

Tidings

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



September 2020 - Vol. 81 – No. 9

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

Being Church

“God has made Christ the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22-23

It is the month of September, and yes, we are not back-at-church, yet. Well, at least we are not back at our church building. From a faith perspective, however, we have never ceased to be the church. *“God has made Christ the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*

Some of us had the opportunity to spend a little time in nature this past summer – just to get out of the house. No one will argue that it is easy to find God's presence in nature. What makes it easier, sometimes, is the absence of other human beings/noise.

But that doesn't mean that God's presence can't be found when we are among other human beings, even when we are isolated from one another, going on for 6-months! We can find God also in the church filled with broken people who may have nothing in common and still are bounded together as the body of Christ.

God throws us together in the church and basically says, *“Now you have an opportunity to learn how to live with other people, to forgive, and even to see God in other people. If you can find God in the church, you can him anywhere.”*

Someone once said, *“the church, like the family, is the place where we learn to live with people we are stuck with. And when we stick with those we are stuck with, it is a living reminder of the God who is stuck with us all.”*

So, can we stick with each other in this time of isolation? May we all make sure that “social distancing” will only mean “physical distancing” and still stay socially connected with each other. Our status as being the church isn't confined only to our building, but in our ability to function as the body of Christ, with Christ as our head. We all have him in his fullness!

I encourage you to add some effort to stay connected, and to be what you already are, the church.

With love,

Rev. Co

Worship Ministry

September 6

Communion

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Dee Hardesty
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Cindie Hoch
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Corrine Bachar
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Service of Worship
Virtual Coffee Hour
Lay Reader
Scripture Reading

9:00a – www.fccdp.org
9:50a – 11:00a www.fccdp.org
Deb Alde
Matthew 21:23-32

Membership & Communications Ministry





Staying Connected: Church members and friends organized a sidewalk parade and drive-by birthday celebration for Jackie Schmitt in August. Jackie is pictured (above) waving to passersby and (at left) with her family – husband Paul and children Jeannie, Dave and Joyce.

Evening Circle Meetings to Resume

(From Nancy Meyer) We are having our first Evening Circle meeting of the year "virtually" at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8. The link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to all Evening Circle ladies and included in a "Notes from Co," as all women of the church are invited to join us. 'Hope to see you there!

Mission Ministry

Help Fight Pulmonary Fibrosis

Save the date of September 12 and join us for a Virtual Pulmonary Fibrosis Walk. Our church team this year is dedicating efforts to the memory of Mary Pittman's mother, Nancy Sidhu, who passed away from this disease on July 4. Last year our church had 16 walkers join up for a walk near Chicago's Diversey Harbor but because of Covid-19, we will do a virtual walk this year. **Registration is free** but walkers are encouraged to raise funds to support vital programs that help people with Pulmonary Fibrosis and their families to live better lives. To donate or visit our team page click on this (online) link. [2020 PFF Walk](#) For further information, speak with Wendy Wallace.



Our FCC team at the 2019 Pulmonary Fibrosis Walk.



Our Project Survivor team made another delivery recently to Exodus World Service, based in Park Ridge. The staff takes the personal care and home goods donations to refugee families who are new to the Chicago area. This particular collection will benefit a young man named Prakash, a Hindu who came from a detention center on Nauru, a tiny island northeast of Australia. Pictured (l to r) are Nancy Brink, Chris Tomsic, Evan Tomsic and John Foster.

Property Ministry

Wednesday Work Crew Keeps Busy During the Pandemic

(Submitted by Bob McCullough) For the past six months the Church has been closed – no services, no meetings – nothing! But, you can't just walk away from a *large* and *aging* facility and leave it alone. Pipes leak, windows crack, water evaporates from the 11 toilets and creates sewer gas – who knows what will happen?

Jim Foster, our Property Manager/guardian angel, keeps his eye on the place. But he needs help – that's where the *Wednesday Work Crew* comes in.

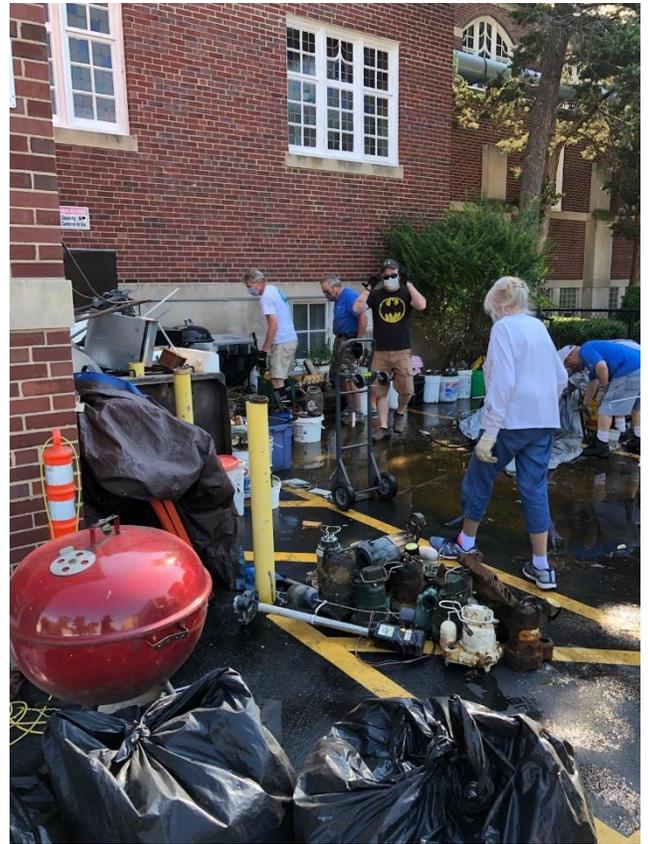
For the last six months WWC has

- Scraped and plastered and painted the southeast wall in Webster Hall that was damaged by a leaking heating pipe on the third floor.

- Removed the old railings from the front of the church, patched the concrete and cleaned the rust off the surface.
- Sanded, patched, stained and varnished the Main Sanctuary Doors. (Pictured)
- Burnished and polished brass door handles and kick plates.
- Removed donated bikes from the furnace room, refurbished and tuned them up and then sold “like new” bikes. We raised over \$1,300 on a Saturday morning and then Sue Almerigi made another \$800 by posting them online.
- With help from volunteers we *loaded* and *unloaded* over 12,000 pounds of scrap metal to raise over \$500; other grades of metals brought in \$500. (Pictured)
- As usual we maintained the church property by trimming bushes and other plantings and cleaning the grounds weekly. (Pictured)
- Scraped and painted outside railings at the Parish House Door, the West Entrance and the basement ramp. We also painted yellow caution markings on stairs.
- Cleaned and painted windows and door frames.



Our Wednesday Work Crew has been busy during the pandemic, as noted in these photos. Thanks to all those who have volunteered their time for these projects.



In Other Property News...

Our church's 2021 *Second Time Around* sale is set for April 23 and April 24 – save the dates! And, a total of 22 newly engraved bricks are expected to arrive in September, for our church's **Memorial Garden.**

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 during the last weekends in October or the first weekend in November. 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 Cookie Walk.

Join the PF: If you know a teenager who would like to join the PF, please reach out to Matt. He or she does not need to be a member of First Congregational Church in order to participate. Our first activity will be to the Richardson's Corn Maze this fall.



PFers who headed to Wisconsin include (l to r) Leader/ chaperone Matt Cameron, Nate Bryers, AJ Almerigi, Luke Engler, Connor Thomas, Mia Thomas, Madeleine Larson and Caitlyn Claussen, with chaperone Nina Potempa.



Because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, our PF high school youth had to cancel plans for their summer mission trip to Adam's Camp in Colorado, to work with special needs campers. Instead, they headed to Wisconsin in July for outdoor fun and fellowship. They rented a pontoon boat on Green Bay and visited Cave Point Park in Sturgeon Bay for swimming and hiking.

Finance Committee

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Church ended Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020) with total income of \$304,876 and expenses of \$311,684, for a shortfall of \$5,808. In order to balance the budget, \$3,692 was transferred from the Pastoral Housing Allowance and an additional \$2,115 was transferred from the General Budget Contingency Fund. Thank you to all of our church members who were able to keep up with their pledges (or in some cases even exceed their pledge amount) during the pandemic. Your support was crucial in helping us cover our expenses during this difficult time.

BULLETIN BOARD OF BILLS

Thanks to everyone who has already participated in this year's Bulletin Board of Bills. Since income from outside groups and other church fundraisers is significantly reduced this year, the Bulletin Board of Bills fundraiser is more important than ever. If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, this fundraiser continues through Labor Day, so there's still time. Just watch Co's Notes, where several bills are posted each Thursday. Select one that fits within your budget and make a donation to the church in that amount. Mail a check, payable to FCCDP, to the church; call the church office to pay by credit card; or click on the link to pay by PayPal.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

We're currently assembling a calendar of all fundraisers planned by Church Ministries, committees, and organizations during Fiscal 2020-2021. This calendar will be submitted to the Church Council for approval at their September meeting. It's important that the calendar includes all planned fundraisers, so we can be sure that multiple groups aren't planning events for the same date. If you have not yet submitted your fundraising plans, please email to surry1024@comcast.net by Sunday, September 20.

From the Community



The Troop 6 Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held outside our church building in August. Congratulations to the Eagle Class of 2020 and their families! Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting. These four young men began their scouting journey as first graders at Forest Elementary School in Des Plaines. Pictured (l to r) are Connor Thomas, Dylan Pace, AJ Almerigi and Kai Kelly.

Happy Birthday to You!!

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

9/1	Linda Huntzicker	9/13	Lauren Muhr
9/1	Nina Potempa	9/21	Dan Fink
9/3	Paul Whittenhall	9/21	Rhonda Yost
9/6	Angela Hinderliter	9/25	Sharon Miller
9/6	Ralph Murdy	9/25	Kirsten Tangeros
9/6	Steven Skiba	9/25	Connor Thomas
9/9	Brandonn Deadwyler	9/26	Martha Hoffmann
9/9	Ansebel DuToit	9/27	Gail Deadwyler
9/9	Cindy Franzwa	9/29	Cody Meincke
9/10	Christopher Donoghue		

Gifts & Memorials

In Loving Memory of Mary Pittman's Mother, Nancy Sidhu, from Dee Hardesty

In Loving Memory of Mary Pittman's Mother, Nancy Sidhu, from Flo Hoffman

From our Historian, Nancy Meyer

A note from Diane Russell, Art Henrikson's daughter (edited): We were delighted to see our dad's Artoons featured in the August 2020 Tidings. We wonder what kinds of cartoons he would be drawing these days with the precarious state of the world. We know one thing for sure, though. He would want everyone to keep laughing! Many thanks for remembering Art! My father drew many religious cartoons during his time at First Congregational Church. You may recall that he and Rev. Scheuer teamed up to develop the Art and the Gospel weekly series in the Tidings. Many of his cartoons were published in The Christian Ministry publication. *Art Henrikson passed away in 2012 so he knew nothing about these difficult days or the fact that all our "church going" is on a screen!*



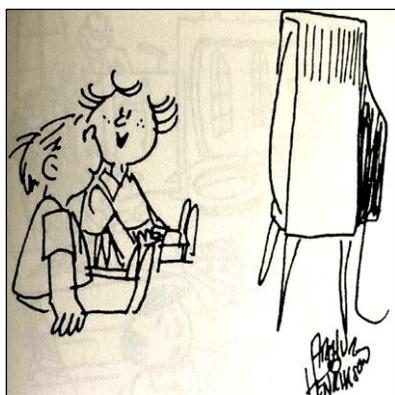
I didn't know cable TV had this capability!



I videotaped my sermons. Now I go golfing Sundays, too!



The preacher has legs. The ones on TV only go to here!



Daddy says the best thing about TV church is no offering!



Here are the taped sermons of our last three services and the Collection plate you missed.



And a special welcome to those knowing nothing but the electronic church.

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

www.fccdp.org

847/299-5561

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:59p Back-to-Church Survey deadline	2 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	3 7:00p Membership & Communications	4	5
6 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	7 Labor Day Weekend	8 7:00p Evening Circle	9 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Music & Drama	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	14 7:00p Finance	15	16 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p PRC	17 7:00p Worship Ministry	18	19
20 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship Tidings Deadline	21	22	23 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	28 6:30p Property	29 7:00p Council	30 9:00a WWC 10:00a Bible Study			