



Tidings

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

The Color of Easter

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt." - Luke 6: 27 - 29

I love Easter for a variety of reasons, among which is the pastel colors associated with Easter. I could not help to wonder why pastel colors. The main color of Lent is purple – something you will find in most churches around the world in the time just before Easter, and white and gold on Easter. Well, pastel is the color of Spring, the season when new life appears all over the earth and flowers bloom in a stunning array of color. What magnificent timing for Jesus' resurrection, when the earth is literally "singing" of new life and bursting into color. Well, for us in the Northern Hemisphere at least! Not sure how the churches in the South try to explain it. And, talking about colors, I would like to share with you a cute story by author Tony Robinson entitled "*The Easter Chicken*" as published in the UCC's Daily Devotional on January 5, 2017.

I once heard a story about an "Easter Chicken." A cute little chick was given to a child on Easter. The chick had been dyed some bright color like pink or yellow. After Easter, when the chick's novelty had worn off, it was tossed into the chicken coop with the rest of the birds. The bigger chickens pecked away mercilessly at the odd, little bird. He didn't even have the good sense to defend himself.

But after a week or two had passed, the Easter Chicken had grown out its feathers to the point that it was beginning to look like the others. And it had begun to join the fray in the coop, giving as good as it got. Soon it was indistinguishable from the rest. The guy telling the story said the Easter Chicken was like the church. "How so?" I asked. "Well, we started out different, but it wasn't long before we were acting just like everyone else —like that Easter chicken."

Whatever else you may think about the words of Jesus above, it's pretty clear that they are seriously at odds with the way the world works. They remind us just how subversive of the world Christianity is. Most of the time the church, and we who call ourselves "Christian," are a lot like the Easter Chicken. Our color fades and we play by the same rules as everyone else. It's hard to tell any real difference.

But the world needs Christians to be different, to not be just the same as everyone else. A good start on that path may be to simply listen to Jesus' strange words and to let them stand. Resist the impulse to explain them away. Let them haunt you and maybe even change you.

May God help us from fitting in so damn well. May we never lose our "Easter Colors"!

With love,
Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

May 5 – Confirmation and Communion

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Heather Larson
Scripture Reading	John 21:1-19
Usher Team	John Foster

May 12 – Baptism & Mothers' Day

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
Scripture Reading	John 10:22-30
Usher Team	John Foster

May 19 – Children's Day

Service of Worship	8:00a & 9:30a
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Jackie Schmitt
Scripture Reading	John 13:31-35
Usher Team	John Foster

May 26 – Memorial Day Weekend

Service of Worship	9:30a (One Service Only)
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Teena Whittenhall
Scripture Reading	John 14:23-29
Usher Team	John Foster

Worship Time Changes – Please Note!

The following Sundays will offer ONLY 1 WORSHIP SERVICE. So, please note the times and mark your calendar:

May 26 (Memorial Day weekend)	9:30a
June 30	9:00a
July 7	9:00a
July 14	9:00a
July 21	9:00a
July 28	9:00a

Special Sundays Celebrating our 150th Birthday

September 29	9:30a
October 6	9:30a
October 13	9:30a
October 20	9:30a
October 28	9:30a

Christmas Eve Surveys Sought

Have you filled out your Christmas Eve worship survey yet? Copies of the survey are available outside of the Church Office or you can go to our website www.fccd.org and file your answers there. We hope to have all surveys completed by the end of May. For details contact Michelle Herrera at 847/338-5718 or michelleherrera48@gmail.com

Sesquicentennial News



More Service 150 Projects Coming Up:

Independence Day Parade: A committee is forming. Please contact Joanne at jokimball8789@gmail.com

Sesquicentennial Play Auditions: We will be presenting a documentary style play on October 13. We are holding auditions May 4 from 10am to 2pm and May 5 from 11am to 1pm. To audition, please prepare a one minute monologue. If you've never done a monologue before consider telling a story, or we'll have you read from a script. Please reach out to Scott for details at scott_alan_emerick@yahoo.com.

Challenge 150 Update

We hit 3,034 service hours as a congregation in the month of March. Congratulations to the following for hitting their benchmarks!

150 hours - Nancy Brink and Bob McCullough

100 hours - Linda Opalka

50 hours - Rhonda Yost

And to our Service Rock Stars: Nancy Meyer at 251, Pat Hurley at 336, Paul Schmidt at 269.5.

Orders Continue for FCC Sesquicentennial T-shirts

When you are out and about, please wear your T-shirt! 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

Children's Day May 19

Our annual Children's Day celebration takes place on Sunday, May 19 after the 9:30am worship service – don't miss it! Kids of all ages can enjoy a Bounce House, Cake Walk and more plus there will be free hot dogs for everyone. ***Cake donations needed!*** Please speak with Sue Almerigi for details.

Membership & Communications Ministry



The Easter Bunny paid a visit during the Children's Message on April 14, and an Easter Egg hunt in Brehm Hall followed the worship service.

Church Women United Meets May 3

Church Women United invites all women of the church to attend the May Friendship Day program on Friday, May 3 at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Registration begins at 9:30am. A potluck breakfast will be served, followed by a brief meeting and the program, "The Time is Now! Agree to Differ." For details contact Pat Hurley at: 847-699-7754 or at: phurley1234@sbcglobal.net.

Evening Circle Luncheon This Month

This year's Evening Circle luncheon is scheduled for noon on Saturday, May 18 at The Blossom Cafe, 8349 W Lawrence Ave (SE corner of Cumberland & Lawrence), Norridge. The Blossom is a popular restaurant providing a wide range of familiar American dishes and ample parking. Separate checks available. Sign up in the Church Office or on our new church website, www.fccdp.org.



A huge THANK YOU to the ladies of Evening Circle and all the shoppers at our recent Bake & Craft Sale. Evening Circle made almost \$1,250 on the two Sundays! Proceeds will benefit several local nonprofits as well as our own church.

New Church Directory Update

A photographer will be at church on **Sunday, May 19** to take pictures of families and individuals for our new church directory. She will be on site from 10:00am to 11:30am, with photo appointments available in 10-minute increments. Please call the Church Office or sign up on Sunday morning at church. You also can submit your own photo by emailing it to secretaries@fccdp.org. *Details coming soon on how to purchase your additional photos.*

Calling All Graduates!

If you have news to share about a graduate in your family, please submit the information to the Church Office or to Debbie Walusiak at ecrire58@sbcglobal.net by May 20. The news will be published in the June Tidings.

Did You Know...

That you can find us on Instagram at **firstcongregational_ucc**. Our church also is on Facebook, which can be accessed through our church website www.fccdp.org. Check it out!

Mission & Outreach Ministry

ACS Relay for Life June 1 at Maine West – Please Join Us!

The local 2019 “Relay for Life” to benefit the American Cancer Society is scheduled for **June 1 at Maine West High School** from **12:00pm to 6:00 pm (note time change)** 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. You can find our team on the ACS Relay for Life/North Cook website or sign up in Webster Hall. Canisters to collect change are also now available Questions? Contact Paul at 707/453-7495 or pschmitt9@hotmail.com.

Worship Ministry

It has been a couple of months, but is everyone enjoying the new cushions we get to sit on during Worship?

Cost of Pew Cushions:	12,495.00
Received cash for payment:	
From Foundation	10,000.00
Personal Donation(just for cushions)	1,500.00
Add'l Donations/Memorials	<u>400.00</u>
Total cash Received	11,950.00
Balance needed	\$595.00

Any help to cover the deficit would greatly be appreciated. Any questions or concerns can be sent to Michelle Herrera, chair of Worship Ministry, at Michelleherrera48@gmail.com

Music Ministry



A trio of talented musicians and members of our Chancel Choir provided beautiful music on Easter Sunday. Pictured leading the hymn is Choir Director Scott Emerick.

Property Ministry

Please Help Keep Our Church Clean

Property Manager Jim Foster reports that since January 1, spots have had to be removed twice from the new pew pads in the church sanctuary. The new pew pads recently were installed at a cost of \$12,000. ***Please refrain from bringing beverages into the church sanctuary – coffee, tea, soda, etc.*** Questions? Speak with Jim.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

For the month of March, our income was \$19,341, while expenses totaled \$27,862, putting us \$8,531 in the negative for the month. But, because we had a small cushion entering the month, year-to-date we are only \$2,656 in the red. If you're running behind with your offerings and pledges, please consider trying to catch up so that we can erase this deficit.

Stewardship Season Underway

We are all blessed personally, spiritually, and financially. And, because we have been given so much, we can find real joy in giving back. During this year's Stewardship Season, we are hosting a series of Coffees, where church members and friends can come together for an informal discussion about our hopes and dreams for FCCDP. Attendees will hear more about our church's plans for the coming year and the budgeting process, as well as have an opportunity to ask questions about our Church Ministries and the finances of the church.

A total of six Stewardship Coffees have been planned, on different days, times, and locations. We hope you will join us at the one that's most convenient for you.

Sunday, May 5, 10:45 am, at the Church (Barwick Room)

Monday, May 6, 7:00 pm, at the home of Jana & Barry Haas, 1163 Van Buren Avenue, Des Plaines

Wednesday, May 8, 11:00 am, at the Church (Webster Hall)

Thursday, May 9, 3:00 pm, at the home of Sharon Urry, 1024 Clark Lane, Des Plaines

Friday, May 10, 7:00 pm, at the home of Co & Ellie DuToit, 1151 Oakwood Avenue, Des Plaines

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 am, at the home of Sharon Urry, 1024 Clark Lane, Des Plaines

So that we know how many to expect at each Coffee, please RSVP in the church office, by calling 847-299-5561, or by emailing secretaries@fccdp.org.

After you've learned more about our Church's plans for the coming year, please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of them. Then complete the enclosed commitment Card and return it to the church office or bring it to worship on **Consecration Sunday, May 12**.

Recurring Electronic Giving

Many of our church members take advantage of electronic giving for their pledges and offerings. They like the convenience and comfort in knowing that even if they are not able to attend worship, their contribution is still available to further God's work in our church and the community. If you're interested in taking advantage of electronic giving, it's easy to get started. Contact Jana Haas or the church secretary for more information.

Craft & Vendor Sale Here September 21

Save the date! We will be hosting our 5th Annual Craft & Vendor Sale on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We need your help to make the sale a success! Whether you're a crafter who wants to sell items or a shopper who's looking for something special, mark your calendar for September 21. For more information, contact Daisy Farley at craftvendorfccdp@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

May 4	Second Time Around Sale
May 5	Confirmation
May 19	Children's Day
September 21	Craft & Vendor Sale

It's STA Time...All Aboard!

Our annual "Second Time Around" sale falls on **Saturday, May 4** this year, with the early sale on Friday, May 3 (\$7 admission) and the workers' sale on Thursday, May 2. Our co-chairs need YOUR help to make our "Second Time Around" rummage sale a big success – have **you** filled out a volunteer form yet, available at church or online at www.fccdp.org Whether you have a couple of hours or a couple of days to help out at the STA, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please check out the volunteer roster posted on the church office window.
We still need more volunteers:

- To help with the clean-up afterwards.
- Someone with a pick-up truck that can help us with furniture pick-ups leading up to the sale.

You can help to defray operating costs of the sale by sponsoring some of our expenses – check out the chart on the Finance Committee bulletin board at church.

Also, we have books of **raffle tickets** on sale at \$10 per ticket or \$100 per book - another easy way to support our sale. Tickets can be purchased through our Church Office or by contacting Tom Olsen.

For further information, please contact our STA co-chairs Faith Engler at faithl.engler@gmail.com or Bobbi Pelletiere at bobbipelletiere@yahoo.com.



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.)

Melanie Donoghue	5/1	Lauren Rust	5/15
Ellie Du Toit	5/1	Betty Nanstiel	5/17
Eric Jancsovics	5/1	Debbie Walusiak	5/17
Nancy Quam	5/2	Anthony Almerigi	5/18
Ken Walusiak	5/2	Andre Deadwyler	5/22
Izaan Du Toit	5/7	Amy Quam	5/27
Sue Almerigi	5/13	Chris Thomas	5/27
Kathy Foster	5/14	Richard Weihsmantel	5/28



Well Done!

Best Wishes to **Jana Haas** (pictured above) from our congregation and Sally Fortier from St. Stephen Catholic Church in Des Plaines, who recently received a Distinguished Volunteer award from School District 62 for initiating the Community Backpack Project. The project supports many at-risk families across the district by providing them with food for each weekend during the school year. And, thanks to those church members and friends who continue to support FCCDP's participation in this project!



Congratulations to **Izaan DuToit** (pictured at far left), daughter of Rev. Co & Ellie, who has completed her coursework towards a veterinary degree from the University of Minnesota. Her next step is a 13-month clinical experience. Izaan and fellow classmates were recognized in April during a “white coat” ceremony.

Notes From Our Congregation

(From the family of Pam Thomas) Thank You for the beautiful Easter service!

(From Milt Pick) Thank you for the flowers, prayers and all the information from the church...and, to Jennifer Hinderliter and her son for delivering the flowers.

(From Ginny Van Scoyoc) Happy Easter and Happy Spring to all... P.S. I just celebrated my 92nd birthday!

In Memoriam

Jeffrey Alan Kaplan
April 3, 2019

Eirik Marr Johnson
April 5, 2019

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Doug Hubbard, memorials were given from;

Sharen Gasior

Marcelene Raymond

Kimberly & Gary Zoske

Nancy, Laurel & Christine Douthwaite

Frank & Marilyn Hubbard

From Wendy Wallace in Loving Memory of DuToit Family members who passed away.

In Loving Memory of Jef Kaplan, memorials were given from;

Wendy Wallace and Dee Hardesty

From Sandy Flink in Loving Memory of Lorene Watson.

From Maxine Hubbard in Loving Memory of Rebecca Hubbard

In Loving Memory of Roberta Bruhn, memorials were giving from;

Cathy Wiesner

Pat Hurley

Wendy Wallace

Dee Hardesty

Eric & Sharon Warner

Joyce Petersen

Kathryn Ladendorf

Marilyn Juister

Eva Hill

Linda Opalka

Flo Hoffman

Sandy Flink

Les & Joanne Stein

Carl & Judy Mahr

Karl & Louise Breckan

Nancy, Laurel & Christine Douthwaite Bob & Barb McCaullough

Hans & Inge Eschenbach

From Deb Alde in Loving Memory of Ron Alde

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The decade of the 1950's was an amazing one for FCCDP! We'll see if I can get it all on one page. Some events merit a full page [past or future article], not just a sentence or two. To start the decade....our church parsonage on Prairie Avenue, next door to our former church building, had been built in the 1890's and lacked in comfort and conveniences. Selling the property to Trinity Lutheran Church, the current owners of our old building, for \$13,000 provided the down payment for the new parsonage at Oakwood and Jeannette, which was dedicated on March 14, 1950. *[Tidings, Aug. 2012]*

In 1950 the Hostess Room on the 2nd floor was formally named the Bennett Room, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Bennett. Having been a trustee and the church treasurer, Harry had also served, on a voluntary basis, as director of the Chancel Choir for 41 years. Elda (Whitcomb) had served many years in the Social Union.

The practice of sending memorial gifts to the church, in lieu of floral tributes, was growing. The Board of Deacons established a Book of Remembrance in 1951 to create a lasting record of these gifts. For many years, Alfred Ahbe inscribed the gifts in beautiful calligraphy.

By 1953 attendance at Sunday services had doubled from 1940, with Sunday average of 470+ creating the wonderful problem of a shortage of Sunday School rooms. Conversion of other spaces added eight new classrooms, including finishing the big playroom under the sanctuary for our young peoples' activities. Dedication of these new spaces and Open House reception were held on Nov. 8, 1953. *[Tidings, Sept. 2012]*

A second parsonage was purchased in 1954, the former Poyer family home and property directly south of our church building, to accommodate our student youth worker, eventually our assistant minister, Jack Alford and his growing family. This property also allowed for a badly needed 88-space parking lot, designed by FCC member Elmer W. Passow. *[Tidings, March, 2011]*

1956 and 1957 saw a four-part "major building modernization program": 1) addition of a full-size Music Room 2) relocation of the church office and minister's study from the second floor to space formerly known as Loesch Chapel *[Tidings Feb. 2011]* on the main floor 3) renaming the Junior Chapel, located on the third floor above Webster Hall, as Loesch Chapel, at the same time redecorating & refurbishing it and 4) a 'newly designed and newly equipped church kitchen'. After all this was completed, Webster Hall's interior was completely redone, transforming "a bleak gymnasium into a beautiful social hall". *[Tidings July 2012]*

1956 also saw the beginning of three special aids to private devotions. An announcement board at our entrance gave the invitation: "This sanctuary of God is open daily and evenings for private meditation and prayer." A telephone prayer service, by joint action of the Deacons and Trustees, was begun in the fall. By Christmastime a generous gift by Walter Held, in memory of his wife Amy, made possible the installation of the Schulmerich Carillonic Bells. *[Tidings Oct. 2010]* In 1957 we added a Walking Blood Donors Bank, where members could be called on whenever needed by any of our members.

Known as the Social Union prior to 1951, Woman's Fellowship was "a vital force for good in many ways". In addition to being "famous for their bountiful meals, bazaars, rummage sales, teas and ice cream socials," its many circles offered friendship, inspiration and opportunities to serve...going into homes to render emergency service and in practical programs for the migrant Mexican people. *Centennial Book, pg 61*

At the same time all these other things were happening at FCCDP, the Benevolence Committee started to re-grow the allocations that had shrunk during the previous decades of depression and war. Having been recognized as a major obligation of the church, the annual budget allocations for benevolences began to step up, from \$4,450 in 1950 to \$11,625 in 1960. *Centennial Book, pg 53*

All of the church activities this decade were under the guidance of Rev. Wm. Earl Brehm, supported by assistant minister Rev. Jack Alford who arrived in 1954, Vivian Rivard who started her 30 years as Director of Christian Education in 1954 and Ann Gordon, our organist & choir director from 1952 to 1975.

Several of the events mentioned here have been written about in detail in previous Historian articles. There is a 3-ring binder on a shelf in the Barwick Room containing all Historian articles from 2008 to the present.

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Fellowship – Webster Hall Finance – Jana’s Office Chancel Choir – Music Room Knit Wits – Panera’s Council – Barwick Room Music & Drama – Co’s Office</p>	<p>Property – Little Villa PRC – Barwick Room Diaconate – Barwick Room Membership & Communications</p>	<p>1 9:00a WWC</p>	<p>2 9:30a Cluster Meeting</p>	<p>3 PF Spring Clean-Up from May 4 - 11</p>	<p>4 9:00a STA- Sale 8:00am CMA – Spring Meeting</p>	
<p>5 Stewardship 3 Confirmation Sunday Communion 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30a Pre-School Open House 11:00a Stewardship Coffee at church</p>	<p>6 7:00p Stewardship Coffee at Haas Home 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p>7 12:00p Administrative Staff</p>	<p>8 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Stewardship Coffee - Barwick Room 6:30p Music & Drama 6:30p PRC 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 STA- Set-up</p>	<p>10 6:00p STA Pre-Sale</p>	<p>11 10:00a Stewardship Coffee at Urry Home 5:30p Jimmy’s on Rand Rd. 7:30p “9 to 5” at Prairie Lake Theatre</p>
<p>12 Mother’s Day Dedication of Pledges Rehder Baptism 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Ministry Staff Wholly Ringers</p>	<p>13 9:30a Creative Conversation brunch at Elly’s Pancake House 7:00p Finance 7:00pm Knit Wits 7:30p Wholly Ringers</p>	<p>14 11:00am Pre-School Show</p>	<p>15 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study Annual Reports Due 6:30pm Pre-School Show 7:30p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 6:30p Chair Meeting 3:00p Stewardship Coffee at Urry Home</p>	<p>17 7:00p Stewardship Coffee at DuToit Home</p>	<p>18 Noon - Evening Circle Luncheon at Blossom Café</p>
<p>19 Children’s Day 8 & 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Minasola Baptism (after the service)</p>	<p>20 Tidings Deadline 6:30p Property 7:00pm Knit Wits</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 11:00a Pre-School Graduation</p>	<p>23 7:00p Sesquicentennial Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Metal Recycling Co on vacation</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p>28 7:00p Council</p>	<p>29 9:00a WWC 10:30a Bible Study Luncheon</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Sunday School during the 9:30am worship service following our Rugtime</p>