

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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708.352.0800

SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2026

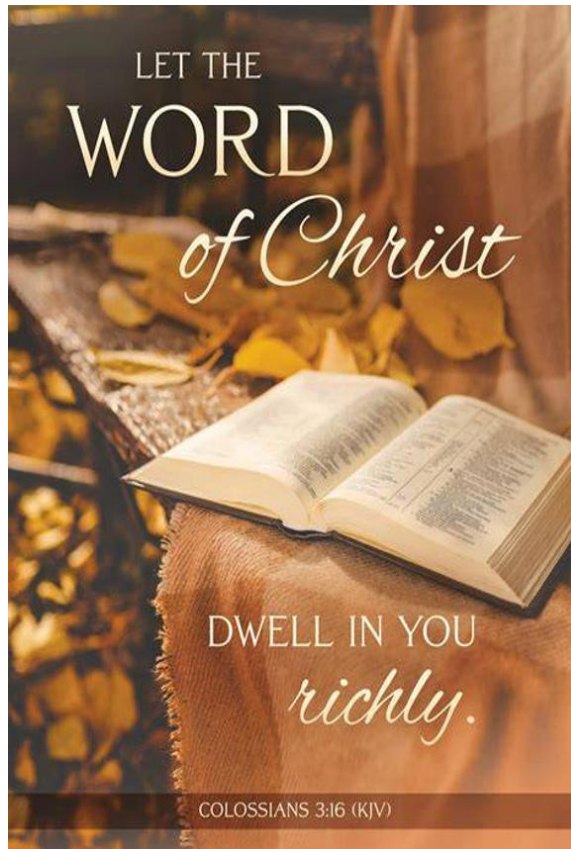
Dreaming God's Dream

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

Fantasy on Lasst uns erfreuen

Nicholas Palmer
AnnLaura Tapia, piano

WELCOME

Ellen Hamilton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ellen Hamilton

One: Our lives are in the care of God.

Many: God has given us abundance and hope.

One: This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

Many: We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

Many: Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #27
From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Ellen Hamilton

Merciful God, we live in a society that focuses on gathering things. We collect, store, gather items, gadgets, even people. We focus our energies on our collections, providing adequate room for them, and yet we bar the door to the needs of others, of those who have little or nothing, of those for whom life has been a constant struggle. We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you. Guide our transformation to a new spiritual vision of the world we live in. Turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth, both of substance and spirit, can be used for healing and hope. Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for this world. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:1-11 (NSRVUE)

Ellen Hamilton

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

A New Way to Think

Rev. Brian Damrow

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Brian Damrow

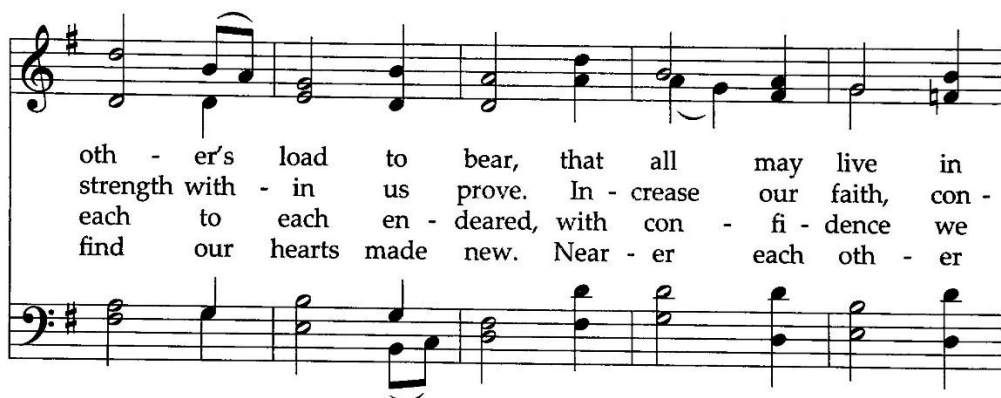
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



1 Help us to help each oth - er, Lord, each
 2 Help us to build each oth - er up, your
 3 Je - sus, u - nit - ed by your grace, and
 4 Drawn by the mag - net of your love, we



oth - er's load to bear, that all may live in
 strength with - in us prove. In - crease our faith, con -
 each to each en - deared, with con - fi - dence we
 find our hearts made new. Near - er each oth - er



true ac - cord, our joys and pains to share.
 firm our hope and fill us with your love.
 seek your face and know our prayer is heard.
 let us move, and near - er still to you.

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Ellen Hamilton

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

Hallelujah Round of Praise (Psalm 148:1-3)

Mozart, arr. Lovelace
Summer Choir

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.
Praise him to the heavens, praise him in the heights,
Praise him, all his angels, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon, all you shining stars.
Sing hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

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

Musical score for the Offertory Response, 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' (Old Hundredth). The score is written for a unison voice part and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics: '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)** Ellen Hamilton

All that we can offer you stems from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Ellen Hamilton

***HYMN** *New Century Hymnal #273*
Praise with Joy, the World's Creator LAUDA ANIMA

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE Variations on Lauda Anima Adrienne M. Tindall
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Ellen Hamilton

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Hosts: Sue Hoffman and Tim Merker

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng

Laundry Hero: Laurie Braun

Prayer Requests

- For Juanita, family of Nancy Coleman, for strength and healing.
- For Camille (Dave Watt’s sister) and Brian Bell.
- 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 the Mark Twain Elementary School community.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	8/23	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	8/24	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	8/25	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	8/26	7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	Drawing Room
Thursday	8/27		
Friday	8/28	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	8/29	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	8/30	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

Social Justice Team will meet after the service in the Drawing Room.

All are welcome!



Choirs and Ensembles Begin Soon: It's time to sing, ring, and play together again! FCCLG ensembles are for everyone and are a great way to introduce the community to our church. Contact ryan@fcclg.org to express interest.

Chancel Choir: 1st rehearsal is Thursday, September 3 at 7pm.

All singers of high-school age and up are welcome.

Carillon Handbell Choir: 1st rehearsal is Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30pm.

All ringers of high-school age and up are welcome.

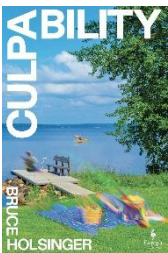
Ring and Sing: 1st rehearsal is 9/20 at 11:30am for 1st - 8th graders.

Youth Handbell Ensemble: 1st rehearsal is 9/20 at 12pm for 4th - 8th graders.

Kickoff Sunday is September 13th!

Worship will take place at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. After worship, we will move downstairs to the Dining Room for lunch, fellowship, and fun. Nurture will be providing hot dogs, condiments, and beverages. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes or desserts to share. There will be a bounce house and games in the parking lot, so we need adults to take turns monitoring outside. Do you have a cornhole set you would be willing to bring? Or other outdoor games such as giant Connect 4 or Jenga? If you are willing to help monitor the parking lot or have games you can bring, please let AnnLaura know in the office, or signup on the sheet in the Founders Room.

Thank you for helping to make Kickoff Sunday a fun event for all!



FCCLG Book Club: Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 pm. Our selected book is *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger, a contemporary family drama that explores the moral complexities of technology and responsibility following a fatal self-driving car accident involving the Cassidy-Shaw family. 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).



Adopt-a-Chair Campaign: We have 41 choir chairs in our Sanctuary that have served us faithfully for many years and are now badly in need of reupholstering. For a suggested donation of \$150—or contributing whatever amount you can—you can adopt one of our choir chairs and help give it a much-needed new lease on life. Please indicate “Adopt a Chair” in the comment line of your donation. Thank you!



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. On Sundays without volunteers, there will not be a coffee hour. Please sign up on the poster in the Founders Room. Thank you for helping make this special time possible!

La Grange Farmer’s Market Tent: Our second tent of the La Grange Farmer’s Market season will be on Thursday, September 17th. Church members are needed to staff the tent and engage with marketgoers. If you would be interested, please contact Jamie in the church office: events@fcclg.org.



Save the Date - CROP Hunger Walk - Sunday, September 27th

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based fundraising events held in hundreds of communities across the United States. FCCLG has participated in CROP for almost 40 years and over that time millions of dollars have been raised in the goal of ending hunger and poverty. On Sunday afternoon, September 27th, the Ministry of Missions will combine forces with Wacky Walkers to fight hunger both in our community and around the world. Our walk is dedicated to Linda Lauterbach who was a strong supporter of CROP for many years. We need you, either as a Walker or a Donor! Details to follow about the walk and fellowship to follow, along with our fundraising page and how you can donate to this important cause.

Adult Bible Class: Rev. Damrow will be starting an adult Bible class as part of our Faith Formation program. This class will take place either on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Keep an eye out for a survey next week regarding best times for interested people. The survey will be available online as well as in the Founders Room.



Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies!

On behalf of the Migrant Ministry and the LaGrange Public Library, and the communities and families they serve, thank you for your incredible generosity during our two recent School Supply Drives! Because of your kindness we collected loads of school supplies - from pencils and notebooks to art materials and backpacks - all of which will help ensure that students start the school year equipped with the supplies they need and encouraged by the support of their communities.

The Ministry of Missions truly appreciates your support of this outreach project!



Electronics Recycling and Shredding Event: First Presbyterian Church of La Grange is hosting an electronics recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, September 19, in their parking lot from 10:00am-1:00pm. This free event will be managed by the Cook County Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM for short). FPCLG is partnering with the La Grange Rotary Club and also Community

Assisted Rides (CARS) to support this event.

Electronics and small appliances: computers, computer accessories, gaming devices, televisions, mobile devices, printers, air conditioners, microwaves, small kitchen appliances, etc. Anything with a plug or battery, that is small enough to lift. CHaRM disposes of these sustainably through certified recycling partners. Since these devices contain toxic metals like lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic, they are banned from landfills and need to be recycled.

Paper shredding: Household documents (limit 2 boxes per car). Staples and plastic covers are okay, but no binder clips. On-site document destruction ensures your confidential materials are shredded securely. All shredded paper is recycled, which saves trees and reduces methane emissions from landfills.

Meditative Prayer Ministry: At FCCLG, we meet in the Beatitudes Chapel (the 6th Avenue Entrance will be open) from 5–7pm 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. Bibles and prayer cards are available in the chapel. All are welcome.



Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) is the way our congregation participates in the ministry of the wider United Church of Christ — supporting vital work **in the Illinois Conference and across the globe.**

Through OCWM, local churches like ours empower:

- **Leadership support and care** for clergy and congregations across Illinois
- **Resources and training** that strengthen churches in times of change
- **Justice and compassion ministries** serving communities in need
- **National and global mission work**, including disaster relief, refugee support, and long-term community development

Thank you for giving generously to this wider mission we share.

FCCLG Leadership in 2026

Council:			
Moderator of Council	Kent Llewellyn	moderator@fcclg.org	
Past Moderator	Tom Lowry		
Vice Moderator	Patrick John		
Clerk	Sherri 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	Sherri 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 Sandra Kappmeyer Dick Lauterbach	Mary Anne Daniels Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak Diane Kasnick	Susan Lynch Jim Marciniak Jill Tobin and many more!
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

Be Transformed

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! And let us have a pop quiz. I bet you never expected that in church, did you? But here we go.

What was the name of the baby found along the banks of the Nile? Moses. Correct.

That was easy. Now for one a bit harder. Name the two midwives who disregarded Pharaoh's edict to kill all Hebrew baby boys, and who delivered Moses. Pharaoh gave this horrific order to curtail the rapid growth of the Hebrew population who were enslaved in Egypt. It didn't work. It just made God bless the community more.

But back to the question. What were their names? They were Shiprah and Puah. Don't worry if you didn't know the answer. I didn't either when this question appeared on the Bible content part of my ordination exams. It had me stumped, and my friends as well.

It's noteworthy that the midwives' names live on in the ongoing story of salvation because women were often written out of the manuscripts by the male authors of the time. But here in the story of Moses, all we have are women defying authority. We have the midwives as the heroines who prevented a genocide. We have Moses' mother who hid her baby the first few months of life, before putting him in a basket made of reeds and floating him in the Nile. We have Moses' sister watching the basket bobbing on the banks of the Nile to ensure her baby brother is safe. Then we have the daughter of Pharaoh who adopts the babe as her son and gives him the name "Moses," which means "drawn from the water."

Each decisive, risky and faithful act of these women builds upon the next, ultimately transforming the Israelites from the enslaved to desert wanderers to recipients of the Promised Land. And that is how a better tomorrow is created — in stages and with the help of people working together. Bringing about change isn't a solitary act. The world, which is always in some stage of transformation because God is never done with us, needs your hands this day to deliver hope or weave a basket of safety or raise a child whose voice will say to a pharaoh, "Let my people go."

We all have a part to play in heralding in God's kingdom. May your name be one that is remembered in the who's who of God's children who dared, risked and spoke up.

Gracious God, Your plans for a better tomorrow will never be thwarted. Peace will reign. Justice will prevail. The outcasts and forgotten will be welcomed. And so, Great God, here are our hands. Bless them and use them in transforming Your broken world. 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)

