

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**



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SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 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.*

A background image of green foliage, possibly a tree or shrub, with a semi-transparent white rectangular box overlaid in the center. Inside the box, the words "Whose Image?" are written in a large, white, serif font.

Whose
Image?

Matthew 22:15-22

PRELUDE

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Wilbur Held
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Dennis Zander

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dennis Zander

One: Each morning, God's grace awakens us, each evening, God's peace cradles us.

Many: Compassion is our constant companion, as we go through work, school, and the day.

One: In every moment, God is present with us; God whispers words which can change our lives.

Many: Justice is our faithful teacher, pointing to where we can carry out fairness.

One: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows, God's light will provide a way home.

Many: We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us; we return home, and find a feast prepared.

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #62
Come, Share the Spirit

SHARE THE SPIRIT

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Dennis Zander

Gracious God, you have revealed yourself in scripture, prophets, and the Christ. Yet, we have reduced your gospel of liberation for all people, restoration of all creation, and redemption for the world into personal piety and devotion. We make idols of the trappings of empire, trusting in our own plots and plans while failing to believe and trust you with bold, transformative prayers. Help us, O God, live in faith and access your power. Remind us that you equip and endow us to be your body in the world so that all may flourish and experience abundance. Amen.

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Come, Be the Light Words and Music: Mark Patterson
Children's Choir, piano and handbells

Refrain: Come be the light, come be the joy,
Come be the hope the world needs to know.
Come be the voice of kindness and truth,
Sharing the peace of Christ wherever you go.
Praise God with a song of gladness ringing out to the skies above.
Lift your light and let it shine so the world may know God's love.

Come be daring as you strive to love one another.
Come be bold, and be courageous in God's grace.
With hands to serve and gifts to share,
Come show the world how Christ would care
For all God's people, everywhere. [refrain]

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 22:15-22 (NSRVUE)

Dennis Zander

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

Whose Head

Rev. Brian Damrow

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #499
When We Are Living

PUES SI VIVIMOS

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

Dennis Zander

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to
708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

O Love

Lyrics: George Matheson
Music: Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir and piano

O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy, O Joy, O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*UNISON*)** As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

**As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*UNISON*)**

Dennis Zander

**You do not choose favorites, Holy God, but pour out your blessings on all your children,
trusting that we will empty our hearts, our lives, our treasure in meeting the needs of
those around us. Bless these gifts and use them to bring healing and hope to your
people. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dennis Zander

***HYMN**

Take My Life

HENDON



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mind be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let me lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com -



cease - less praise, let them flow in cease-less praise.
as you choose, all its pow - ers as you choose.
dwell - ing place, make of it your dwell - ing place.
mun - i - ty, part of Christ's com - mun - i - ty.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Toccata in c minor

Johann Pachelbel
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Dennis Zander

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Host: Sandra Kappmeyer

Audio/Video: John Hoo
Laundry Hero: Kathy Donaldson

Prayer Requests

- For Juanita, family of Nancy Coleman, for strength and healing.
- 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.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	10/18	10:00 a.m. Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:30 a.m. Youth Handbell Ensemble	Room 305
		7:00 p.m. OA	Drawing Room
Monday	10/19	12:00 p.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	10/20	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
Wednesday	10/21	7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Thursday	10/22	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	10/23	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	10/24	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	10/25	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
		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?: Did you know that during the era of the Underground Railroad, red doors indicated a safe haven on the route to freedom? Red church doors have traditionally signaled sanctuary, refuge and safety. A big thank you to Dave Ries for our newly painted red doors on 6th Avenue and on the side door in the parking lot driveway.

Please note – No Adult Faith Formation this Tuesday, Oct. 20th: Adult faith formation classes with Rev. Damrow will resume on Oct. 27th, and are held on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and 7:00pm. 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. Class will be held in the Drawing Room. Please enter through the 6th Ave doors, and ring the bell for entry for the 1:00pm class.

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, attach it to a picture of your loved one, and return them by October 28th.



FCCLG Book Club: Book Club will meet next on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 pm. Our selected book is *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. This survival story follows Ryland Grace, science teacher and former biologist, who awakens alone aboard a spacecraft with no memory of who he is or why he is there. As fragments of his memory gradually return, he learns that he was recruited into a global emergency mission. Earth's sun is dimming because of Astrophage, an alien microorganism that siphons solar energy, threatening global famine and human extinction. What follows is a thrilling blend of science, problem-solving, humor, and discovery. 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).

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 a few minutes or the whole time. Bibles and prayer cards are available in the chapel. All are welcome.



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

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!



NOVEMBER 11, 2026

HARVEST HOME DINNER

6:30 PM DINING 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.



“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus’ question to the disciples in Mark 8 is not only a test of theological accuracy; it is a summons to unveil the true allegiance of the heart. Our answers inevitably shape what—and whom—we treasure, because naming Christ as Messiah re-orders all other loyalties. Matthew 6:21 tells us, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Stewardship, then, is not merely about budgets and benevolence reports; it is locating the gravity that pulls our hearts, the gravitational center around which money, time, energy, and hope orbit.

In a culture that equates generosity with publicity—naming rights on buildings, donor walls, social-media hashtags—Jesus’ own pattern is startling. He embraces his identity as Messiah yet commands silence. He reveals divine love not through acclaim but through costly self-giving. Here we glimpse a different economy: an invitation to invest our hearts where applause cannot reach and where the return is measured in transformed lives rather than public praise.

To practice hidden generosity is to trust that God’s gaze—not the crowd’s—is what matters. It liberates both giver and gift from the tyranny of recognition and keeps our motives free from the corrosion of vanity. Such hidden stewardship is not small-minded privacy; it is a spacious discipline that keeps the heart’s treasure unentangled from ego’s craving for affirmation.

Unseen faithfulness as a profound act of discipleship—an investment of the heart that outlasts any plaque or ledger. If you looked at your own budget, calendar, and attention, what would it reveal about your heart’s priorities?

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 2027 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://fcclg.org).



Thank You

to our generous donors to the Adopt-a-Chair Campaign:

Gail Allinson, in memory of Gregg Thomas Allinson.

Lawrence Bain

Mary Bart in honor of Lex Bart's many years of singing in the Chancel Choir.

Carol Berman

Nancy Coleman

Betsy Colombe in appreciation of the music at FCCLG.

Connie and Jack Croffoot

The Cunningham Family

Michael and Kathy Donaldson

Gardiner/Zigulich family in honor of the Chancel Choir bringing beautiful music to FCCLG.

Ellen M. Hamilton in memory of her parents Robert and Carolyn Hamilton and their love of singing.

John Hoo and Marie Roche

Richard Lauterbach in memory of Linda Lauterbach.

Robert, Marcelline, and Sharon Klestil in memory of Robert and Marcella Klestil.

JoAnne Konkle in memory of Bobbi Nunez and Jan Potts.

Kent and Debbie Llewellyn in memory of Tyler Llewellyn, and William & Sherry Llewellyn.

Tom Lowry and Tom Berg

Garabed Melkonian in memory of Margaret Melkonian.

Sharon and Gregg Robbert in memory of Sharon's mother, Arlene Smith.

Carmen Sandefur

Jean Tomkinson

Dennis Zander and Sandra Kappmeyer

Anonymous (5)

October 18, 2026

Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. *I Sing A Song of the Saints of God* (*#295 in *The New Century Hymnal*) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.
They loved their God and they lived that love,
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,
They lived not only in ages past:
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with living saints,
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,
And I mean to be one too.

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)

