



# Tidings

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



**July 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 7**

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

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## A Daily Devotional

Who would have thought that that almost 4 months later we will still have to practice social distancing, and be the church in a slightly different way, to put it mildly! One of the things we do during this time is our "Daily Devotional" group email and discussion. Each morning I forward the UCC's Daily Devotional to a group of people and every now and then members will make a comment or two. This is not only insightful into the lives of other people, but always uplifting and many times food for thought. I'm quoting some of the comments made and of course it is anonymous for privacy reasons.

Some days are a little bit tougher on us than others:

*"My whole thought process is tired, and weary, with some days a real struggle to keep my head above water.... when the pandemic took hold, I began losing ground, physically and mentally.... and really struggled with so many thoughts and questions, disappointments and anger..... but, I am most thankful to God and my husband, because they still held on to me while I struggled to find some light. It's just that with the pandemic, life has changed yet again, and the ramifications of the pandemic breathe down upon me heavily..."*

*"It is easy to shed a tear lately. Perhaps it's because I feel helpless."*

Then there are lessons to be learned:

*"This makes me think about how, despite all the discomfort and stress and fear that we are living with right now, we're also being forced to slow down, to reflect, to get back to simpler things. I pray more. I have a longer study time in the morning. I'm trying to be more present both when I'm with people and when I'm alone."*

*"It's comforting to understand that as "unprecedented" as this time is, it's not unprecedented to God and it's not really all that novel in the history of mankind. We keep running into these weird things and we don't know why it's happening and our human tendency to know and understand and control everything starts coming up with all sorts of theories about what is going on and why and how to stop it. What if the purpose of all these things is the same. . . .to get us to slow down and pay attention and stop trying to control everything?"*

*"Take this situation seriously...but...don't take yourself so seriously. We are learning to take ourselves out of the center and putting our faith first. It's about time."*

*"Right now, we need to focus on not being angry or upset with those around us. It is so easy to get upset with people when you are in close space with them for extended time. Kindness is what everyone needs right now."*

Some things in life we appreciate a little more:

*"There are bright spots too. My kids are always home for dinner. We are eating dinner together every night and laughing and talking because no one has anywhere else to go. We have played board games and watched movies together."*

*"And, checking on neighbors and on adult children and more. Things we typically might do but now are doing much more intentionally, I think."*

*"Greed has become a norm and there is little joy in what we hear in news reports these days. I am finding my joy again in memories and relationships with friends old and new through email, telephone calls and social networking. I am actually finding some comfort in doing those things, although I can get a little stir-crazy."*

*"I think we are more appreciative these days."*

*"As I have matured, I have come to appreciate the "last" of things...the last sip of cold water or deliciously cool lemonade on a blistering hot day, or the last taste of hot cocoa on a snowy afternoon; the last piece of pie ala mode following a lovingly prepared and served meal, or the last peanut butter cracker on a day when I thought there would be no meal at all; the memory of the last time spent with a friend, or the treasured last breath of a loved one transitioning from this life to the next. What a marvel and comfort to realize that we are not the last and least, but a precious pause in the collecting of the great cloud of witnesses."*

By the way, if you would like to be added to the group, it isn't too late. Just let me know!

With love,

Co

# Worship Ministry

## July 5

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	Ellen Alde
Scripture Reading	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

## July 12

<b>Communion</b>	
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	David Horwitz
Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## July 19

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	Sharon Urry
Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## July 26

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	Larry Schimka
Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## Children's & Adult Education Ministry

### Dads and Others Clean Up at Big Bend

While many of the local women in our congregation received special-delivery flowers on Mother's Day weekend, some of our dads and others were rewarded with beef jerky when they worked together to clean up litter and other debris at Big Bend Lake on Father's Day weekend. Great job, everyone!



Anthony Almerigi



Jim Ruedisueli



A special guest!

# Membership & Communications Ministry

## Evening Circle Sets Virtual Bake & Craft Sale

The women of Evening Circle are holding a virtual bake & craft sale through July 2, with proceeds to benefit our church's General Fund and several local charities. Quantities are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. All orders should be called in or emailed to Nancy Meyer at 847/824-1150 or [nwmeyer255@aol.com](mailto:nwmeyer255@aol.com).



16" long pound cake



One of the 1,000 piece puzzles



Bread & Butter Pickles



Pumpkin, Banana, Zucchini & Cranberry Breads

This is the order form for Evening Circle's "virtual" Bake & Craft Sale						
<b>Email or call your order by July 2 to:</b>						
(Payment due when order is confirmed by Treasurer)						
You will negotiate with seller on when/how to get your items, but one option may be on July 6 at FCC between 10am & 11am during food drop off for DP Self Help Pantry						
My name	Nancy Meyer, Treasurer					
Date order placed	nwmeyer255@aol.com					
	847-824-1150					
	My contact info:					
	:					
Item	Price/unit	Qty avail	Seller	Seller Contact Info	Order Qty	\$ due Comment
Peach or blueberrycobblor	10.00	4	W Wallace	thewendelyn@yahoo.com		6 servings each
1/2 doz Lemon cookies	3.00	4	W Wallace	thewendelyn@yahoo.com		
Strawberry Rhubarb Jam	5.00	4	F Hoffman	flo.hoffman2215@gmail.com		
BBQ Pork 1 lb pkg	5.00	limited	M Cameron	marycameron710@gmail.com		makes 4 to 5 sandwiches
8 Usingers All-beef hotdogs (frozen)	4.50	11	M Cameron	marycameron710@gmail.com		
Bowl Cozies	6.00	6	M Cameron	marycameron710@gmail.com		black or black & white print
Whole Pound cake 16" long	25.00	3	C Wiesner	cathy@cjgpartners.com		on mutually agreed date
Half Pound cake 8" long	14.00	3	C Wiesner	or cell# 847-436-9987		on mutually agreed date
Chocolate Cream Pie	13.00	3	C Warren	cmwarren0920@gmail.com		on mutually agreed date
Medium size bread						
Banana	4.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Pumpkin	4.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Zucchini	4.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Cranberry Nut	4.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Small size bread						
Banana	2.50		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Pumpkin	2.50		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Zucchini	2.50		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Cranberry Nut	2.50		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Bread & Butter Pickles Qt jar	9.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Bread & Butter Pickles Pt jar	5.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
Cup of Friendship poem/teabag	1.00		N Meyer	nwmeyer255@aol.com		
1 doz chocolate chip cookies	6.00		K Ruedisuelli	kguedisuelli@hotmail.com or		6 for \$5.00
1 doz cranberry oatmeal cookies	6.00		K Ruedisuelli	cell: 847-778-4308		for delivery after July 17
Large Peanut Butter Cookies 1 doz	10.00	4	P Lorvig	jsthnsrnd@aol.com		for delivery after July 17
Large Peanut Butter Cookies 1/2 doz	5.00	4	P Lorvig	jsthnsrnd@aol.com		
Potted Daisy plant	3.00	8	P Lorvig	jsthnsrnd@aol.com		
Mask extenders with buttons	2.50		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		
Norwex antimicrobial masks	8.00	20	M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		nose cone & colloidal silver component
Any knit or crochet pattern	varies		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		cost of material + 15% to FCC
Plann" (plastic yarn) kitchen mats	\$10 & up		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		Consult w/ Marcia on item & size
Plann" (plastic yarn) tote bag	\$10 & up		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		Consult w/ Marcia on item & size
Crocheted microwave bowl caddy	10.00		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		choice of colors
completed needlepoint pouch	\$12 & up		M Urban	pastormarciaurban@gmail.com		price depends on size selected

Trinity of Spatulas - set of 3	5.00	15	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		spatulas are different sizes
Raspberry cream Cheese bar	5.00	4	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		4" X 4" square bar
Lemon Cream Cheese Bar	5.00	4	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		4" X 4" square bar
HP950xl - Black printer ink	15.00	2	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		
HP951xl - Yellow printer ink	15.00	1	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		
HP951xl - Cyan printer ink	15.00	2	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		
HP951XL - Magenta printer ink	15.00	1	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		
Gourmet Cutting Board 12" x 15"	5.00	30	M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		www.apg2020.com – for ideas
.						
1,000 pc jigsaw puzzle-new 24x30		30 total				see at www.hartpuzzles.com
Zelda Wisdom - Hole Foods	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Carol Gardner
Lavender Fields	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Julia Watkins
Palette of Roses	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by William Carr
Raining Cats and Dogs in Paris	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Jennifer Garant
Bathub Beach	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Jennifer Garant
California Dreamin'	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
Greetings from Florida	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
Florida Above and Below	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Bradley Clark
Route 66	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
New England	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
Michigan	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
Tennessee	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Kate Ward Thacker
Boomers' Favorite Foods	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Boomers' Favorite Comics	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Boomers' Favorite Candy	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Back to the 80's	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Throwback 90's	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
You bet there's an app for that!	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Banksy Graffiti	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith
Blue Eyes	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Colin Bogle
American Beer Labels	10.00		M Herrera	michelleherrera48@gmail.com		by Steve Smith

## Did Someone Say “Pizza”?

A second fundraiser also is underway by the women of Evening Circle, who are selling Lou Malnati’s pizza coupons. The coupons are \$13 each and are valid for one frozen pizza, sold at any area Lou Malnati’s location. Varieties include sausage, pepperoni, cheese or spinach. (No gluten free) Nancy Brink will be selling coupons at our church’s West Entrance on Monday, July 6 from 10am to 11am. You also can contact Nancy at 847/508-5081 or send your payment to her at 907 W. Willow Lane, Mt. Prospect IL 60056.

## Mission Ministry



Our FCC Mission Team spent the last weekend in June working at Tower Hill Camp, helping prepare for the summer season. Pictured is Dave DeHart.

Other team members included Jim Foster, Ralph Murdy, Bob McCullough, Jim Ruedisueli, Sue Almerigi, Don Cameron, Richard Weihmantel and Mary Bucholtz.

## 54142First Virtual Relay a Success for FCC Team

Thanks to your support and the support of others, our church team has raised \$2,792 to date to benefit the American Cancer through the June 2020 (virtual) Relay for Life. According to Paul Schmitt, FCC team captain, this total puts our team in the “Bronze” category so **thank you** to all who contributed. And, you still can make donations by clicking on this link: [Relay-for-Life](#) and searching for First Congregational Church of Des Plaines. For more information, please contact Paul at: [pschmitt9@hotmail.com](mailto:pschmitt9@hotmail.com)



Thanks to all those who have contributed to our church’s drive-by drop-off collections for Project Survivor/Exodus World Service and the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. Project Survivor is our donation program that helps refugees who are new to the Chicago area. Pictured at a past delivery to a refugee family are (l to r) church members Joyce Beets, Nancy Brink and Jackie Schmitt. (2016 file photo)

## Music Ministry

### Still Making Music...

In case you have missed our church’s online worship services over the last few months, the services have been archived and you can view them through our website [www.fccd.org](http://www.fccd.org). Music Director; Scott Emerick and Accompanist; Anna Kovalevska have been lending their talents each week, and several members of our church choir have coordinated with Scott to also participate from their homes.

# Finance Committee

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Income for the month of May was \$19,547, while expenses were \$29,256, resulting in a negative for the month of \$9,708. Year-to-date, however, we still have a positive cushion of \$4,739. With our church building closed and no income coming in from outside groups and very little from fundraisers, virtually our only source of income has been from offerings. And our church family has responded. Offerings have been coming in at a greater rate than budgeted. Thank you to all our church member and friends who have kept up with their pledges and even made additional contributions during the past several months.

## **PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE**

If you haven't yet had a chance to submit your pledge for the new Fiscal Year beginning July 1, there's still time. If you need an additional pledge card, just contact the church office. Then complete and return by mail - or email at [secretaries@fccdp.org](mailto:secretaries@fccdp.org). Please feel free to contact Jana Haas, our Financial Administrator, if you have any question about your pledge.



### **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 Our Moderator

Hello everyone. I wanted to update you on the decisions made by the church council at our meeting on Tuesday, June 23.

**Reopening of the church for Sunday Services:** After a lengthy discussion about the precautions we would need to take during an in person Sunday service, the cleaning that would need to be done, the changes that would happen to the online service, and the results of the survey about our members' comfort about returning to church in July, the council voted to postpone resuming Sunday services for now. The council will reevaluate the reopening of the church for Sunday services at the next scheduled council meeting, which is scheduled for August 25.

**Reopening of the church to use by outside groups:** Jim Foster has received requests from some of the groups that use our church about when they would be allowed to start meeting again. The Council voted to allow these groups, most of which are groups less than 20, to start to meet in the church again as long as they provide their own cleaning and sanitizing of the areas that they use. Jim will talk with each group to go over the cleaning and sanitizing that they will need to do and make sure that they have an adequate plan in place for each group, based on the size and spaces that they use.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** The church's annual congregational meeting will take place via Zoom on Sunday, August 2 at 10am, following our online church service. This will allow for questions to be asked and answered, just as if we were in the sanctuary. Members who are able to attend the Zoom call will vote during the Zoom call. Those who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting will be given a week to view the recorded Zoom meeting and to vote either by email or paper ballot. If you would like to practice joining a Zoom meeting prior to August 2nd, please reach out to Rev. Co or Rhonda Yost and we will set up a one on one call with you to help you get used to Zoom. More information about receiving the annual report and a ballot by mail will be in **Notes from Co**. If you do not receive the **Notes from Co** email, please contact the church office to let us know you that you need a paper copy of the materials.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank council members Joanne Kimball and Flo Hoffman, and Immediate Past Moderator Les Stein that will be rotating off the church council. They have served the congregation faithfully during their terms. We will vote on their replacements at the annual meeting. After the conclusion of the annual meeting, I will move into the position of Immediate Past Moderator and Christina Tomsic will move up from Assistant Moderator and Council member to Moderator of the church council. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please feel free to reach out to me. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Rhonda Yost (Moderator)

## From Our Preschool

Registration is underway for the 2020-21 First Congregational Preschool year. The preschool serves children ages 2 ½ to 5 years, and classes are offered from two to five days per week. For further information, contact director Nancy Quam through the Church Office at 847/299-5561.

## A Note of Thanks

*(From Linda Opalka)* Thanks for just being you! You have no idea what a huge blessing my church family has been for me during this especially difficult time with Dad's passing. Your cards, phone calls, emails and prayers have been really appreciated. Can't wait to see you all again in person one of these days. Until then, my love, a virtual hug and God's blessing to all of you!

## In the News

In case you missed it, longtime church member and Des Plaines resident Marcia Alban was featured in the June 24 edition of the Des Plaines Journal. A musician, she was sheltering at home during the pandemic when she decided to use music to reach others and lift their spirits a bit. For the last several weeks, Marcia has played her viola from her apartment balcony. A professional musician, she also has played for enjoyment at many church functions over the years, including our annual FCC Christmas Caroling Bus. Thanks for all you do, Marcia!

## Bikes For Sale

We are having a bike sale on Saturday July 11 from 9am to 10am. Please tell your friends we have about a dozen bikes. Most bike will be about \$25 each but we have a couple of Trek bike.



## **Memorial Garden Brick Order Form**

*This is an order form to purchase engraved bricks for our Memorial Garden. Orders must be received by **July 31, 2020**. (New deadline) Bricks can be in memory of loved ones or to commemorate special occasions such as weddings, birthdates, anniversaries, etc.*

### **This order is for:**

\_\_\_ 4" x 8" Bricks, 3 lines – 13 characters per line (incl. spaces) @ \$75.00 per brick.

\_\_\_ 8" x 8" Bricks, 6 lines – 13 characters per line (incl. spaces) @ \$175.00 per brick.

*(You do not need to use all lines on your brick. The engraving company reserves the right to edit text.)*

### **4" x 8" Brick:**

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### **8" x 8" Brick:**

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 6 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church, Memorial Garden.*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

# Happy Birthday to You!!

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

7/1	Janet Farrell	7/21	Grace Olsen
7/4	Jennifer Duffy	7/22	Troy Johnson
7/4	Robert M. Phillips III	7/24	Nathan Skiba
7/6	Joy Cooper	7/27	Amy Eck
7/7	Greg Anderson	7/29	Emma Bryers
7/9	Sue Roden	7/29	Dan Ruedisueli
7/14	Norm Nanstiel	7/30	Danielle Priester
7/15	Marcia Urban	7/31	Maggie Miller
7/20	Barry Haas		

## Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Ahlbeck & Co.

A Gift from Heidi Mayer

In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Ken & Debbie Walusiak

In Loving Memory of Louise Whisler from Ken & Debbie Walusiak

In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Rod & Joyce Beets

A gift from the Optimist Club of Des Plaines for our Backpack Project

In Loving Memory of Karl Tangeros from Flo Hoffman

In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Georgia Drake

## **From our Historian, Nancy Meyer**

Last month I challenged you to identify the 10 doors that allow entrance to our wonderful church building. Some of them have been there since it was built in 1929. Others have been added since then. How did you do?

1. Main entrance door to our sanctuary on Graceland Avenue. Dr. Barwick is pictured entering in 1937.
2. Door on the side as you walk up the sidewalk from Graceland Ave. to the parish house/office. I believe this door was added in 1953 when major remodeling was done in the pillar room (now known as Brehm Hall) in the basement under the sanctuary. This door allowed direct access to Brehm Hall and new Sunday School rooms from outside.
3. Fire escape door from the stage, coming down to the alley behind (west of) the church.
4. Narrow door on your left as you come up the steps to the parish house/office. This door provided direct access to Loesch Chapel from outside, where small weddings and funeral services took place. It was closed off when the church office and pastor's study were moved from the second floor to the main floor in 1956. At the same time, one of the third floor chapels was renamed Loesch Chapel.
5. Door facing the alley, to the right of the West Entrance doors. Until the West Entrance was added in 1989, this was the door from the parking lot everyone used to go down to the basement (Sunday School rooms, etc.) and up to the main floor to attend worship and all other activities.
6. Double doors provide access to the parish house & office, walking up the sidewalk from Graceland Ave.
7. Door at the bottom of the ramp in the parking lot allows direct access to the "room under the choir room". The choir room addition was built in 1956.
8. Double doors to the right of the "Memorial Garden" as you face the church building. These doors, seldom used now, provided direct access to Webster Hall in the early days when it was used for community events, as well as to Sunday School rooms in the basement and the chapels on the third floor.

9. Exterior door on the alley provides direct access to/from the kitchen. Stairs from fire escape go past this door.

10. Double doors to our West Entrance, accessed from the alley. Our West Entrance was added in 1989.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

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

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

847/299-5561

# July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Deadline to order items from Bake-and-Craft Sale	3	4 Independence Day
5 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	6	7	8 6:30p PRC	9	10	11
12 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	20 Tidings Deadline 6:30p Property Ministry	21	22	23	24	25 8:00am Metal Pick-Up
26 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	27	28	29	30	31 Deadline to order Memorial Bricks	