

# November Pilgrim



## From the desk of Pastor Scott....

The fall reminds me of change, as cold winds blow out the warmth of summer, the daylight grows dimmer, birds begin flocking south and the chill of winter begins to set in. In many ways the mood of the season resonates with my spiritual mood. The changes in the world, culture, and man's treatment of our fellow human beings seems also to be dimming. I have attended many conferences within our denomination and within the wider body of Christ, church leadership everywhere seems fearful. Churches are dwindling in membership. Aging buildings, expanded during the height of church power in the 1950s and 1960s feel vacant and empty while the cost of maintaining such space seems more than the shrinking flocks can manage.

## November 2019

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Our eyes are often on the institution, the sacred place we know, and doing everything in our power to care for it. Sometimes, I wonder if all that worry and energy isn't misplaced. The real struggles are in our daily lives and often beyond the walls of the church: broken marriages, a speed of life that is outpacing our ability to adapt to it, an age where everything is dissected, often twisted, and human dignity, opinion and value are cast aside.

As the winds of all that feel chaotic and broken swirl about me on a near daily basis, I also see hope. Hope that sometimes it is easier to remember what you do stand for and who Christ is in our lives when the dissonance of the world is often such a contrast. Hope that proclaims that Light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall never overcome it. Hope that when we feel down and out, overwhelmed, as if we are losing the battle, that God holds us, no matter what.

I see messages of hope in the over 5 million dollars in medical debt assumed by fellow UCC churches like Trinity and St. Paul's downtown, liberating nearly 6,000 people to live their lives without that cloud hanging over them. Such a step makes me wonder what else our churches might do as well. Can we magnify and reveal the love of Christ in extraordinary, surprising and generous ways by showing it and reveal the love of God in Christ by showing it through the kinds of habits, actions and speech we use and carry with us each day as followers of Jesus? How else might we lift the community around us with the mission and blessings God has given us?

Some major opportunities lie before us: New property on the horizon, a new ministry structure, which I hope is not just a realignment and streamline, but also one that begins to rethink *how* we engage one another in ministry, and new staff to help us along the journey.

This is both a scary time and an exciting one. It is a time of apprehension of what lies ahead and anticipation. But know this: At the end of everyday this truth remains... Christ is Risen. The power of darkness and death never supplants the power of joy and the love of God Almighty among God's people. And so, I remain hope filled, for my hope and yours comes from the Lord, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

## Stewardship: Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve in Love

The Stewardship Ministry is continuing to build on previous themes such as Generous Spirit, Generous God, Be Part of It All and Beyond the Building which recognize how we thank God and support each other with all our gifts (time, talent and finances). Our team consists of Jill Aparo, Phil Sumida, Greg Skiba, David Hersemann and Dave Williams, supported by Tom Williams and Treasurer Larry Bryant.

**“Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve In Love”** is our theme for 2020 which will help guide us as we enter a new, exciting and inspiring phase of our church ministry with the purchase of The Christian Scientist property next door and our search for a full time Associate Minister that will not only test our faith, but also provide us with new opportunities to serve in love to each other.

The campaign kicks off with our Giving brochure that will reflect on this past year and suggest ways to grow in faith, service and love. The brochure and giving card will be handed out on the first two Sundays of November during church, and then mailed out to the rest of the congregation in time for Consecration/Giving Sunday on November 17, at which time we make our commitment to the life of the church for 2020 and beyond. During this time, church members will be providing brief testimonials of what the church means to them and their story of faith, service and love. The demands facing us are not just financial (costs associated with the new property, Associate Minister and maintenance of our own building with the replacement of the front steps), but also pose the challenge of being dedicated and passionate people filling our Ministries and Teams which are essential to serving and growing.

As we wind down the Capital Campaign that was initiated in 2014 which focused on our physical plant, we now look forward on how we can better serve our God and our neighbors in our community and beyond, with the new property, the adding of clergy with interim Associate Minister Michelle McNamara and the expected successful completion of our search for a full time Associate Pastor. The congregation has been amazing in increasing pledges and giving of time and talents, that have allowed us to flourish, and will continue to do so as a church that is “Rooted in Faith, Growing to Serve in Love.”

## **Continental Breakfast November 2019 Schedule:**

3rd- Faith Formation, incl. Christian Ed. And Youth  
10th- Women's Fellowship  
17th- Congregational Care  
24th- Stewardship & Finance

### **Women's Fellowship:**

Women's Fellowship is meeting for breakfast.

Friday 11/8 at 9:30 a.m.

Honey-Jam Cafe

3000 Oak Grove Dr., Downers Grove 60515

(Across Butterfield from Portillo's)

630-963-2233

[honeyjamcafe.com](http://honeyjamcafe.com)

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 Cell:630/632-3014 [peggy.gutzke@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

Stitch and Chat in the Parlor on Friday, November 22, 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](mailto:peggy.gutzke@gmail.com)

**Church Table Cloths:** As many of you know, there are table cloths that are available to groups to use on the tables in Fellowship Hall or the Parlor. These table cloths are located in the closet in the Parlor. Anyone can use these table cloths, but we ask that they be cleaned and returned to the closet. Please do not leave the table cloths in the PADS laundry room. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Schranz at [lsmedia52@gmail.com](mailto:lsmedia52@gmail.com) or Barb Hammack at [barbhamm@symbolix.com](mailto:barbhamm@symbolix.com). Thank you for your cooperation.

# Ministry Updates & Events



FCLC would like to thank everyone who participated in trunk or treat this year. We had a fantastic turnout and it worked out just like planned to have the community celebrate with us too! During this fall season FCLC would like to say, **THANK YOU** to all of the generous support, love and care everyone has sent our way.

**Building and Grounds:** On behalf of Building and Grounds, thank you to Cris Niels and her ministry for the new and improved church signs, and also Dennis Lewis for installation. Thanks also go to Bob Orsula and Eric Nelson for patching and painting where old signs had been removed.

**Congregational Care – Annual Coat Drive:** Congregational Care is going to take our annual FALL COAT DRIVE in a different direction this year. Our committee has discussed the desire to provide more support to our PADS clients and families. Some of us met with Tom Williams and we are aware of the ongoing needs (in the winter months) of the PADS clients.

We are requesting donations in three ways this fall:

Actual coats, gift cards (purchased through MANNA) and personal checks made out to UCCDG. (Please remember to write PADS on the check's memo line.) Tom Williams and David Hersemann will provide Congregational Care with specific requests for children's and adult's coats, boots and other warm clothing necessities. Tom and David will administer and manage both the gift cards and the donations to provide for the clients' urgent needs this winter. Please check the Sunday Bulletins for specific information on dates and times that coats and donations will be collected.

Thank you for your support! - Congregational Care Committee

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!

**PADS Fundraiser:** Thanks to everyone who supported our Bears preseason tickets with parking pass raffle. The winner was Winston Purchase who works at the Post Office with Mike Katrein who sold the winning ticket!

Enter to win 4 Bears tickets: Bears vs Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. Seats are in section 107, row 2 and a parking pass is included. \$10 per ticket to enter and tickets will be available through Sunday, November 10. Please see Eric Nelson, Bob Katrein, Dave Williams, or Tom Williams.

**PADS:** Please join us at City BBQ for our final fundraising event in 2019 on Tuesday December 3. Carryout and dine in orders qualify for a 25% rebate to our PADS program. We have raised over \$1,000 from these events. Thank you for your continued support!

Once again, we will endeavor to provide a personal Christmas gift or gift card to our most frequent PADS guests. We will begin collecting gift ideas on November 4. If you are interested, please contact Tom Williams or write a check payable to the church noting 'PADS gift' on the memo line. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit on Monday, December 16. Questions? Contact Tom Williams at [dontomas23@aol.com](mailto:dontomas23@aol.com)



[First Congregational Church 12/3]

## Thank You!

*A big thank you to all of the following people who helped make October a very successful month for the Pads program. There were many new volunteers for shifts and food donations. We couldn't have done it without the support of all of you! It is a pleasure working with so many wonderful people!*

### **Work Volunteers**

Joan Brown  
Laurel Carlson  
Len/Gail Clark  
Joyce Doemland  
Mary Dove  
Judy Harry  
Nancy Hessler  
Susan Keys  
Barb Kilar  
Nancy Kupa  
Patty Lewis  
Lisa Lockett and friends  
Kathryn/Reece Luco  
AnnaMay Miller  
Marita Moniger  
Judy Murrison  
Eric Nelson  
Joyce Nelson  
Mark Oppenheim  
Rosalie Oppenheim  
Vicki Peters  
Carolyn Quinn  
Greg Skiba  
Phil Sumoda  
Dave/Margaret Swartz  
Jerry Topel  
Laurie Tsukuno  
Fred Widmann  
Dave Williams  
Paul Zimmerman

### **Food Donations**

Lima Barnes  
Laurel Carlson  
Vicki Christiansen  
Loralei Collins  
Barb Compton  
Cheryl Comerford  
Margaret Craig  
Joyce Doemland  
Beth Dea  
Mary Dove  
Lydia Faber  
Larry Ferries  
Lora Finucane  
Sarah Forillo  
Sandy Gales  
SkylarHall  
Judy Harry  
Perlie Havel  
Nancy Hessler  
Marilyn Jelinek  
Susan Keys

Special thanks to Lisa Lockett  
who got her coworkers from  
Advocate Nurses to provide all  
the food and dinner shift  
volunteers for Monday, Oct. 22.

### **Food Donations Cont.**

Barb Kilar  
Sue Larsen  
Patty Lewis  
Lisa Lockett  
Kathryn Luco  
Anna Madden  
Anna May Miller  
Marita Moniger  
Ann Mullen  
Judy Murrison  
Joyce Nelson  
Diane Nichols  
Rosalie Oppenheim  
Joann Purcell  
The Swartzs  
Jennifer Teelucksingh  
Sandy Toleikis  
Mary Vercellino  
Pam Wiemerslage  
Debbie/Dave Williams

Angelo's Market on Maple  
donated meat, chesse, and bread  
for lunches plus 4 gallons of  
milk every week.

We served 50-70 servings on four Mondays. A big hug and heartfelt thanks goes to those who signed up for more than one shift or multiple food items. There were many compliments on the food from the guests. Thanks to the very helpful confirmands who came in the evening to help set up, and make lunches. Also a big thanks to Downers Grove North High School students who came early in the morning to clean up. The regular staff of Pads and the coordinators Tom Williams/Dave Hersemann were always willing to help. Thank you all again for making this a great outreach to those in need! Also a special thank you to my husband who has been such a big help over the last 19 years as we serve those in need. Char Wild



*"From a pad on the floor, to a key in the door."*

**DuPagePads**

The Solution to End Homelessness.

Thank YOU,  
DuPagePads Volunteers!

YOU are 1 of our 4,000 volunteers who provided 65,071 hours\* of support to the families and individuals who are homeless in DuPage County.

YOU are part of the solution to end homelessness.

[www.dupagepads.org](http://www.dupagepads.org)

**352**

individuals served  
obtained permanent  
housing.

Interim (Overnight) Housing

- 1205 people served
- 38,989 nights of shelter provided
- 119,959 meals served for families and individuals who would otherwise go hungry, an average of 329 meals a day

\*July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

*Save the date:*

**17th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast on Wednesday, November 6th.**

<https://dupagepads.org/wake-up-your-spirit-breakfast-2019/>



# Save the Date

DuPagePads



**15th Annual Run 4 Home**

**September 21st, 8:00am**

703 West Liberty, Wheaton

Bring the family out to the 15th Annual Run 4 Home, 10K & 5K Run, 5K & 1K Walk. The CARA certified race and USATF certified course takes runners and walkers through the scenic streets of Wheaton and back to DuPagePads for a festive celebration and awards ceremony. Take a step to end homelessness with DuPagePads!

**17th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast**

**November 6th, 7:00am - 8:30am**

Abbington Banquets, Glen Ellyn

Enjoy an uplifting morning featuring Chris Norton, professional speaker and author. After Chris suffered a spinal cord injury playing college football, he was given a 3% chance of feeling anything below his neck. Chris will share how he turned his 3% chance into an opportunity to inspire people every day. Attendees will also hear from a client whose life has been transformed by DuPagePads.

For more information, visit [www.dupagepads.org/events](http://www.dupagepads.org/events)



DOWNERS  
GROVE



# Community Conversation

on Gun Violence Prevention

COME  
LEARN ABOUT:

- Recently passed Legislation to curb Gun Violence
- How it will impact our community
- What you can do to help

*Panelists include:*

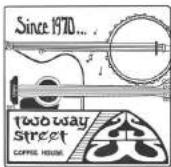
- IL Senator John Curran
- IL Rep Anne Stava-Murray
- DG Mayor Bob Barnett
- Mark Jones (former ATF Agent)
- Sara Knizhnik and Peter Contos  
(Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence)

**Sunday,  
Nov. 3rd  
4-5:30pm**

DG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-  
1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove  
Sponsored by DG Safety Alliance



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



# NOVEMBER 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Live Folk Music Every Friday Since 1970!



MMCI

1



CHARLIE MOSBROOK

8



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS

15



BEGINS AT 8 PM  
DOORS OPEN  
7:30 PM

22



ASHLEY & SIMPSON

29

**Special Event!**  
Saturday, Nov. 30  
2-4 pm  
**Bluegrass  
Sing-Around\***  
With Eric  
Lambert



## 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, Nov. 12, 8 pm.**

## Old Time Barn Dance\*

Learn a variety of dances from expert leaders.

Live band. No experience or partner required.

All ages. \$5 donation. **Saturday, Nov. 9, 8 pm.**

## 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. Nov. 26 (on Tuesday, due to Thanksgiving)**

## 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. **November 2, 16.**

## Country Western Sing-Around\*

Fourth Saturday, 2-4 pm.

As above, but with a country twang. Songbooks provided. \$1 donation. **November 23.**

\*Co-sponsored by Plank Road Folk Music Society.

Just like our other sing-around, but Bluegrass! Bring your instrument, and/or your voice. Or just come to listen, as we play and sing Bluegrass music together. All ages & abilities. Songbooks provided. \$1 donation.

Be sure to see virtuoso instrumentalist Muriel Anderson in her annual hometown after-Thanksgiving concert: Saturday, November 30, 8 pm, Downers Grove North High School. Info at [www.murielanderson.com](http://www.murielanderson.com)

# Two Way Street Coffee House



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



[www.twowaystreet.org](http://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.....karen.nachtigall@gmail.com  
Cathy Sanders, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation.....casanders3@aol.com  
Kelley Calpin, Director of Music Ministries.....kcalpin@gmail.com  
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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 Director ..... j.akira.kono@gmail.com  
Carl Lorek, Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor.....Carll@uccdg.org  
Len Potter, Broadcasting Ministries.....lenp@potterpro.com  
Kimberly Rutter, Bookkeeper.....bookkeeper@uccdg.org



## Pilgrim November 2019 Edition

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FC Learning Center: [www.fclcdg.org](http://www.fclcdg.org)

