

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 JULY 12, 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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Rudy Davenport

AnnLaura Tapia, piano

WELCOME

Noah Gartner

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Noah Gartner

One: Beloved community, we gather to worship the God who invites us to join
Them in creating a new world. When our souls are trampled on, made too
hard to bear fruit,

Many: Let us gather.

One: When our hearts exclaim over God's word for a moment,
but never break open to let it sink in,

Many: Let us gather.

One: When the cares of the world prick at and stifle our spirits like thorns,
leaving no room for joy or hope, no time for kindness or compassion,

Many: Let us gather.

One: And when God comes, heals, cultivates in us hearts soft enough to receive, to
nurture, to blossom,

**Many: Let us gather to worship our Creator, our Redeemer, the Breath within our
lungs.**

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal # 73
Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

ENTER, REJOICE

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Noah Gartner

God of Life in all its seasons, you are the Sower who softens us like soil, slowly but surely, so that your ways may sprout in us.

We Limit Not the Truth of God

KINGSFOLD

Verse 1



1 We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2 Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3 E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove:



to no-tions of our day and place, crude, par - tial, and con-fined.
for all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com-pre-hend your love;



No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
That u - ni - verse, how much un-known! that o - cean un - ex - plored!
And help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:



Refrain

O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

You are the source of the water, the sun, the air that sustains our being and unites us with all living things.

Verse 2

You are the Wind that stirs our stagnation, who takes us by the hands and pulls us into action, inviting us to be co-laborers in the hard harvest work as your Kin-dom takes root, grows, and blossoms across the world. We come to worship you who guide all Creation into flourishing. May this day be a transformational day for our hearts and for our ministry.

Verse 3

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Noah Gartner

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

Marks of a Faithful and Vital Church

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.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Noah Gartner

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

The Parable of the Sower

arr. Michael Myrick
Summer Choir

A sower went forth with precious seed, beside the wayside sowing,
He hoped for a harvest rich indeed, would soon be growing.

Refrain: Sowing, sowing, scatter the seed both here and there;
Sowing, sowing surely will yield a harvest fair.

And some fell upon the rocky bed, the tender roots upspringing,
No root had they there and soon were dead, no fruit the Master bringing. [refrain]

But careless feet trod the good seeds there, till they were dying;
To carry them off birds of the air came quickly flying. [refrain]

And some among thorns, it came to pass, the sower too was sowing;
The thorns springing up a good seed growing. [refrain]

But some fell upon good ground, we're told, oh happy is this story;
Rich fruit they bear, a hundred-fold, unto the Master's glory. [refrain]

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

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be - low;' are written below the first system. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The melody continues in the treble staff, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it One. A - men.' are written below the second system.

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)** Noah Gartner

Creator God, your handiwork surrounds us with wonder. From majestic skies to delicate creatures, all creation reflects your glory. As we bring these gifts, grow in us a spirit of stewardship that we may care for your world with reverence and love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Noah Gartner

***HYMN**

Through the Heart of Every City

PLEADING SAVIOR



1 Through the heart of ev-ery cit - y runs the flow of hu-man need.
2 Through the pass-ing gen-er - a - tions, in their spir-it, flesh and bone,
3 Through our wor-ship and our wit-ness, Je - sus, grant that we may still



'Mid this glass and steel are puls-ing smol-der-ing wick and bruised reed.
Je - sus Christ be - comes in - car-nate: ho - ly hearts are liv - ing stone
hear the heart-beat of com-pas-sion call-ing us to do your will.



Has our church a word to of - fer, some hope shin-ing from our creed?
build-ing here a house of re - fuge as a tem-ple, as a home.
You, our vine, and we, your branch-es, dead-ened not by an - y chill,



Walk-ing through the con-crete fur-rows Je - sus sows the Word as seed.
So with - in the cit - y's shad-ow Je - sus plant-ed Word has grown.
work-ing for that fin - al cit - y where the har - vest is ful - filled.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Toccata Regale

Anthony Giamanco
AnnLaura Tapia, organ**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

Reader Leaders: Noah Gartner

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Amanda Murphy

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Laundry Hero: Sherri Ries

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Anne Daniels and Betsy Colombe

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.
- For Cindy Boze, friend of Gail Allinson, for health and strength as she undergoes medical diagnostic testing.

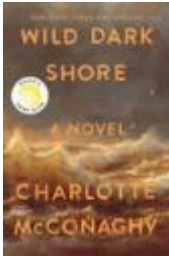
If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, please call the main office at (708) 352-0800.

This Week at Church

Sunday	7/12	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	7/13	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	7/14	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	7/15		
Thursday	7/16		
Friday	7/17	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	7/18	.	
Sunday	7/19	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

Please note: Our brief congregational meeting to vote on confirming and installing the search committee for our next called sole pastor will be **next Sunday, July 19**. As per our constitution, your attendance at church will be needed, so please plan to attend.

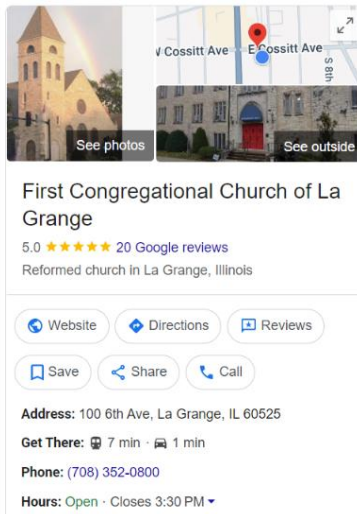


FCCLG Book Club: Book Club will meet this Tuesday, July 14 at 7:30 pm. Our selected book is *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghly. Described as a deeply atmospheric novel, it is set on the fictional and remote Shearwater Island, where an estranged woman searches for her missing husband amidst a community 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).

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’s Digital Outreach - Call to Action: We need Google reviews! In addition to Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, Google reviews are another important way people learn more about our church. Please take a few moments to write a review that may help someone decide if they want to visit our church. Simply look up FCCLG on Google, then click the “Write a review” button. No matter how long or short, every review makes a big difference in our outreach.



Reviews from the web

Facebook

4.6/5

10 votes

WeddingWire

5/5

2 reviews

Reviews ⓘ

Write a review

Add photos

- 

"I look for 4 main things in a church: preaching, **music, people** and community."
★★★★★
- 

"If looking for a **place** to worship I would highly recommend attending FCCLG."
★★★★★
- 

"Come check it out, you may quit shopping too."
★★★★★

Council Meeting Minutes: Church Council Meeting Minutes can be found in a binder in the Founders Room. Currently the binder has minutes from 2025 up to the current meeting. If you are interested in other minutes, please feel free to request them from the church office.