



Tidings

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



May 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 5

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

Virtual Reality

"You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present age?" Luke 12:56

I hope everyone is doing OK as we enter the second month of "virtualization." Since the "stay-at-home" order in the middle of March, much of lives have become virtualized. I think most of us feel more grateful than ever to have the many benefits that technology provides. Imagine what life would be like right now without our gadgets. Thanks to technology we can during this difficult time:

- Access the latest news and information.
- Keep in contact with our friends and loved ones through tools like Zoom, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, etc.
- Work from home (well, most of us).
- Kids, teens, and college students can continue their education in virtual classrooms.
- Have endless options for entertainment through streaming content and video games.

Thanks to technology, we are worshipping online, celebrate communion together, done Bible study, prayed together, supported each other, shared our different opinions, ate lunch, had food drop-offs, had Council meetings, as well as Ministry and committee meetings. Yes, we were not only simulating church, we have also experienced and most importantly, we have been the church albeit it in a different reality.

We have learned (well the meteorologists) to interpret the weather patterns, now we need to learn to interpret this present age! We have survived the industrial revolution and so can we also the virtual reality. Enjoy your virtual Mother's Day this year!

I'm looking forward seeing, (and maybe touching?) everyone soon.

With love,

Rev. Co DuToit

Worship Ministry

May 03	Confirmation/Communion	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
		Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
		Lay Reader	Teena Whittenhall
		Scripture Reading	John 10:1-10
May 10	Mothers' Day	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
		Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
		Lay Reader	Rhonda Yost
		Scripture Reading	John 14:1-14
May 17	Children's Day/Bucket Sunday	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
		Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
		Lay Reader	Jackie Schmitt
		Scripture Reading	John 14:15-21
May 24	Memorial Day Weekend	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
		Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
		Lay Reader	Les Stein
		Scripture Reading	John 17:1-11
May 31	Pentecost & Youth Sunday	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
		Virtual Coffee Hour	9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
		Lay Reader	Youth
		Scripture Reading	John 20:19-23

Children's & Adult Education Ministry



If you watched our Easter Sunday service in April, you know the Easter Bunny still managed to stop by our church for a special “Rugtime.” Thanks to the rabbit and his helper, Sue Almerigi, for making time to visit this year. We look forward to heading outdoors for a traditional Easter egg hunt in 2021! (Photo from a previous year)

Membership & Communications Ministry

Calling All Graduates...

Do you have a graduate in your family this year? If you would like to share information in the June Tidings, please email Debbie Walusiak at ecrire58@sbcglobal.net by May 20. Be sure to include the name and location of the school as well as any post-graduation plans, if applicable. (College, grad school, new job, etc.)

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



Social Distance Drop-Offs: In April our church hosted two drive-by collections to gather donations for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines, the Community Backpack program and Project Survivor/Exodus World Services. Church member Nancy Meyer also made her handmade face masks available to donors, free of

charge. Pictured (**above**) are Lowell Handy and (**below**) Joanne Kimball, Sharon Urry and Nancy Meyer.



Music Ministry

We Can Still Make Music...

Our Director of Music Ministries, Scott Emerick, would like to hear from **you**: 1) If you'd like to be a part of a virtual choir. All you need is a pair of eyes, a pair of ears, two devices (a laptop and a smartphone), an email, and a voice. 2) If you are an instrumentalist and would like to record yourself playing a song for one of the online services. Please feel free to record either audio or video of whatever song you like. We will try to use what you send to fit with the message of the appropriate service. Also, we are creating a video project. If you would like to be a part of it, you don't need to be able to sing or play an instrument. All you will need is a camera and a smile. Please contact Scott for details on any of the above at 708/244-3286 or scott_alan_emerick@yahoo.com

Property Ministry

A Message from Don “Mr. Metal” Cameron

Our church cannot accept any more metal for recycling at this time. The prices are so low that we would have trouble paying for the truck rental. Also, if we put any more scrap metal outside the building, the City of Des Plaines may force us to sell it anyway! Please, folks, save it at home for a while. We will let you know when we can accept it again.



Our church runs with the help of many volunteers, but how many would volunteer for **this** job? Don Cameron recently replaced two of the ropes that hold up our flags in the front of the church building.



Property Manager Jim Foster examines water damage in Webster Hall, caused by a radiator leak on the third floor of our church building a few months ago. When the wall finally dries, it will have to be scraped, plastered, primed and repainted.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

During the month of March, our church had income of \$19,223 and expenses of \$27,422. Although this is a loss for the month of \$8,198, we still ended March \$16,920 in the black because of a cushion we had going into the month.

Unfortunately, we already know that budgeted income will be down significantly through June 30 and this cushion won't be sufficient to carry us through. We had anticipated income of \$20,000 as a result of the Second Time Around Sale, however that sale was postponed and is not expected to be held until sometime during the next fiscal year. The Seventh Day Adventists are not currently meeting at our church; we did not receive any money from them for the second half of March and are not expecting to receive any for April, May or June (a shortfall of approx. \$7,500). ESL classes are not taking place, so we are anticipating an income shortfall of approx. \$3,000. Other smaller groups that use our building are also not meeting, so we will probably lose an additional \$4,000 of income from them. While most church members have been able to keep up with their pledges so far, we anticipate offerings may go down over the next several months as more people face increased financial challenges. Church expenses have decreased, but we still have some bills that need to be paid, including insurance, limited utilities and staff salaries.

If you are in a position to make an additional contribution at this time, to help offset some of our lost income sources, it would be very much appreciated.

Donations and Offerings

With worship services moving from our church building to an on-line environment, we don't have the opportunity to drop our donations in the offering plate. We hope you'll be able to continue to keep up with your pledges and offerings via mail, telephone or on-line.

Mail: As always, you can mail your donations to First Congregational Church of Des Plaines, 766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Please indicate whether this is your regular offering or an additional donation for a specific fund.

Telephone: Call 847-299-5561 to make a credit card donation. Although our physical church office will be closed while "Shelter in Place" guidelines are in effect, our church secretary is still available by telephone, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Online: Log-on to www.fccdp.org. Click "donate" on the home page, to make a one-time or recurring contribution to our church via PayPal.

ACH: Contact Jana Haas, at jhaas@fccdp.org, to schedule your regular offering to be paid via electronic transfer from your bank checking or savings account, on a monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly basis.

Stewardship Message: What Fills Your Bucket?

This year we are focusing on stewardship as an act of gratitude; giving to others and the church from the blessings that you have been given by God. It's easy right now to let the unknowns around us make us hold on, hold back, and hold tight. But we would do to remember that we must have open hands and hearts to receive more blessings. If we give from the benefits in our buckets, surely God will bless us many times over.

Send a picture, a written message, or a short recording to Co showing the rest of your FCCDP family and friends what fills your bucket. Stewardship letters and pledge cards are in the mail; if you don't receive yours, please contact Paul at secretaries@fccdp.org. And please return your pledge card to the church office before May 17 - Bucket Sunday - so we can dedicate our pledges of bucket blessings and allow our Finance Committee to prepare next year's fiscal budget.

From Our Moderator

Hello everyone at First Congregational Church of Des Plaines! I hope this message finds you all well.

First, I want to thank Co for very quickly taking our church from meeting in person to having an online worship service. It is nice to know that we are all still able to worship together during this time. Thank you also for providing us the opportunities to see each other through Zoom. It is good to see some the faces of our congregation and know that they are doing well. If you have not yet had the chance to join us for a Sunday service or a Zoom video call, I hope you have a chance to join us soon!

Next, I want to thank our church staff who have all still been working to support our church. I know how you do your work has changed. I thank you for your flexibility and willingness to do what has needed to be done to keep our church moving forward during this time.

Finally, thank you to all of our church members and friends. Thank you for participating in our Sunday services online, our Zoom get-togethers and meetings, and for supporting our church through this difficult time. We all have had to adjust to the changes that have been put in place. I know this time has been emotionally, physically, or financially harder for some than it has been for others. Reach out to people. Stay connected. Support those who you can. We will all get through this by staying connected and supporting each other, even in a small way.

I hope you are all safe and well. I look forward to being able to see you all in church again soon.

Sincerely,
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.



First Congregational United Church of Christ
766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016 847-299-5561

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!!

5/1 Ellie DuToit	5/15 Lauren Rust
5/1 Eric Jancsovics	5/17 Betty Nanstiel
5/1 Melanie Donoghue	5/17 Debbie Walusiak
5/2 Megan O'Brien	5/18 Anthony Almerigi
5/2 Nancy Quam	5/20 Paul Meyer
5/2 Ken Walusiak	5/22 Ben Cooper
5/7 Izaan DuToit	5/22 André Deadwyler
5/7 Nina Masciopinto	5/23 Keith Liston
5/8 Doris Evans	5/25 David Pittman
5/10 Jennifer Muhr	5/27 Amy Quam
5/11 Miranda Villanueva	5/27 Chris Thomas
5/13 Sue Almerigi	5/28 Richard Weihsmantel
5/14 Kathy Foster	

In Memoriam

Glenlyn "Louise" Johnson Whisler
March 29, 2020

Lilliane (Weihsmantel) Jahnke
April 11, 2020

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Karen Eschenbach from Hans & Inge Eschenbach

In Loving Memory of Shirley Doyle from Mary Spiegler

In Loving Memory of Louise Whisler from Bruce Whisler

In Loving Memory of Vivian Rivard from Gretchen Nicholoff

In Loving Memory of Ellie DuToit's Brother from Rick & Charlie Warren

In Loving Memory of Jeanne Heller from Charles & Marjorie Anderson

Gift from Helen Henry

This painting by Lilliane Jahnke, a former church member, hangs on the wall outside the choir room at church. According to her brother, Richard Weihsmantel, the location of the painting is Galena, IL. Lilliane belonged to FCC from about 1953 to 1984, when she and her husband relocated to Texas.



From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The Grinch That Stole Easter By Vera Refnes with apologies to Dr. Seuss!

I, the Grinch, am reeling from a loss.
I tried to steal Christmas, I dressed as Santa Claus.
So, here I am again with Easter on my mind.
I'm hoping to steal it from all mankind!

But what can I be? A disguise never seen!
I'll come as a virus called Covid nineteen!
I'll make it so contagious; it'll fly through the air.
It will make people fearful and fill them with despair!

Churches will be closed, gatherings will cease,
Families will be grounded with emotions to release.
Schools will lie dormant, and graduations postponed
No more dining out as Corona grows well-known!

There, I have done it, my plan has succeeded.
The meaning for the season has completely receded!
People are despondent, they're cooped up at home.
Nothing's going on with no chance to roam.

But wait, there are still some heroes out there,
The officers of law and those in health care.
And what about the clerks in the grocery store lines?
And pharmacists helping to combat those sick signs?
And what's that I'm hearing about families together?
They're playing board games and enjoying backyard weather!
And I simply forgot about those computer high techs.
They're zooming and tweeting and sending FaceTime checks.

And oh my, those Pastors, how they are thinking
To keep Easter present, they're faith never shrinking.
They're planning on bringing Easter to folks far and wide
By streaming every service as folks are cooped inside.

Their faith is so solid, the basis of the season
Is to know Christ died for a very special reason.

He took folks' sins and nailed them to a tree,
They said how He suffered for you and me!

For me? I'm the Grinch so very well known
For bringing much grief and sins of my own.
But the message is clear, if only I believe
I too will go to Heaven and His blessings receive!

I seem to have failed to steal another season.
I can't seem to think of a very good reason
For folks losing faith and keeping them apart.
It's like love is leaking from a very full heart.

Easter is coming, I'm just a changed guy.
I'm not even stealing the 4th of July!
So, why not join them, I'm ready to say,
"Christ the Lord is risen today!"

(From Nancy Meyer about this month's Historian article)

Vera Refnes is the assistant director of River City Chorale (season cancelled). Her husband is in a care facility with advanced Parkinson's, and she cannot be with him. Yet she remains as clever, creative, and caring as ever. She's given me permission to publish her amazing poem. The 60-voice River City Chorale, a nonprofit corporation, has been bringing fine choral music to the greater Sacramento, CA region since 1977. Committed to excellence, the auditioned members work hard and have fun together preparing and performing three distinctively different sets of concerts each season, with a repertoire ranging from classical and traditional to contemporary, Broadway and jazz. My sister Lois Wright is a member.



Our beautiful church building might be temporarily empty this Spring, but outside there are plenty of signs of new life!



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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WWW.FCCDP.ORG						
3 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	4	5	6 10:00a Bible Study	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	11 12:00p Staff Meeting	12	13 10:00a Bible Study	14 7:00p Membership & Communications	15	16
17 Children's Day 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Stewardship Sunday	18 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Finance	19	20 Tidings Deadline 10:00a Bible Study	21 6:30p Chair Meeting	22	23
24 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	25 Memorial Day	26 7:00p Council	27 10:00a Bible Study	28 7:00p Worship Ministry	29	30
31 Pentecost Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship						