

First Congregational Church

1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL

United In God's Love

Journey to the Resurrection



...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Sunday Morning Worship

March 18, 2018

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 just off the hall of the main Sanctuary.
- Children are invited to attend Sunday School following the Children's Message. Classes are offered for all ages.
- Nursery and Sunday School: The nursery is open today. Sunday school for 3 year olds- 4th grade will be in the Chapel. 5th-6th graders will be in the Youth Room on the 6th floor.

We are not meant to die merely in order to be dead. God could not want that for the creatures to whom He has given the breath of life. We die in order to live.

- Elisabeth Elliot

For those who feel their lives are a grave disappointment to God, it requires enormous trust and reckless, raging confidence to accept that the love of Jesus Christ knows no shadow of alteration or change. When Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened," He assumed we would grow weary, discouraged, and disheartened along the way. These words are a touching testimony to the genuine humanness of Jesus. He had no romantic notion of the cost of discipleship. He knew that following Him was as unsentimental as duty, as demanding as love. **-Brennan Manning**

There is something magical and transformational about saying "yes" to God. When you take His hand, step out of that boat (your ordinary, comfortable life), and be brave. Instead of spending your lifetime living in fear and playing it safe, you boldly walk in obedience. God makes you brave. **- Dana Arcuri**

Please pass the clipboard in the pews. Sign in and sign up for events and let us know you're here.

PRELUDE

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

arr. Maggs

Alleluia Ringers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Scott

*SHARING THE PEACE

*OPENING SONG

You are Worthy of My Praise

-Ruiz

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Pastor Karen

God, this Lenten journey has shown us that there is both risk and honor in serving you. Gift us with open minds and hearts this morning that we may come to know Jesus more deeply, not to prove a theory, but to experience a presence; not to observe from a distance, but to become involved; not to just listen, but to follow and serve.

Send your Spirit to this place and lead us beyond a quest for personal security to a passion for the lifting up of all human life wherever that may take us. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SONG

Jesus Loves Me (1st Verse)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor 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

-Tom Eisenhart

John 12:20-33

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

I Will Go

Big Daddy Weave
The Band

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MESSAGE

Dying to Live

Pastor Karen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Scott

Silent Prayer

Prayer

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Scott

Sharing Our Gifts with the Offertory

Offertory Music

What Grace is Mine?

Getty/Traditional
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 #574 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

-AAS

*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

Always

-Riverview Church
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

Guitar: Owen Cooper

Drums/Percussion: Justin Kono, Lily West

New 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

Rick and Genevieve Franz, Cheever Family, Miller family, Sterling Plump, the victims of Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Syrian war, Dee Glassford, The Nelson Family at the death of Joyce's Mom Georgia Cook (especially for her father Bob as he grieves the passing of his wife of 66 years) The Saltiel family at the death of Frank's mother Eugenia Saltiel after a long battle of declining health, Cheryl Comerford

GREETERS: Barbara Bayer, Meg Bollinger

USHERS: April Prescott, Mike Prescott, Larry Ferries, Sandy Gales

HEAD USHER: Bob Orsula

COUNTERS: Pat Lockett, Bill Lockett, Sr.

(Lead Counter) Pam Swick

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

Upcoming Announcements

Upcoming dates:

- Monday Adult Ed classes: 1pm and 6:30pm LOCATION Music Room
- March 18th: Community response to mass shootings-Sanctuary 4:00-5:30pm
- March for Our Lives Saturday, March 24th: Our church will be providing a bus for any who would like to travel downtown for the nationwide march as part of a national grassroots movement inspired by the students of Parkland, Florida. Bus will leave 1047 Curtiss Street at 9:00am. The cost is \$10 per participant. We will return at 2pm. You are own your own for lunch.
- March 29th: Maunday Thursday Dinner/Congregational Care Ministry- 6:00pm, Maunday Thursday Service-7:30pm
- March 30th, Good Friday Service-7:30pm
- April 1st: Easter Services 6:00am, 9:00am, 10:47am
- Church visioning session: 2nd session April 29th and May 2nd alternative same format. \$5 for lunch per person per session.

Upcoming Bible Study: What Does God Require of Us? Mondays, March 19-April 16, 1 and 6:30 pm

God does a lot for us, no doubt about it. And, for the most part, we are aware of that and very grateful. The question I have been wrestling with lately is: what do we do for God? All relationships are by nature two-sided, meaning there is a flow of giving and receiving. If all the giving is done by one and all the receiving by the other, the relationship soon fails, or at least becomes stagnant.

Our relationship with God is the same way. If the relationship is to be healthy and thriving, God cannot be the sole giver; there has to be some giving on our part as well. Much of scripture is reflective of God's expectations of us, but the prophet Micah stated it most clearly in Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

This study will focus on some of the habits and attitudes common to growing disciples: surrender, or the willingness to let God change us; openness and vulnerability; self examination; belief in the power of God as well as the existence of God; and sacrifice. We will look at the stories of Nicodemus, the Woman at the Well, the healing of the blind beggar, the raising of Lazarus, and Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem.

Thursday, June 7th: At Grant Park There will be a run/walk called Strides for Peace that we'd like to invite any and all church runners and walkers to join us in. 5 and 8k runs and a 2mile run/walk. This race is specifically hosted by an organization committed to raising awareness about the problems and levels of Chicago gun violence and how neighborhoods can work together to at the local level build stronger communities, positive outreach for children and teens to keep them off the streets and out of gangs...and to change the level of violence in many of Chicago 's neighborhoods. More information at <https://www.stridesforpeace.org/race/>

Not into tent camping, but would like to join the fun at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan over Labor Day weekend? We have great news!! One of the brand new cottages at Tower Hill Camp has just become available, with 2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchenette, living room, and screened porches. It sleeps 6-8 people and rents for \$385 for 3 days (3 day minimum stay). (Think beach time, campfires, exploring

restaurants and other attractions along the Michigan shore ...) If you and family or friends would like to take advantage of this great opportunity for a wonderful weekend getaway Aug 31-Sept.3, contact Gail Clark ASAP at 630-881-3362 (cell) or gclark214@comcast.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Maundy Thursday is MARCH 29 this year and before the 7:30 pm service a simple supper of huge baked potatoes and all the goodies will be served in Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm. All are invited to join us in fellowship before the service.

On Good Friday, March 30, the terrazzo floors in Fellowship Hall and level 2 Hallway are being buffed. And the west stairs are being reconditioned and polished. Please use the west entrance and the elevator to access all floors until after 4 pm.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:- THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 18th: Community Response to Mass Shootings, beginning at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. Youth Group discussion to follow in the Youth Room with dinner from 5:30-7:30 pm. Our “Spring Fling” Cooking & Cultural event will be on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22nd (4:30 set up)5-8 pm. Tom Dea will be presenting about his trip to India. SATURDAY, MARCH 24th, 9:00 am at church. MARCH FOR OUR LIVES! \$10 for bus transportation to Chicago. RSVP by Sunday, March 18th. SATURDAY, MARCH 24th, 8 pm-8 am Palm Sunday morning. GIRLS NIGHT OUT, Movie night, games and PJ Party for our teen girls. Meet in the Youth Room for a relaxing and fun evening together. PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25th, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Meet at Pastor Scott’s house to set up for the Easter Egg Hunt. NIGHT MINISTRY FROM 2-6:30 pm PALM SUNDAY. Please meet in the church kitchen at 2:00 pm to prepare meals. Any questions, please reach Dena Provenzano at denapro@comcast.net or 630-660-7445. Sunday, March 25th. Team Trivia Night committee meeting, 8:00 pm for everyone helping with Team Trivia Night. Please meet in the church parlor.

Vacation Bible School- Online Registration is NOW OPEN. Register at rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/uccdg. Vacation Bible School will be held June 18-22. We will be going on a Rolling River Rampage adventure. Don’t miss out on the fun!!! Contact Michelle Rafacz with any questions (mrafacz@uccdg.org).

Volunteers Needed for VBS- We are looking for volunteers to lead our students on their adventure. VBS is from June 18th-22nd from 9am to 2pm (12pm for pre-K). Contact Michelle Rafacz with any questions (mrafacz@uccdg.org).

CE/Family Ministry Round Table: Our new Sunday school curriculum has been in place for three months now. We are having a meeting March 11 at 11am in the chapel to give all an opportunity to discuss ideas, thoughts, and feedback. We will also will discuss ways that you can get involved. Please join us.

Ladies of the Morning & Evening: We're going out for Dinner! Friday, April 6 at 6:30 PM at Golden Bowl Restaurant (Chinese food) 6313 Fairview Ave, Westmont, IL 60559-630/852-6688, goldenbowlwestmont.com. If you plan on coming please email or call me. It is nice to have some idea of how big a table to get. Reminder: Progressive Dinner is June 1! Be sure it's on your calendar! Peggy Gutzke H-630/971-1382 peggy.gutzke@gmail.com.

Caring For Creation: Let your elected representatives know that you care about the environment. Stop by the Caring for Creation table in Fellowship Hall after church to write a letter to your elected officials, expressing your concern for environmental issues.

Coffee Hour in Need of Mugs: Our supply of mugs for coffee hour has gone down some. If you have a mug at home that you would like to share with the church, please put the mugs in the basket marked Coffee Hour Mugs during the months of February and March. Who knows, you may even use it again one Sunday!

Mission Ministry: Calling all volunteers - join 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 would like, but you don't need to be there every week. Our spring semester has begun. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact Amy Curran at amyc Curran@gmail.com or 630-964-2205 for more information.

Chancel Flowers: Did you know that the flowers displayed on the Chancel are donated by church members? Everyone is invited to donate flowers 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 its purpose. We do ask, however, that you return the vase so that we can recycle them with the florist. Any questions, please see Linda Schranz or Barb Hammack.

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>

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 for purchase actual cards, you can reload cards you have purchased and you can now get ecards on your device. You can go to www.ShopWithScrip.com. Questions? Email Laurie Olseon at glennlaurie@earthlink.net and Steve Johnson at 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 to our church. We purchase the coffee for North Central College Enactus a student run organization. You can purchase this coffee for your own use during coffee hour. It is available in one pound bags or KCups. New flavored coffees are now available. Come learn more!

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 in Society: Make a positive difference. UCC.org examines current justice issues within the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world, and offers opportunities to take personal action. Receive weekly justice action alerts from the UCC by going to ucc.org. Click on "Advocate for Justice," then click on "Take Action." You can receive justice alerts by email or text. Sign up. You CAN make a difference in the world.



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, March 25th**. We'll take care of the rest and arrange the plants for **Easter services on April 1st**.

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)

Church Visioning Sessions

Come share your voice as we dream and imagine our future with God!

First Congregational Church

Session two: Sunday, April 29th -11am

Session two Alternative: Wednesday, May 2nd -7pm

\$5.00 for lunch/dinner per person



TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT

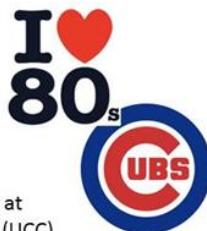
"FORM A TEAM AND PICK YOUR THEME"



It is time to get creative. Every table picks their own theme and decorates to match that theme. Bring your own appetizers and desserts to share.

April 13th from 7-10pm

*Doors open at 6pm
American Legion,
4000 Saratoga Ave
Downers Grove*



Questions? Call 630-968-0358

Sponsored by Youth/Mission & Outreach at
First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)

First Congregational United Church of Christ

6th ANNUAL **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday, March 25th - 1:00 pm Sharp!

WHO: Toddlers –10 years old welcome

Family & Friends! *Helpers welcome for Set up.*

LOCATION: West Ide Park

8117 Compton Rd., Woodridge

SPONSORED BY:

The Oberle's

ADULTS BRING:

A brunch item to share and your camera to capture all the fun! Coffee, Juice and Candy provided



COME: 12:30 pm

HUNT: begins promptly at 1:00 pm *Hunters take only 3-4 minutes to gather the 2000+ eggs! If you're 2 minutes late you've missed it!*

HUNTERS BRING: a bag or basket for collecting eggs, after the hunt you'll open your eggs, put the candy in your basket to take home, and then snap the egg back together and leave it for us for next year!

RAIN, SHINE, and/or SNOW EVENT!

Only A **MAJOR STORM** cancels – DRESS FOR THE WEATHER - OUTDOOR EVENT! Just show up a few minutes early to find your age group and get ready to HUNT!

Christ Has Risen Today!



Join us for our *Easter Morning Brunch*

Sunday, April 1, 2018



10:00-11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy breakfast with your friends and family in between the two services!

We ask that the congregation bring to the kitchen a breakfast item to share that will serve up to 8 people before heading to the service. If it needs to be warmed up let Jenni know and she will do so. *** For easy clean up, please label your containers and you can pick your cleaned dishes at the end of service from the Fellowship Hall counter.

Juice, coffee, milk and fruit will be provided.

A free will offering will be taken to go to the Youth Ministries for their upcoming Mission Trip to Houston, Texas.

Thank you and Happy Easter to All!

Any questions can be directed to Jenni Hallman



First Congregational Church of Downers Grove

1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Sunday, March 18th

4:00pm-5:30pm



Is Hosting A

Community Response to Mass Shootings

There will be a panel of 7 community and faith leaders and possibly one to two high school students. The panel will field an array of questions about gun violence in our nation and how we can find common ground in both identifying our core issues around gun violence and what can be done to make our communities safer.

There will be an open public Q and A to follow.

Representatives will include: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove City Council Member Bob Barnett, Downers Grove Police Chief, Shannon Gillette, 2-3 community faith leaders, District 99 Superintendent, Dr. Hank Thiele.

Open to the general public

Coming Up This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

8:00 AM MCB Meeting-503
9:30 AM - 10:30 PM Sunday School
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship Service-Sanctuary
10:30 AM Spring Musical Rehearsal
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Alleluia Ringers-Music Room
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM Praise Band Rehearsal-Sanctuary
11:00 AM Cabinet Meeting-503
11:00 AM Caring for Creation Team Meeting-Library
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Junior Choir-Music Room
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Community Response to Mass Shootings-Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
4:00 PM - 7:30 PM HS Youth Group
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Jr Fellowship/Youth Spring Fling-Youth Room

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
1:00 PM Adult Education Classes-Music Room
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Chapel
6:00 PM PADS Overnight Guest-Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Education Classes-Music Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
7:00 AM PADS Departure- Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Adult Coloring Group-Parlor
6:30 PM CE Meeting-Library
6:30 PM Personnel Committee-Pastor Scott's Office

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 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
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
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alanon meeting-Coffee House

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM FCLC Jumpbunch Parlor
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 23, 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 24, 2017

9:15 AM - 2:00 PM Nationwide March for Our Lives-Downtown Chicago (RSVP for Transportation)
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Martial Arts Parlor
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM All Bridge Saints-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bluegrass Jam!-Coffee House
8:00 PM - 8:00 AM Girls Night Out (Youth)-Youth Room



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
Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation [casanders3@aol.com](mailto:canders3@aol.com)
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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

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

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
Website: www.uccdg.org

First Congregational Learning Center

FCLC Website: www.fclcdg.org

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