



Tidings

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



November 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 11

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

Covid-19 - Thanksgiving

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from my cry and from the words of my distress? - Psalm 22:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1

How to give thanks in a time of a pandemic when 227, 868 (October 30, 2020) people in the United States have died because of the Covid-19 virus. For many family members this will not be a time of Thanksgiving. Dr. Fauci warned us that with Thanksgiving just around the corner, and a surge of cases around the country, that people should consider cancelling Thanksgiving with family this year. Yes, there is a first for everything and we have to figure out how we can safely give thanks for the many blessings we get to share amidst a life-and-death crisis. And this is where I would like to share with you the thoughts of Matthew Laney, one of the authors of the UCC's Daily Devotional that he wrote on April 12, 2019, entitled: "*Unlikely Bed-buddies.*"

Every November, I'm struck by the abrupt transition from Thanksgiving Thursday to Black Friday. The two days could not be more dissonant. One celebrates gratitude, the other glorifies greed. Is it too late to insert just a little distance between them? After giving thanks for all we have, must we rise full-bellied from our tables only to focus on all we don't have by plunging into the melee of materialism?

The proximity of Psalm 22 and Psalm 23 is also jarring. Psalm 22 is the raw lament of the wounded. In Psalm 23, everything's coming up roses. We jump from "Why have you forsaken me?" to "Surely I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" on the very next page. Yet these unlikely bed-buddies have been spooning in the sheets of scripture for thousands of years. As for me, I'd prefer anguish and blessing to dwell in different universes, not just in different bedrooms.

But life, and scripture, often have a different message: no pain, no gain. No cross, no crown. As author Glennon Doyle puts it, "First the pain, then the rising." The point is not to glorify suffering or to suggest that pain is purposeful. The point is to trust that suffering is partnered with blessing. The coupling of Good Friday and Easter Sunday is our most powerful example. From the horror of the cross, Jesus screamed Psalm 22. But that was not the end of the story. Resurrection, the Psalm 23 moment, comes on the very next page. You know grief and loss.

You've been hurt a thousand times. As impossible as it might feel, trust that blessing is already embracing your anguish and that God will indeed turn the page.

Even though we would like to get rid of the suffering parts of our lives, God always has better ideas and we need to trust God in this, especially on our difficult days. May you all experience a very blessed Thanksgiving this year, amidst a very challenging time.

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

November 1

Communion/All Saints Day

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Service of Worship | 9:00a – church and online |
| Virtual Coffee Hour | 9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org |
| Lay Reader | Katy Berman |
| Scripture Reading | Matthew 23:1-12 |

November 8

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Service of Worship | 9:00a – church and online |
| Virtual Coffee Hour | 9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org |
| Lay Reader | Lowell Handy |
| Scripture Reading | Matthew 25:1-13 |

November 15

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|---------------------|---|
| Service of Worship | 9:00a – church and online |
| Virtual Coffee Hour | 9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org |
| Lay Reader | Marcia Alban |
| Scripture Reading | Matthew 25:14-30 |

November 22

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Service of Worship | 9:00a – church and online |
| Coffee Hour | 9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org |
| Lay Reader | Bob Crocker |
| Scripture Reading | Matthew 25:31-46 |

November 29

Youth Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Service of Worship | 9:00a – church and online |
| Coffee Hour | 9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org |
| Lay Reader | Youth |
| Scripture Reading | Mark 13:24-37 |

Membership & Communications Ministry



A Sign of the Times: While our church's 151st Anniversary Celebration in October might have looked a bit different than last year's sesquicentennial, October 25 this year was our first "back to church" day since mid-March. A small group of church members also gathered for a socially distanced "bring your own lunch" gathering that day, and a timely anniversary gift was made available to all, with plenty of extras for anyone who might be visiting church in the weeks ahead.

Evening Circle Planning Virtual Bake/Craft Sale

Typically, in addition to monthly meetings with a program or fun activity, twice a year Evening Circle ladies raise funds for benevolence giving to our church and several local charities. We had to get creative this year with our first virtual Bake and Craft Sale, delayed from spring to early July. And, we're doing it again this month! We are still developing our list of available items so if you'd like to donate anything (bake and/or craft), and haven't done so already, please contact Nancy Meyer no later than November 7. The list of available items will be on a link in Notes from Co and on our website. We will start taking orders on November 11, with final orders to be received by midnight on November 16. Some quantities are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. All orders should be called in or emailed to Nancy Meyer at 847/824-1150 or nwmeyer255@aol.com. Distribution will be on Monday, November 23 at our church's west entrance between 10am and 11am (during bi-weekly drop off of food and items for the pantry and Exodus World Service) or at a time worked out between you and the seller. Payment will be on November 23 or mailed to our treasurer, Nancy Meyer. Thanks for your support!



Walk in the Woods with Us, We Hope!

Depending on the weather and on the local status of COVID-19, we invite you to join interested church members and friends for a socially distant leisurely “walk in the woods” outing on Sunday afternoon, November 22. Watch Notes from Co and Sunday Announcements for details! (Photo from a previous year)

Blessing of the Pets – Thanks to Marcia Urban and all those who came out (on two legs and on four) in October for our annual pet blessing. *Photos by Daisy Farley.*



Mission Ministry

Night Ministry Stockings Project Underway

Our church once again will be filling and delivering stockings for the Night Ministry in Chicago during the approaching holiday season. Donated items are needed to fill 48 stockings. There will be a collection box outside of the church office, and donations also can be dropped off during the scheduled Monday morning drop-offs to benefit the Self-Help Closet & Pantry and Exodus World Service. Deadline to contribute is November 30. For details contact Michelle Herrera at 847/338-5718 or michelleherrera48@gmail.com. Needed items include: First aid kits (travel size), full size deodorants, small pack of tissues, lip balm, hand cream, winter hat, pair of stretchy gloves, decks of cards, and candy/gum/mints.

Gift Cards also needed, not for the stockings, but to be given to the clients. \$5-McDonalds, Subway, Burger King & Starbucks. \$10-Target, Walgreens & Family Dollar. \$25-Target, Wal-Mart, Jewel & Mariano's. These can be purchased through the Gift Card sale and also benefit the church.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Sought

Our church's next turn to deliver meals to local shut-ins runs from December 7 to January 1. 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.

Youth Ministry

News from Pilgrim Fellowship

Our Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) youth group will hold its biannual fundraiser, Rent-A-PF, to benefit the summer 2021 trip. The youth of our church are available to complete outdoor jobs with limited contact on **Sunday, November 22**. Please reach out to Matt Cameron to schedule an appointment at matthew_kyle80@hotmail.com. And, save the date of Saturday, **December 5** for this year's revised **Cookie Walk**.

Finance Committee

Financial Reports

For the month of September, income for the church was \$20,126, while expenses totaled \$21,536. That put us in a negative position of \$1,413 for the month. However, year-to-date we are still \$12,644 in the black. Thank you for keeping up to date with your pledges and offerings.

Gift Card Sales Are Back!

Our popular Holiday Gift Card Sale is currently underway. As in the past, Gift Card sales are taking place over a 6-week period, but due to COVID-19, we will only be placing orders with the company every 2 weeks, instead of every week. Please plan ahead so that you are sure to get the cards you need. A Gift Card order form is included with this issue of the Tidings.

- Orders can be placed by emailing Rod Beets at rodbeets99@gmail.com or by call him at 847-253-3293.
- Once your order is placed, we ask that you mail a check for the amount due to the church, or drop it off if you will be attending worship services in person. *(To maximize profits from this fundraiser, we will only be accepting payments by check or cash.)*
- To minimize personal contact, we are designating a specific date for pickup of each gift card order. *(See the chart below.)* For your convenience, pickup is available between 10 and 11 am in the morning and between 5:30 and 6:30 pm in the evening at the church's West Entrance.
- If you are not available on the designated pickup date, please call the church office to make other arrangements.

2020 Gift Card Sale Dates

| Sale Period | Order Deadline | Pick Up at Church West Entrance 10:00a to 11:00a OR 5:30p to 6:30p |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Oct. 26-Nov. 1 | Sunday, Nov. 1 | Monday, Nov. 9 |
| Nov. 9-Nov. 15 | Sunday, Nov. 15 | Monday, Nov. 23 |
| Nov. 23-Dec. 1 | Tuesday, Dec. 1 | Monday, Dec. 1 |

Happy Birthday to You!!

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

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Teena Whittenhall | 01-Nov |
| Tommy Almerigi | 03-Nov |
| Nicky Pelletiere | 09-Nov |
| Aubria Cameron | 11-Nov |
| AJ Almerigi | 12-Nov |
| Ellen (Duffy) Harney | 13-Nov |
| Jim Foster | 13-Nov |
| Linda Opalka | 14-Nov |
| Sandra Hager | 15-Nov |
| Chris Potempa | 17-Nov |
| Jacob DeHart | 18-Nov |
| Ryan Cooper | 21-Nov |
| Zoe Cooper | 21-Nov |
| Georgia DeHart | 27-Nov |
| Joanne Kimball | 27-Nov |
| Heather Zomchek | 30-Nov |
| Bob McCullough | 30-Nov |
| Henry Nutley | 30-Nov |

In Memoriam

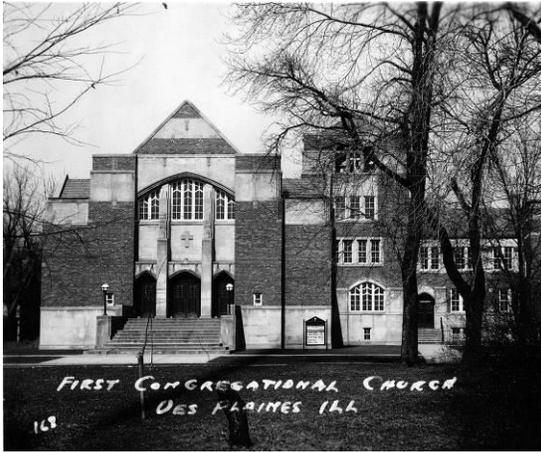
Wayne Franzen
October 14, 2020

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Linda Huntzicker from Wendy Wallace

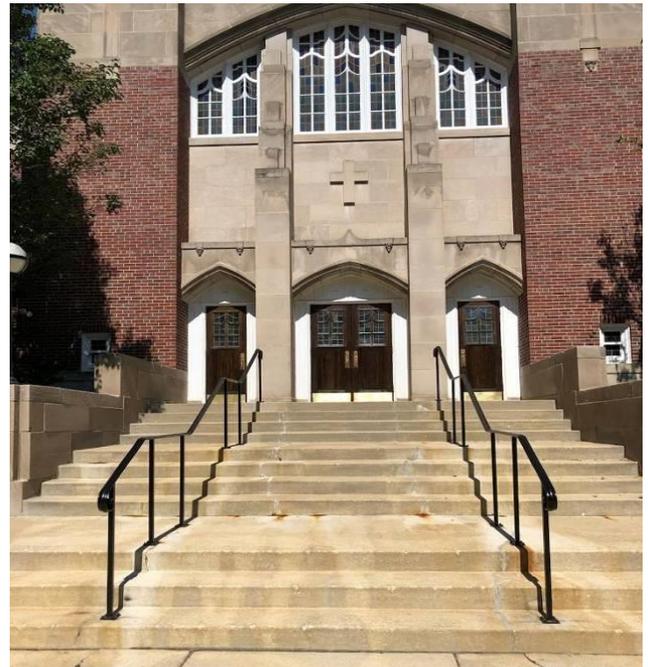
FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

Although we're still not using the front entrance due to pandemic restrictions to keep us safe, I thought maybe this was a good time to reflect on our stairs & handrails over the years. The first photo is from the Des Plaines History Center and is just dated in their records as 1940's. There is NO handrail at all!



Then for many years we had railings that looked like photo #2, although I think they were replaced at one time or another due to age.

Then this summer, while no one was using the front entrance at all, the existing rusty ones were removed by the Wednesday Work Crew and roped off until new ones arrived.



Don't they look great, with our National Registry plaque added too?! Thanks again, Wednesday Work Crew, for ALL the work you do for us!

Boy Scout
Troop 6



2020 Drive Thru Pancake Breakfast & Raffle

**SUNDAY November 8, 2020
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
766 Graceland Ave., DES PLAINES
8:00 AM – 12:00PM**

PANCAKES & SAUSAGE

\$6 per Meal

SILENT RAFFLE TICKETS - \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

\$200.00 Grand Prize Raffle - \$5.00 per chance

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

November 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 Communion Daylight Savings Time 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 2 7:30p Wholly Ringers | 3 Noon – Online Luncheon | 4 9:00a WWWC 10:00a Bible Study | 5 7:00p Membership & Communications | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:05a Ministry Staff | 9 9:30a Creative Conversation 7:00p Finance 7:30p Wholly Ringers | 10 12:00p Administrative Staff Meeting | 11 9:00a WWWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 16 6:30p Property Ministry 7:30p Wholly Ringers | 17 Noon – Online Luncheon 7:00p Evening Circle | 18 9:00a WWWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p PRC | 19 7:00p Worship Ministry | 20 Tidings Deadline | 21 |
| 22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship | 23 | 24 Noon – Online Luncheon 7:00p Council | 25 9:00a WWWC 10:00a Bible Study | 26 Thanksgiving Day | 27 | 28 |
| 29 1st Advent 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Craft and Bake Sale | 30 7:30p Wholly Ringers | 31 | | | | |