

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

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

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

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 or Barb Hammack at barbhamm@symbolix.com. Thank you for your cooperation.



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



[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

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 Teelucksign
Sandy Toleikis
Mary Vercellino
Pam Wiemerslage
Debbie/Dave Williams

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.

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

Save the date:

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

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

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



DuPagePads

Save the Date



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

Abbingdon 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

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

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

**DG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-
1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove**

Sponsored by DG Safety Alliance

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)



POINSETTIAS

Here's a special opportunity for you to help make worship in our sanctuary this Christmas a more BEAUTIFUL event! Share a poinsettia with us! Attach your payment with the completed order form and return it in the collection plate by December 15, 2019.

Your name and the name of your loved ones will appear in the bulletin.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- ☐ I would like to take my plant home after one of the evening services.
- ☐ I would like to donate my plant for distribution to our homebound members and friends.

What a wonderful way to remember dear ones at this time of year!

Your Name:

(Please PRINT clearly)

Telephone Number/E-mail:

Name of Loved One whose memory flowers are given:

(Please PRINT clearly)

Number of Plants _____ X \$13.00= _____

(Checks made payable to First Congregational Church)

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!



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-arounds, 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



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



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 November 2019 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

