WORSHIP

Please join us IN-PERSON for our worship service every Sunday morning at 9:30am. Here is the church LOCATION.

Our services are also live-streamed on our WEBSITE and on FACEBOOK.

View the Order of Service for Sunday, July 30, 2023.

NEWS

AUGUST PILGRIM Newsletter is On Its Way!

Watch for a separate eBlast next week containing the link for the AUGUST Pilgrim newsletter!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY!

Please join us for the “Bible-In-A-Year,” bible study program, where we’ll go through scripture and explore the Bible together in new and exciting ways that will help nurture our spirit and faith. The Study will be held on Wednesdays, 4:30pm - 5:30pm in the Parlor. If committing to a whole year seems too daunting to you, no problem; just come for the books you’re interested in. We’ll update you on our reading schedule and study materials each week!

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION and EXPLORATION MEETING!
We would like to invite all visitors, those who are considering becoming a new member of the church, or those who just want to find out more information about First Congregational Church, to attend our “New Member Information and Exploration” Session on **Sunday, July 30**, after the Coffee Hour. You bring the questions, we’ll bring the food!

---

**COMMUNITY VBS**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023**

**6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

Faith Formation will have a table set up in our parking lot with an activity for those attending the concert in the park.
RALLY DAY - Join us for the festivities on Sunday, August 27, 9:30am at Ty Warner Park. We will have a delicious lunch and treats, lots of fun activities for folks of all ages, and Goodie Bags for all children who are present! The Church will provide the main dishes for lunch; individual families can bring some "fixin's" and desserts to share. Last name begins A-L = desserts; M-Z = side dishes.
UNNEEDED TREASURES?

Drop off your unwanted treasures and household items on any of these days and times at Building 1101B:

- Sunday Aug 20, 10:30am to 11:15am
- Sunday Sep 17, 3:00pm to 6:00pm
- Tuesday Sep 19, 10:00am to 12:00pm
Wednesday Sep 20, 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Items will not be accepted after Sep 20

For special pickups, deliveries or more information please contact:
Jan Hibbeln 630-728-4843, janhibbeln@gmail.com
Gail Clark 630-881-3362, gclark214@comcast.net

GARAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS needed for pricing or organizing every Wednesday and Thursday until Sep 14 and the week before the sale. Additional volunteers needed the week of the sale (Sep 18 to Sep 24). More information and signup sheets will follow.

For a list of items we can and cannot accept, please click here.

The Garage Sale Jewelry Donation Basket is BACK!

Jewelry donations have begun again, so please drop off your jewelry donations to the Church Office, Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm -OR- on Sundays, following Worship during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. If you're stopping by the Church Office, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there, thanks!

THE BEARS RAFFLE IS BACK! This year, proceeds will directly benefit our DG neighbors in need.

For the low, low price of $10 you can win 4 tickets to a Bears Pre-Season Game! For $20 you can Win 4 tickets to a Bears Regular Season Game!

Pre-Season - $10
Buffalo Bills at Chicago Bears
Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 12:00 Noon
Draw Date - August 12

Regular Season - $20
Carolina Panthers at Chicago Bears  
Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:15pm  
**Draw Date - October 29**

Both Raffles include:
- 4 Seats on the aisle, Section 107 Row 2
- Parking Pass for the South Lot

Buy tickets from any of the guys below after Worship, or from the Church Office (in-person). For more information, contact: 
Bob Katrein - bobmarkn@aol.com, 
Tom Williams - 1-630-664-8915, or 
Dave Williams - dwilli8253@gmail.com

---

**Greater Chicago Food Depository**

Our mission to help reduce hunger in the Chicagoland area continues with two events in August!

1) GCFD will be participating in the **Corn Harvest** volunteer opportunity again this year! Energetic volunteers are needed to meet at the farm in Marengo, Illinois, to help harvest fresh, locally-grown corn to feed our neighbors. The corn that is picked on this day will be distributed through the GCFD network of partner agencies (Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Shelters). Volunteers will be harvesting corn directly out of the farm fields. Therefore, please bring gloves, a hat, and sunscreen and wear closed-toed shoes (boots or gym shoes) that you don’t mind getting dirty!

**Volunteer Event:** “Growing Initiative” Annual Corn Harvest  
**Location:** 10409 Carls Rd, Marengo, IL 60152  
**NEW Date:** Saturday, August 19, 2023  
**Time:** 7:30am - 10:30am  
All slots are filled, so to get on the waiting list, please register through the GCFD volunteer website Registration link: 
[https://volunteers.chicagosfoodbank.org/opportunities/JtgOwySIhG](https://volunteers.chicagosfoodbank.org/opportunities/JtgOwySIhG)

2) Join other church members at a repack
session on Thursday, Aug 17, 9:00am - 11:45am at the GCFD, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632. 15 slots have been reserved and you can add your name to the list by using this [Sign Up Link].

For more information please contact Laurie Tsukuno (Text: 630.276.6011 Email: itsukuno@aol.com) or David Hersemann (Text: 312.352.0082 Email: dah5@comcast.net)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Beginning on Monday, Aug 31, and lasting for a few days, our Custodian, Dan, and members of Buildings & Grounds will be removing the center hand railings from the stairs at the West Entrance. The railings have deteriorated and need to be removed as a safety precaution.

The railings will remain down for a while, as we assess how best to replace them. If you need to use a railing to get to that West Entrance door, please either:

1. Use the outside railings for stability while climbing the stairs, -or-
2. Use the wheelchair ramp instead.

Thank you for your cooperation.

"Tale as old as time,
Song as old as rhyme..."

A word from one of our church members:
"Bonjour Church! It's Harriet Plumpp, and I'll be appearing in Chicago Shakespeare's production of Beauty and the Beast! Get your tickets now for this 75-minute family of all ages show. Hope to see you there!"

That's right, Harriet will be starring as 'Madame De La Grande Bouche' this summer! Share the wonder and delight of live theater with the young people in your life — fall under the spell of this “tale as old as time” based on the Academy Award-winning Disney film. Dazzling
production numbers, including the beloved title song and "Be Our Guest," will fill the Courtyard Theater, making your heart soar. Get your tickets at chicagoshakes.com.

HOPE'S FRONT DOOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE BEGINS!

We are in urgent need of folks to purchase school supplies to donate to our community members. Our primary drop off days will be Wednesday, Aug 2, Thursday, Aug 3, and Friday, Aug 4, between the hours of 10:00am - 12:00noon, so that we can have everything ready to go for the following Monday. However, we will continue to accept supplies through Friday, Aug 11. This will help us restock for the 2nd week.

Last year, we experienced a 34% increase in the number of clients receiving supplies, and we expect this year to be much the same. Due to the increased numbers last year, we substantially reduced our supply reserves, so we are in greater need than ever this year, in order to build back up our supplies. Backpacks are especially critical. We do ask that all supplies be NEW. Though all items are gratefully accepted, the items in red are those that are of greatest need. See below or click the following link for a list of most needed school supplies. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Below is a link for the Target Wish list if you would prefer to purchase online and have the items shipped. HFD Target Wish List

Our school supply distribution will begin on Monday, August 7 and continue through the month. Our first two weeks are the busiest.
DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!
NOW UNTIL AUGUST 11, 2023

READY . . . SET . . . LEARN!

Hope's Front Door is gathering NEW school supplies so that children (elementary through high school) are prepared and equipped to succeed on Day One!

**Can YOU help?**

Items in RED are big need items.

**School Supplies Needed:**
- Backpacks (elementary)
- Large Backpacks (middle thru high school)
- 3-Ring Binders
- Loose Leaf Paper (wide & college ruled)
- Spiral Notebooks (wide & college ruled)
- Composition Notebooks
- **Pocket file folders (all colors)**
- **Fiskars Scissors (sharp tip)** especially those for older students
- Colored Pencils (Craveola brand preferred)
- Pencils (#2)
- Pencil Cases and Pencil Boxes
- Pencil Sharpeners
- **Erasers**
- **Calculators**
- Small Packs Kleenex
- **Compass & Protractor Sets**
- **Soft Side Lunch Boxes**
- Crayons (24-pack)
- Broad Tip Markers (washable)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Pens (red)
- Pens (blue & black)
- Highlighters (broad tip)
- **Glue Bottles**
- **Glue Sticks**
- Post-It Notes
- Ruled Index Cards
- **Rulers (plastic)**
- **Hand Sanitizer**

Hope's Front Door • 1047 Curtiss Street, 6th Floor, Downers Grove, IL 60515 • 630-322-8803

---

MANY EXCITING CHANGES AT THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN!

Please scroll down to the VOLUNTEER section of the eNews for a complete list of all the exciting new changes happening at the Community Kitchen. Our Ministry of Mission & Justice, Rosemary Brooks, Chairperson, has been working hard to help those in our community.
The WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW page of our website has much helpful, current information.
A comprehensive list of church activities can be found on the CALENDAR. If you're reading this version from the website, you can receive the eNews directly in your email inbox! Register HERE.

Watch for a separate eBlast next week containing the link for the AUGUST Pilgrim newsletter!

TWO Reminders:
1) The Pilgrim is an excellent way to let the whole congregation know what your Ministry / Team / Group is doing, and maybe even inspire people to join in! So please submit your news / articles as often as you can.
2) The SEPTEMBER edition deadline for all articles, news stories, etc, is Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

Facebook YouTube

PRAYERS

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please include the following people in your prayers:

Anna May Bequeaith
Donna (friend of the Prochots)
Mark Herrick
Jackson
Art Langland
Bill McDowell
Judy Murrison
Brenda Tullis

If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the Church Office or Cathy Sanders. Thank you.
ONGOING

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please come see us to register your children so we can put them on classroom rosters for now and for 2023-2024 school year. OR — visit the WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW or CHILDREN AND YOUTH pages of the website for this Sunday School Registration link for a PDF Fillable-Form you can fill out and return online!

During the summer our classroom arrangements will be changing. From June 25-September 3, our regular classes will be closed. We are encouraging families to come experience church time together in the sanctuary. When the need arises, children and parents can visit the Children’s Corner in the back of the Parlor where there are comfy chairs to sit on, children’s books to browse and coloring sheets to do or the Nursery for them to explore movement and toys. A television is in the Nursery for viewing the service. Children can also sit in the pews working on activities in a three-ring binder equipped with a pencil case filled with crayons and colored pencils. These binders will be found in the Children’s Corner on one of the white shelves in a labeled basket.

BOOK GROUP NEWS

The FCC Book Club WILL indeed meet in August! On Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30pm in the Parlor, the ladies will be reading The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters by Julie Klam. All are welcome. Any questions? Contact Linda Schranz at Lsmedia52@gmail.com for more information.

Keep your eyes on this spot for future dates for the Men’s Book Group. For more information, please contact Tom Eisenhart at teisenhart@yahoo.com.
WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join us for fun and fellowship on the following dates:

- August 4 - 11:30 Lunch Cooper’s Hawk 1801 Butterfield Rd DG
- August 18 - 9:30 Stitch and Chat Someone’s Yard?
- September 8 - 9:30 Breakfast Baked Apple (Schedule Planning Session?) 1224 Ogden Ave DG
- September 22 - Garage Sale

2023 Fellowship dates can also be found in the most recent Pilgrim Newsletters! Questions? Contact Peggy Gutzke at peggy.gutzke@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

We are now providing dinner for our food insecure neighbors on Monday nights, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, as a sit down dinner at our Two Way Street Coffee House.

The new, INDOOR Little Free Pantry, at the Community Kitchen building, continues to offer non-perishable food items, plus toiletries and clothing items Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00 noon. Donations may be placed in the box provided inside the church’s west entrance. Use this [link for a full, updated list](#) of items that are needed.

SHOWER MINISTRY has returned on Monday nights 4:30pm - 5:30pm. We need volunteers to assist guests to Fellowship Hall and wait in Fellowship Hall while guests are showering.

TO SIGN UP FOR ANY OF THESE IMPORTANT CK MINISTRIES please visit the WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW page of the church website -or- email Rosemary Brooks at yorose57@sbcglobal.net or
TEACH
Tutoring English to Advance Change

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

TUTOR ENGLISH & HELP WITH CITIZENSHIP TEST PREPARATION:

- Free training! No experience required.
- One-on-one tutoring
- One hour a week (morning/evening)
- Seeking in-person tutors in Western Cook & DuPage county

JOIN US THIS SUMMER

August 1st & 15th
Woodridge Library: 5:30pm-7:30pm

OR

August 2nd & 16th
Brookfield Library: 10:30am-12:30pm

For more information, please call or email Silvia Chavez:

331-457-0378
schavez@teachempowers.org

Scan to Register for tutor training!
www.teachempowers.org

Here’s how else you can volunteer to help:
Hope’s Front Door provides an entry point to social services for members of our community who need immediate assistance. HFD currently has an immediate need for the following items. You can find out more details on their website at: hopesfrontdoor.com

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Baby Shampoo
- Bars of Soap
- Body Wash
- Body Lotion
- Baby Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Small Mouthwash (no alcohol preferred)
- Deodorant (men & women)
- Razors (men & women)
- Shaving Cream
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Sanitary Products (pads, tampons)

Except where noted, full size is appreciated.

Are your ministries doing some amazing things? Of course they are! Please share your stories of faith, ministry and community with the whole congregation by submitting your Ministry / Team News to the Church Administrator for inclusion in the monthly Pilgrim newsletter.

The September edition DEADLINE is Wednesday, August 23, 2023.
*** Password to the website FOR OUR MEMBERS page: UnitedDG150 ***