

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 MAY 24, 2026

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Come, Holy Ghost

Rudy Davenport
AnnLaura Tapia, piano

WELCOME

Jim Marciniak

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING HYMN**

Breathe on Me

Words and music: Stephen M. Austin

Jim Marciniak

One: On this day, may Grace's breath shatter the shutters of our hearts.

Many: **On this day, may we step out of our fears to welcome the new life gifted to us.**

One: Here, in the midst of our siblings of every age and place may our frozen souls be enflamed by justice's Spirit.

Many: **As we catch a glimpse of the dreams of those around us, as we listen to the voices of the oppressed in every language.**

One: In the days to come, may we speak of God's love and the Spirit's peace for all.

Many: **So that people will find a community awaiting them, even for those rejected by everyone else.**



1. Breathe on me, O breath of God.
 2. Shine on me, O light of God.
1. Breathe in me, O breath of God.
2. Shine in me, O light of God.



Grant your life to me.
 Grant that I may see.
Grant your life to me.
Grant that I may see.



Make of me a rushing wind, come and
 Make of me a living light, come and
Make of me a rushing wind, come and
Make of me a living light, come and



breathe on me. Come and breathe on me.
 shine on me. Come and shine on me.
breathe in me. Come and breathe in me.
shine in me. Come and shine in me.

Give us just a spark on this day, Imaginative God, to kindle our smoldering apathy until we burst into bonfires to melt all the injustice which threatens to consume the world.

verse 2

Give us just a word this day, Poet of Pentecost, that we might be the voice of those dispersed by fears, that we might proclaim the good news to all we would meet.

verse 1

Give us a cool breeze this day, Shattering Spirit, stirring and shaking us until we become a storm of hopes to clear the despair from all our neighborhoods and lands.

verse 2

Give us yourself this day, God in Community, Holy in One, even 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.



***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Jim Marciniak

Spirit of Pentecost would that all might tell of your wonders in our lives, your overflowing grace – but we are too busy complaining of someone’s social media post. Would that we might share the Spirit which has transformed our lives, but we bottle it up, hoping to sell it on the internet. Would that we might let go of all the envy we have about others, but we let it erode our soul’s day by day. Guide our transformation through the breath of your spirit and pour your mercy into the closed rooms of our hearts. Breathe your peace upon us, that we might be healers of brokenness. Breathe your hope upon us, that we might open ourselves to the lonely. Breath your love into us, that we might be as generous and welcoming as Jesus the Christ.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

SERMON

To Be the Church

*HYMN

Filled with the Spirit's Power

NATIONAL HYMN

1 Filled with the Spir - it's power, with one ac -
 2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on
 3 Wi - den our love, good Spir - it, to em -

Trumpets before each stanza (optional)

cord the in - fant church con - fessed its ris - en Lord.
 fire, that u - ni - ty may be our great de - sire.
 brace with your com - pas - sion all the hu - man race.

O Ho - ly Spir - it, in the church to - day
 Give joy - and peace; give faith to hear your call,
 Like wind and fire with life a - mong us move,

no less your power of fel - low - ship dis - play.
 and rea - di - ness in each to work for all.
 till we are known as Christ's, and Christ - ian prove.

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Jim Marciniak

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughan Williams

arr. P.R. Dietterich

Chancel Choir and organ

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;

O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

***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#). 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)**

Jim Marciniak

Blow the dust off our fears, Generous Spirit, so we might be a more giving people. Blow the dust off our material gifts we think are so paltry, so we might realize how they can bring hope and life to others. Blow the dust off our mistaken views of others, so we might see them as our siblings, ready to grace us, even as we may bless them with these offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marciniak

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #267
Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENEZER

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Matthias Weckmann
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Jim Marciniak

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Nurture

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng

Laundry Hero: Laurie Braun

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.

This Week at Church

Sunday	5/24	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
Monday	5/25	Office Closed – Memorial Day	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	5/26	12:15 p.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
		8:00 p.m. Green Team meeting	Zoom
Wednesday	5/27	7:00 p.m. Church Council	Drawing Room
Thursday	5/28	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

Friday	5/29	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	5/30	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
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

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

Please note: the church office will be closed for Memorial Day this Monday, May 25th.



Honoring Our Graduates: If you have a family member celebrating a graduation from high school, college, or any post-secondary education, please let the office know by Tuesday, May 26th, so we can honor them together: mainoffice@fcclg.org.



Pet Parade and Wacky Walkers: The La Grange Pet Parade is this Saturday, May 30th, 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) 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 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@fclcg.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.

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.



**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!

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.

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

Seeing Visions, Dreaming Dreams

May 24, 2026

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Someone once said that of all the liturgical holidays, Pentecost was the most frustrating to understand and embrace. After all, what are we supposed to do with the Spirit's arrival that led to the birth of the Church? On Easter we celebrate new life. There are dyed eggs and fragrant lilies. On Christmas we have the birth of hope. There are lots of lights and festively wrapped presents. On Palm Sunday we remember how fickle we can be in our faith, waving palm branches one minute then shouting crucify him the next. But on Pentecost we never really hit the mark as to how to welcome God's Spirit moving among us. Pentecost, which is the Greek name for the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover, was the time when many devout Jews were in Jerusalem to celebrate. God used this festival to usher in a new harvest of believers in the Risen Lord. With great show, God sent the Holy Spirit that was likened to a rush of mighty wind. Jesus' followers, who were in Jerusalem, poured out onto the streets speaking in a multitude of languages, ensuring that those out-of-towners from foreign lands could understand the Good News of Christ Risen. Some accused the followers of being drunk, but Peter set the naysayers straight saying they were in fact full of the Spirit. He then echoed the words of the prophet Joel saying that the young will see visions and the old will dream new dreams. I can see why Pentecost might be a frustrating liturgical holiday to observe. For if Pentecost is all about receiving the Spirit, who then would really dare to gather around a table and share those Holy Spirit visions, dreams and hopes for the Church today? We all have our own visions of what church should be. There is a running joke within the United Church of Christ that there is no shortage of opinions and because of the abundance of views, it seems sometimes impossible to move forward.

Maybe this year, we should step away from rushing wind Spirit metaphor of Pentecost and try to see it a little differently. St. John Vianney used gardening to explain the work of the Spirit, viewing it as a gardener who cultivates our souls. He also described Pentecost as the moment when "a heart of stone is shattered, and heart of flesh takes its place."

Perhaps a shattering of stone hearts is what we need this year at Pentecost so that fledgling visions and dreams can take root and grow.

Renewing God, You sent the Spirit so long ago to bring Your church to life. May this Pentecost find ourselves renewed by new visions and dreams for how to be Your children. Soften our hearts to new ways of being Your body here in our communities. 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)

