

# 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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[www.FCCLG.org](http://www.FCCLG.org)  
708.352.0800

SUNDAY JUNE 21, 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

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Thomas Keesecker  
AnnLaura Tapia, piano

### WELCOME

Stephanie Johnston

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephanie Johnston

One: Jesus sends us out—not to the comfortable and familiar, but to the places where love is needed most.

**Many: We go, carrying no gold or silver, but hearts open to God's abundance.**

One: We are called to bring peace where there is conflict, healing where there is hurt, and hope where there is despair.

**Many: We will speak words of welcome, and live lives of grace.**

One: If we are received, we will rejoice together. If we are rejected, we will still leave peace behind.

**Many: For the Spirit goes before us, and God's love will not return empty.**

One: Come, beloved community— let us worship the One who sends us, guides us, and goes with us always.

**Many: We worship with joy, courage, and open hearts. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*New Century Hymnal #265*  
Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound

BOUNDLESS MERCY

**\*PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Stephanie Johnston

**Lord of the harvest, you sent your disciples out with courage, compassion, and clarity of purpose. You told them to go—not to the comfortable places, but to the places where your message was needed most. You called them to travel light, to trust deeply, and to speak peace into every home they entered. Today, I open my heart to that same call. Transform my heart so that I may go where you send me— not only to the familiar, but to the margins, to the places where love is scarce and hope feels distant. Strip away my need for excess, for the baggage of fear, pride, and self-protection. Teach me to travel light — carrying only the essentials: your peace, your truth, and a willingness to serve. When I enter new spaces, let my first word be peace, and my first act be hospitality. Help me to see each person as a bearer of your image, worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect. When I am welcomed, let me receive with gratitude. When I am rejected, let me release without resentment, trusting that the seeds I plant will grow in your time.**

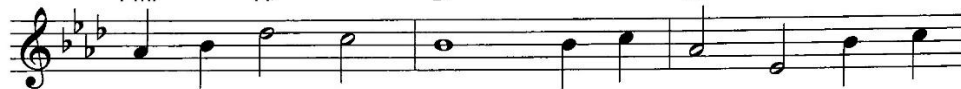
**Transform my voice so that it speaks with courage, my hands so that they heal with gentleness, and my feet so that they walk steadily in the way of justice. May my life be a living sign of your kingdom— a kingdom where the hungry are fed, the stranger is embraced, and peace is not just spoken, but lived. Amen.**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission  
verses 1, 2, & 5



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the  
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my  
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my  
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther,  
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am

(Em7) (G) (D) (G)  
Fm7 Ab Eb Ab



sick and preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its  
name, bap - tize and teach." That the world may trust your  
bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true  
what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate  
with you to the end." Faith and hope and love re -

(Am7) (C) (D)  
Bbm7 Db Eb



mis - sion, and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
prom - ise, life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
glo - ry, dai - ly lift life hea - ven - ward, ask - ing that the  
trea - sure all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
stor - ing, may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

(G) (D) (G)  
Ab Eb Ab



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mun - i - ty:  
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain (A sus) (G) (Am7) (C) (D) (G)  
Bbsus Ab Bbm7 Db Eb Ab



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Loving Spirit of Life, on this Father's Day, we gather in gratitude — not only for those we call “Dad,” but for all the men who have fathered us in love, in guidance, and in hope. We honor the many shapes that fatherhood takes: biological fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers, grandfathers, mentors, teachers, neighbors, and friends who have stood in the gap when love and protection were needed.

**We give thanks for the men who have taught us integrity, for the ones who have shown us how to stand tall in the face of injustice, for the ones who have listened without judgment, and for the ones who have encouraged us to dream beyond the limits of fear.**

We remember with tenderness those whose fathers are far away, those whose relationships with their fathers are complicated or painful, and those who grieve the absence of a father's presence. May they find comfort in the embrace of chosen family and community.

**Bless the men who are learning, growing, and striving to be better each day. Bless the fathers who model equality, compassion, and respect in their homes. Bless the fathers and those who are like a father who teach children to care for the earth, to welcome the stranger, and to speak up for the vulnerable.**

May we all — fathers and father-figures alike — become builders of a more just and loving world. May we raise children who see diversity as strength, who know that kindness is courage, and who understand that love is the greatest legacy we can leave.

**Spirit of Love, on this day, we celebrate the fathers who have shaped us, the fathering we have received from unexpected places, and the fathering we are called to offer to others. May our gratitude turn into action, our memories into wisdom, and our love into a force that heals and unites. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Matthew 10:5-15

Stephanie Johnston

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers

deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

**KIDS QUEST**

Rev. Brian Damrow

**SERMON**

To Be the Church: Building in the Frontier

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**

*New Century Hymnal #525*

This Little Light of Mine

LATTIMER

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Stephanie Johnston

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

**OFFERTORY**

Go to the World

Words and Music: Karen Marrolli  
Summer Choir

We will go to the world in peace, spurning hatred, singing love.  
 We will be the hands of Christ, bringing strength to those who faint.  
 And we will overcome with good, we will overcome with grace.  
 We will go to the world in hope, shunning violence, speaking peace.

We will be the hands of Christ, bringing comfort to those who mourn.  
 And we will overcome with light, we will overcome with life.  
 We will go to the world in joy, sparking transformation,  
 Transformation of the darkness into dawn!

We will go to the world in strength, resisting evil, rejoicing in good.  
 We will be the hands of Christ, bringing grace to all the earth.  
 And we will overcome with love, we will overcome with love,  
 We will overcome with love.

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be low;  
 Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Stephanie Johnston

**Loving God, we come with hearts full of thanks—for creation, for Jesus, and for your Spirit among us. Now, we offer our gifts as a way of saying thank you. Let these gifts be part of your good news shared in word and deed. May they reflect our trust in your promise and our willingness to follow. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## \*HYMN

## Standing at the Future's Threshold

## HYMN TO JOY

*verses 1-4*

1 Stand - ing at the fu - ture's thresh - old, grate - ful for God's guid - ing hand,  
 2 Midst the teem - ing cit - ies' mil - lions, wit - ness to God's bound - less love.  
 3 O - pen - heart - ed in ex - chang - es with the faith - ful not our own,  
 4 Build - ing jus - tice as the bul - wark of the peace that God would give,  
 5 Je - sus Christ, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask - ing no pro - tect - ed strong - hold, called to be a pil - grim band,  
 Reach - ing for each sys - tem's lost ones, seek - ing jus - tice with each move:  
 Trust - ing God's way with these strang - ers not to leave the truth un - known,  
 Mak - ing sac - ri - fice the hall - mark of the life we're called to live:  
 We would ask no spe - cial fa - vor, with the low - liest seek our place.



Seek - ing ev - er for new vi - sion of the gos - pel for our day,  
 Grant us cour - age, strength, and pa - tience to con - tend with vi - cious power,  
 Join - ing them in shared en - deav - or where we have Christ's clear com - mand,  
 Grant us, God, to bear our wit - ness to this peace in Christ, and move  
 Know the in - as - much of serv - ing, have your cross as our com - mand:



We move for - ward in God's mis - sion with our faith to show the way.  
 Lead us for - ward in the faith that gives us hope in test - ing's hour.  
 We have faith that calls us ev - er toward this good earth's prom - ised land.  
 For - ward with our faith's own ac - cess to the life of hope and love.  
 Lead us in this faith un - swerv - ing for - ward as your pil - grim band.

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Brian Damrow

## POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Hymn to Joy"

Douglas E. Wagner  
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Stephanie Johnston

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Audio/Video: John Hoo and 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 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 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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6/21</b>	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 7:00 p.m. OA	Sanctuary/ online Drawing Room
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6/22</b>	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. AA	Church Office Drawing Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6/23</b>	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6/24</b>	7:00 p.m. Church Council	Drawing Room
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6/25</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6/26</b>	9:00 a.m. OA 3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Drawing Room Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6/27</b>	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program 6:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship	Dining Room Firepit
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6/28</b>	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. OA	Sanctuary/ online Founders Room Drawing Room

# Announcements

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given in memory of Beverly and Fred Figge on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

**Please note:** there is no Coffee Hour this morning.

**Office Hours** will be shortened to 11:00am-2:00pm, Mon-Thurs, during the week of June 22-25.

**Saturday Meals:** Saturday Meals will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



**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](mailto:palmjer@comcast.net). Please respond prior to Wednesday, June 24, since we need to plan the quantity of food.

**Missions Giving:** In our Missions Giving Priorities survey, the congregation identified Mental Health (suicide prevention, crisis intervention, counseling services) and Social Justice (LGBTQ rights, racial justice, immigrant and refugee services) as key causes to support. In line with these important issues our Missions team recently made three donations:



**Pillars Community Health**  
Healing. Caring. Educating.

**Pillars Community Health - \$1500** Pillars Community Health is a nonprofit provider of health, educational, and social services to communities in the western and southwestern suburbs of Chicago. PCH operates as both a Federally Qualified Health Center and a Certified Community Mental Health Center, offering accessible care to underserved, uninsured, and marginalized populations. Its mission is to improve community health and empower individuals through compassionate, whole-person care.



**NAMI - \$1000** NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots mental health organization in the United States dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMI's mission is to provide advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. NAMI has around 1,000 state and local affiliates and is represented in all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

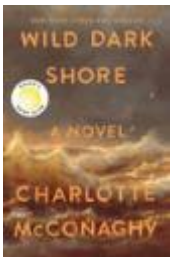
**CENTER  
ON 3656 N.  
HALSTED**

**Center on Halsted - \$1000** Center on Halsted is Chicago's largest LGBTQ+ community center, offering comprehensive programs, services and cultural events for the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Located in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago and open daily, it serves as a hub for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

**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.

**Thank you** to everyone who attended **Great Music for Great Causes**. 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!

**Faith Formation Team:** Rev. Damrow is still looking for volunteers to join the Faith Formation Team. You would not need to lead a class, but would be instrumental in guiding our faith formation programs going forward. Please speak to him if you would like to know more.



**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](mailto:kathygdonaldson@gmail.com)).



**FCCLG’s Digital Outreach: Are you following FCCLG on Instagram yet?** Please take a moment and follow the fcclagrange page on Instagram. When you see a post you think is important or beautiful or funny, click the heart. Reposting (circling arrows) and sharing are fantastic ways to boost views and spread the word about our church. Another important option on Instagram is the save button, which is the bookmark icon on the bottom right. Saving posts is a tremendous help in boosting our presence on Instagram. And as always – comment! Start a conversation. Give feedback. Tag a friend. Engagement is critical to our Digital Outreach Ministry.



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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

## **Daring Discipleship**

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 10:24-39

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “daring discipleship”? Do images of protesting, community organizing or letter writing campaigns to elected officials emerge?

While these qualify as daring acts of discipleship for the times we are living in, I feel I need to speak of a truth that doesn’t get received warmly today. That is, not everyone is called to such acts of discipleship. And that’s okay.

It’s time for the children of God to stop judging other children of God for what they do and don’t do. Remember what Paul said, the body has many parts. We all have different roles to play in the building of God’s kingdom.

When Jesus asked his followers to take up the cross, what he was inviting us to do was to surrender completely our wants and wills, our desires and delights, our love of self and need for personal satisfaction, and replace it instead with a selfless love. This love is risky, costly and demanding for it will lead us to places we never thought we would go and introduce us to people we never thought we would ever associate with.

This path will look different for each one of us. That friend who went quiet on social media is not condoning any wrongs. They are choosing to make this world better by retreating in prayer. How often do we forget in moments of crisis to first calmly give it over to the Lord?

How about that friend who refuses to attend a march? They have decided that for them showing the love of Christ means spending time in a home for disabled adults.

My friends, the cross that we are asked to pick up is the same, but we all have different ways of grabbing hold of it, and we all carry it at different paces and to different places.

In his reflection, “Risky Obedience,” Walter Brueggemann reminds us that when we follow Jesus into a “world of fear and threat and anger,” that sometimes we go as “willing followers” and other times as “reluctant followers, slow to get under way.”

But either way, we are all called to be “practitioners of Jesus’ goodness, generosity and hospitality.” May today we find ourselves being revived once again to be the daring disciples the world needs — and may we respect the many ways that discipleship is lived out.

*God of justice and peace, we know this world is broken and needs our love. Help us to become those daring disciples who follow Jesus on a path of forgiveness and inclusion. As we do, keep us from judging others. May our eyes be fixed on You alone. 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)

