Welcome to November. The leaves are starting to turn and fall, the air is crisp, the pumpkin spice is flowing and now its time to put your Halloween costume away for another year.

As we move into November, I’m also reminded that it is the month of gratitude. As such, I want to give a shout out to Larry Meyer and Terry Hennen for fixing the heat in the Sanctuary and Parlor. Larry provided other heating items that need to be addressed. I am grateful for our dedicated members who use their time and talents to help our church. For the longer term solution, the Trustees are reaching out to a few HVAC contractors for proposals to keep the system in working order.

I’m also grateful that the use of the Church continues to grow. Along with Tree Town and AA we now have a cello teacher and Elmhurst Children’s Theater using our facility. Our facility also hosted a beautiful wedding in September. Congratulations to Neil and Amarelis Berent!

The roots of our Church are based in community and our facilities have been and will continue to be used in support of the community. As you go about your day-to-day activities, remember your Church is available to use in a variety of ways. If you or any groups you know of are interested in renting space, please contact Margaret Chittaro via the office at elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net. We look forward to seeing you around and I wish you all a happy November...full of gratitude.

Todd Hicks
630-743-9529

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Team meets every Wednesday to plan out the worship service. We are typically planning for services that are a couple of months out, and are now busy planning for the upcoming holiday season and beyond!

We are working hard to secure guest ministers, and the remainder of the year is booked! We look forward to hearing your feedback on the extraordinary group of ministers visiting us.
These are interesting albeit challenging times ... but interesting times bring us interesting experiences! We continue to challenge ourselves to make your prayerful time at church reflective and enriching.

We continue to encourage in person worship. We are a family ... and always better when we are together. Certainly our hearts soar when we are all sharing in Sunday worship.

Sincerely,
Martha Mendoza, Jim Molina, Don Haraf and Margaret Chittaro

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

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**ALL CHURCH EVENT**

Our Christmas Magi Star Gift Giving Project has kicked off. Our Mission and Christian Education boards are so excited to be carrying out this outreach effort in person again.

The need for this Christmas effort has stood the test of time as we celebrate 16 years of bringing a smile to the children of some of our most poor communities in Illinois. Thank you for your unwavering support. First Congregational of Elmhurst is proud to be partnering up again with San Lucas United Church of Christ in Humboldt Park, Chicago and God Can Ministries in Ford Heights, IL.

Here’s how you can participate: Pick out some gift tags which are on the hospitality table in the church foyer. Don’t forget to write your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet. This is important as it helps us know what tags have been taken and who is responsible for buying the gifts. When buying your gift, stay in the $25.00 value range (there are great sales going on). **Do not wrap your gifts.** Bringing them in a decorative gift bag is nice but not necessary. Please have your gift to the church by **Sunday, December 19**. We encourage everyone to buy their own gift. It can be very meaningful to pick out a gift for a child especially if you are doing it with a family member.

For those of us that would like our gifts purchased for us: You can pick out your tags and get your check and tags to either Diane Wells or Martha Mendoza and they will arrange the purchasing of your gifts. You can also put your donation for gifts into the offering plate on Sundays and the finance office will inform us of the donation for Magi gift. Please have your envelope of check state Magi Gifts.

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. "

Matthew 2:11

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**PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Bixler, Margaret Chittaro, Gayle Dawson, Vanessa Jackson, Bob Kanzler, and Janet Russell

After a slow start, we are beginning to see interest in our pulpit! The Search Committee has interviewed two candidates via Zoom, and we are in the process of coordinating schedules with two more candidates. We have also received three more candidate profiles this week. We hope to begin in-person interviews with a small group of candidates in the near future.
THE TRUSTEES
Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Chittaro, Jan Davis, Mike Hennel, Bob Kanzler, Carrie Stone

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign wraps up on November 7th when we will bless our pledges during worship. The Trustees provided a "Stewardship Moment" during 10/31 worship. Keep an eye out for a video clip of this in your email, in case you weren't able to be there. Pledges can be made confidentially on our website or by dropping your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your participation!

The Trustees are responsible for personnel and are currently in the process of reviewing job descriptions and performance with staff. As is true in all healthy organizations, this is an annual process to ensure alignment between staff and leadership as we move forward together. Discussions about annual goals and performance are materially different than the regular planning and social chats that we have with each other. We approach this process believing that an honest exchange of ideas each year between leadership and staff is a huge opportunity for individual and organizational growth.

We continue to work on projects to maintain the facility, recently completing some needed electrical work. We also have brought on new tenants, including Elmhurst Children's Theater and a cello teacher. Please reach out to any of us with a question or conversation!

THE DIACONATE
Don Haraf, Calvin Jackson, Carolee Luppino, Claire Richter

It brings us much JOY to be reaching out to you asking that you be a part of the HANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, November 21, 2021
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Everyone is needed to help at this ALL CHURCH event to decorate the sanctuary, foyer, and parlor. Lunch will be provided and ALL are welcome! Please mark your calendar for this festive comeback as we prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Brian Brigman, Dorothy Hamby, Chair; Tammy Hicks, Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Lynette Rosen, Jeff Sloma, Karen Sloma

Children's Sunday School Ministry
"Raising Up Lifelong Followers of Christ"

Our lessons for the month of November will focus on gratitude and giving thanks. Together children will memorize Scripture, work on a service project and explore ways they can apply the Biblical learnings to their everyday life.

Our Sunday School class for children 2nd through 6th grade takes place every Sunday. We are also reestablishing our preschool through 1st grade class. Children begin their morning praises with parents and the congregation at 10:00 a.m. and stay in the sanctuary through the Children's Message. Then together we go to Sunday School. Parents, we look forward to your children's participation.
**Confirmation Update**

Our confirmands are having their November gathering on **Sunday, November 14.** Parents, please have your youngsters come to the 10:00 a.m. worship service and stay for class from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

As part of church related service hours, confirmands and their families are encouraged to be a part of our all church Hanging of the Greens immediately after the worship service on Sunday, November 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. What a wonderful opportunity to decorate the sanctuary, foyer and parlor again. Parents, please mark your family calendar and plan on being a part of this all church activity headed up by the Diaconate board.

**Youth Ministries**

Our youth and their families have a special invitation from our Diaconates. After much waiting and no in person worship, we are decorating our beloved church for Advent and Christmas. All youth, college young adults and adults will have an opportunity to decorate our sanctuary, foyer and parlor. Parents, please check your family calendar and mark this date down! Lunch will be provided at this all church service project.

**Youth Service Project**

As Christmas draws near and in person activities are slowly starting up, our youth will begin designing our recycled Christmas card wreaths. We already have requests for the wreaths from two senior housing centers. All we need is more of your used Christmas cards. The Heritage Bunch has been partnering up with this effort and has provided us beautiful cards, please keep them coming.

Please consider helping us meet the demand for these beautiful Christmas recycled card wreaths made by our amazing youth. Cards can be dropped off on Sundays or anytime during the week to the church office. Thank you.

**MISSION BOARD**

Mary Moy Gregg, Gail Ogdon, Amy Reshamwala, Jan Russell, Diane Wells

**Elmhurst Walk In Assistance Network**

*Connecting People in Need to Community Resources*

Through funds raised in our Mission Rides program, the Mission Board donated $500 to the wonderful work of the Elmhurst Walk In Assistance Network. This year’s EWAN fundraiser, ‘Cue for a Cause was the most successful year yet! Held September 5th on a beautiful, sunny day many enjoyed live music, good food and drink and much comradery. The event raised $50,000, a 92% increase over the 2019 ‘Cue.

As an organization based on neighbors helping neighbors during difficult times, EWAN has been serving those in need throughout the pandemic. From March 2020 to September 2021 EWAN has:
• Provided 1,428 services to 1,201 households  
• Helped 198 people maintain safe housing through rental assistance totaling $169,307  
• Kept the lights on, the heat pumping and the water running by helping with utility bills totaling $46,550  
• Spent $30,758 on other services including car repair, dental and medical assistance and programs for District 205 students  
• Connected clients to food pantries, clothing center and county and state resources to keep them safe and protected during these difficult months.

Many thanks to our members who support our Mission Rides program which enabled us to support our neighbors in need right here in Elmhurst.

To volunteer or donate to EWAN go to [www.elmhurstwalkin.org](http://www.elmhurstwalkin.org)

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**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
Jim Molina

*Music Ministry Solo Classical Concert – Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021*

Next Sunday, Nov. 7, the Music Ministry invites you to join us after the Sunday Worship from 11:00 am – 11:30 am in the sanctuary. We will be hosting an intimate classical solo recital featuring Jim Molina on piano along with some new piano/organ duets in honor of All Saints Day. The concert will feature music of Chopin, Liszt, Beethoven and Raney. There will be coffee and refreshments served afterwards in the parlor. There will be a free will offering. We look forward to your presence as we wrap up the Stewardship campaign with some beautiful music.

*Advent Cantata “Come, Messiah!” – Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021*

On Sunday, Nov. 28th, the Music Ministry will be starting the Advent season with an Advent Cantata, “Come, Messiah” put together by Jim Molina. This musical event will include Advent Music that will be performed by our Chancel Choir and a host of amazing instrumentalists including Daniel Zeisemer on violin, Jaina Carpenter on harp, Jacqueline Jellison – Landis on oboe, and of course our esteemed guitarist, Dave Benziger.

Jim Molina will lead this all-star Music Ministry in a compelling and seasonal musical performance that will highlight our Advent Season. A special offering will be presented to support the Music Ministry and its programming.

Join us as Rev. Robert Buckner III leads us in an Advent message that is sure to warm our hearts this Christmas Season.
GREEN TEAM
Karen Pachyn

Green Team Tip of The Month - November 2021

Items with the number “6” on them are not recyclable in most communities. That includes Styrofoam. So what do you do? The best thing is to try to avoid Styrofoam all together. Many Styrofoam containers come from food vendors. Make a conscious effort to avoid those and let them know why you are not giving them your business. Feedback does make a difference. When entertaining at home, pay careful attention to the products you are buying for the party. And look at your groceries as well. Could you buy eggs in card board containers instead of Styrofoam ones? Are there alternatives to the trays your meat comes on?

For Styrofoam you can’t avoid, know that the Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen Drive in North Aurora takes Styrofoam to recycle. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and drop off is easy, once you’ve made the drive. For more information see here: [https://northaurora.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Dart-Foam-Recycling.pdf](https://northaurora.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Dart-Foam-Recycling.pdf)

The Green Team hopes you had a Happy Halloween and also want to remind you not to throw your pumpkin in the garbage. It becomes methane gas when put in a landfill but can become a useful, nutrient rich soil amendment when put in a compost pile. Don’t have a compost pile? Take it to one of the “Pumpkin Smashes” offered by SCARCE on Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 to noon. For the location nearest you, see the SCARCE website: [https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins/](https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins/)

And have a blessed Thanksgiving!

The Green Team
Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carollee Luppino, Chris Murray, Shirley Myers, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn, Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

HERITAGE BUNCH

Greetings …
We are called the Heritage Bunch
We meet 10 to Noon …yes, just before lunch
Two Wednesdays a month and we really have fun
It’s interesting talk … from when we start till we’re done!

We solve the world’s problems, of each other we care
We talk and we laugh and we end with a prayer.

If you’re looking for a group, but you don’t just know where
There’s nothing we’d like better than to have you right there.

Come join us …
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
PASTORAL CARE
Rev. Jan Davis

Caring for One Another
Supporting our members during everyday occurrences, ailments, and even the passing away of a loved one is highest among our calling as a church. During this period of a pastoral search, Rev. Jan Davis will be providing pastoral care. She will be reaching out to those of us that have enjoyed regular pastoral visits and for any emergency that may arise.

If you have any pastoral needs, please don’t hesitate to contact the church office at 630-832-2580.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

28 Kim Brigman
Janet Brown Louis Reed
Angela Burrell Janet Rowe
Phyllis Crosley Basia Rudy
Dan Dallas Joyce Stevens
Mary Loss Bob Tracy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>Event/Room</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>All Saints and Pledge Dedication Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Music Ministry Classical Solo Recital Featuring Jim Molina</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Confirmation Gathering</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Hanging of the Greens All Church Event/ Youth Service Project</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Advent Cantata Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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TITHE.LY GIVING

Give with Tithe.ly from anywhere at any time. Download the Tithe.ly giving app to get started. You'll find First Congregational United Church of Christ, Elmhurst, IL. Your gift is safe and secure and goes directly to our church. https://get.tithe.ly/

Support First Congregational each time you make a purchase on Amazon. Sign up and shop at smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase will be donated back to First Congregational at no cost to you. This is an easy way for us to earn some extra money! Please make sure you sign up to participate. Thank you!

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=36-2374420&ref_=smi_ext_ch_36-2374420_cl

Partners in Christ’s Service

Pastoral Care
Rev. Janet Davis
revjcd@aol.com
(630) 400-7747

Church Staff
Martha Mendoza, Director of Christian Education
Jim Molina, Director of Music
Heather Cross, Bookkeeper
Kim Brigman, Office Assistant

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

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