

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LAGRANGE

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

S. LAGRANGE RD AT COSSITT AVE.

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LAGRANGE, IL

[mainoffice@FCCLG.org](mailto:mainoffice@FCCLG.org)

[www.FCCLG.org](http://www.FCCLG.org)

708.352.0800

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2025

ALL SAINTS DAY & COMMUNION SUNDAY

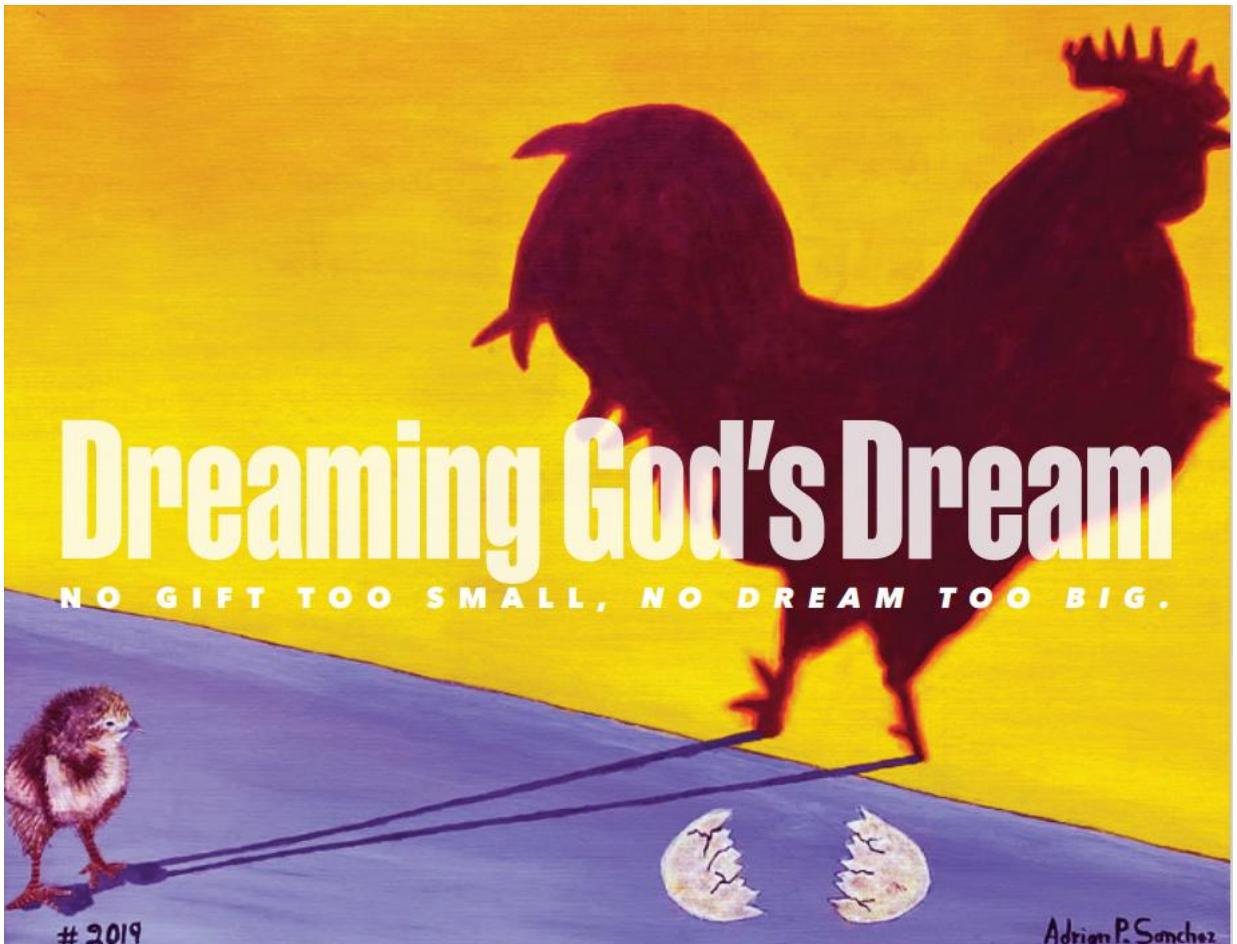
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**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY**

*We acknowledge that First Congregational Church of LaGrange sits on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral homelands of Native peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Indigenous peoples who have been caretakers of the land for thousands of years, into the present day.*

*\*Signifies Please stand as you are able.*

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**PRELUDE**

For All Your Saints, O Lord

Michael Burkhardt  
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

**WELCOME**

Kim Bart

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kim Bart

One: On our pilgrimage of faith, in a changing and uncertain world –

**Many: We do not walk alone: Our Still Speaking God is with us.**

One: We remember all those who taught us and helped us on our faith journey –

**Many: That cloud of Saints whose example burns bright in our memory.**

One: God of grace, by whose love the world exists –

**Many: show us your face once again and reveal to us your glory.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*New Century Hymnal #299*  
For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

**\*PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (UNISON)**

Kim Bart

One: Grand Creator, lover and friend, you consistently show us holiness in action through the life and ministry of Jesus.

**Many: We admit the difficulties we experience in living as Jesus lived and loving as you love.**

One: We admit how easy it is to concentrate on our own pleasures – taking note of the plight of many in the world only as the news momentarily grabs our attention.

**Many: We admit our capacity to be so consumed by our own agendas that our concern for the needs of others shrinks all too rapidly.**

One: We admit our failure to act when we see around us weakness, pain, suffering and powerlessness. A time of silent confession

**Many: We admit our reluctance to love our enemies and to do good to those who dislike or even hate us.**

One: We admit the ease with which we become conformed to the world's standards rather than facing the challenge of conforming to those Jesus taught and commanded us to live by.

**Many: Stir up your Spirit in us, Gracious Creator, that we may experience the happiness and blessing of being your children in more than name only. Strengthen us to be people who sing and live your song of love; who willingly serve our neighbors—even those we don't especially like; who seek justice and mercy for all and who truly repent of what is past and look with anticipation for what is yet to come. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### **SUNG RESPONSE**

*New Century Hymnal #283*

Spirit of the Living God

IVERSON

#### **REMEMBRANCE**

Rev. Brian Damrow

One: Today, we remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah to Paul and Phoebe: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

**Many: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God: Teachers of the faith, we remember you.**

One: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime: Family of our faith, we remember you.

**Many:** We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents, and dear friends, whose lives ended too soon: Those close in our heart, we remember you.

One: We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost this year from our lives, knowing that they are with your heart forever. As we read these names, we will pause after every name to remember, pray, and give thanks for their life.

<i>Mary Forester</i>	<i>November 19, 1932 – November 1, 2024</i>
<i>Earl (Ted) Tomkinson</i>	<i>February 28, 1941 – November 15, 2024</i>
<i>Edmond Roman</i>	<i>November 26, 1930 – November 23, 2024</i>
<i>Bonita Bryant</i>	<i>October 10, 1938 – December 16, 2024</i>
<i>Albert Krenz</i>	<i>June 12, 1944 – December 29, 2024</i>
<i>Janet Potts</i>	<i>May 25, 1930 – February 2, 2025</i>
<i>John Bednar</i>	<i>February 3, 1962 – May 14, 2025</i>
<i>Roberta (Bobbie) Nunez</i>	<i>January 3, 1946 – September 29, 2025</i>

One: We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and now lift the names in our hearts of those who have gone before us:

*Lighting candles and saying silent prayers...*

One: Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

**Many:** We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with you beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, you are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.  
Amen.



1 Those hearts that we have trea - sured, those lives that we have shared,  
 2 They still give hope and com - fort, they did not lose the fight,  
 3 From hearts that we have trea - sured, from lives that we have shared,



Those loves that walked be - side us, those friends for whom we've cared,  
 they showed us truth and good - ness, they shine in - to our night.  
 from loves that walked be - side us, from friends for whom we've cared,



Their bless - ing rests up - on us, their life is mem - o - ry,  
 Re - mem - ber days of glad - ness, re - mem - ber time of joy;  
 we've learned to trea - sure kind - ness, we've learned that grace pro vides,



their suf - fer - ing is o - ver, their spir - its are set free.  
 re - mem - ber all the mo - ments that grief can not de - stroy.  
 we've learned to be to - geth - er, we've learned that love a - bides.

## SCRIPTURE:

Luke 6:20-31

Kim Bart

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
 for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
 for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
 for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

## **KIDS QUEST**

Rev. Brian Damrow

## **SERMON**

This Stage We Stand On

Rev. Brian Damrow

## **MESSAGE IN MUSIC**

Bright Morning Stars

arr. Shawn Kirchner  
Chancel Choir; Noah Gartner, baritone

## **MISSION MOMENT**

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Kim Bart

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

## OFFERTORY

Give Thanks for Life

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Nancy M. René

Ryan Cox and AnnLaura Tapia

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days, mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for those whose made their life a light caught from the Christ-flame, bursting  
through the night, Who touched the truth, who burned for what was right, Alleluia, Alleluia

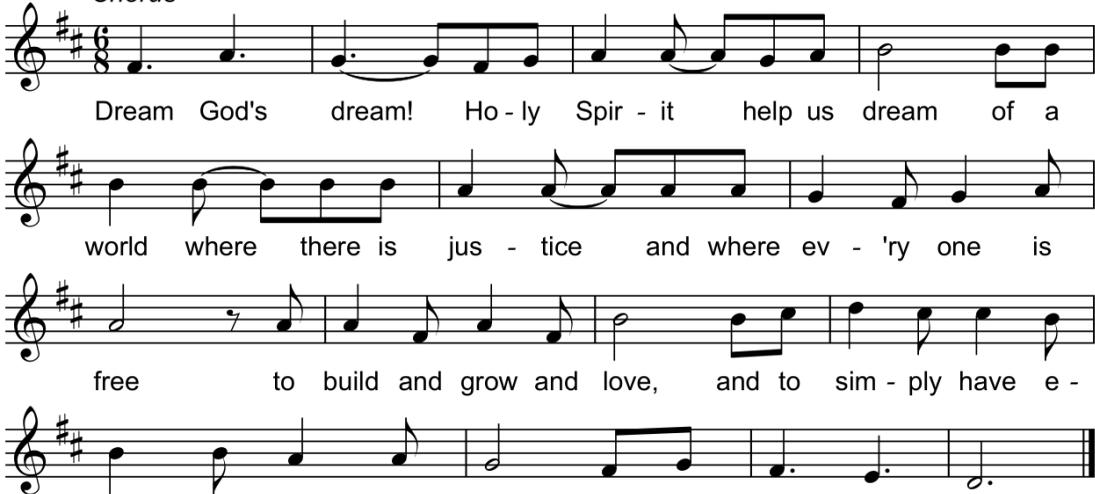
Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain that lies in darkness does its life retain  
In resurrection to grow green again, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Dream God's Dream

Words and Music: Bryan Sirchio

*Chorus*



Dream God's dream! Ho - ly Spir - it help us dream of a  
world where there is jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is  
free to build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -  
nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*UNISON*)

Kim Bart

**God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near to us and far from us; so that one day we may stand amidst the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN BEFORE COMMUNION**

*New Century Hymnal #332*

As We Gather at Your Table

BEACH SPRING

**COMMUNION INVITATION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

Rev. Brian Damrow

Friends, we come to this bittersweet ritual today filled with a bundle of emotions. While our gratitude for this family of faith is plentiful, our spiritual pain still may be suffocating us at five weeks or four months or three years or even two decades after the death of our beloved.

**Our pews are a little lighter. Our homes are quieter. And our hearts know well of the gaping hole resulting from our loss. Even as this void still consumes this day-to-day living, we come here looking for hope that we can find only in you. Through this meal, we connect the past and present together, knowing that generation after generation has come to this table in their joy and grief.**

God, we pray that this feast be one that fills our souls with comfort. Even as winter is growing close and nighttime arrives early, this meal will kindle warmth and light inside our spirits.

May your Holy Spirit bless this bread and cup. May the Spirit bless us as we celebrate at the peaks of life and as we abide in the shadow-filled valleys. May the Spirit bring us the peace that will permeate our grief-coated hearts. And may the Spirit use this time and space to remind us that we are never alone in our difficult spaces.

With his friends, Jesus shared his last communion before death. The group recognized the sacred in their gathering and celebrated their friendship and their community of faith.

One more time, Jesus took the bread and blessed it. In his breaking of the bread, Jesus yearned for them to remember his teachings and their times together. "Whenever you eat this bread, remember me."

One more time, after supper, Jesus took the cup and blessed it as well. In his grasping of the cup, Jesus yearned for his followers to recall their times together. "Whenever you drink of this cup, remember me."

**As we join together as the Blessed Community for this meal, let us remember with gratitude our loved ones who once ate at this table and many other tables with us. While they no longer abide with us here today, help us to recognize that they are a part of the great cloud of witnesses, celebrating eternity with our Creator.**

May this meal be a gift to each of our souls today. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ lives among us.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may remind us of that in ordinary things your love is found in ordinary lives, your grace is known

in ordinary days we can find your presence. Until that day, we lift our prayer to you, using the words recited by all generations, saying:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and to make the powerful care. Grant us the strength to persevere in resisting evil, to proclaim in all we say and do, your good news in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kim Bart

**\*HYMN**

*New Century Hymnal #295*  
I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

GRAND ISLE

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**\*POSTLUDE:**

Fantasy on Sine nomine

Michael Bedford  
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

Reader Leader: Kim Bart

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Wendy Seifert

Audio/Video: Amand Murphy & Dave Watts

Laundry Hero: Julia Cunningham

## *This Week at Church*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11/2</b>	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		11:30 a.m.	Ring & Sing	Room 304
		1:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Set Building	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11/3</b>	11:00 a.m.	Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11/4</b>			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>11/5</b>	6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:15 p.m.	Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11/6</b>	4:15 p.m.	Confirmation Meeting	Zackley Youth Center
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
<b>Friday</b>	<b>11/7</b>	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11/8</b>	9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
		2:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater	Dining Room
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11/9</b>	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		11:15 a.m.	All Teams Meeting	Dining Room
		11:30 a.m.	All Ages Musical Rehearsal	Choir Room
		1:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

## *Gifts of Gratitude*



FCCLG is again partnering with Casa Central to brighten up Christmas for those less fortunate. Watch for sign up instructions next week to select a child and purchase a gift from their wish list.

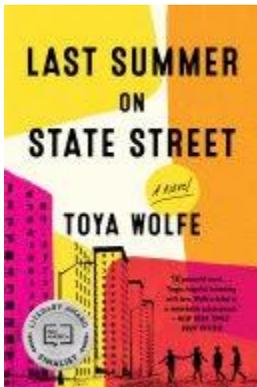
## *Prayer Requests*

- For Jessica McGowan who passed away on September 25<sup>th</sup>, niece of LuAnn Hall. Prayers for Jessica's husband David, son Devon, and daughters Caroline and Nora.
- For Bill and Juanita, family of Nancy Coleman, for strength and healing.
- For Reid Bannecker, brother-in-law of Julia and Kevin Cunningham, who is battling stage four cancer.
- Thank you for your prayers. JoAnne Konkle's brother, Frank's cancer treatment has been a success and he is now cancer free!
- For Joe Lucas, friend of Nancy Coleman, who passed away on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and all who grieve his passing.
- For Church Member, Barb Hultman, prayers for healing while she recovers at home.
- Thank you for the many prayers for Annie Hentzel, granddaughter of Jerry & Petra Palmer! Annie has recovered from her concussion and is back on the volleyball court. God is Good!
- For the family of Roberta Nunez who passed away on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- For Camille (Dave Watt's sister) and Brian Bell.

*If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, please call the main office at (708) 352-0800*

# Announcements

**Nominations for Church Council.** First Congregational church of LaGrange (FCCLG) is now accepting nominations for the roles of **Vice Moderator** and **Member-at-Large** on the Church Council. These are important leadership positions that help guide the direction of our church community. If you feel called to serve—or know someone whose gifts would bless our congregation—please submit your nomination or address any questions to any church council member. Let’s discern together who God is calling to lead this season



**FCCLG Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm.** Our selected book is *Last Summer on State Street* by Toya Wolfe. Described as a striking coming-of-age tale...Toya Wolfe's debut novel is set in the housing projects of Chicago's Robert Taylor Homes in the summer of 1999 in its final days of demolition. The author grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes during this time. The story follows four girls as they navigate the challenges of their community and personal relationships. The book delves into themes of friendship, resilience, and the impact of systemic issues on individual lives. One reviewer described *Last Summer on State*

*Street* as a work to transform public understanding of Chicago, its history, and its people. Book Club meets virtually via Zoom. All readers are welcome! For a Zoom invitation or with any questions, please email Kathy Donaldson ([kathygdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto:kathygdonaldson@gmail.com))

**All Teams Meeting Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:15am.** All members of ministry teams should plan to attend the meeting after service, in the Dining Room.

**Deck the Sanctuary:** It is almost Advent which means it’s time to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for the season. The ‘Hanging of the Greens’ will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am. There are tasks for the strong and limber as well as the as the detail-oriented who may prefer to sit. Thank you for your help in advance!

**Galaxy Theater Company Presents “Steel Magnolias”** performances will be held November 13<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30pm and and Sundays at 2pm. All performances are at FCCLG. Tickets are \$20 for adults/ \$17 for Seniors & Students (No children under 8 please). Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at <https://our.show/gtcsteel>



12 NOVEMBER

# HARVEST HOME Dinner

6:30PM in the Founders' Room

Bring your family and  
friends to enjoy a  
traditional turkey dinner  
complete with pumpkin pie!

TICKETS: \$12 ADULTS/  
\$7 AGES 4-12/ AGES 3 AND  
UNDER ARE FREE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT  
COFFEE HOUR THROUGH NOV. 9TH  
ALONG WITH VOLUNTEER SIGN  
UP LIST.

# FCCLG Leadership in 2025

<b>Council:</b>		
Moderator of Council	Tom Lowry	moderator@fcclg.org
Past Moderator	Nancy Coleman	
Vice Moderator	Kent Llewellyn	
Clerk	Sherri Ries	
Treasurer	Amanda Ries	treasurer@fcclg.org
Members At Large	Kevin Cunningham (yr 3/3) Noah Gartner (yr 2/3)	
Transitional Pastor	Rev. Brian Damrow	pastor@fcclg.org
<b>Ministries:</b>		
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Johnston	
Communications (social media)	Amanda Murphy	
Communications (Broadcasting)	John Hoo Lizza Obeng	Amanda Murphy David Watts
Faith Formation	Jerry Palmer (Adult Ed) Amanda Ries (Sunday School)	
Membership	Petra Hentzel* Janet Sampson	Sherri Ries Faith Ullrich
Missions	Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak Kathy Donaldson* Jim Marciniak	Michelle Meuer Wendy Seifert
Nurture	Betsy Colombe * Amy Crumrine LuAnn Hall Angela Harrison	Sue Hoffman Sandra Kappmeyer Amanda Ries
Personnel	Noah Gartner LaShinda C. John	Jill Tobin*
Property	Peter Blais Dick Lauterbach Dave Ries	Mike Ries* Erik Sander Dave Watts
Stewardship	Ellen Hamilton Kent Llewellyn Tom Lowry	Susan Lynch Jean O'Brien Mike Ries
Worship	Bob Klestil	
	*Team Contact	

Ministers  
 Music Director  
 Organist  
 Office Administrator  
 Events & Building Coordinator

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All of Us  
 Ryan Cox  
 AnnLaura Tapia  
 Tammy Bauer  
 Jamie Dougherty

**November 2, 2025**

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 19:1-10

There's a church school song sung throughout the generations teaching children about Zacchaeus, "a wee little man" who wanted to see Jesus amid the crowds towering over him that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse.

As the song goes, while in the tree, Jesus spots the tax collector and shouts, "Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm going to your house today."

And Jesus did just that. He dined with Zacchaeus. It was a transformative meal because Zacchaeus, honored to host such a great guest, opened his heart — and coin bag — and vowed to share his wealth with others.

While Jesus was pleased, others were not.

We have all been where Zacchaeus was. No, not precariously straddling tree limbs to see Jesus. We have been in the place where others might not think we deserve redemption, forgiveness, or even that holy second chance.

Why is it that we often begrudge others of God's grace?

While I can't think of who might not have been happy with my second chances in life, I can vividly remember the times I have been in the crowd wondering why the Lord noticed someone like Zacchaeus.

Did my eyes roll with the others? Did I join in the disparaging whispers? I should have been rejoicing that if Zacchaeus could change, so could I. For the Lord sees me — and you.

That day, Jesus saw into the heart of Zacchaeus when others couldn't. He knew this "wee little man" wanted to grow spiritually, as witnessed in the tree he scurried into — a sycamore.

In Israel, the sycamore tree symbolizes spiritual elevation. It represents the willingness to change. Zacchaeus was willing to change that day.

What about us? How badly do we want to see the Lord? Would we be willing to climb the branches of change, hoist ourselves up on the limbs of spiritual elevation, and feel the bark of renewal?

The good news is we don't have to find a tree to climb. Jesus has already spotted us, and he knows the goodness that is in our hearts.

Mission Moments tell a story about our congregation's connection with the United Church of Christ. You make possible these ministries through our gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission in our Annual Budget. For more information visit [https:// www.ucc.org](https://www.ucc.org)

