

# 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](mailto:mainoffice@FCCLG.org)

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

708.352.0800

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

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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**

Hyfrydol

Charles Callahan  
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

**WELCOME**

Sherri Ries

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP WITH SONG**      *New Century Hymnal #570*

*We Shall Overcome*

**WE SHALL OVERCOME**

Brian Damrow

Pastor: It is good to be here in this sacred space,

**All: In the shelter of God's love and hope.**

Pastor: It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,

**All: Joining with all of God's beloved, siblings of Jesus.**

Pastor: It is good to be here, where we can hear God's voice,

**All: Calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit's presence.**

**-All Sing:**

***We Shall Overcome, verse 2***



Descant

5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your  
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your  
 3 Ful - fil - ler of the past and  
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we  
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet

we may not re - main; but, since you bid us

glo - ry fills the night; your face and gar - ments,  
 beau - ty to be - hold, where Mo - ses and E -  
 hope of things to be, we hail your bod - y  
 see your king - dom come: we long to hold the  
 we may not re - main; but, since you bid us

leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
 li - jah stand, your mes - sengers of old.  
 glo - ri - fied, and our re - demp - tion see!  
 vi - sion bright and make this hill our homel  
 leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

**Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness, Sheltering God, and so we make all the wrong choices. We let fancy philosophies draw us away from your grace. The flowery words of politicians can lead us into valleys of worry and despair. Our fears can convince us that those around us are conspiring against us. You can take all our foolishness, Creative God, and make us wise enough to see you among us. You take the shards of our broken lives to recast us into a faithful people. You speak gently to us, so we can listen to your dreams of our seeing each person as your beloved, even as Jesus Christ, sees us through such eyes. AMEN.**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Pastor Brain

We welcome forward those who have decided to join with us as members of First Congregational Church LaGrange, United Church of Christ:

Dear friends, today we rejoice in your journey of faith that has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks to every community of faith that has been your spiritual home in the past, and the spiritual mentors who have guided you on your way. We celebrate your presence today in this household of faith, where we are seekers and servants, growing in God's transforming love.

**OUR COVENANT TOGETHER:**

We ask you now to join in mutual covenant with us, and with the church universal in all times and places, by affirming the following:

Pastor: Do you seek to grow in God's transforming love, as you follow in the Way of Jesus?

New Member: **I will, with the help of God**

Pastor: Are you open to the movement of the Spirit in your life?

New Member: **I am.**

Pastor: Will you join with us as a church, as we seek follow God's direction in our midst? Will you welcome and respect each person's freedom to interpret God's Truth, as God gives them each light and wisdom?

New Member: **I will, with God's help.**

Sherry Ries: Will you participate in the life and mission of this diverse and inclusive community of God's people, praying and working with us in ministry together? Will you share regularly with us in the worship of God and financial support of our ministries? Will you offer your talents to our work, as the Spirit leads us to serve the community and the world?

New Member: **I will, with God's help.**

**Congregation: We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God's transforming love. We give thanks that you join us now, as fellow seekers and servants!**

**BLESSING PRAYER (UNISON)**

Pastor Brian

**O God, we praise you for calling us to both seek and serve you, and for gathering us into this church. Together may we grow in your Spirit, building one another up in love and ministering to the world as followers of Jesus. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Matthew 17:1-9

Sherry Ries

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

**KIDS QUEST**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**SERMON**

To Be Transformed

Rev. Brian Damrow

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**MESSAGE IN MUSIC**

I Shall See

Michael John Trotta

Chancel Choir; Amanda Murphy, soprano

Teach me your way; lead me in a straight path.  
One thing I seek, I seek to dwell in your house.

Your face I seek, hide not from me.  
You are my light, whom should I fear?

In times of trouble he shall hide me.  
I will not fear. He is my strength.

I believe I shall see all of your good in the land of the living.  
Wait upon him, and he will strengthen you.

Wait for him, he is your strength.  
I will not fear. He is my strength.

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

**OFFERTORY**

Keep God's Light

Mark Patterson

Chancel Choir; Peter Van Kempen, djembe

Refrain: Keep God's light before you; Keep God's truth beside you;  
Keep God's hope to guide you everywhere you go.

Keep God's peace within you; Feel God's strength defend you;  
Let God's love begin to fill your thirsty soul.

Hold on in times of sorrow; hold on through days of despair;  
Even in the darkest valley God will always be there. [Refrain]

Look now to days of gladness: God's light still shines the way.  
Never fading never failing, teaching us as we pray, we pray. [Refrain]

Hold on, hold on; God will show you the way.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (UNISON)** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDRETH

Musical score for the Offertory Response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be low; Praise God for all that love has done; Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it One. A-men."

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

Sherri Ries

Let us not keep our treasures stored in the mountaintops of our fears of how others might use them but pour them out so they might be used to transform all those who find themselves in the valleys of hunger, of loss, of loneliness, and of injustice. This we ask in the name of your Beloved. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sherri Ries

**\*HYMN**

*New Century Hymnal #182*

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

HYFRYDOL

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**POSTLUDE**

Alleluia Toccata

Fenton Groden  
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Gail Allinson

Our new FCCLG Member

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*Check out our new website!  
Same address: [fcclg.org](http://fcclg.org)  
New Look!*

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**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

Reader Leader: Sherri Ries

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Social Justice Team

Audio/Video: John Hoo & Lizza Obeng

Laundry Hero: Kathy Donaldson

*Prayer Requests*

- For 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.
- For Church Member, Barbara Hultman, prayers for healing while she recovers at home.
- For Camille (Dave Watt's sister) and Brian Bell.
- For church member Larry Adkison, prayers for healing.
- For church member Stephanie Johnston who is recovering from an injury.

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

## *This Week at Church*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2/15</b>	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship Welcome of New Members	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:30 a.m.	Ring and Sing	Room 304
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2/16</b>	7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		12:00 p.m.	Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2/17</b>	6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2/18</b>	6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting	Drawing Room
		7:30 p.m.	Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2/19</b>	4:15 p.m.	Confirmation Class	Zackley Youth Center
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2/20</b>	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
		5:00 p.m.	Private Event	Drawing Room
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	Church Council Retreat	Drawing Room
		9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2/22</b>	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m.	Social Justice meeting	Drawing Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room



**Save the Date:** You're invited to walk with FCCLG in the 2026 Pet Parade! We'll be grooving through the decades with a 1960's theme. Please hold the morning of **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**, on your calendar and help us fill the streets with good vibes! Friendly furry friends are, of course, welcome to join.

# *Announcements*

**Calling all adults. We will be starting a new adult education series on Friday, February 13 via ZOOM at 3:30 PM.** We will be reading and discussing the book How We Learn To Be Brave, Decisive Moments in Life and Faith, by Mariann Edgar Budde the Episcopal Bishop of Washington DC. Please consider becoming part of our discussion group. If interested email your email address to Jerry Palmer at [palmjer@comcast.net](mailto:palmjer@comcast.net) or text it to (708) 408-9243. We would be happy to welcome you.

**FCCLG Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30 pm via zoom.** Our selected book is the Frozen River, by Ariel Lawhon, a historical fiction mystery set in 1789 Maine, centered on midwife Martha Ballard. The story uses her actual meticulous diary entries as a foundation for a fictionalized murder investigation. Following the discovery of a man's body in the frozen Kennebeck River- who was accused of rape-Martha investigates the murder while fighting against a dismissive, male dominate community to secure justice for victims. All readers are welcome! Contact Kathy Donaldson [kathygdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto:kathygdonaldson@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation or with any questions.

**A Heartfelt Thank you from Second Baptist Church of LaGrange!** A huge thank you to everyone who generously donated to our December Food Drive supporting clients of the Second Baptist Food Pantry. Because of you, we were able to provide three carloads of groceries to the pantry. We received a lovely thank you note from Regina McClinton who runs the Panty. Regina explained that many of their clients are food insecure and struggle to feed their families. Your kindness made a tangible difference to those in need.

**Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)** is the way our congregation participates in the ministry of the wider United Church of Christ — supporting vital work **in the Illinois Conference and across the globe.**

Through OCWM, local churches like ours empower:

- **Leadership support and care** for clergy and congregations across Illinois
- **Resources and training** that strengthen churches in times of change
- **Justice and compassion ministries** serving communities in need
- **National and global mission work**, including disaster relief, refugee support, and long-term community development

Every gift to OCWM helps extend Christ's love far beyond our own walls — strengthening the church, equipping leaders, and supporting ministries of compassion, justice, and welcome throughout the world.

**Thank you for giving generously to this wider mission we share.**

**February 15, 2026**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**Matthew 17:1-9**

The setting sun cast a warm glow against the wooden beams of the Vermont barn where my wedding reception was being held. As candles flickered on the tables, the music for the father daughter dance began playing. My father's eyes glistened when he realized the song chosen for our twirl on the dance floor was from "The Sound of Music." The movie had always been a favorite in our family as Julia Andrews traipsing through the Alps always tugged at my father's Swiss heart.

*Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until you find your dream.*

In the movie, Mother Superior sings this to young Maria — played by Julia Andrews — who is struggling with God's call in her life. The older nun reminds Maria that following God will always mean going in surprising directions. There will be struggles, doubts and tears. But search the high and low, Mother Superior says. Follow the dream that will indeed require "all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live."

The season of Lent is upon us, but before we trudge along with Jesus on the way to the cross, we find ourselves having a mountaintop experience. It is here we join Jesus who takes two of his followers to witness divine glory. Jesus is transfigured in dazzling light and the pillars of the faith, Moses and Elijah, stand with him. Jesus' friends are in awe.

It is an amazing moment meant to renew us for the journey ahead, bolstering our waning faith. But we are not meant to stay on the mountain forever. There is life to be experienced. There are mountains to climb, streams to ford, and rainbows to follow.

I chose this song for my dance with my father because I got married later in life. I was at the point where I thought saying "I do" would never come from my lips. Yet through my setbacks my father would always encourage me to hang on to faith. Follow your dream. Don't give up.

Lent is beginning. Take one last look at the dazzling glory from your mountaintop view. Now grab hold of God's hand and make your way back down into the world. Give your hopes, dreams and desires to God. As you do, make sure to give them all the love they will need for as long as you live.

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)

