp; 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Cooite Sunday Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p><b>17 President’s Day</b> No Pre-School 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Finance 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p><b>18</b> 12:00p Administrative Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Tidings Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
	<p>7:00p Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p>7:00p PRC 7:00p Joyful Noise 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7:00p Worship Ministry</p>			
<p><b>23</b> 8 &amp; 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship STA-Drop Off Metal Recycling SS Grandparents Day</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:00p Council</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:00p Zanie’s Comedy Club</p>	<p><b>28 PADS</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>