

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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SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Wilbur Held
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Angela Harrison

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Angela Harrison

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

Many: here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

One: Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

Many: here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

One: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

Many: here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.

***OPENING HYMN**

Calm to the Waves

CALM SEAS

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, with a final double bar line. Above the treble staff in the second system, the following chords are indicated: Am7, D, Gmaj7, C, Am7, Dsus4, D, and G. The lyrics for the second system are: 'Balm to our hearts, fears at an end, in still-ness, hear his voice.'

Calm to the waves, calm to the wind, Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be still."

Balm to our hearts, fears at an end, in still-ness, hear his voice.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Angela Harrison

It seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey, God of Promises. But when the winds of change begin to blow, we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor. When darkened skies bring tall and powerful waves crashing over the side of our boat, we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride thinking we will not get wet. When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.

Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt, we long for someone to help us. So guide our transformation from prideful thoughts to faithful actions. Stretch out your hand, so we might be lifted from our despair to hope, from our worries to trust, from our foolishness to faithful living. Then, we will dare to follow Jesus the Christ even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 14:22-33

Angela Harrison

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

When Trust Is Tested

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 #444
We Are Often Tossed and Driven
verses 1-3

BY AND BY

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

My Hope Is Built

arr. Tom Trenney

Ryan Cox and AnnLaura Tapia

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

***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)**

Angela Harrison

If we dare to be your followers, Jesus our brother, then we must be daring enough to offer not just our hearts, our lives, our time, but our tangible gifts as well. Take what we share in these moments to care for others, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Harrison

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #410

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

NEUMARK

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Josef Hector Fiocco, trans. Callahan

AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Angela Harrison

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Amanda Murphy

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Laundry Hero: Sherri Ries

Coffee Hour Hosts: Nurture

Prayer Requests

- For Juanita, family of Nancy Coleman, for strength and healing.
- 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	8/9	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m. Ministry Teams Meetings	Dining Room
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	8/10	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	8/11	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	8/12		
Thursday	8/13		
Friday	8/14	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	8/15	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	8/16	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

Backpack Sunday: Bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, August 16, for a special sendoff for the start of the school year.



Crop Walk Save the Date: Our annual Crop Walk will be Sunday, September 27th. More information will be coming soon.

Heritage Cooking Series: Have you watched all of our Heritage Cooking Series videos? The newest episode is launching on Facebook and Instagram today! Every one of these is must-see! Go to our social media pages, or scan this QR code to go directly to our YouTube page and click on the Heritage Cooking Series playlist.



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, you can adopt one of our choir chairs and help give it a much-needed new lease on life.

You don't have to take it home, and thankfully, it won't need to be walked or fed.

We'll keep it right here at church!

Our goal is to have all 41 chairs adopted, so please consider adopting a chair—or contributing whatever amount you can—to help keep our choir sitting pretty for years to come. Please indicate “Adopt a Chair” in the comment line of your donation. Thank you!

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.

When All Seems Lost

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph **dared** to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living. And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, communicated often in our nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams.

Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world."

If all seems lost right now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again. May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. 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)

