

First Congregational Church
Sunday Worship Service
May, 19th 2019

A photograph of footprints in sand, with the text "Following Jesus" overlaid in a white script font. The footprints lead from the top right towards the bottom left, with a larger, more distinct footprint at the bottom left.

Following Jesus

United In God's Love
9:30am

**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey ...
You are welcome here!
A SPECIAL WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!**

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

*"I was challenged to do a little exercise with these verses (1 Cor 13:4-8), one that was profoundly convicting. Take the phrase "Love is patient" and substitute your name for the word "love." (For me, "Francis is patient...") Do it for every phrase in the passage. By the end, don't you feel like a liar? If I am meant to represent what love is, then I often fail to love people well. Following Christ isn't something that can be done halfheartedly or on the side. It is not a label we can display when it is useful. It must be central to everything we do and are. **Francis Chan***

*To Follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it. **Scot McKnight***

God is still speaking...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Scott

PRELUDE

CONFIRMANDS PROCESSION

*SHARING THE PEACE

*OPENING SONG

Holy Spirit

-Battistelli
The Band

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Pastor Scott

God today we are reminded of our calling and commitment to follow You wherever You may lead us. **Holy Spirit come move in our lives. Shape us, change us, challenge us to be the people You envision us to be. Use us as part of Your prayer for the world- Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

of Tony Patton Jr.

-Pastor Scott

Baptismal Song *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (v1 & 4)*

—Cole-Turner

Invitation and Words of Blessing to the Baptized

Questions of Faith Identity

Congregational Response of Support (read in unison)

We thank God Who has made you one of a kind. What a gift it is that we celebrate before God with your parents and family this day after such a hard journey to this moment! As your church family brought together by the power of God's Holy Spirit, we will do our best to walk with you as you grow in your faith journey. As brothers and sisters in Christ we will seek to live out our faith with you, teaching you and learning from you as we share relationship with God in Christ. We will pray for you and for your family. We will seek to model God's forgiveness, hope and love in our lives together. We give thanks to God, rejoicing with the Holy Spirit, for the joy of sharing this faith journey with you and seeing God presence in you! Amen.

Baptism

Gifts and Prayer

Congregational Care and Pastor Scott

Children Preschool- 1st Grade are dismissed for Sunday School

This weeks Godly Play is The Mystery of Pentecost.

SCRIPTURE READING

-Dena Provenzano

Joshua 24:15
Mark 8:27-29a

SILENT REFLECTION

MESSAGE

Choose Jesus

- Pastor Scott

CONFIRMATION OF FAITH

2019 CONFIRMANDS: *Aidan Hallet, Kristen Kras, Erik Peterson, Gianna Provenzano, Lexi Reed*

Questions to the Confirmands

(John Hall) Your parents and others have passed this faith on to you. They made promises to God baptizing you and raising you in faith. But now you are older, and the choice to enter into a relationship with God in Jesus becomes your decision. Is it your desire to seek to follow Jesus in your own life? If this is your desire— please respond:

Confirmands: **Yes, it is my desire to be a disciple of Christ.**

(JenniHallman) You have also learned what it is to be the church, not as a building but as a people. Each of you possesses different talents, gifts, and personalities that help make the church what it is.

You have learned and seen the power of God at work among you. As a Church people, we share our lives and our faith in knowing that we do not take this journey alone. Is it your desire to be an active and visible part of First Congregational United Church of Christ?

Confirmands: **It is with the help of God.**

(Pastor Scott) The life and teachings of Jesus are not easy to follow. This walk with God will require much of you. It will require openness to God in your daily life, faith, courage, and dedicating yourselves to following Jesus even when that may push you beyond your comfort zones. Is it your desire this day to open your whole life to God so that those who know you might see your life and know that God is at the heart of who you are, who you seek to be and what you stand for?

Confirmands: **It is. I will do my best to love God and those around me as Jesus has loved me.**

(Joann Purcell) Confirmation is not a graduation nor an end, but rather a beginning, an equipping for a life-long journey with God. It is not about a “religion” practiced for an hour on Sunday, but a daily way of choosing to live that puts Jesus and God’s kingdom first above every other relationship we have.

We recognize today that none of us is perfect. There will be detours along the way; moments when we make mistakes and lose our way. There will be times when life gets complicated and faith is stretched to its limits. But we also recognize, as you confirm the blessings of your baptism, that it is God who remains always faithful in God’s promises to us. Trust in God’s grace, lead with compassion and mercy just as you have found love and grace in God.

ALL: We will do our best to follow Jesus every day, to love as he would love and to live as he would live.

(Pastor Scott) And now because of the work and commitment you have each made, preparing yourselves for a life of discipleship, we will ask each of you to come forward individually to receive your church family’s blessing, prayers, and to pray for God’s Holy Spirit to be with you and guide you in your journey of faith.

Sharing of Faith Verses, Faith Statements, and the Laying on of Hands
(mentors, family, and friends are invited to come forward and to join us in the laying on of hands and prayer)

Presentation of Gifts to the Confirmands Dena Provenzano
Thanks to Teachers and Mentors

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Scott
Moment of Silent Prayer
Prayer

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD Pastor Scott
Sharing Our Gifts with the Offertory
I Will Follow -Tomlin
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 Pastor Scott

*CLOSING HYMN #559 *Here I Am, Lord* -Schutte

*BENEDICTION

Ancient Words

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

Joyful, Joyful

-Beethoven, Arr. Sister Act
The Band

- Following worship, please join us in Fellowship Hall for New Member Continental Breakfast.
- Blue offering envelopes in pews are for giving to specific ministries outside of regular offerings.

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

Today's Musicians

Vocals: Emily Durham, Anthony Berg

Bass: Eric von Holst Guitar: Owen Cooper Percussion: Lily West

Drums/Piano: Justin Kono

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

Shirley Reardon, Brandon Tiffany, John Shelton, Ann Mullen, Pam Wiemerslage, John & Rebecca Jay, Ken Hall, father of John Hall, Janet Freels, Gerado Chavez, Alban and McHue families at the death of Cindy Alban.

GREETERS: Marty Schranz, Sean Sheehan

USHERS: Len Clark, Lisa Lockett, Dave Williams, Dick Hill

HEAD USHER: Dirk Gutzke

COUNTERS: Pat Lockett & Bill Lockett, Sr.

(Lead Counter) Pam Swick

This week's continental breakfast will be served by Christian Education, Worship
and Arts, & Jenni Hallman

This week's altar flowers: Bruce White in honor of the 90th anniversary of
Leslie White's birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bible Study on Ecclesiastes May 21, 1-2pm and 6:30-7:30 pm in the Parlor
- Faith in Place and ComEd Presentation: Today in Fellowship Hall from 11:30am-1:00pm.

Vacation Bible School: We will be running VBS June 17th-21st, 9am-12:30pm. More details as well as opportunities to volunteer will be shared. Please contact Sarah Forillo if you have any questions. Sforillo@uccdg.org <https://vbsmate.com/FCUCCDG>

Youth Prison Outreach: Meeting on Thursday, May 9th @ 6:30PM, please come learn and help plan our next semester classes at the Warrenville Youth Center. If you are interested and unable to make it or have questions please call; Gaye Smith 630-712-9148

Women's Fellowship: 5/24 - 9:30

Stitch and Chat

Gail Clark's house 5826 Clover Dr Lisle, IL

630-881-3362 gclark214@comcast.net

In the late spring and summer we usually meet at people's homes once a month and bring food to share for breakfast.

This is a very casual gathering. Come if and when you can, even if only for a few minutes.

Please let GAIL know that you will be able to come and what breakfast food you'll bring to share.

You don't need to bring anything to stitch, but can just hang out and chat.

If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Gutzke-

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

Reminder: Progressive Dinner is June 14! Be sure it's on your calendar!

Reminder from BSA Troop 55:

If your family ordered a Butter braid product from Troop 55 they are ready to be picked up in Fellowship Hall. Please see Troop 55's Secretary, Karen Gatewood after the service to pick up your order. Thank you all for ordering Butter braids and for your year round support. We well exceeded our expectations for sales this season. The scouts did a wonderful job! Thanks Again!

Karen Gatewood Troop 55 Secretary/Special projects 630-964-2903

New Planting: As preparation for a new planting on the south side, the Landscaping Committee invites you to dig and take any plant(s) you want from the south side. Any remaining plants will be removed during church work day.

Night Ministry:

Tuesday, May 28th

8-10 pm

Humboldt Park

Sunday, July 28th

6:30-8:30 pm

Humboldt Park

Sunday, September 1st

6:30-8:30 pm

Humboldt Park

Cherub Choir: If you have a child who is 4 years old-Kindergarten and likes to sing, Cherub Choir rehearsals have started again. (Some 3 yo if they like to sing) We rehearse from 10:30-10:50 AM in the Mayflower Room near the kitchen. We sing on Mother's Day. Contact Peggy Gutzke if you have questions. 630-971-1382
peggy.gutzke@gmail.com

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH: As an open and affirming congregation, we'll be showing our support of the LGBTQ community by participating in two upcoming events: the Aurora Pride Parade on Sunday, June 9th, and the Chicago Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30th. Please save these dates. Details to follow soon!

GroveFest: Help raise money for our Church while having fun at Downers Grove Rotary GroveFest!! Each year the Rotary Club of Downers Grove hosts GroveFest and they ask local non-profits and churches to help them run the fest and earn money for their organization at the same time. Our church can earn \$40 for each shift you work! We can earn as much as \$1,000! Volunteer shifts are just 3 to 4 hours long and you get a chance to meet new people and help your church. Opportunities include the car show, beer sales, information booth, setup and teardown, ticket sales, and more. You simply go online and sign up for as many slots as you like. Be sure to list "First Congregational Church" as your non-profit in the "My Comment" field so we get the credit for your shift. Sign up today at www.rotarygrovefest.com Click the "Volunteer" button, see the job descriptions, and sign up! But do it today... shifts are filling up fast! If you have any questions, please Dave Humphreys 630-968-5526 -Thank you!!

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 Sarah Forillo sforillo@uccd.org

FCC BOOK CLUB: Our June selection is "The End of Your Life Book Club" by Will Schwalbe. We will meet on Wednesday, June 5 in the Parlor at 6:30 PM. If you were at the meeting in May, your copy of the book has been ordered through the Downers Grove Public Library. If you need a copy, please either order it yourself from the library, or give me a call and provide me with your library card number. I can be reached at 630-464-0426. Hope to see you in June!

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 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. If you have any questions, please e-mail 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. 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 or Laurel Carlson at 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>



Let's show the community we support our LGBTQI family, friends and allies across the western suburbs and beyond!

What: 2nd Annual Aurora Pride Parade
When: Sunday, June 9th, 12:00 p.m.
Where: Kickoff is at Benton and River Street, going east on Benton, north on Broadway, west on Downer Place and ending at River Street. (½ mile course)

We will meet at the west entrance immediately following the service (10:30am) and carpool.

This is a fun, family-friendly event! For more information, please contact Mary Dove at marykdove@gmail.com or 630.960.4021 or visit www.Aurorapride.org.

Also, look forward to participating in other church sponsored events surrounding the **Chicago Pride Parade** on Sunday, June 30th.

Coming Up This Week

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

Baptism & Confirmation Sunday

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 Cherub Choir Rehearsal/ Mayflower Room

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Bells Rehearsal

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Teens - Parlor

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

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

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

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

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

10:00 AM Adult Coloring Group-Library

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Bible Study

3:00 PM Administrative Deadline for Bulletin

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM CE Meeting-Library

6:30 PM Personnel Committee-Pastor Scott's Office

7:00 PM Finance & Budget-Rm 503

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM MCB-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

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

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Teens-Library/Youth Room

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

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019

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

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Music Room

7:00 PM Last Thursday-Two Way Coffee House Open Mike

7:00 PM Scouts-Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

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

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Stitch and Chat

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM FCLC End of Year Picnic

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

8:15 PM Two Way Street Concert-Coffee House

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Judy Rebeck's Memorial- Sanctuary

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
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 Bill Hammack, A-V Specialist bill@symbolix.com
 Len Potter, Broadcasting Ministries lenp@potterpro.com
 Justin Kono, Director of Praise Band jakira.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

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