

**First Congregational Church**  
Sunday Worship Service  
December 2nd, 2018



**HOPE**  
*JESUS*  
*for humanity*

*United In God's Love*  
9:30am

**Come change the world with us!**

**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 in worship! Please let us know a little more about you by taking a moment to sign the red friendship folders in the row next to you. 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 do not want 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.
- Nursery/childcare is available for children up to age 2 and is located just off the church Parlor.
- Nursery and Sunday School: The nursery is open today for infants through age 2. 3yr olds- 1<sup>st</sup> grade will meet in the Chapel; grades 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> will meet in the Godly Play Library (Room 502).

*A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials. -Seneca*

*May God remind us each day that no matter what obstacles are before us we are empowered by the One who brought the universe into existence with the mere sound of His voice. Nothing is impossible for God. -Beth Moore*

*Don't start your day with the broken pieces of yesterday. Every morning we wake up is the first day of the rest of our lives.  
-Eston Swaby*

*Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don't give up  
-Anne Lamott*

*I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains. -Anne Frank*

*Carve a tunnel of hope through the dark mountain of disappointment. -Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Scott

PRELUDE

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

- Traditional  
Chancel Choir

\*SHARING THE PEACE

\*OPENING SONG #153 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

-Charles Wesley/Prichard

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF ADVENT HOPE*

Scripture Reading:

-The Mackender Family

Luke 24:19-23

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

*ADVENT PRAYER OF GOD'S HOPE (Responsive)*

God, it is easy to lose hope. We often get discouraged and overwhelmed. We see the world as it is, not as You would have it and sometimes we become disillusioned or cynical.

**You, God are our Hope. It can be found in the faith of each new confirmand, and in the sacred space of the proclamation of each new baptism. Hope is grounded whenever two or more come together in Your name. Like a flame casting away shadows in the midst of a storm our Hope in You will not be overcome.**

Hope of the World, remind us that we are never alone. In the words of Paul, the Apostle who said, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but never destroyed." You O God are our every hope. Amen.

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE*

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.**

This week's Godly Play story is Advent 1. Scripture Text: Micah 5:2

SCRIPTURE READING

Lora Finucane

Luke 1:76-80, 3:1-15

MUSIC MINSITRY

*Come Again, Emmanuel*

- Liebergen  
Chancel Choir

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MESSAGE

*Making the Path Straight, Leveling the Playing Field*

Pastor Scott

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Scott and Pastor Cathy

*Let this table remind us of the open invitation and grace of God. This is a table built upon Hope.*

*We come carrying the weight of life, our fears, our flaws, our failures, and our sins. We leave filled... forgiven. At this table we are reminded that we are sons and daughters of the living God, kissed by grace, forgiven and renewed in ways that leave us amazed. We are called to do likewise. This table is open to all who seek the Bread of Life for the journey and the Cup of God's salvation in Christ. As Christ invites the world to come, taste and see the goodness of God, so we remember and share that invitation at a table open to all God's children - no exceptions! Welcome to the table God has prepared!*

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Cathy

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Scott

Assurance of God's Grace

Pastor Cathy

Words of Institution

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ave Verum Corpus* -Mozart  
Chancel Choir

Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Scott

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD Pastor Cathy  
*During the offering you are invited to bring your commitment cards and gifts forward.*

Sharing Our Gifts with the Offertory  
Offertory Music *When Hope Came Down* -Jobe  
The Band

\*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

\*CLOSING SONG #176 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (1-3)*  
-Hearn

\*BENEDICTION *Ancient Words* -Deshazo

POSTLUDE *Love is Everything* -Grande  
The Band

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

**Today's Musicians**

Vocals: Kelley Calpin, Emily Durham, Anthony Berg  
Piano: Justin Kono  
Chancel Choir

**Our Church App**

Download our new app on your iPhone or Android NOW! Just search for our church name. The app will keep you connected "real-time".

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY JOYS**

Amanda Meierdick, John & Rebecca Jay, Ken Hall, father of John Hall, Nick Costanzi, and those effected by the California wild fires.

**GREETERS:** Kimberly Nagy, Joyce Nerud

**USHERS:** Fred Borrowman, Eric Nelson, Dave Williams, Dick Hill

**HEAD USHER:** Dirk Gutzke

**COUNTERS:** Skyla Hall, Paul Zimmerman

**(Lead Counter)** Jim Finucane

**This week's continental breakfast will be served by** Pastoral Relations

## UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Caroling:** TODAY! A chili luncheon (no charge) will start the carolers off at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall with caroling afterward. We need carolers - all ages! Our homebound love to see the children! Hope to see you there!

**2019 Stewardship Campaign Update:** We are pleased to advise we currently have 81 pledges totaling \$282,366 toward our 2019 budget. Of the 81 pledged, 38 have increased their pledge with only 4 reducing. We are also pleased to have 14 new pledges which includes new members or those returning to the church. We are very appreciative of the response to date, however we are only 58% of our goal of 140 pledges by year-end. We really want to increase the amount coming from pledging to help the budgeting process. If you haven't turned in your Giving card yet, please consider doing so by December 16th, as we will begin follow up e-mails and telephone calls at that time. You can e-mail your Giving Card (time, talents and money) to Kim Rutter ( [bookkeeper@uccdg.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uccdg.org) ) or e-mail her directly with your intentions. Thank you all for your thoughtful support. -The Giving Team.

**FCC BOOK CLUB:** As we celebrate the Christmas season, we will once again meet for a shared dinner at Trudi Connick's home. Our dinner will be Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 pm. Trudi's address is 718 39th Street.

Trudi will supply a meat dish and some sides, so please contact her at 630-968-6916 to let her know what you can contribute to the meal. Instead of reading a book this month, please come to the meeting prepared to share with the group what your favorite book is and why.

**Advent Bible Study:** Join Pastor Scott and Pastor Karen as we again travel the journey to Bethlehem and explore what it means for us today. We will meet on Tuesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in the Parlor.

**Dec 4:** (led by Pastor Karen) Preparing spiritually for the promises to be fulfilled. Zechariah's prophecy, Malachi's refiner's fire, and the prophetic voice of John the Baptist. Luke 1:57-79, Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6.

**Dec 11:** (led by Pastor Scott) Finding God in times of waiting and suffering and the impatient difficulty and challenge of anticipating something that has not come. And yet, there is always hope. How does it all relate to how we think about the Christmas Story—what was Israel waiting for? Texts: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Psalm 27:14, Romans 5:1-5, Philippians 4:4-14

**Dec 18:** (led by Pastor Scott) Mary and Joseph: the story behind the story of family pain, struggle, love, and acceptance that Jesus' parents had to deal with and that we often are reminded of and deal with at family gatherings like Christmas. Texts: Luke 1:46-58, Matthew 1:18-23

**Women's Fellowship:** Save the date: Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Brunch! All are welcome on Friday, December 7, from 9:30-12:30 PM. As usual, our lovely Jan Hibbeln will be our gracious hostess. We'll meet at her home at 1505 Gilbert in DG at 9:30am. Please bring a dish to share. **Please RSVP to Jan H including what dish you will be bringing** 630-728-4843 or email at [janhibbeln@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janhibbeln@sbcglobal.net) If you have any questions, please call Peggy Gutzke at 630-971-1382 or email at [peggy.gutzke@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

**YOUTH TEEN GROUP:  
YOUTH GIVING MINISTRY:**

**December 7-8:**

Hopes Front Door Toy Drive in the 6th floor Youth Room from 10:00am-1:00pm. Volunteers needed! Please contact Dena if you are able to help!

**December 9:**

"Wizard of Oz" field trip to the Paramount Theater.

**December 17 & 24:**

PADS Christmas 🎄 Elves from 6:00-7:30 pm.

**December 18:**

Night Ministry. Meet at the church at 4:30 pm. Serving in Humboldt Park at 8:00 pm.

\*\*Youth Giving Ministry is a new Service, outreach, mission and mentoring program for children elementary through high school. Parents of elementary age children will be asked to help with some of our outreach events.

For questions, contact Dena Provenzano at 630-660-7445 or [denapro@comcast.net](mailto:denapro@comcast.net)

**Christmas Concert:** Greetings from the Music Ministry team! Our groups have been hard at work preparing music for the upcoming Christmas season. Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Sanctuary with a cookie reception to follow. The concert is free but we will be collecting a free will offering at the door. We hope you can join us for a beautiful evening of music! If you or your child is interested in performing a solo for the concert, please send an email to [kcalpin@uccdg.org](mailto:kcalpin@uccdg.org) by Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a few spots left! As always, we are looking for more members for our musical ensembles, specifically Chancel Choir and Alleluia Ringers. No experience necessary, we welcome all ages! Please consider lending your time and talents to our Music Ministry! Thank you and wishing you a blessed holiday season,  
Kelley Calpin Director of Music Ministry

**Christmas Season:** Christmas Eve falls on a Monday this year meaning our PADS guests will awake on Christmas morning sleeping on the floor in a church basement. We will again collect gift ideas from each regular guest in hopes to provide gift cards for the adults and presents for the children. Each card/gift will be about \$50. Please contact Tom Williams at 630-664-8915 or see Laurie Olsen at the Manna table if you are able to participate. If you purchase gift cards directly through Manna and wish to get credit for your donation on your contribution statement, you will need to let Tom know to inform the bookkeeper. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting our PADS kids on the evening of Monday December 17. They may resemble former Ministers at our church. Additional details to follow.

**Meal Express:** We are looking for volunteers who will prepare (or purchase a prepared meal) and deliver meals to members of our church who would appreciate this gesture. This service could be for sickness, new baby, hospitalization, etc. Please sign up after church in Fellowship Hall. Contact April Prescott at 630-846-0469 or [amprescott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amprescott@sbcglobal.net) or Gail Jaroski at 630-916-0149 or [jarosk19@comcast.net](mailto:jarosk19@comcast.net)

**California Wildfires Disaster Relief:** UCC Disaster Ministries is working to respond to the California wildfires. Our church can help by visiting this website. [http://www.ucc.org/california\\_ucc\\_response\\_2018\\_wildfires](http://www.ucc.org/california_ucc_response_2018_wildfires)

**Christian Education:** Teachers for Godly Play are still needed for pre-k to first graders (Chapel), 2nd-4th graders (Library), 5th and 6th (Youth room). We will need two volunteers per Sunday to be in the nursery. If you are interested in teaching within any of these areas, please contact Megan Ruschke at 630-390-4302 or [lockett.megan24@gmail.com](mailto:lockett.megan24@gmail.com)

**2019 Fellowship Dinner Gala:** Christian Fellowship is hosting a dinner gala on Saturday, February 23rd from 6-10 p.m. The event will be held at Carriage Greens Country Club in Darien. Dinner will be family style, and a cash bar will be available. The cost will be \$50 per person. Please obtain a sign-up form from the Pilgrim or any of your friendly Fellowship Ministry Members. Checks can be made out to the church with Dinner Gala in memo section. Friends from outside the church are also welcome to attend.

**2019 Dance Lessons:** For those who'd like to hit the dance floor in style at the Christian Fellowship dinner gala or some other event, but need to dust off their dancin' shoes a bit, we will be offering six weeks of group dance lessons on Friday evenings in the Fellowship Hall starting January 11th from 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$80 per couple for the six weeks. Sign-up on the lower half of the Dinner Gala form. Checks can be made out to the church with Dance Lessons in memo section. Deadline for sign-up is December 31st. If you have questions, please see Lynn Niemi.

**ADULT COLORING:** Studies have shown that coloring reduces stress, anxiety and provides relaxation. In addition to those benefits, our Adult Coloring group also provides fellowship. Come join us on Tuesdays, 10 am to 12 pm in the Library. Even if you have not colored before you are welcome. We always have extra supplies for visitors!

**Mission Ministry:** Consider joining our prison ministry team at the Illinois Youth Center (Warrenville)! Each Thursday evening, two members of our team teach a "life skills" class to help better prepare the youth for life outside the juvenile justice system. You can volunteer as often as you are able. Please contact Gaye Smith at [eyesgirl@comcast.net](mailto:eyesgirl@comcast.net) or (630) 712-9148 for more information.

**Chancel Flowers:** Did you know that the flowers displayed on the Chancel are donated by church members in joy, celebration or remembrance of a loved one? The cost to donate is \$35.00 and there is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board on the Sanctuary level, south entrance. When you donate a floral arrangement you are encouraged to take it home with you following service so that you may enjoy it. We do ask, that you return the vase, so that we can recycle them with the florist. Any questions, please see Linda Schranz or Barb Hammack.

**MANNA:** Manna Cards! Manna Cards! There are three easy ways to purchase cards and increase income for our church ministries. You can purchase or order actual cards. You can also reload cards you have purchased and get ecards on your device. You can go to [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com). If you have any questions, please e-mail Laurie Olsen at [glennlaurie@earthlink.net](mailto:glennlaurie@earthlink.net) and Steve Johnson at [sjoh413@gmail.com](mailto:sjoh413@gmail.com) or come by the Manna Table during Coffee Hour.

**Conscious Bean Coffee:** This is the direct trade coffee served during coffee hour that travels from San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. We purchase the coffee for North Central College Enactus a student run organization. It is available during coffee hour in one pound bags or KCups.

**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](mailto:dah5@comcast.net) or Laurel Carlson at [lacduke@comcast.net](mailto:lacduke@comcast.net).

**Amazon Smile:** When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to First Congregational United Church of Christ.  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2361106>

#### **Upcoming NAMI Wellness Seminars:**

*Mindfulness, Self Care and Techniques to Restore Your Well-being* By: Michelle Karls, LCSW  
Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7:00pm or Sunday, Dec. 9 at 1:30pm

Thursday sessions are held at the Community Wellness Center:

4731 Willow Springs Road, LaGrange

Sunday sessions are held at the Oak Park Library: 834 Lake Street, Oak Park

Seminars are free of charge but registration is encouraged.

<https://namimetsub.eventbrite.com> FREE CEUs are available for all sessions



# POINSETTIAS

Here's a special opportunity for you to help make worship in our sanctuary this Christmas a more BEAUTIFUL event! Share a poinsettia with us! Attach your payment with the completed order form and return it in the collection plate by December 16, 2018.

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

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- I would like to take my plant home after one of the evening services.
- I would like to leave my plant 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:

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Name of Loved One whose memory flowers are given:

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(Please PRINT clearly)

Number of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ X \$13.00= \_\_\_\_\_  
(Checks made payable to First Congregational Church)

# Coming Up This Week

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018**

- Youth Fall Retreat-Tower Hill  
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Jr Choir Rehearsal-Coffee House  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary  
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Blood Pressure checks-Parlor  
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal/ Mayflower Room  
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant  
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Bells Rehearsal

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018**

- 6:00 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Parlor  
6:00 PM PADS Guest Arrive  
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM HFD Budget Assistance program - 603/604

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018**

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House  
10:00 AM Adult Coloring Group-Library  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Advent Bible Study  
3:00 PM Administrative Deadline for Bulletin  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Advent Bible Study  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Technology Committee meeting-504

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018**

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible Study (at members' homes)  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM FCLC Jumpbunch Parlor  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Greater Chicago Food Depository Wednesday Night Repack  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Grounds Of Hope-Coffee House  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Book Club-Parlor  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Teens - Parlor  
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Troop 55 Committee meeting-503  
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alanon meeting-Coffee House

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018**

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM FCLC Board Meeting  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Music Room  
7:00 PM Scouts-Fellowship Hall

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018**

- 6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Brunch/ Hibblen House  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Toy Drive  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Parlor  
8:15 PM Two Way Street Concert-Coffee House

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018**

- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Toy Drive  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Martial Arts Parlor  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM All Bridge Saints-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen



# An Open and Affirming Congregation

1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515 • 630-968-0358

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

- The Rev. Scott Oberle, Senior Pastor ..... [pastorscott@uccdg.org](mailto:pastorscott@uccdg.org)
- Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation ..... [casanders3@aol.com](mailto:casanders3@aol.com)
- Rev. Karen Nachtigall, Pastoral Ministry Team ..... [karennachtigall@gmail.com](mailto:karennachtigall@gmail.com)
- Kelley Calpin, Director of Music Ministries ..... [kcalpin@gmail.com](mailto:kcalpin@gmail.com)
- Maria Carini, Assistant Director of Music Ministries ..... [mcarin1m@aol.com](mailto:mcarin1m@aol.com)
- Dena Provenzano, Director of Youth Ministries ..... [dprovenzano@uccdg.org](mailto:dprovenzano@uccdg.org)
- Sarah Forillo, Sunday School Coordinator ..... [sforillo@uccdg.org](mailto:sforillo@uccdg.org)
- Rachel Carreras, Administrative Secretary ..... [adminsec@uccdg.org](mailto:adminsec@uccdg.org)
- Kimberly Rutter, Bookkeeper ..... [bookkeeper@uccdg.org](mailto:bookkeeper@uccdg.org)
- Carl Lorek, Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor ..... [Carl@uccdg.org](mailto:Carl@uccdg.org)
- Kim Choate, Director, First Congregational Learning Center ... [kchoate@uccdg.org](mailto:kchoate@uccdg.org)
- Dave Humphreys, Two Way Street Coffee House ..... [dave@twowaystreet.org](mailto:dave@twowaystreet.org)
- Bill Hammack, A-V Specialist ..... [bill@symbolix.com](mailto:bill@symbolix.com)
- Len Potter, Broadcasting Ministries ..... [lenp@potterpro.com](mailto:lenp@potterpro.com)
- Justin Kono, Director of Praise Band ..... [j.akira.kono@gmail.com](mailto:j.akira.kono@gmail.com)
- The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Schieler, Pastor Emeritus

**Our church staff** is 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](mailto: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 or view the service online at [www.uccfn.org](http://www.uccfn.org)

Website: [www.uccdg.org](http://www.uccdg.org)

## First Congregational Learning Center

FCLC Website: [www.fclcdg.org](http://www.fclcdg.org)

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