

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

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www.FCCLG.org
708.352.0800

SUNDAY MAY 31, 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

Variations on Leoni

Len D. Bobo
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Angela Harrison

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Angela Harrison

One: Brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God is moving among us, just as on the day of Pentecost.

Many: We come with open hearts, ready to hear and respond to God's Word.

One: In the early church, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Many: We gather now to learn, to share, to be nourished, and to lift our voices in prayer.

One: They were filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were done among them.

Many: We come expecting God's presence and power to be at work in our midst.

One: They shared all things in common, cared for one another, and praised God with glad and generous hearts.

Many: We come to worship with joy, to give thanks, and to live as one body in Christ.

One: Day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Many: Today, we join the great story of God's people, worshiping the One who gives life and builds His church. Come, Holy Spirit—fill us, unite us, and send us out to be Your witnesses in the world!

*OPENING HYMN

O Breath of Life

ST. CLEMENT

1. O Breath of Life, come sweep - ing through us,
2. O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
3. O Breath of Love, come, breathe with - in us,

re - vive your church with life and power.
till hum - bly we con - fess our need.
re - new - ing thought and will and heart.

O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, re - new us,
Then in your ten - der - ness re - make us;
Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to win us;

and fit your church to meet this hour.
re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.
re - vive your church in ev - ery part.

Loving Creator, we come before You with hearts open, longing to be shaped by Your Spirit. Just as the early believers were filled with awe at the wonders You performed, we ask that You awaken in us that same holy reverence. Let our lives be living testimonies of Your power and grace. Guide our transformation and knit us together in deep, authentic fellowship. Remove the walls of pride, fear, and self-interest, and replace them with humility, compassion, and generosity. Teach us to share not only our resources but also our time, our burdens, and our joys—so that no one among us is left in need. Transform us from the inside out. Shape our character, deepen our faith, and expand our love. Let awe, generosity, joy, and praise be the marks of our lives, so that the world may see and glorify You. In the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 2:37-47

Angela Harrison

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

God Says It's Time Words and Music: Brian Sirchio

It's time to cel - e-brate the love of God, it's
 time for us_ to get bu - sy... Get bu-sy with the things that mat-ter most like
 jus-tice and com-pas - sion. It's time for us_ to take ac - tion, as we
 lis-ten for the voice of the Ho - ly One, 'cause God is still speak - ing, and
 God says it's time, yeah God is still speak-ing, and God says it's time.

Last time to Coda ⊕

It's time to put first things first, to set all distractions aside.
It's time to get down to work the work of the body of Christ.
There's healing and loving and reaching out that God wants to do
In and through the lives that we live and the love we give.
So let's roll our sleeves up now (because...) [Chorus]

If God is still speaking now, then what is God saying to us?
The chances are good somehow the message involves showing love.
There's justice, forgiveness and welcoming that God wants to do,
In and through the choices we make and the risks we take
So let's live that message now (because...) [Chorus]

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Angela Harrison

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God

Chaz Bowers
Chancel Choir and organ

O breathe on me, O Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love the things you love, and do what you would do.

O breathe on me, O Breath of God, until my heart is pure;
Until my will is one with yours, to do and to endure.

O breathe on me, O Breath of God, my will to yours incline,
Until this selfish part of me glows with your fire divine.

O breathe on me, O Breath of God, so I shall never die,
But live with you the perfect life for all eternity.

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

The image shows a musical score for a unison response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). 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." The music is written in a simple, homophonic style suitable for unison singing.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Angela Harrison

Like the gifts of creation, we are but stewards of all we possess. And like the gifts of creation, they are not to be hoarded, but shared with the hungry, the lonely, the lost, the struggling. As we offer our gifts, receive our thanks and praise in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Harrison

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #373
They Did Not Build in Vain

LEONI

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Michael Burkhardt
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Angela Harrison

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Green Team

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng

Laundry Hero: Gail Allinson

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 Camille (Dave Watt's sister) and Brian Bell.
- For Wyatt, nephew of Jean O'Brien's friend, that God will show him a path.
- For the family of Beverly Figge.
- For Kenneth McIntosh, brother of Joyce Hagen-McIntosh, who is in the hospital fighting an infection.
- For Patricia Cline, sister of Penny Miller, who is in hospice.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	5/31	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	6/1	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	6/2	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	6/3	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday	6/4	7:00 a.m. FCCLG tent @ Farmers' Market	LG Farmers' Market
Friday	6/5	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	6/6	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
		10:00 a.m. Concert rehearsal	Sanctuary

Sunday	6/7	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		3:00 p.m. Great Music for Great Causes Concert	Sanctuary
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

Dear Church Family,

As our church enters the next season of our transition journey, we are prayerfully beginning the process of discerning and calling a new, permanent minister to lead and shepherd our congregation. This is a sacred responsibility, and we are seeking individuals who feel called to serve on the Minister Selection Committee.

The Committee will be entrusted with guiding the search process, starting with writing the new minister’s profile, reviewing candidates, engaging in thoughtful discussions with the Congregation and seeking God’s wisdom every step of the way. We are looking for members who represent the diversity and heart of our church community. Additionally, you may be called to use your talents in specific aspects of the process, for example writing job profiles.

Serving on this committee is a meaningful opportunity to help shape the future of our church. If you feel led to serve, please speak to a member of church leadership to include your name for consideration. Over the next several weeks we will gather the names of those interested and then will hold an informational meeting for all to explain the details of the assignment.

With hope and gratitude,
The Church Council



Congratulations to Walter “Indi” Shannon who is graduating from Oak Park and River Forest High School today!
Congratulations to Jon Remedi, grandson of Gary Melkonian, who graduated from Loyola University, Chicago.

Well done, Indi and Jon. We are proud of you!

Farmer’s Market Tent: Come see us this Thursday at the La Grange Farmers’ Market! FCCLG will be onsite from 7am-2pm on June 4th, celebrating Pride Month and all that makes our church family so great. **We need church members (1-2 ppl) to staff the tent and engage with marketgoers.** If you’re interested in giving your time to promote FCCLG, please call/email Jamie in the church office. 708-294-3969 or events@fclg.org.



Great Music for Great Causes: Next Sunday, June 7, at 3pm the Chancel Choirs of FCCLG and First United Methodist of La Grange will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Ola Gjeilo's setting of the Walt Whitman poem "Song of the Universal." The concert is free to attend with an offering going to BEDS Plus and the Saturday Meals Program. Invite your friends and neighbors, and join us for an afternoon of beautiful music.



Ladies High Tea: The Ministry of Nurture invites the ladies of the church to High Tea on Saturday, June 13, at 2 pm in the Drawing Room. Bring your friends and enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and tea served in the gracious living room of our church by Tea Butlers! Sign up in the Founders Room or call or text Betsy Colombe at 708-254-9222. Only 30 seats available, so please don't delay. See you there!

Faith Formation Team: Would you be interested in joining the Faith Formation Team? You would not need to lead a class, but would be instrumental in guiding our formation programs going forward. Please speak to Rev. Brian if you would like to know more.



The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.

Meditative Prayer Ministry: At FCCLG, we meet in the Beatitudes Chapel (the 6th Avenue Entrance will be open) from 5–7 pm on most Tuesdays to quiet our minds and listen for God's presence within. Come whenever you are able and stay for as long as you like. All are welcome.



Help Host Coffee Hour! The Nurture Team is looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour. You can sign up with a member of the Nurture Team or a friend. And the Nurture team will be there to assist as you serve the treats you provide. Our church community truly values this time of connection and fellowship. Please sign up online or on the poster in the Founders Room. Thank you for helping make this special time possible!

H.U.G. Summer Camp: Looking for a week of adventure for the kids this summer? Have you considered church camp at Tower Hill? H.U.G. (Helping Us Grow) Camp is July 5-10 for campers finishing 4th grade thru 11th. There are all sorts of activities including an adventure course, archery, crafts, hiking, spongeball, and ultimate frisbee as well as time on beautiful Lake Michigan. Visit their website for more info: hugcamp.com.

Camp youTHRIVE: Join the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission for a fun and supportive summer program filled with sports, arts, academic practice, and social-emotional learning.

-June 15th – July 2nd

-Hope Church – La Grange Highlands

-Free registration – See the flyers in the Founders Room

Great Music for Great Causes

Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*
Ola Gjeilo's *Song of the Universal*

Sunday, June 7, 2026
3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
100 S. 6th Ave.
La Grange, IL
www.fcclg.org

A free-will offering will benefit the work of:



Saturday
Meals of
Program

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Musicians:

Ryan Cox, conductor
First Congregational Chancel Choir
First United Methodist Chancel Choir; Tim Semanik, director
Amanda Murphy, soprano
Karen Jesse, soprano
Ryan Belongie, countertenor
First Conservatory and Friends Orchestra

CARS 24th Annual Fall Benefit



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Thursday
September 24, 2026
6pm - Drury Lane

Tickets on Sale
August 6th

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		
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

This is Good

May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning, God created ... the heavens, the earth, the creatures of the land and sea, day and night, and then man and woman. After each phase of creation, we are told that God “saw that it was good.” Repeating the phrase “it was good” isn’t some literary technique to make the story more poetic and profound. It is a theological statement of how carefully God thought through each phase of Creation, marking each finished phase as completed — and good. As God brought the ball of chaos into diverse, colorful life, God gave it a divine stamp of approval. It’s no wonder the early saints held God’s act of creation in great reverence and awe — more than we tend to do so today. St. Basil (329-379) wrote that he wanted “creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you clear remembrance of the Creator.” While St. John Chrysostom (347-470) said, “From the creation, learn to admire the Lord!” And St. John of Damascus (675-749) simply and powerfully stated what was completely obvious to him: “The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.” Let that last saintly observation linger in your heart for a bit. And as it does, ask yourself what your days would be like if you viewed all of Creation as a living icon of the face of God. I can tell you that after lingering on St. John of Damascus’ words, I went for my daily walk into the Vermont woods with fresh eyes. Every budding leaf, swaying grass blade and buzzing bee seemed different when viewing them as “a living icon of the face of God.” I began understanding more deeply God’s assessment of each little thing created as being “good.” But beyond the natural world, I continued my “it is good” quest to see all of Creation as the living icon of the face of God. And that meant looking into the eyes of each human I passed as I walked down the grocery store aisles getting my weekly shopping done. Rather than being focused on where I could find pinto beans, I focused on people. I noticed how some faces seemed tired, some seemed agitated, some seemed peaceful, others seemed radiant. Yet no matter what the expression, all the faces seen with my “it is good” lenses were all stunningly beautiful. It is amazing how different the world seems when seen as a living icon of the face of God.

In the beginning, God created ... you and me. May we remember that we each bear the imprint of the divine on our souls. And despite our flaws, God still deems that what has been made is indeed good. *Creating God, Your handiwork is perfection. Forgive us for all the times we have taken Your beauty for granted. Forgive us for the times we might have marred Your pristine canvas with the blotches of sin. May this day we begin to see everything in this world as a living icon of Your face. 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)

