



## Pastor Scott's Sabbatical

*Pastor Scott has begun his well-earned sabbatical this summer. It is a time for rest, rejuvenation and further study, and Pastor Scott will be doing all of those things. He will be continuing mission work in South Africa, reconnecting with a former colleague in Kenya, continuing his ministry studies and even brushing up on his fluency in Spanish. He will also be spending quality time with his family. It will be the first full sabbatical of his ministerial career and, considering that he has done much of the work of two ministers for most of his tenure with First Congregational, with all of the demands on his time, it is a well-deserved one. Pastor Scott will be away from our church from May 26 through Sept. 5. During that time, Pastor Scott will NOT be doing any of the following: preaching on Sunday or at Grounds of Hope, attending church activities, leading mission trips, orchestrating the church's numerous outreach programs, leading the confirmands, visiting the sick, speaking at funerals, preaching at weddings (except for one prior commitment), or doing the myriad of other things he does at FCC on a daily basis. Also, if your birthday falls between May 26 and Sept. 5, please note that he likely will not be calling you to extend birthday wishes, but you will be in his thoughts. In his absence, we will be in excellent hands with the support and leadership of both Pastor Kim and Pastor Cathy Sanders, our Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation. We wish Pastor Scott the best on all of his summer endeavors.*

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### JULY & AUGUST 2017 SUMMER PILGRIM EDITION:

#### page

- Pastor Scott's Sabbatical

#### page 2

- A Note from Pastor Scott

#### page 3

- Caring For Creation

#### page 4

- Children's Ministry / Jan Barker

#### page 5

- Feed My Starving Children

- School Supply Collection

#### page 6

- Youth New / Mrs. Pro

#### page 7

- PADS

- Women's Fellowship

- Blood Drive

#### page 8

- Buildings & Grounds

#### page 9

- Garage Sale

- Church Kitchen

#### page 10

- Labor Day Camping

#### page 11

- Two Way Street Coffee House



# SUMMER FUN



As we kick off the new church year there will be some exciting new adult education opportunities for you all to consider. First, the more I begin to step back the more I begin to firmly believe that our offerings for Biblical study need to improve. While we have had seasonal studies, I'd really like to have year round offerings for our members so that

we can daily be moved and changed by the power of Scripture as God speaks to us. I know some of you may have never been to a Bible study. Most people are intimidated by such an endeavor. But we'll try and tailor this one as a beginner, 101-type group that also shares a strong fellowship and care component as well. We will start by hosting the study at our house 8117 Compton Rd., Woodridge IL on Tuesday nights 6:45-8pm. We hope this will provide both a warm atmosphere and also hope each month we will rotate locations. Starting in the fall, we'll begin a study on this year's lectionary gospel of Matthew.

**Rally Day** will be held on September the 10th. Post church we'll have popcorn, ice cream and I believe even some cotton candy offered. I am told a dunk tank might make its way into our back parking lot as well as some fun intergenerational activities, so plan on staying with us for some fun and engagement as we kick off our church program year.



## SUNDAY ADULT DISCUSSION GROUPS

I've been trying to think of ways that I can share some of the things I am learning and being fed by while on my sabbatical. It came to me that one such way might be to share recordings (video) of messages I heard while at the Festival of

Homiletics (Preaching) in San Antonio Texas this past May which were led by some of the most respected and known preachers of our time. But they each also speak to topics that are front and center to our culture and our churches today in 2017. I hope you'll consider joining me in what I believe will prove to be some talks that generate plenty of food for thought and discussion each Sunday in October and one in November at 11am in the Coffee House.

October 1st Why People Hate Organized Religion -Brian McLaren

October 8th Borderless Borders Claudio Carvalhaes

October 15th Confronting Racism through Preaching Will Willimon

October 22nd When the Empire Strikes Back Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III

October 29 Relinquishment and Reception Walter Brueggemann

November 5th What the Wing Says Barbara Brown Taylor



**Yes we are back!** Sept 29th and 30th. A special thanks to the Weimerslags who have graciously offered their lodging to host us. We'll head out 4pm on Friday and return Sunday morning for worship. This is an opportunity to talk life, God, and everything under the sun with the rest of the guys in the church. Also a beautiful time of year to get out in the natural surroundings around Galena. Please email Pastor Scott if you are interested in attending. We ask each participant to give \$55 for the weekend- this should cover meals, a Saturday night meal out, help defray gas costs, and allow us to do something kind for our hosts. Does not include beverages ☺

THE PILGRIM

SUMMERIFUN



# BLESSED TOMORROW

Caring for Creation Today

A new home for butterflies and God's other creatures

If you've walked by or driven through the east side of our parking, you've probably couldn't help noticing a raised angular-shaped wooden planter on the lot's northeast corner. Inspecting the planter more closely, you would find an array of neatly planted native plants and grasses.

The native planting is the brainchild of our Caring for Creation Team. It is aimed at beautifying our property and serving as a magnet for butterflies, pollinating insects and birds. The planting reflects one of our Team's primary goals: To demonstrate our commitment to a healthy planet in our community and the larger world.

Tom Eisenhart, who is studying landscape design and construction at the College of DuPage, designed the native planting. On a blustery day in early May, Tom and fellow Caring for Creation Team member Laurel Carlson carefully placed and planted more than 30 natives. Since that time, Laurel and Cyndy Davenport, Karen Nachtigall and Sandy Toleikis have diligently monitored the planter's soil moisture, providing regular watering to ensure the thirsty plants become well-established. (Native plants are relatively low maintenance once established. But for the first few years, they will need supplemental watering to thrive.)

The planting bed is designed to provide a show of color throughout the growing season. In the winter, the grasses and some of the plants with seed heads, like Black-eyed Susan and Purple Coneflower, will be left standing to provide visual interest and food for overwintering birds.

The bed's flowering plants will attract important pollinating insects. In addition, there are two species of milkweed, Common Milkweed and Prairie Milkweed, food sources for the caterpillars of Monarch Butterflies. Our efforts to help Monarchs complement those of individuals and groups across the Chicago-land area and around the United States in response to a startling decline in the butterflies' numbers.

To ensure good visibility for drivers, the height of the plants selected is limited to three feet; plants at the edge of the planter are six to eighteen inches tall to prevent crowding the adjacent parking space. The bed is densely planted to provide rapid coverage and prevent weeds from sprouting.

A dedication event for the native planting will occur this summer, so stay tuned for details. In the meantime, stop by the planter and take a look; white plastic tags next to the plants will help you identify the plants.



PILGRIM

**SUMMERIFUN**

## The Hazy Lazy Daze of Summer



Well, VBS 2017 - Hero Central, was another SUPER SUCCESS!!!

Forty - three children, ages 3 years - 6<sup>th</sup> grade had a blast hearing amazing Bible stories (acted out by our counselors), making fun arts & crafts, singing, dancing, doing incredible science projects and playing awesome games. Thank you to Pastor Kim, Dena Provenzano, all of our wonderful teachers and our heroic counselors. A SUPER HERO TIME was had by all!!!!

July is a time of quiet contemplation....so the body is resting but the mind is racing, gearing up for our fall Sunday school and activities.

August brings us our three teacher workshops. Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will meet at 11:00. Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will meet at 11:00 and on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, the 3 years - Kindergarten teachers will meet at 11:00. All workshops will be held in the Chapel with Miss Jan.

I am still looking for teachers for our Sunday school program. Please contact me as soon as you can if you would like to be a Sunday school teacher for the 2017-2018 year. Teachers only need to teach once a month unless you are able and willing to teach twice. All lesson plans are laid out for you. Remember, children at these ages love to have mom or dad teach in their class.

Don't forget our "kick off Sunday" on September 10<sup>th</sup> with a picnic and much more!!!



Enjoy the rest of this lovely summer.

Blessings,

Jan Barker (jbarker@uccdg.org)

THE PILGRIM

# SUMMER FUN

## Feed My Starving Children:

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Volunteers from First Congregational United Church of Christ will be working at the Aurora facility of FMSC at 555 Exchange Court on Friday, July 28 from 6:00-7:30pm. We have committed to 25 volunteers. Linda Schranz will be signing up volunteers after church service during all the Sundays in July. Please see her in Fellowship Hall or call/text her at 630-464-0426 with any questions.



## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION:



This summer, as you are buying school supplies for the new school year, please remember the less fortunate. Congregational Care Ministry is collecting school supplies for children of all grades (kindergarten through high school) for Hope's Front Door (formerly Walk-in Ministry of Hope). Supplies needed are: three-ring binders, pocket folders, colored pencils, crayons, erasers, broad tip markers, glue sticks, fiskars scissors, highlighters, pencil cases/supply holders, pens/pencils, wide ruled spiral notebooks, pencil sharpeners, calculators, backpacks. Each Sunday morning starting July 23rd through September 3rd, donations can be dropped off in the "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" crate at the west entrance or during the week in the administrative office. Think back to how exciting it was to get new supplies and be as generous as you can!!! Thank you!!!



# THE PILGRIM



**SUMMER FUN**



## Women's Fellowship

*Ladies Of The Morning & Evening*

All women are welcome to any of our events. Invite a friend!

**July Gatherings** Let's go out for breakfast! **July 7 - 9:30 AM** -Juicy-O Hinsdale Lake Commons Shopping Center, 6300 Kingery Hwy Willowbrook, IL, (630) 468-2585

**July 21 - 9:30 AM Stitch and Chat**, Meg Bolinger's house, 3931 Roslyn Rd. Downers Grove, 630/964-2624. Bring a swimsuit if you want! Let's bring food to share for breakfast. Questions - contact Peggy Gutzke 630/971- 1382 [peggy.gutzke@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

**August Gatherings**, Lunch! August 4 – 11:30 AM Greek Islands, 300 E 22nd St, Lombard, IL 60148 (630) 932-4545, August 18 - 9:30 AM, Stitch and Chat Barb Bayer's deck, 13528 Marissa Ct. Homer Glen, IL 60491 708/301-5408 We'll car pool from the church. Let's bring food to share for breakfast. Questions - contact Peggy Gutzke 630/971-1382 [peggy.gutzke@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

## BLOOD DRIVE

You Can Make a Difference. Our next Blood Drive is being held on: Tuesday, July 18, 3:00-7:00 pm. One unit of blood helps three people. More than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada. Someone needs blood every two seconds: 38,000 pints of donated blood is used every day.

Blood can be donated every eight weeks. Come and see how easy and safe it is to become a lifesaver at our next Blood Drive!

Please contact Joyce Doemland at (630) 971-3423 to schedule your appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome!

*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 & Eddies 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.*





SUMMER FUN

PILGRIM



Did you know the landline phone in the Parlor is a direct line to 911? It goes to the DuPage County Sheriff who then dispatches the call. If you need to notify the Downers Grove Police Department directly, their seven digit emergency number is listed on the phone's handset.

Our Church purchased a new Pacific Floorcare S-20 Orbital floor scrubber. This machine is well made, compact, easy to use and incredibly quiet. It will allow Carl to keep both the Epoxy and Terrazzo floors looking like new. It is battery operated and is equipped with a mechanical adjustment to help remove more stubborn scuff marks.

We are now purchasing most of our trash liners and paper products from Buckeye International. In addition to cost savings on these items, Buckeye will also install their Eco Proportioning System in the boiler room and the janitor closets on levels 2 and 4. This fully integrated system utilizes compact, self-contained product in translucent buckets for ease of operation. It will help maximize storage space, eliminate contact with concentrated product and reduce our plastic consumption by over 80%. Scheduled installation is June 26.

The next Capital Campaign project is to upgrade the theatrical lighting in the Sanctuary to LED. This will significantly improve the Chancel lighting for both those attending the service as well as those viewing online. The project includes installation of additional outlets and ground level controls and should dramatically reduce our energy consumption when these lights are being used. If sufficient funding is on hand, our plan is to complete the electrical work in July and install the lights in August before Pastor Scott returns from his Sabbatical.

Sincere thanks to the five member families that provided funding for the new shades on the level 4 and 6 elevator lobbies. These will reflect the summer heat from these west facing windows and allow sunlight on the colder winter days. They are identical shades to those installed earlier this year in room 503 and the nursery room off the parlor.



Our church's annual garage sale will be held on Saturday, September 23, with presales for volunteers and church members on Friday, Sept. 22. We will be accepting donated items Sept. 17-20. Take that extra, unused stuff you have lurking around your house and find it a new home! We gladly accept furniture, household items, sports equipment, electronics, tools, books, music/movies, jewelry, collectibles, crafts, baby items, toys, games, holiday decorations and more. Everything must be in good, working condition. If you have questions, or need to have items out of your house before September, please contact Gail Clark at 630-881-3362 (cell) or [gclark214@comcast.net](mailto:gclark214@comcast.net).

As always, we'll need many volunteers the week of the sale. We will have sign-up sheets available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays beginning August 20 and online. Please take a shift or two for this wonderful fundraising, fellowship, and mission opportunity. Thank you for your support!

**SUMMER IFUN**

Please be respectful of our kitchen and all the various groups that use it. Please do not leave anything behind after you use the kitchen - no food,



no dishes, no plastic ware - and clean up when you leave, having the kitchen look just as it did when you arrived. We will continue to monitor the kitchen to ensure it stays in good order. If some item is left behind, we will hold on to it for two weeks and then either donate the item to the garage sale or toss it away. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please see Jenni Hallman, Barb Hammack, Linda Schranz or Dan Swick.



# SUMMER FUN



## Experience the Great Outdoors!

Soft sand on the beach...Refreshing waves from the lake...Cool breezes over the water...The warm glow of a campfire...Inspiring sounds of God's creation...Fellowship with friends from your church family...All tied together by the Spirit of our Living Lord.



### All Church FCC Labor Day Camping Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Michigan September 1-4, 2017



Sites are \$7.00 per person per night-  
Children ages 2 and under are free

All meals are on your own. Three fire pits are available to share for cooking and evening gatherings. (Great places to eat out in the area, too!) Our annual community potluck breakfast is Sunday morning (September 3rd). Bring something to share with the group! Campground amenities include electricity, showers, and flush toilets.

Please complete and return the reservation form below to the church office by Sunday, August 27, 2017. Drop it off, mail it in, or fax it to 630-968-7568. For more info, contact Gail Clark at 630-881-3362 or [gclark214@comcast.net](mailto:gclark214@comcast.net). (You may also email completed forms to Gail.)

---

### Reservation Form for FCC Labor Day Camping At Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Michigan September 1-4, 2017

Please complete and return your reservation form by Sunday, August 27, 2017

THE PILGRIM

The \_\_\_\_\_ family is coming!

We will have \_\_\_\_\_ adults and \_\_\_\_\_ child(ren) age 3 and up

We will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of week)

And plan to stay for \_\_\_\_\_ nights.

Best phone number

E-Mail Address

(Number in group) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 X (Number of nights) \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: We're sorry, but a "NO PETS" policy is now in effect for Tower Hill.*

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](http://www.twowaystreet.org) • 630-969-9720

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

# SUMMER FUN



Friday June 30  
8:15pm \$10

**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.

Friday July 7  
8:15pm \$10

**C. DANIEL BOLING** — Albuquerque balladeer/songwriter has won many major awards, including the big one: Kerrville New-Folk! "...a subtle intertwining of Steve Goodman, John Prine and Tom Paxton." -- Real Roots Café

Friday July 14  
8:15pm \$10

**The MALVINAS: Beth Cahill, Gina Forsyth, Lisa Markley** — From Texas, Québec & Louisiana, a terrific feminist folk trio of singer-songwriters with killer harmonies, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, Dobro & banjo. Quirky, relevant, hi-energy, fun! New CD!

Friday July 21  
8:15pm \$10

**DAVID HAWKINS** — Pittsburgh singer-songwriter by way of Chicago, Detroit, Tulsa, & New Orleans, picking up flavors wherever he lives. Songs tough and gentle, where flesh and spirit meet and where one's soul is on the line.

Friday July 28  
8:15pm \$10

**EMILY WHITE** — Touring singer-songwriter from Memphis & Chicago grew up listening to the blues on Beale Street, New Kids on the Block & MC Hammer. She captivates crowds with humor, a unique voice and favorite Martin guitar.

Friday August 4  
8:15pm \$10

**To be announced** — (check [www.twowaystreet.org](http://www.twowaystreet.org) for updates!)

Friday August 11  
8:15pm \$10

**ANDREW CALHOUN & CASEY CALHOUN** — Veteran songwriter is joined by his daughter, who adds vocals and dance! She leads on songs from Anais Mitchell to Frank Loesser and harmonizes on his originals, Scottish ballads & folksongs.

Friday August 18  
8:15pm \$10

**CHRIS VALLILLO** — Nationally acclaimed songwriter and folk musician makes the people and places of rural America come to life in song. 6- and 12-string finger picking, flat picking & bottleneck slide guitar & harmonica. Great CDs!

Friday August 25  
8:15pm \$10

**ANDERLIK, OTTO & CHURCH** — Progressive bluegrass, classic rock and blues with passion and precision, featuring soulful singing, syncopated rhythms and extended hi-energy jams! Virtuoso Dobro, mandolin, guitar.

**<sup>1</sup>Featured on WFMT 98.7 "Folkstage" with Rich Warren. <sup>2</sup>Featured on WDCB 90.9 "Folk Festival" with Lilli Kuzma.**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues, 7-9pm Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Song Circle</b> — 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 Jul 1 & 15 Aug 5 & 19, Sep 2 & 16	<b>Sing-Around</b> — 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 Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23	<b>Bluegrass Jam</b> — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays, 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Saturdays, 2-4pm Jul 29, Sep 30, Dec 30	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Country/Western Jam</b> — 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 Jul 27, Aug 31, Sep 28	<b>LAST THURSDAY!</b> — 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 — 7:00-9:30pm <b>FREE!</b> first come, first served. Info at <a href="http://www.twowaystreet.org">www.twowaystreet.org</a> , 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](http://www.twowaystreet.org) and on Facebook.



PILE  
GRIM

## 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  
Maria Carini, Assistant to the Minister of Music.....mcarinlm@aol.com  
Dena Provenzano, Director of Youth Ministries.....dprovenzano@uccdg.org  
Jan Barker, Director of Children's Ministries.....jbarker@uccdg.org  
Leslie McFarland, Administrative Secretary.....lmcfarland@uccdg.org  
Kimberly Rutter, Bookkeeper.....bookkeeper@uccdg.org  
Carl Lorek, Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor.....Carll@uccdg.org  
Kim Choate, Director, First Congregational Learning Center .....kchoate@uccdg.org  
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 .....j.akira.kono@gmail.com  
The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Schieler, Pastor Emeritus

## UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE



**SUMMER FUN**

## THE PILGRIM JULY & AUGUST 2017 EDITION

First Congregational UCC \* 1047 Curtiss Street \* Downers Grove, IL 60515 Phone: (630) 968.0358  
Email: office@uccdg.org Website: [www.uccdg.org](http://www.uccdg.org) \* Broadcast: [www.uccbroadcastministry.org](http://www.uccbroadcastministry.org)  
Other Communications: [www.twitter.com/uccdg](http://www.twitter.com/uccdg) \* [www.facebook.com/uccdg](http://www.facebook.com/uccdg)  
FCC Learning Center: [www.facebook.com/fdcdg](http://www.facebook.com/fdcdg)

