

We rejoice in our community of faith,
strengthened by diversity,
including diversity of culture,
economic status, age, ethnicity,
race, gender, sexual orientation,
gender identity, marital status, and
physical or mental abilities.

We affirm that God is glorified when
we welcome all people
to our spiritual community,
as Jesus did.

Wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

May 9, 2021



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GLEN ELLYN

A community of Christian discipleship,
grounded in tradition,
centered in worship,
called to serve,
fortified by justice,
sustained by peace,
free to dream.

The Order of Worship
May 9, 2021
Mother's Day

Prelude	“III. Intermezzo and II. Aria” from “Darwall’s Fantasia” Tune: Darwall’s 148 by John Darwall (1731-1789) arr. John S. Dixon (b. 1957) Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, Organist
Welcome	Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern
Invocation	“Sing to God”
Confession	Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Time of Preparation	“Our Eyes Are Turned”
Pastoral Prayer	Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
The Lord’s Prayer	Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
	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.
Prayer Response	“Our Eyes Are Turned”
Presentation of 4th & 5th Grade Bibles	Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education
Introduction to the Scripture	Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern
Scripture	John 15:9-17 9:00 am: Cathy Christoff, Worship Leader 10:30 am: Norm Adams, Worship Leader

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

“Transformative Love”
Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern

Sending Forth

Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern

Postlude

“Fanfare” by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)
Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, Organist

Our Worship Service**Music Notes**

Song Leader is Paula Rada

**Flowers on the Lord’s Table
are donated by**

Beth Rosch

“In loving memory of my beautiful mom, Babs Warden Lebowsky.
Happy Mother’s Day and Happy Birthday!”

Joys

Our mothers, and all those who are like mothers to us

Our 4th & 5th graders, who received their Bibles, and
Amy Thompson, who inscribed each Bible with beautiful calligraphy

Concerns

Prayers of comfort and peace for Don Page, father of Rob Page,
in the midst of health concerns

Glenn Knobbe, son of Bob, in rehab, recovering from a fall

Pastor Availability Should you need a pastor, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Seth (630-207-0118 or seth@fccge.org), Pastor Kendra (704-798-7083 or kendra@fccge.org), or Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern (sarah@fccge.org).

Stay Informed

Spring/Summer Services

- **Spring (Now - May 30)** We will be offering two, live indoor worship services, with up to **40** participants each, in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Registrations for May are open now. These services will be live-streamed from the church to YouTube in real time.
- **Summer Kick-Off (June 6)** Join us for our *Summer Kick-Off Sunday*, when we will gather outside of FCCGE, on Anthony Street, for outdoor worship services at 9 and 10:30 am, with **50** participants each. You will be notified when registration for all June dates become available.
- **Summer (June 13 - September 5)** We will be offering two, live indoor worship services, with up to **50** participants each every Sunday at 9:00 am and 10:30 am at FCCGE. Registration for June will begin on Monday, May 24, 8:00 am, with July and August to follow. These services will be live-streamed from the church to YouTube in real time.

What to Expect Sundays If You are Attending in Person (*reservations required*):

- You may enter through the parking lot doors or the Chapel doors
- You must wear your mask the entire time while in the building
- Ushers will be here to guide you
- Pews will be color-coded: 9:00 am yellow; 10:30 am blue
- Please sit distanced from people not in your family unit
- Please return outdoors immediately after the service (no gathering inside, please)

Note: Windows will not be open in the Sanctuary. The reason: We just installed new ionizers in the rooftop units to kill viruses, germs and bacteria. Also, highly efficient air filters (Merv-13) were added to stop particles of viruses, etc. These systems all function more efficiently with predictable air flow, free of outside particles or contaminants. While it may seem counterintuitive, keeping the windows closed is actually safer from a health perspective.

Sabbatical Announcement—Summer 2021 FCCGE has long recognized the value of sabbaticals to our clergy and our congregation. Sabbaticals allow our clergy to rest, refresh and renew. We believe it best that our clergy take their sabbaticals on a regular basis. As such, our call letters with Pastors Seth and Kendra provide for a three-month sabbatical every five years. This summer marks five years since Seth's last sabbatical.

Following the June 6th service and Annual Meeting, Seth will take his sabbatical, be absent from the Church through the summer and return in early September for Rally Day and the start of our new Church year. The Church has developed a plan for Kendra and others to cover worship and pastoral care during Seth's time away.

We recognize that we are in transition as we move towards gathering for worship and we continue to expand our capacity. Rest assured, scalable plans are already in the works for the fall, and Seth will continue to be a part of any significant decisions regarding the reopening of the Church. While, as it often is, the timing may be less than ideal, it is imperative that we continue to make sure that our clergy take sabbaticals on a regular basis and that we not delay until there is a perfect time. *If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Moderator team: Ted Harman, Jackie McCarthy, Andy Ginger.*

FCCGE Book Club If you want to get ahead in your reading for May 12th's Book Club, we will be reading One Night Two Souls Went Walking; and for our June 9th gathering, we will read Anne Lamott's Dusk- Night-Dawn. (Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/97441540821>)

Endowment Committee Announces New Investment The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that we are now investing our funds in an ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) strategy. This was suggested by two of our members, and we believe it better aligns our investment strategy with the values and mission of our church. We're hoping this change drives renewed interest in supporting the Endowment Fund. Contributions are welcomed (after you make your annual pledge!). The more we grow the Endowment, the more support the fund can provide to the church, and even more broadly. If you would like more information about our new investment strategy or the Endowment Fund in general, feel free to reach out to Dave Mook, Endowment Committee Chair (davem160@gmail.com). If you would like to make a gift in support of the Endowment Fund, reach out to Dave or to Laura Shellady, our Business Administrator, in the church office (laura@fccge.org).

Flowers 2021 We are scheduling altar flower donations: July 25; September 26; October 10 & 17; November 7 & 21; and December 12, & 26. Please give your calendars a gander and see which Sunday(s) you would like to donate. *It's super easy-just call or text Jennifer Darnall (708-712-3712).*

Thank You, Gardeners and Viewers! Thanks to all of you that shared your beautiful spring flowers with us! And thanks to those that 'clicked in' to view our Spring abundance!

Help Others

Rebuilding Together Rebuilding Together is back again, but with several changes. This year the National Rebuilding Day will be exterior work only; landscaping, lawn care, and some if any repairs on the exterior of the house. Two hours will be the allotted time to complete the work. Only 5 volunteers will be allowed. We need three more volunteers for the day. The event is in Chicago Heights. Once we assemble the volunteer group, we will need to choose one from the following Saturday dates: May 15 or May 22. All volunteers will need to be masked and follow social distancing guidelines. If you would like to participate, send a text to Randy Briasco (630-251-3551). Also, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago (RBTMC) has put together other events, such as delivering food and first aid kits. *If you would like to help in that way, please visit their website (rebuildingtogether-chi.com). Hope to hear from you soon!*

DuPage PADS Needs Items and They've Made It Easier than Ever! Josie Mattern, Volunteer Coordinator at DuPage PADS, has created a gift registry, making giving as easy as the touch of a button. Items will be sent directly to the DuPage PADS offices for distribution among their guests. Won't you help today? Simply go to the link provided in your Thursday newsletter, the FCCGE app or fccge.org and start shopping for our neighbors in need.

May is FCCGE Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Month! Like the gardens outside, let's let our generosity blossom this month by bringing in non-perishable food items for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Just place your items in the white bin in our lobby when you're here for Sunday services, or anytime Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. Top needs are listed at <https://www.glenellynfoodpantry.org>, but check for updates!

Children & Youth

Outdoor Church School Now- May 23rd At 10:30 am for Preschool – 5th graders Led by Catherine Curtis and Cathy Basso, we joyfully welcome children and families and ask that all participants and volunteers wear masks covering their mouths and noses the entire time. Online registration is required for each Sunday. Initially, we will limit the total number of participants to 20 children and, based upon need, for three volunteer assistants each Sunday. Families should check-in their students on the main front lawn of the church, and children are asked to bring their church school activity bags that were delivered to their homes. *To volunteer one or two Sundays, for further details, or if your child needs an activity bag, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 x 23).*

Summer Internships—Applications Available Now! Do you know a college student or high school junior/senior who is interested in ministry work? Are you a student curious about the inner workings of our church? First Congregational Church is looking for a few young adults to participate in our paid summer internship program. These students will get the opportunity to participate in worship leadership, learn about different types of ministry work and speak with those doing the work in various fields. *If you are a college student or junior/senior in high school interested in applying, fill out the application form online, from your Thursday e-newsletter—by May 23rd. Contact Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern (sarah@fccge.org) with any questions.*

Time to Register for Vacation Bible School (VBS)! Community Family VBS: June 21-25 Why do we look forward to summer? Sunshine, pools, time off, yea whatever. It's really because it's time for VBS! VBS will have a new *look* this year, and we are so excited to roll this out! We are hosting an evening, family VBS of fellowship and fun at Faith Lutheran Church before we return to our usual model in 2022, back at FCCGE. Register by June 6! You can find your registration link in your Thursday e-newsletter, the FCCGE app or fccge.org under "Youth."

Would you like to support our VBS ministry? This year's VBS focuses on "Joining God at Work in the World." We will be collecting food in the month of June that the VBS participants will sort, organize and drop off at the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. A collection bin will be inside the church parking lot entrance to collect donations. Also, we have some very specific supply needs this year and could use your support. Use your Thursday e-newsletter, the FCCGE app, or go to fccge.org to see the list of supplies needed. Thanks!

Return of Tower Hill Weekend for Fun and Worship! July 23-25 Last year we were on hiatus for health and safety reasons, but this year our traditional (20+ years) Tower Hill Weekend of fellowship, fun, beach time, and nature returns in a slightly different version. Come for the day on Sunday for worship, bring a picnic lunch, and head to the beach, or stay for the whole weekend! We promise no bears will chase you through the woods! *For details and to indicate your interest in joining, please click the link from your Thursday ENewsletter or from fccge.org (Events/Ministries>One-Time Upcoming Events). Contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 x23) or Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator (cathy@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 x19) with questions.*

Staff

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister (seth@fccge.org; ext. 12)

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Associate Minister (kendra@fccge.org; ext. 11)

Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator (cathy@fccge.org; ext. 19)

Jose Beltran, Sexton

Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org; ext. 23)

Joyce Driver, Administrative Assistant (joyce@fccge.org; ext. 14)

Sherry Flugel, Director of Communications (sherry@fccge.org; ext. 13)

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Jeff Haeger, Associate for Music Ministry (jeff@fccge.org)

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Kathleen Page, Nursery Care Co-Coordinator

Matthew Prins, Handbell Director (matthew@fccge.org)

Laura Shellady, Business Administrator (laura@fccge.org; ext. 10)

Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern (sarah@fccge.org ext. 20)

Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, Organist (janet@fccgeorg)

Church Council

Ted Harman, Moderator

Jackie McCarthy, Moderator Designate

Andy Ginger, Assistant Moderator

Theresa Holly, Treasurer

Tim Rodine, Assistant Treasurer

Jennifer Umlauf, Clerk

Tom Pulver, Property & Grounds Committee Chair

Sylvia Rodee, Connections Committee Chair

Rich Troyer, Finance Committee Chair (and Treasurer Emeritus)

Roger Hughes, Service & Justice Committee Chair

Ethan Baedke, Youth Representative to Council

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Our denomination is the United Church of Christ

ucc.org