

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 28, 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

Gabriel Crowell, piano

WELCOME

Angela Harrison

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Angela Harrison

One: Beloved, some of us came here tired, or carrying grief.

Many: But we are still here.

One: Some of us came with joy in our bones and rainbows in our spirit.

Many: And we are still here.

One: In a world that tries to erase queer stories,

Many: We shall not be moved.

One: In a time when trans and nonbinary lives are targeted,

Many: We shall not be moved.

One: When fear tells us to be silent,

Many: We shall not be moved.

One: When shame tries to pull us from the truth of who God made us to be,

Many: We shall not be moved.

One: We are rooted in love.

Many: We are rooted in justice.

One: We are rooted in affirmation.

Many: We are rooted in God.

One: Like trees planted by living water,

Many: We shall not be moved.

One: Come, let us worship the God who sees the vulnerable, strengthens the weary, and calls the church into holy courage.

Many: Rooted in love, justice, and affirmation, we worship with joy. We worship with courage. We worship together.

***OPENING HYMN**

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live,
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and true,
3 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and stone
4 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions heard



a place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.
where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new.
to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace;
Here the out - cast and the stran - ger bear the im - age of God's face;
Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter:

Refrain



All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Angela Harrison

God of love and justice, we confess that we have not always loved as you call us to love. We confess the harm done in your name, especially to LGBTQ+ people: the exclusion, shame, silence, and fear that have wounded your beloved children. We confess, too, the ways we all fall short: choosing comfort over courage, silence over justice, and fear over love. Transform us. Root us again in love, justice, and affirmation. Guide us in the ways that choose life over death, community over isolation, fun over drudgery, bold over mild, frontier over fortress, and now rather than later. Make us a church where all people are safe, celebrated, and truly belong. In the name of Jesus, who welcomed all with courageous love, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Nathan Crabtree and Erik Whitehill



1 You were known, known be - fore birth, wo - ven deep,
2 You be - long, you are re - deemed. Loved by God,
3 When you walk, walk through the flame. God is there,



deep in the earth. You were formed from star-dust. Sing praise! You are
God is well pleased. Now em - brace what God has or - dained: You are
call - ing your name. God has said, "Do not be a - fraid." You are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made. Yes, you are fear - ful - ly won - der - f'ly made.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 10:16-23, 40-42

Angela Harrison

“I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

To Be the Church: When Ministry Becomes Spicy

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.

HYMNNew Century Hymnal #531*

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

Sing a New World into Being

Words: Mary Louise Bringle

Music: Brian Hehn

Ryan Cox and Gabriel Crowell

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each gender, class, and race
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find home;
Where no children ever hunger but are filled with God's shalom;
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets' cry
For a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

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

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." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Angela Harrison

God of abundance, receive these gifts as seeds of holy resistance. Let them grow into shelter for those who have been cast out. Let them grow into courage for churches learning to speak. Let them grow into care for LGBTQ people who need more than words. Let them grow into justice, joy, safety, and beloved community. Bless what we give. Bless what we hold. Bless what we build together. Please root our generosity in love, justice, and affirmation, so that your people may flourish. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Harrison

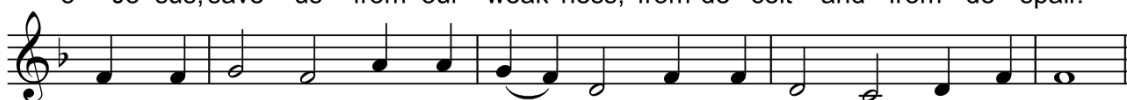
***HYMN**

Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us

BEACH SPRING
verses 1-4



1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your voice.
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a thread
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de - spair.



Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re - joice.
through the fab - ric of our his - tory, mars our faith and leaves us dead.
Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and fair.

Refrain



Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's power.



As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Gabriel Crowell, piano

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Angela Harrison
Usher: Lawrence Bain
Coffee Hour Hosts: Kathy and Michael Donaldson

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Amanda Murphy
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 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

Sunday	6/28	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	6/29	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	6/30	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	7/1		
Thursday	7/2		
Friday	7/3	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	7/4	.	
Sunday	7/5	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

The Social Justice Team will be meeting after Service today in the drawing Room.
All are welcome to attend!

Sandwich Sunday for BEDS Plus on July 5: Please join us in the dining room after service on July 5 to prepare a variety of sandwiches for clients of BEDS Plus. We realize that July 5 is part of the July 4th holiday weekend and many may be traveling. If you cannot join us to make sandwiches, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of sandwich ingredients. You can donate online through the church website by giving to “ACH Unpledged Contributions” and adding “Sandwich Sunday” in the comments field. Contact any Missions Team member with questions. Thank you!



School Supply Drive June 28 – August 2

Ministry of Missions is collecting school supplies to support students in the greater La Grange area* along with families served by the Migrant Ministry.

We are requesting a wide range of supplies, including:

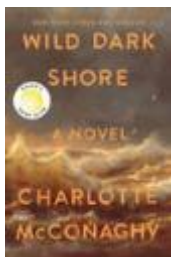
- BACKPACKS
- MEAD SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- CRAYOLA CRAYONS
- CRAYOLA MARKERS (BROAD AND FINE LINE)
- CRAYOLA COLORED PENCILS
- PRE-SHARPENED PENCILS
- ELMER'S WASHABLE GLUE STICKS
- PAPERMATE ERASERS
- KIDS' SCISSORS
- POST-IT NOTES (3in x 3in)

Please bring donations to the back of the sanctuary and place in the containers provided.

*Collection and distribution coordinated by the LaGrange Public Library in partnership with local organizations.

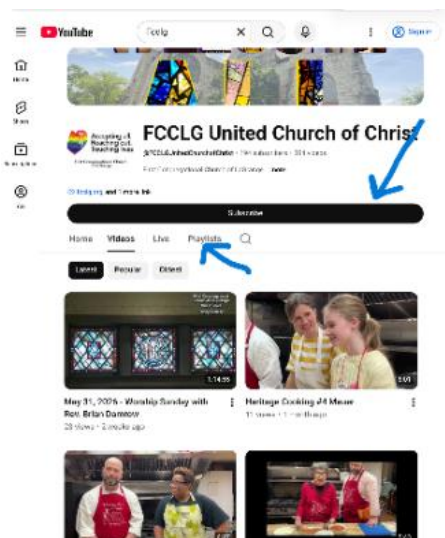


Meditative Prayer Ministry: At FCCLG, we meet in the Beatitudes Chapel (the 6th Avenue Entrance will be open) from 5–7 pm on most Tuesdays to quiet our minds and listen for God’s presence within. Come whenever you are able and stay for as long as you like. All are welcome.



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: Have you checked out our **YouTube channel**? Our YouTube channel is chock full of fantastic videos. You can watch our Sunday worship services, check out the latest installment of the Heritage Cooking series, or watch one of our special events such as the Great Music for Great Causes concert. Just as on Facebook and Instagram, it’s very helpful if you subscribe to our channel. You can also like, share, and save our videos on YouTube.

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.

Parenting Teens without losing your mind! The law office of Patrick Dankwa John is sponsoring this seminar here in the Founders Room on July 23rd from 6:30-7:30pm. Topics include communication, digital use & social media, school pressure, and mental health. RSVP by phone/text: 773-368-5531, or email: pdjnotices@gmail.com. For more details, please see the flyers in the Founders Room.

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

Holy Welcome

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 10:40-42

When I first began living on my own, my mother would ask if my kitchen was stocked with treats for those who dropped by unexpectedly. Was there coffee? Tea? Cream and sugar for the coffee and tea? Cookies? My answer was always “no,” to which she would sigh in exacerbation, “But you have to have cookies.” I was living on an assistant editor’s salary in Manhattan. The thought of spending money on “extravagant” extras for those phantom guests was ludicrous to me. Even more ludicrous was my mother thinking that any stash of cookies would survive uneaten in my cupboards. Perhaps it was that missing Martha Stewart gene in me that kept my cupboards empty of treats for others. Perhaps it was my mom’s deep-seated generational belief that good manners meant feeding someone at the spur of the moment. Whatever it was, I do not deny that hospitality is important — and biblical. For in the breaking of the bread, humanity’s differences give way to a truth that connects us all: We are hungry for belonging, which begins with a welcome. Jesus once told his friends that whoever welcomes them, welcomes him. And so, welcoming is a powerful, holy act that we often fail to see as such. Think about a time when your schedule was interrupted by an unexpected visitor. You probably felt annoyed. But afterward you realized how that encounter was a blessing, turning your day — and attitude — around. Now think back to a time when you called on someone without notice and were given a chilly hello and swift good-bye. How did that make you feel? The reality is that we are all standing on proverbial welcome mats praying that the door before us opens to a place of acceptance — a place that tells us in the welcoming, that we are not only seen, but that our existence matters. Such a welcome doesn’t have to be extravagant. It doesn’t even require having coffee and cookies on hand in the pantry. (Sorry, mom.) A simple cup of cold water to one of God’s little ones is meaningful, Jesus points out. St. David of Wales had a motto in life and that was “do the little things.” On his deathbed in the 6th century, he reminded his monks to keep offering small acts of love, for those are the acts that make the world a better place. Our holy welcomes are acts of love we can show others. And the good news is that our spiritual pantries are already stocked. We have the presence of ourselves to give both stranger and friend.

Loving God, at the very start of creation You saw that humans should not be alone. We were meant to be there for one another, to slow down and show up for the one who is needing to know they are not invisible. May today we find those holy moments to connect with our siblings. 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)

