



# Tidings

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



**July 2021 - Vol. 82 – No. 7**

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

## **A New Future**

*The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.”*

- Luke 24:5 (NRSV)

It is the second half of the year, and we are slowly, but surely getting back to “normal,” or at least what we would consider as normal. There is no doubt that things have change since we ventured through the pandemic. We are not off the hook yet as we are a global community and constraining the pandemic is still an ongoing international crisis. South Africa has just gone into lockdown because of the Delta variant and a significant rise in cases and deaths. I mention this country as we are planning to travel to South Africa in August for my niece’s wedding. And we are reminded again that things will probably be never “back to normal” again. On this note I would like to share one of our Daily Devotionals, authored by Lillian Daniel entitled: *“The Resurrection Is Radical”*

After twelve months (of course now slightly more!) of this pandemic, if our greatest desire is to get back to where we were a year ago, we have missed the memo from the Holy Spirit.

The women get the news when they are looking for Jesus’ body in the empty tomb. “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Why do you look backwards for God’s future?

If all you want is a sentimental sign of spring, I’m sure you can find a crocus growing in a graveyard somewhere, but the promise of new life is more than that. What is dead is gone because it has been transformed into something entirely new. So much so that after the resurrection, when Jesus ran into his closest friends, they did not recognize him. They were looking for the living

among the dead. They were massaging their memories, clutching to sacred scrapbooks from a pretend past, the kind that grows more perfect the further we are from it. When Jesus actually showed up on the street where they lived, they almost missed him.

New life does not mean more of the same. So why settle for some pre-pandemic nostalgic normalcy for your church, your children, your institutions, your society, your schools, or your street? Why do you look for the living among the dead? Resurrection is the radical change that renders our run-of-the-mill desires unrecognizable. Christ is risen and there's no going back.

May God open our hearts to his future.

With love,

Co

# Worship Ministry

**July 4**

## **Communion/Fourth of July**

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	Michelle Herrera
Scripture Reading	Mark 6:1-13

**July 11**

## **Outdoor Worship/Picnic at Lake Park**

Service of Worship	9:30a – <a href="http://www.fccdp.org">www.fccdp.org</a>
Lay Reader	Michelle Herrera
Scripture Reading	Mark 6:14-29

**July 18**

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	Cindie Hoch
Scripture Reading	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 25**

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	Deb Alde
Scripture Reading	John 6:1-21

## **Save the Date!**

An outdoor worship service and picnic is planned at Lake Park (Optimist Pavilion) on Sunday, July 11, with the church service to begin at 9:30am followed by a “bring your own” picnic lunch. The Pavilion is located on Lee St., north of Touhy Ave. and south of the band shell. Watch “Notes from Co” for details.

## **Live Stream Updates**

The committee has received several compliments on the 75" screen that is at the front of the church. It has been used for several services. For the service on June 27, we were able to see the Altar...a sight to behold after so long.

The camera equipment was purchased and is scheduled for installation this week. The computer was installed in Debbie's office where the Live Stream Team will be controlling the cameras as well as covering the Sunday service.

## **Live Stream Funding**

Approval was given for a budget of \$15K.

At the time of writing this, we have received \$10,700.00 in donations

If you are interested in supporting this exciting new chapter, please call the office, send a check, or use our [online giving option](#) and note that your donation is for "Streaming."

## **Live Stream Team**

We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve on the live stream team. We are looking for enough volunteers, so that each volunteer would only have to cover 1 or 2 Sundays a month. There will be training involved for volunteers operating the computers and cameras.

Please reach out to Michelle Herrera at [michelleherrera48@gmail.com](mailto:michelleherrera48@gmail.com) or call 847-338-5718.

The committee is made up of the following people:

Paul Meincke, Wendy Ellis, Cody Meincke, André Deadwyler, Co DuToit, Marcia Urban, Nancy Schacht, Scott Emerick, Larry Schimka, Lowell Handy, Chris Tomsic, Jim Ruedisueli and Michelle Herrera (Chair).

## Membership & Communications Ministry



### **Congratulations, Class of 2021!**

Pictured (at left) are Abigail Grice and (below) Alexander Smith, with his uncle Neal and cousin Sarah.



## Best Wishes to our FCC Graduates – Part II

Thanks to all those who shared news of their Class of 2021 graduates, including: **Abigail “Abby” Grice**, daughter of Paul & Sandy Grice and granddaughter of Rev. Dr. & Mrs. William Grice III. Abby graduated from Homer Junior High School and will attend Lockport Township High School; **Alexander Smith**, son of Lillye Crocker-Smith and grandson of Bob & Sandy Crocker. Alex enlisted in the Navy and graduated from Great Lakes Training Center. He graduated in the top three percent of his class and earned an award for pistol marksmanship as well as the National Defense Service Medal. Alex went on to train as an electrician, graduated near the top of his class and currently serves aboard the Guided Missile Destroyer, Howard, DDG80.



For the past several weeks, we've enjoyed coffee and fellowship outside the West Entrance after church on Sunday. And, volunteers are sought to help with this ministry so it can continue! For details please speak with Debbie Walusiak.

## Mission & Outreach Ministry

### **Relay for Life a Big Success for FCC Team – Thank You!**

This year's local Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society, Driving Out Cancer, was held in Palatine in June. Our FCC team, led by Captain Paul Schmitt, raised \$3,926 and bumped our church team up to Silver Level from Bronze Level. "This, in part, is a great step towards aiding research aimed at knocking out cancer in all forms," said Paul. "Once again, my sincere thanks to all who donated and participated in this year's Relay."

### **Can You Help With School Backpack Project?**

With School District 62 preparing to open all buildings when school resumes in August, the request for weekend backpacks has already been made for the students who are in need of food. North School, which our church has supported in the past, has requested 12 backpacks for students.

When Covid19 struck, we emptied our food closet, and, consequently, we have empty shelves. We will need lots of help to fill them and be ready to operate right after Labor Day. We will also need volunteers to pack and deliver the backpacks. Sign-up sheets will be available in August.

Below you will find the list of food that will go into the backpack each week. While we want to send more than what is on the list, the child has to be able to carry the food home so please be mindful of the container sizes you provide. Thank you in advance for your help! For details please speak with Jana Haas.

### **Backpack Contents**

Canned pasta and meat (like Spaghetti-O's) – 1

Canned soup – 1

Boxed macaroni & cheese – 1

Canned beef stew or chicken stew – 1

Small can sausages/tuna/chicken – 1

Oatmeal packets – 2

Individual small cereal boxes – 2

Individual fruit cups – 2

Juice boxes – 6 total with the milk

Shelf-stable milk

Snack bars/fruit snacks/peanut butter crackers/pretzel and chip packets – 6

Cookies/pudding cups/rice Krispy treats, etc. – 3

Peanut butter – 1 per month

Jelly – 1 per month

Gallon Ziploc bags





### **Self-Help Closet & Pantry Plans Summer Fundraiser, 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Save the date of **August 7** for *Putt for the Pantry*, a mini-golf fundraiser at Mountain View Adventure Center for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. All ages welcome. Also, plan to join the SHC&P's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on **September 25**, at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge. Details to follow on both events.

Founded in the basement of First Congregational Church in 1971, the SHC&P recently relocated from 600 E. Algonquin Rd. to a larger facility at 769 Holiday Lane. Prior to the pandemic, the SHC&P served approximately 400 Des Plaines households and currently serves about 650 households as the need continues in our community.

For further information, contact Debbie Walusiak at 847/337-1443.

## Tower Hill Mission Trip June 2021: From Drips to Ditches

*(Submitted by Bob McCullough)*

This year 13 people convened at our Conference Camp, Tower Hill, in Sawyer, Michigan. Included was our stalwart companion, Mary “Stiletto” Buchholz from Kokomo, Indiana. This whole adventure was organized and coordinated by Jim Foster. Meals were produced by Sue Almerigi and Stiletto; Anthony Almerigi made a special contribution: a Campfire Dutch Oven Paella. They fed us really well.

We occupied the Lodge, the newest building at the camp. It accommodates 20 people comfortably.

The Camp Director, Rev. Tracy Heilman, gave Jim a list of projects to be done. They included:

- ❖ **Trenching** two 100’ ditches and installing a “French” Drain (later revised to a “South African” Drain) and covering it with gravel. This is to control drainage behind the Schrag Conference Center.
- ❖ **Power washing decks and railings and staining** white railings and brown decks surrounding the Dining Hall, Schrag Conference Center and the Anderson Building.
- ❖ **Installing four large light fixtures** in the maintenance building. We brought them from church; they were previously used in Webster Hall
- ❖ **Creating a flower garden** under the large white cross on the hill to attract and feed butterflies.
- ❖ **Move bunks, paint the building facings and trim low hanging branches** in the “Pines”, a remote facility on a hill.
- ❖ **Trim trees** and remove debris throughout the camp.
- ❖ **Remove grates and clear gutters** on two buildings and clear roofs as needed.
- ❖ **Spread bark chips.**
- ❖ **Clear forest of dead branches.**
- ❖ **Mow 20 acres of grass.**
- ❖ **Clear cement area at Marshall Hall and clean and move benches.**
- ❖ **Use leaf blower to clear decks on all “A” Frame buildings.**

On the third day Jim Foster asked Rev. Tracy if she had more tasks. (She did not expect us to finish so soon.) She did come up with more for us to do!

**We did our mission with gusto, competence – and joy.**

*Now our Conference Camp is better prepared to accept children and adults for new post-pandemic adventures.*

2021

THANKING OUR

# Volunteers

TOWER HILL

*First Congregational*  
DES PLAINES UCC

We want to especially thank the many volunteers from the First Congregational Des Plaines United Church of Christ. For five consecutive days this spring they "did it all" with style and grace and helped in numerous ways. From painting to repairing to cleaning ...they were exactly what we needed. Here's to our incredible volunteers who have shared their time and various talents with us, thank you for the many hands and hours making Tower Hill sparkle!






Pictured in front of the new perennial flower garden are (l to r) Rev. Co, Sue Almerigi and Mary Buchholz.



Our FCC Mission Team hard at work outside of Schrag Conference Center.



Our June 2021 Mission Team: Front (l to r) Richard Weihsmantel, Sue Almerigi, Mary Buchholz, Jim Foster, Jim Ruedisueli, Ralph Murdy, Rick Warren, Bob McCullough, Dave DeHart; top (l to r) Rev. Co, Anthony Almerigi, Kevin Donoghue; Don Cameron.

## Music Ministry



### **'Always Wanted to Ring Bells?**

Ellen Alde, director of our church's Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir, is offering summer workshops at church on various ringing techniques. The workshops will be held from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Mondays through August 9. All are welcome. (Ages 10 and up) Experience not necessary but masks required. For further information, contact Ellen at 847/297-3231 or [ealdefccdp@gmail.com](mailto:ealdefccdp@gmail.com).

### **...or, Maybe Singing is Your Thing?**

Scott Emerick, director of Music Ministries, invites all who love to sing (no experience required) to a weekly Sunday sing-a-long beginning July 18 and continuing through August 22. Gatherings will be held in Webster Hall immediately after our Coffee/Fellowship Hour. "Now that we finally can sing together again, let's take advantage of what we've missed and sing, sing, sing!" said Scott. All song suggestions welcome.

### **Start Thinking About September!**

Scott also has started to plan for our church's annual Favorite Hymn Sunday in September, and he wants your input. Do you have a favorite hymn to share, as well as perhaps a favorite story to go with the hymn? Please send your suggestions to Scott at [salemropa@gmail.com](mailto:salemropa@gmail.com). And, if you don't want to share your name, just let Scott know and he will use your information anonymously.

## Property Ministry



*From Diane Henrikson Russell to Bob McCullough regarding the installation of her brick in the church's Memorial Garden: I made it to Des Plaines last week and saw the brick. It - and the garden - looks very attractive. Thank You!*

### **Metal Recycling Discontinued**

We will no longer be able to store our metal recycling outside, so we will be discontinuing our metal recycling program. Please do not drop off any more metal items. Thank you for your understanding.

## Youth Ministry

### PF Heads to Boundary Waters This Month

Our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship high school youth are heading to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota from July 24 through August 1. According to youth director Matt Cameron, there will be two canoe paddling practices at Lake Opeka in Des Plaines to prepare – 6:30pm on July 8 and July 22. Meet at the boat launch and dress to possibly get wet. Any Junior or Senior PFER who wants to give paddling a try is welcome. For details contact Matt at 847/323-2966.

## Finance Committee

### Financial Report

Income for the month of May was \$17,646, while expenses were \$22,850, resulting in a negative position for the month of \$5,204. With just one month to go in our current fiscal year, we are running \$8,596 in the red year-to-date. If we end the fiscal year (June 30) in a negative position, funds will need to be taken from our Contingency Fund to balance our income and expenses for the year.



## **Bulletin Board of Bills**

Every year during the "lazy days of summer," our church conducts a Bulletin Board of Bills fundraiser. This year is no different. In fact, the only difference is that this year you will have more ways to participate. 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. Drop off or 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. A selection of bills will also be posted on the Finance bulletin board, on the wall between the church office and the sanctuary. Select a bill that you're able to cover and drop the bill and your check in the offering plate on Sunday morning. This important fundraiser will continue through Labor Day. Please consider how you can participate.



## 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 secretary Paul Whittenhall at 847/299-5561.*

Janet Farrell	01 -July	Barry Haas	20-July
Jennifer Duffy	04-July	Grace Olsen	21-July
Robert "Bud" Phillips	04-July	Troy Johnson	22-July
Joy Cooper	06-July	Nathan Skiba	24-July
Greg Anderson	07-July	Emma Bryers	29-July
Sue Roden	09-July	Dan Ruedisueli	29-July
Norm Nanstiel	15-July	Danielle Priester	30-July
Karsten Hahn	15-July	Maggie Miller	31-July
Marcia Urban	15-July		

## Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Joe Botte from his daughters, Jennifer Doner & Sharon Meslona

## Well Done!

Congratulations to church member Heather Larson, who recently was promoted to President and CEO of Meet Chicago Northwest, a convention and visitors bureau. Heather, who joined the organization in 2010, most recently served as director of sales.

## From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The red “tongues of fire” Pentecost banners have been displayed in our sanctuary for the past several weeks. Although I wrote about them when I first started doing these Historian articles back in 2009, I recently found more information about who made them and when, from an article in *The Tidings* on June 20, 1976.

Quoting the article: Pentecost is a feast day for Jews and Christians alike. The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek and means the fiftieth day. For the Jewish people it is the fiftieth day after Passover. In Palestine the climate is such that they have two harvests every year, and it was on the day of Pentecost that they had a feast of the first fruits, of the first harvest.

In the book of Acts, we read of the happening which took place on this Jewish feast day. In the second chapter it records that the disciples were in one place together, and the Holy Spirit came upon them “like a rush of a mighty wind,” and it was as if tongues of fire came down upon them. And it was from this beginning that the church was born and the faith spread out into the world. It is the birthday of the church.

Again from this June 1976 *Tidings* article: To bring more significance to this day of days and feast of feasts, we approached several ladies in our church who were handy with needles and thread. They willingly volunteered to help us out to make the banners. These picture the symbolic tongues of fire that came down upon the first Christians. The Holy Spirit inspired them to go tell the world the “good news.” We are most grateful to Rose Sayad and June Gibbs for their work, and for the help given by Mary Dinick and Barbara Weaver. The banners add much to our worship, and bring some color to the season of Pentecost. This is the second year we have used the Pentecost banners, and we appreciate the dedicated work that brought them to us.



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

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

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# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Independence Day Communion</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Noon – Lunch Bunch	<b>7</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Watch Party	<b>8</b> TBC 7:00p Sippin with the Scriptures	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30am Outdoor Worship – Lake Opeka	<b>12</b> 10:00a Drop-Offs	<b>13</b> Noon – Lunch Bunch	<b>14</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Watch Party	<b>15</b> TBC 7:00p Sippin with the Scriptures	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>19</b> 6:30p Property	<b>20</b> Tidings Deadline Noon – Lunch Bunch	<b>21</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Watch Party	<b>22</b> TBC 7:00p Sippin with the Scriptures @Jana Haas	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	<b>26</b> 10:00a Drop-Offs	<b>27</b> Noon – Lunch Bunch	<b>28</b> 9:00a WWC 10:00a Watch Party	<b>29</b> TBC 7:00p Sippin with the Scriptures	<b>30</b>	<b>01</b>