

Tidings

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

Your Generosity Has Filled Our Hearts With Gratitude

"What do we want to do for our Stewardship Drive," Sharon usually asks, this time of the year? And, usually, there is a pause as we gather our minds to come up with some creative ideas how to ask our congregation to step up to plate, make a leap of faith and pledge what they will be contributing to the ministry of our congregation. At this time of year, we are trying to squeak out the last few pledges in hopes of meeting our budget.

But this year is going to be different because... last year was, well, different. The decision of the Finance Committee is unanimous: We will not have a Stewardship Drive this year – talk about a leap of faith! The one theme that immediately popped up during our discussions, was the generosity of our members and friends, especially during a tough and challenging year. A year where we had to rethink how to be the Body of Christ. And once we ponder how we had been the body of Christ, the generosity of people became obvious. Our Finance Committee decided that if there is one thing we need to do, it is to tell you that *"Your Generosity Has Filled Our Hearts With Gratitude!"*

This is a reciprocal relationship: Generosity leads to gratitude; gratitude leads to generosity. At the end of the day, stewardship is about our heart. Living as grateful stewards of God's blessings, being generous with his resources and laying up "treasures in heaven" changes us. It changes our hearts. When we acknowledge God as owner of everything . . . and when we live in a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness . . . and when we give generously, we are changed. When we see the impact that our giving makes in the lives of others, we are changed.

A heart filled with gratitude is freed from the notion of self-reliance. Everything we are, everything we have, is a gift from a loving God. Gratitude reminds us we are not self-made, but God-made. Gratitude moves us from being tight-fisted with our resources to a place of looking for areas of need and opportunities to give. The most generous people I've met in my ministry are deeply thankful and recognize that God is the source of all blessings. The happiest people I know are generous people, and by the way, you are the happiest people I know!

"What do we want to do for our Stewardship Drive this year?" This is easy: we would like to thank you for your generosity for the past year. *"Your generosity has filled our hearts with gratitude."*

Thank You!!

Rev Co on behalf of our Finance Committee

Worship Ministry

May 2

Communion & Confirmation

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Katy Berman
John 15:1-8

May 9

Mother's Day

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Lowell Handy
John 15:9-17

May 16

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Marcia Alban
John 17:6-19

May 23

Pentecost Sunday

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a - www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Bob Crocker
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 30

Youth Sunday

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a - www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Youth
John 3:1-17

Live Streaming for Worship:

Council has recommended that Worship Ministry create and recruit a committee from several ministries to investigate, propose feasibility and set up an approach for an AV system to support our on-going live stream for our church services.

This is an open invitation for members with AV experience/knowledge who can help in this request from Council. Also, we are seeking a representative from our ministries (I cover three of them.) I know this was done several years back and if you were involved then or have any information on it, please consider joining the committee.

If you are interested, please reach out to Michelle Herrera (Worship Ministry Chair) at michelleherrera48@gmail.com or 847-338-5718. I would like to have several meetings before our next council meeting on May 25th.

Children's & Adult Education Ministry

Thank You!

Thanks to Chris Thomas from our congregation, who gave a very informative presentation via zoom in April on the timely topic of identity theft.

Membership & Communications Ministry

The women of Evening Circle wish to thank the congregation once again for supporting their spring pizza coupon fundraiser (right) and bake/craft sale (below). Pictured at right are Nancy Brink and Robbin Muhr.



Mission & Outreach Ministry



A team of church members left this past weekend for Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer Michigan, in an effort to help them open up the camp for the season. Like times in the past our mission team supports the conference camp with what we call free labor. Those attending were Jim Foster, Richard Weihsmantel, Ralph Murdy, Dave DeHart, Jim Ruedisuelli, Rick Warren, Don Cameron, Sue and Anthony Almerigi, Mary "Stiletto: Buckholtz, and Rev. Co. We worked on cutting some downed trees, then splitting the wood for firewood, building a labyrinth, cleaning and waxing the dining room floor, staining the decks on the A frames and the new cottages, repairing board on other decks. This was just the start of the mission teams work as our trip this year will be back to Tower Hill and working for a week.

Relay for Life Coming in June – please join us!

This year's Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society will be held at 6:00pm on June 18 or June 19 (tentative dates), at Walter R. Sundling Jr. High School, 1100 N Smith St., Palatine. You can join our church team and make donations by clicking on this link: [Relay-for-Life](#). Watch for updates in Notes from Co and the June Tidings. For details contact Paul Schmitt.

Volunteers Sought for Meals on Wheels

Our church's next turn to deliver meals to local shut-ins runs from May 24 to June 18. Drivers are needed for two routes on Mondays. They will be delivering five frozen meals with fresh fruit and milk. If you can help, please contact Michelle Herrera at 847/338-5718 or michelleherrera@gmail.com.

Also we need a new coordinator for Meals on Wheels. Please contact Michelle Herrera at 847/338-5718 or Nancy Schacht at nls.900@hotmail.com if this is something that you would like to do or have any questions about the position of coordinator.

Our church's Project Survivor work with Exodus World Service continues through the congregation's regular drive-by drop-offs of needed household items and other donations, to help refugees who are new to Chicago. Church member Nancy Brink (pictured) prepares a Welcome Pack recently for a refugee from the Central African Republic.



FCC Helping Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army "Baby Shower" Efforts

The Des Plaines Kiwanis Club is hosting a 'baby shower' from June 14 to June 18, to help fill the Breakfast with Baby shelves at the Salvation Army in Des Plaines. During that week, our church will assist by being a drop-off site during the hours of 9:00am to 1:00pm, Monday through Friday. For further information, speak with Jana Haas.

Music Ministry

Get Ready for Summer Music Opportunity

Ellen Alde, director of our church's Wholly Ringers Handbell Choir, will offer summer workshops at church on various ringing techniques. The workshops will be held from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Monday, from June 14 through August 9. All are welcome. (Ages 10 and up) No experience required. For further information, contact Ellen at 847/297-3231 or ealdefccdp@gmail.com.

...and, Start Thinking About September

Scott Emerick, Music Ministries Director, 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. And, if you don't want to share your name, just let Scott know and he will use your information anonymously.

Property Ministry

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, 2022**. Bricks can be in memory of loved ones, or to commemorate special occasions such as weddings, birthdates, anniversaries, confirmations or graduations.*



This order is for:

___ 4" x 8" Bricks, 3 lines – 13 characters per line (incl. spaces) @ \$80.00 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 _____

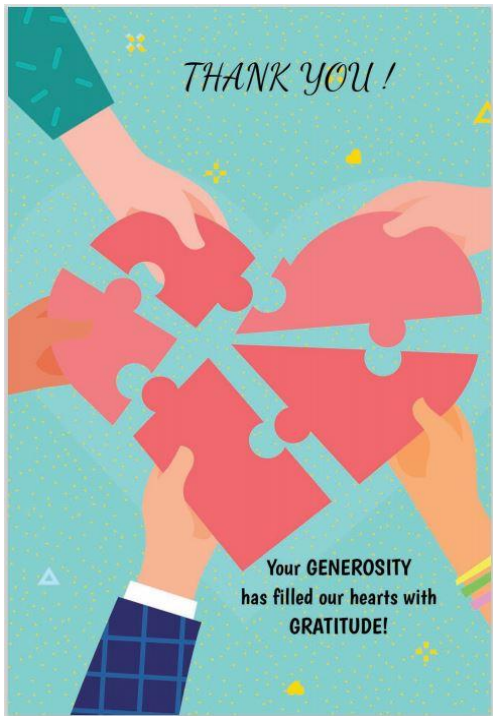
Line 6 _____

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

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email Address _____

Finance Committee



Thank You!

The Finance Committee would like to thank every one of our church members and friends, for your continued, faithful, and generous support of First Congregational Church of Des Plaines throughout the past year. Your generosity has truly filled our hearts with gratitude.

Financial Report

During the month of April, our church had income of \$20,250 and expenses of \$28,111. Although this is a loss for the month of \$7,860, we are still in a positive position of \$10,236 through the first 10 months of the current fiscal year. This surplus can be directly attributed to our church members continuing to support our church financially during the past year, and our access to government funding through the Federal Payroll Protection Loan Program.

Although church expenses have been down, with our church building closed for many months and now only beginning to re-open on a limited basis, church income was also down significantly due to the loss of funds from outside groups using our church building (Seventh Day Adventists, Oakton College ESL, and others) and the cancellation of several of our largest fundraisers (including the Second Time Around Sale and the Craft & Vendor Sale).

But there's light at the end of the tunnel. The Seventh Day Adventists have started to meet again in Webster Hall. The Pre-School has reopened on a limited basis. And we look forward to our new fiscal year with optimism and thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Automate Your Giving With ACH

Since many of our church members are still not able to return to in-person worship, we want to remind you of an easy way to keep up-to-date with your pledges and offerings. You can schedule your regular offering to be paid via electronic transfer from your bank checking or savings account, on a monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly basis. Just contact Jana Haas, at fccfinance@gmail.com for more information or to get started.

New Contact Info

Please note that our church Financial Administrator, Jana Haas, has a new email address: fccfinance@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday to You!!

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

Melanie Donoghue	01 -May	Betty Nanstiel	17-May
Ellie DuToit	01-May	Debbie Walusiak	17-May
Eric Jancsovics	01-May	Anthony Almerigi	18-May
Megan O'Brien	02-May	Paul Meyer	20-May
Nancy Quam	02-May	Ben Cooper	22-May
Ken Walusiak	02-May	André Deadwyler	22-May
Izaan DuToit	07-May	Keith Liston	23-May
Nina Masciopinto	07-May	David Pittman	25-May
Jennifer Muhr	10-May	Amy Quam	27-May
Sue Almerigi	13-May	Chris Thomas	27-May
Kathy Foster	14-May	Rich Weihsmantel	28-May

In Memoriam

Wayne Johnson
March 25, 2021

Gifts & Memorials

A Gift Received for Julia White

In Loving Memory of Dick Wilson from Ken & Debbie Walusiak

From the Community



Our church and other organizations and individuals recently donated large supplies of used books to the Des Plaines Elks Lodge, to assist with their plans to fill the library shelves of the new Illinois Veterans Home on Chicago's northwest side. Pictured (l to r) are Susan Logan, Elks Treasurer; Kathy Wiest, Elks Leading Knight; and Marc Walker, Elks Exalted Ruler.

Many thanks to our Scout Troop 6 and Pack 14 and others who participated in "Scouting for Food" in April. The community food drive helped to fill the shelves of the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines with much needed supplies as the pandemic continues.



From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

Due to the Covid pandemic shutting everything down early in 2020, we were not having “in person” church services and the confirmands did not want to be confirmed “virtually”. So now that we are open again for services in the sanctuary, last year’s class and this year’s will be confirmed together on May 2.

Unfortunately, the Chancel Choir still is not allowed to sing in the sanctuary, so their anthem is being sung “virtually”, created as described in last month’s Historian article. Sadly, that also means the choir will not be able to circle around the confirmands while they sing “The Cross”, the anthem that has become traditional for Confirmation Sunday. How long? Off to the Historian archives! “The Cross” was first sung on Confirmation Sunday in 1999, when Eric Sidoti was our Choir Director. I finally found a photo of the choir surrounding the confirmands in 2000, who knelt on the chancel steps.



“The Cross” was written by Craig Courtney and copyrighted in 1998. I’d like to share the words with you.

The cross before you to lead,
The cross behind you to defend,
The cross below you to uphold,
The cross beside you to befriend,
The cross above you to inspire,
The cross within you to consume,
The cross surround you with its power,
Enfold you life, your soul, your all.

The cross each morning when you rise,
The cross each evening while you sleep,
The cross to see before your eyes,
The cross upon your lips to speak,
The cross be all that you would hear,
The cross be all that you believe,
The cross be with you in this life,
The cross be with you when you leave.

The cross before you,
The cross within you,
The cross be all you need.

2000 confirmation class: Emily Borton, Christopher Donoghue, Ellen Duffy, Andrew Holmquist,
Eric Johnson, David Kaplan, Daniel Meincke, Patrick Quinlan, Lindsay Skarbek

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Confirmation Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	3 Noon – Lunch Bunch	4 Noon – Lunch Bunch	5 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama	6 7:00p Membership & Communications	7 8	1
9 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05am Ministry Staff	10 10:00a Drop-Offs 11:00a Creative Conversation	11 12:00p Administrative Staff 7:00p Evening Circle	12 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p PRC	13 14	15	15
16 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05a Diaconate Zoom	17 6:30p Property Ministry 7:00p Finance	18 Noon – Lunch Bunch	19 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	20 Tidings Deadline 7:00p Worship Ministry	21	22
23 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Lomanto Baptism	24 10:00a Drop-Offs	25 Noon – Lunch Bunch 7:00p Council	26 9:00a WWC 11:00a Bible Study Brunch	27	28	29
30 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	31 Memorial Day					