

January Pilgrim

From the desk of Pastor Scott....

As we focus this new year on the importance of relationships in ministry and faith building, how we care for one another and speak to one another I hope we will really think about how each relationship can have Christ in its center. How is Jesus present in our day to day relationships? Do others in our lives feel the presence of Christ when they are around us?

As we focus on this in worship, we will simultaneously hold a Bible Study on Matthew's Gospel and the ways in which Jesus engaged people and what we might learn from him in our own day to day | interactions. This study will really be about trying to make our faith more of a daily part of who we are in practical ways.

January 2020

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Continued... Study will begin on Tuesday January 14th and run through March 10th.

LEADERSHIP

As we have our annual meeting on January 26th we will be welcoming in 35 new church leaders to our seven ministry team, and several more to standing ministry committees like Worship and Arts, personnel, and FCLC.

During this time we will focus on three things.

First, current 2019 ministry leaders helping new leaders get up to speed on what their ministry has been working on and goals they have been striving for.

Second, as we have restructured in terms of the number of teams and size of ministries, it is now important to think about how we approach ministry meetings. Let's focus on how we embody discipleship first and on our tasks and efficiency second. For example, at council we will begin each meeting with a spiritual/life check in. Then together we will name our church mission and share a 'win' – a way in which we feel our church has lived into our mission and ministry since our last meeting. How are we being the light of Christ – to keep our focus on where God is guiding us rather than more narrowly concentrating on what is next on the agenda and the calendar. While this is important, I hope we can always have our primary objective to be on the wider church mission and vision.

Third, communication, communication, communication. How can we better convey information to the whole church? How can our processes and procedures be clear and universally understood? How are we keeping up with things?

As part of this new endeavor I am getting the book *Piloting Church* by Cameron Trimble for our new church leadership. My hope is that in reading the book together, we can focus as leaders on how being church today has its own set of challenges and struggles that in some ways differ from the church we grew up in, and in some ways are the same.

*One example: How is worship affected when peoples' attention spans are shorter and most of their information is gathered through apps, handheld devices and online? Are we aware of this in our planning of worship? Are there things we should/could be doing to key into this culture of information technology or at least to meet people in the challenges of it? What things are lost? Face to face communication, need for tangible real community, physical presence, stillness and reflection. The book raises many such concerns and hopes for the church for the future. My hope is that in sharing this together it might help all of our newly elected leaders have a wider shared focus on how we can tangibly live into our mission and help lift the lives of those in our community within the church and outside of it in the Good News of Christ.

PS: You don't have to be an elected leader to join in this endeavor. Please grab a copy of *Piloting Church* online or in your local library and come to our February leader retreat and join us! Saturday February 29th 8am to noon!

Message from the Associate Minister Search Committee

The Search Committee thanks everyone who responded to our Associate Minister questionnaire!

We had a strong response rate to our short survey, both from congregants and from First Congregational Ministry and Committee teams. We greatly appreciate your candid feedback about expected roles and responsibilities of the position, along with characteristics and experiences you hope an Associate Minister will bring to our church.

The Committee has identified clear and consistent themes from the survey, and we will use these to fine-tune the Associate Minister job description that we are now drafting. Some of the information will also feed into our Church Profile, which is essentially an in-depth marketing piece that details our church's past, present and future. The Profile is one tool to convey how we want an Associate Minister to help us live into our mission and vision. The Profile also ensures that we are the right place for clergy candidates seeking an Associate Minister call.

With the groundwork we are now laying, you may be asking the "when" question – when might we expect to call our Associate Minister and have someone in place? While we don't have a precise timeline, it is certainly the Committee's goal to have an Associate Minister onboard in 2020 – likely in the 3rd or 4th quarter of the year. Please keep in mind that the search process is a lengthy one, and not always linear. First Congregational UCC is a growing and thriving church, and we are a complex and multi-dimensional congregation. We want to find the best match possible, in a realistic timeframe, and within our resources.

To that end, the Search Committee intends to keep lines of communication open with the congregation throughout the search process. We may solicit more feedback, ask for your ideas and input, and of course, we will update the congregation with major milestones and accomplishments along the way. Don't hesitate to reach out to us.

In service,

The Associate Minister Search Committee

Virginia Hopley, Chair

Jim Hallman

Barb Hammack

Dave Humphreys

Susan Keys

Dave Madden

Amy Rettberg

Pam Toleikis

Continental Breakfast January 2020 Schedule:

5- Building and Grounds

12- Personnel

19- Endowment and Audit

26- Faith Formation, incl. Christian Ed, and Youth

Women's Fellowship: We're going out for Lunch!

Friday, January 10 at 11:30 AM

Emmett's, 5200 Main Street Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

<https://emmettsbrewingco.com/> 630-434-8500

If you plan on coming please email or call me. It is nice to have some idea of how big a table to get.

Two weeks later we'll stay at the church for Stitch and Chat in the Parlor,

Friday, January 1/24, from about 9:30-11:30 AM.

You don't need to bring anything to stitch, but can just hang out and chat. This is a very casual gathering. Come if and when you can, even if for only a few minutes.

Questions? Contact me, Peggy Gutzke

Home: 630/971-1382 Cell:630/632-3014 peggy.gutzke@gmail.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Saturday 2/08/2020 8:00 am to 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The FCC Brothers will again be preparing the Pancake Breakfast. This is to provide you a warm start as you enjoy the outside activities at the Downers Grove Ice Festival. Please come and enjoy. The food will be pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee. Cost \$6.00 adults, \$3.00 children. Any questions, please contact Eric Nelson. 630-740-8451. Additional volunteers gladly accepted.

The Sunday morning service is now being re-broadcast on Cable Channel 19 at 4:30pm every Sunday to 35 Greater Chicago area networks! Thank you Len Potter for making this possible!

Stewardship: Stewardship Campaign "Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve in Love"

As of 12/22, we were at 93% of our goal of 150 pledges and \$485,000 total and were on target to meet our goal as we near the end of the campaign. In addition, the congregation has pledged \$70,000 split evenly between the purchase of the Christ Scientist property and the Capital Reserve Fund/front step replacement. From a time and talent perspective, all the names turned in on your Giving Sheets have been sent to the various Ministries and Boards to help fill out the leadership and support teams. If you haven't responded yet, please do so, as we have begun budget preparations for the Annual Meeting in late January. Please send your responses to the attention of Kim Rutter - Bookkeeper or by e-mail to Kim at bookkeeper@uccdg.org. Thank you for all your support - your Stewardship Team.

Property Purchase: We continue to work with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in regard to the purchase of the property at 1101 Curtis's Street. They would like to stay on the property until June 30, 2020. Our position continues to be to accommodate our brothers and sisters in Christ nextdoor as they transition out of their church home and work through their processes. Further developments will be reported.

PADS: Special "Thank You!!" to all who contributed to the Christmas Gift cards for our PADS guests. December 16 was a special night, enhanced by the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus along with their elves who provided gifts and stockings for all the children. It is an emotional night for many who are thankful for the kindness of strangers in their time of need. It's almost a Christmas Story...

Dear generous PADS donors: we do not require donations of sheets, pillowcases, towels or washcloths. Good Samaritan Hospital and DuPage PADS provide these items. Dennis Lewis transports the soiled linens to Good Samaritan on Tuesday morning and Marty Schranz delivers the clean linens on Monday afternoon. Of course, it took two to replace Bob Katrein who did double duty for 15 years or so. Thank you, gentlemen.

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 we ask that they be cleaned and returned to the closet. Please do not leave the tablecloths in the PADS laundry room. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Schranz at lsmedia52@gmail.com or Barb Hammack at barbhamm@symbolix.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Unique Image Initiative: Over the years, we've freshened up the church's physical appearance with paint, lighting, and landscaping as responsible stewards of our church. We seek to connect people with God in our physical space by addressing the accessibility, function, efficiency, and appearance of our building.

Now, we're undertaking an initiative to express our values more clearly in our printed and digital presence - uccdg.org is our online church and often the first thing people see when they're church shopping. To connect them with our mission, vision, and values, this digital platform should convey our open and affirming statement, welcoming presence, and vibrant community. Contemporary, appealing graphics, colors, and photos, along with user-friendly navigation, will engage and inform the curious. A revitalized site will become the go-to place for updated information about the church and its activities.

A similar approach will be directed toward our bulletin and other print pieces. A first-time visitor will leave our service, bulletin in hand, reflecting on how his church experience resonates. The style of this vital source of information will be updated to better capture our church's values, which in turn, may affect a visitor's perception of our church community.

Outreach and Membership presented a proposal to the Council earlier this year outlining how we could update and coordinate our visual image throughout the church. Council gave the go-ahead and the work began this summer with new signage throughout the building. Cris Niels will be working with the ministries so that their messages are clearly communicated. Questions? Contact Cris Niels at crisniels53@gmail.com or at 630-404-1475.

The Sunday morning service is now being re-broadcast on Cable Channel 19 at 4:30pm every Sunday to 35 Greater Chicago area networks! Thank you Len Potter for making this possible!

Happy New Year! FCLC is getting ready for a fantastic 2020!

A great time was had by all at our gingerbread house family night.



Keep your calendars open for our Fourth Annual FCLC Art Show on Saturday, February, 29th! Artwork will be on display Thursday, February 27th and Friday, February 28th. We are inviting FCLC families and church members to join us and see how talented our children are. The live auction will begin at 10am on Saturday. Doors will open at 9am. If you will be bidding on artwork you will need to sign up for a paddle on that day. All proceeds are used to buy art supplies for the program.



Great Live Music Every Friday, 8:15 pm.
Doors open at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$10.

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Two Way Street Coffee House

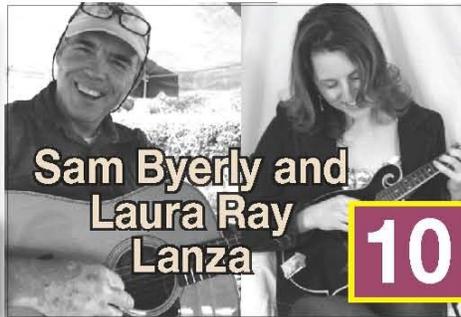
Live Folk Music Every Friday Since 1970!



Sue Fink with
Jordi Kleiner

3

Sue Fink's great original songs have been played on "The Midnight Special" (WFMT), "Folk Festival" (WDCB), and more. She is joined by celebrated violinist Jordi Kleiner.



Sam Byerly and
Laura Rae
Lanza

10

Sammy (From Miami) Byerly and Laura Rae Lanza return for two sets of good time string band music. They'll get your toes tapping and put a smile on your face!



Open Mic

BEGINS AT 8 PM
DOORS OPEN
7:30 PM

17

Bring your songs and your friends. You never know who will show up at Open Mic! Come early to assure your spot!

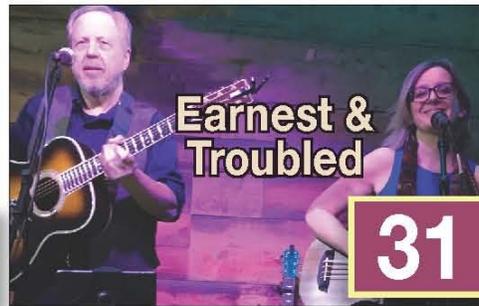


Anthony
Padilla

24

CD RELEASE!

In a lifetime of music making, Anthony Padilla has formed a unique voice in writing and performing. He'll be releasing his new CD, "There is No Such Thing as Spare time."



Earnest &
Troubled

31

Featuring harmony vocals, guitars, banjo, and ukulele bass, Earnest & Troubled (James Curly and Ilsabe OConnell), write and perform great music and have been known to be extremely entertaining!

Song Circle*

Second Tuesday, 7-9 pm.

BYOS: Bring Your Own Songs. An opportunity to play/sing the songs (originals, covers, anything goes) you are mastering (unplugged) for fellow musicians. \$1 donation.

Tuesday, January 14.

Last Thursday!*

Last Thursday of the month,
7-9:30 pm.

Monthly open mic for high school and college age students. Music, poetry, any performance art for 10 minute max. Sign up starts 7 pm. FREE. First come, first served. Info on website, Facebook, or call 630/699-2973. Jan. 30.

*Co-sponsored by Plank Road Folk Music Society.

Sing-Around* First and third Saturdays, 2-4 pm.

Bring your instrument, and/or your voice. Or just come to listen, as we play and sing folk/roots music together. All ages & abilities. Songbooks provided. \$1 donation. **January 4, 18.**

Country Western Sing-Around* Fourth Saturday,

2-4 pm. As above, but with a country twang. Songbooks provided. \$1 donation. **January 25.**

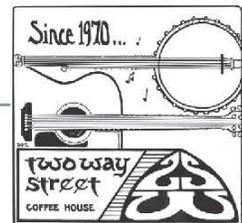
Upcoming Events: Old Time Barn Dance*

Saturday, February 8, 8 pm, \$5 donation.

Bluegrass Sing-Around* with Eric Lambert,

Saturday, February 29, 2-4 pm. \$1 donation.

Flier courtesy of Betenia Communications.



1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, IL 60515
(Across from the Library, in the First Congregational Church) 630/969-9720

www.twowaystreet.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
Kim Choate, Director, First Congregational Learning Centerkchoate@uccdg.org
Sarah Forillo, Sunday School Coordinator.....sforillo@uccdg.org
Bill Hammack, A-V Specialist.....bill@symbolix.com
Dave Humphreys, Community Liaison.....dhump@interaccess.com
Tim Kendall, Two Way Street Coffee House.....tim@twowaystreet.org
Justin Kono, Band Directorj.akira.kono@gmail.com
Carl Lorek, Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor.....Carl@uccdg.org
Len Potter, Broadcasting Ministries.....lenp@potterpro.com
Kimberly Rutter, Bookkeeper.....bookkeeper@uccdg.org



Pilgrim January 2020 Edition

First Congregational UCC * 1047 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515 Phone: (630) 968.0358
Email: office@uccdg.org Website: www.uccdg.org
Broadcast: www.uccbroadcastministry.org
www.facebook.com/uccdg
FC Learning Center: www.fclcdg.org

