



Tidings

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



February 2019 - Vol. 80 – No. 2

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

Frozen

I had a difficult time surviving this week in Chicago with a polar vortex! I did get a friendly reminder, via social media, from my family in sunny South Africa to keep warm as Chicago was going to be colder than Mt. Everest, Antarctica and Siberia on Wednesday. Well I'm happy to report that we have lived through it – safely. Unfortunately, many homeless people were not so lucky in the city of Chicago. We are grateful for the people and organizations that reached out to homeless people all across the Chicago area.

This weather reminds me of the Disney movie Frozen. The movie had been a smashing success and set an all-time sales record for an animated film. Elsa's gift was turning her environment into a frozen setting. So, be on the lookout for Elsa and ask her to please 'let it go' and go home. We had enough of her this week. Or maybe we don't have to worry about her. There is a post on Facebook that a police department in Illinois has taken care of this and that Elsa has been "arrested." They have also released this statement: "*Due to the EXTREME COLD weather, all criminal activity and acts of stupidity and foolishness has been cancelled.*"

Frozen tells the story of a loving bond between two sisters, Anna and Elsa. Ask almost every girl and boy and you will learn quickly that they know the film's featured song, "Let It Go." It is only when Elsa lets her gift of changing everything she touches into ice, "go" that she was reunited in a loving bond with her sister and her world.

Sometimes, there are things in our lives we too, must let go to survive. Only we know what it is. And, sometimes there are people, like Anna, who even tell us to "Let it go." They might even offer us a helping hand. We need to be open and willing to listen to them. This is also true with our spiritual life. First, we have to learn to "Let it go," those things that lead to our spiritual destruction. Then we have to learn to "Let it go" when we accept the gifts of the Spirit God has given each one of us.

By the way, *Frozen 2*, is set to be released in theaters on November 22 this year. Just in time for our next Polar Vortex.

With Love,

Co

Worship Ministry

February 3 – Communion & “Souper Bowl Sunday” Food Drive

Service of Worship	9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Katy Berman
Scripture Reading	Luke 4:21-30
Usher Team	John Foster

February 10 – Scout Sunday

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Ralph Murdy
Scripture Reading	Luke 5:1-11
Usher Team	John Foster

February 17

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Wendy Wallace
Scripture Reading	Luke 6:17-26
Usher Team	John Foster

February 24 – Israel Presentation

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Lowell Handy
Scripture Reading	Luke 6:27-38
Usher Team	John Foster

Sesquicentennial News



Challenge 150:

Congratulations to Pat Hurley, who surpassed 100 volunteer hours in December! Congrats also to Rod Beets, John Foster and Nancy Brink who surpassed 50 hours in December.

And, thank you to all who volunteered at Feed My Starving Children on January 18. We packed 15,768 meals! Please remember to submit your volunteer hours to Kirsten Tangeros at the end of each month even if you aren't doing the Challenge 150.



Feed My Starving Children – Schaumburg, IL

Blood Drive:

As part of our Service 150 Projects, we have scheduled a Blood Drive for Saturday, March 16 from 8:00am to 2:00pm at church. Please sign up in the Church Office or on our church website www.fccdp.org if you plan to donate blood. Questions? Contact Michelle Herrera at 847/338-5718 or michelleherrera48@gmail.com.

More Service 150 Projects Coming Up:

Our **February** project will involve the congregation in making flower pens during Coffee Hour, which the Sunday School children will deliver to local seniors and shut-ins. Our goal is to make 150 pens. Thanks to Stephanie Wetendorf for heading this project. And, save the date of July 4 and plan to walk in the Des Plaines **Fourth of July** parade with your church!



Our Flower Pen Project started early and will continue into February.

Orders Continue for FCC Sesquicentennial T-shirts

Sesquicentennial T-shirts (unisex and women's styles) are available for purchase by signing up in the Church Office during the week or in Webster Hall on Sunday mornings. Payment due at time of order. Shirts are made of cotton, with prices as follows: S, M, L, XL - \$9; 2X - \$10; 3X, 4X and 5X - \$11. *Also youth sizes available – XS, S, M, L, XL - \$8.* Cash or Check payable to First Congregational Church. Questions? Please speak with Debbie Walusiak.

Children's & Adult Education

Soup's On!

Join us on Sunday, February 3 for "Souper Bowl Sunday" at church, when our Sunday School students will serve hot soup during Coffee Hour and then clean up afterwards...hope to see you here!

Membership & Communications Ministry

Men's Night Out This Month

All adult men of our church are invited to the next Men's Night Out at Tap House Grill in Des Plaines on Tuesday, February 5. Plan to meet at the restaurant in Metropolitan Square at 6:00pm. Cost is \$15 per person including tax and tip. Menu features five entree choices, and each is served with one beer. For details see the sign-up sheet or speak with Bob McCullough.

Valentine's Day is for...

Chocolate, of course! And, there will be chocolate and other treats during Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 10 so make sure you are on hand to treat that sweet tooth to a sweet treat!

'Got Books?

The Creative Conversation Book Sale begins on February 25 in Webster Hall. Your book donations are needed to make this fundraiser a success! Donations can be placed on the right side of the stage. No encyclopedias or highly technical books, please. Questions? Contact Pat Hurley at 847/699-7754 or phurley1234@sbcglobal.net

Picture This

Our church is planning to produce a pictorial directory, and we need your help. A local professional photographer will be at church from 8:30am to 12:00pm on February 24, March 3 and March 10. (All Sundays) She will photograph families and individuals during that time, in 10-minute time slots. There is no charge for the directory photo but photo packages will be available for purchase directly from the photographer. Please contact the Church Office to schedule your appointment or sign up on Sunday morning at church. You can check out the photographer's work on her website www.kellyfitzgeraldstudio.com. Watch for details in your Sunday Tidings and Notes from Co. Questions? Please speak with Debbie Walusiak.

Evening Circle Updates

All interested church members are invited to attend Evening Circle's next meeting on **Tuesday, February 5** at 7:00 pm in Webster Hall. After a brief meeting, our guest speaker will be Rhonda Lang, Vice President of the Miracle House Board of Directors, along with a former Miracle House resident. Miracle House is a half-way house on Oakton St. in Des Plaines for women recovering from alcoholism.

Evening Circle is planning a spring theater outing so please save the date of **Saturday, May 11** to see *9 to 5: The Musical* as performed by Big Noise Theatre at Prairie Lakes Community Center in Des Plaines. Tickets are \$22 per person. Dinner (optional) before the 7:30pm performance. Please sign up in the Church Office if you plan to attend. Watch your 'Sunday Tidings' and 'Notes From Co' for more info or speak with Cathy Wiesner for details.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

PADS Volunteers Sought

The local PADS site at St. Mary Catholic Church in Des Plaines opened October 5 and will run through April 30. Regular volunteers are sought for all three shifts - 5:45pm to 11:00pm, 11:00pm to 3:00am and 3:00am to 7:00am. A one-time mandatory orientation for regular PADS volunteers is conducted at the Journeys office in Palatine. The training schedule is posted at www.journeystheroadhome.org/orientation. For details contact Teri at 847/477-0821 or terip97@aol.com. *Our church's turn at PADS for this season will be February 1, March 1 and March 29 (all Fridays), for the **kitchen shift only**. For details about the FCC shifts at PADS, contact Katy Berman at 847/827-4229.*

ACS Relay For Life June 1 at Maine West

The local 2019 "Relay for Life" to benefit the American Cancer Society is scheduled for **June 1 at Maine West High School** in Des Plaines. Paul Schmitt once again will serve as captain of our church team – Thank You, Paul! Our hope is to have a record number of walkers, sponsors and supporters for the FCC team as we celebrate our church's Sesquicentennial year. Questions? Contact Paul at 707/453-7495 or pschmitt9@hotmail.com.

Music & Drama Ministry

Bells Concert Next Month

Save the date of Sunday, March 17 for a Handbell Concert at First Congregational Church – details to follow. For further information, please speak with Ellen Alde.

Property Ministry

Tower Hill Mission Trip 2019

Our church Mission Team will return to Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI to volunteer for various maintenance/repair jobs June 2 through June 8. For details speak with Jim Foster or any past team members.



Many thanks to the Wednesday Work Crew volunteers that helped install new pew pads in our church sanctuary in January. The former pew pads were more than 30 years old. Both the old and new ones were purchased with Foundation funds.

Youth Ministry

PF Updates

A **Youth Ministry meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 3 after the 9:30am worship service. The next **PF Drop-In** is Sunday, February 10 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at church. Food provided. For details contact Matt Cameron.

Finance Committee

Star of Bethlehem

Special thanks to everyone who responded to the recent Star of Bethlehem appeal. Through your generosity over the holidays, we were able to raise more than \$4,000 for the church's general fund.

Talent & Gift Auction This Month

The Church's Annual Talent & Gift Auction will take place Sunday, February 3 through Sunday February 10. Bidding will be "Silent Auction" style and there are several ways that you can participate.

- 1) Items will be displayed and bids will be accepted during coffee hour after both the 8:00 and 9:30 worship services on February 3 and February 10.
- 2) A list of auction items will be available on the credenza outside the church office. Bids can be placed at any time in the church office, by email at secretaries@fccdp.org or by phone at 847-299-5561.
- 3) This year, for the first time, a number of the auction items will have a "Buy it Now!" option - ideal for those who may not be available to place bids on February 10.

We have a wide range of items available in this year's auction, including theater tickets (Steppenwolf, Northlight and Lifeline to date), Chicago Cubs tickets, a Brookfield Zoo adventure, gift cards, homemade goodies, Chicago Bears tickets, handmade items, a Chicago Pedway tour and much more. Be sure and take a look for that special something that's perfect for you!

About Our Altar Flowers

Were you aware that the altar flowers on Sunday mornings can be designated in honor or memory of a loved one? Make a contribution of \$20 or more to the Flower Fund and designate the flowers for a specific Sunday to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. The honoree and occasion will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is in the process of hiring a new church secretary. The position is a 20-hour a week position, Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm. If you or anyone you know would like more information about the position, please contact Rhonda Yost at rhonda.yost@gmail.com or 773/505-8488.

Save the Dates

February 3	“Souper Bowl Sunday”
February 3 & 10	Talent & Gift Auction
February 17	Chicago Wolves hockey game
May 11	Evening Circle Theater Outing

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.)

R. Douglas Laws	2/1	Carl Mahr	2/19
Barbara Franzen	2/5	Norman Boyer	2/20
Shelby Lauterburg	2/5	Frank Potempa	2/20
Florence Hoffman	2/6	Deb Fogarty	2/22
Jennifer Foster Nelson	2/8	Katie Termion	2/22
Laurel Douthwaite	2/9	Jayne Villa-Alvarez	2/22
David Kaplan	2/9	Erika Hahn	2/23
Elizabeth Liston	2/9	Joyce Masciopinto	2/23
Benjamin Whittenhall	2/10	Vito Pelletiere	2/23
Robert Pittman	2/12	Elfrieda Weihsmantel	2/25
Karen Potempa	2/14	Harrison Nutley	2/26
Emily Cruz	2/16	Paul Schmitt	2/27
John Foster	2/16	Louise Whisler	2/27
Douglas Koulentes	2/16	Robert Crocker	2/28
Erik Lodewyck	2/17		

From Boy Scout Troop 6

The members of Boy Scout Troop 6 of Des Plaines will hold a Trivia Night "FUNdraiser" on Friday, February 1 at our church. Doors open at 6:30pm, and games (eight rounds of trivia) will begin at 7:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person. A \$200 prize will be awarded to the team with the most correct answers. Participants can bring food or preorder a pizza for \$20. For details contact Mr. Pace at 847/824-4708.

A Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life gathering is planned for Friday, February 15 to honor the life of Robin (Urban) Villanueva, our church secretary, who passed away in January. The celebration will be held from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at *Excuses Bar & Billiards*, 901 E. Oakton St. in Des Plaines, and will provide an opportunity for friends and family to share their memories. An admission fee includes open bar, snacks and karaoke entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Robin's family. For further information, please speak with Marcia Urban.

In Memoriam. God bless you.

Lorene O. Watson
December 2018

Eunice Scheuneman
December 24, 2018

Robin (Urban) Villanueva
January 16, 2019

Gifts & Memorials

Gifts were given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Memorials were given in memory of Robin Villanueva

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

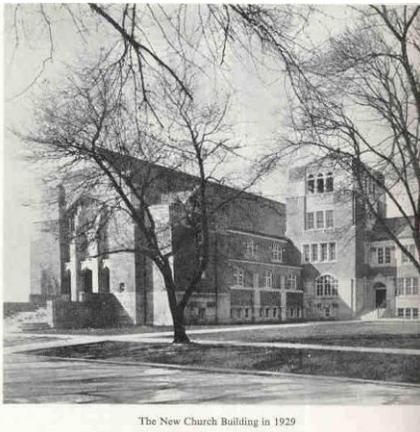
As I continue this series of articles, decade by decade, we're now in the 1920's, described in our FCCDP Centennial Book as a period of rapid growth and new building. pgs 38-41 I mentioned at the end of last month's article the arrival of a new member, Mr. Charles Loesch. In 1921 he gave the church its first pipe organ as a memorial to his late sister, Emma. At the same time his brother Frank, head of the Chicago Crime Commission, presented the choir with its first set of robes. From this time on, the church service took on more dignity. Also the use of printed programs became more frequently in use for the church worship services.

In the early 1920's with a church membership of approximately 200, every member attended the annual church dinner and meeting, the fall bazaar, church picnic and other church functions. Everyone knew each other and informality ruled. Many of the church families were related to each other either by blood or by marriage.

During the 1920's, paved roads and the popular use of the automobile accelerated the growth of Des Plaines. Des Plaines changed from village to city form of government in 1924, with a city population of approximately 5,000. The last village president, Harry T. Bennett, was one of our church members [after whose family the Bennett Room is named], as was the first city mayor, Charles S. Stewart.

A rapid growth in the church membership was accompanying the city's growth. Attendance at church and Sunday School was putting a strain on the seating capacity of the sanctuary which often required raising a large partition at the rear of the room separating the sanctuary from the Sunday School rooms. This allowed for an increase in seating capacity to about 225. By 1926 two Sunday morning worship services were being considered and provisions were being made for a church building program and the establishment of a building fund. In the fall of 1926, Arthur Barwick was selected as our new minister, coming from Sterling IL, where he had completed a successful campaign for building a new church in that city.

With the encouragement of the three largest subscribers, A.L. Webster, C.F. Loesch and Edith Jefferson (Mrs. Joseph), the 12-person Board of Trustees [+ 2 ex-officio members, church treasurer, H.T. Bennett and Church Clerk, Hazel Poyer] recommended a building program for a new church. Hazel was the only woman member of the group. At April 1, 1927, church membership stood at 284. A plan was made for obtaining building fund pledges and to have supporting non-members become members. By October 1928, membership reached 434.



Ground-breaking ceremonies took place on Sunday, September 30, 1928. The cornerstone [which I wrote about in Dec., 2013] was placed on December 2, 1928. The last service of worship was held in the old church at Graceland and Prairie Avenue on October 27, 1929. [*The stock market crash occurred on Tuesday, October 29, 1929.*] Dedication of our new church building was held on November 2, 1929, with a church membership of 536. The total cost of the new church, furnishings, memorials and land was estimated to be \$289,000. Sixty years had passed since the church was chartered in 1869 with thirteen members. The new building allowed for expansion of church activities so it could be used every day in the week for many auxiliary organizations, such as men's clubs, women's organizations, couple's clubs, girl scouts and boy scouts and more church school classes.

The huge new building was furnished with many memorials, including a large three manual organ, given by A.L. Webster in memory of his mother, which we still enjoy hearing occasionally, ninety years later. The pipe organ mentioned at the beginning of this article was moved to our new church and installed in Loesch Chapel, then located on the first floor just behind the stained glass doors on right wall of the sanctuary, where it was played in Sunday School classes and at small chapel weddings. If you look around the sanctuary, there are many little memorial plaques with the names of donors. How many can you find?

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Finance – Jana’s Office Property – Little Villa Membership & Communications – Deb Fogarty Music & Drama – Co’s Office Knit Wits – Panera’s Administrative Staff- Club Casa	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites	Fellowship – Webster Hall Council – Barwick Room PRC – Barwick Room Worship Ministry – Co’s Office Ministry Staff – B’S Sweet Bites
3 Souper Bowl Communion 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00a – Confirmation Time-and-Talent Auction	4 4:30p Personnel 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers	5 6:00p Men’s Night Out @ Tap House Grill 7:00p Evening Circle	6 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama 7:00p Chancel Choir	7 9:30a Cluster Meeting Communications	8	9
10 Scout Sunday Cookie Sunday 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Ministry Staff Time-and-Talent Auction	11 9:30a Creative Conversation 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers	12 12:00p Administrative Staff 6:30p Pre-School Mom’s Night 7:00p Council (Combined Jan & Feb)	13 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p PRC 7:00p Chancel Choir	14 Valentine’s Day	15	16
17 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Wholly Ringers 3:00p Wolves Hockey Co on vacation	18 Presidents Day 6:30p Property 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers Co on vacation	19 Co on vacation	20 9:00a WWC Tidings Deadline 7:00p Chancel Choir Co on vacation	21 7:00p Worship Ministry Co on vacation	22 Co on vacation	23 Co on vacation
24 9:30am Worship – Israel Presentation 10:30 am Fellowship STA-Drop Off Metal Recycling Co on vacation	25 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers Co on vacation	26 6:00p CPR – Training	27 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Chancel Choir	28 7:00p Sesquicentennial Committee Mtg.	1 PADS	2
					Sunday School during the 9:30am worship service following our Runtime	