

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LA GRANGE

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

**S. LA GRANGE RD AT COSSITT AVE.
100 S. Sixth Ave.
LA GRANGE, IL**



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SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2026

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

Christe, der du bist Tag und Licht
“Christ Who Is the Light and Day”

Georg Böhm
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Patrick John

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Patrick John

One: In the midst of fear and anger, in the midst of chaos and destruction,
God calls us.

Many: We will come.

One: In the midst of anxiety and worry, in the midst of bills and appointments,
God invites us.

Many: We will come.

One: We are invited. We are welcome. We are worthy.

Many: We come on your invitation, seeking to be fed with the love of God.

***OPENING HYMN**

Invitation

Words and Music: Shawn Whelan, arr. C. Lees



1 God has laid a feast-ing ta - ble. All her guests are
 2 At this ta - ble all are wel - come. No-one need be
 3 God is cry - ing out for jus - tice. Christ is weep - ing

gath-ered round. From the high - ways and the by - ways
 left be - hind. God is great - er than our diff - erence.
 in the street. When will be the time for laugh - ter?

all the lost have now been found. When we hear the
 Christcan see where we are blind. When we hear the
 When will all have food to eat? When we hear the

in - vi - ta - tion will we lay our bur-dens down?
 in - vi - ta - tion will we love all hu - man - kind?
 in - vi - ta - tion will we make God's will com - plete?

When we hear the in - vi - ta - tion
 When we hear the in - vi - ta - tion
 When we hear the in - vi - ta - tion

will we lay our bur - dens down?
 will we love all hu - man - kind?
 will we make God's will com - plete?

You would call us to your feast, Inviting God, but our busy lives keep us from responding. You remember every word we utter, every prayer we whisper, but we forget all the little ways you care for us. You would make your gentleness known through us, but we lash out in anger and fear towards others. Today we ask that you remove from us all that does not belong and fill us with new spiritual eyes to see your truth. Open our eyes to see this truth as lived out through Jesus. In him, we can live in your way. Through him, we can learn the dreams you have for us. With him, we can open our arms and embrace all the people we meet.

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:

Matthew 22:1-14 (NSRVUE)

Patrick John

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned

their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

Who Will Come

Rev. Brian Damrow

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

My Lord, What a Morning

arr. Robert Benson
Chancel Choir

In chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew, Jesus describes the vivid imagery used in the spiritual "My Lord What a Morning". These images are often misused as a literal description of the end of the world. Jesus uses them after a sequence of several parables, including today's, to emphasize the importance of being prepared and ready for Jesus' invitation.

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. [refrain]

You'll hear the sinner cry,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. [refrain]

You'll hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. [refrain]

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

Patrick John

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

Lead me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Chancel Choir; Karen Jesse, soprano; organ

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

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

The musical score is written for a unison response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, and the second system covers the second line, ending with a double bar line.

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*)

Patrick John

May not only our gifts, but our lives, be the grace and hope which bring healing to the broken, as well as food and nourishment to all who hunger and thirst for justice and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrick John

***HYMN**

Shout for Joy

TOULON

Verses 1, 3, 4



1 Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
2 No more doubt - ing, no more sense-less dread;
3 Cel - e - brate with saints who dine on high,
4 Praise the Mak - er, praise the Mak - er's Son,

heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;
God's good self has grac'd our wine and bread;
wit - ness - es that love can nev - er die.
praise the Spir - it, three yet ev - er one;

Christ's own peace is shared a - gain on earth;
All the won - der heaven has kept in store
"Hal - le - lu - jah!" thus their voic - es ring.
praise the God whose food and friends a - vow

God the Spir - it fills us with new worth.
now is ours to keep for - ev - er - more.
Noth - ing less in grat - i - tude we bring.
heaven starts here! The king - dom beck - ons now!

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow
"Salvation now has come for all" AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Patrick John

Audio/Video: John Hoo and David Watts

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Laundry Hero: Sherri Ries

Coffee Hour Host: Sherri and David Ries

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 Gail Allinson, for strength and healing.
- For Paddy Homan and the entire Homan family on the death of his sister, Abina.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	10/11	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m. All Teams Meeting	Dining Room
		11:30 a.m. Ring and Sing	Room 304
		12:00 p.m. Youth Handbell Ensemble	Room 305
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	10/12	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	10/13	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	10/14	7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Thursday	10/15	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	10/16	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	10/17	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	10/18	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
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

Did You Know?: Rooms 202, 203, and 204 on the main level are occupied by the Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics? IAFC has 35 clinics throughout Illinois, and has provided 55,000 medical, 15,000 dental, and 26,000 behavioral health visits in 2026, with \$70 million in health care services and emergency room diversions provided annually.

All Saints' Day Remembrance. If you would like to include a loved one as part of our All Saints' Day Service, please complete the card located at the back of the sanctuary and return with a picture of your loved one by October 28th.

Adult Faith Formation: Rev. Damrow will be offering faith formation classes on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and 7:00pm, starting Tuesday, October 13th. The material covered each week will be the same at both session times, so you are welcome to come whichever time works best with your schedule each week.

NEEDED: Gifts of Gratitude Coordinator: Our **Gifts of Gratitude** ministry blesses families served by **Casa Central**, a long-established, community-based nonprofit in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago delivering social services, especially to Hispanic families across the full lifespan. Through our partnership with **Casa Central** each year in early December we provide special and deeply appreciated gifts for children of families in need. Our congregation selects the gifts based on information supplied for each child by Casa Central.

We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate the collection and distribution of donated gifts for Casa Central clients. Diane Kasnick has directed this activity for many years, and she will mentor you this year to ensure this much-loved Advent tradition is a success.

If you have a heart for service and a knack for organizing, we would love to have you assume this important role! Please reach out to Kathy Donaldson or the Church Office if you want to learn more or if you are interested in volunteering.



The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Learn more at www.ucc.org/nin

Social Justice Protest: The social justice committee is set to join other members of the community in a protest to be held on Saturday, October 17th. Each participant will hold up a sign, 15 of which will have statements about Fascism, and 15 having statements about democracy. We will gather on the church steps at 1:30 and get into position along the northbound LaGrange Road parkway between 47th and Cossitt, holding up the signs from 2:00 – 3:00. Because of the nature of the protest, we need a full slate of participants, each person holding up one sign. If you are interested, please text Sandra Kappmeyer. Please invite friends to participate as well. Her cell # is (585) 662-9082 .

Giving Tree: As we continue our pledge drive, we want to encourage everyone to consider how FCCLG has blessed them, and what they hope for FCCLG's future. In the Founders Room there are leaves on the Sanctuary side ledge for you to write your blessings and hopes on and attach them to the branches of our Giving Tree. Please write as many leaves as you would like and help fill our tree.

Your Search Committee needs your thoughtful input! You may have received an email from the church office this week with a Google Form link called 'Pastor Profile Questions'. There are also paper copies in the back, and a box for you to place them when you are finished. Or you can scan the QR to access the online form. Thank you for prayerfully considering these challenging questions to answer for our Local Pastor Profile. You do not need to answer all of them; we ask you to do your best. You can answer these alone, or as a group. Feel free to ask others around you! Your answers don't need to be poetic, perfected, or edited. A few words, or a brain dump – all is accepted!



WE WILL BE COLLECTING YOUR IDEAS THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25.

Your responses will help your Search Committee carefully consider how we frame the needs of the Congregation. Your input is deeply valued. Thank you!

Adopt-a-Chair Campaign: Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the "Adopt a Chair" campaign. Our goal was reached and even exceeded by enough to reupholster the pulpit and lectern seat pads. The choir and worship leaders will have comfortable chairs for many years to come.

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.

NOVEMBER 11, 2026

HARVEST HOME DINNER

6:30 PM FOUNDERS' ROOM

You are cordially
invited to our annual
Harvest Home dinner.
Bring your family and
friends to enjoy a
traditional turkey
dinner complete with
pumpkin pie!
See you there!

Tickets: \$15 Adults; \$7 Children 4-12
Age 3 and under are FREE. Tickets
available at coffee hour through Nov.
8th along with volunteers sign-up list.



In Matthew 6, Jesus calls us to a way of living that resists the temptation of “showy religion.” He cautions against practicing faith merely to be seen, warning that such attention-seeking empties the act of its power. Instead, he points us toward the “secret place,” the quiet intimacy where trust in God shapes our hearts and where generosity takes root.

This invitation is not a rejection of religious practice but a re-orientation of it. Jesus expects his followers to give, pray, and fast: not if, but when. These are regular, disciplined acts of faith. What matters is the intent: whether these practices reflect genuine trust in God or simply seek human approval.

Like the Puerto Rican yagrumo leaf that turns toward the heavens before the rain, our generosity turns us toward the Source of all life. The tree’s silver side catches the light, not to boast of its brilliance, but to signal expectancy: a quiet trust that nourishment is coming.

In the same way, **our hidden acts of generosity and prayer reflect God’s light, not our own.** Jesus’ words also challenge our understanding of value and reward. We often want recognition, but Jesus urges us to trust God with the timing of the reveal — or whether it is revealed at all. In God’s economy, the real reward of generosity is transformation, not applause. “Where your treasure is,” Jesus says, “there your heart will be also.”

Our giving, praying, and fasting are ways of training our hearts to desire what God desires. Generosity, then, becomes both inward and outward, rooted in the secret life with God, yet shining in compassion and justice. It is the overflow of love, not the performance of piety.

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of our annual income would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God’s world. Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!

Online Pledge Form: If you prefer to submit your 2027 Pledge Form online instead of the paper form, please use the QR code here, or visit the Donate page on our website: [FCCLG.org](https://www.fcclg.org).

