

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 OCTOBER 4, 2026 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

Venid, Oh Cristianos

Charles Callahan
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Evan Ries

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Evan Ries

One: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

Many: God's people called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

One: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

Many: God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

One: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

Many: God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

***OPENING HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #349

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Evan Ries

Righteous God, you have given us blueprints to follow for living a faithful life. Your commandments are clear and your example considerable. Yet, we often drift away from loving you, loving our neighbor, and loving ourselves. Remind us that the path to flourishing, full life is love. Lead us back to that everlasting path so that we might be fruitful and give glory to your name. Amen.

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 21:33-46 (NSRVUE)

Evan Ries

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone;
 this was the Lord’s doing,
 and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

KIDS QUEST

Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON

A People That Produces Its Fruit

Rev. Brian Damrow

***HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #425
For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

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

Jean O’Brien

Place your gift in the offering plate

or

Text your gift to

708-688-5486

or



or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives>

OFFERTORY

I Dream a World

Lyrics: Langston Hughes

Music: Jeffrey Derus

Chancel Choir and piano

From the composer:

Langston Hughes offers a moment of wisdom conveying that we can live in that perfect world if we all choose to do the work to find it. I chose to adapt the text by adding in "and woman". We live in a time where women are still left out of the conversation. In the middle of the piece, you hear a sensitive reflection on sharing "the bounties of the earth". This is where we are all too common with one another. We are from the same earth, and we are all responsible for each other.

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man (and woman) is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, with the Bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: '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*)**

Evan Ries

We can hoard the gifts with which you bless us, God of generosity, or we can share them with others. May what we offer in these moments be the very blessing, the very hope, the very peace others need. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***COMMUNION HYMN**

New Century Hymnal #338

Una Espiga
Verses 1 and 2

UNA ESPIGA

COMMUNION PRAYER

May the composer of heaven's music be with you!

And also with you!

Beloved, God has created you for faithful living.

We lift our hearts to the One who calls us to be Christ's Body.

People of God, sing to the One who cleanses us of our fears.

We will dance with joy to the Table of peace and hope.

Chaos trembled as you spoke, not wanting to hear your goodness breaking it apart, Rock and Redeemer of all. Creation sang oratorios for you, while earth drummed out the rhythm. Each day testified 'God is good'; each night whispered 'Glory!' All that was beautiful and true was created for us, but wanting to know sin and death, we exchanged the best you gave to us, for the garbage they offered.

Using words and wonder, silence and speech, prophets came to call us back into your covenantal love, but we continued to yearn for what we could not have. Finally, you sent your son, in love, in hope, in peace, that we would accept him and the gift of new life.

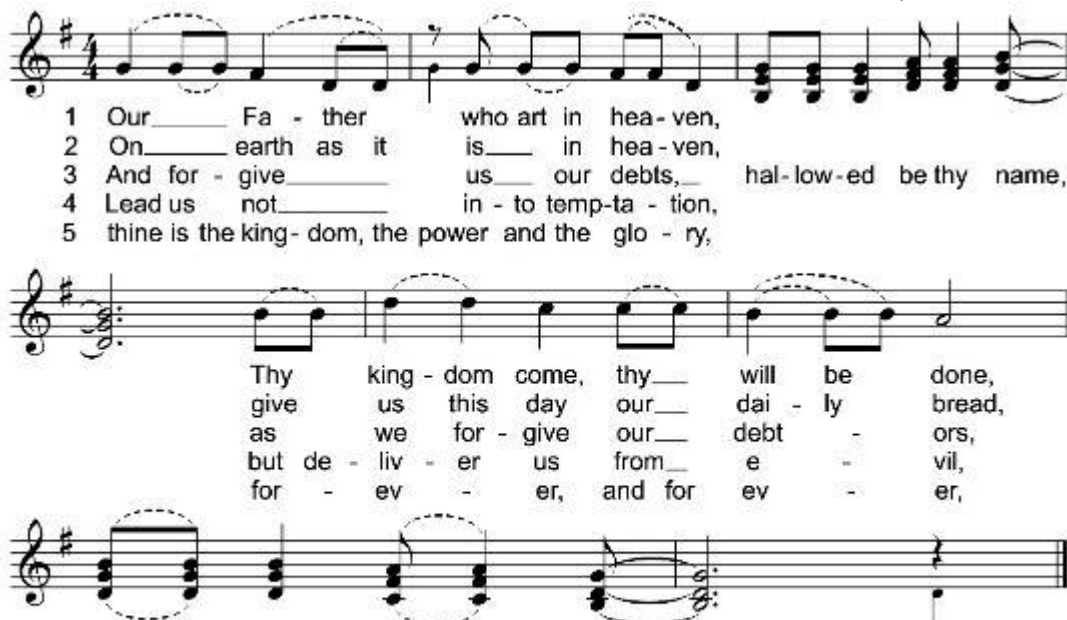
So, with those who trembled at the foot of your holy mountain, and with those who press on to follow you, we join our voices in praise to you:

Your Word opens our eyes to all creation; your Word is the sweet taste of joy for hungry hearts; your Word endures through every trial and triumph. Blessed is your Word who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of all creation, and blessed is Jesus the Christ, your Son. Yearning for us to know you, he came to be your face of love and compassion for all. Hungering for reconciliation between you and your children, he became the broken Bread of Life, so we might be made well. As we remember his goodness and gentleness, as we celebrate his life and remember the prayer he taught to all of us by singing:

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father Who Is In Heaven"
Caribbean tune, arr. David Peacock



1 Our _____ Fa - ther who art in hea - ven,
2 On _____ earth as it is _____ in hea - ven,
3 And for - give _____ us _____ our debts, _____ hal - low - ed be thy name,
4 Lead us not _____ in - to temp - ta - tion,
5 thine is the king - dom, the power and the glo - ry,

Thy king - dom come, thy _____ will be done,
give us this day, our _____ dai - ly bread,
as we for - give our _____ debt - ors,
but de - liv - er us from _____ e - vil,
for - ev - er, and for ev - er,

hal - low - ed be thy name. 4 And
A - men, a - men. 5 For

BREAKING BREAD, POURING WINE

As you bless the gifts of the Bread and the Cup, anoint us with your Spirit which brings us together. As your grace touches our lips with hope and healing, may we reach out our hands to set free those captive to injustice. As your peace is poured into the empty corners of our hearts, may we go forth to love others as much as we love ourselves, and to serve them as we show our love for you.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *The bread is gluten-free and the cup is grape juice.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have called us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and to make the powerful care. Grant us the strength to persevere in resisting evil, to proclaim in all we say and do, your good news in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evan Ries

*HYMN

Song of Hope

arr. Hopson

Children's Choir: Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor,
luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

Chancel Choir: May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the god of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.



Choir: May God go with us, filling all our lives with peace.
May God speed us on our way, bringing hope to every race. [refrain]

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Brian Damrow

POSTLUDE

Scherzino Mexicano

Ramón Noble
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Evan Ries

Usher: Lawrence Bain

Coffee Hour Host: Sunday School

Audio/Video: John Hoo and Lizza Obeng

Laundry Hero: Mary Anne Nesslar

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.
- 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	10/4	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
Monday	10/5	11:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m. AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	10/6	5:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
		7:30 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Wednesday	10/7	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Thursday	10/8		
Friday	10/9	9:00 a.m. OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	10/10	9:00 a.m. Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	10/11	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

Did You Know?: Did you know that FCCLG has 19 staircases in our building? There are the main staircases near the Cossitt and 6th Ave doors, but there are also numerous staircases that might surprise you, including behind the chapel and the staircase to nowhere.



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

CROP Hunger Walk - a Great Success! Thanks to everyone who participated in last Sunday's walk against hunger. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon to enjoy the outdoors with friends and walk to fight hunger in our community and around the world. 24 walkers and two dogs completed the 2-mile walk, followed by more joining the fellowship afterwards, and many more who donated to Team Linda! We are so grateful for your support! **There is still time to donate.** You can make an online donation through the QR code which will take you directly to FCCLG's Team Linda page or simply place your donation in the envelopes marked 'Crop Walk' at the back of the Sanctuary.



Sandwich Sunday for BEDS Plus - Today, October 4th

Please join us in the kitchen today after service to prepare a variety of sandwiches for clients of BEDS Plus - we'll provide all the fixins. Through the various outreach services provided by BEDS Plus, over 100 sandwiches are distributed daily so our help is much needed and greatly appreciated. If you cannot join us to make sandwiches, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of sandwich ingredients. Contact any member of the Missions Ministry with questions. Thank you!



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. Chancel Choir, Carillon Handbells, Ring & Sing and Youth Handbells are ongoing. Contact ryan@fcclg.org to express interest.

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.

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 Avenue 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 .

Arboretum Villas Groundbreaking Celebration: Join Plymouth Place for a landmark event as we break ground on the next phase of the Arboretum Villas. Wednesday, October 7, at 11:00am. Reception following. Kindly RSVP to 708-482-6842.

Civics Lecture Series: Tuesday, October 6, at 7:15pm in Dole Hall, Plymouth Place, 315 N. La Grange Rd., La Grange Park. Bi-partisan panel discussion to help guide us through the national and local election. The panel includes Pat Brady, Lisa Duarte, Jim Durkin, and Zach Koutsky, and will be moderated by John McCormick. Sponsored by David Bryant, Doris Bryant, Lee Daniels, and Joyce Linn.

Search Committee Update

Thank you for your continued support as the Search Committee begins its process. We thank you for your trust and continued prayers as we represent FCCLG in the search for a settled Pastor.

Your committee members are: Gail Allinson, Nancy Coleman, LaShinda John, Stephanie Johnson, Dick Lauterbach, Amanda Murphy, Jean O'Brien, and Peter VanKempen.

We are working on getting an email address set up that is dedicated to our purpose.

You, the congregation, can expect updates printed in the bulletin and announced about once a month, which matches the cadence of our meetings. We have met three times now, twice at FCCLG and once with our UCC representatives over Zoom. These representatives are helping us with discernment, process, and guidance.

We are currently updating our Local Church Profile, which is the document the UCC posts for potential candidates to learn about us before applying. As we work through these materials, we may come to you with questions - we will appreciate your insight.

The search process is designed to be thoughtful, thorough, and also protected. We will answer the questions you have to the best of our ability, and our discernment will be confidential to support the integrity of the search.

In God's Service, Your Search Team