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 NOVEMBER 15, 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 How Sweet the Sound arr. Jason W. Krug
Carillon Handbell Choir
Brian Shannon, clarinet

WELCOME Diane Kasnick

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Diane Kasnick

One: This is the "Lord's Day", the day of wonder and grace.
Many: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.
One: This is the "Lord's Day", the day we are given joy and peace.
Many: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.
One: This is the "Lord's Day", and it has come just in time!
Many: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

***OPENING HYMN** *New Century Hymnal #562*
Take My Gifts TALAVERA TERRACE

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION** Diane Kasnick

Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kin-dom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor. Amen.

***LITANY FOR A CHURCH ANNIVERSARY** Rev. Brian Damrow

Leader: We gather in thanksgiving for 145 years of God's presence in this place.
People: We give thanks and celebrate.
Leader: For the many who have walked here in faith, in Word and sacrament, in service and in hope.
People: We give thanks and celebrate.
Leader: For the children, families, and communities who have been welcomed into this home of God**.**
People: We give thanks and celebrate.

Leader: For the ministries that have flourished — in care, in justice, in learning, in worship.

People: We give thanks and celebrate.

Leader: For the voices that have spoken truth, and the hands that have lifted up the marginalized.

People: We give thanks and celebrate.

Leader: For the seasons of joy and the seasons of struggle, when we have been faithful and when we have faltered.

People: We give thanks and celebrate.

Leader: For the vision of our forebears, and the courage of those who came after.

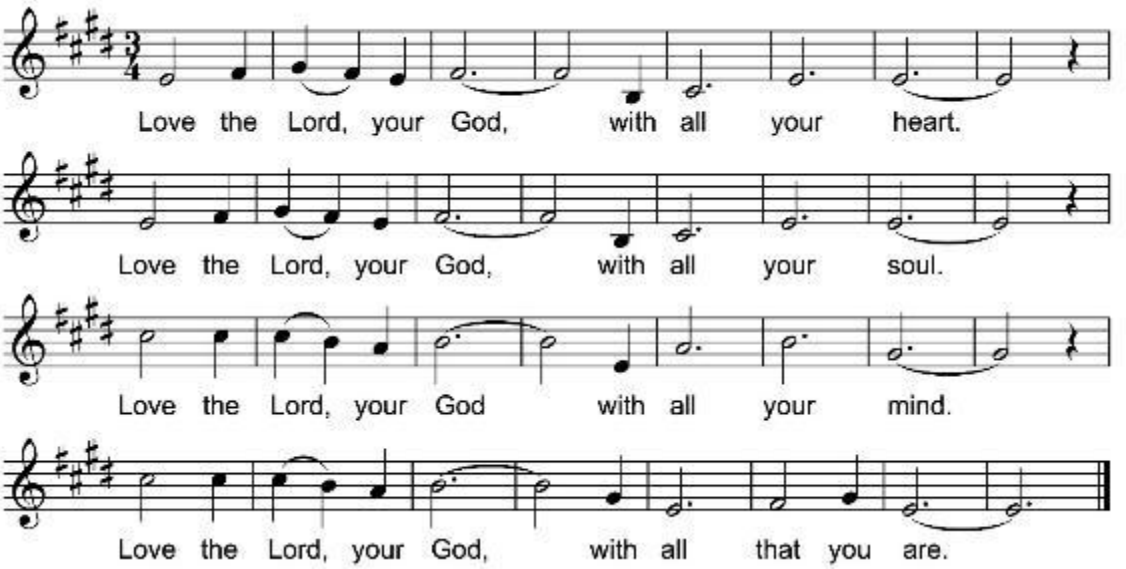
People: We give thanks and celebrate.

Leader: With thanksgiving for the past, with joy in the present, and with hope for the future, we celebrate this anniversary.

All: Many, O Lord, are the wonderful works; they are more than can be numbered.

***HYMN** Love the Lord Your God

Words and Music: Jean and Jim Strathdee



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-29 (NSRVUE) Diane Kasnick

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'
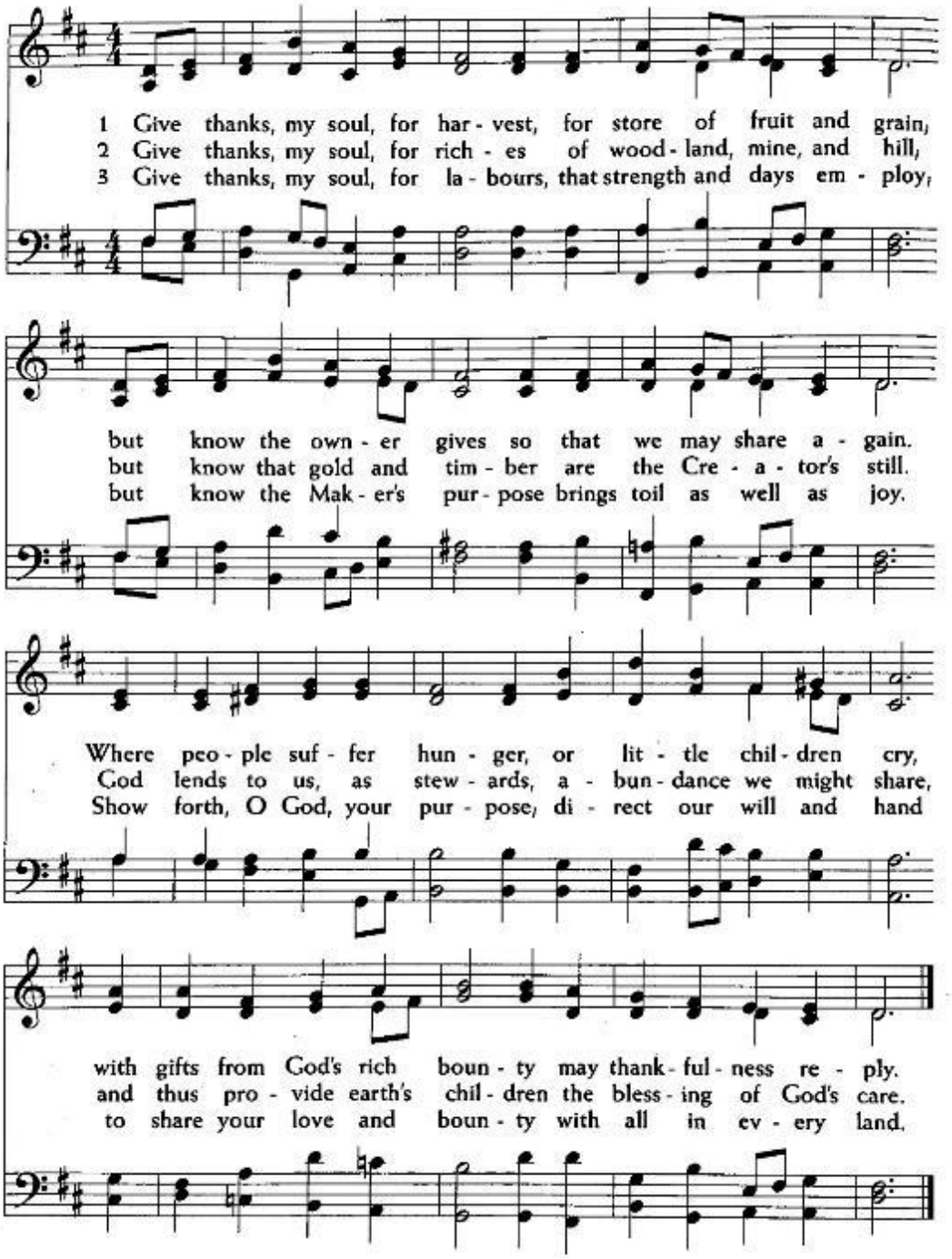
KIDS QUEST Rev. Brian Damrow

SERMON How to Be the Church Rev. Brian Damrow

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.


1 Give thanks, my soul, for har - vest, for store of fruit and grain,
2 Give thanks, my soul, for rich - es of wood - land, mine, and hill,
3 Give thanks, my soul, for la - bours, that strength and days em - ploy,
but know the own - er gives so that we may share a - gain.
but know that gold and tim - ber are the Cre - a - tor's still.
but know the Mak - er's pur - pose brings toil as well as joy.
Where peo - ple suf - fer hun - ger, or lit - tle chil - dren cry,
God lends to us, as stew - ards, a - bun - dance we might share,
Show forth, O God, your pur - pose, di - rect our will and hand
with gifts from God's rich boun - ty may thank - ful - ness re - ply.
and thus pro - vide earth's chil - dren the bless - ing of God's care.
to share your love and boun - ty with all in ev - ery land.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Diane Kasnick

Place your gift in the offering plate
or
Text your gift to
708-688-5486
or



or go to
http://tinyurl.com/FCCLGChangingLives

OFFERTORY Awake, Awake to Love and Work arr. Kenneth Dake
Chancel Choir

Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew; the worlds awake to cry
Their blessings on the Lord of life, Christ Jesus passes by.

Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze.

To give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost; to serve right gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(UNISON) As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN
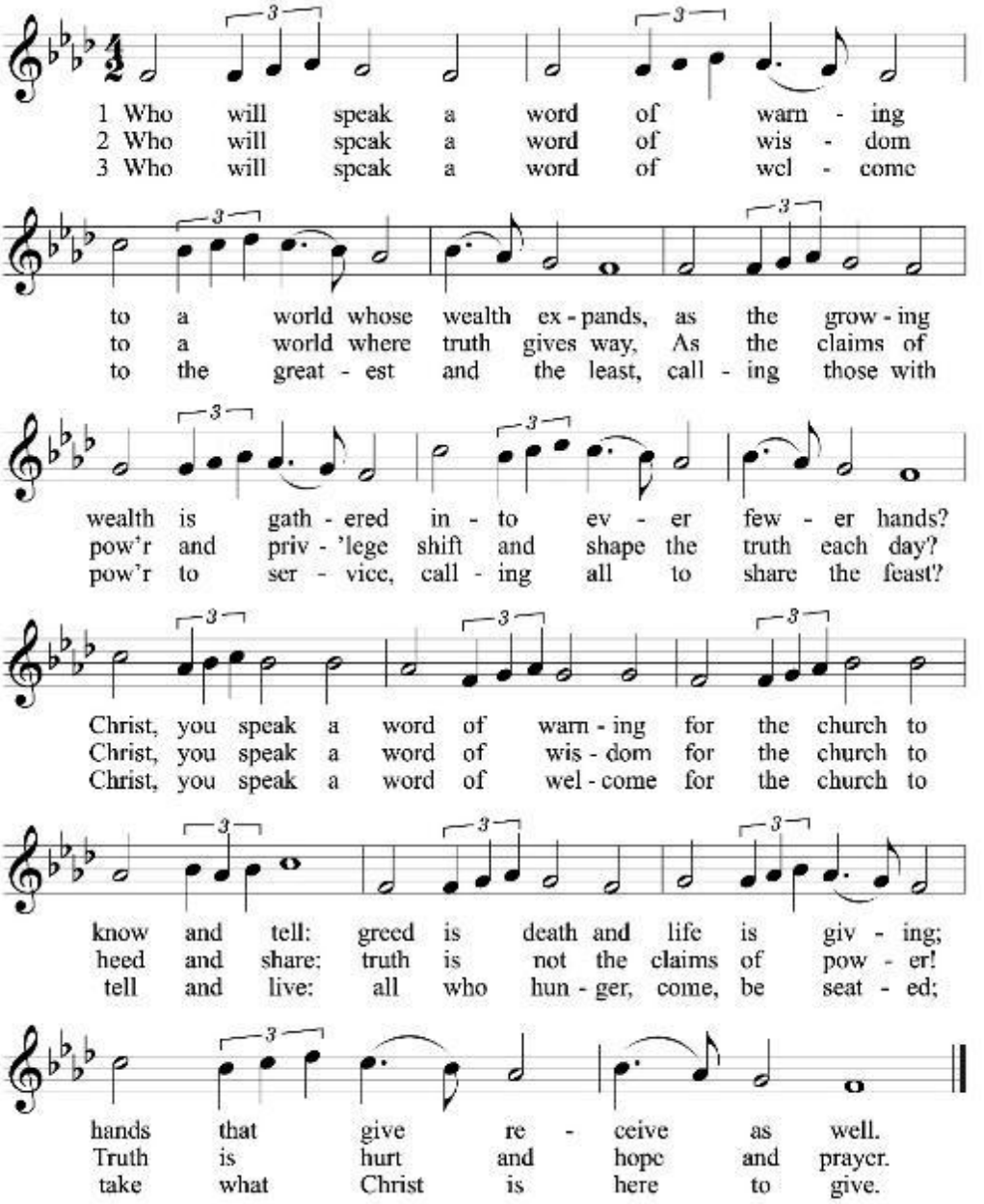
As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(UNISON) Diane Kasnick

Now, in these moments of gratitude, we would offer you a portion of all which you have given to us, Gracious God. We do so, trusting that you will take them, multiplying them in your kingdom, so all might be blessed by your love, your peace, and your hope. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Diane Kasnick

***HYMN** Who Will Speak a Word of Warning EBENEZER



***Benediction** Rev. Brian Damrow

Postlude Thy Strong Word Setting by Paul Manz
AnnLaura Tapia, organ

Thank You To Our Volunteers:

Reader Leader: Diane Kasnick
Audio/Video: John Hoo and David Watts
Ushers: Lawrence Bain and Faith Ullrich
Greeter: JoAnne Konkle
Coffee Hour Hosts: Petra and Jerry Palmer
Laundry Hero: Kathy Donaldson

Gifts of Gratitude



FCCLG is once again partnering with Casa Central to provide Christmas gifts to children in the Early Learning Academy and School Aged Program. To select a child to purchase a gift for, please scan the QR code.

Gift instructions: Please wrap your gift or use a gift bag. Include a tag with the child's first name, last initial, age, group number (if applicable), and a description of the gift taped securely to the package. Please bring your gift to the sanctuary on Sunday, December 6th or drop it off the gift in the Sanctuary by December 3rd. Suggested price range: $30-$35.

If you prefer not to sign up online, contact the office and we can help you select a recipient.

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.
- Thank you for prayers from Jill and Mike Tobin. Mike is now officially cancer free!
- For Bob Berg, brother of Tom Berg, for healing.
- For Tom 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	**11/15**	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:30 a.m.	All-Ages Cantata Rehearsal	Choir Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room
Monday	**11/16**	11:00 a.m.	Weekly Staff Meeting	Church Office
		6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
Tuesday	**11/17**	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	**11/18**	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting	Drawing Room
		7:30 p.m.	Carillon Handbell Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday	**11/19**	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Friday	**11/20**	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
		3:30 p.m.	Continuing Adult Education through Study	Zoom
Saturday	**11/21**	9:00 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
Sunday	**11/22**	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/ online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders Room
		11:15 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens	Sanctuary
		11:30 a.m.	All-Ages Cantata Rehearsal	Choir Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

Together, We Can Close the Gap

This year we have incurred **$25,000** of unexpected, and therefore unbudgeted, property expenses. The majority were due to urgent plumbing issues for the church building as well as the manse. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a special gift to help close the gap created by these unanticipated events. Through generosity and shared commitment, **every contribution brings us closer to our goal.** Please include "Close the Gap" on the memo line of your check or if donating online select "Close the Gap" from the dropdown menu.

Announcements

Did You Know?: Did you know that FCCLG was founded in 1881? It was preceded by a Sunday School which met in a store on Burlington Ave., with contributions providing a pulpit and pews to begin holding worship services. Then in 1881, a meeting was held and the decision was made to form our church and build a house of worship.

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 next Sunday, 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: Next 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. Rev. Damrow will be presiding.

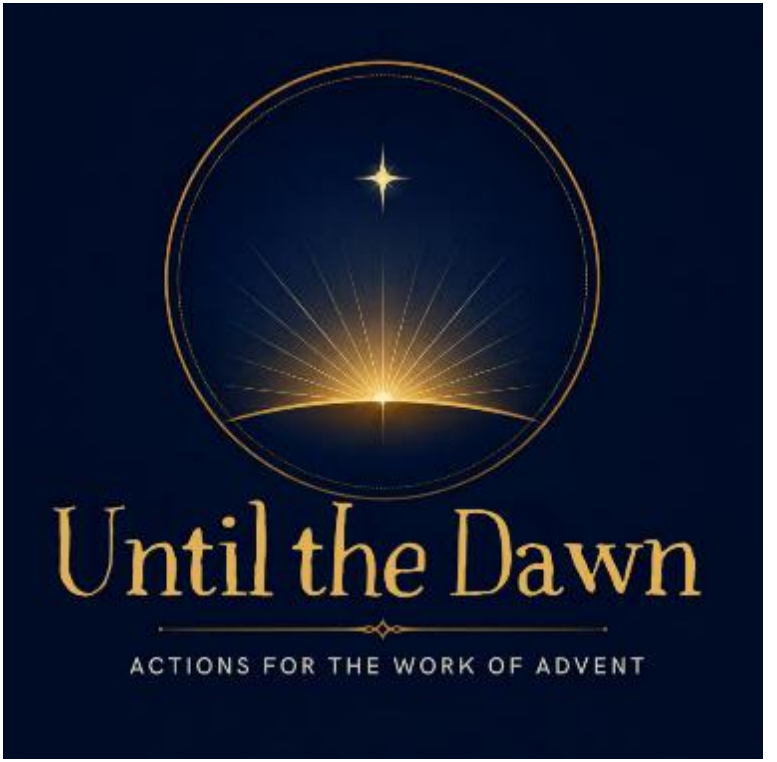
New Members Sunday: If you are interested in joining the FCCLG family as a member, New Members Sunday will be next Sunday, November 22nd. Please contact Rev. Damrow with any questions or to express interest.



A Visit from St. Nikolaus Presented by Elmhurst Harmonie, German-American Chorus est. in 1907: Join us for carols in German and English, stories, hearing from St. Nikolaus & more. Kids FREE, Adult Donation to support our performance. **Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2:00pm –** St. John's Lutheran Church, 505 S. Park Rd, La Grange, and **Sunday, Dec. 6 at 6:00pm –** Immanuel Lutheran Church, 142 E. Third St., Elmhurst

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, December 6th 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.

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. All are welcome.



Advent Worship

1st Sunday of Advent, November 29: Hope
Isaiah 64:1-9 & Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Sermon: "Cry Out!"

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6: Peace
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 & Mark 1:1-8 "Start Somewhere"

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13: Joy
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28 "Speak Up"

4th Sunday of Advent, December 20: Love
Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55 "Take Courage"

Blue Christmas, December 21
7:00pm in the Chapel of the Beatitudes

Christmas Eve, December 24
5:00pm & 10:00pm Services
"Angels Sing"

November 15, 2026
Matthew 25:14-30
Extravagant Opportunity

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?
So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.
To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.
To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST