AUGUST 2023

FROM THE MODERATOR
Janet Russell

Hello again,

Here it is August already, time just flies by. When you see this, De Colores will have started. We have 114 children enrolled this year. This will be my first year volunteering and I’m excited to be involved. To be honest, I’ve heard such wonderful things about De Colores that I hope I don’t make too many mistakes. I hope you will join us on Sunday, August 6 for a service celebrating De Colores followed by an ice cream social.

After De Colores there are just a few short weeks before our older youth will be starting their college experience or returning to college. Then our younger youth will be returning to school. I always enjoyed school and I did manage to learn a few things in school and college. I wish all of our youth a great year. We will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers!

Also, I just wanted to say thank you to all our boards, committees and staff. Everyone continues to work hard to make our church a happy, productive and welcoming place. If anyone has any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. I continue to try my best for all of you and our church.

Take good care!

THE MINISTRY TEAM
Margaret Chittaro, Martha Mendoza, Jim Molina, and Claire Richter

While trying to squeeze in everything we absolutely can during these glorious and lazy days of summer, the Worship Team continues, every Wednesday, to put in the time and energy to bring about Sunday services that move us all.

An all-church calendar has been laid out for the remainder of the year ... filled with exciting events, inspiring worship services and multiple faith formation programs!
Join us for the De Colores Celebration Service and Ice Cream Social, our annual Youth Car Wash, a September youth-led Worship Service, a Women's Spiritual Growth Gathering, and the All-Church Fall Fest ..... to name but a few!

JOIN US AND CONTINUE TO BE SURPRISED by all that has been planned for you!

We look forward to spending Sundays with you ... together in fellowship.

FROM OUR TREASURER
Margaret Chittaro

For your convenience, payment for any event, fundraiser, or offering can be done multiple ways
Below are our giving options.

For online givers, we urge you to switch to PayPal or Venmo as both of these services greatly reduce our processing fees.

1. PAYPAL: Use paypal.me @fcuccelm
   We prefer and recommend PayPal for electronic giving at this time.
   We receive a reduced processing fee, which is a benefit for both you as the donor, and First Church as the recipient.

   Paypal users can setup an account and store their credit card and bank to make payments.

2. VENMO: User is @FCUCCElmhurst
   We are excited to offer the option to use Venmo.
   Click the icon below, or simply enter @FCUCCElmhurst in your Venmo app.
   https://account.venmo.com/u/FCUCCElmhurst

3. You may mail a check to:
   First Congregational UCC
   Attn: Bookkeeper
   235 S Kenilworth
   Elmhurst, IL 60126

4. Tithely
   We continue to keep our legacy e-giving platform, Tithely, active. https://tithe.ly/give?c=317447

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Vanessa Jackson, Martha Mendoza, Amarelis Morales-Berent, Lynette Rosen (chair), and Donna Scumaci

Summer is almost done and school starts very soon. So many of our youth have been traveling with family and working that it has been hard to connect.

All 8th graders thru 12th graders are invited to our next youth gathering at 4pm at the church on Sunday August 27. Together we will enjoy dinner, review our schedule of planned events including our 2024 Puerto Rico trip. Parents please talk to your youngsters about attending. Thank you, Pastor Mendoza
THE DIACONATE BOARD
Claire Richter (chair), Bridget Bixler, Brian Brigman, Rev. Jan Davis, Calvin Jackson, Carolee Luppino, William Roman, and Ann Thoele

Thanks to all who provided goodies for coffee hour after the service.

Attendance was low for July averaging 44. August is still a vacation month; attendance again may be limited.

We are looking forward to hearing from our guest ministers, Rev. Scott Matheney on August 20 and Rev. Melbalenia Evans on August 27. Along with our own Pastor Martha Mendoza and Rev. Jorge Morales. Communion will be August 13, the second Sunday as August 6 is De Colores Celebration Sunday. Scripture Readers have been scheduled through the end of August. Summer is flying by!

THE MUSIC MINISTRY
Gayle Dawson, Linda Donahue, Jim Molina, Nilesh Reshamwala, Carol Ringhoff, and Mary Swanson

Happy Summer from the Music Ministry.

For the past year our music director, Jim Molina has been working with trustees and the Music Committee in helping put together a sound system that satisfies the growing needs of the church. We are pleased to announce that ProComm has put together a proposal that will offer First Congregational a system that suits our current needs and our ability to grow into the future. With the capability of having full mixing control over our music and spoken word, our Sunday worship services will sound amazing! Our dual system is designed to offer an easy to use method that will suit the lay person. It will also have a 24 channel mixer board which allow for greater exploration into online streaming and complex concert programming. We are grateful for this new endeavor and we look forward to the full installation that ProComm will schedule. We will keep you posted as the installation progresses.

Your generosity shown to “K9s for Veterans” is very much appreciated. The special collection on Memorial Sunday, May 28th, generated donations in excess of $1100! This worthwhile organization was overwhelmed at the response from our congregation and so very grateful. The money will be put to good use to further their cause by providing and training rescue dogs for veterans with PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Thank you very much for your support.

GREEN TEAM
Don Haraf, Carolee Luppino, Gail Ogdon, Karen Pachyn (chair) , Claire Richter, Bob Tracy

Green Team Tip of the Month-Fresh Produce

August is a great month to enjoy fresh produce and the Farmer’s Market is a great place to get it. Not only are you supporting local farmers but you are helping the environment. On average, a piece of produce in the United States
travels 1,500 miles to the grocery store before being sold, amounting to 250,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions from produce transportation annually. In total, agriculture accounts for 11% of the United States’ greenhouse gas emissions.

And the transportation of goods requires special excess packaging that ends up in landfills. But the fresh fruits and vegetables you find at your farmers market come from local growers who produce their crops on a smaller scale, so not only are they fresher and have less travel and packaging costs, but they also have been grown with less chemicals. To grow the large quantities of produce you see at grocery stores, farmers who often grow a monoculture, need a lot of fertilizers, chemicals and pesticides that farmers growing a variety of things for local markets don’t use. Check out the Elmhurst Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 7AM to 1PM at York and Valette until 10/25 or a Farmers Market near you.

And if your own garden is producing more than you can use and your neighbors have lost interest in receiving any more of your zucchini, than consider taking them to the Yorkfield Food Pantry. The address is 1083 S. York St. in Elmhurst. They love getting fresh produce and have a refrigerated closet where you can drop things off 24 hours a day.

**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**
August

2   Luke Brigman
7    Bobbie Schultz
15  Calvin Jackson
21   Terry Hennen
21 Aidan McGarry
23  Barb Sullivan
29 Jean Schildbach
31 Amelia Morrow

Cyndi Bemis
The Buckner Family
August (Augie) Carlson
Maxine & Wade Cassidy
Ed Eckert
Susan Graybill
Virginia and Jim Moss

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>De Colores Spanish Summer Camp</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>De Colores Celebration Sunday Worship Service</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>De Colores Celebration Ice Cream Social</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Heritage Bunch</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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Partners in Christ’s Service
Pastoral Care
Rev. Janet Davis
revjc40@aol.com
(630) 400-7747

Church Staff
Martha Mendoza, Associate Minister
Jim Molina, Director of Music
Heather Cross, Bookkeeper