

Tidings

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



June 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 6

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

What Fills Your Bucket?

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God through him."
-Colossians 3:16-17

As I write this this morning, I realized that if everything were "normal" I would have been in Hawaii with my family for a week right now at this moment. Since I haven't been there before, this was something that was very high on my bucket list.

Talking about buckets...you may have noticed, hopefully, that instead of talking about our Stewardship Campaign this year we have started to talk about our Bucket Campaign. Instead of having a Stewardship Sunday, we had a Bucket Sunday when we dedicated our pledges. the reason for this is because our Stewardship committee, chaired by Teena Whittenhall and Kevin Donoghue, decided that this year we would rather focus on generosity, instead of telling you all the wonderful things about our ministries and the mission work they do. And, how much money we will need to do it again. We all know it and many of us already participates in it.

So, our them this year was "What Fills Your Bucket?" We had a couple of people that stepped up and shared with us on a very personal level the things they are thankful for, or rather the things that fills their bucket. It can happen so easily that we get swallowed up by everything that is happening around us, that we tend to forget that we have so much to be thankful for.

But what fills my bucket? Like most people, I will start with my family. I have a lovely wife, whom for some unknown reason chose me to be her husband some 30 plus years ago. I have lovely children whom have become adults in their own right, carving out their place in society. I have my family in South Africa, whom have luckily not shunned me because I left them 19 years ago to move to America.

And I also have my spiritual family, First congregational Church of Des Plaines. I have to admit, that I became a little bit emotional as I am writing this, and as in the Greek language

that doesn't convey too much emotion, I have to specifically tell you that I am feeling quite emotional right now. This has been indeed challenging times for all of us. All of us experience this transition of life differently. All of us have different perspectives on how the church should continue its ministry, but what makes me proud is the perseverance and resilience that is apparent. Everyone is figuring out how to minister in a different setting in a different way. We could have retreated in our little corner and feel sorry for ourselves, but we didn't.

There are many other things that fill my bucket, like our pets, like a dishwasher that continues to clean after me, self-rising flour, and coffee. I have so many things to be thankful for. So, "What Fills Your Bucket?"

With Love,
Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

June 7

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Lay Reader	Dee Hardesty
Scripture Reading	Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Lay Reader	Cindie Hoch
Scripture Reading	Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21

Father's Day	
Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Lay Reader	Corrine Bachar
Scripture Reading	Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Lay Reader	Deb Alde
Scripture Reading	Matthew 10:40-42

Children's & Adult Education Ministry

Special Delivery!

Many local women from our congregation were surprised to receive a special Mother's Day delivery of flowers this year. A collaborative effort by our Children's/Youth Ministries, the young people of FCC made about 200 deliveries on Saturday, May 9...thank you to all involved!



William Hinderliter presents flowers to Joanne Stein.



Tommy Almerigi checks another house off his list.



Bob & Barb McCullough are thrilled to get a visit from William.

Membership & Communications Ministry

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Izaan DuToit, daughter of Rev. Co & Ellie DuToit, from the University of Minnesota with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. She has accepted a position with Humboldt Veterinary Medical Group in Ferndale and Fortuna, CA.

Madeline Stone, granddaughter of Tom & Alice Tucker, from South Elgin High School. She plans to attend College of DuPage to study photography.

Clay Thompson, son of Mark & Janet Thompson, and his fiancée, **Lilly Wei**, both with a Master's degree in Special Education from Aurora University. Clay teaches at Corron Elementary School in South Elgin, and Lilly teaches at Giant Steps in Lisle.

Tommy Almerigi, son of Anthony & Sue Almerigi, from Forest Elementary School to Algonquin Middle School in Des Plaines.



Izaan DuToi



Zaphillia Yost

Zaphillia Yost, daughter of Quinn & Rhonda Yost, from Maine West High School to Florida Southern College, where she will major in Marine Biology.

Ben Cooper, son of Chris & Joy Cooper, from Algonquin Middle School to Maine West High School in Des Plaines.

Zack Masciopinto, son of Tony & Joyce Masciopinto and grandson of Paul & Jackie Schmitt, from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has accepted a position with Lockheed Martin in Denver, CO.

Troy Johnson, son of Rick & Jeanne Johnson and grandson of Paul & Jackie Schmitt, from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance.

Noah David Schmitt, grandson of Paul & Jackie Schmitt, from Hester Jr. High School in Franklin Park to East Leyden High School.

Jennifer Lynn Beets, granddaughter of Rod & Joyce Beets, from Round Rock High School in Round Rock, TX to Austin Community College to begin studies in the medical field.



Austin Roeder



Jack Ward

Austin Roeder, grandson of Doug & Marlene Laws, from Peak to Peak Charter School in Colorado to Creighton University in Omaha, NE to major in Emergency Management Service.

Jack Ward, grandson of a longtime friend of Bob & Barb McCullough, from Chesterton (IN) High School to Purdue University, where he will study Mechanical Engineering.

Krenare Rakoci, granddaughter of Pam Thomas, from the College of Wooster (OH). She plans to attend graduate school to become a physical therapist for animals.

Nate Bryers, son of Michael & Amy Bryers, from Maine West High School to Western Michigan University.

Doug Stryker, son of Rob & Wendy Stryker and grandson of Les & Joanne Stein, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to Princeton University, for graduate studies in Geometry.

David Kelsey, grandson of Les & Joanne Stein, with a graduate degree from Virginia Tech. He has accepted an internship with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Kayla Weisbrod, daughter of Chip & Jill Weisbrod and granddaughter of Jan Schuller, from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in LaCrosse, WI to University of Minnesota/Mankato.

Mission Ministry

Sign Up for Relay for Life 2020

This year's Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society will be held on **Saturday, June 19** at Walter R Sundling Jr. High in Palatine. You can join our church team or make donations by clicking on this link: [Relay-for-Life](#). Remember to join team: First Congregational Church of Des Plaines. For more information, please contact Paul Schmitt at: pschmitt9@hotmail.com

MEALS ON WHEELS

It is our turn to deliver meals June 22nd to July 17th. I have reached out to our contact at the Senior Center. Catholic Charities has been delivering frozen meals. At this time, we do not know if the Senior Center will be open to make the meals and for us to deliver. I would like to make the schedule so that if they do call us last minute, we are ready. But, I want everyone to feel safe. So I am suggesting Masks and gloves. I know on our deliveries, it cannot not be left at the door and run. It is all about the wellness check to.

If anyone is interested in delivering, please email me at Michelleherrera48@gmail.com, or call 847-338-5718.

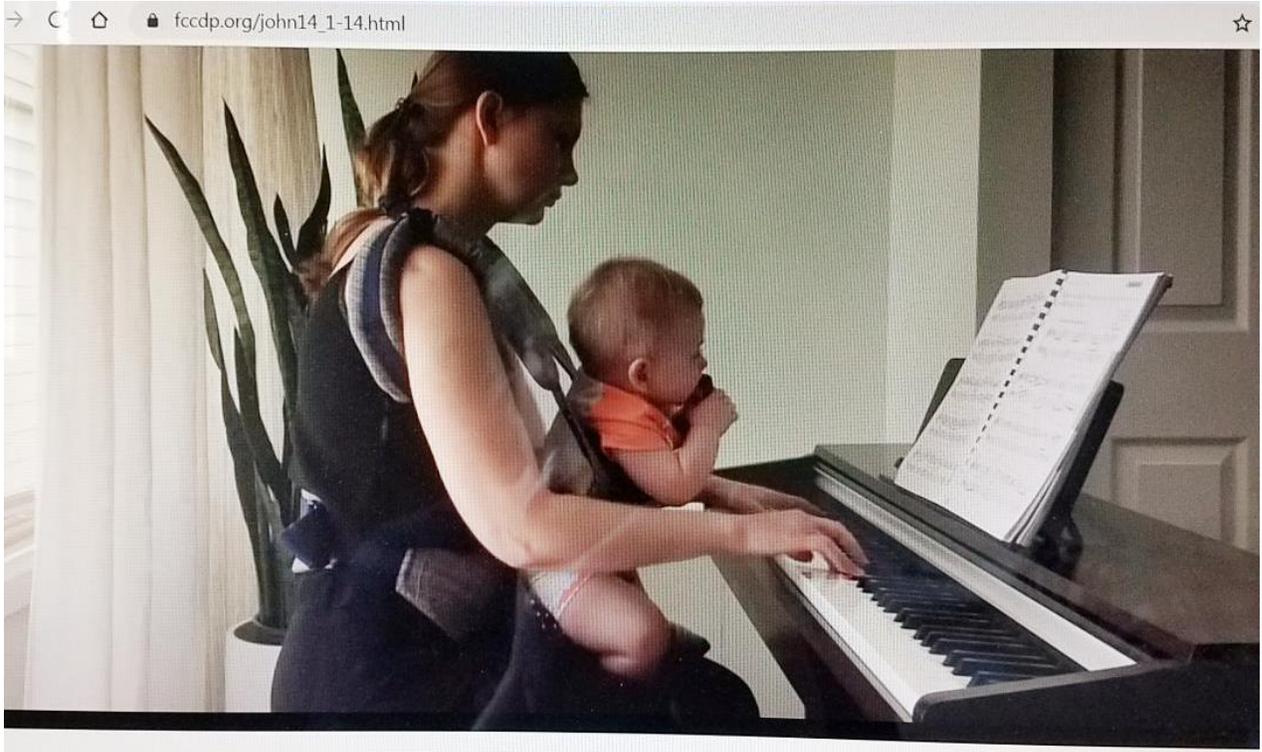
A Note from the Moderator

At the May 26th Church Council meeting, the Council voted to postpone our annual June Congregational Meeting until August 2, 2020 in order to give us more time to put together a plan to have our meeting in the current circumstances. We hope you all understand. The Council did approve a temporary budget that we will begin our fiscal year with on July 1, 2020. Putting together a budget in the current times is challenging and we know that there will have to be adjustments made as we move forward and as circumstances continue to change. You can request a copy of the budget at any time. It will be sent out as part of the report before the Annual Meeting, but if you would like to see it sooner, please reach out to Co or myself. More information about how we will distribute the Annual Report and vote on our budget and church officers will be coming out in the July Tidings. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to answer your questions or at least figure out who can. I hope you are all doing well and I look forward to the time when we can see each other again in person.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Yost

Moderator



Our church accompanist, Anna Kovalevska, provides special music on Mother's Day with her son, Leo.

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.fccdp.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 participate from their homes.

Property Ministry



Ralph Murdy (pictured) completes a “patch and repair” job in Webster Hall in May. No social distance concerns here! Repairing water damage Part II: Our Wednesday Work Crew volunteers continue necessary maintenance and repair work on our church building.

Our Property Ministry also is overseeing the replacement of rusted-out railings in front of the church building.

Finance Committee

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of April (our first full month of on-line worship, Zoom meetings, and an empty church building), we had income of \$18,624 and expenses of \$21,096, for a net loss for the month of \$2,471. While Ministry expenses, utilities, and cleaning service expenses were down, we have also lost anticipated income from our Second Time Around Sale, the Seventh Day Adventists, Oakton Community College ESL classes, and other outside groups using our church building.

PAYROLL PROTECTION LOAN

We're pleased to report that as part of the government's Payroll Protection Loan program, we were able to obtain a \$38,895 PPP forgivable loan. Once we submit documentation showing that the loan was used for payroll, related salary expenses, and certain utilities, the loan will not have to be repaid. Special thanks to Jana Haas for the many hours she spent on the phone, on her computer, and gathering needed documentation, to enable us to qualify for these funds.

2020/2021 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE CONCLUDES

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Stewardship Drive and submitted a Commitment Card to be included in our Bucket Sunday dedication. If you have not yet had a chance to send in your commitment, there's still time! Just mail your pledge to the Church office, attention Jana Haas, or email it to Jana at: jhaas@fccdp.org. If you need another commitment card, contact the church office and Paul will mail one to you.

BULLETIN BOARD OF BILLS

The Bulletin Board of Bills is an important fundraiser for our church that traditionally takes place over the summer months. And this year, it's more important than ever. Although we won't have a physical bulletin board with typical bills posted for you to take and "pay," we will have a virtual bulletin board. Throughout the summer, in Co's Notes we'll include two or three bills that you can select. Then simply mail a check, payable to FCCDP, for the amount of that bill; call the church office and pay by credit card; or log on to the church website and make a donation in the amount of the bill you chose. We'll be posting a variety of bills, ranging from just a few dollars to a hundred dollars or more. We hope you'll find one that meets your budget and by paying it, you'll help our church meet its budget.

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 (in part)

(From Jan & Tom Wisocki) No words can ever express our feelings when we won that gift basket last fall. Please give our delayed but sincerest thanks to all who had any part in gathering all the wonderful surprises the basket held. It truly has been a blessing for us as we tried to navigate a really challenging time in our lives...PS For those who asked about the lottery tickets, unfortunately, none were winners!

Best Wishes!

Congratulations to Billy & Christine Ashby on the birth of their son, **Lucas William**, who was born on May 13. He has two sisters, Sarah and Hannah. Grandparents are Mark & Janet Thompson.

Nominating Committee

We are looking for Church Members to please fill the following positions:

Assistant Moderator – We need 1 person to serve 2 years as assistant moderator, 2 years as moderator and 2 years as immediate moderator. A 6 year commitment, which meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Council Members – we need 2 people to serve a 3 year term which is usually followed by another 3 year term, a six year commitment we need 1 person to serve a 3 year term. We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) – We need 1 person to fill a 2 year commitment. We also need 3 people to serve 3 year commitment. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

If you have any questions or are interested in serving the church, please reach out to Joanne Kimball, Christina Tomsic, Roger Alde and Michelle Herrera.



Memorial Garden Brick Order Form

*This is an order form to purchase engraved bricks for our Memorial Garden. Orders must be received by **June 30, 2020**. Bricks can be in memory of loved ones or to commemorate special occasions such as weddings, birthdates, anniversaries, confirmations, 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!!

6/1 Jim Ruedisueli

6/2 Katy Berman

6/3 Christy Santos

6/6 Hans Eschenbach

6/6 Bobbi Pelletiere

6/10 Rob Fink

6/13 Kathy Ruedisueli

6/16 Zack Masciopinto

6/19 Heather Doyle

6/24 Chris Cooper

6/26 Zack Meincke

6/29 Rob Urry

In Memoriam

William Opalka

May 2, 2020

Milton Pick

May 15, 2020

Karl Tangeros

May 21, 2020

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Louise Whisler from Ralph Murdy
In Loving Memory of Louise Whisler from Evening Circle
In Loving Memory of Lilian Jahnke from Evening Circle
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Bob & Barb McCullough
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Flo Hoffman
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Janet Page
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Barry & Jana Haas
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Ralph Murdy
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Carl & Judy Mahr
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Jim & Kathy Foster
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Richard Welhsmantel
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Wendy Wallace
In Loving Memory of William Opalka, Sr. from Hans & Inge Eschenbach
In Honor of Lowell Handy from Bob & Sandy Crocker
In Honor of Mary Cameron from Bob & Sandy Crocker
In Honor of Nancy Meyer from Sandy Flink
In Honor of Nancy Meyer from Wendy Wallace
In Honor of Nancy Meyer from Bob & Sandy Crocker
A Gift from Hans & Inge Eschenbach
A Gift from Heidi Mayer
A Gift from Arlene Epstein
In Loving Memory of Jeanne Heller from Flo Hoffman

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

As we hope the doors to First Congregational Church will soon be open, how well do you know our exterior doors? Do you know where all ten of these are located?! (Answers next month!)



1)



2)



3)



4)



5)



6)



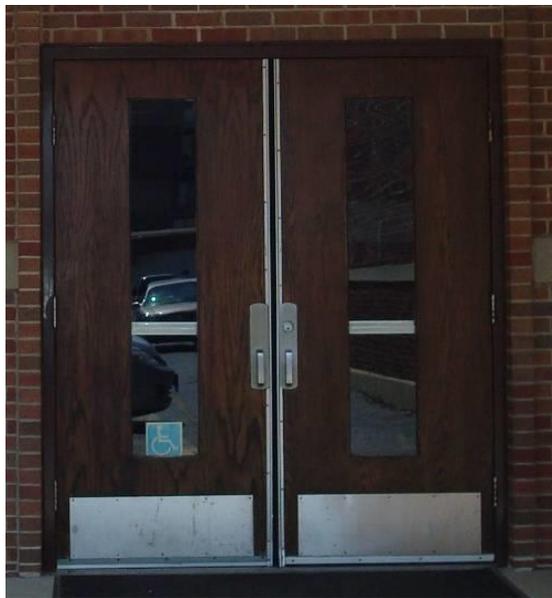
7)



8)



9)



10)

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Pentecost Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	1	2	3 10:00a Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	8 7:00p Finance	9	10 6:30p PRC	11 7:00p Membership & Communications	12	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	15 6:30p Property	16	17	18	19	20 Tidings Deadline
21 Father's Day 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	22	23	24	25 7:00p Worship Ministry	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	29	30 7:00p Council				