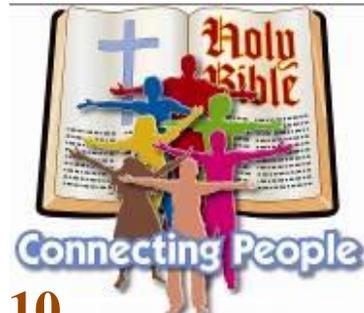




Tidings

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



October 2019 - Vol. 80 – No. 10

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

Blessed Anniversary!

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field."
-Matthew 13:31*

This month we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of First Congregation Church, United Church of Christ. One hundred fifty years ago, a seed was planted that would grow tall and give shade. Throughout the years the ministry would flourish, and lives would be transformed in the process.

What can I say other than that I feel privileged to be the present pastor as we celebrate this wonderful milestone in the life of our church? I'm also conscious of everyone, pastor and members, that ministered before me, through good times and bad times. Many stories have been told since our conception up to today, and I'm convinced that many more will be told.

It is also a time for gratitude – how else can a church survive if it is not by grace alone. In a time that many church doors are closed, we are blessed that ours are open – and we need to keep it open as we continue to reach out to the communities around us. We are also grateful for the generosity of many people that kept the doors of our church open for such a long time.

May we all get together to give thanks to the numerous pastors, members, friends of our church that attended to the little mustard seed planted 150 years ago, and if I may add, that looks pretty good for a 150-year old. It is just too bad not many of us won't be around to see how this beautiful Bride of Christ is going to look at her 300th Anniversary – but we can make sure our descendants will. Don't forget to celebrate, to tell your friends, and to invite the stranger.

May we as a church live to pay it forward, as we give thanks to God who not only blesses us but will also allow us to minister for years to come! The work of welcoming the stranger is never done. Remember our mission statement: "As Followers of Christ, We Connect A Diversity of People with each other and With God." However, a mission statement doesn't take care of anything, unless we live it out each day.

With love,

Rev. Co DuToit

Worship Ministry

October 6 – World Communion

Service of Worship	9:30a (one service)
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Marcia Urban
Scripture Reading	Luke 17:5-10
Usher Team	Opalka/Schmitt

October 13 – A Trip Back in Time

Service of Worship	9:30a (one service)
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Dave Horwitz
Scripture Reading	Luke 17:11-19
Usher Team	Opalka/Schmitt

October 20 – Entertainment Sunday

Service of Worship	9:30a (one service)
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Jim Gamboa
Scripture Reading	Luke 18:1-8
Usher Team	Opalka/Schmitt

October 27 – Celebration Sunday

Service of Worship	9:30a (one service)
Coffee Hour (Webster Hall)	10:30a
Lay Reader	Larry Schimka
Scripture Reading	Luke 18:9-14
Usher Team	Opalka/Schmitt



Sesquicentennial News

Service 150

Congratulations to Barb Franzen on reaching 150 and to Faith Engler for reaching 50 service hours. Everyone has one more chance to be recognized at our Anniversary Banquet. Please email Kirsten Tangeros your service hours with subject line "Service 150" no later than October 1. For a full list of our Challenge 150 Rock Stars see the west entrance bulletin board. Combined, we surpassed 6,715 service hours through September 1 as a church – well done, everyone!

Commemorative Books

We are creating two booklets, "FCCDP Memories" and a "Sixth Quarter Century" history book to be available by Anniversary Sunday. Keep an eye out for more information to come.

Sesquicentennial Banquet

Mark your calendar and make plans to celebrate with us at a special Sesquicentennial Banquet on Saturday, October 26, at Manzo's Banquets in Des Plaines. In addition to a great meal, there will be plenty of time for visiting with church friends - both old and new. You won't want to miss the memorabilia on display, from past years at FCCDP, plus the showing of a professional documentary featuring former and current church members, ministers and staff. And, we have some special surprises planned for the evening. Dinner will be served family-style, with vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Soft drinks and cocktails will be available at a cash bar. Festivities begin at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children ages 3 to 12. Tickets are now available for purchase through the Church Office or on Sunday mornings at church. And, if you know of any former church members who may have moved away or possibly grew up in the church, but are no longer active, please invite them to celebrate with us.

Cash/check/credit cards accepted. And, be sure to keep your ticket stub for entry in to a drawing at the banquet!

Children's & Adult Education



“Back to Sunday School” celebration in September, with registration before church and ice cream sundaes for everyone after church!



Membership & Communications Ministry

Pet Blessing This Month

Our third annual Blessing of the Pets is scheduled for 4:30pm on Sunday, October 6, in the front courtyard of the church. Pets of every kind are welcome. Questions? Speak with Marcia Urban.



Pet Blessing 2018

New Date for Talent Show

Our annual all-church FCC's Got Talent show takes place in the church sanctuary on Sunday, November 17. Details to follow! Look for a sign-up sheet in the Church Office or in Webster Hall on Sunday mornings. For further information, speak with Marcia Urban.



A previous *FCC's Got Talent* show.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Church Women United Plan Fall Program

Church Women United invites all women of the church to attend the World Community Day program on Friday, November 1 at our church. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the program *The Time is Now: Resolve to Love* is followed by a pot luck lunch. For further information contact Pat Hurley, 847/699-7754 or phurley1234@sbcglobal.net. We hope you can join us.



Our FCC team walked to benefit the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation in September.

Youth Ministry

Pilgrim Fellowship Rent-A-PF Fundraiser

Do you have fall clean-up jobs to do? An odd job around the house? The youth of our church will be available to assist you the weekend of October 25 – October 27. This will be a fundraiser for their mission trip to Adam's Camp (a special needs camp) in Colorado next summer. Donations gladly accepted. Call Matt to schedule your job at 847/323-2966.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Church income for July and August totaled \$56,222, with expenses of \$45,460. That means that for the first two months of our new Fiscal Year, we are in a positive position of \$10,761. That's a great start to the year! But remember, with winter quickly approaching, expenses will soon go up for heating and snow removal. Please help us keep our budget in balance by keeping up-to-date with your pledges and offerings.

Bulletin Board of Bills

Special thanks to everyone who supported our summer fundraiser, the Bulletin Board of Bills. Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$1,500 for the church's general budget.

Gift Card Sales to Return

Gift cards for a wide range of local businesses will once again be available for purchase at the church, beginning on November 3. It's not too early to start thinking about your holiday shopping! For more information, contact Rod Beets at 847-253-3293.

Craft & Vendor Fair Results

This year's Craft & Vendor Fair was a resounding success. Webster Hall, the Barwick Room, as well as all the first floor hallways, were filled with crafters and vendors. We had more shoppers than ever before. And our raffle of a basket of gift cards, products and services, valued at over \$1,300, proved to be extremely popular. Thanks to everyone who participated and to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success. Special thanks to Evening Circle (and all the bakers) for a wonderful bake sale, to our "Green for Green" plant sale volunteers, and to the Music & Drama Ministry for handling the food concessions. Most of all, thanks to Daisy Farley and Jana Haas, who spent countless hours organizing, coordinating, and overseeing the event.

All in all, it was a great day of fun and fellowship. And we're happy to report that everyone's efforts resulted in a profit of more than \$5,000 for the church's general budget!



Craft & Vendor Fair September 2019



Personnel Committee

Accompanist Sought

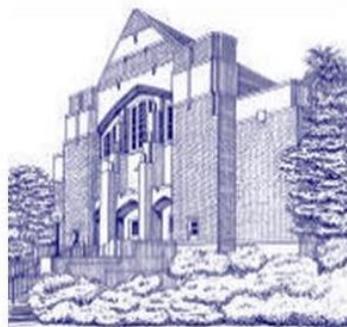
First Congregational Church is seeking a church accompanist beginning at the end of October. If you know anyone who would be interested or would like more information, please contact Rhonda Yost at rhonda.yost@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

October 6	“Around the World” Potluck Luncheon
October 6	Pet Blessing
October 25-27	Rent-A-PF
October 26	Sesquicentennial Banquet
November 17	FCC’s Got Talent show

First Congregational Church of Des Plaines

Sesquicentennial Celebration



1869-2019

Celebration Banquet

Please join us
on

Saturday, October 26, 2019

5:30 to 10:00 pm

Manzo's Banquets

1571 S. Elmhurst Road, Des Plaines

\$45 Adults \$20 Children (ages 3-12)

Family style meal

Vegetarian or gluten-free available
(upon request when tickets are purchased)

Tickets available in the Church Office

Call 847-299-5561 for more details

Sesquicentennial Events

Sunday, September 29 - 9:30 am worship
Youth Sunday

focus on PF and past PF, Boundary Waters
presentation, Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 6 - 9:30 am worship
World Communion Sunday

focus on mission and outreach

Sunday, October 13 - 9:30 am worship
"A Trip Back in Time"

focus on long-time members, enjoy guided
tour of our building

Sunday, October 20 - 9:30 am worship
Entertainment Sunday

focus on music, special drama presentation

Sunday, October 27 - 9:30 am worship
Celebration Sunday

focus on worship, past, present and future



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

First Congregational Church of Des Plaines
766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016 / 847-299-5561 / www.fccdp.org

From the Community

"Hula for Hunger," a benefit for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines, is set for Sunday evening, **October 6** at Tiki Terrace, 1591 Lee St., Des Plaines. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and entertainment. Dinner will be served from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, and the show is scheduled for 6:30pm. The Self-Help Closet & Pantry, established at our church in 1971, provides food and clothing to residents in need and currently serves about 400 Des Plaines households. For reservations call Tiki Terrace at 847/795-8454. For details speak with Debbie Walusiak.

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Coming in November...the second annual Forest School Area Turkey Trot, organized by church member Jennifer Nutley and friends. Join your Des Plaines friends and neighbors on Thanksgiving morning and enjoy "trotting" around the neighborhood! The only entry fee is a nonperishable food donation to the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines. The trot will begin and end in the Beacon Tap parking lot. For further information, speak with Jennifer or visit www.forestschoolareaturkeytrot.com.

A New Address

Robert & Wendy Stryker
21346 Estero Palm Way
Estero, FL 33928
(c) 847/612-9994

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.)

David Alde	10/4	Eric Walusiak	10/18
Wendy DeVitto	10/4	Margaret Cruz	10/21
Jonathan Grice	10/4	Lea Masciopinto	10/21
Jessica McMillan	10/5	Marcia Alban	10/26
Joyce Beets	10/11	Rob Laaser	10/28
Cathy Wiesner	10/13	George Bielat	10/30
Ellen Alde	10/15	Marlene Laws	10/3

Memorial Garden Bricks on Sale

Orders once again are being accepted for engraved bricks, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, for our church's Memorial Garden. Cost is \$75 per brick. Orders will be accepted through June 2020. Forms are available on the credenza outside of the Church Office. For further information, speak with Bob McCullough.

In Memoriam

Shirley Neetz
September 14, 2019

Frank Braunz
September 27, 2019

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Paul Gamboa from Pat Hurley
In Loving Memory of Shirley Neetz from Pat Hurley

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

The decade from 2000 to 2009 at FCCDP was one of sudden losses, changes, financial challenges but also of many opportunities for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth as we worked through all of these.

Rev. David P Laaser, 43, our associate pastor, passed away of a massive heart attack in Dr. Grice's office on March 1, 2000. He had been at FCCDP for 17 years and had organized PF activities, retreats, mission trips to DuVall Home in FL & canoe trips to the Boundary Waters in MN and had been a major influence in the lives of many of our youth. Just over a year later our organist for 6 years, Charlotte Brown, died suddenly in her home. There are still many memories...but life at FCC did go on. Eric Sidoti, already our Director of Music Ministry became also our Director of Youth Ministry, a position he held for 3 yrs, followed by Jason Hanrahan for 4 yrs, then Matt Cameron & Chris Grice as Co-Directors. Charles Moore became our new organist.

After 10 years directing the handbell choir, Ellen Alde retired in 2001. Eric Sidoti assumed that role until he moved to New Zealand in 2006, at which time Ellen returned! Charles Moore then added Director of Music Ministry to his title. Diane Johnsen resigned as Director of Junior Youth Choir (JYC) in 2001. Char Jackson directed for a year, followed by Cathy Legare for 5 years. Frank Potempa became JYC Director in 2008. Near the end of 2006, Dr. Grice announced his intention to retire in 2008 after 28 years as our senior minister; a search committee went into action. Dr. Grice preached his final sermon on 3/30/08 and Rev. Francois "Co" DuToit preached his first as our senior minister on 5/4/08.

In addition to staff, many other changes happened at FCC during this decade. Our moderator's challenge to "spruce up" our church home ultimately resulted in freshly painted main hallway in 2000, and new carpeting in the sanctuary, first floor hallway, the Barwick Room, the Bennett Room and the church office in 2001. The Youth Room was revitalized in memory of Rev. L as Patrick Quinlan's Eagle Scout project in 2002. Third floor Sunday School rooms were painted bright, creative and inspiring colors in 2002. PF & Post-PF painted Brehm Hall in 2003. In 2007 walls in West entrance, the sanctuary and in Webster Hall freshly painted [contracted work].

In late 2007 the Foundation was authorized to spend up to \$50,000 for the purpose of remodeling the Barwick Room, the main floor hallway, replace the carpeting in the secretaries' portion of the Church Office, and hopefully make 1st floor bathrooms handicapped-accessible. In 2009 "new" church hallway: uniform bulletin boards for each ministry, a freshly painted display cabinet and a new wall outside the men's washroom. Much of this work was done by volunteer labor and many fundraisers helped finance. The "Wednesday Work Crew" came into being about 2004, wearing personalized blue denim shirts by 2006. Not mentioned above are the many landscaping projects the WWC has undertaken, including removing all the overgrown bushes in front of the church and replacing with attractive shrubs and flowers, which won them the 2006 "Chamber [of Commerce] Community Enhancement Award".

At the same time, much necessary work was done; \$300,000 for repairing roofs, roof tile replacement over the sanctuary, outside duct work replacement, tuck-pointing, painting & plastering of damaged areas in many interior rooms within the church, and electrical work [including new lighting in the sanctuary] in 2002. Foundation contributed \$100,000, \$150,000 loan on Oakwood parsonage, plus some funds from sale of Laurel Ave. parsonage. A 3-yr building repair fund repaid the loan. Summer of 2008 all asbestos and insulation replacement work was completed in the lower level of the church.

Many opportunities for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth I mentioned at the beginning were the result of the times we all pitched in on the almost continuous fundraising efforts throughout the decade for one reason or another...larger and larger Second Time Around Sales, PF car washes, Evening Circle Bake and Craft sales, choir dinners, Bowling & Pizza, "Beat The Mid-Winter Blues" dances, "Shop with a Heart", Talent Auction, Bulletin Board of Bill\$, etc.

But we worked for other causes too. "CROP Walk" to feed the hungry; Christmas stockings for Night Ministry, "Relay for Life" to aid American Cancer Society, Mission trip to New Orleans to aid hurricane Katrina victims, Project Survivor "Welcome packs" to refugee families, delivering Meals on Wheels,

volunteering at PADS, serving Thanksgiving dinners at San Lucas Church, food donations to Self-Help Closet & Pantry, Sunday School Heifer Project, among others.

New during this decade...new hymnals, new Tidings format, changing names from 'Boards' to 'Ministries', collecting members' email addresses, creating a church website, Family Life circle returned, choir exchanges, "Grandparent & Me" camp at Tower Hill, fall Estate Sales, Central Evangelical Korean Church returns to FCC as its home, wireless microphones for the sanctuary, Oakton Community College's *English as a Second Language* classes, Drama Ministry, recycling program, new carillon, flags illuminated by sensor lights, Family Life cookbook, new fence around the Preschool play area, the new playground maze, "Christmas Cookie Walk", new bell tables and drapes, personalized lanyard nametags, Fall Family Fest, flat-screen TV in Barwick Room, "Singing Christmas Bus"...what did I forget?

...and, Speaking of History...

News from the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines **Church Named to National Register of Historic Places**

The First Congregational Church of Des Plaines is pleased and proud to announce that its nearly 90-year-old church building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

It's a distinction overseen by the National Park Service that identifies historic buildings, sites and structures across the country that are deemed worthy of admiration and preservation. The honor comes as the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines – at 766 Graceland - is about to celebrate its Sesquicentennial next month.

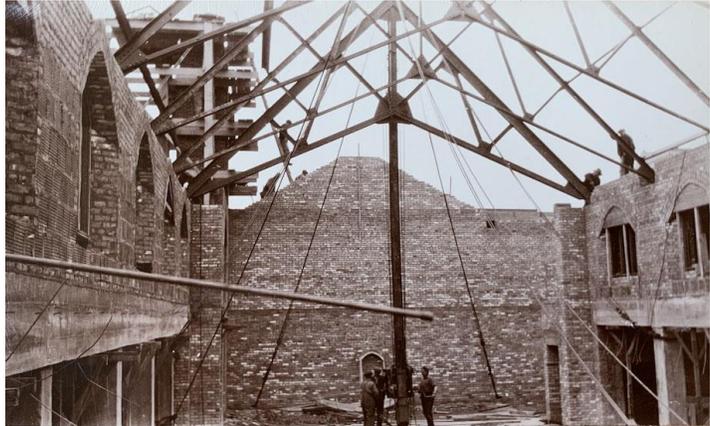


Church Moderator Rhonda Yost said, "It is very exciting for the congregation to have our building recognized for its historical value. The fact that the recognition comes in concert with our 150th year as a congregation makes it even more meaningful. Our thanks go out to Brian Wolf for all the work he did."

Local historian and volunteer Brian Wolf spent many months researching the history and architecture of the church building. On behalf of First Congregational he presented a formal nomination to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council in late June and its members voted unanimously to recommend to the Park Service that the church building be placed on the National Register. Wolf says he's proud that his efforts were successful and hopes that "more eyes will focus" on a beautiful building with a very interesting history.

The cornerstone of the church was laid in December 1928. The dedication of the congregation's new home came just 11 months later. The architects - Pond & Pond, Martin and Lloyd - were a well-known firm in the early 20th century and were contemporaries of noted architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

The First Congregational Church building they designed is considered among the best local examples of what's termed the "Arts and Crafts" style of architecture. The "Arts and Crafts" movement was born in late Victorian England and was meant to emphasize the beauty of craftsmanship and simple forms. It was as much about social reform as it was design.



First Congregational was designed to accommodate not only a large and growing congregation, but a rapidly expanding community as well. A large gymnasium with a stage - later to become known as Webster Hall - would serve as a frequent gathering point for community and sporting events, as well as stage plays. The work of the church play crafters later gave birth to the Des Plaines Theater Guild.



Just four years after the Civil War, nine families joined to form the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines. Current members will celebrate its rich history and 150th birthday October 26th.

The First Congregational Church of Des Plaines is

affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

There is only one other location in Des Plaines that's on the National Register of Historic places. The Methodist Campground on Algonquin Road was so honored in 2005.



Placement on the Register does not prevent alteration or demolition, but it does provide some protections and most significantly, it recognizes and salutes historic importance.

(Written and compiled by journalist/FCC church member Paul Meincke)

And, One More History Note ...

Photos of First Congregational Church in the Des Plaines History Center collection are now digitally accessible on the Des Plaines Memory website, through the Des Plaines Public Library. Steven Giese of the library added these photos to the website in September. You can find the photos at this link <http://bit.ly/FirstCongregational> or by typing First Congregational Church in the search box on the main desplainsmemory.org web page.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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