

# 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

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708.352.0800

SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026

## Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

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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

Come, Creator Spirit

Douglas E. Wagner  
Carillon Handbell Choir

### WELCOME

Nancy Coleman

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Coleman

One: At the presence of God, we rejoice:

**Many: Glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.**

One: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

**Many: To the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.**

One: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

**Many: Making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*New Century Hymnal #454*

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

## **\*PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Noah Gartner

**God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those we can serve in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right way to tell off someone, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught us. We are so convinced we can figure out your schedule that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us. Mighty source of our lives transform our hearts and minds. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

## **SCRIPTURE:**

Acts 1:6-14

Noah Gartner

So, when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**KIDS QUEST**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**SERMON**

Journey Over Destination

Rev. Brian Damrow

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

**MESSAGE IN MUSIC** "Quoniam tu solus sanctus" and "Cum Sancto Spiritu" from *Gloria*

Antonio Vivaldi  
Chancel Choir

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus,  
Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu:  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

# ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026:

Osten Reeves Crumrine      Alexander Bruce Hagen-McIntosh  
Ryan Alexander Ries

### INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support amid the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

### SENTENCES

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION**

Let us pray in silence for these candidates for confirmation.

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, set them on a journey of spiritual transformation, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF BAPTISM**

### **ACT OF BAPTISM**

### **ACT OF CONFIRMATION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION**

**We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Let us, the members of First Congregational Church of LaGrange, UCC, stand and express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

## **GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**Almighty and ever living God, may your hand ever be over your servants confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with them. So, lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

**OFFERTORY**

You Shall Have a Song

Richard Clemmitt  
Carillon Handbell Choir

**\*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

**Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources, so others might know your hope, your healing, your presence in their lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Lowry

### \*HYMN

*New Century Hymnal #350*  
Now in the Days of Youth

DIADEMATA

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Brian Damrow

### POSTLUDE

I've Got the Joy

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson  
Carillon and Youth Handbell Choir

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Nancy Coleman, Noah Gartner, & Tom Lowry

Laundry Hero: Gail Allinson

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Audio/Video: David Watts & Amanda Murphy

Coffee Hour Hosts: Membership Team

## *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.

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

# *Osten Reeves Crumrine*

Son of Amy and Orin Crumrine

Born – November 10, 2012

Baptized – May 17, 2026

Mentor: Noah Gartner

## **CONFIRMATION BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 7:7-8**

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.



## *Osten's Statement of Faith*

I believe in God, the loving and guiding creator, he created the water and the land, the mountains and the valleys, and all people. Because he created all of these things for the people that he put here I believe that God has a loving relationship with all of the people on this earth even if they don't have a relationship with him.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Teacher of faith. Jesus Christ taught that forgiveness and nonviolence were always options when war or fighting felt imminent. He taught us to live with Agapé which means love without expecting a return of anything and is also universal and unconditional. Agapé is how Jesus taught that God loves all people. He also performed miracles like letting the blind see or feeding 5000 hungry families with only five loaves of bread and two fish. He did this because he wanted to demonstrate what you could do through God.

I believe in The Holy Spirit, God's presence on earth. The Spirit is the final piece of the Holy Trinity. I believe that the Holy Spirit is almost the most important piece of the Trinity. It is the glue that holds Christianity together. God is the brain, Jesus is the body, and the Holy Spirit is the heart. The Spirit is what guides us through our everyday lives and the Spirit does this in many ways. The Spirit guides us through our everyday lives when we pray for things to go well for us in our daily lives. That's because the Spirit guides us to do that or we say grace before meals. That is the spirit in action motivating you to follow in gods.

I believe in the church, which is the universal body of Christ, God's people gathered from every corner of the world. Across time and place, we are one family in faith. In this universal church, all people, regardless of background or geography, are called together to learn, grow, and serve. This church is not built on boundaries but on God's love, which reaches all people equally. Together, we strive to follow Jesus, as one community of faith, showing love and acceptance to all.

# *Alexander Bruce Hagen-McIntosh*

Son of Joyce and Lyda Hagen-McIntosh

Born - August 18, 2011

Baptized - March 13, 2016

Mentor: Nancy Coleman

## **CONFIRMATION BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 27:1**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?



## *Alex's Statement of Faith*

I believe that God is an all-knowing overarching force who has an influence over not action but perspectives, and ideas, and is able to help guide you and offer suggestions in your journey through faith and life. God can manifest in people and things and how they influence you and your faith journey. God is an all loving and all accepting being who will always be there to support you no matter what happens in your life or in your relationships. God does not get frustrated easily for God's love is all encompassing, which is why it is important to question God and why it is okay to get angry at him.

I believe that Jesus is a physical representation of God, who lives out and teaches the standards and ideas that we are called to live as followers of Christ. I believe he represents the ideology and goals God has given us to succeed in life and in your faith I believe that the holy spirit is the way that God goes through with his ideas and actions. The spirit is the one who acts according to the word of God and is the way God talks with his disciples.

I believe that the church is God's way of teaching, gathering, and supporting those who believe in our faith. The church is the way by which God helps his followers learn from one another and join with those who are like-minded to learn from him. The church also acts as a way to provide service to others outside of our faith by gathering us together.

# *Ryan Alexander Ries*

Son of Amanda and Michael Ries

Born – May 8, 2012

Baptized – January 6, 2013

Mentor: Tom Lowry

## **CONFIRMATION BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 121:1-3**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.



## *Ryan's Statement of Faith*

I believe that God is the one and only Lord of creation. He is the one who created the heavens and the earth and made humans to inhabit them. He is the founder of all that we know and love. I believe that God is our breath and life.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of our God. That he is the one who died for our sins and who saved us from oppression. Being the son of God, he never sinned, and would always spread God's love to everyone through miracles. From curing illnesses to resurrecting his friend. He did everything in God's love.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the force of God and is a part of all of us. I believe it is our job to connect with the Spirit to continue to create God's kingdom here on Earth, and to strengthen that connection with God and spread the connection.

I believe that the Church is the worldly home of God. Where he is with us and teaches us, allowing us to learn as long as we listen. The church is a place of worship, of community, and connection, whereby being present people can strengthen their relationships with God.

## *This Week at Church*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5/17</b>	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5/18</b>	12:00 p.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5/19</b>	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5/20</b>	7:00 p.m. Church Council	Drawing Room
		7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbells	Room 305
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5/21</b>	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5/22</b>	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
		4:00 p.m. Tallgrass Graduation	Founders Room
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5/23</b>	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
		12:00 p.m. Conservatory Recital	Sanctuary
		6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship	Firepit
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5/24</b>	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room

## *Announcements*

**May 24:** Pentecost Sunday – Wear Red, Sermon: “To Be the Church”

**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.

**Men's Fellowship** will meet around the firepit on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00pm. Please join us for food, fellowship, and fun. For more information, please see Jerry Palmer.



**Pet Parade and Wacky Walkers:** The La Grange Pet Parade is on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, and we need walkers to represent FCCLG. It is approx. a 1.5 mile walk. The parade starts at 9:30am, so we will gather at our starting point - Elm Ave just west of La Grange Rd – by 9:00am. The theme this year is Decades, and our decade is the 60's. So pull out your favorite mod, hippie, or boho outfit (themed dressing not required) and join us for a fun morning. We are looking for candy donations (no chocolate) to pass out along the parade route. Candy can be left in the bin outside the church office. We're also looking for financial donations. Please note "Pet Parade" on your donation envelope or online donation.

Wacky Walkers will meet after the parade as usual at 2:30 p.m. at the Palmer House (Jerry and Petra Palmer, 7912 Summer Ln., Downers Grove, 630-272-9135, [hentzel91@comcast.net](mailto:hentzel91@comcast.net)) where we will fellowship with soup and bread. Please let Petra or Jerry know if you will be joining.

**Farmer's Market Tent:** Summer is around the corner, and so is the LG Farmer's Market! FCCLG will be onsite from 7am-2pm on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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@fcclg.org](mailto:events@fcclg.org).

**Great Music for Great Causes:** On June 7 at 3pm FCCLG is hosting a concert benefitting Beds+ and the Saturday Meals Program. The Chancel Choirs of FCCLG and First United Methodist of La Grange will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Ola Geilo's setting of the Walt Whitman poem "Song of the Universal." The concert is free to attend with an offering going to the organizations. The Friends of Music and First Conservatory are sponsoring the musicians.

**Ryan Cox and AnnLaura Tapia** are presenting a concert of arias and songs at Plymouth Place today, May 17 at 3pm. The free concert will be in Dole Hall and all are welcome to attend.



## **Strengthen the Church**

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.

**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!

## Spirit of Witness

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:1-11

Eastertide is coming to an end. But before we usher in the power of the Holy Spirit at the celebration of Pentecost next week, I pause to pray. For you. Yes, you.

I have even stepped away from writing this to light a candle, thanking God for the hearts that would be touched by words that often seem a feeble attempt in capturing how amazing, awesome, and perplexingly mysterious our God is. I thanked God for you, dear readers. I thanked God for each soul awakening to the Easter promise of new life. I thanked God that while we never have or never will see one another in person, we can still call each other siblings in Christ, connected by our thirst for not only knowing God, but for understanding God if only a little bit better. Eastertide's 50 days are wrapping up and that means Jesus is about to leave his friends for good this time to ascend into Heaven. But before he goes, he talks to them, and he prays. John 17 is known by scholars as the "high priestly prayer," where Jesus first prays for himself, thanking God for all that God has done through him, and then prays for others. I love that Jesus begins with himself in mind. It is a reminder that it is not selfish to pray for ourselves. As a pastor, I have heard many people brush aside their worries, uttering something like "enough about me, my problems a nothing compared to others." That is so not true. Your worries, your fears and your problems matter to God. As the old hymn attests, many times "it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer." After praying for himself, Jesus then prays for his friends, thanking God for them and asking for continued strength and protection for their days ahead. I wonder how many times after Jesus finally left his earthly life that his friends remembered how, through the power of prayer, Jesus continues to be right there by their sides? How many times do we remember that when feeling lonely and needing our Friend and Savior in our life, that all we have to do is pray? And what is prayer? It is simply talking to the one you love. Prayer is also sitting silently with the one you love the most as God doesn't need our words. All God wants is our hearts. And so, I find myself on this Sunday as Eastertide comes to an end, sitting here saying a prayer of thanks for each one of you reading these words right now. And I pray you feel those prayers.

*Heavenly God, we know that You are not far off, but very close to us. You are always surrounding us with love and protection. We thank Jesus for his example of prayer, too. May this day we find ourselves praying more frequently and praying more boldly, remembering that prayer does change all things. 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)

