

July Pilgrim

From the desk of Pastor Scott....

will return to this space next month!

"We are thrilled to announce that we have come to a verbal agreement of the purchase price of 850K for the property at 1101 Curtiss St. More details need to be worked out in the days to come but for now we are so thankful for the opportunity and look forward to the future possibilities."

- Corinne and Lindsey Rensch

July 2019

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NEW YOUTH GIVING TEAM!

This is a new intergenerational team forming. Children ages 6 through 106, please join us on the first Sunday of every month at 8:20 am in Fellowship Hall to plan beginning Sunday, July 2nd.

Our service, mission and outreach events will take place the last Sunday of every month with a few exceptions.

Our first service project is set for Sunday, June 30th following service at The Sunny Patch Community Garden in Darien.

More details to follow but a carpool is being formed now.

Please reach out to:

Dena Provenzano

denapro@comcast.net

630-660-7445

Dena Provenzano

The Fellowship Committee Painting Party: You are invited to join a fun evening of painting on July 17th from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Here are the details:

This is a fun paint party where you learn the technique of making your own custom wood sign for any room in your house, office or business. You select your design and board size during registration. Each board is customizable to fit your personal taste and color scheme. We use the famous Annie Sloan Chalk Paint®, with other paint colors. You also have the option of finishing it with a rustic weathered look or leaving as is. Signs are made on pine wood boards. All materials and instruction are provided. You don't need to be artsy or an avid painter to come enjoy this. This is NOT a freehand paint class. We use pre-cut vinyl stencils.

Prior Registration is REQUIRED to reserve your spot. Cost is \$30 to \$45 depending on board size.

To register and pre-pay use this link: <http://bit.ly/2VkgoxG>

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!

Women's Fellowship:

We're going out for lunch!

7/12 **Lunch** - 11:30 AM

J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious

18 N. Cass

Westmont

630-434-0224

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

Questions? Contact me, Peggy Gutzke

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

7/26 - 9:30

Stitch and Chat at

Peggy Gutzke's house

4916 Stanley Ave

Downers Grove, IL 60515

peggy.gutzke@gmail.com

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 Peggy 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.

Questions? Contact me, Peggy Gutzke

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

Continental Breakfast July 2019 Schedule:

7– Mission and Justice

14– Outreach and Membership

21– Building and Grounds

28– Personnel

Interested First Congregational Members!

Our refugee family arrived from Myanmar this week! There are six family members: Mom, Dad, two daughters ages 22 and 17, and two sons ages 13 and 11. They already have strong family ties here in the U.S.

A small Gloria Dei group picked them up at the airport with Welcome signs and balloons and delivered them safely to their apartment in Wheaton on Thursday, June 20. A Gloria Dei cleaning and set-up crew readied the apartment on Wednesday afternoon and evening, June 19. The family was THRILLED with the apartment and household items. The children especially loved their bedrooms! We also prayed over their new home in Burmese and English and they brought Burmese cookies and candy to share.

Thank you so much for helping us collect the kitchen items. Everything was of such nice quality that I'm sure they will be using and enjoying everything for years to come. We appreciated the partnership. Please pray for this family, particularly in the early weeks, for ease of adjustment and smooth transition. They have a welcoming extended family and Burmese church community to help them, as well as the Family Partners from Gloria Dei. Just email me if you would like more info. That's all I know for now!

God's Peace to you all,

Mary Anne Hewett

Refugee Ministry

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church



Churches United

Downers Grove

First Congregational United Church of Christ
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Please join us for these two upcoming Churches United events with St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Annual 4th of July Downers Grove Parade Canned Food Drive.

St. Paul's Members traditionally perform a shopping cart drill team routine during the parade for a canned goods and money collection drive. They have invited us to provide whatever support that we can for that parade and collection effort. **All of the canned goods and money collected will be donated to the Downers Grove Fish Food Pantry (FISH).**

We can use volunteers to help push carts during the parade, relieve others pushing carts, walk along the crowd to collect the canned goods and also money as many people give dollar donations. We will also have chairs on the trailer for those who just wish to ride, wave and enjoy the parade.

For those who want to join in on July 4th - Here's the schedule:

11:15 Decorating the parade trailer: Come help decorate it in the parking lot of St. Paul's at 5739 Dunham Road Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

12:00 Noon: Parking and carpooling: Head to St. Paul member Carol Clifford's house at 4932 Highland between Noon and 12:15 and park your cars in her drive. They'll shuttle all those who show up to Downers Grove North High's (DGN) parking lot. Since the parade ends at the corner of Main and Rogers right around the corner from Carol's house – we can help bring the shopping carts back to her house, help unload the food for FISH to pick up, remove the trailer and cart decorations, and retrieve our cars.

12:15 PM: If you don't carpool with us, meet us at Downers Grove North High Parking Lot (DGN) section 4. We will decorate the shopping carts and practice our marching drills before the parade begins. Trust us – the drills are fun and easy. No prior experience in drill marching is needed.

12:45 PM: The parade kicks off and usually ends at Main Street and Rogers, Downers Grove around 2:15PM/2:30 PM.

Got a Red T-Shirt? St. Paul's volunteers are going to wear red t-shirts or tops. If you've one – would be nice to support them and wear it. If not - don't worry about it.

Bring canned food to donate: We'd appreciate for folks who are participating and supporting this effort to please bring some canned food to put in the carts. For those who can't participate in the parade but want to support this effort, we'll have a box in the West Lobby of the church starting this Sunday (June 30th).

August 23rd Joint Church Trivia Night:

St. Paul's UCC and First Congregational UCC also will be hosting a joint social trivia night event on Friday, August 23rd, 2019 at the American Legion Post 80 Hall, 4000 Saratoga Avenue Downers Grove, IL in Downers Grove. **Please mark your calendars now and plan to join in the spirit of fellowship and fun between our faith families!** (If you can spare some time, we will also need assistance setting up tables prior to the evening's events).

For more information on the above collaborations with St. Paul, please reach out to Sandy Toleikis or David Burke

GIVE BLOOD and make it a ...



SUMMER OF LOVE



All presenting donors will receive an official NFL licensed Chicago Bears Hat as a special thank you for donating.



**Tuesday
July**

16

3PM - 7PM

First Cong. United Church of Christ
1047 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove
Fellowship Hall Basement
3pm to 7pm

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Call 847-305-9998 or visit
https://ht.heartlandbc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5570601.
or...Please contact April Prescott from Congregational Care at 630-846-0469



FCLC: FCLC is having a great summer learning about travel and different countries around the world! Thank you to those who donated travel books for the children and teachers to use. We are hoping for some days without rain so we can be outdoors and do some fun projects and water play. The assessment process is over for ExceleRate Illinois. We now wait for the results!



Garage Sale News Flash

“Detox your Jewelry Box”

Our annual garage sale is coming up Saturday, September 21. The jewelry department has been quite successful in the last few years. The early collection has helped in achieving this goal. We will start collecting jewelry every Sunday starting Sunday, July 7th. You will see us with our basket at the West entrance staircase. Pop your jewelry donation into a plastic baggie and drop it into the basket. We accept all jewelry, broken bits, pieces, single earrings, and home crafted. We'll find a home for it. Again, we will have some sorting, cleaning work-shops at Trudi's house in July, August, and September. Dates to be announced. If you have any questions, please contact Trudi at 630-968-6916.



CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Our church's annual garage sale will be held on Saturday, September 21, with presales for volunteers and church members on Friday, Sept. 20. We will be accepting donated items Sept. 15-18. Take that extra, unused stuff you have cluttering your house and find it a new home! We accept furniture, household items, sports equipment, electronics, tools, books, music/movies, jewelry, collectibles, crafts, baby items, toys, games, holiday decorations and more. Everything **must** be in good, working condition. If you have questions, or need to have items out of your house before September, please contact Gail Clark at 630-881-3362 (cell) or gclark214@comcast.net.

As always, we will need many volunteers the week of the sale. (Volunteers will not have to pay the 20% upcharge during the presales!) There will be sign-up sheets available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays beginning August 11 and also on the church's website. Please take a shift or two for this wonderful fundraising, fellowship, and mission opportunity. Thank you for your support!



Experience the Great Outdoors!



Soft sand on the beach...Refreshing waves from the lake...Cool breezes over the water...The warm glow of a campfire...Inspiring sounds of God's creation...Fellowship with friends from your church family...All tied together by the Spirit of our Living Lord.



First Congregational Labor Day Camping Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Michigan August 30-September 2, 2019



Sites are \$7.00 per night for each person age 5 & up, and \$3.00 per night for 3 or 4 year olds; Children ages 2 & under are free

All meals are on your own. Three fire pits are available to share for cooking and evening gatherings. (There are many great places to eat out in the area, too!) Our annual community potluck breakfast is Sunday morning (September 1st). Bring something to share with the group! Campground amenities include electricity, showers, and flush toilets.

Please complete and return the reservation form below to the church office by Sunday, August 25, 2019. Or you may email the form to Gail Clark at gclark214@comcast.net. Gail's cell is 630-881-3362 if you have any questions.

Reservation Form for FCC Labor Day Camping At Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Michigan August 30-September 2, 2019

Please complete and return your reservation form by Sunday, August 25, 2019

The _____ family is coming!

Best phone number

We will have (number)

____ Adults and ____ Children 5 and older

____ Children age 3 or 4 (Children 2 and under are free)

E-Mail Address

We will arrive on _____ (day of week)

And plan to stay for _____ nights.

(Number age 5 & up in group) ____ X \$7.00 X (Number of nights) ____ = \$ ____

(Number age 3 or 4 in group) ____ X \$3.00 X (Number of nights) ____ = \$ ____

TOTAL: \$ ____

Note: We're sorry, but Tower Hill Camp has a "NO PETS" policy



July 2019 Caring for Creation

Once again the Landscape Committee is writing the Caring for Creation article, with an update on our prairie garden. On June 8 the Landscape Committee planted...plastic knives, forks, and spoons? Actually, the bright green cutlery is there to mark where we placed a native prairie plant. We planted a mix of native grasses and flowers, which will bloom from May through October to provide food for pollinators. New plants include Switchgrass, Prairie Dropseed, Pale Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Whorled Milkweed, Purple Prairie Clover, Prairie Coreopsis, New England Aster, Prairie Smoke, Eastern Bergamot, Goldenrod, Wild Quinine, and Button Blazingstar.

Gardeners have a saying about planting perennial flowers: The first year it sleeps, the second year it creeps, and the third year it leaps; meaning that perennials generally take 3 years to reach full size and flowering. Native plants follow the same principle, because they spend much of the first year developing a strong, deep root system – this is what helps them survive the Midwest's weather extremes. We may not see a lot of top growth or flowers this year.

We will not add mulch to this garden. Mulch, when applied correctly in a 2 inch layer, has many benefits in ornamental gardens – it preserves moisture in the soil, and prevents weed seeds from germinating. However, it does not belong in a native plant garden, for several reasons:

- Prairie plants did not evolve in a bed of wood chips.
- Mulch will hold moisture close to the surface, so the plants will not grow roots deep into the soil in search of moisture.
- Instead of applying wood-chip mulch, we'll cut back dried plants in early spring, and leave the cuttings where they fall. This practice is known as "mulch in place" and is used in sustainable landscaping.
- We consulted with local experts on this issue – Pat Armstrong, who helped plant the Morton Arboretum's prairie, and our own Tom Eisenhart, who is completing a degree in sustainable landscape design at the College of DuPage. The Landscape Committee will water as needed this summer, and remove weeds.

Last year we planted some native plants at the southwest corner, near the chapel. Most of the plants survived the 2019 polar vortex, and we'll add a few more, to provide more colorful blooms and pollinator food. The soil in that area has been compacted over the years, so we recently added compost from the church compost bin to loosen the soil and add nutrients. Coffee grounds from Sunday morning fellowship have been supplementing our compost pile for years, so all of you who drink coffee on Sunday mornings have helped our new plants!

If you want to learn more about prairie plants, a good local resource is the DuPage chapter of the Wild Ones, an organization that promotes native plants and natural landscapes. You may find information about them at <https://dupage.wildones.org/>



Live Folk Music Every Friday Since 1970!

Two Way Street Coffee House

Great live music every Friday, 8:15 pm

Doors open at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$10

JULY 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



OPEN MIKE

5

Be a star! Doors open at 7:30 for sign-up, program starts at 8:00 pm. You never know who will pop up at Open Mike. Bring your friends, and your best songs.

Featured Saturday, July 20, 8 pm on WFMT 98.7 FM Folkstage with Rich Warren.



WINDBORNE
SINGERS

19

"The best musical discovery of the year...Stunningly powerful vocal harmony...Windborne sets a new bar for folk harmony singing today" – Brian O'Donovan WGBH, National Public Radio



12

ANDI & I

Andi & I (Andi and Al Tauber) create an unusual variety of textures with two voices, a guitar, and occasional percussion, infusing their songs with storytelling, human experience, faith, and humor.



BEN BEDFORD

26

In 2010, Ben Bedford was named one of the "50 most significant Folk singer-songwriters of the past 50 years" by Rich Warren of WFMT Chicago. This list includes Dylan, Joni Mitchell, etc!

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.

Saturdays, July 6 & 20.

Country Western

Sing-Around*

Fourth Saturday, 2-4 pm

As above, but with a country twang. Songbooks provided. \$1 donation. Saturday, July 27.

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, July 9.

*Co-sponsored by Plank Road Folk Music Society.

Last Thursday!*

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

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

Thursday, July 25.

FLIER COURTESY BETENIA COMMUNICATIONS

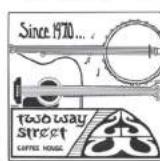
Two Way Street Coffee House

1047 Curtiss Street

Downers Grove, IL 60515

(Across from the Downers Grove Library, in the First Congregational Church)

630/969-9720



www.twowaystreet.org

Our Church Staff

The Rev. Scott Oberle, Senior Pastor.....pastorscott@uccdg.org
Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation.....casanders3@aol.com
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Pilgrim July 2019 Edition

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www.facebook.com/uccdg
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