FROM THE MODERATOR
Margaret Chittaro

Our church hums with energy!
It's in the air when you walk in on Sunday morning.

As I reflect on all the positive ways (and there are so many!) our church gives off this energy, this life,
I recognize there is always room to grow.

Our church is an amalgamation of people, views, beliefs and visions.
It does not thrive because of one person or one idea.
Instead, it survives and prospers because of many individuals bringing their own unique skills and gifts and
ideas to the table.

It will continue to prosper and grow, as we continue to keep our hearts and our minds open.
Open to new ways of doing things, new ways to pray, new ways to reach people, new ways to minister.

I pray on this constantly ...

Our church is ever changing as is the world around us.
And that's a good thing! Change opens doors to bigger, better blessings.

How do you think our church can grow? What changes would you like to see happen at our vibrant, lively
and energetic church?

We have the power to do so much ...together!

WORSHIP MINISTRY
Margaret Chittaro, Martha Mendoza, Jim Molina, Claire Richter

They say it takes on average about 66 days for a habit to form. That it's less about the amount
of time it takes and more about the repetition. In church time, 66 days is less than 10 Sundays.

So once again, this Sunday, we look to be intentional as the collection basket is passed.
To remember what this part of the service represents.
A practical and spiritual receipt of ALL the gifts with which we are blessed.
Help your children form this habit.
We are raising global citizens.
Let this be part of their journey as well.
Regularly giving them opportunities to give, helps teach them to be a giver.

A few coins or a few bills, it doesn't matter.
We focus on the heart behind the giving, not the gift itself.

... and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

The Worship Team continues to meet every Wednesday to plan out worship service.
We strive to bring a worship service that moves us, inspires us, and challenges us.

Please Join Us

Women’s Spiritual Growth Gathering
Friday, October 14, 2022
6:30 – 8:30 PM

First Congregational Church
235 S. Kenilworth Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Our guest speaker Maria Castro is the force behind #LovePurse, a newly established nonprofit organization that supports women that are on the go because of homelessness, domestic violence or an array of situations. #LovePurse equips women with a purse that provides everyday needs and an inspirational message of hope and encouragement. Maria is also the author of a new publication titled Kindness. At our gathering, Maria will be sharing “Creating A Masterpiece”.

We hope you will join us for this special evening of fellowship, delicious appetizers and sweets, door prizes and raffles.
Please share this invitation and bring a friend.
THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Bixler, Margaret Chittaro, Gayle Dawson, Vanessa Jackson, Bob Kanzler, and Jan Russell

Now that we have taken a break and hopefully given the candidate pool a chance to refresh itself, the Search Committee has picked up where it left off last spring and is preparing the advertisement for the UCC website.

We are also looking for alternative websites on which to advertise. We look forward to reviewing candidate profiles and interviewing candidates in the near future.

THE TRUSTEES
Fritz Baumgartner, Margaret Chittaro, Treasurer; Jan Davis, Don Haraf, Mike Hennel, Carrie Stone, Chair

Fall is in the air, school is back in session, and IC High School students are once again parking on the north side of our lot. We have renewed our contract with IC and are grateful for this partnership – please pay
attention to signage and do not park in their spaces during the week! Just next to the parking lot, you have surely noticed that construction is well underway on our new neighbor’s home. Some of our landscaping has been damaged in the process and the builder has pledged to completely repair it next spring. During construction, they made a generous donation to the church in return for access to our parking lot power supply prior to installation of their own line. We look forward to being good neighbors to all our neighbors for years to come!

You may have noticed a new cleaning company is now at work keeping our church facilities in good order. We hope you see improvements! We will no longer trade cleaning services for housing with our long-time manse tenants, the Sanchez Family. Rather, they have decided to enter into a cash lease with the church. Overall, the Manse is in very good shape and we are completing some maintenance projects to keep it that way. This summer we installed a new drainage system on the south side of the church to protect both church and manse from water when it rains. As if on cue, Mother Nature has tested the system and shown us where tweaks are needed, which we have done. We are thankful we are having much success with water remediation after years of frustration!

We are about to enter the Stewardship & Budgeting Season where we ask each member to commit to the church financially and each board to submit a budget for 2023. The Board of Trustees prepares the largest portion of our annual church operating budget because we plan for next year’s personnel and facilities expenses along with providing a specific budget for communications, outreach, and technology that supports all boards and programs.

The majority of members want to see growth in our membership rolls and the Trustees seek to support that goal financially. To that end, we pray for a successful stewardship campaign and a balanced budget in 2023. We pray for creative and inspired leaders who see our church as a place to grow and serve. We seek to be an ambitious and growing church at a time when the trends show many churches in decline. To do this, we need your financial support, your brainpower, your heart, your labor, your prayers, your challenge, and – most of all - your encouragement and smiles! Thank you in advance!!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Vanessa Jackson, Amarelis Morales-Berent, Lynette Rosen

Youth Outing
Sunday, October 16, 2022
4:30 – 6:30 PM

All 8th thru 12th grade students are invited to our upcoming youth outing. Together we will enjoy special bowling games, like bowl for a cause, dinner and youth will have an opportunity to catch up.

We are meeting at Pinstripes located in the Oakbrook Center, 7 Oakbrook Center, phone # 630 575-8700.

Friends are invited. Each youth attending should bring $10.00 to contribute to the cost. Looking forward to coming together!

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL
Preschool thru 7th grade

During this month of October, our children’s Sunday School ministry will be focused on PERSISTENT PRAYER and KNOWING OUR WAY THROUGH THE BIBLE.

Besides art projects and fun activities, we will be learning from some of the stories in the gospel of Luke. Among these stories are A Seed of Faith, The Persistent Widow, and Zacchaeus to mention a few. All of the teaching, interaction, and activities in Sunday School are aimed at having the children be able to apply the lessons of each story to their everyday lives strengthening their faith as they grow.
We hope you and your children will join us during this month of October for GREAT preaching, teaching, and community building.

As has been our tradition here at First Congregational of Elmhurst, our **confirmation program kicks off** this month of October. Parents and 7th-grade students are invited to join our Director of Christian Education Martha Mendoza for our first confirmation gathering immediately after the worship service on **Sunday, October 23rd** in Fellowship Hall on the lower level.

Please have your 7th graders at our 10:00 a.m. worship on the 23rd as they commence the confirmation Journey. Together we will decide on a schedule for confirmation classes and outings. Thank you!

**THE DIACONATE BOARD**  
Bridget Bixler, Brian Brigman, Calvin Jackson, Claire Richter, Raquel and William Roman

Once again, we lift up the Christian Education team and our amazing youth of First Church for the special youth led service. In addition to remembering the tragic events of 9/11, there was an amazing presentation featuring the mission trip delegation to the island of Puerto Rico this past summer. Touching personal stories and an awe-inspiring video showcased this special service.

This coming October we have two special services to note. On October 9 our Music Committee will lift up another Gospel Concert and on October 30 First Church will host something new - an all-church Fall Fest. (More info to come on the Fall Fest so stay tuned!)

As you begin to make your holiday plans – please mark your calendar for our annual Hanging of the Greens on November 20th. The Diaconate welcomes everyone to stay and have some fun decorating the sanctuary and lunch. We need all the helping hands we can get so thanks in advance.

*We are so fortunate to have so many new and talented scripture readers involved in service lately…thank you and if you are interested, please ask any usher for more info on how you can get involved.*

**MISSION BOARD**  
Rev. Jorge Morales, Gail Ogdon, Amy Reshamwala, Jan Russell and Ann Thoele

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING**

This month, UCC churches across the country will be presenting the Neighbors in Need annual offering. This quarterly collection brings awareness to the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministry division which provides grants to UCC churches and organizations to support various initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

The 2022 theme is “BEHOLD!” and this year’s offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, there are various programs being brought forth to help those in need who are struggling with the price of food, housing and transportation right now.

A special offering will take place on October 2nd. Please consider supporting this worthy cause with a donation by check to the church with NIN in the memo line or online at Tithe.ly. Your generosity will make a big difference to many in need at this time.

**MUSIC MINISTRY**
GOSPEL CONCERT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for a special Gospel Concert during our Sunday Worship service. The Music Ministry will feature great choral arrangements of “Wade in the Water”, “Peace in the Water” and so much more! Be a part of this unique service as we celebrate the gospel through song.

GREEN TEAM
Don Haraf, Jennifer Hennen, Carolee Luppino, Chris Murray, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn, Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

Green Team Tip of the Month – October

This month’s tip is “keep up the good work”! The photo on the right is of a 15 year old ambulance belonging to the city of Addison that they were going to retire. Instead, the city had it refurbished and filled with medical supplies and other things to send to Ukraine. Kay McKeen and SCARCE got involved and used the bag tags we and others have been donating to purchase a brand-new wheelchair that went to Ukraine in the ambulance.

Those little bag tags that you have been collecting really make a difference, not just locally, but globally. Please continue to collect them and bring them in. Until we can add some new baskets to our collection shelf in the Tree of Life Foyer, you can throw the bag tags in the basket that we are using to collect pop tops. But please keep the pop tops and the bag tags in separate bags so we don’t have to go thru and separate them from one another.

Thanks for the good work!

A POEM FROM JEAN
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 …
On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE

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. If you find yourself needing pastoral support, please contact our
church office at 630-832-2580. We will reach out to Rev. Jan Davis or a member of the pastoral care support team to contact you.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

3 Abby Brigman  16 Carina Kanzler
3 Tom McCann   17 Carrie Stone
6 Bob Tracy     24 Karen Pachyn
10 Jan Davis    25 Julia Stone
10 Roger Kolvitz 30 Jennifer Hennen

August (Augie) Carlson  Chris Murray
Maxine & Wade Cassidy  Basia Rudy
Dan & Aleta Dallas     Mark Swanson
Ed Eckert              Bob Tracy
Susan Graybill

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>World Communion Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Gospel Concert and Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Women’s Spiritual Growth Gathering</td>
<td>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Youth Gathering</td>
<td>4:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 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>25</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>All Church Fall Fest</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH

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

Partners in Christ’s Service

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revjcd@aol.com
(630) 400-7747

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

Rev. Dr. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Emeritus Minister

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