



Happy Mothers Day

From the desk of Pastor Scott

Surreal, that's how it feels to be getting ready to be on sabbatical. It's difficult to imagine being away for the summer as so much of who I am is sharing life in this faith led community with each of you. In eighteen years of ministry, this will actually be the first full sabbatical I have been able to take. I am very grateful for the opportunity to rest and recharge. Frankly, I feel like the church will be better served in the long run by taking some time for reflection, honing some of my ministry skills and seeking God's guidance for our next chapters together as a faith community. Sometimes it's easy to get one dimensional and bogged down in day to day programming or personnel issues in ways that sidetrack you from seeing the wider long term picture. Sabbatical offers the time and space to do just that.

During this time I will be heading back to South Africa to further the mission work being done there and to Kenya, to reconnect with a church and friend there whom I was in ministry with many moons ago in Portage, Michigan. I'll be attending a homiletics conference in San Antonio, learning and listening to some very gifted preachers and teachers share how they lead worship and doing my best to take some good notes away from it. With any luck, I'll be testing into a Spanish program locally and trying to work on my fluency in Spanish.

I will be thinking and praying for all of you here often. And, I'd ask that you, if you think of it, pray for me during this time so that God would reveal to me whatever it is I need to hear/learn and grow from during this time.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**MAY2017
PILGRIM EDITION:**

page 1

• From The Desk of Pastor Scott

page 2

• Caring For Creation

page 3

• Children's Ministry/Jan Barker

page 4

• Building And Grounds

• From Father God to Mother Earth

page 5

• Confirmation & Youth New/Ms Pro

page 6

• PADS

• Women's Fellowship

• Prayer Concerns

• Blood Drive Thanks

page 7

• VBS

page 8

• Sparrow Ministries Fund

page 9

• Two Way Street Coffee House

Happy Mother's Day



Caring for Creation

Summer travel that's easier on the environment and your wallet

With summer around the corner, thoughts turn to vacation getaways. And that typically means packing up the car for a long drive or heading to the airport to fly to a distant vacation spot. All that driving and flying burns a lot of fuel, and in turn, produces tons and tons of carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.

To lower the environmental impact of your summer travel, consider the following tips:

Driving

Learn the best driving habits for fuel efficiency. Avoiding sudden acceleration, using your vehicle's cruise control and getting rid of unnecessary items in the trunk all contribute to better fuel economy. Some dashboards show fuel use patterns and can help improve your driving habits.

Keep your car well-tuned and tires filled to the manufacturer's recommendations. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says that for every 1-psi drop in pressure, you can expect your gas mileage to decrease by 0.4 percent. (The DOE's website, fueleconomy.gov provides many tips for increasing fuel efficiency.)

If you rent a car, consider a hybrid or the most fuel-efficient model possible. Not only is this better for the environment, but you'll save significantly on gas costs.

Flying

Fly direct to your destination whenever possible. Connecting flights require two or more cycles of take-off, landing and ground operations, which makes your carbon footprint larger.

For shorter travel distances, consider taking a train (when available) instead of flying. Trains are more carbon-efficient than planes and you get the bonus of seeing the scenery go by!

When available, take public transit from the airport to your hotel. If public transportation is not available, consider using van transportation services or taxi companies with hybrid and/or fuel-efficient fleets. If you must rent a vehicle, select the smallest vehicle you need or a hybrid if cost effective.

Other travel

When possible, select lodging with eco-friendly practices and policies. The website gogreentravelgreen.com offers numerous tips on how to find and evaluate eco-friendly hotels and other lodging options.

Consider purchasing carbon offsets to manage the carbon dioxide generated from the miles your drive and/or fly to your vacation destination by purchasing carbon credits. A carbon offset reflects a certain tonnage of CO₂. The money raised by selling offsets goes to project that help prevent the emissions of carbon dioxide (like renewable energy) or capture and store carbon (such as planting trees). The Carbon Fund (carbonfund.org), TerraPass (terrapass.com) and The Nature Conservancy (nature.org) are just a few organizations that allow you to calculate the carbon footprint of your activities and purchase an appropriate amount of offsets.



Happy Mother's Day

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The flowers are in bloom, the trees and grass are green, the children are awaiting the end of the school year, vacation plans are in the works and First Congregational is buzzing like the bees in the gardens.

The Women's Retreat, Sweet Life Café was a success and 52 beautiful ladies had a pleasant day of good food, reflection and friendships both new and old. Our Easter services and brunch were wonderful and our Variety show youth fund-raiser was a hit and is now in the rear view mirror.

My focus now is all on our Vacation Bible School and Children's Church for the summer. Our VBS this year is called: HERO CENTRAL (Discover Your Strength in God). Our VBS week is June 19th - 23rd. The 3 years - Kindergarten children will meet from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The fee is \$35.00 for the first child and \$20.00 for the second plus children in 3 - K. Our 1st - 6th graders meet from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and will bring their lunch Monday - Thursday and will be given lunch on Friday. The fee is \$50.00 for the first child and \$25.00 for the siblings 1st - 6th. These fees cover their VBS t-shirt, the VBS printed materials and the supplies, also all snacks and Friday's lunch (for the 1st - 6th graders). Each day the children will arrive to a fun skit by our Super Heroes, and a wonderful Bible story acted out before them. Following the opening, they will go down to Fellowship Hall where they will take part in making their morning snack. After snack the children split up. The 1st - 3rd graders will enjoy music while the 4th - 6th graders will enjoy an arts and craft class. After about 40 minutes the two groups will switch. At 11:45 we all convene for our lunch and stories about mission projects in the world. From 12:30 - 1:40 each group enjoys science class and outdoor games. The final 20 minutes is our daily closing with another fun skit. We have so much fun at VBS! Please check out our VBS donation list here in the Pilgrim. REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1ST. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY SO THAT WE KNOW HOW MANY T-SHIRTS, SNACKS AND MATERIALS WE WILL NEED. THANK YOU.

CONTACT JAN BARKER AT: JBARKER@UCCDG.ORG OR CALL: (630) 968-0358 EXT. 223.

Kid's Church will begin on Sunday, June 4th. Our Kid's Church will meet each Sunday in the Chapel during the same time as our regular worship service. Children only need to be signed out. This year, the Kid's Church will be for the 1st graders - 5th graders. The 3 years - K children will have class in the nursery and the children going into 6th grade and above will join their parents in the regular worship service. On June 25th, all children will remain in the regular worship service as this will be our VBS and Youth Sunday.

In August, I will begin the teacher's workshops for our Sunday school program for next fall. If you would like to become a Sunday school teacher, please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing you and your children this summer at church and VBS. Have a wonderful, restful yet exciting summer!

Blessings, Jan Barker - Director of Children's Ministries



Happy Mother's Day

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Spring church work day will be Saturday May 6. Volunteers are welcome anytime from 8-2 pm. We will spruce up Memorial Garden, wash some windows and perform some small mechanical repairs. Please join us or contribute toward the purchase of plants for the new planter on Curtiss Street.

50 Ton RTU air conditioning unit is scheduled to be installed first week of May. The three smaller units and the new exhaust fan were installed mid-April.

Bids are being secured for the electrical work and new LED theatre lighting for the Sanctuary. If Capital Campaign funds are available, we hope to install in August before Pastor Scott returns from his Sabbatical.

Please do not open the windows in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. These rooms are temperature controlled 24/7. Our system brings in fresh air as needed. When you feel the fans running, it is not always cooled air. Open windows allow humidity to enter and AC must work harder to attain desired room temperature.

From Father God to Mother Earth

On Sunday, May 7, our congregation will be welcoming from Wichita, KS, the Reverend David P. Hansen, a pastor for more than 40 years, as he presents "From Father God to Mother Earth" during a moment of awareness within the service and then in Fellowship Hall after the service. He will be explaining some of the main themes from his book, Native Americans, the Mainline Church, and the Quest for Interracial Justice, and discuss how the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe encampment, in addition to a couple other cases, is taking a stand to protect water and treaty rights. His discussion will highlight how the issues among the Native Americans, corporations, and the U.S. government are changing our national landscape and theology, redefining the mission of the church and creating both challenging and exciting times for the mainline church. Copies of his book may be purchased after his presentation in Fellowship Hall.

The Reverend David Phillips Hansen received his theological degree from the Pacific School of Religion, and he first served in campus ministry in Saskatchewan. His first UCC pastorate was in Two Rivers, WI. He earned his PhD in 1988 from Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. He has served as a UCC pastor in 6 different states and as UCC Conference Minister in both the Hawaii Conference and the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. He is currently the interim minister at a Disciples of Christ church in Wichita, KS, where he lives with his wife of 50 years. He and his wife Sally have three children and 11 grandchildren. They are an interracial and multicultural family that embraces first generation immigrants from both France and Turkey.



Happy Mother's Day

Confirmation and YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH NEWS!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Our Easter Brunch was a HUGE success and thank you so very much to ALL of our youth (Confirmation classes and high schoolers) as well as our parents, families and church members who made delicious breakfast casseroles, homemade breads, pastries and fruit kabobs! Bob and Shelley Casey were our Easter Brunch chefs for the second year in a row and everyone went above and beyond to help our Youth Mission Team 2017 raise over \$600!

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR WILD & CRAZY SPRING CALENDAR:

Saturday, May 13th, Youth Fellowship!

Night Walk with The Night Ministry. Meet at the church west entrance at 4:00 pm and we will carpool to the city to participate in The Night Ministry, "Night Walk" in Wrigleyville. You won't want to miss this experience and opportunity to learn about the causes and realities of youth homelessness. PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 1st.

DuPage River Cleanup, Youth Fellowship!

Saturday, May 20th-9-noon

Please RSVP by May 1st.

(Families are encouraged to attend!)

CONFIRMATION:

Sunday, May 7th, Decision Day.

Lunch in the chapel at 11:00 am with your mentors & teachers.

We will head to the Arboretum following lunch. Return by 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, May 17th, Confirmation rehearsal.

Please meet in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm with mentors & teachers. Sunday, May 21st

Confirmation Sunday! Please meet by the front steps at 8:45 am for pictures.

Additional dates:

Sunday, June 4th, Graduation Sunday

June 11-18, Mission Trip 2017 to Denver, Colorado with DOOR Ministries.

June 19-23, Vacation Bible School,

Please sign up today to be a counselor.

June 25th, YOUTH SUNDAY!

(more details to follow)

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SUMMER ACTIVITIES COMING SOON.....

Love and blessings, Dena Rae Provenzano -Director of Youth Ministries

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Happy Mother's Day

Stop by and show your support.

First Tuesday of the Month
from 4 to 9 pm



Tom & Eddie's®

348 Yorktown Center in Lombard, IL 60148
at The Shops on Butterfield

(SW side of Yorktown Center across from Rock Bottom,
look for the orange awnings)

Tom & Eddie's will donate 10% of net proceeds to
First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downers Grove.

Please present this ad to the cashier at time of purchase.



CONCERNS

Rick and Genevieve Franz, Sandy Gales, Michael Ode, Amanda Mierdirk, Sam McHugh, Marlene Anderson, Patti Miller, Ken Hall father of John Hall, Lommatzsch family at the death of Roger's dad Richard, Newton family at the death of Matt's dad Bernie, Len Clark

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - LADIES OF THE MORNING AND EVENING

We're going out for DINNER! Friday, May 5 at 6:30 PM at Jameson's Char House. Jameson's Char House 1001 West 75th Street Woodridge 630-910-9700

Two weeks later INSTEAD of staying at church we will meet at Peggy Gutzke's house to stitch and chat and EAT on her porch. 5/19 - 9:30. Stitch and Chat Peggy Gutzke 4916 Stanley Ave. Downers Grove, IL 60515 H-630/971-1382 C-630/632-3014. In the summer we usually meet at people's home once a month and bring food to share for breakfast. This is a very casual gathering. Come if and when you can, even if for only a few minutes.

Get it on your calendar: Progressive Dinner!!! Everyone is welcome! Friday, June 9 th 6:30 Appetizers – Edith Larson 7:30 Dinner - Jan Hibbeln's house. 9:30 Dessert - Peggy Gutzke's house Think about whether you want to bring appetizers, dinner food or dessert. Details to follow.

Blood Drive:

Many thanks to Mark Herrick, Judy Murrison, and Sue Larsen from Congregational Care for their help at the April 18th Blood Drive. Thanks also to Pat Lockett for her delicious home made bar cookies for our treat table! The following participants have made a difference for those in need: Mark Hedrick, Frank Lipuma, Len Clark, Sandra Toleikis, J. Richard Toleikis, Marty Schranz, Dave Doemland, Ralph Anderson, Dennis Byrues, Joyce Doemland, Tom Eisenhart, and Laurie Tsukuno. Mark your calendar! Plan ahead! Our next Blood Drive is July 18th. Blood can be donated every 8 weeks. Thank you! 35 years and counting!

Happy Mother's Day

COMING THIS SUMMER!



HERO
CENTRAL

VBS • JUNE 19-23 • REGISTER TODAY! • jbarker@UCCDG.org

THE PILGRIM



Happy Mother's Day



Hi! I have a huge favor to ask. (No, please don't discard this yet!)

Last summer I traveled to South Africa with a small group from my church in Downers Grove. Our mission was primarily to assist groups working with people, mostly children, who are infected or affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic which still seriously challenges South Africa.

I was especially amazed and moved by the work of Sparrow Ministries in Johannesburg. Sparrow was originally founded in 1991 as an AIDS hospice, but now that life-saving drugs are easily available, its programming also includes an orphanage, a preschool, after-school homework assistance, music and sports programs, a residential program for mothers with infants and children, job training, medical and home-based care, and even art and craft programs with a retail store teaching entrepreneurship.

We listened as young kids read to us. We held the hands of very ill women and men in the hospice. We listened as teen boys played music in a marimba quartet and as two teen girls read and sang original poetry and songs. We joined in football. In a few short days, these incredible people changed my life. I'll never forget them.

But Sparrow urgently needs our help right now. They receive some corporate and government funding, but depend heavily on individual contributions. I've recently reached my 75th birthday, and I hope to channel most of the celebrating into spreading the good news of Sparrow among my friends and family, and raise urgently needed funds to support their life-giving work.

Yes, this is a personal request for you to consider a gift to Sparrow Ministries. \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500 or even more will make a huge difference in the lives of these children and adults. And you'll receive my fervent gratitude. (And a thank you note!)

There are two easy ways to make a **tax-deductible** donation:

The simplest is use the Internet: simply go to <https://www.gofundme.com/davehumphreyssparrowministries>, a website created by some dear friends in our South Africa traveling group to honor my birthday. Simply use a credit card to make contribution. It would be great if you could do it today!

Alternatively, just write a check payable to: "First Congregational UCC", write "Sparrow" in the memo field, and mail it to:

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Attn: Sparrow Ministries Fund
1047 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove IL 60515

I promise that all donated funds will go directly to Sparrow. Even the small GoFundMe fee is being paid by a donor. Feel free to give me a call or email me if you have questions, or just want me to share more stories of this wonderful experience. I intend to return to Sparrow.

But please give today. Their need is great. Thank you for helping me celebrate 75 years.

Peace and love, Dave Humphreys 630-968-5526 dhump@interaccess.com

THE PILGRIM

Happy Mother's Day

LIVE MUSIC Every Friday Since 1970!

TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515 (across from the Public Library)

www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Friday	April 28	OPEN MIKE — All welcome! Great variety of acoustic artists! So popular we may limit number of acts. 2 – 3 songs, 10 -15 minutes. Open 7:30 for signups – first come, first served. Show starts 8:00. Info: 630-968-5526.
Friday	May 5	CHARLIE MOSBROOK — CD release: <i>Hear Me Callin'</i> (his 11 th !). Voted Cleveland Scene's "Best singer songwriter," Known for a rich, dynamic baritone voice, understated guitar technique, inspired lyrics, sincerity, humor, and passion.
Friday	May 12	The PINKOS: Sammy (from Miami) Byerly & Caleb (Duke) Erickson — Colliding with an explosive mix of old & new roots music, young (he's 17) Caleb's skill on guitar, mandolin & banjo compensates for Sammy's shameless sense of humor!
Friday	May 19	TOM KASTLE — He's spent over two decades on the road and on the water as a singer, songwriter, actor, tall ship sailor & captain, & teller of tales, both personal & steeped in long tradition. Latest CD: <i>Angels & Nightingales</i> .
Friday	May 26	²ROBINLEE GARBER with Jordi Kleiner (fiddle), Dean Milano (bass), Rick Vines (percussion) — A songwriter, she's sung across US, Canada, Sweden & Finland. Also a creative arts therapist, she uses her songs to entertain, but also to heal.
Friday	June 2	SOCIETY OF BROKEN SOULS — "Folk noir" songwriters Dennis James & Lauryn Shapter tour nationwide singing with acoustic & electric guitars, fiddle, keyboard, drums. Sweet & edgy, rebellious & jubilant, introspective & heartfelt.
Friday	June 9	THE WHISKEY BROTHERS Traditional Irish Band — Famous for Sundays at Ballydoyle, they're Chicagoland's most entertaining Irish band! Vocals & tin whistle, bodhran, mandolin, guitar, harp, fiddle, and more! <i>Sláinte!</i>
Friday	June 16	BRAD COLE — With wit and raw insight, his passionate and distinctive roots-based folk music, woven with the grit and groove of old school bossa and rhythm & blues, moves his listener's souls in unexpected yet familiar directions! 4 CDs!
Friday	June 23	OPEN MIKE — All welcome! Great variety of acoustic artists! So popular we may limit number of acts. 2 – 3 songs, 10 -15 minutes. Open 7:30 for signups – first come, first served. Show starts 8:00. Info: 630-968-5526.
Friday	June 30	JANE GODFREY — St. Louis songwriter honors the ordinary with poetic sense, storytelling and good humor! A mix of indie-folk, blues, rock, and beyond, influenced by Joni Mitchell, Patty Griffin, John Prine, Steve Goodman.

¹Featured on WFMT 98.7 "Folkstage" with Rich Warren. ²Featured on WDCB 90.9 "Folk Festival" with Lilli Kuzma.

2 nd Tues, 7-9pm May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11	2nd Tuesday Song Circle — BYOS (Bring Your Own Songs). A monthly opportunity to informally & acoustically perform your songs or covers for the circle. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors.
Saturdays, 2-4pm May 6 & 20 Jun 3 & 17, Jul 1 & 15	Sing-Around — Our popular song fests where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of every month at 2:00 pm.
Saturdays, 2-4pm May 27, Jun 24, Jul 22	Bluegrass Jam — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays (except Dec 24) 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Saturdays, 2-4pm Apr 29, Jul 29, Sep 30	5th Saturday Country/Western Jam — Whenever there are five Saturdays in a month, beginners and experienced musicians jam! 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Thursdays May 25, Jun 29, Jul 27 7:00-9:30pm FREE!	LAST THURSDAY! — Monthly open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thursday of every month. Music, poetry, any performance art — 10 min. max. Signups begin 7pm — first come, first served. Info at twowaystreet.org , on Facebook, or call 630-968-5526.

Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open by 7:30. \$10.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The *Two Way Street Coffee House* is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, Folk Alliance International. For current entertainment listings and updates, booking and other information, visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org and on Facebook.



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UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE 150TH YEAR



Happy Mother's Day

THE PILGRIM MAY 2017 EDITION

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