

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LAGRANGE

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

S. LAGRANGE RD AT COSSITT AVE.
100 S. Sixth Ave.
LAGRANGE, IL

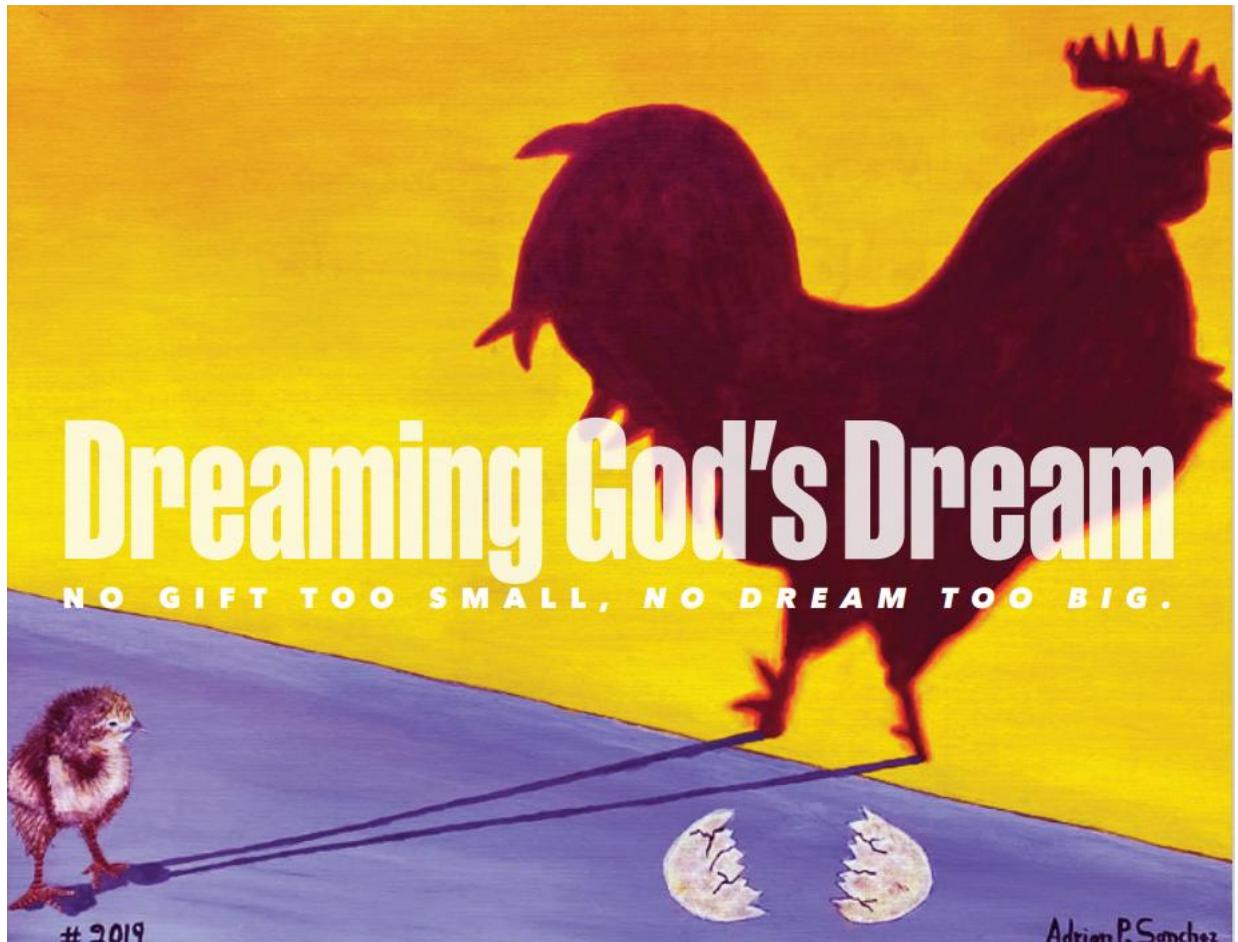
mainoffice@FCCLG.org
www.FCCLG.org
708.352.0800

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2025

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.*



PRELUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Kevin McChesney
Handbells

WELCOME

Sherri Ries

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sherri Ries

One: God invites us

Many: To be a people of generosity.

One: God shows us

Many: That there is enough.

One: God invites us

Many: To remember our blessings.

One: God wants us

Many: To build a legacy of love.

One: God is Still Speaking

Many: Calling us to join into Dreaming God's Dream.

***GATHERING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #562

Take My Gifts

TALAVERA TERRACE

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (*unison*)**

Sherri Ries

Holy God, we admit that we think we know how your story of faith will play out. We think we know how many seeds we have and what growth they will produce. We are discouraged that we don't have more, and we doubt your faithfulness to us. Transform us and remind us that your gifts are always good, no matter their size, and that no dream is too small to change the world. Amen

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you. May the love of Christ dwell
 deep in your heart. May the Spir - it en - light - en your
 way. May you walk in the com-fort of God's care.

SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Sherri Ries

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
 his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

Dreaming Big

Rev. Brian Damrow

***MESSAGE IN MUSIC**

Let Us Not Become Weary

Benjamin Kornelis
Chancel Choir and piano

Let us not become weary, weary in doing good,
For at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Brian Damrow

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Rev. Brian Damrow

**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.**

MISSION MOMENT Casa Central
Social Justice

Maggie Shiflett
Dick Lauterbach

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Place your gift in the offering plate
or
Text your gift to
708-688-5486
or

Sherri Ries



or go to
<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

God, we honor you. God, we trust in you.
 God, we worship and adore you.
 Take what we bring, offered to you.
 Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE (UNISON)** 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)**

Sherri Ries

Gracious God, we thank you that your creation provides all that we need for growth. Bless these seeds that we have offered, so that they might grow into ministries that bless others. Expand the reach of our gifts, so that they can realize your dreams for us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sherri Ries

1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,

to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of-fer-ing that all may tru-ly live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a-long life's way.

so we to-day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
 The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ your Son,

of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
 help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE Ach bleib mit deiner Gnade (Ah, abide with your grace) Johann Gottfried Walther
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Sherri Ries

Usher: Lawrence Bain & Faith Ullrich

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jill Tobin & Lexie Carther

Audio/Video: John Hoo & Amanda Murphy

Laundry Hero: Sherri Ries

Gifts of Gratitude



FCCLG is again partnering with Casa Central to provide Christmas gifts to children in their early childhood programs. To select a child to purchase a gift for, scan the QR code below or go to our sign up:

<https://signup.com/go/OJCJGW>

Gift instructions: Please wrap your gift or use a gift bag. Securely attach to the gift, with tape, a tag with the child's name and a brief description of the gift (for example: Toy, clothes, book). Drop off the gift in the sanctuary on or before December 7th. Suggested price range: \$30-\$35. If you prefer not to sign up online, contact the office and we can help you select a recipient.



Prayer Requests

- 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 15th, 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 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

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



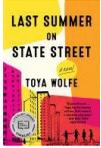
All-Ages Christmas Musical Rehearsal starts today! All singers K-adult *not* in the Chancel Choir are invited to the choir room at 11:30am. Those interested in playing handbells, another instrument or helping in other ways can contact ryan@fcclg.org

November 23rd Consecration Sunday and Potluck. Please plan to join us after service in the Founder's Room for a potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite crockpot or casserole creation, salad, or dessert to share! Drop off items in the Founders Room before service. Contact the office with any questions.



Advent Readers Needed. For each week of advent, we are looking for 2-4 readers during the candle lighting. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Founders Room, if you are interested and available to read a brief passage.

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.

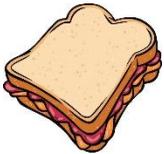


FCCLG Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm. Our selected book is *Last Summer on State Street* by Toya Wolfe. Book Club meets virtually via Zoom. All readers are welcome! For a Zoom invitation or with any questions, please email Kathy Donaldson kathygdonaldson@gmail.com

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 23rd at 11am. There are tasks for the strong and limber as well as the detail-oriented who may prefer to sit. Thank you for your help in advance!



Sandwich Sunday for BEDS Plus – November 16th. The Ministry of Missions is once again organizing a sandwich-making get-together, and we hope that you will join us! Come to the dining room after service to prepare a variety of sandwiches for clients of BEDS Plus—we'll provide all the fixins'. Through the various outreach services provided by BEDS Plus, over 100 sandwiches are distributed daily, so our help is much needed and appreciated! *Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of sandwich ingredients.* Contact any Missions Team member with any questions.



NOVEMBER 12, 2025

HARVEST HOME DINNER

6:30 PM FOUNDERS' ROOM

You are cordially invited to our annual Harvest Home dinner. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner complete with pumpkin pie! See you there!

Tickets: \$12 Adults; \$7 Children 4-12
Age 3 and under are FREE. Tickets available at coffee hour through Nov. 9th along with volunteers sign-up list.

This Week at Church

Sunday	11/9	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		11:15 a.m.	Ministry Teams Meeting	Dining Room
		11:30 a.m.	All-Ages Musical Rehearsal	Choir Room
		2:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Set Building	Dining Room
Monday	11/10	7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		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
Tuesday	11/11	7:00 p.m.	Hooks and Needles	Chapel Family Room
		7:30 p.m.	Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Wednesday	11/12	6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
Thursday	11/13	6:30 p.m.	Harvest Home Dinner	Founders Room
		4:15 p.m.	Confirmation Meeting	Zackley Youth Center
Friday	11/14	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
		9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		10:00 a.m.	Spiritual Directors	Dining Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	11/15	9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	11/16	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		11:30 a.m.	All-Ages Musical Rehearsal	Choir Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

FCCLG Leadership in 2025

Council:		
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
Ministries:		
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Johnston	
Communications (social media)	Amanda Murphy	
Communications (Broadcasting)	John Hoo Lizza Obeng	Amanda Murphy David Watts
Education	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 Susan Lynch	Jean O'Brien Mike Ries
Worship	Lawrence Bain Lexie Carther	Bob Klestil*
	*Team Contact	

Ministers
 Music Director
 Organist
 Office Administrator
 Events & Building Coordinator

www.fcclg.org
Ryan@fcclg.org
AnnLaura@fcclg.org
MainOffice@fcclg.org
Events@fcclg.org

All of Us
 Ryan Cox
 AnnLaura Tapia
 Tammy Bauer
 Jamie Dougherty

November 9, 2025

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Have you ever fallen ill with FoMo? I haven't, but I do know friends who came down with a severe case of it and it wasn't pretty.

FoMo stands for "Fear Of Missing Out." The term entered our vocabularies sometime around 2004 just as social media was taking off. As more people scrolled the Internet incessantly, watching videos of other people's exotic trips, perfect family picnics, and swanky restaurant reviews, the sense of missing out on life grew.

While the ancient church in Thessalonica didn't have Facebook or Instagram, the people were still coming down with FoMo. Well, more like FoMo's earlier strain that we will call FoMJC — Fear of Missing Jesus Christ.

False prophets were coming out of the woodwork spreading rumors that the much-anticipated return of Jesus had already happened. Because of this fake news, the Apostle Paul had to write a letter to the dear people in the Thessalonica church to ease their angst of being left out of something amazing.

After assuring the congregation that the Lord had not yet come back, Paul advises them to stand firm in their faith and hold fast to the teachings of Christ that they were taught. He even chides them a little with his reprimand, "Don't you remember what I told you?"

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Thessalonians. I know how easy it is to believe fake news. One click bait headline is all it takes to get caught in a tangle web of misinformation. And anyone who has fallen down the soul-sucking black hole of social media knows that FoMo is highly contagious with those happy faces staring back at you, living the life you wish you had, infecting the sacredness of all God has indeed blessed you with.

Now more than ever, the faithful need to reread Paul's letter. We need to hold fast to our faith and remember all that we were taught about God's ways and God's truths.

There will always be false prophets. There will always be click bait headlines. There will always be that one friend who posts about a picture-perfect life. The world today will do its best to make you think you are missing out on something fun or important. But you aren't. For we who live in Christ are not missing anything at all. We who hold on to God's Word and choose to walk the Jesus way will get to see and experience the beauty and grace that are in this world.

Let the false prophets talk gibberish. Let social media influencers ramble on about their latest adventures. You my friend, have something better. You have your faith. Hold on to it. And remember, there is no FoMo with God by your side.

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)

