

Tidings

766 Graceland Ave.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
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October 2021 - Vol. 82 – No. 10

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

Family

And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

John 19:27

It's been a while since you hear from me and hopefully you have missed us as much as we have missed you! As most of you probably know, we were on vacation in August in South Africa and had an amazing time. We were able to attend a family wedding, visit with the family of our dearest friend that passed because of Covid-19, venture on a zipline (longest across an ocean), cage diving with sharks, 10-day Safari in Kruger National Park, and more dangerously, hanging out with 20 plus of our family members during this time. In short, we had a wonderful time with our family, our biological family.

But, we are also very thankful for our spiritual family that welcomed us back after being gone for a whole month. And we are also especially thankful for the expression of love with the Baby Shower to welcome our first grandchild. Thanks to Flo Hoffman for putting this together and all her helpers. Thank you for all the wonderful gifts and cards – we were able to ship a box full of gifts to the new prospective parents, Francois and Lauryn in Temecula, California.

I love my family of origin dearly, but I also love the idea that my family is even bigger by the fact that there are people dear to my heart with whom I share no legally binding connection.

Too often we limit our definitions of family. We include only those who share a last name or, worse, blood. But in the Bible, we see God working to create families in much broader ways. Jesus's important descent from King David comes not through a bloodline but through Joseph, his adoptive father. Ruth and Naomi cross religious lines to form family. John is told to see Mary as his own mother as Jesus hangs on the cross.

Our families teach us who we are, and who we can be. And sometimes God creates families for us in the most amazing ways.

Let us give thanks to God for the family we have, no matter what binds us together.

With Love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

October 3	World Communion Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ruth Reinhold
	Scripture Reading	Mark 10:2-16
October 10		
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Les Stein
	Scripture Reading	Mark 10:17-31
October 17		
	Service of Worship	9:00a – www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Ellen Alde
	Scripture Reading	Mark 10:35-45
October 24	Anniversary Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Dave Horwitz
	Scripture Reading	Mark 10:46-52
October 31	Youth Sunday	
	Service of Worship	9:00a - www.fccdp.org
	Fellowship	10:00a
	Lay Reader	Youth
	Scripture Reading	Mark 12:28-34

Children's & Adult Ed Ministry

Come to Camp FCC!

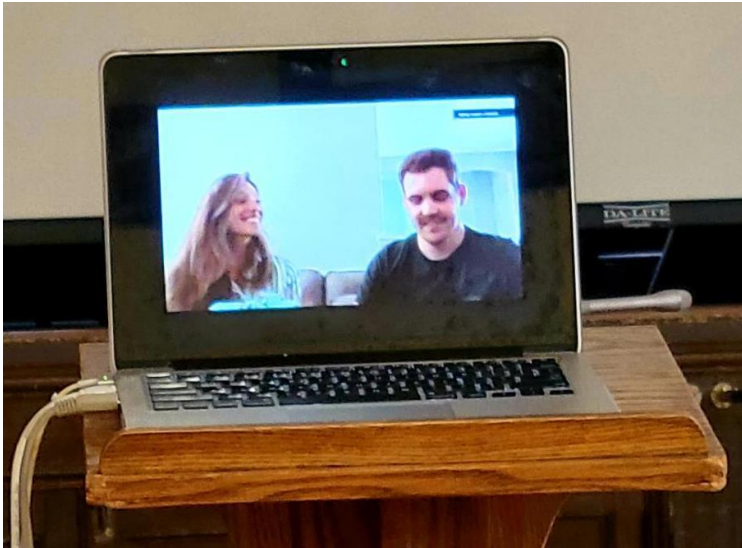
Join us for a fun evening of camping, along with Scout Troop 6, starting at 6:00pm on Saturday, October 23 at church. Pitch your tent on the gated playground area or park your camper in the lot. (Electric available) One tent per household will be provided and set up for those without a tent. Bring your own sandwich for dinner or bring food to roast over the campfire. S'mores provided. Lights out at 9:30pm. Breakfast will be served before 9:00am worship on Sunday. Please RSVP in the Church Office or online at www.fccdp.org. Contact Sue Almerigi for details at Sue@anthonyandson.com or text 847/894-1135.

Diaconate Ministry

About Those Flowers...

Were you aware that the altar flowers on Sunday mornings can be designated in honor or memory of a loved one? Make a contribution of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund and designate the flowers for a specific Sunday to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. The honoree and occasion will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. After they are used on the Altar, the flowers will be delivered to shut ins or those dealing with illness or loss or perhaps celebrating a special occasion. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Membership & Communications Ministry



In celebration of Rev. Co & Ellie's first grandchild coming soon, our church family held a baby shower in September, in Webster Hall.

Thanks to technology, there were participants from Des Plaines, California and even South Africa. Special thanks to shower coordinator, Flo Hoffman.

Pictured at left are parents-to-be Lauryn & Francois DuToit, from their home in California. And, blue everywhere because it's a boy!





The grandparents-to-be wore festive T-shirts for the occasion. They are Rev. Co & Ellie DuToit (left) and Kevin & Karen Smith (above, left). Best wishes to the DuToit family!

Evening Circle Plays Show & Tell, Plans Bake/Craft Sale

Evening Circle will host a Zoom "Show & Tell" at 7:00pm on Tuesday, October 12. All women are invited to attend the Zoom meeting. After a brief business meeting, everyone will be asked to show and tell (about two to three minutes) about a favorite thing, piece of family history, favorite book, etc. The participants will be encouraged to hold up the item (or a photo of the item) for everyone to see. Members are reminded to decide what they are willing to bake/craft for our upcoming Bake and Craft Sale as Order Form of available items must be complete by Oct. 31. The recurring zoom link was included in Rev. Co's recent pdf document of all recurring meetings, but here it is. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Meyer.

Evening Circle

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366718741?pwd=dDlXcmdpVG8rUEl2UjJmRi84VE04Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 6671 8741

Passcode: 755514

Pet Blessing Here October 3

Our annual Blessing of the Pets will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, October 3, outside the Graceland Ave. entrance. All are welcome; there is no charge. Pastor Marcia Urban, a member of our congregation, will officiate.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

Refugee Help Appreciated; More Help Sought

Thank you to all who have donated items for our church's Project Survivor/ Exodus World Service. (EWS)

We recently received this note from EWS:

Here is what we know today:

- ***Over 500 Afghan refugees are expected to be resettled in Chicagoland this fall after they complete their vetting process.*** Exodus volunteers already welcomed 38 Afghan refugees in August; most had courageously put their lives at risk to help the U.S. government.
- *We expect the number of newly resettling refugees from Burma, Congo, Eritrea, Syria, and other countries to **quadruple** this year as U.S. refugee resettlement builds back to more historic levels.*

So, in order to get set up to welcome refugees, we need:

Pots and Pans **NEW** (No frying pans) (Set of 7 or 9 pieces) Walmart has these items

Box Fans **NEW**

Towels **NEW or very gently used** (Bath, Hand, and Wash Cloths)

Scissors

Disposable Razors

Tooth Brushes (Individual Package)

Tooth Paste (Full size)

Shampoo

Laundry Detergent

All-purpose cleaning spray

Plastic Hangers

Diapers

The next drive-by drop-off dates outside the West Entrance at church are October 11 and October 25, from 10:00am to 11:00am.

For details contact Nancy Brink at jfosternbrink@att.net or 847/508-5081.

Thanks...

(From Scott Emerick) Thanks to all those who supported our FCC team in the September Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation walk, in honor of and in memory of several church members and friends. We raised 137 percent of our goal, for a total of \$1,372.00!

Can You Help With School Backpack Project?

Thanks very much to the congregation for your continued support of the Community Backpack Project. We are delivering 12 bags of food to North School students each week. Volunteers are still needed for packing and delivering on a weekly basis (face masks are required currently in the church and the school). Sign up in the Church Office. For information contact Lowell Handy at lkhandy@att.net

Almost That Time...

Thanks to Charlie Warren for volunteering to coordinate this year's Christmas stocking outreach for The Night Ministry. Nancy Meyer has offered to make the stockings, and Nancy Brink and John Foster will deliver them. Stay tuned for details on you can help **fill** those stockings!

Blood Drive Here in November

First Congregational Church will host a blood drive with the American Red Cross on November 9, in Webster Hall. Save the date and sign up in the Church Office if you can donate. Volunteers also sought to help with registration. For details speak with Jim Foster.

Music Ministry



Music Director Scott Emerick tells the story behind the music during Hymn Sunday in September. Thanks to those who submitted their favorite hymns.

It's Just Around the Corner...

Our Christmas cantata this year is titled, "Behold! A Savior!" by Jay Rouse, and Scott Emerick, FCC music director, is busy preparing for the December 12 (4:00pm – 5:00pm) performance. If you are interested in participating as a vocalist or an actor, speak with Scott or join the Chancel Choir rehearsals from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesdays. For details contact Scott at Scott_fccd@yahoo.com.

Property Ministry



Our Wednesday Work Crew volunteers painted/scraped/caulked around the windows in September – thanks, guys!

Youth Ministry



Our PF youth gave a presentation in September, about their summer canoe trip to the Boundary Waters. The talk was accompanied by a spectacular slide show (pictured) detailing their experiences.

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Church income for July and August (including income from our second PPP Loan), totaled \$89,117. Expenses over the same period, totaled \$51,063. This means that after the first two months of our new Fiscal Year, we have a cushion of \$38,054. That's a great way to start the year! But remember, with winter quickly approaching, expenses will soon be going up for heating and snow removal, and we will need to access that cushion. But, you can help us keep the budget in balance! Please keep 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 close to \$2,000 for the church's general budget.

Gift Card Sales to Begin in October

Gift cards for a wide range of businesses will once again be available for purchase through FCCDP. We're pleased to announce that our 2021 sale will begin on Sunday, October 24, and continue through Sunday, December 12 - a full two weeks longer than previous sales. That means more time to order cards for yourself and for holiday gifts. The full list of available cards and an order form will be available in the church office (or on the credenza outside the church office) beginning soon. All profits from the sale will benefit the church's general budget. For each card sold, our church will receive 3%, 5%, 10%, or more of the card's face value.

- Orders will be placed every two weeks, with the cards available for pick up after church the following Sunday, or during the Monday Morning Drop Off (from 10:00 to 11:00 am) the following day. (*See the chart below.*)
- Orders will be accepted at church, after worship, during the sale periods. Or, by emailing Rod Beets at rodbeets99@gmail.com, or by calling Rod at 847-253-3293. The deadline time for both phone and email orders is 2:00 pm on the order deadline date.

- Gift cards purchases are to be paid at the time of the order. To maximize profits from this fundraiser, we will only be able to accept payment by check (made payable to the church) or cash.

<u>Sale Period</u>	<u>Order Deadline</u>	Pick up at Church Sunday after worship or during Monday <u>Morning Drop-Off</u>
October 24-31	Sunday, Oct. 31, 2 pm	November 7 & 8
November 7-14	Sunday, Nov. 14, 2 pm	November 21 & 22
November 21-28	Sunday, Nov. 28, 2 pm	December 5 & 6
December 5-12	Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 pm	December 19 & 20

Happy Birthday to You!!

Congratulations to the following church members/friends on their birthdays!!
If you would like to add a birthday, please contact the church secretary Paul Whittenhall at 847/299-5561.

Dave Alde	04-Oct	Eric Walusiak	18-Oct
Jon Grice	04-Oct	Margaret Cruz	21-Oct
Alan Warda	04-Oct	Lea Masciopinto	21-Oct
Jessica McMillan	05-Oct	Marcia Alban	26-Oct
Luke Engler	06-Oct	Rob Laaser	28-Oct
Michael Miller	08-Oct	George Bielat	30-Oct
Joyce Beets	11-Oct	Marlene Laws	30-Oct
Cathy Wiesner	13-Oct	Andrew Pittman	31-Oct
Ellen Alde	15-Oct		

In Memoriam

Steve Zebos
August 27, 2021

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Cathy Wiesner
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Sandra Allen
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Gerald & Joyce Petersen
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from J Sanders
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Sandy Flink
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Pat Hurley
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Carl & Judy Mahr
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Evening Circle
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from Marilyn Juister
In Loving Memory of Wendy Wallace from the Walusiak Family
In Honor of Michelle Herrera and Paul Meincke

FROM OUR HISTORIAN, NANCY MEYER

A couple months ago I received an email suggesting I could write an article about the merger of Congregational churches with Evangelical Churches to form the United Church of Christ. I'd planned to do some research for this month's article when I received a 64-page booklet from the estate of Wendy Wallace titled "UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST... THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE." Copyrighted in 1982, it contains a wealth of information, but I didn't know where to start. Also received was a 14-page booklet published in 1980. Let's see what I can do! The following history is from the booklet titled "About the United Church of Christ... a guide to more effective church membership."

The History of the U.C.C. The religious heritage of the U.C.C. stems from the great traditions of the Protestant Reformation—Lutheran, Calvinist and Congregational. These traditions were brought to America by Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe. Four churches into two – into one – a history of ecumenical unity! The German Reformed Church of the U.S. and the Evangelical Synod in North America, stressing liberty of conscience and authority of the Scriptures and their common liberal German Protestant heritage, united in 1934 to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Congregational Churches and the Christian Church, stressing congregational freedom and a continuing reformation, united in 1931 to form the Congregational Christian Churches. In 1957, these two churches united to form the United Church of Christ. Today, the U.C.C. is interested in uniting with other churches in fulfillment of the great prayer of Jesus Christ "that they may all be one."

From the 64-page booklet: The emblem of the United Church of Christ is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross Triumphant. Traditionally, this symbol—the cross surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb—signifies the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world. The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify Jesus' command of his disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." For the United Church of Christ, this emblem, rich in the traditions of the past and alive with hope for the future, is particularly appropriate. For this reason, there appear on the perimeter of the emblem both the name of the church and the text: "That they may all be one."



As for our own church, I found these two paragraphs in our Congregational Centennial Book 1869-1969, pages 51-52:

Outstanding among the events of 1948 was the action of our congregation regarding the proposed merger of our denomination with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Extensive study of the Basis of Union included the use of literature, discussion programs and speakers representing opposing points of view. The official vote, taken by secret ballot under the supervision of the Board of Deacons, was held on the two Sundays of February 29 and March 7. The result was 186 in favor and 62 opposed and so our church was recorded as supporting the merger.

Court action, instituted by opponents of the plan in other places, delayed the consummation of the union until 1956. The uniting General Synod was held in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 25, 1957. On June 1, 1960, a proposed constitution for the United Church of Christ was approved by the Second General Synod for submission to the churches. After study of this constitution by our own congregation, a special meeting of the church was held on April 26, 1961, at which there was a unanimous vote of approval and our church became a part of the United Church of Christ.

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WWW.FCCDP.ORG						
		Fundraiser: Gift Card Sales – October 24 through December 12			1	2
3 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Confirmation	4 5:30p Personnel 7:00p Wholly Ringers	5 Noon – Lunch Bunch	6 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00a Ministry Staff	11 10:00a Drop-Off 11:00a Creative Conversation	12 12:00p Staff Meeting	13 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	14 7:00p Membership & Communications	15	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Confirmation	18 7:00p Wholly Ringers	19 7:00p Evening Circle	20 Tidings Deadline 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	21 7:00p Worship Ministry	22	23
24 Wholly Ringers 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation	25 6:30p Property 7:00p Finance 7:00p Wholly Ringers	26 Noon – Lunch Bunch	27 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	28	29	30
31 Youth Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00am Confirmation	7:00p Wholly Ringers	7:00p Council	7:00p Chancel Choir	7:00p Chair Meeting		