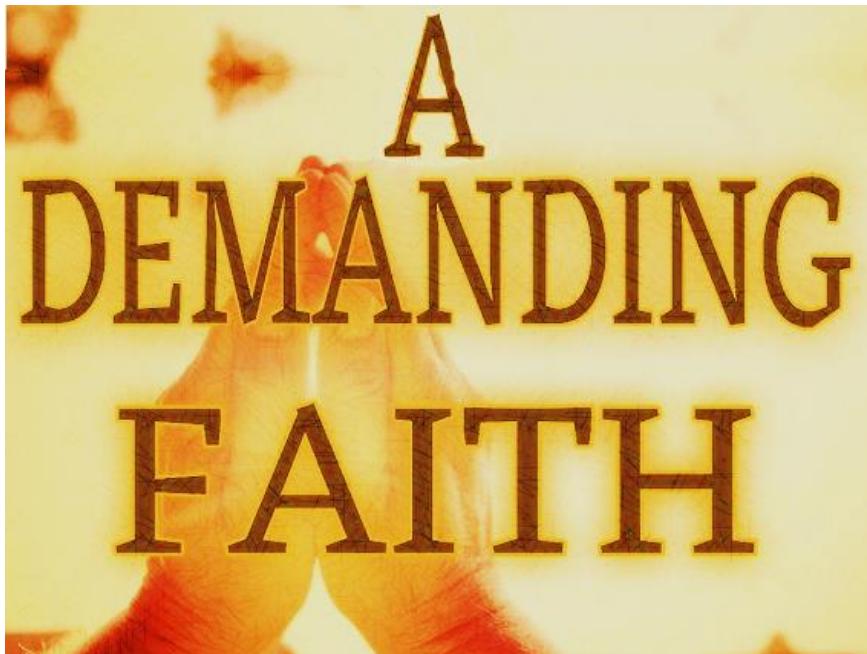




**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**



WORSHIP SERVICE
Sunday, October 27, 2024

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ
of Downers Grove, where no matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Sanctuary Flowers this Sunday are sponsored by: Paula Orsula, in celebration of her uncle, Clark Rice's Birthday. See the poster outside of the Sanctuary to sign up for future Sundays.

*Announcements begin on Page 6.
Visit our website at: www.uccdg.org*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Michelle

PRELUDE – Justin Kono

OPENING SONG – Hymn #10 – *Sing A New Song* (vss. 1, 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Pastor Michelle / **Congregation**

God, of power and majesty, Who chose to enter this world in humble circumstances and flesh and blood, draw near to us today.

Speak to us today.

You call us to serve, to care for the hurting, and to advocate for those without power, voice or means.

Yet, like James and John, we are tempted by seats of power; by comfort, by fame and recognition and by wealth.

Who do we serve, in the end? Where are our priorities? Are they aligned with Your Kingdom or something else?

Speak to us God and may Your Holy Spirit challenge us that we might reflect Your light and love in this world. Amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S MUSIC – Hymn #457 – *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* (vs. 1)

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Pastor Scott

CHILDREN'S MUSIC – Hymn #457 – *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* (vs. 4)

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

The children of our congregation who are in 7th and 8th grade are to participate in worship each week as they attend confirmation class on Wednesday evenings. Our other children who attend Sunday school on Sunday mornings are in the following rooms for worship:

Ages 0-2 years = in the Nursery (located off the Parlor near the washroom)

*Preschool, age 3 - 5 years = on Level 2 in the Chapel
Kindergarten - 1st Grade = on Level 2 in the Chapel*

2nd - 3rd Grade = on Level 5 in the Library

4th - 6th Grade = on Level 6 in the Youth Room

SCRIPTURE READING – *Mark 10:35-45* – Sandy Gales

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you

are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

MUSIC MINISTRY – *Serve Somebody* – written by, and as performed by Bob Dylan

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

MESSAGE – *A Demanding Faith* – Pastor Scott Oberle

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Pastor Michelle

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Debt/Debtors)

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SHARING OUR GIFTS – Pastor Michelle

OFFERING SONG – *I Shall Not Want* – written by Assad and Bown, as performed by Audry Assad

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING SONG – Hymn #575 – *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* (vss. 1, 4)

BENEDICTION – Pastor Scott

POSTLUDE – *My Feet Are On The Rock* – written by Parker, Bronleewe, Sweat and Hein, as performed by I Am They



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BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Welcome** to First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downers Grove, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
- ❖ If you are **visiting us today**, we encourage you to take a look at the colorful Pew Card Packets. Please fill out the

pink PARTICIPATE card, and — if you would like to make an offering — the orange GIVE envelope. Please place them in the offering plate or hand them to an Usher. Feel free to keep the other two cards to learn more about our church. Have any questions about First Congregational? Look for the person in the Parlor next to the whiteboard for answers. Visit the **HAPPENING NOW** page of our website (uccdq.org) for links to current events at the church!

❖ **Important Upcoming Events:**

Sun, Oct 27 = "Sacred Conversations About Dying" Program,
Scout Wreath Sale continues

Sun, Nov 03 = All Saints' Sunday – Reading of the Names,
(including recent births), Communion Sunday

Sun, Nov 10 = New Member Sunday

Sun, Nov 24 = Hanging of the Greens,

Sun, Feb 02, 2025 = Our **ANNUAL MEETING!**

❖ On Sunday, Nov 03 we will observe **All-Saints' Sunday** with our tradition of reading the names of loved ones who have passed, and also those who have recently been BORN! Submit any names by Tuesday, Oct 29 to the Office Administrator, adminsec@uccdq.org, 630-968-0358.

❖ The "**Sacred Conversations About Dying**" Program takes place TODAY, Sunday, Oct 27, after Worship. We will cover topics including making plans for the hard decisions, the importance communicating ahead of time with family, preparing your financial legacy, and much more.

❖ There is still time to donate to **DuPage United's October Fundraiser!** Check out the latest edition of the eNews to read Greg Skiba's article about all the great things that DU has been doing, and how you can be a part of them!

❖ **ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS has begun!** Check out the HAPPENING NOW page of the church website and the eNews for a link to a **sign-up/survey** about our Fall adult confirmation/education class, *Living The Questions!* This class will run through Wed, Jan 29, 2025.

- ❖ Scout Troop 55 will be conducting their annual **Holiday Wreath Sale** at church TODAY, Oct 27. The wreaths will be delivered either at your home on Saturday, Nov 23 or to the church on Sunday, Nov 24. See the eNews for links and more information.
- ❖ The **ANN MULLEN WINTER WARMTH DRIVE** is moving beyond just coats/outer wear to offering “sleeping warmth” for those in need in our community. The Drive is Oct 10 – Nov 21. Please check the weekly eNews and the November Pilgrim for more information. Donate electronically [HERE!](#)
- ❖ Come have fun and fix things at the **Annual Fall Church Workday** on Saturday, Nov 02, 8:00am! The Ministry of Buildings & Grounds would love to see you, and has a fun job for all people of all abilities!
- ❖ The Ministry of Mission & Justice will host a **Holiday Bazaar!** on Sat, Nov 9, 2024, 11:00am with Arts, Crafts, Raffles and Baked Goods. All proceeds will benefit our Little FREE Pantry. This special event will also feature a “**Church Ladies’ Bake Sale**” where you can join our Tabernacle of Bakers! Talk to Mary Drzik to express your interest! “Goodie Load-In” will be Fri, Nov 8, 2:00 – 8:00pm.
- ❖ Our dedicated team of Ushers is looking to augment their numbers for the upcoming Advent and Holiday seasons. Please consider helping out by volunteering for this vital ministry. Contact Dirk Gutzke at gutzke.dirk@gmail.com or one of the Ushers on Sunday morning.
- ❖ Click the following links for the current volunteer **SignUps** for the [**Community Kitchen**](#) and the [**Little FREE Pantry**](#), or visit the [**HAPPENING NOW**](#) page of our church website. Click the link for a list of [**items that are needed**](#) for the Little FREE Pantry. Please place your donations in the box by the table at the West Entrance.
- ❖ Don’t forget to check each week’s **eNews** and the current month’s **Pilgrim** for more news about all of our ministries,

their events, new and ongoing programs. A link for both publications is available on the **HAPPENING NOW** page of the church website.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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
- Embrace diversity and value all people
- Hold sacred God's creation
- Nurture faith as a lifelong journey
- Engage with scripture
- 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.