


First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship Service
January 26th 2020



THE PEOPLE WHO
SAT IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN
A GREAT LIGHT.

MATTHEW 4:16

Lead with Love
9:30am

A SPECIAL WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Mission: Connect people with God and one another to serve, live, and love - guided by Christ.

Vision: A more just, compassionate world, united in God's love.

Values: As an open and affirming United Church of Christ, we seek to:

- Lead with love
- Nurture faith as a lifelong journey
- Engage with Scripture
- Embrace diversity and value all people
- Hold sacred God's creation
- Advocate for peace and justice
- Serve our local, national and global communities
- Share joy, hope and kindness

Invitation: Come change the world with us! No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you are visiting and want more info, please contact
Pastor Scott (630-968-0358 or pastorscott@uccdg.org)
or Mary Vercellino at mvercellino@sprynet.com.

I am surrounded by darkness yet enfolded in light. -Alan Brennert

In fact, I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do what I know is right. Instead I do the things I hate. -Romans 7:15 CEV

For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. -Psalm 18:28

God is the light shining in the midst of darkness, not to deny that there is darkness but to reassure us that we do not have to be afraid of the darkness because darkness will always yield to light.

-Rabbi Harold Kushner

Maybe you have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light. -Madeleine L'Engle

See the light in others and treat them as if that is all you see.

-Wayne Dyer

...God is still speaking

MISSION MOMENT VIDEO – The Youth Group Giving Team

Today's message is **Out of Our Darkness**

PRELUDE – *Christ Our Light* by Lund sung by the Chancel Choir.

*SHARING THE PEACE – Pastor Scott

*OPENING SONG - #93 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* –by Edwards and Wyeth

*CALL TO WORSHIP – Pastor Scott (responsive)

O God, You know me. You know the vision You have for my life. You know my very best, and You know my capacity for my very worst.

Meet me in the darkness of my life.

God, Who calls us by name, each of us out of our routines...

Lift me from the darkness in which I have hidden. May Your light cast the darkness within me far from me.

Light of the world shine in me, that I might reflect Your light through the living of these days. Amen.

*CHILDREN'S SONG – *Jesus Loves Me (1st verse)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Pastor Michelle

*The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

*CHILDREN'S SONG – *Jesus Loves Me (2nd verse)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week's Godly Play is The Parable of the Good Shephard and The Books of the Bible.

Preschool – first grade meets in the Chapel.

Second – fourth grade meets in the Library.

Fifth and sixth grade meets in the Youth Room.

SCRIPTURE READING – Amy Rettberg
Matthew 4:12-23, 1st Corinthians 1:10-18

MUSIC MINISTRY – *Shadow Step* by Hillsong played by the Band.

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

TODAY'S MESSAGE IS *Out of our Darkness* – Pastor Scott



John Hall's mother Ann, Diane Karson, Joan Stockmal, Ann Mullen.

For the land of Australia, firefighters people and wildlife as they continue to battle brush fires. For world and national leaders.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Pastor Michelle

Silent Prayer

Prayer

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD – Pastor Michelle

Sharing Our Gifts with the Offertory

MUSIC – *Lux Aeterna* by Albrecht. Chancel Choir.

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS WITH PRAISE

**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 Michelle

*CLOSING HYMN – #76 *Siyahamba* South African/Hopson

*BENEDICTION – *Ancient Words* by 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 Saw the Light* by Hank Williams played by the Band

*Please join us in these prayers and songs.

Thank you to this week's greeters and ushers.

Greeters: Ann Mullen, Judy Murrison

Ushers: Tim Costanzi, Fred Rensch, Lindsey & Corinne Rensch

Head Usher: Dirk Gutzke

Counters: Lisa and Mark Lockett; **Lead Counter:** Larry Ferries

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

Please join us in The Parlor for Continental Breakfast served by Faith Formation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Continental Breakfast this week will take place upstairs in the parlor due to the Annual Meeting.**

Continental Breakfast February 2020 Schedule:

February 2– Women's Fellowship

February 9– Congregational Care

February 16– Stewardship

February 23– Worship and Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 5 BOOK CLUB CHANGE:

Due to the high demand for the book chosen for February, *Eleanor Oliphant is Perfectly Fine*, the Downers Grove Library is not able to accommodate our request for February. Therefore, we have ordered the book *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham for February and will read "Eleanor Oliphant is Perfectly Fine" for our March meeting.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Saturday 2/08/2020 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, sausage, milk, juice, and coffee. Adults \$6.00, children under 10 \$3.00. The FCC Brothers are again hosting. Nick Costanzi began this event and it was always very special to him. Music will be provided by the Plank Road String Band. Please come and enjoy. This is the weekend of the Downers Grove Ice Festival. Let's hope for great weather. For tickets please see Eric Nelson.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:

The Appetizers & Desserts for Dinner Party is February 7 at 6:30 PM.

Men are invited!

Joyce Nelson's house 6129 Washington Downers Grove

630-963-0894 jcooknelson@sbcglobal.net

Give Joyce a call or email to let her know you'll be there, if you are bringing a friend (Men are invited!) and whether you'll be bringing a dessert or appetizer to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Gutzke at

H: [630/971-1382](tel:6309711382) C: [630/632-3014](tel:6306323014) peggy.gutzke@gmail.com

TRIVIA NIGHT:

The Only FUNd-raiser for the Youth Mission Trip is

Friday, February 21 at 6 p.m.

Tickets are available starting this Sunday, January 26th

To purchase tickets you can stop at the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday Mornings, go to the church office during the week, or see any of the Youth Leaders (Pastor Michelle, Nadine Bahaveolos, Anthony or Perlie Havel, Dave Humphreys or Kathryn Luco). If you have to pay with a credit card you can only do that with Pastor Michelle or Nadine Bahaveolos.

Tickets are \$25.00 if purchased ahead of time and \$30.00 if purchased at the door.

Pastor Michelle is asking members of the Congregation to please, please, please WINE at her from now until Trivia Night. All Wine can be brought to the Church Office, and please let us know you brought it. There is a check in list. Thank you.

Additionally, if any members are business owners, have season tickets, rental/vacation property and are willing to make a donation of a gift basket or a gift toward a basket, please let Pastor Michelle know. All items are incredibly, enthusiastically welcome.

Ski Trip

Saturday Afternoon February 15 - departure for Kewaskum Wisconsin

Sunday AM worship with Peace UCC, and then head to Ski

Sunburst Ski pricing is below – the lift ticket plus ski rental, plus additional rental if the youth will also be going tubing.

Fellowship: Youth & Church Outings



Enjoy fellowship with family and friends throughout the winter.

Evenings 4pm to 9:30pm

Lift Ticket: \$22 | Rentals: \$10 | Beginner Lesson: \$8

Monday & Friday, **Weekends & Holidays 9:30am to 4pm**

Lift Ticket: \$30 | Rentals: \$15 | Beginner Lesson: \$8

Monday February 17, after cleaning up we head for home.

Cost for the entire weekend: \$100.00

More specific details on time can be provided when we have an exact count.



The Real, Real Deal is this.

We need the full RSVP list by 5PM of Friday February 7th

We need 2 to 3 additional parents to attend for this event to occur.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesdays March 4 – April 1, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Two Way Street Coffee House

This special Lenten Bible study will begin with music and a short worship time, followed by Bible study and a shared meal. Please bring a dish to share.

MINISTRY UPDATES

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

We are finalizing the budget and ministry/team positions for the 2020 Annual Meeting, and it is important that we get as close to our pledge goal of \$485,000 as possible (currently at \$456,000) to cover the addition of the new Associate Minister later in the year. Please send your giving sheet to or contact Kim Rutter in the church office at bookkeeper@uccdg.org. We are also looking to fill an open leader position on Christian Community, Mission & Justice, Outreach & Membership and Lay Delegates. Joining a Ministry or Team is a great way to get to know people and make new friendships, while doing the work of the church. If interested, please contact Dave Williams at 630-841-3365 or dwilli8253@gmail.com.

BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU: Thanks to ALL who generously donated Blood on Tuesday, January 14. We had 21 registered donors. We donated a total of 20 products! Thank you so much. As we know, “Donating Blood Saves Lives!” We hope we can rely on your continued support at our next Drive on April 14th.

MENTORS NEEDED FOR BRIDGE COMMUNITIES:

Would you like to help a homeless family? Bridge Communities is a grassroots, nonprofit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families in DuPage County. Their program of housing, mentoring and empowering families focuses on moving them towards a goal of self-sufficiency over a two year period. The First Congregational UCC of Downers Grove has been in partnership with Bridge Communities for over 20 years. We will be needing mentors for a new family this coming summer. Mentors work with the family weekly to help them budget, save money, use resources, and be supportive. Mentor Training is on Saturday, February 15th at Gary Methodist Church in Wheaton from 8:15-3:00. This is a very informative session where you can determine if this is something you would like to do. If you have any questions or would like to know more go to <https://www.bridgecommunities.org> or contact Char Wild 630 985-4416.

ONGOING

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!

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. JOIN THE CARPOOL! - Each Wednesday, we meet at 4:45pm at the Jewel store located at 63rd Street & Main Street. Tell Eric Nelson (Nelson4dg@sbcglobal.net) that you will be there and would like a ride.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

FAITH FORMATION: You'll get much more than you give by being part of our Sunday School team! Spend an hour each week looking at the lesson plans we provide and then enjoy an hour with our inquisitive, enthusiastic and fun children. You can work with children in the nursery or in the preschool through sixth grade classrooms. We invite you to observe and watch how our children can wonder and grow. If you are interested, please contact our Sunday School Coordinator Sarah Forillo at sforillo@uccdg.org or 630-968-0358 x223.

CHANGE IN MANNA LEADERSHIP: A very big THANK YOU to the Steve Johnson Family and Laurie Olsen for their dedication over the years in keeping Manna a viable service offering and fundraiser for our church! While they continue to recognize the value of Manna, going forward they will be using their time and talents to benefit our church in other ways. The Stewardship Team is actively looking for someone to continue this important role; if you are interested, please send an email to David Hersemann (dah5@comcast.net) or Phil Sumida (sumtchr@gmail.com).

BUY MANNA CARDS: 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. In order to you're your account to our church, you will need to enter the code that is assigned to our church. The code is UnitedDG150. If you have any questions, please e-mail Phil Sumida at sumtchr@gmail.com or David Hersemann at dah5@comcast.net or come by the Manna Table during Coffee Hour.

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 or (630) 712-9148 for more information.

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.

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.

CHURCH TABLECLOTHS: As many of you know, there are tablecloths that are available to groups to use on the tables in Fellowship Hall or the Parlor. These tablecloths are located in the closet in the Parlor. Anyone can use these tablecloths but they must clean the tablecloths themselves and return them to the closet. Please do not leave the tablecloths in the PADS laundry room. If you have any questions, please see Linda Schranz or Barb Hammack. Thank you for your cooperation.

AMAZON SMILE: When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to First Congregational United Church of Christ.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2361106>

DOWNTOWN
Downers Grove
ICE♥FEST
Love is in the Air!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

*...Savor the sweet aroma of pancakes and sausage
at the First Congregational Church on
Saturday Morning, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.*



Before you enjoy the exhibits and ice sculpture demonstrations, start your day off with delicious hot pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and juice.

Adults – \$6.00

Children – \$3.00

Ages 12 and under

Plank Road Music Society will be performing during the breakfast.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

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

Across the street from the Public Library



Boy Scout Troop 55 and First Congregational Church ask you to bring your used athletic shoes when you come to the breakfast. The shoes will be recycled and used for basketball and tennis courts in the Chicagoland area. *Save the earth while enjoying our pancakes and hospitality.*



SPONSORS



COMMUNITY BANK of
DOWNERS GROVE™
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TRIVIA with wonderful
night
FUNDRAISER Silent Auction

Friday February 21, 6:00PM. Tickets \$25.00 each
Youth Mission Trip to Nashville, TN

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Sun., Jan. 26, 2020

Annual Meeting

Youth Giving Project

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal – Coffee House

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

9:30- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

10:45- 11:30 a.m. Bells Rehearsal – Music Room

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Parent Education Program

Mon., Jan. 27, 2020

6 a.m. Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Coffee House

6 p.m. PADS Guest Arrive – Fellowship Hall

Tues., Jan. 28, 2020

6 a.m. Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Coffee House

10 a.m. Adult Coloring Group – Library

3 p.m. Deadline for Bulletin

Wed., Jan. 29, 2020

6 a.m. Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Coffee House

9 – 11 a.m. Bible Study (at members' homes)

6 – 9 p.m. Greater Chicago Food Depository Wed. Night Repack – offsite

6 – 7 p.m. Grounds of Hope

7 – 8:30 p.m. Confirmation- Library/Youth Room

7:30 – 9 p.m. Alanon meeting – Coffee House

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2020

6 a.m. Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Coffee House

7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Music Room

7 p.m. Last Thursday-Two Way Coffee House Open Mike

Fri., Jan. 31, 2020

6 a.m. Acceptance Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Coffee House

7 p.m. Two Way Street Concert – Coffee House

Sat., Feb. 1, 2020

2 – 4 p.m. – Sing Around-Coffee House



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

www.uccdg.org

OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Scott Oberle, Senior Pastor pastorscott@uccdg.org

Rev. Michelle McNamara, Interim Assoc. Pastor..... mmcnamara@uccdg.org

Rev. Karen Nachtigall, Pastoral Ministry Team..... karennachtigall@gmail.com

Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation...casanders3@aol.com

Kelley Calpin, Director of Music Ministries kcalpin@gmail.com

Maria Carini, Assistant Director of Music Ministries mcarin1m@aol.com

Rachel Carreras, Administrative Secretary adminsec@uccdg.org

Sarah Forillo, Sunday School Coordinator sforillo@uccdg.org

Bill Hammack, A-V Specialist bill@symbolix.com

Dave Humphreys, Community Liaison dave@davehumphreys.com

Tim Kendall, Two Way Street Coffee House tim@twowaystreet.org

Justin Kono, Director of Praise Band j.akira.kono@gmail.com

Carl Lorek, Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor Carl@uccdg.org

Len Potter, Broadcast Ministry lenp@potterpro.com

Kimberly Rutter, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@uccdg.org

The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Schieler, Pastor Emeritus

First Congregational Learning Center

Our program serves children from 6 weeks through 5 years of age.

Kim Choate, Director - kchoate@uccdg.org

Phone: 630-206-4910 • www.fclcdg.org •

Office hours: Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Fri. by appointment.

E-mail: office@uccdg.org

In pastoral **emergencies**, Pastor Scott can be reached at 630-432-0380.

Our Church App

Download our new app on your iPhone or Android. Search for our church name and look for the app with our logo.



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donate

Watch Sunday Services on local TV

Shown at 11:30 a.m. Sunday on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99.

View the service online at www.uccfn.org.