

WRESTLING WITH GOD



**UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE
MARCH 19TH, 2017
9:30 AM**

**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey ...
You are welcome here!**

A SPECIAL WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

- Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you feel the warmth of God's spirit here as we worship together! Please complete the form (in the pew) to let us know a little more about you and place it in the offering plate. As our guests this day it is the only offering we ask. If you should have a prayer concern or would like to meet with the Pastor please indicate this next to your name. Thank you!
- Following worship please join us in Fellowship Hall for an informal Continental Breakfast.
- Please note our worship services are online and televised, your participation in the service may be visible during these live ministries. If you should not wish your child to be on screen, please refrain from sending them forward during the children's time or have them sit directly in front of the pews in the front.
- Children are welcome in worship; however, should your child grow restless feel free to sit with them in the Parlor at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- Nursery/childcare is available for children up to age 2 and is located on Level 2 just beyond the Chapel.
- Children are invited to attend Sunday School following the Children's Message. Classes are offered for all ages.
- Large print bulletins and hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher.
- An elevator is at your disposal for all levels; our west entrance has a ramp.
- Our Church Website is <http://www.uccdg.org>
Follow us on: Twitter @ <http://www.twitter.com/uccdg>
 Facebook @ <http://facebook.com/uccdg>
 Web stream @ <http://www.uccfn.org>

"There is no power like that of prevailing prayer - of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heartbroken with remorse and grief, Jesus in sweat and blood. Add to this list from the records of the church your personal observation and experience, and always there is cost of passion unto blood. Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into people of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God." -Samuel Chadwick

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

-Corrie Ten Boom

Faith isn't faith until it's all you're holding on to. – Unknown
God is still speaking ...

PRELUDE

Oculi Nostri

-Taize

Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Scott

MOMENT OF AWARENESS *Bridge Communities*

*SHARING THE PEACE

*OPENING SONG

You Are Worthy of My Praise

-Ruis

The Band

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Pastor Kim

When the truth is exposed and the things we have long suppressed or hidden rise to the surface

Help us to be honest God

When we wrestle with our past, choices we have made and paths we've taken

Meet us in our grappling

This Lent in the temptation to remain in relative comfort and ease

Give us the courage and trust to open ourselves more openly to You. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Show Me Thy Ways

-Patterson

Jr. Choir/Cindi Duncan

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love -Arr. Geschke
Alleluia Ringers

CHILDREN'S SONG

Jesus Loves Me (1st Verse)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastors Kim and Scott

The Lord's Prayer (read in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SONG

Jesus Loves Me (2nd verse)

Jesus loves me still today,

Walking with me on my way,

Wanting as a friend to give,

Light and love to all who live.

SCRIPTURE READING
Genesis 32:3-28

Joe Kilar

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Help Me to Find It* -Sidewalk Prophets
SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION The Band

MESSAGE *At the Crossroads* Pastor Scott

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Scott
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD Pastor Scott
Sharing Our Gifts with the Offertory
Offertory Music *River in Judea* -Marcus/Feldman
Chancel Choir

*Presentation of the Gifts with Praise (*sung in unison*)
**To God, all glorious heavenly light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise,
Our joyful song of thankful praise.**

*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Scott

*CLOSING SONG # 581 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service (v1,2,4)*
-Huber/Zundel

*BENEDICTION *Ancient Words* - Deshazo
One of our worship traditions to show our solidarity and love in community is to join hands and sing. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to join us in song and in spirit.

*POSTLUDE *Everlasting God* -Brewster

**OUR TIME OF WORSHIP TOGETHER HAS ENDED.
NOW MAY OUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE BEGIN!**

Today's Musicians

Vocals: Kelley Calpin, Anthony Berg
Guitar: Steve Serra Horn/Piano: Sarah Younker
Drums/Piano: Justin Kono

PRAYER CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY JOYS

Rick and Genevieve Franz, Craig and Jay DuSold, Margaret Craig, Sandy Gales,
Michael Ode, Mary Jo Henkel, Amanda Mierdirk, Sam McHugh, Jan Barker, Betty
Mazzone, mother of Cliff Mazzone, Marlene Anderson

Today's Sunday School: Today our 3 yrs. – 4 ½ yrs. Will meet in room 202. Our 4 ½ yr. olds – K children will meet in room 203. Our 1st -& 2nd graders will meet in the Chapel. Our 3rd & 4th graders will meet in room 603. Our 5th & 6th graders will meet in room 604.

GREETERS: Dave & Lynn Niemi, Bob Orsula

USHERS: Len Clark, Perlie Havel, Debra Eisenhart, Lora Finucane

HEAD USHER: Tom Eisenhart

COUNTERS: Pat Lockett, Bill Lockett, Sr.

(Lead Counter) Pam Swick

This week's continental breakfast will be served by Leadership.

This week's altar flowers are in memory of Mya Topel from grandparents, Jerry & Joan Topel.

This Week's Announcements

LENTEN SEASON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Every Wednesday night up until Holy Week: Special Lenten Service 6pm-6:45pm with Grounds of Hope in Two Way Street Coffee House

Special Lenten Soup Suppers 6:30pm-7pm every Wednesday until Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Meal 6pm-7pm Worship 7:30pm

Good Friday Tennebrae Service 7:30pm

6:00am Sunrise Service Easter Sunday

9:00am Traditional High Church Service Easter Sunday

10:00am Easter Sunday Brunch-Youth Mission Team

11:00am Contemporary Service Easter Sunday

MANNA- NEW MERCHANTS: If you did not already know we now stock Caputo's, Mariano's and Chipotle (\$10 and \$25) cards at the Manna Table. There is not a Chipotle at Saratoga and Ogden. Remember, buying MANNA CARDS helps the church budget end strong. And Manna is simple to do. You purchase a gift card for the face value. The merchant donates a percentage back to the church. For instance, if you buy a \$25 Chipotle card the church receives \$2.75.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Each of the successive Wednesdays we will have a soup supper with a worship time of 6:00pm in the Coffee House to focus on the meaning and journey of discipleship Lent brings us through. Meal times will be 6:30pm-7:30pm in the fellowship hall, confirmands are welcome to stay till seven and then go to their class. The soup supper nights are March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and April 5th. The youth group will be overseeing March 8th and 15th. We will especially need cooks and volunteers the 22nd, 29th and 5th.

Bridge Communities: FCUCC has partnered with Bridge Communities since 1999 and provided mentoring and monthly rent to 8 families, impacting the futures of 16 children. Through weekly mentoring sessions, all of our families have developed life skills such as budgeting and banking, home and time management, goal setting and meal planning, the effective use of available community/Bridge

resources and support for parenting skills. If you are interested in finding out more about Bridge Communities, they will be the featured mission in March. Keep your eye out for more information or contact Char Wild. *Learn more about Bridge Communities and mentoring on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 8:15 AM-2:30 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church 393 N. Main St. Glen Ellyn, IL. Registration is required by Monday, April 3. Contact Char Wild 630 985-4416 or char.wild@comcast.net*

FCLC is installing new rubber flooring in their four classrooms: Installation is scheduled for the last week in March. Need volunteers to help move furniture and other stuff from and back into these classrooms. We will need help on Sunday afternoon, March 26 and the evenings of March 27-29. And again on March 31 and Saturday, April 1 after the flooring has been installed in the infant rooms. Hoping to only need 4-5 volunteers each room for 2 hours. Please contact Tom Williams if you can help with this project.

Greater Chicago Food Depository Wednesday Night Repack: Join church members each Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 9:00 pm for a food repack session. The Greater Chicago Food Depository is located at 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, which is just off the Stevenson Expressway at Pulaski Road. For more information, contact David Hersemann at dah5@comcast.net, or Laurel Carlson at lacduke@comcast.net

Christian Witness requests you to consider joining our friends, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) in their on-going struggle in bring justice to those who harvest our food. The CIW has called for a boycott of Wendy's, the final fast food hold out, refusing to join "The Fair Food Program." This program has reduced human slavery, and sexual abuse in the Florida fields. It has improved the wages and provided basic protections for the workers. Many of you may remember when the CIW came to our church in 2007 while completing a successful campaign to have McDonalds join. Come join the CIW in an action against Wendy's here in Chicago. WHEN: Wednesday, March 22 at 4:30 pm-WHERE: We will be gathering at Pulaski Park and marching to Wendy's at 1623 W Division St, Chicago, IL 60622 *We will have a table during coffee-hour with more information on the CIW's boycott of Wendy's.*

Blue Jeans Go Green! In March the Caring for Creation team is collecting denim jeans, shorts, jackets, or shirts for recycling into insulation. Drop off your denim in the seagrass baskets at the West entrance. For more information on recycling clothes and textiles, see the Caring for Creation article in the March Pilgrim.

FCC BOOK CLUB: The book selection for April is "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet Wednesday, April 5 in the Chapel at 6:30pm. Even if you have never attended one of our meetings, you are welcome to join us! Just read the book and come ready to discuss. As an aside, the author, Kristin Hannah, is going to be at Anderson's Book Store in Naperville on April 26. They require an advance registration of \$20 which includes a paperback copy of the book "The Nightingale". Please see or contact Linda Schranz for more information, 630-464-0426. Linda

A Close Look At Climate Change: Please join the Caring for Creation Team physicist Jan Hessler gives a talk on "Climate Change: Are We on New Terrain?" The presentation will be held on Sunday March 26 at 11 am in the Chapel.

YOUTH NEWS: MISSION TRIP 2017-PARENT MEETING-SUNDAY, MARCH 19th Meet in the Youth Room at 8:30 am. **PARENT EDUCATION SUNDAY, MARCH 19th**-How to connect with your pre-teen and teen. Meet in the church library at 1:00 pm. **AIRFARE MILES NEEDED FOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2017:** Please consider donating your airfare miles for our adult youth leaders going on this year's mission trip to Denver, Colorado! Please see Pastor Scott or Dena Provenzano if you're interested in donating miles for this year's youth mission trip. **SPRING CLEANING:** Please consider our youth mission trip team to help with your spring cleaning needs. Call Dena Provenzano if you have a job for our youth!

DOOR Ministries – 2017 Youth Mission Trip: We will travel to Denver, Colorado this June with the Youth Mission Team 2017 to serve with DOOR Ministries. We will work in the city with many minority groups, and we will examine how white privilege affects the various people we work alongside with on a daily basis. We will spend time working directly with those living on the streets, as well as those in transitional living and job training. There are many ways for our church community to get involved in our mission trip. Beginning this spring, you will have the opportunity to purchase shares and become a shareholder affording you a day to day look at our mission trip experience. Please watch for the Shareholders announcement beginning in April so you can become part of Youth Mission Team 2017!

First Congo-Heartland Blood Drive 35th Anniversary: FCC and Heartland Blood Centers are commemorating a special 35 year partnership of holding blood drives in Fellowship Hall. On October 13, 1982, Neva Botsford and Joyce Nerud held the first blood drive. When Neva died, Stan Steed joined Joyce as "Mr. Hospitality." Along with Pat Lockett's delicious home baked cookies, Stan served snacks and beverages. In the process, everyone visited and had a wonderful time! Heartland estimates, we have held 106 blood drives, resulting in 2,700 pints of blood. Each pint of blood helps 3 people so **8,100 lives** have been helped. High schools and colleges account for 25% of all donations. Heartland needs 700 pints of blood each day for the hospitals they serve. All of their blood supply stays in the Chicago area. More than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada: 38,000 pints of donated blood is used each day in the U.S. On April 23, during our regular church service, Heartland will present a Golden Heart Award to our church for 35 years of "making a major, life-saving difference for those in need.

Women's Retreat: Sunday, March 19th is the final day that Jan Barker is collecting the registration forms and payments for the Women's Retreat on April 2nd. Please see Jan either before or after the worship service in the west entrance. Thank you.



EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to see our sanctuary in full bloom? Help us bring new life by sharing a spring plant with us! We'll do the work. Just fill out the blank below, attach your payment for \$12.50 (for each plant purchased) and bring/send it to the church office by **Sunday, April 9th**. We'll take care of the rest and arrange the plants for **Easter services on April 16th**.

Your name and the name of your loved ones will appear in the bulletin.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

I would like to take my flower home after worship on Easter.

(We order a variety of plants; however, it is first come, first served if you wish to take your plant[s] home.)

I would like to leave my flower for distribution to our homebound members and friends.

What a wonderful way to remember dear ones at this time of year!

Your Name:

(Please PRINT clearly)

Telephone Number/E-mail:

Name of Loved One whose memory flowers are given:

(Please PRINT clearly)

SWEET LIFE CAFÉ

A Women's Retreat

Love ~ Friendship ~ Reflection

Please join us on Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 for a day of relaxation, laughs, love, friendship and reflection.

11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In the Sycamore Room at the

Morton Arboretum

Arrival – Luncheon – Four Team Sessions

Two Amazing Speakers and High Tea at 4:00

(fathers and children may enter the Arboretum for free while mom is in retreat)

All Friends Welcome!

\$40.00 per person



RSVP To JAN BARKER – jbarker@uccdg.org

630-865-6675 by March 15th.



Name _____

Phone No. _____

No. of Persons _____

Total amt. (\$40.00 per person) \$ _____



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST PRESENTS**

Trivia NIGHT!

Thank you to all our donors!

<i>A Shear Encounter II</i>	<i>Happy Dog Barkery</i>
<i>Adventure Realm</i>	<i>Hauiform</i>
<i>Avec Panache</i>	<i>Herritage House Florist</i>
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<i>Bertos Deli and Pasta Shoppe</i>	<i>Jolie Boutique</i>
<i>Bryan's American Grille</i>	<i>Langs Auto Service</i>
<i>Carribbean Corner</i>	<i>My Favorite Toy Store</i>
<i>Cellar 406</i>	<i>Pampered Chef~Jamie Inso</i>
<i>Chicago White Sox Charities</i>	<i>Platinum Partners</i>
<i>Classic Cinemas</i>	<i>Stars and Stripes Flag Corp.</i>
<i>D3 Financial Planning</i>	<i>Style Studio</i>
<i>Downers Grove Golf Club</i>	<i>Tastefully Simple~Rita Davis</i>
<i>Downers Grove Park District</i>	<i>Thirty-One~Mayra Kulik</i>
<i>Dr. Robert F Gigis, DDS</i>	<i>Wannemakers</i>
<i>Fair Game</i>	<i>Wells Street Popcorn</i>

Coming Up This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

- 8:30 AM Parents Meeting Mission Trip-Youth Room
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 PM Sunday School
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Drama
- 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Hallelujah Ringers Rehearsal
- 11:00 AM Adult Daycare Presentation-Parlor
- 11:00 AM Caring for Creation Team Meeting-Nursery
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM HS Discussion-Library
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Junior Choir
- 1:00 PM Parents Education-Library

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Youth Basketball League-1st United Methodist Church

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Chapel
- 6:00 PM FCLC Meeting-Parlor
- 6:00 PM PADS-Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Rescheduled Book club on Great Tide Rising-Library

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
- 10:00 AM Adult Coloring Group-Parlor
- 6:30 PM CE Meeting-Library
- 6:30 PM Personnel Committee-Pastor Scott's Office
- 7:00 PM Finance & Budget-Rm 503
- 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal-Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible Study (at members' homes)
- 11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting-Library
- 12:00 PM Administrative Deadline for Bulletin
- 4:30 PM CIW-The Fair Food Program-Pulaski Pk(1623 W. Division Chgo)
- 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Greater Chicago Food Depository Wednesday Night Repack
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Grounds of Hope Worship Service-Coffee House
- 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper-Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Confirmation-Youth Room
- 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alanon meeting-Coffee House

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM FCLC Jumbunch Chapel
- 6:30 PM Cabinet meeting-503
- 6:30 PM ESL Conversation Group-Library
- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Last Thursday-Two Way Coffee House Open Mike
- 7:00 PM Scouts-Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Chapel
- 8:15 PM Two Way Street Concert-Coffee House

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Martial Arts Chapel
- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bluegrass Jam!-Coffee House

OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Scott Oberle, Senior Pastor pastorscott@uccdg.org
Rev. Kim Whisler-Vasko, Associate Minister of Faith Formation kvasko@uccdg.org
Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation casanders3@aol.com
Kelley Calpin, Director of Music Ministries kcalpin@gmail.com
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Dena Provenzano, Director of Youth Ministries dprovenzano@uccdg.org
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Dave Humphreys, Two Way Street Coffee House dave@twowaystreet.org
Bill Hammack, A-V Specialist bill@symbolix.com
Len Potter, Broadcasting Ministries lenp@potterpro.com
Justin Kono, Band Director jakira.kono@gmail.com
The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Schieler, Pastor Emeritus

*Each and every member of our church has a ministry!
Church staff available*

Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Fridays by appointment.
Office Phone: 630-968-0358 Office E-mail: FCUCC@UCCDG.org
In pastoral emergencies, Pastor Scott can be reached at 630-432-0380.

*Visit our weekly Sunday Service on channel 6 each Sunday at 11:30am.



An Open and Affirming Congregation

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515

630-968-0358

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