FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LAGRANGE

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2026
ALL SAINTS' DAY
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 Land of Rest arr. Joseph M. Martin
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME Jean O'Brien

***OPENING PRAYER** Jean O'Brien

Imagine a great cloud of witnesses—people from every generation, every culture, every walk of life—standing together in love, courage, and hope. Some are saints we know by name; others are saints whose quiet acts of kindness changed the world in ways unseen. Today, we join that cloud, adding our voices to theirs.

Holy and Loving God, on this All Saints' Sunday, we gather in gratitude for the lives that have illuminated our path—those who dared to dream of justice, who lived compassion in action, who stood for truth even when it cost them dearly. We remember saints who challenged systems of oppression, who welcomed strangers, who fed the hungry, who healed the brokenhearted. We remember saints who taught us that faith is not static, but alive—ever growing, ever expanding, ever reaching toward your vision of a beloved community. In this moment, we open ourselves to your Spirit, that same Spirit that moved through prophets and poets, through teachers and trailblazers, through ordinary people who became extraordinary by loving without limits. May their courage inspire ours. May their hope ignite ours. May their faith deepen ours. God of all generations, we come not only to remember, but to continue the work they began— to be your hands and feet in a world still aching for peace, to be your voice in a world still longing for justice, to be your heart in a world still yearning for love. Bless our gathering today, that it may be a celebration of life, a renewal of purpose, and a reminder that we, too, are called to be saints— not perfect, but faithful; not flawless, but fearless in love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** Today We sing with Thankfulness KINGSFOLD



***Remembrance** Rev. Brian Damrow

Today, we remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah to Paul and Phoebe: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God: Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime: Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents, and dear friends, whose lives ended too soon: Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost this year from our lives, knowing that they are with your heart forever. As we read these names, we will pause after every name to remember, pray, and give thanks for their life.

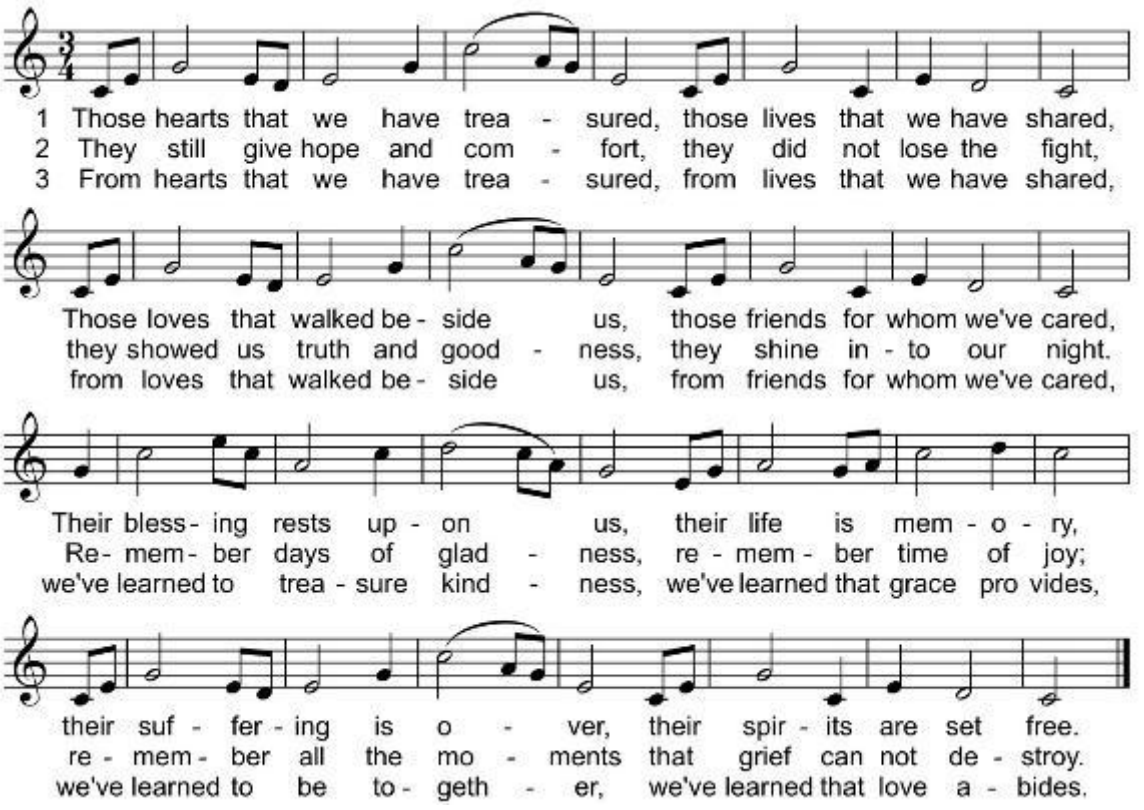
Roger Ernest Duba *April 12, 1938 – November 15, 2025*

Beverly Jane Figge *January 6, 1935 – May 5, 2026*

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and now lift the names in our hearts of those who have gone before us:

Lighting candles and saying silent prayers……..

SONG DURING CANDLE LIGHTING: Those Hearts That We Have Treasured RESIGNATION



Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with you beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, you are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:20-31 (NSRVUE) Jean O'Brien

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

SERMON Our Inheritance Rev. Brian Damrow

***HYMN** Heaven Shall Not Wait HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

verses 1, 2, 4



MISSION MOMENT Tom Lowry

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY 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 For the Bread Which You Have Broken arr. Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir and piano

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this pledge that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the sainted ones in glory seated at the heavenly board,
may the church that's waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

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) Jean O'Brien

We seek, not to be saints so much, but simply your people. We have been blessed beyond imagination and so pray, as we offer these gifts, that they would be used to touch the lives of the broken, the lonely, the seeking, the hungry, the hopeless - all those who are our siblings. Amen.

***Communion Hymn** *New Century Hymnal #346*
Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken Eucharistic Hymn

Communion Invitation Rev. Brian Damrow

Communion Prayer

Friends, we come to this bittersweet ritual today filled with a bundle of emotions. While our gratitude for this family of faith is plentiful, our spiritual pain still may be suffocating us at five weeks or four months or three years or even two decades after the death of our beloved.

Our pews are a little lighter. Our homes are quieter. And our hearts know well of the gaping hole resulting from our loss. Even as this void still consumes this day-to-day living, we come here looking for hope that we can find only in you. Through this meal, we connect the past and present together, knowing that generation after generation has come to this table in their joy and grief.

God, we pray that this feast be one that fills our souls with comfort. Even as winter is growing close and nighttime arrives early, this meal will kindle warmth and light inside our spirits.

May your Holy Spirit bless this bread and cup. May the Spirit bless us as we celebrate at the peaks of life and as we abide in the shadow-filled valleys. May the Spirit bring us the peace that will permeate our grief-coated hearts. And may the Spirit use this time and space to remind us that we are never alone in our difficult spaces.

With his friends, Jesus shared his last communion before death. The group recognized the sacred in their gathering and celebrated their friendship and their community of faith.

One more time, Jesus took the bread and blessed it. In his breaking of the bread, Jesus yearned for them to remember his teachings and their times together. "Whenever you eat this bread, remember me."

One more time, after supper, Jesus took the cup and blessed it as well. In his grasping of the cup, Jesus yearned for his followers to recall their times together. "Whenever you drink of this cup, remember me."

As we join together as the Blessed Community for this meal, let us remember with gratitude our loved ones who once ate at this table and many other tables with us. While they no longer abide with us here today, help us to recognize that they are a part of the great cloud of witnesses, celebrating eternity with our Creator.

May this meal be a gift to each of our souls today. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ lives among us.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may remind us of that in ordinary things your love is found in ordinary lives, your grace is known in ordinary days we can find your presence. Until that day, we lift our prayer to you, using the words recited by all generations, saying:

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.

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.

***HYMN**	*New Century Hymnal #376* God, We Thank You for Our People *verses 1, 2, 4*	HOLY MANNA
***BENEDICTION**		Rev. Brian Damrow
POSTLUDE	Kingsfold	Robert J. Powell AnnLaura Tapia, organ

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Reader Leader: Jean O'Brien
Ushers: Lawrence Bain and Faith Ullrich
Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Colombe
Audio/Video: John Hoo and David Watts
Greeter: JoAnne Konkle
Laundry Hero: Gail Allinson

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 Lisa and Al, friends of Jean O'Brien, who are going through health issues and job loss.

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

This Week at Church

Sunday	**11/1**	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	**11/2**	11:00 a.m.	Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	**11/3**	1:00 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Drawing Room
		5:00 p.m.	Meditative Prayer Ministry	Chapel
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Drawing Room
Wednesday	**11/4**	7:30 p.m.	Carillon Handbell Choir	Room 305
Thursday	**11/5**	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	**11/6**	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	**11/7**	9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	**11/8**	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
		11:30 a.m.	All-Ages Cantata Rehearsal	Choir Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

Did You Know?: Did you know that the FCCLG budget is ours alone? We decide our budget each year without input or assistance from the larger UCC. The pledges we receive on Pledge Sunday – next Sunday, November 8th – will help us determine how to plan our budget for 2027. Pledge cards have been mailed out, and can also be found in the back of the sanctuary or online at fcclg.org/donate.

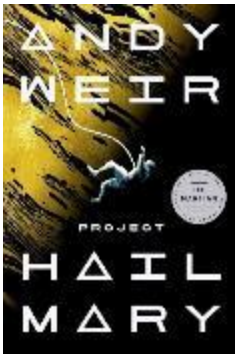
Ryan Cox and AnnLaura Tapia are presenting a concert of arias and songs at Plymouth Place this afternoon at 3pm. The free concert will be in Dole Hall and all are welcome to attend.

Deck the Sanctuary: It is almost Advent which means it's time to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for the season. The "Hanging of the Greens" will be on November 22 following worship. There are tasks for the strong and limber as well as the detail-oriented who may prefer to sit. Thank you for your help in advance!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service: On Sunday, November 22nd at 3:00pm, First Baptist Church of La Grange will be hosting an ecumenical Thanksgiving service, followed by a Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

New Members Sunday: If you are interested in joining the FCCLG family as a member, New Members Sunday will be on November 22nd. Please contact Rev. Damrow with any questions or to express interest.

Migrant Ministry Winter Collection: The Migrant Ministry, part of Catholic Parishes of Oak Park, is now collecting children's winter coats, clean blankets and bath towels (no stains, rips, strong smells). Drop off items by Sunday, November 15 after service. Place them along the back wall next to the closets in the Founder's Room. In the past, the ministry leaders have written letters thanking us for our donations because they definitely appreciate them. Contact LaShinda with questions.



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 as long as you like. Bibles and prayer cards are available in the chapel. All are welcome.





Deuteronomy 6 is set after escape from enslavement, a generation in exile, and the discovery of the promised land Israel stands on the threshold of a future they could not have imagined possible just a short while ago. They are in the process of shaping covenant with their Creator and Liberator. Having been given directives about what behavior would and would not be acceptable, Moses now addresses the community and speaks the words every faithful covenant partner would enshrine upon their doorstep forevermore.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Known simply as the Shema, these lines lay bare the essence of what God is asking of those who worship God. Not only here, but also in the gospels many generations in the future, what stands out is the centrality of love in the fulfillment of covenant.

We, too, are invited to offer our contributions of time, talent, and treasure not through the lens of obligation but love.

As you consider your pledge of support for the church you love, start by reminding yourself about the mission of the church. Prayerfully reflect on why that mission matters to you. Think about the ways it has made a difference in your life or about how it matters to the community you live in. Invite yourself to consider how it is in the past year this church has blessed you, comforted you, or transformed you.

When you write your check or record your automatic deposit in your bank statements, pause for just a second a offer a prayer of thanks to God for the ways your church fulfills its mission in the world.