

# First Congregational Church

1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL

United In God's Love



**Sunday Morning Worship**

December 10, 2017

9:30 AM

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

**A SPECIAL WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!**

- Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you feel the warmth of God's spirit here as we worship together! Please complete the form (in the pew) to let us know a little more about you and place it in the offering plate. As our guests this day it is the only offering we ask. If you should have a prayer concern or would like to meet with the Pastor please indicate this next to your name. Thank you!
- Following worship please join us in Fellowship Hall for an informal Continental Breakfast.
- Please note our worship services are online and televised, your participation in the service may be visible during these live ministries. If you should not wish your child to be on screen, please refrain from sending them forward during the children's time or have them sit directly in front of the pews in the front.
- Large print bulletins and hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher.
- An elevator is at your disposal for all levels; our west entrance has a ramp.
- 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.
- Today's Sunday School: Pre-k through 2nd grade: Chapel 3rd-6th graders in the pageant with speaking roles: pageant practice 3rd-4th graders not in the pageant or without speaking roles: Chapel 5th-6th graders not in the pageant or without speaking roles: Attend Worship

*The Joy of the Lord is your strength. —Nehemiah 8:10*

*Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. ~ Henri Nouwen*

*When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.  
-Jalaluddin Rumi*

*To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.  
—Mark Twain*

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. —Rabindranath Tagore*

**God is still speaking ...**

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

## PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Scott

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

\*OPENING SONG      *O Come All Ye Faithful*      -Casting Crowns

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY Corrine and Lindsey Rensch

*Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.* -**Pope John Paul II**

*I want my everyday to make God belly laugh, glad that He gave life to someone who loves the gift.* -**Shauna Niequist**

Scripture: John 15:9-11

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

### ADVENT PRAYER OF GOD'S JOY

God, we pray for a daily attitude of joy; joy that like streams of sunlight pierce dark clouds in a storm. Joy that holds a soul in a quiet strength and peace even when things in our lives seem grim. You are the source of our joy. You have created us in the image and capacity of love and grace. Holy Spirit feed our deepest joys, that they may be the song of our lives lived out this Christmas and Advent season. Amen.

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, and JOY

ADVENT RESPONSE #175 We Light the Advent Candles v4      -Grindal

SPECIAL MUSIC      *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*      -Reeves  
Jr. Choir

SPECIAL MUSIC      *Jesus Loves Me (verse 1)*

### 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesus Loves Me (verse 2)*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25:1-5

MUSIC MINISTRY

*Hallelujah (Light Has Come)*

-Barlow Girl  
The Band

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MESSAGE

*Waiting on Christmas*

Pastor Scott

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

*Shepherds Arise*

-Hayes

Soloist: Larry Bryant/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

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

- BNL version

\*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

*I Pray on Christmas*

-Connick Jr.  
The Band

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

**Today's Musicians**

Vocals: Kelley Calpin and Anthony Berg  
Guitar: Owen Cooper Base: Conor Roe Piano: Sara Younker  
Percussion and Piano: Justin Kono

**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**

For Olgha Sandman, Harold Laughlin recovering from back surgery, Rick and Genevieve Franz

**GREETERS:** Jan & Nancy Hessler, Steve Johnson

**USHERS:** Andy Dahle, Judi Davenport, Virginia Hopley, John Hall

**(HEAD USHER:)** Tom Eisenhart

**COUNTERS:** Heather Bilcer, Cliff Mazzone

**(Lead Counter)** Adrienne Colvert

This week's continental breakfast will be hosted by Stewardship.

*This Week's Announcements*

Upcoming dates:

- Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>: NAMI mental Health Workshop - free to participate, includes lunch
- January: New member church exploration opportunity – come learn about who we are January 7th after church with lunch, New Member Sunday January 14th
- March 4<sup>th</sup>: Elmhurst College Jazz Ensemble will be sharing a Worship and Arts Art and Soul Concert here at the church time TBA

**Chili Caroling Luncheon:** Congregational Care invites EVERYONE to a delicious chili lunch in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am on today. Directly following lunch, we will divide into groups to go caroling to our homebound members. All ages and families are encouraged to come out and have fun bringing Christmas joy to our homebound!

**Poinsettias for the homebound:** Please plan on picking up a beautiful poinsettia on Sunday, December 17 to deliver to a homebound member at your convenience anytime before Christmas. The plants will be near the west entrance. A member of Congregational Care will be there to help you choose a homebound member's name/address. *Please help to bring Christmas wishes to our homebound from their church family! You will brighten their day! Thank you!*

**Christmas Concert:** Please plan on attending our annual Christmas Concert which will be held on December 17th at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. All of our music ministries have been working very hard on the music for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season! The concert will feature music from the Alleluia Ringers, the Junior Choir, the Chancel Choir, and of course The Band! Plan to greet your friends and family following the concert for a dessert reception in the Parlor.

**Night Ministry:** December 17th is the next Night Ministry. We will also be collecting wool socks, waterproof gloves, warm hats and scarves and gently used winter coats. NIGHT MINISTRY OF CHICAGO NEEDS YOU... CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE OUR FRIENDS IN HUMBOLDT PARK! We will pack up the cars and head to Humboldt Park at 3:00 pm, serve a meal to our Night Ministry guests at 4:00 pm and head back to church following. Please join us if you never have before. The Night Ministry of Chicago provides many services throughout neighborhoods in Chicago, helping children, teenagers, and families. Questions, call Dena Provenzano 630-660-7445 or [denapro@comcast.net](mailto:denapro@comcast.net)

**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 will begin in February 2018. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact Amy Curran at [amycurran@gmail.com](mailto:amycurran@gmail.com) or 630-964-2205 for more information.

**Greeters Wanted:** All that is required is a smiling face and a warm welcome, possibly two or three times a year for about 20 minutes prior to church on Sunday mornings. I will give you a short list of duties and information that you should know to prepare yourself ahead of time. We have had a lot of new people join the church, and it would be nice to get to know some of you, and this is a great way to meet people, too. You can sign up as an individual, or with your family. Please contact Skyla Hall at 630-493-1140. Thank you.

**Women's Fellowship - Ladies of the Morning and Evening:** Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Brunch --Friday, December 8, 9:30-12:30pm. Join the Ladies of the Morning and Evening at our annual Christmas Brunch. All are welcome! 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 Questions: call Peggy Gutzke at 630/971-1382 or email her at [peggy.gutzke@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

**PADS Christmas Gifts:** On Christmas night, our church will host 40-50 overnight PADS guests in Fellowship Hall. Since 2012, our church members and friends have generously responded to provide personal gifts for over 370 PADS guests. We hope to continue this tradition in 2017. Our goal is to provide one (\$50) gift or gift card per adult and several smaller gifts per child. You will be assigned a name and a desired gift. Most of the gift cards can be purchased at the Manna table. If you would like to share in this most worthwhile cause, please email Tom Williams at [dontomas23@aol.com](mailto:dontomas23@aol.com) or call/text at 630-664-8915. Thank you.

**FCC Book Club:** This December, we will once again partake in a shared dinner at Trudi Connick's home on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM. Trudi's home is at 718 39th Street in Downers Grove. The book selection is "A Week in Winter" by Maeve Binchy. Please call Trudi at 630-968-6916 to let her know you will be coming and also to let her know what dish you will bring to share. Looking forward to seeing all of you bibliophiles then!

**On January 18, 2018,** faith leaders from around the country will join together for National Day of Fasting and Witness in protest of Wendy's executives' ongoing and unconscionable refusal to join the Fair Food Program. Following what's sure to be an exciting fall season in the Wendy's campaign (with a major march to the New York City offices of Board Chair Nelson Peltz coming up on November 20!), this mobilization will galvanize faith communities nationwide into action – both in commemoration of the great strides that have been made over the course of our decades-long struggle for justice in the fields, and in advancement of the urgent campaign to bring Wendy's into the Fair Food fold.. Please consider a fast along with CIW on January 18th to bring awareness with them.

**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.

**MANNA: MANNA CARD CHANGES!** The Manna company we have been using has been acquired by Great Lakes Scrip Center. There are some changes that will make it easier to purchase Manna Cards and support our church. Here is the website for the new company- [shop.shopwithscrip.com/](http://shop.shopwithscrip.com/). You can use this to order cards on your own. Orders received by Tuesday night can be picked up on Sunday morning. You can also use the website to reload some of the cards you purchase. Check out the list of merchants and the percent they give back to our church on the website. Remember you pay for the amount you receive, so it is easy to help the church budget at no cost to you. Follow these instructions to set up your account and begin ordering today. If you have questions, see us at the Manna Table on Sunday mornings. Go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/> click on the grey "register" button in the upper right hand corner, click on the left side Join a scrip program. Use the enrollment code 92A2CLLA55623. You can create your logon information. Once you create your account you can order by clicking the "shop" button. If you sign up for Presto Pay, which is their ACH system you can order and pay online. You will need to go through their security process to sign up. If you do not want to sign up for Presto Pay you can email orders to Laurie Olsen [glennlaurieolsen@gmail.com](mailto:glennlaurieolsen@gmail.com) and Steve Johnson [Sjoh413@gmail.com](mailto:Sjoh413@gmail.com).

**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).

**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](http://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.

**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>



# Why take Mental Health First Aid?

- Recognize if a friend, family member, or colleague is struggling
- Learn how to talk to someone who is in need
- Make a positive change by helping someone onto the right road
- Respond with the same empathy and respect to mental illness as you would with cancer

***Everyone deserves to  
be able to live, laugh, and love.***

Free CEUs Available



Join us for this FREE class  
**Saturday, January 13, 8am-5pm**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove  
For more details or to register contact Megan  
(630)390-4302, [lockett.megan24@gmail.com](mailto:lockett.megan24@gmail.com)



# 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 in the collection plate by December 17, 2017.

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:

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(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 10, 2017**

10:30 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal-Mayflower Room

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Alleluia Ringers-Music Room

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM Praise Band Rehearsal-Sanctuary

11:30 AM Chili Luncheon & Christmas Caroling

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Junior Choir-Music Room

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017**

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Chapel

6:00 PM PADS Overnight Guest-Fellowship Hall

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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 Building & Grounds Committee meeting-Room 503

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM 2nd Tues Song Circle-Two Way St Coffee House

7:30 PM Christmas Bible Study-Oberle's Home

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM PFLAG-Chapel

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alanon meeting-Coffee House

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017**

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM FCLC Jumpbunch Chapel

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

7:00 PM Scouts-Fellowship Hall

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017**

Annual Meeting Reports Due ([lmcfarland@uccdg.org](mailto:lmcfarland@uccdg.org))

6:00 AM Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous-Coffee House

4:30 PM Administrative Deadline for Pilgrim

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Martial Arts Chapel

8:15 PM Two Way Street Concert-Coffee House

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Martial Arts Chapel

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM All Bridge Saints-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sing Around-Coffee House



# An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Scott Oberle, Senior Pastor .....	<a href="mailto:pastorscott@uccdg.org">pastorscott@uccdg.org</a>
Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation .....	<a href="mailto:canders3@aol.com">canders3@aol.com</a>
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Justin Kono, Band Director .....	<a href="mailto:j.akira.kono@gmail.com">j.akira.kono@gmail.com</a>
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)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fclcdg](http://www.facebook.com/fclcdg)



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