

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 APRIL 19, 2026

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

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

Before the Dawn

Jason W. Krug

Youth Handbell Choir and AnnLaura Tapia, piano

WELCOME

Tom Lowry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Lowry

One: Lift your voices to God.

Many: **We call on the One who promises to hear us.**

One: In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

Many: **When every day seems the same, with no one listening to our dreams, our hopes, our fears and worries, you pause, God our Maker, turning your head so you can read our lips.**

One: When every road seems the same, filled with despair's potholes, littered with pain's detritus, you come alongside us, God our Lover, pointing out that side road that will take us to Abba's Fine Eats.

Many: When every step trips us up, when every loss weighs us down, when every grief breaks our heart, you come, God our Keeper, with your book of grace filled with easy words and lots of pictures to teach us hope.

One: When everyone ignores us, when everything disappoints us, you walk with us, you talk with us, you refuse to abandon us, God in Community, Holy in One, so hear us as we pray as we are taught,

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.

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #251
I Greet You, Sure Redeemer
verses 1-3

TOULON

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Tom Lowry

O Healing God, sometimes we are so busy talking with each other that we forget to find you beside us. We walk on, so focused on our questions that we do not make quiet spaces which would allow you to speak with us and see you on the journey with us. Help us to learn to be quiet to think about where Jesus has been on the journey with us. Stay with us, and reach out towards us and invite us to stop and meet with you. As we look at our lives and that of the world around us, we are sometimes too nervous to share our real questions and fears in this time of world chaos. Let's be quiet and think about our questions and your presence with all humanity. Stay with us, God of all Creation. Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you. So, we can learn the art of transforming our hearts and our world in your image. Amen.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



1 We meet you, O Christ, in man - y a guise; your im - age we
 2 In mil - lions a - live, a - way and a - broad; in - volved in our
 3 In hu - man dis - tress we still hear you cry; for free - dom you
 4 You choose to be made at one with the earth; the dark of the



see in sim - ple and wise. You live in a pal - ace, ex -
 life, you live down the road. Im - pris - oned in sys - tems, you
 march, in ri - ots you die. Your face in the pa - pers we
 grave pre - pares for your birth. Your death is your ris - ing, cre -



ist in a shack; we see you, the gar - dener, a tree on your back.
 long to be free; we see you, O Je - sus, still bear - ing your tree.
 read and we see. The tree must be plant - ed by hu - man de - cree.
 a - tive your word; the tree springs to life and our hope is re - stored.

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Tom Lowry

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



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

OFFERTORY

Sweet Music

arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar
Chancel Choir and handbells

Refrain: In this band we have sweet music, in this band we have sweet music,
in this band we have sweet music, Jesus Christ is risen.

Go tell Mary and Martha, go tell Mary and Martha,
go tell Mary and Martha, Jesus Christ is risen. [refrain]

Go tell everybody, go tell everybody,
go tell everybody Jesus Christ is risen [refrain]

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE (UNISON)**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea- tures here be-
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God for all that love has
done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - a! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Tom Lowry

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Lowry

***HYMN**

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

HOLY MANNA



1 Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is liv - ing still,
2 We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney of the day,
3 Ri - sen one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the night is near.



one who now is clo - ser to us than the thoughts our hearts dis - till,
and have told him of the vi - o - lence that has swept our hope a - way.
Dine with us and share your wis - dom, free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear.



Christ who once up - on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,
He has of - fered words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.
In the calm of each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,



died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!
Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this night?
if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Wilbur Held
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Tom Lowry

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Kathy and Mike Donaldson

Audio/Video: John Hoo & David Watts

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 in hospice.
- 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.
- For Wyatt, nephew of Jean O'Brien's friend, that God will show him a path.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	4/19	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
Monday	4/20	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
Tuesday	4/21	6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
		5:00 p.m.	Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	4/22	6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting	Zoom
		7:30 p.m.	Carillon Handbells	Room 305
Thursday	4/23	4:15 p.m.	Confirmation Class	Zackley Room
		6:00 p.m.	Galaxy Theater Rehearsal	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	4/24	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom

Saturday	4/25	9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	4/26	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
		11:30 a.m.	Ring and Sing	Room 304
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

Upcoming Sundays at First Congregational

April 26: Confirmation Class of 2026 Worship Service
Sermon: “The Formation Protocol”

May 3: An Eco-Faith Sunday service done in Jazz
Sermon: “She Cries to be Free”

May 10: Mother’s Day – bring the women who have raised and supported you
Sermon: “The Feminine Tone”

May 17: Confirmation Sunday
Sermon: “Journey Over Destination”

May 24: Pentecost Sunday
Sermon: “To Be the Church”



UCC Pride Pins: Please pick up a rainbow or Pride comma lapel pin from the baskets in the Founders Room, and show your support of the LGBTQ community, United Church of Christ, and “God is Still Speaking.” There is a suggested donation of \$5.

‘Sunday Take Away’ videos: Amanda Murphy will be looking for volunteers for one minute or less ‘Sunday Take Away’ videos for social media. Participants will be asked during coffee hour what they took from the day’s scripture lesson, or from a particular verse. If you’re interested in sharing faith based reflections as part of outreach and formation, let her know!

Friends of Music: We are fortunate to have a vibrant music program with volunteers as the cornerstone. Augmenting our volunteers with guest musicians for special services is made possible through the Friends of Music fund. Choral Sermons, Easter and Christmas Eve musicians, Jazz Sunday and other special services would not be possible without these gifts. This year's donations will also help sponsor a concert on June 7. Brochures are available or you may donate online.

HYGIENE KITS



Hygiene Kits: Please join us today during Coffee Hour as we assemble personal hygiene kits for the individuals and families served by our Saturday Meals program.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity in donating hygiene items. Because of your support individuals and families in need will have access to hygiene products that most of us take for granted. We are no longer collecting items, but you can still help by making a monetary gift. Cash donations will help cover the cost of specific items purchased to complete 75 kits. You can give cash to any member of the Missions team, write a check and note "Missions" on the check, or make an online gift.

Sandwich Sunday for BEDS Plus on May 3rd: Please join us in the dining room after service on May 3rd to prepare a variety of sandwiches for clients of BEDS Plus. Through the various outreach services provided by BEDS Plus, over 100 sandwiches are distributed daily, so our help is much needed and appreciated. The Ministry of Missions will provide all the fixins. Cash donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the sandwich ingredients, or you can donate online through the church website by giving to "ACH Unpledged Contributions" and adding "Sandwich Sunday" in the comments field. Contact any Missions Team member with questions. Thank you!



Lawnmowing Volunteers: The lawnmowing schedule currently has 3 spots open for a volunteer to help: May 2, May 30, and June 27. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet in the Founders Room, or look on our SignUp.com page. If you have any questions, please contact the office: mainoffice@fcclg.org.

Meditative Prayer Ministry: At FCCLG, we gather on Tuesday evenings to quiet our minds and listen for God's presence within. We meet in the Beatitudes Chapel (the 6th Avenue Entrance will be open) from 5–7 pm on most Tuesdays. This is an open, welcoming space for prayerful reflection and calm. No experience is needed, and you don't need to attend every week - or attend for a set period of time - come whenever you are able and stay for as long as you like. All are welcome.



Pet Parade: Represent FCCLG in this year's Annual Pet Parade on Saturday, May 30. The theme this year is decades, and ours is the 60's. Join us to walk the 1.5 mile route. (Wacky Walkers – this means you!) We're also looking for financial donations for swag to pass out to spectators, and for a banner to carry. Please note "Pet Parade" on your donation envelope or online donation.



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY
**09
24
26**
6 PM

 **COMMUNITY ASSISTED RIDES**

FALL BENEFIT

Drury Lane - Oakbrook Terrace

First Congregational Church
of Western Springs

HUGE 2-DAY RUMMAGE SALE

Tue & Wed, April 28 & 29
5:30-8pm (1/2 price & bag sale Wed)

1106 Chestnut St., Western Springs

 **DONATE YOUR RUMMAGE**
In church parking lot on April 25 & 26

 **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME (& SHOP EARLY)**
*Help is needed from April 24-April 30
Advanced online sign-up is helpful but not required.*

 **SHOP YOUR HEART OUT, RAIN OR SHINE**

All profits go to charity.
Seeing is believing!
Learn more/sign up at wscongo.org.




FCCLG Leadership in 2026

Council:			
Moderator of Council	Kent Llewellyn	moderator@fcclg.org	
Past Moderator	Tom Lowry		
Vice Moderator	Patrick John		
Clerk	Sherrri Ries		
Treasurer	Amanda Ries	treasurer@fcclg.org	
Members At Large	Noah Gartner (yr 3/3) Kaki Lynch (yr1/3)		
Transitional Pastor	Rev. Brian Damrow	pastor@fcclg.org	
Ministries:			
Volunteer Coordinator	Stephanie Johnston		
Broadcasting	John Hoo Lizza Obeng	Amanda Murphy David Watts	
Faith Formation	Jerry Palmer (Adult Ed)	Amanda Ries (Sunday School)	
Green Team	Laurie Braun Claudia Byrne	Mary Ann Daniels Diane Kasnick	Dawn Mackie
Membership	Petra Hentzel* Janet Sampson	Sherrri 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	Open	Open	Open
Property	Dick Lauterbach Dave Ries	Mike Ries* Erik Sander	Dave Watts
Social Justice	Laurie Braun	Kathy Donaldson	
Social Media	Amanda Murphy		
Stewardship	Ellen Hamilton Kent Llewellyn	Tom Lowry Susan Lynch	Jean O'Brien Mike Ries
Worship	Lawrence Bain Lexie Carther	Bob Klestil*	
	*Team Contact		

Ministers
 Music Director
 Office Administrator
 Events & Building Coordinator
 Financial Coordinator

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

All of Us
 Ryan Cox
 AnnLaura Tapia
 Jamie Dougherty
 Tammy Bauer

Breaking Bread

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Dear readers, I have some Eastertide questions for you. Consider this your Risen Lord check in. First, where have you recently seen the Risen Lord on your path? Second, what have been the conversations that left you feeling as if you were in the presence of the divine? Third, when did your heart burn with the truth of the Gospel fully awakening your senses?

Finally, when was the last time you ripped into a warm, soft loaf of bread and, before slathering a piece with butter, paused and imagined the Lord with you in that breaking of the bread?

I have always been enamored with the resurrection encounter of the travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was walking with them until he later joined them for a meal. Luke's Gospel tells us that after Jesus blessed and broke the loaf, the travelers' eyes were opened, and they recognized him for who he was: The Risen Lord.

And so, every opportunity I have I will take a loaf of bread and share not only the yeasty goodness with friends, but I will ask them to join me in realizing that in this ordinary act we are experiencing something extraordinary. We are being given an opportunity for fellowship with not just one another but with Jesus our Lord.

Perhaps this ritual of mine was born out of the slow food movement that originated in Italy in the 1980s. It was a call to take time to thoughtfully and lovingly prepare a meal rather than nuking something quick to eat. Slow down to savor the food before you, because it is only when we are fully present that we can see all that we should be grateful for.

Yes, breaking bread is an everyday sacred occurrence in my home where I slow down to be fully present to my Risen Lord. Coincidentally, during the slow food movement of the 1980's, Michael Philip Ward wrote a song called, "In the Breaking of the Bread."

Based on the Emmaus encounter, the lyrics beautifully go beyond the bread breaking, reminding us that opportunities to see the Risen Lord are all around: *In the walking on the road, we saw Him. In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him. In the burning of our hearts, we saw Him. In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him. Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive.*

May this day your eyes suddenly open to the truth that Jesus is with you in every step you take and in every prayerful moment you make.

Sustaining and bounteous God, we thank You for the Bread of Life, our Risen Lord, who walks alongside us on our Emmaus Roads, always listening to our questions, our fears and our doubts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)

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)

