JANUARY 2022

MODERATOR’S MINUTE
Todd Hicks

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022!! I hope your Christmas season was full of love, joy and family. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

Many of us start out the new year with resolutions, budgets and to do lists…it’s a great way to plan and prepare as we step into a new year. At First Congregational, we have also been busy planning. The Boards and Committees have been working hard on budgets and planning for 2022. Our 2022 budget and plans will be shared at our Annual Meeting on February 27. It is important that we have a strong in-person representation of our congregation as we approve and discuss plans for 2022. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

A new year brings hope, renewal, and a chance to make change. If you’ve been interested in getting more involved in your church community, there’s no time like the present. There are numerous opportunities to get involved at FCUCC. The Diaconate, Trustee, Christian Education and Mission Boards are always looking for involvement. Additionally, our Music Committee and the Green Team would also welcome you to join their mission. Find your mission at church and get involved. It is a rewarding experience and a great opportunity to get to know other FCUCC members. The Nominating Committee is starting its search and there are many positions available this year. Please let us know if you would like to serve on a Board or Committee by emailing the church clerk at elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net.

Again, welcome to 2022. Let’s start out this new year with kindness, hope and faith. Have a great January and please remember to mark your calendar for February 27, 2022 for our Annual Meeting; your in-person attendance is greatly needed.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Team continues to meet every Wednesday to plan out worship service. It is both satisfying and humbling to know our efforts along with the hard work of so many others, results in something as moving as our beautiful Christmas Eve service.
We are blessed with extraordinary staff and lay leaders that lift us all up ... all together, we are quite a team!

As always, we are working hard to secure guest ministers that challenge our minds and lift our spirits. Please send us your feedback on the extraordinary group of ministers visiting us.

We continue to encourage in person worship. Being together ... it's good for the soul!

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

A BIG THANK YOU!

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the amazing generosity that so many of you demonstrated with the gifts and funds you donated towards our Magi Star Gift Giving Project. A total of 119 gifts were given to our two sister churches; God Can Ministries UCC Church and San Lucas UCC Church.

A BIG thank you to Diane Wells from our Mission Board and Martha Mendoza from our Christian Education Board for spearheading this effort. And to our confirmands, Morgan Scumaci and Nik Reshamwala and their amazing families for all their hard work in organizing the gifts for the two churches.

We could not have carried out this project without your generosity! Thank you!

A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE – "REMEMBERING KING"

Join us on Sunday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m. for an in-person service remembering that one person can make a tremendous difference and that when we venture forth in the name of God's justice, we do not stand alone.

Rev. Robert Buckner II will be addressing us from the pulpit in-person. One year ago, Rev. Buckner inspired our hearts as our guest speaker at the Zoom MLK forum. We are honored to have him return to address us as we remember and celebrate the life of one of God's very own.

We hope you'll take part in this moving service.

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

The Search Committee has conducted a second interview and is talking to references. After doing so we will determine whether or not to hear the candidate preach at a neutral pulpit. We are also hoping to interview another candidate who has stepped forward.

THE DIACONATE
Happy New Year!
We hope everyone had a great Christmas. Our Christmas Eve service was a very festive event. A big thank you goes out to Brian Brigman, Luke Brigman, Bob Kanzler, Terry Hennen, and Carolee Luppino who assisted as ushers.

Taking Down the Greens
Please join us on Sunday, January 9 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Together we will take down our Christmas decorations in the sanctuary, foyer, and parlor. Your help will make this a bit easier and a lot more fun! Lunch will be provided. Hope you can join us.

Worship Update
Starting this month, the Lord's Prayer will be sung by a soloist on Communion Sunday only. On all other Sundays, it will be recited in unison by all in worship. Thank you.

Scripture Readers Needed
Sign up sheets are posted on the foyer bulletin board. We hope you will consider being a scripture reader as we move into 2022.

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

You are all invited to our Three Kings children's celebration on Sunday, January 9. All children present will receive a visit from the Three Kings during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our celebration will include cake and golden coin treats.

In the spirit of the Reyes, all children in worship will enjoy an array of surprises and participate in the raffling of the book "The Story of the Three Wise Kings" retold and illustrated by Tomie de Paola.

The celebration continues in Sunday School with children learning how this global tradition of the Three Kings interconnects them to children throughout our world.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us on Sunday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Confirmed in Christ
During the month of January, confirmands have two classes to attend:
Sunday, January 9 from 11:00 - 11:45 a.m.
Sunday, January 30 from 11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Please have your confirmands join us for both worship and class.

Thank you,
Martha Mendoza

Annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser
Sunday, January 23, 2022
Warm your spirit and awaken your palate with a bowl of chili!

It is our hope you will consider entering your own chili and compete for one of the three prizes. All entries should be brought to Fellowship Hall no later than 9:30 a.m. on January 23.

Beat the winter blahs and join us for this fun-filled event!

*Please note:* We will be monitoring DuPage county COVID cases and will alter the format as needed.

Click HERE for Chili Cook-Off Entry Form

**MUSIC MINISTRY**
Jim Molina

The Music Ministry looks forward to a new year filled with new hope. We are looking forward to working with singers of Community Congregational Church in Villa Park as we try to find ways to grow our choir in community with shared opportunities. An Easter cantata is already in the works as are more performances by Jim Molina (solo and trios). We closed 2021 with a poignant Advent season that ended in celebration with a joyous Christmas Eve service. As the year closes we reflect on all the changes we went through. The Music Ministry continued to ebb and flow through the times, always bringing music and ministry to the congregation. We will continue on through 2022 evolving and growing, learning and discerning, but always focused on our good work, God’s work.

**GREEN TEAM**
Karen Pachyn

**Spring Is Coming Early in 2022**  
**Order Your Organic Seedlings Now!**

We have launched our eighth annual organic vegetable and herb seedlings sale early this year. Our grower has moved the deadline for submitting preorders to February 28. All orders need to be in by then – **ONE MONTH EARLIER THAN IN THE PAST.** Our online store is open now to give you plenty of time to think about what you’d like to grow this summer.

Once again, our seedlings will be provided by West Star Organics. West Star Farm LLC (DBA West Star Organics) is a certified organic grower of high-quality spring starter plants. Their 40 acre property in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin has been certified organic since the inception of the National Organic Program in 1999. WSO will be providing our plants in 3 1/2” containers. We will have many of your old favorites available and some new ones we think you’re going to love. We will also, once again, be selling the growing mix and compost WSO uses to grow their own plants. The seedlings are USDA Certified Organic. And even the growing mix and compost are organic, helping you to be successful in growing strong, healthy food for your family.

You can place your order and pay using your credit card on the church website at [www.elmhurstucc.org/store](http://www.elmhurstucc.org/store). You will also find our hardcopy order form there which you can
print out and send to the church office with cash or check, if you prefer. Hardcopies of the form are also available on the table in the Tree of Life Foyer. Please remember - **orders will need to be completed no later than February 28.** Seedlings will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in our church parking lot.

And we have some exciting news – we are going to revive the Green Garden Fair. Those picking up their seedlings on May 7 will also be able to stop and visit with exhibitors sharing information about living sustainably. We are going to have the Fair outside and show off our beautiful new parking lot. And we’ve already got 7 vendors committed to being at our event!

Please mark your calendar and volunteer to help us sort and prepare orders on Friday, May 6 or help with our order pickups on Saturday, May 7. It will be a busy couple of days for our church so we will need everyone’s help to pull this off in 2022. Plus, it’s always fun and a great community outreach for us. Proceeds from the sale benefit the church’s general fund.

**Green Team Tip of the Month – January, 2021**

Some reminders as we start the New Year:

- The last Sunday to bring in your Christmas lights for recycling will be January 9.
- Keep those bread tags and pop tops coming and you’ll help buy wheelchairs thru “Danielle Cares for Chairs” and support families who benefit from the services of “Ronald Mc Donald House”.
- Now that the Parlor is open for coffee after our services again, please consider bringing in your own coffee mug to use. It’s much more sustainable than using a cup that needs to be thrown out each week. Hooks under the cabinets in the Parlor kitchen can be used to hang your mug if you want to leave it for the next week. If you use the cups provided, you will note that we are currently using Styrofoam cups because they are less expensive than compostable ones. We have found a place where they can be recycled. We ask that when you are done drinking your coffee, you empty any leftovers into the sink in the parlor kitchen, rinse the cup lightly with water and then toss it into a recycling container we will have on hand for this purpose. Please do not put Styrofoam cups in the regular trash.

Thanks for helping us keep things out of our landfills in 2022. Happy New Year from the Green Team!

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The Green Team – Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carolee Luppino, Chris Murray, Shirley Myers, Karen Pachyn, Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

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**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 …
2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} 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 contact the church office at 630-832-2580.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

7 Mary Moy Gregg   18 Jim Achen
8 Jim Mowers       20 Evan DuBois
10 Sandy DuBois    22 David Vastola
13 Martin Pacheco  23 Aleta Dallas
13 Diane Wells     30 Larry Meyer
16 Paula Fabbri

Janet Brown         Louis Reed
Angela Burrell       Janet Rowe
Dan Dallas          Basia Rudy
Ed Eckert           Ken Stratton
Susan Graybill      Bob Tracy
Katie and Baby McCann

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
**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.

Click HERE for more info on 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!

Click HERE to sign up for Amazon Smile

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Event/Room</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School-Three Kings Day</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Taking Down the Greens</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School- “Remembering King”</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch – Parlor</td>
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**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

Contact Us
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