

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 JUNE 14, 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

Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord (Psalm 95)

Robert Lau
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Angela Harrison

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Angela Harrison

One: On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God:

Many: We come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.

One: On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

Many: We follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.

One: On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

Many: We open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us; we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #84

This Is the Day (Psalm 118:24 and traditional words)

THIS IS THE DAY

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Angela Harrison

Spirit of Life, Breath of Renewal, you who dance in the laughter of children, you who sparkle in the morning light on fresh rain, be with us now. We admit, too often we have worn our days like heavy coats, dragging our feet through the hours, measuring life by tasks completed rather than moments cherished. But today— we choose another way. We choose the path where joy is not an afterthought, but the very compass that guides our steps. Transform our work into play, our obligations into opportunities for connection, our routines into rituals of delight. Let us remember that the world was not made in grayscale— it bursts with color, and so should our living. Where there is drudgery, let there be music. Where there is monotony, let there be curiosity. Where there is weariness, let there be the gentle permission to rest. Spirit of Transformation, teach us to measure our days not by how much we have endured, but by how much we have loved, laughed, and learned. May our lives be a playground for compassion, a festival of kindness, a celebration of the sacred ordinary. And when the shadows of duty grow long, remind us that joy is not a distraction from the work— it is the work. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 98

Angela Harrison

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

To Be the Church: The Fun Factor

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.

***HYMN**

Sing to the Lord a New Song (Psalm 98 paraphrase)

Words and Music: Greg Scheer



Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done mar-velous things. Oh,
sing to the Lord a new song for he has done mar-velous things for us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody features several triplet markings over groups of three notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

He's shown the whole world he frees his folk.
They've seen that his words are true. [refrain]

The harp's music rings; each string calls his name.
The trumpet and horn resound. [refrain]

The earth and the sea and the river all sing.
The mountains erupt with joy. [refrain]

The Lord, he has come to all people and lands:
a fair and a righteous judge. [refrain]

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Angela Harrison

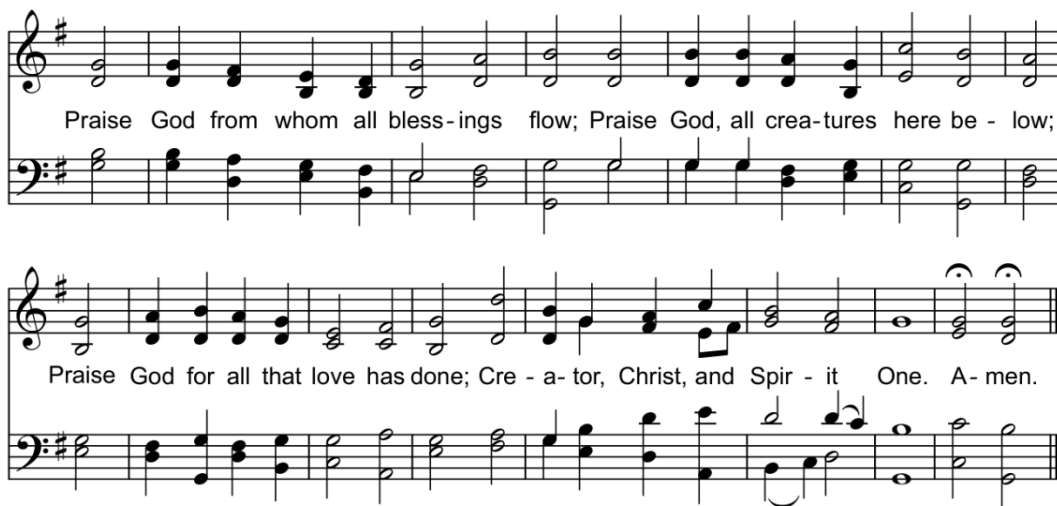
Place your gift in the offering plate
or
Text your gift to
708-688-5486
or



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

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary:
 Praise him in the firmament of his pow'r
 Praise him for his mighty acts:
 Praise him according to his excellent greatness.
 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
 Praise him with the psaltery and harp.
 Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
 praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
 Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
 praise him upon the high sounding cymbals
 Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.
 Praise ye the Lord.

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



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures 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)**

Angela Harrison

Faithful God, we worship you with joy and gladness. You have loved and sustained us through every generation. As we give, let our offerings strengthen ministries that bring hope, healing, and transformation to the world. With thankful hearts, we rejoice and sing.

***HYMN**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100 paraphrase)

DUKE STREET



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; he formed us
 3 O en - ter then his gates with joy, with - in his
 4 Be - cause the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Serve him with joy, his
 all with - out our aid. We are the flock he
 courts his praise pro - claim. Let thank - ful songs your
 is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at



prais - es tell, come now be - fore him and re - jice!
 comes to feed, the sheep who by his hand were made.
 tongues em - ploy, O bless and mag - ni - fy his name.
 all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

Final ending

A - - - men. A - - - men.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Duke Street

Richard A. Williamson
AnnLaura Tapia, organ**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

Reader Leaders: Angela Harrison
 Usher: Lawrence Bain
 Coffee Hour Hosts:

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng
 Laundry Hero: Sherri Ries

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.
- For Mike Tobin, brother of Jill, who is going through treatment for kidney cancer.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	6/14	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m. Ministry Team Meetings	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	6/15	12:00 p.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	6/16	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	6/17		
Thursday	6/18		
Friday	6/19	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	6/20	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	6/21	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

Thank you to everyone who attended **Great Music for Great Causes** on Sunday. The event raised \$3000 so far...it's not too late to support Beds Plus and the Saturday Meals Program. You can donate with a check made to First Congregational Church with "6/7 concert" in the memo. Or online using the QR code in the bulletin and select "Give to Concert Donation - June 7, 2026." Thank you to all of the musicians, ushers, greeters, and reception hosts who made the event sing!

Office Hours: Please note - the office will have shortened hours of 11:00am-2:00pm, Monday through Thursday, during the week of June 22-25.



Calling all men. It's been a while since we have held our men's fellowship, so let's do it again. Come to the fire pit in the church parking lot for a time of talk, food and beverage at 6:30 on June 27. We will grill brats, but be sure to bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. If you plan to come, please contact Jerry Palmer via text, (708) 408-9243, or via e mail, palmjer@comcast.net. Please respond prior to Wednesday, June 24, since we need to plan the quantity of food.

Missions Giving: Thanks to everyone who completed our Missions Giving Priorities survey. Your input is helping guide the Missions team as we focus our giving on causes that reflect our congregation's values and priorities. We remain committed to thoughtful, responsible stewardship of our charitable contributions.

Together, we are making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Food Insecurity was the top area of concern identified. In line with that significant and growing issue, your Missions Team recently made the following donations:



The Greater Chicago Food Depository - \$2000 Donation The Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger across Cook County. GCFD distributes both donated and purchased food through a network of over 700 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and community programs, reaching more than 800,000 adults and children annually. Over 90% of its expenses are allocated directly to food distribution programs, highlighting its efficiency and commitment to addressing hunger and its root causes.

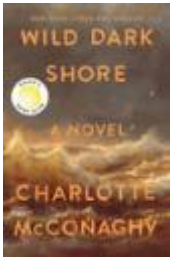


World Central Kitchen - \$3000 Donation Since its founding in 2010 by Spanish-American chef, Jose Andres, following the Haiti earthquake, WCK has expanded to serve millions worldwide. By 2025, it had provided over 500 million meals across dozens of countries, including the United States, Puerto Rico, Australia, Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, and Gaza. The non-profit organization has responded to diverse crises such as hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, and conflicts, rapidly establishing temporary kitchens, mobilizing local chefs, and leveraging community networks to distribute meals efficiently.



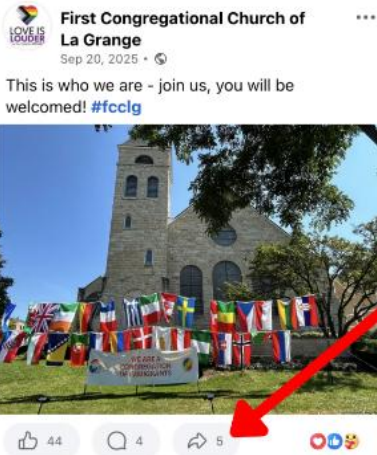
Help Host Coffee Hour! The Nurture Team is looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour. You can sign up with a member of the Nurture Team or a friend. And the Nurture team will be there to assist as you serve the treats you provide. Our church community truly values this time of connection and fellowship.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

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 Book Club: Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, July 14 at 7:30 pm. Our selected book is *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy. Described as a deeply atmospheric novel, it is set on the fictional and remote Shearwater Island, where an estranged woman searches for her missing husband amidst a community grappling with grief, secrets, and isolation. The novel explores themes of climate change, the interconnectivity of life and death, and the complex bonds within families.

Book Club meets virtually via Zoom. All readers are welcome! For a Zoom invitation or with any questions, please email Kathy Donaldson (kathygdonaldson@gmail.com).



FCCLG’s Digital Outreach: As a follow-up to last Sunday’s Mission Moment about the importance of our digital outreach, here is a reminder of how you can help promote our church. Following our page on Facebook and “liking” any or all posts is a great place to start. But an especially helpful action is through the “share” arrow button. Whether you share via a message to a friend, or by posting to your personal page, the number one way to boost views on Facebook is by sharing. Did you love a recent Heritage Cooking video? Send it to a friend. Do you wish more people knew about the amazing Saturday Meals Program? Share it on your page. Did you appreciate the thoughts from a Sunday Take Away video? Share it so others may hear too. Sharing posts is essential to helping others hear about FCCLG.

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.

Women’s Retreat: The spots for our Women’s Retreat have filled. But if you would like to be kept on a waiting list in case a spot opens, please let Angela Harrison know: angiss2010@yahoo.com. The retreat is July 10-12 at Tower Hill Camp, with Dr. Carol Ann Munro as the guest speaker.



If you are interested in reading the book that is the basis of Rev. Damrow's current sermon series, it is available for purchase at various retailers online. Please be sure to order the second edition.

“Lord, help me release what no longer serves Your mission, and give me courage to embrace the new thing You are doing in me and in our church.”

Sponsored by the Law Office of Patrick Dankwa John

PARENTING TEENS

Without losing your mind!





Does your teen feel almost unrecognizable at times? Is it becoming harder to stay connected?


You are not alone.


The teen years can be both rewarding and challenging. As adolescents navigate increasing independence, social pressures, and rapid change, parents often wonder how to stay connected. Join us for an interactive presentation that explores teen development and offers practical, actionable strategies to help you strengthen connection while supporting their emotional wellbeing and independence.

Pizza and refreshments will be served!


Topics Include:

-  **Communication**
Build trust and open conversations with your teen
-  **Digital Use & Social Media**
Navigate technology use, set healthy boundaries, and stay informed
-  **School Pressure**
Understand academic stress and how to support your teen
-  **Mental Health**
Recognize signs, start conversations, and get support





Therapist, Megan John
LCPC, CRC



Attorney, Patrick Dankwa John

Date: July 23, 2026
Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: First Congregational Church of La Grange
100 6th Avenue, La Grange, IL

- Founders' Room - enter through Black doors on Cossit Avenue

RSVP by phone/text: 773-368-5531, pdjnotices@gmail.com, or QR code

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
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Events@fcclg.org
Bookkeeper@fcclg.org

All of Us
 Ryan Cox
 AnnLaura Tapia
 Jamie Dougherty
 Tammy Bauer

Sarah Laughed

June 14, 2026

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

In a sea of youthful faces, Sarah's wrinkled skin stood out in the lecture hall. The 75-year-old was there to earn her Master of Divinity degree. Her classmates wondered why. Did she think she would serve a church late in life? Many succeeded in suppressing their laughter. Others did not. Sarah didn't mind. She laughed, too, when the dream of being a minister emerged. Even her denomination didn't support her she confided to me one day before class. "They laughed, too," she said with a smile that soon melted from her face when she continued. "It's sad that all who laugh are the ones who claim they know God. What God are they learning about here in these hallowed halls?" There was once another Sarah who laughed at God's startling, unbelievable plans — Abraham's wife. She overheard angels talking to her elderly husband that she, who was barren, would conceive a child. Their son, Isaac, would come into the world when Sarah was 90 and Abraham 100. When she heard the news, she couldn't help but laugh. Perhaps it was an incredulous laugh. After all, prayers for a child have gone unanswered for years. And let's not forget, the old couple was kept waiting another 25 years after God first made the promise to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. When God asked why she laughed, Sarah tried to deny it. God wasn't mad with her. I think God was probably suppressing a chuckle, getting a kick out of how once again those who follow God still get so surprised at the impossible becoming possible. "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" asked seminarian Sarah that day in the lecture hall, repeating God's words spoken to our biblical Sarah so long ago. I have found myself repeating these words many times to churches that were struggling, even dying. "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" Other translations replace "wonderful" with "hard." I ask because we all forget that the Almighty can bring life to that which is barren — even dead. Nothing is impossible with God. Sarah's story is one all churches this day need to hear, for the laughter of hope is still possible amid empty pews. Just ask seminarian Sarah. She was ordained at 78 and called to serve a struggling rural congregation, where for five beautiful years they laughed together, cried together and grew together. Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? No, it is not. Just remember the Sarahs.

God of laughter and beautiful promises, many of us are feeling like life has passed us by and that it is too late to start over, try again — even dare to believe dreams can still come true. But nothing is too wonderful for You. Strengthen our faith to believe that all things are possible and give us the patience to trust Your perfect timing. 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)

