

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**



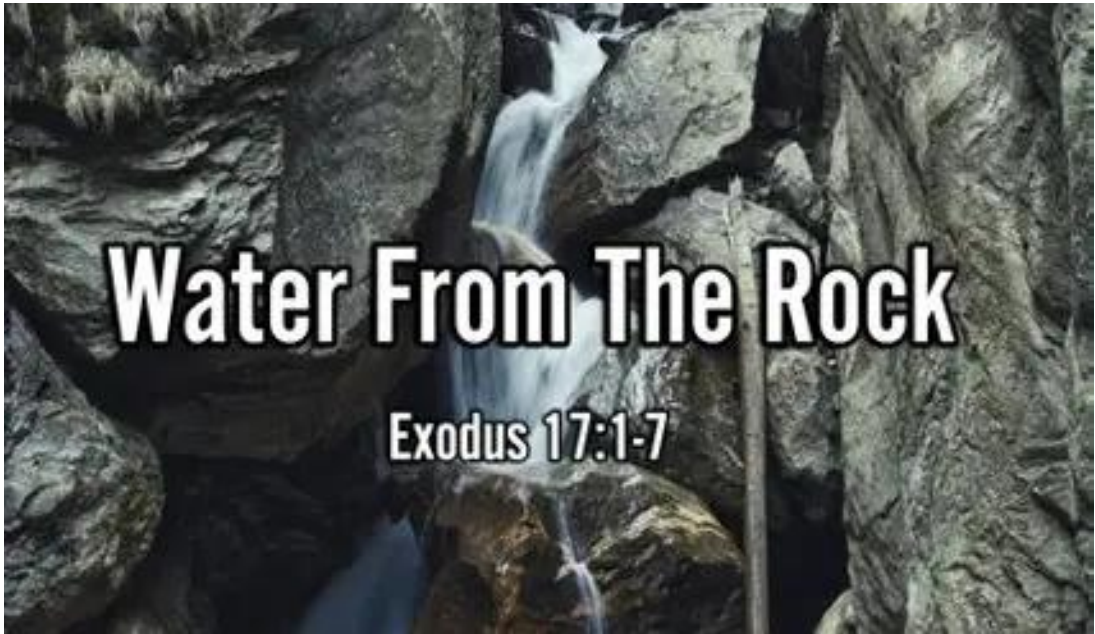
mainoffice@FCCLG.org
www.FCCLG.org
708.352.0800

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

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

One Great Spirit

Kathleen Wissinger
Carillon Handbell Choir

WELCOME

Sherri Ries

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sherri Ries

One: Come, all who thirst—come to the water!

Many: You who long for the water of life—come and drink!

One: Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness; quench your thirst at God's well of grace.

Many: For God is here among us, offering living water to all who would drink!

One: Let us worship God together, who strikes the rock and brings forth life even in the wilderness.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come to the Water

DESERT ALLELUIA

Words and Music: Carol Ann Weaver



1 Come to the wa - ter, liv - ing wa - ter, come to the
2 Come with thanks - giv - ing, glad thanks - giv - ing, come with thanks -
3 Bring all your bur - dens, heav - y treas - ures, lay down your
4 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -



wa - ter, come all sing - ing, come to the wa - ter,
giv - ing, come all sing - ing, come with thanks - giv - ing,
bur - dens, come all sing - ing, bring all your bur - dens,
lu - ia, come all sing - ing, Al - le - lu - ia,



liv - ing wa - ter, come to the wa - ter, come all sing - ing.
glad thanks - giv - ing, come with thanks - giv - ing, come all sing - ing.
heav - y treas - ures, lay down your bur - dens, come all sing - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia, sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

Holy Parent, in the wilderness of our lives, we confess we have thirsted for more than you can give in this moment. Like the Israelites at Rephidim, we have questioned, "Is the LORD among us or not?" We have quarreled with you in our hearts, demanding signs and proof. We have tested your patience, seeking assurance beyond your word. Transform our hearts, set us on a pathway that aids us in overcoming our testiness, our fickle faith, and our resistance to your timing. Just as Moses struck the rock and water flowed, we ask you to break open the stone of our heart. Let your Spirit gush forth like living water, quenching our thirst and washing away all that does not belong. Teach us to hold fast in the midst of uncertainty. Renew our commitment to walk with you, trusting that you are with us, even when I cannot see you. Let this be the place where our faith is refined and our hope is renewed.

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 17:1-7 (NSRVUE)

Sherri Ries

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

The People May Drink

Rev. Brian Damrow

*HYMN

Thirsty We Wander the Desert

Words: David Bjorlin

Music: Mark A. Miller

Verse 1: Choir

Verses 2-4: All



1 Thirst - y, we wan-der the des - ert; _____ our ex - o - dus seems like a
2 Hope-less, we wan-der the des - ert _____ and fear what our fail - ures will
3 An - gry, we wan-der the des - ert _____ where ha - tred and big - o - try
4 Thirst - y, we wan-der the des - ert, _____ our home-land a far - a - way



dream. _____ In an-guish we cry as the riv - ers run dry, yet
bring. _____ We shriv - el in shame from the heat of our blame, yet
grow; _____ a sigh is our song in the val - ley of wrong, yet
dream, _____ but we will en - dure for your pro mise is sure, and



e - ven from rock, your wa - ter will stream. E - ven from rock, e - ven from
e - ven from rock, your mer - cy will spring. E - ven from rock, e - ven from
e - ven from rock, your jus - tice will flow. E - ven from rock, e - ven from
e - ven from rock, your wa - ter will stream. E - ven from rock, e - ven from



rock, e - ven from rock, your wa - ter will stream. _____ Ho -
rock, e - ven from rock, your mer - cy will spring. _____ Ho -
rock, e - ven from rock, your jus - tice will flow. _____ Ho -
rock, e - ven from rock, your wa - ter will stream. _____ Ho -



san - na, _____ ho - san - - - na. _____

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Sherri Ries

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to
708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

Rivers of Living Water

Karen Marolli

Chancel Choir; Michael John Ferry, violin;

Brian Shannon, flute; Alex Hagen-McIntosh, drum

There shall be rivers of living water;
There shall be streams of spirit light.
There shall be rivers of living water
that cleanse the soul and give us sight.

There shall be pathways of flowing fountains,
where rivers seek us to embrace.
O let the thirsty come before him
and drink the well of healing grace.

O does your soul cry out for oneness,
like the deserts seek the rain,
like the deer longs for the well spring?
Great spirit, quench us and sustain!

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

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)**

Sherri Ries

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to our shared ministry. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sherri Ries

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #18
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

CWM RHONDDA

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

A Joyful Ring

Barbara B. Kinyon
Carillon Handbell Choir

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leaders: Sherri Ries

Audio/Video: John Hoo and David Watts

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Laundry Hero: Laurie Braun

Coffee Hour Host: Jamie Dougherty, Events & Building Coordinator

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, as he continues to deal with health challenges.
- For Mike Tobin, brother of Jill, who is going through treatment for kidney cancer.
- For Bob Berg, brother of Tom Berg, for healing.
- For the family of Ed Keating, father of Catherine Keating, who died peacefully on September 16.
- For Ann Fish, on the passing of Greg Fish.
- For Gail Allinson, for strength and healing.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	9/27	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:30 a.m. Ring and Sing	Room 304
		12:00 p.m. Youth Handbell Ensemble	Room 305
		1:30 p.m. CROP Walk/Wacky Walkers	Donaldson Residence
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	9/28	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	9/29	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	9/30	7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Thursday	10/1	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	10/2	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	10/3	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	10/4	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

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? 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!



Thank you! to Alex Hagen-McIntosh for the Firewood Storage Box. Alex designed and built this box as his Eagle Scout project. It will provide dry storage for firewood, complementing our firepit area out back that was Morgan Sander's Eagle Scout project.

Touch Cards: Did you know there are FCCLG postcards on the table at the back of the sanctuary? If you would like to send a message to another churchgoer, you can write a note on a postcard and place it in the offering plate or the treasure box. Be sure to include the recipient's name and your signature. The office staff will make sure it gets mailed.



CROP Hunger Walk - Today, September 27th

Please join us as we raise money to fight hunger in our community and around the world. There is still time to join us either as a Walker or Donor. Walkers, meet at 1:30 pm at the Donaldson residence, 900 N Stone Ave., La Grange Park, right by the entrance to the Salt Creek Trail, where our walk begins. After



the walk, around 2:30 pm, everyone is welcome back at the Donaldson's for food and fellowship.

Please help us reach our goal by making an online donation through the QR code which will take you directly to FCCLG's Team Linda page.



Sandwich Sunday for BEDS Plus on October 4th: Please join us in the dining room after service on October 4th to prepare a variety of sandwiches for clients of BEDS Plus. 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!



Adopt-a-Chair Campaign: We are two chairs away from reaching our goal for refurbishing our choir chairs. For a suggested donation of \$150 – or contributing whatever amount you can – you can adopt a choir chair and give it a much-needed new lease on life. Any amount over our goal will go toward refurbishing the cushions for the pulpit and lectern, and other reupholstering needs. Please indicate “Adopt a Chair” in the comment line of your donation. Thank you!

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.

The Arboretum Villas Expansion

Ground Breaking Celebration

Join Plymouth Place for a landmark event
as we break ground on the next phase of The Arboretum Villas,
celebrating the board members, community leaders,
generous donors, founding depositors, and residents whose leadership
and commitment have transformed a vision into reality.

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Plymouth Place

315 N. LA GRANGE ROAD, LA GRANGE PARK, ILLINOIS

Following the official groundbreaking ceremony,
please join us for a festive reception to celebrate this historic occasion.

Kindly **RSVP** by Monday, September 28th to (708) 482-6842.



*Informed
Citizens.
Stronger
Communities.*

**CIVICS
LECTURE SERIES**
PLYMOUTH PLACE RESIDENTS

**BI-PARTISAN PANEL DISCUSSION
TO HELP GUIDE US THROUGH THE NATIONAL & LOCAL ELECTION**

**ISSUES & THE
MIDTERM ELECTION**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 7:15 PM

Plymouth Place Senior Living, 315 N. La Grange Road, La Grange Park,
Illinois 60526 Ph. 708-354-0340.

DOLE HALL

★ ★ ★ Four prominent civic leaders have accepted our invitation
to discuss critical issues facing voters on November 3. ★ ★ ★

Moderated by
Former Chicago Tribune Editorial Page Editor/Newsweek Correspondent,
John McCormick

			
PAT BRADY Former Chair, Illinois Republican Party	LISA DUARTE Frequent TV Commentator Chicago Magazine's Top 50 Most Powerful Chicagoans	JIM DURKIN Former Minority Leader, Illinois House of Representatives	ZACH KOUTSKY Partner, Mercury Public Relations (Coalition Building)

Join the Conversation. Be an Informed Voter.

COMMUNITY | CIVILITY | PERSPECTIVE | ENGAGEMENT

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
David Bryant • Doris Bryant • Lee Daniels • Joyce Linn, Chair

September 27, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7

God's Sustaining Presence

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?

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)

