

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 SEPTEMBER 20, 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 uncended, 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

Intermezzo Op. 116, No. 6

Johannes Brahms
AnnLaura Tapia, piano

WELCOME

Jim Marciniak

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Marciniak

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God's wonderful works.

Many: Declare God's marvelous deeds among the peoples.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Many: Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

Many: The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, My People

Words: James F.D. Martin

Music: James F.D. Martin and Elizabeth Martin Cliffe

Refrain



Come, my peo- ple, wel - come to wor- ship. Love is in the warmth of this place.



Sing to God a song_ of thanks-giv- ing, sing to God a song___ of praise!



1. Gath - er in safe - ty, wel - comed in Christ-ian love;
2. Sto - ries of Je - sus show us the way to live,
3. Stand with each oth - er in one com - mu - ni - ty,



God touch - es us with strength from a - bove.
how to serve oth - ers, how to for - give.
work - ing to - geth - er God's reign to see.

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone. Transform our hearts and spiritual vision for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Amen, We Praise Your Name

AMEN, SIAKUDUMISA



A-men, we praise your name, O God! A-men, we praise your name, O God!
A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! A-men, si - a - ku - du - mi - sa!



A-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, A-men, we praise your name, O God.
A-men, ba-wo. A-men, ba-wo. A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa.

SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 16:2-15 (NSRVUE)

Jim Marciniak

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord,

because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

I Heard Your Complaining

Rev. Brian Damrow

HYMN

You, God, Are My Firmament

FIRMAMENT

1 You, God, are my firm - a - ment, roof for my head, shel-ter from
2 You, God, are a tower of strength. I shall not fear, I shall not
3 You, God, are my guid - ing light, bea - con from birth, help - ing to
storm, nour - ish - ing bread, ten - der and warm. I will give
fall, know - ing you're near, guard - ian of all.
see, light - ing the earth, en - light - ening me.
thanks, I will sing praise with all of my heart, all of my days.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Brian Damrow

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Ellen Hamilton

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Jim Marciniak

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY**A Prayer for Peace**

Lyrics: Anonymous, French, 1912

Music: Michael John Trotta

Although the text is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, the prayer in its present form cannot be found earlier than 1912 when it was printed as an anonymous prayer in France, in French, in a small spiritual magazine called La Clochette (The Little Bell)

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

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

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*)**

Jim Marciniak

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marciniak

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #22
Sing Praise to God Who Has Shaped

LOBE DEN HERREN

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Lobe den Herren”

John S. Dixon
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Jim Marciniak
Usher: Lawrence Bain
Coffee Hour Host: Lexie Carther

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng
Laundry Hero: Kathy Donaldson

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 Bob Berg, brother of Tom Berg, for healing.
- For Carol, sister of Judith Fennema, for strength and healing.
- For Ed Keating, father of Catherine Keating, who has entered hospice care.
- For Ann Fish, on the passing of Greg Fish.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	9/20	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m. All Teams Meetings	Dining Room
		11:15 a.m. Social Justice Meeting	Drawing Room
		11:30 a.m. Ring and Sing	Room 304
		12:00 p.m. Youth Handbell Ensemble	Room 305
Monday	9/21	7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
		12:00 p.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	9/22	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	9/23	7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	Drawing Room
		7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Thursday	9/24	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	9/25	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	9/26	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	9/27	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		1:30 p.m. CROP Walk/Wacky Walkers	Donaldson Residence
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

All Teams and Social Justice will meet after service today, Sunday, September 20th.

FCCLG Needs You(r Shares)! A new Event Rentals video was launched on our social media to help generate bookings, and it needs to be seen! Can you help us meet our goal of 30 shares by next Sunday the 28th? Spread the word via Facebook (via the QR code here) or on Instagram, or both. The more engagement, the better. Thank you for your support!





CROP Hunger Walk – September 27 @ 1:30pm: No one in this world should be hungry. For over 50 years Church World Service has been organizing Crop Walks and continuing to expand the program's reach and impact. The steps we take - and the funds we raise together - help provide access to clean water, nutritious food, and life-changing resources. Funds help protect children, respond to disasters, offer safe housing, and create sustainable solutions to combat poverty. Our

support also helps provide educational opportunities for children and adults, builds local economies, and empowers individuals to start their own businesses.

Locally, our CROP Walk will return 25% of the funds raised to hunger-fighting programs in our community: the Saturday Meals program and the Food Pantry at the Second Baptist Church of La Grange.

Next Sunday, September 27, Walkers will meet at the Donaldson residence, 900 N Stone Ave., La Grange Park, right by the Salt Creek Trail where our walk begins. After the walk, around 2:30 pm, everyone is welcome for food and fellowship back at the Donaldsons.

Please make a donation to this important cause. You can use the QR code which will take you to FCCLG's "Team Linda" page. From there simply click the 'Make a donation' button on the right side of the page.

You also can contribute with a check made **payable to FCCLG with CWS Crop Walk written on the memo line.**

Thank you for your support of individuals and families impacted by poverty and disaster.

Volunteers needed: There are a variety of volunteers needed for Sundays at FCCLG. If you are willing to help with any of the following opportunities, please sign up on the sheet in the Founders Room, or let AnnLaura know in the church office: mainoffice@fcclg.org.

Reader Leader: Lead the welcome, call to worship, Scripture reading, unison prayers, and announcements during worship.

Greeter(s): Assist JoAnne Konkle in offering a welcoming presence to all who attend our worship service. This role is perfect for individuals as well as families with children.

Coffee Hour Hosts: 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.

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.



Choirs and Ensembles: 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: Rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings at 7pm. All singers of high-school age and up are welcome. It's not too late to join!

Carillon Handbell Choir: Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

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

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

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



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!

Adult Bible Class Survey: Rev. Damrow will be starting adult Bible class as part of our Faith Formation program. Please fill out the survey to help us plan for best days and times. The survey is available online via the QR code, or paper copies are in the Founders Room.



Embracing the Struggles Together

Bereavement Support Group

A supportive community for widowed parents navigating life after loss



Free

Fall Session

Wednesdays • Oct 28 – Dec 9, 2026
7 – 8:30 pm • In Person • La Grange, IL

A safe supportive space, guided by a certified grief educator, to connect and explore a variety of topics.

Open to all widowed parents with kids (toddler through college age) residing in the Lyons Township High School district.

Scan to RSVP

You do not have to do this alone



TheLegacyGuild.com



Info@TheLegacyGuild.com

Want to help with the November election? Consider becoming an election judge. It requires a long day, but you will be rewarded by knowing you did your part for democracy. Information in the flyer below.

**MONICA GORDON**
COOK COUNTY CLERK

BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE TODAY!

Do your part for local Democracy and earn some cash in the process!



POLL WORKERS NEEDED IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY FOR THE **NOVEMBER 3, 2026** GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

POLL WORKERS NEEDED IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY FOR THE **NOVEMBER 3, 2026** GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

**ELECTION JUDGE**
\$250
Greet voters, sign them in, and ensure smooth polling place operations.

**POLLING PLACE TECHNICIAN**
\$400
Assist with election supplies, equipment setup, and maintenance, in addition to Election Judge duties.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested individuals should apply as soon as possible to complete the required training.
- Apply online today at: cookcountyclerk.com/work

SCAN HERE


September 20, 2026

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

“...We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers. As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God’s mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one’s calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

- First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders and the renewal they may need.
- Second, we encourage you to give permission and blessing for two consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in ongoing practices of self-care, necessary for sustained and life-giving ministry.
- Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

...Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you.”

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)

