The Annual Meeting of the Members
Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting will include the following Congregational action:

- Election of the Slate of Candidates for Church Council and Committees
- Discuss and vote on the proposed 2022-2023 Church budget
- The objectives for the 2022-2023 Church year

Submitted by Colleen Spaeth, Clerk
FCCGE Staff and Church Council

Staff

Senior Minister ……………………. Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Associate Minister ……………. Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
   Director of Youth Ministry ……….. Danny Harman
Administrative Assistant ………… Joyce Driver
Business Administrator …………… Laura Shellady
Director of Christian Education ….. Catherine Curtis
   Youth Education Coordinator ……… Cathy Basso
Director of Communications ……… Sherry Flugel
Director of Music Ministry ……….. Michele Hecht
   Associate for Music Ministry ……… Jeff Haeger
Handbell Director …………………… Matthew Prins
Organist …………………………….. Shu-Hui Janet Tsai
Facilities Manager ………………….. Wojciech Gracz
   Sexton ……………………………….. Jose Beltran
Nursery Care Provider ……………… Torrie Holst

Church Council 2021-22

Moderator ……………………………. Jackie McCarthy
Moderator Designate ……………….. Andy Ginger
Assistant Moderator ………………… Vacancy
Treasurer ……………………………. Tim Rodine
Assistant Treasurer ………………….. Matt Szafranski
Clerk ………………………………… Colleen Spaeth
Connections Committee Chair ……… Sylvia Rodee
Finance Committee Chair ………….. Theresa Holly
Property & Grounds Committee Chair ….. Jim Stuhlmacher
Service & Justice Committee Chair ……. Julia Kling
Youth Representative to Council ………. Maggie Zita

June is Pride Month!
Learn about the Stonewall Riots on Tues. June 21, 6:00-8:30 pm
Join us in Pilgrim Hall for a ZOOM presentation from the Helen Plum Library on “The Stonewall Riots: From a Brick Came a Movement”. We will serve refreshments, watch the presentation together and have discussion. Learn more at www.helenplum.org.
Contact Tanner Spears (tannerspear02@gmail.com) with questions.

Church Weekend Away | July 22-24, 2022
Tower Hill Camp on the Shores of Lake Michigan (adjacent to the Warren Dunes) in Sawyer, MI.
This fellowship tradition is a great way to enjoy nature, relax and meet new people! Hosting this year will be Pastor Kendra, Catherine Curtis and Danny Harman. This is an all ages event for the entire congregation.
Accommodations: Tent camping or trailer camping or indoor lodging in Schrag Hall: both with running water and electricity. The deadline to register for lodgings in the conference center is Friday, June 17th
Enjoy swimming, playing in the sand, climbing the Dunes, trail walking, star gazing, storytelling, campfires and more! Questions? Contact cathy@fccge.org | 630-460-3096 x19

Full-day Preschool and Kindergarten at FCCGE!

Learn More @ ucecp.org/glen-ellyn
# Table of Contents

**Staff & Church Council** .......................................................... Inside front cover

**Annual Meeting Agenda** ......................................................... 4
  Church Year Goals 2022-23 ..................................................... 4
  Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting ...................................... 5
  Nominations of Officers and Committee Members .................. 8
  Treasurer’s Report ............................................................... 9
  Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget and Comments ............... 11

**FCCGE Member Responsibilities** ........................................... 13
  Membership & Attendance 2021-22 ........................................ 14

**Reports of the Clergy and Church Officers**
  Senior Minister ................................................................. 15
  Associate Minister ............................................................. 16
  Moderator ........................................................................... 17
  Union Early Childhood Education Program ........................... 18
  Church Fundraiser .............................................................. 19

**Reports of Committees and Ministries**

  **Connections Committee** .................................................... 20
    Connections Ministry Reports ............................................ 21

  **Finance Committee** ........................................................ 23
    Annual Fund Team Report ................................................ 23
    Endowment Fund Committee Report .................................. 24

  **Property and Grounds Committee** ..................................... 25
    Property and Grounds Ministry Reports ............................... 26

  **Service and Justice Committee** ......................................... 27
    Service and Justice Ministry & Mission Reports .................. 28

  **FCCGE Community Partner Reports**
    Glen Ellyn Youth & Family Counseling Services (GEYFCS) ...... 33
    Boy Scout Troop #41 .......................................................... 34

  **Staff Directed Ministries**

    **Education**
    Director of Christian Education ......................................... 35
    Intern Support Committee .................................................. 36
    Director of Youth Ministry ................................................ 37

    **Worship and Music**
    Director of Music Ministry ............................................... 39
    Worship Ministry Reports ................................................ 40

**Appendix A**—Updated Capital Building Plan and Budget .................. 42

**Ukrainian Refugee Support Through the Town of Tenczyn, Poland** ........ 45

Open and Affirming Statement, Global Mission Statement, and Just Peace Covenant ........................................... Back cover

---

**On the cover...**

- **Rally Day 2021**—see details from the Connections Committee pg. 20
- **Oktobertfest 2021**—A gorgeous night to be outside—details pg. 20
- **Viva Las Vegas Casino Night 2022**—see photo gallery pg. 19
- **First FCCGE Easter Egg Hunt**—see details and photos pg. 21
Introduction to the 2022 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday, June 5, 2022
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Welcome & Invocation ................................................................. Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Call To Order—Declaration of Quorum ........................................ Jackie McCarthy, Moderator 2021-22

FCCGE Bylaws, Section 5a—A quorum will be: Fifty members at any annual or special meeting of the members.

Approval of Minutes from June 2021 Annual Meeting....................... Colleen Spaeth, Clerk
Moderator’s Report ................................................................. Jackie McCarthy
Nomination and Election of Slate of Candidates ................................. Jackie McCarthy
Senior Minister’s Report ......................................................... Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Treasurer’s Report & Approval of Fiscal 2022-2023 Operating Budget ....... Tim Rodine, Treasurer

Committee Chair Reports
Finance Committee Report .................................................. Theresa Holly, Chair
Property & Grounds Committee Report .................................. Jim Stuhlmacher, Chair
Connections Committee Report ........................................ Sylvia Rodee, Chair
Service & Justice Committee Report ....................................... Jill Hewitt, Vice Chair (on behalf of Julia Kling, Chair)

Upcoming Initiatives .......................................................... Andy Ginger, Moderator 2022-23
Opportunity for Comments from the Members ................................ Andy Ginger
Closing Prayer........................................................................ Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

Church-Year Goals 2022-2023

- **Revive and Reinvigorate**: Enhance impact and use of church energy and resources to deliver missions and ministries

- **Increase Economic Stability**: Explore a wider range of financial and membership growth opportunities

- **Cultivate Participation**: Expand leadership, participation, and connection through multiple initiatives
FCCGE Annual Meeting Minutes — June 6, 2021

I. Welcome and Devotional
- Ted Harman called the meeting to Order at 11:07 am. Determination of Quorum to proceed with 55 computers logged into the meeting including some with multiple participants.
- Reverend Kendra Joyner Miller provided the invocation by offering a prayer.
- Ted reviewed the protocol for the meeting via Zoom to include: The Agenda is on page 4 of the Annual Report and is included in the chat if needed for reference. Discussion and questions will come after the reports. Votes will be voice votes unless there is a need for discussion. The mute feature will be used with questions and comments to be submitted through the “Chat” feature in Zoom, allowing every voice to be heard in an organized manner. Jackie McCarthy will read the questions submitted through the chat.

II. Church-Year Goals 2020-2021
- Increase Sunday Church Attendance and Overall Participation in the Life of the Church
- Ensure Long-Term Financial Sustainability
- Enhance the Professionalism in our Church Organization through supports to our Church employees

III. In Attendance
- Staff: Reverend Seth Carey, Senior Minister, Reverend Kendra Joyner Miller, Associate Minister
- Officers: Ted Harman, Moderator, Jackie McCarthy, Moderator Designate and Finance Committee Chair and And Andy Ginger, Assistant Moderator,
- Committee Chairs: Roger Hughes, Service and Justice Committee, Tom Pulver, Property & Grounds Committee, Sylvia Rodee, Connections Committee, Rich Troyer, Finance Committee Chair, Theresa Holly, Treasurer, Tim Rodine, Assistant Treasurer, and Jennifer Umlauf, Clerk
- Also present: members of the Congregation.

IV. Approval of Minutes -Jennifer Umlauf
- Minutes from May 31, 2020 Annual Meeting were presented for approval with a motion by Jeanne Kannegiesser, seconded by Nancy Bell. The minutes were approved with all “yeas”.

V. Annual Reports
- The Moderator and four Committee Chairs each offered their summary report of the past year’s highlights with an expression of their gratitude and joy of service to our Church community.
- **Moderator Report:** Ted Harman - The last year has been a confirmation that FCCGE is a special place full of unique and diverse people and perspectives. This church is here for everyone and collectively ‘we are strong’. Shoulder to shoulder, we made a new plan and then another new plan for moving on. Clergy and Staff led through Fireside Chats, Noon Prayer, Virtual Choir, Advent Festival, Progressive Dinner, Euchre, Property and Grounds work, and VBS. Service & Justice formed new ministries both externally and internally to continue work of the church including a new Mental Health Ministry. FCCGE is always here to support us collectively. This was a sad year with the loss of members and loved ones, but the church found ways to support one another in this difficult year. PADS support continued as long as possible and started again in October by offering a pilot program. Ted recognized Linda Davenport for all the work she has done for PADS as she passes the torch to new
volunteers. Ted thanked Jackie McCarthy and Andy Ginger for all their support and help over the last year and Jackie’s work in putting together the Annual Report. Ted thanked all the Council members and committee volunteers for helping to take FCCGE’s mission out in the wider world. He also wished Seth all the best for his sabbatical and will look forward to welcoming back a refreshed person.

- **Senior Minister Report** – Seth wanted to add this to the Annual Meeting so that he could take the opportunity to recognize and thank the church team for their commitment, creative efforts and tireless work throughout this most unusual year. Seth recounted details about office staff, facilities staff & volunteers, youth education staff, music staff led by Michele Hecht, and his colleagues in ministry (Oli, Sarah and Kendra). He is proud of this team and all the good they have done and are doing for God’s people. The congregation thanked them all with a virtual round of applause.

- **Connections Committee Report** – Sylvia Rodee acknowledged all the volunteers who spent many hours, including many in Zoom meetings. Many helping hands worked to create gift bags for Christmas, Easter and around the Annual Pledge Campaign helping members stay connected this year. She invites members to ‘connect’ in many ways. Officer nominations and other committee member nominations are shown in the Annual Report.

- **Finance Committee Report** – Rich Troyer thanked the committee members who are all coming back next year along with Laura Shellady and the congregation. There were some uncertain months during this past year. We are ending the year in good financial strength and he is optimistic about the coming years.

- **Property & Grounds Committee** – Tom Pulver shared the many improvements to our beautiful building including Pilgrim Hall, Temple of Light, painting projects, roof repair/maintenance, HVAC updates, outside planting updates. Items we are looking forward to include carpeting updates, elevator maintenance, boiler system replacement, and painting. He hopes members will continue to support the care and updates to come. Tom thanked all the members and staff who provide tireless support, and he looks forward to the coming team.

- **Service & Justice Committee** – Roger Hughes described how this group includes over 20 ministry teams and partners shown in the Annual Report. He shared that we continued to support our teams and partners throughout this past year and formed two new ones for the coming year. He reminded us that the pandemic hit those less fortunate than us the hardest and challenged church members to take an active an increased role in the existing teams and work to create even more. Roger thanked the current members of S & J and expressed excitement on behalf of these energetic people.

VI. Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee Members – Sylvia Rodee

- Sylvia presented the slate of new Officers and Committee members as printed on page 8 in the 2021 Annual Report. Sylvia highlighted a few names on the various teams. A Youth Representative is still needed for the coming year. She thanked everyone nominated for serving the Church. Jim Springer made the motion to accept the slate, as presented, which was seconded by David Exner. The motion was approved with all “yeas”.

VII. Treasurer’s Report – Theresa Holly

- Theresa shared and reviewed slides showing analysis of this past year supporting information contained in the Annual Report about the Church finances. The report included trends in giving and revenue. Appendix A of the report contains more detail. Theresa thanked everyone for their continued support and giving throughout the pandemic.

Approval of Fiscal 2021-2022 Operating Budget

- Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was shared in the Annual Report. Slides were shared regarding the deficit budget being proposed and included areas for possible new revenue sources.

- Questions were asked: Laura Ilhardt asked about clarification for an item that is part of the church fundraiser line
item—answered by Jackie. A question was asked about rental opportunities for church spaces such as Pilgrim Hall (only $2400 is currently budgeted for rental income) —Ted answered that there are continued discussions on the topic, and Seth added that a task force is being formed to look for ‘out of the box’ additional opportunities for rental income.

- Ted thanked Jackie and Council members for their tireless work and commitment to long Zoom meetings as they worked through this budget with the past and future in mind.
- The motion was made to approve the proposed 2021-2022 budget by Elaine Metzger, seconded by Paula Rada. Motion was approved with all “yeas”.

**$200,000 Line of Credit with Wheaton Bank and Trust Company - Andy Ginger**

- Andy noted that Council needs approval to renew a line of credit of up to $200,000.
- John Mulherin made a motion to authorize Council to renew the $200,000 Line of Credit with Wheaton Bank and Trust Company prior to its expiration in March 2022. Anne Gaertner seconded the motion. The vote was called and was approved with all “yeas”.

**Opportunity for Comments from the Members - Ted Harman**

- Jackie McCarthy shared information about church attendance and participation in the life of the church during the pandemic and provided detail about 2021-22 church goals.
- Leland Livingston recognized the passing of Ernie Wright and his noticeable absence from this year’s annual meeting.
- Andy Ginger recognized Ted Harman and shared details of his years of service to the church. He thanked Ted for his years of service on behalf of the church staff and members.
- Paula Rada asked about how we can continue being a presence in the online world following what we’ve learned and done during this past year. Seth said we will continue to offer a hybrid worship/live stream service. Discernment will continue as time goes on and tools will be leveraged as much as possible. The church website has been updated.

**Adjournment**

- There being no further discussion, Ted Harman adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m., as made by Leland Livingston and seconded by Andy Ginger. The motion was approved with all “yeas”.

**Benediction**

- The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey then shared a blessing to go forth, be blessed and be a blessing unto others.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Umlauf, Clerk

**Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting**

A motion will be made to approve the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as presented, followed by any discussion, and a vote of the members present.
Nominations for Church Council & Committee Members

The following are the church officer positions and committees that form the core of our church government structure. Members are listed with the year their term expires. The names listed in **Bold** designate nominees to serve terms beginning July 1, 2022.

**Officers:**
- 2023  Andy Ginger, Moderator
- 2024  Jeannine Kannegiesser, Moderator Designate
- 2025  Vacancy, Assistant Moderator
- 2022  Matt Szafranski, Treasurer
- 2025  Whit Brooks, Assistant Treasurer
- 2023  Liz Cooper, Clerk

**Connections Committee:**
- 2023  Laura Berk
- 2023  Scott Fischer
- 2023  Anne Weber

**Finance Committee:**
- 2023  Tim Rodine, Treasurer Emeritus and Chair
- 2024  Matt Szafranski, Treasurer
- 2025  Whit Brooks, Assistant Treasurer
- 2023  Martha DeForest
- 2023  Dave Mook, Endowment Chair

**Property & Grounds Committee:**
- 2023  Steve Jungling
- 2024  Erik Schuchardt
- 2024  Sharon Wussow
- 2025  Mike Sorenson

**Service & Justice Committee:**
- 2023  Jill Hewitt (Chair)
- 2024  Lisa Clay
- 2024  Richard Jones
- 2024  Ann VanSeters

**Endowment Team:**
- 2023  Dave Mook (Chair)
- 2023  Megan Savitt
- 2025  Dean Fischer

---

**Approval of the Slate of Nominations** — A motion will be made to approve the Slate of Church Officers and Committee Members as presented, followed by any discussion, and a vote of the members present. Any open positions will be filled by Council as provided in the Bylaws.
The Treasurer’s Report contains two sections. The first is a report on the financial activities of the current fiscal year to-date (2021-22) and the second part provides comments on the 2022-23 budget that was passed by Council and will be presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting for Congregational approval.

The fiscal year of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn begins on July 1st of each year and ends on June 30th of the following year. This allows for our fiscal year to match our program year. But since our annual meeting is prior to our fiscal year-end, the year-end financial statements are not available. This fiscal year-end financial statements should be available by August 31, 2022.

**Financial Position**

The financial position of the church is defined by our balance sheet. It shows where we are at a point in time identifying all cash on hand (operating fund, endowment fund, and restricted donations and council designated funds), historical investment in our building, debt, and equity. We use the cash basis of accounting so there are no payables listed such as payroll or other liabilities. We also don’t record depreciation on our building and equipment. The following is our most recent balance sheet as of April 30, 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fund Cash</td>
<td>Liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted and Council Design</td>
<td>Credit Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bldg Reserve Council Design</td>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Endowment Note Payable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADS</td>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Work Camp</td>
<td>Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sem Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Grounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Crisis Council Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuing Year Pledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Restricted and Council Des.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Investments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Receivable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Endowment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cash Position**

Our cash position is currently strong. Shown in the chart at right are our historic monthly cash balances and the dotted line representing the recommended 90 days’ cash that should be maintained. Many activities of the church are seasonal in nature and, therefore, our operating cash balance peaks in December and then decreases throughout the year. This is due to the programs of the church are limited during the summer and in contrast, the donations to the church are very high at the end of the calendar year. However, our biggest expenditure, personnel, is a constant and does not decrease during the summer.
Receips vs. Budget

The Church estimates and budgets its receipts based on the historical seasonality of collections (pledge payments and loose offerings). The chart below reflects our current fiscal year actual receipts vs. budget. The large spike at the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2021 was due to pledges given in advance for the entire FY21-22.

Long-term Debt

Endowment Fund Loan – In July 2012, FCCGE obtained a note with the FCCGE Endowment Fund for $190,000 amortized over 10 years at a twice annually adjusted lending rate plus 3 points. As of April 30, 2022, the debt owed to the Endowment Fund is $6,333.87, with the final loan payment due in July 2022. This debt will be retired during June, 2022.

Line of Credit

Since February 2008, the Church Council has renewed annually a line of credit in the amount of $200,000 as a financial safeguard against unforeseen circumstances. To date, the line of credit has never been used and as such has no outstanding balance. In June 2021, the Congregation voted to give Council the authority to renew the line of credit prior to its expiration date in March 2022. Council did renew the line of credit in 2022 and this time was eligible to renew for a 2-year period, until March 2024. Therefore, the Congregation does not have to authorize Council to renew the line of credit until the June 2023 Annual Meeting. Note: Only with Congregational approval would Council draw upon the line of credit.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The approved budget for FY2021-22 anticipated a deficit of $53,824. Even with the uncertainty of the last fiscal year, our pledge revenue is forecast to surpass budget by $42,000—a strong recovery compared to prior giving levels.

As of April 2022, FCCGE had $527,971 in operating cash on hand. (The Church should have a minimum of $278,316 on hand for 90 days of operating costs as a good financial practice.) Because the cash position well exceeds the minimum needed for financial operating stability, Council voted to cover $49,533 in essential elevator repairs and expenses encountered late in the fiscal year and to devote 100% of the church fundraiser net revenue to key missions.

The adjustment to the cash position, combined with reduced program and operating expenses during the year, will allow us to end the fiscal year with a $25,816 deficit, instead of the projected $53,824 deficit for the year.
Despite our strong cash position and holding most expenditures constant from last year, our projected expenses for FY21-22 are still out-pacing our anticipated revenue. We are proposing a deficit budget of $36,866 for FY22-23. To present a balanced budget would mean seriously exploring cuts in staff benefits, programs and missions, which we determined was not in the best interest of the church coming out of the Pandemic. To keep current staff, maintain our facility, and continue current levels of programs and mission support, we will need to increase annual giving pledge revenue, increase participation/event fees, and/or find alternative revenue sources in the coming year. Conservative spending will be needed to ensure a reduced deficit.

**Highlights of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Budget**

**Revenue**

- Assumes pledge revenue will reach the same forecast level achieved in FY21-22. Still awaiting important pledges as the fiscal year closes.
- Under building usage, assumes rental income from the Union Church Preschool from September 2022–June 2023.
- Since a church fundraiser was just held in May 2022, revenue does not plan for a church fundraiser in FY22-23.

**Mission Support**

- Support for Ukraine and the church fundraiser helped us exceed our planned mission support in this current fiscal year. For FY22-23, mission support is projected to return to prior year budgeted levels.

**Staff Support**

- The FY22-23 budget retains all current clergy and staff positions and adds one part-time nursery care provider position.
- The proposed budget includes an increase of 3.0% salary/cost of living adjustment for personnel and increases in insurance costs.

**Building Support**

- Net of elevator repairs, the property and grounds budget remains relatively flat over prior budgets.

**Program Support**

- Most programs have projected revenue to offset anticipated expenses, including the 2023 Choir Trip and Sr. High Work Camp revenue and expenses.
- Some budgets were adjusted down to align more closely with actual expenses.
- Other program budgets were increased to include offerings that have been on hiatus since pre-Pandemic (i.e., Our Whole Lives, Confirmation Retreat)

As always, we strive to be good stewards of the generous gifts from the Congregation and other sources. Our goal is to ensure that the Church will continue to offer radical hospitality, justice and progressive Christianity in both the upcoming year and long into the future.
## Approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

A motion will be made to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget as presented, followed by any discussion, and a vote of the members present.
Membership in this Congregation is open to any person who requests it, who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, who agrees to its purpose and covenant, and who agrees to abide by the responsibilities of a member. These responsibilities are determined by the Connections Committee and, according to our Constitution, are to be distributed to all members annually. As a faithful reminder of the promise we made to serve God together and to support each other in our respective journeys of faith; members of this faith community are expected to:

**Attend Worship.** We come together to be centered on God in community with others. Regular attendance nourishes and renews our spirit. It reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are strengthened to interact within our daily community with an attitude of Christian love and fellowship.

**Volunteer.** Contribute your time and talents to the Church on a ministry team or Church sponsored event(s). We are the hands and feet of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship of others as you engage in meaningful activities within this faith community.

**Give.** Our Church budget is funded entirely by the financial generosity of our members. You are encouraged to contribute a percentage of your resources. By doing so, as your resources change the dollar amount may vary; but your commitment to support the life and work of the Church remains constant.

**Pray.** We believe that God is still speaking and that also means that God is listening. During worship we pray in community centered on God, supported by each other. During the week, we pray privately, for each other and to grow and move forward in our own personal faith journey.

**Vote.** As a member of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn you have the right and the responsibility to vote for nominated lay leaders, to approve the annual Church budget, and other important matters of the Church that require Congregational approval. Your involvement making decisions in the life of the Church is essential to help our community of faith grow and change centered on God.

---

**FCCGE Member Responsibilities**

**Welcome some of our newest members—the Shorner-Johnsons of Pennsylvania**

One of our newest member families, the Shorner-Johnsons, reside out-of-state in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Amy and Kevin and their two children, Joel, in second grade, and Leah, a fifth grader, found our church online during the Pandemic and wanted to make it their church home. Amy and Kevin participate in our streaming Sunday worship service, the mid-week noon prayer service, and online small groups. They both work for Elizabethtown College; Amy as Chaplain and Kevin as Dean and educator of the music education department.
Membership & Attendance 2021-2022

All membership and attendance figures compiled from data beginning June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2021 1,622
Total Members added (22 New/Transfer/Reaffirmation of Faith & 10 confirmands): + 32
Total Members Removed (Transfers and members removed by own request): - 2
Deaths: - 10

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2022 1,642

Baptisms (3 Adults & Confirmands, 5 Infants & Children): 8

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

By the start of the fiscal year, COVID-19 vaccines were readily available and the church Pandemic health and safety protocols allowed in-person worship, albeit masked and socially-distanced (every other pew was closed as shown in picture at right). The church offered both in-person worship and live-stream worship services for online viewers.

The attendance figures noted below include in-person attendance taken by our Usher Ministry and online views as recorded on YouTube.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES</th>
<th>In-person Worship Attendance</th>
<th>Online Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve—Total: 1,149</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday—Total: 75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Service not live-streamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday—Total: 391</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maundy Thursday—Total: 160</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday—Total: 177</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday—Total: 594</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Sunday—Total: 254</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

| Prior to Nursery reopening: Preschool through 5th Grade Avg. Church School Attendance: 12
| Avg. 18 children weekly | 3-5 children weekly |
| After nursery reopened: Nursery through 5th Grade Avg. Church School Attendance: 23 | 2-3 volunteers weekly | 1-2 online teachers weekly |

Church School Volunteers & Staff

Confirmation Class
14 youth / 4 Adults weekly
n/a

AVG. CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
32 students / 6 adults weekly
4 students / 1 adult weekly
“Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins. You will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.” — Isaiah 58:12

In the year 587 BCE, the city of Jerusalem was laid waste by the armies of Babylon. For nearly 50 years her people lived in exile, unsure if they’d ever return. But as the prophet Isaiah preached, they would eventually find their way home and rebuild what had been lost.

This past year has been a time of rebuilding our community, after a long exile in the wilderness. In the wake of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, we returned to in-person worship last spring. And since that time, we’ve seen our in-person attendance and engagement slowly grow; it’s been so wonderful to worship with a full congregation again on Sunday mornings. And as our Sunday worship has been restored, we’ve also been blessed by the joys that come with it; the return of our beloved Choir, growing Church School classes, and a more robust Youth Ministry. Most refreshing of all, perhaps, has been our ability to gather in community again for fun and fellowship at the proverbial table. In particular, this year’s Oktoberfest and Viva Las Vegas events went a long way towards satisfying our longing to break bread together and commune with each other face to face.

It feels like coming home.

Our Second Home Annual Fund Campaign also resonated deeply with folks, who are proud to celebrate FCCGE as a place where they belong; a place where, as the old song goes, everybody knows your name.

And we aren’t just rebuilding what had been broken down; we’ve also been working to build something new. Our members have been diligent in building partnerships with World Relief and Ukrainian refugees in Poland, and working with DuPage United to build affordable, accessible, and supportive housing right here in Glen Ellyn for seniors, young adults with disabilities, and low income families who work in town but can’t afford to live here. Furthermore, our exciting partnership with the Union Church Early Childhood Education Program will allow us to offer preschool and full day kindergarten classes for our community, potentially welcoming well over a hundred young families into our building and strengthening our financial position at the same time.

While the church is thriving, I recognize that our world, and our society, is in a precarious place. There are a hundred things to be substantially worried about out there, these days, and we don’t live in denial. But we dwell in hope; and just as Israel would once again face oppression from Rome, long after Babylon was gone, we stand ready for whatever challenges may come our way. Our walls won’t protect us; but we are a community without walls, anyway. And we will face the future together as repairers of the breach, with faith, hope, and love.
“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” — Matthew 11:28-30

I sit writing this annual report at the beginning of March as I watch the snow fall blanketing the world in its downy beauty. Honestly, as I watch I feel hope intermixed with exhaustion and a little bit of intimidation. Will words written in a March snowstorm still ring true in the light and warmth of June when you will be reading this report? Will we, as a congregation, a country, a world, be in a different place entirely? In some ways I hope we will be in a vastly different place. In other ways I am so grateful for this moment. This time of waiting and not-quite-yet; we are on the cusp of so much.

It is here in this in between time of life that we find ourselves, and in it there is excitement and exhaustion. So many of us are weary and carrying heavy burdens like those Jesus is speaking to in this passage from Matthew. Life has held so much for all of us in ways that are universal and ways that are painfully specific. We have lost loved ones and not been able to grieve in the ways we would choose, we have been isolated, lonely, and we have been trapped not being able to get space for ourselves. We feel the weight of a pandemic, of a war, of financial insecurities. And it is in this time that I hold onto and take comfort in these words from Jesus that promise rest.

But this passage doesn’t pretend all will go away. There is no magic wand of faith. What God promises here is a yoking, a tying together of us to God and of us to one another. We are a yoked people. It is in walking this time together that life has maybe not become easy, but it has become beautiful, deep, rich, profound and in that togetherness our burdens lighten.

I have felt the ways we have been yoked to one another as members have gathered weekly to pray for each other, our church, and the world in noon prayer. Yoked together our burden lightens. I have felt the ways we have been yoked as our Stephen Ministers offer care and support to people within our church as they grieve, as they sort through family dynamics, and wrestle with aging and mental health. We are yoked and the burden lightens. I have felt the ways we have been yoked as groups have come together to talk about Art and Poetry in some of our adult education opportunities, and in these spaces people have shared their burdens, their pain and their joy with one another. We are yoked together and the burden lightens. I have felt our yoking as our Opening and Affirming (ONA) Ministry led with joy our Pride Sunday service and Big Gay Brunch afterward. I felt our yoking as ONA spearheaded a Transgender Day of Remembrance service with eight other local congregations. I felt our yoking as members led sessions on Environmental Justice and how to be an ally to the LGBTQ community. I have felt our yoking in Oktoberfest, Rally Day, Advent Festival, and the Christmas pageant. I have felt our yoking as I have seen you all care for one another, this community and the world.

This is truly the work of God in our midst. We have been tied—yoked to one another—and through one another by God’s hand we live faithfully, not perfectly, but beautifully as God’s people. I am so grateful to be yoked to you all in this life. As my husband Dan and I live into the waiting and not-yet of expecting our second daughter in a few short weeks I feel so grateful that she will be born into this world, as hard and impossible as it sometimes seems, because it is also a place where she will be yoked in love with you, God’s people. And whatever life will hold for her and burdens she will face, she will not be alone, and in that assurance I pray that she will find comfort, peace, and strength just as her mother has.

Pastors Kendra and Dan Joyner Miller and big sister Eliza welcomed the arrival of baby Josephine on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. She is grateful that their little one is already part of a loving and supportive community and looks forward to when she can reunite with us and celebrate. Pastor Kendra plans to return to worship on July 3, 2022.

Pictured right is good sport Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller at Rally Day 2021 during the popular “Pie the Pastor” fundraiser.
“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” — Romans 12:6-8

As I look back on a year of rebuilding and reimagining what church life would be after emerging from a Pandemic, I am grateful and humbled by the accomplishments laid out in this annual report. While at times it felt we were being a bit cautious in returning to “normal” church life, it also felt courageous to unmask and sit side-by-side in worship and raise our voices in praise and prayer together for the first time in nearly two years. Although we started by hosting outdoor events and activities, as the year progressed it was deemed safe to gather again indoors for fellowship and all-church events. As one of the leaders working closely with our clergy, we always followed the science in every decision and step along the way. As the Pandemic continues to evolve, our live-streaming of Sunday worship and special services is crucial to serving our members and church community remotely, proven by the number of online views that surpassed in-person worship attendance this past year.

As I reflect on this past year, a few key moments stand out for me personally:

- Returning to choir and singing in person—I also sang with the choir for our Christmas Eve services for the first time in my life with this church. Usually, I am out of town with family in California, but I stayed for Christmas Eve and travelled on Christmas Day instead. What a beautiful blessing it was.
- Partaking in some incredible adult enrichment offerings—from being a better ally to LGBTQIA people to reading and writing poetry—our talented members and strong mentors guided us through new ideas and reflections.
- Dropping off care packages to our far-West suburban members in Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles, and Elburn to help keep them connected to our church family.
- Laying the groundwork for Union Church of Hinsdale to bring its Early Childhood Education Program to FCCGE with full-day preschool and kindergarten offerings this fall.
- Responding to the war in Ukraine by directly supporting the small village of Tenczyn, Poland, in its efforts to help and house Ukrainian refugees.
- And, of course, building an Elvis Chapel. A little outrageous but hugely rewarding, I could not have built it without the help of a fabulous team of fellow decorators (Sharon Wussow, Jennifer Umlauf, and Judy Artrip). The team truly brought the vision of the Elvis Chapel to life for our Viva Las Vegas Casino Night which inspired 15 renewals of vows—of marriage, brotherly love, choirly love, and even eating more veggies (thus my bouquet of carrots)—that raised $1,500 towards the $19,000 net proceeds.

The things that mean the most to me and that I will remember fondly from my term as Moderator are the things we did together—as a Council, a Choir, a Congregation, as fundraisers for Ukraine, builders of an Elvis Chapel—and as family, my church family. I am so grateful to all of you who have been rebuilding and reimaging our church life together for the past year and I look forward to continuing our work together. It has been my honor to serve with you. See you in church.
One of the exciting potential opportunities that opened up for FCCGE this year is partnering with the Union Church of Hinsdale to allow them to use our space to launch preschool and full-day kindergarten classes at FCCGE.

FCCGE will lease classroom space to Union. Union will license, staff and operate the preschool Monday-Friday. FCCGE will retain use of classrooms on Saturday-Sunday.

Benefits:
- Source of new member families for FCCGE; rekindle interest in our Sunday School
- Income source to help offset ongoing deficit budgets and enhance programming; income is non-taxable

Background:
- FCCGE operated a preschool from 1998 to 2011 until long-time director retired and area competition deemed it impractical to continue it as a break-even operation when other growing church programs needed space

About Our Partner:
- Union Congregational Church - Launched in 1866, a leading UCC church with a faith tradition and orientation that closely matches that of FCCGE
- Union Church has successfully operated their Early Childhood Education Program since 1955, currently nurturing over 300 children from 6 weeks to 6 years old, every week

Educational Mission and Philosophy:
- Teach using a collaborative and child-centered approach of the Reggio Emilia curriculum
- Embrace families of all faiths and share religious traditions...no direct religious curriculum

Projected Demand:
- Assessment of existing preschool programs in Glen Ellyn shows unmet demand
- Particularly lacking is all-day kindergarten program capacity in District 41

Targeted Scale:
- Initial offering of 6 classes, totaling 86 students per weekday...no program for children below age 2
- Union provides all teachers/aides and agreement details expansion up to 179 students

Compatibility:
- Multiple discussions and visits indicate that Union and their school are strongly aligned with FCCGE on spiritual, educational, social justice and a wide range of other attributes

Timing:
- An Open House was hosted by Union at FCCGE for interested parents on April 27, 2022.
- Union will start with some summer programming in June 2022 to encourage more registrations for September 2022.
Viva Las Vegas Casino Night Church Fundraiser — Laura Peccarelli, Lisa Clay Co-Chairs

A HUGE thank you to all involved in making our Viva Las Vegas Casino Night Fundraiser on May 7, 2022 a success! The event raised nearly $19,000 to increase our annual support of a number of our missions: Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, DuPage PADS, Ukraine Relief, and The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Thanks to the Kitchen Chix for the fabulous food, Lisa Clay (Co-Chair) for the special Casino Cocktails, Tom Petrich for organizing the auction, and all the volunteers who donated auction items and raffle baskets.

*Top row:* Rev. Seth “Elvis” Carey and Casino Night Co-Chair Laura Peccarelli; Auction Coordinator Tom Petrich with wife Diane; Auctioneer Mark Jungling with brother Steve Jungling (and Elvis). *Middle row:* Casino gamers enjoyed tables of Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, and Texas Hold ‘Em. *Bottom rows:* Some who had Elvis renew their vows: Bottom left: Katie and Tim Keeley; Lora and Kent Ilhardt; Center: Dennis and Emily Dougherty and Holly and Todd Jacobson; Bottom right: Peter and Sandi Wroblewski; Ted and Steph Harman.
Connections Committee Report — Sylvia Rodee, Chair

Committee members 2021-22: DJ La Chappelle, BJ Meier, Michele Todd, Laura Berk, Scott Fischer, Sylvia Rodee (Chair), and Anne Weber

The past year has underscored the value we all place on in-person events as our congregation continues to navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. While we made adjustments and pivots, we were able to come together for fellowship activities in ways that kept everyone safe while gathering together. The committee operated with a small but impactful team. Our goal for next year is to expand the committee in ways to include more outreach to the congregation, support for community groups, and more opportunities for Ministry Teams to reach the congregation.

Rally Day 2021 — We had beautiful weather on Rally Day 2021 which helped make our celebration on the church front lawn a joyous occasion. The celebration was inspired by block parties and featured Glen Ellyn downtown classic food carts offering hotdogs and smoothies, supplemented by Kitchen Chix offerings of veggie wraps, bar cookies and homemade lemonade and iced tea.

The fun theme continued with live music and face painting and games offered by the Christian Ed committee. For many, the highlight was the “Pie a Pastor” fundraising for two of our mission partners: Precious Blood Ministries and Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Services.

Thanks to Pastors Seth Carey and Kendra Joyner Miller for the many whipped cream pies they endured for these two great causes. It was a wonderful event and the first major fellowship gathering in over 18 months.

Oktoberfest 2021 — We were also able to hold Oktoberfest outdoors and were blessed with a beautiful crisp fall evening for the event. The committee (along with several volunteers pictured at right) set up tents, tables and fire pits in the parking lot, lit by strings of lights. The Kitchen Chix catered the event to rave reviews as folks enjoyed the German inspired cuisine topped off with Black Forest Cherry Cupcakes. More than 80 members joined in the celebration and the event welcomed several members back for their first in-person church outing of 2021.

Advent Festival — The Advent Festival is a favorite way to kick off Advent Season, and Mindy Post and a small team made it all happen again. Thanks to Mindy and her team, there were craft options for in-person as well as at-home kits.
Things slowed down in the winter of 2021-22 as the COVID-19 Omicron variant surged, and both the Games Night and Progressive Dinner event were cancelled for 2022. Fortunately, members told us that “Zoom Fatigue” meant they would prefer to wait for in-person events.

**Easter Egg Hunt** — We held a first Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Palm Sunday open to the community, that we hope to make an annual event. Thanks to Danny Harmon and the Youth Group for helping fill the eggs with candy and treasures!

**Euchre Tournament** — The annual Euchre Tournament will be held **June 11, 2022 from 7-11 pm**. Mike and Elaine Metzger, the 2021 winners, will host the 2022 tournament at their Glen Ellyn home. Register for an evening of food, fun and cards through the church e-Blast.

The following are initiatives that the team will be working on for the upcoming year:

- Resuming more in-person fellowship events, including: the Progressive Dinner and Monthly All-Church Dinners.
- Restarting Retreats—Due to the pandemic, we didn't hold retreats this year, but look forward to resuming these gathering – including thinking how we are open and affirming for all gender identities.
- Community Listening – Continue to think about how we reach out to members, especially in an era where we have more congregants worshiping remotely.

I continue to be thankful for the energy and enthusiasm of this committee as they work to create community and fellowship opportunities during these challenging times.

## Ministries under the Connections Committee

### KITCHEN CHIX – Mindy Post

The Kitchen Chix once again had an active year, beginning with Rally Day and capping the year with providing food for the Viva Las Vegas Casino Night fundraiser. We also participated by baking treats for several bag drop-offs to our congregation.

- **September**: Baked cookies, made veggie wraps and iced tea and lemonade for over 200 attendees of Rally Day
- **October**: Provided a German Feast for Oktoberfest, including pretzel bites, potato salad, red cabbage and sausages
- **December**: Baked and delivered cookies to Seniors in the Congregation (becoming an annual tradition)
- **April**: Made Bible Day cookies
- **May**: Provided Viva Las Vegas Casino night appetizers and desserts; Confirmation Celebration Dinner for approximately 50 people including confirmands, their families and sponsors

Due to COVID precautions, we did not do All-Church Dinners, Christmas Cookies, or Easter muffins and deviled eggs, but we were able to restart some cherished traditions and look forward to resuming more of those hospitality activities in the coming year.

There are approximately 50 talented, willing workers who cook, serve, clean and donate both time and food items year-round. We welcome new volunteers to this ministry that helps sustain our congregation in all seasons.

### NEWCOMERS MINISTRY - Clara Hughes, Jill Hewitt and Hal Temple

For the liturgical year 2021-2022, the Newcomers’ Ministry held two online and five in-person welcoming sessions with 17 guests attending. Thirteen newcomers who attended sessions within the last 12-24 months chose to become members of our family of faith. Because of our live stream services, we welcomed our first out-of-state family from Pennsylvania as new members this year. Periodically, we reach out to those who expressed interest in the past but have not yet joined. Our ministry would not be as successful if it were not for the efforts of our staff. We are grateful to our clergy who are in continuous dialogue with us as we collaborate and strive to welcome newcomers.
OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) MINISTRY – Hal Temple, Chuck Lukavsky, Co-Chairs

Ministry members: Caroline Andres, David and Teresa Exner, Marc Lovett, Mary Ellen and Chuck Lukavsky, Amy Schuett, Tanner Spears and Bob Tyler, Hal Temple. Thanks to our clergy for serving as ministry advisors during the year.

The purpose of the Open and Affirming Ministry is to keep the tenets of the ONA Statement before the congregation. To help educate members of the church on various issues brought forward in support of the ONA Statement, the following events were held:

- Ally Awareness October 17, 2021—Tanner Spears gave a presentation on the book The Savvy Ally in Pilgrim Hall after the Sunday morning service. It spoke to the issues of thinking about and supporting LGBTQ individuals in everyday life and was well-received. Thirty-three people were in attendance.

- Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20, 2021—evening Service of Remembrance was held in our Sanctuary. Trans buttons were distributed to guests at the four doors of the church. The service was planned and conducted by First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn; St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn; Grace Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn; Downers Grove First United Methodist Church; Congregation Etz Chaim, Lombard; and Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn.

- All Gender Restrooms—In March 2022, the two restrooms on the upper and on the lower level of the classroom wing of the Church became handicapped accessible with signage outside the doors. The single use restroom in Pilgrim Hall and in the office area of the Church also have “All Gender” signs outside each door.

- Pride Banners—In May 2022, three Pride Progress and three Pride Intersex banners were hung from the light poles in front of the church and in the parking lot in support of Pride Month and letting people in the community know that we are an Open and Affirming Church. A written announcement about the restroom signage and the Pride banners will be included in the Thursday eBlasts and in the Sunday morning bulletins during June.

- Pride Sunday June 26, 2022—FCCGE will host a Pride brunch after the worship service.

Community Groups under the Connections Committee

AMERICAN POETRY DISCUSSION GROUP (formerly The Film Group) – Alan Bayert

This past year the Film Group transitioned to the American Poetry Discussion Group. This group held its first meeting on April 19, 2022 and meets monthly. Initially focused on three pivotal poets (Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and T. S. Eliot), other poets will be discussed in future sessions.

OASIS Group – Tricia Kerns and Deb Wenninger

Oasis has grown over this past year.  We meet twice a month and provide support to anyone/everyone as they struggle and celebrate their life as LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual). We are currently using our home as a gathering place once a month, as some struggle with past emotions they have felt in a church setting.  The second meeting takes place at FCCGE and provides a safe place to share. Currently, our active members are roughly 12 and many are members from outside of FCCGE. FCCGE has been an asset to us and the Oasis group. We continue to outreach and plan activities to keep our doors open to all. Please continue to pray for us and be an active ally with those that do not understand the struggles we face each day.

A significant challenge is the growing amount of legislation around the country that targets and discriminates against LGBTQIA. The laws today are hurtful and truly dangerous for our young people. Being gay or trans does not show up one day and leave the next. Young people need to have support as they try and express feelings.

What can you do? Listen to young people and show you are supportive and let them know you feel they should be supported and heard. Educate yourself on the messages in the news, about potential laws, or hurtful language. Through Oasis, we provide support, we listen to how we can help, or in many cases, just be. FCCGE continues to provide a “judge-free space” to all those needing to connect. We are proud of the support FCCGE provides to LGBTQIA people regardless of where they are in their journey. We continue to reach out to local universities and other churches to let people know, we are here and are truly welcome here. Love wins!

SOUL SISTERS – Amy Stout, Becky Gadomski

Members: Amy Stout, Becky Gadomski, Carol Ginger, Clara Hughes, Cyndy Morain, Hope Rodine, Jackie McCarthy, Kathy Bayert, Kendra Joyner Miller, Kristin Malone, Lauren Bilotta, Melinda Mahr, Sally Fairbank, Sandy Hibbard, Sara Waterloo, Tiffany Ruddle, Nicole Baedke, Christine McMinn, Judy Artrip

Soul Sisters continues to be a group allowing women to form and sustain meaningful relationships with other women. Meetings are held twice a month after church services on Sunday. The group was excited to be able to meet in person again. We welcome new members to join at any time and any level of commitment is welcome. Discussion topics are determined by the interests of the group. The group continues to represent all ages, and discussions take place in a non-threatening, safe environment; you are encouraged to talk as little or as much you’d like.
Committee members: Martha DeForest, Theresa Holly (Chair and Treasurer Emeritus), Dave Mook (Endowment Team Chair), Tim Rodine (Treasurer) and Matt Szafranski (Assistant Treasurer); Business Administrator Laura Shellady (Staff Liaison to Committee)

The Finance Committee provides financial oversight to build and preserve the financial resources necessary to support the mission of the Church, both for the short and the long term. We strive to be good stewards.

In addition to monitoring our performance against current Annual Budget and helping the Treasurer develop the proposed Annual Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, the Committee took on several important tasks this year, including:

- Assisted the Business Administrator and offsite Accountant with the migration from Quickbooks Desktop to QuickbooksOnline.
- Helped update the quarterly contribution statements to lessen confusion between annual contributions and the Church fiscal year.
- Worked with our Business Administrator to review our current insurance policy and requested bids from four different companies. By moving to a new insurance carrier, we were able to increase our coverage by $6 million, while decreasing our cost by nearly $5,000 annually. Bravo to Martha and Laura!!
- Created a Financial Handbook with overreaching policies to assist the Business Administrator and future Treasurers as they navigate day to day financial operations.
- Created a Google Sharepoint within the Church Cloud to be accessed only by the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Finance Chair and Treasurer Emeritus, Business Administrator and Senior Minister. This serves as a central repository for financial reports and documents. Access will be added and removed as people roll through the Treasurer position.

I want to thank the Committee for all their hard work and commitment this year. As we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Pandemic and move toward normalcy, we are grateful for the giving and support of this Congregation. Your generosity, along with careful expense monitoring, has allowed us to end this year in a strong financial position and remain confident that the Church and its mission will continue.

Results of Annual Fund Campaign (as of June 1, 2022)

This year’s Annual Fund — the Second Home campaign — asked members to imagine the church as their home away from home, a place where folks are always welcome and they can be their authentic selves.

We had hoped to raise $1 million to fund the Church and its ministries in the coming fiscal year. We aren’t there yet; we are still waiting to hear from approximately 30 households who pledged last year and have not pledged this year.

Here is what we have received as of June 1, 2022:

- Our pledge total for this year’s campaign, thus far, is $920,115.
- 218 households have pledged to support the Church financially.
- Approximately 30 households that pledged a gift last year have not yet pledged this year. We are still hoping to hear from you! Altogether, these individuals pledged $102,693 last year.
- We are pleased to share that based on the 218 pledges we have received to date, there are 167 new and increased pledges, 77% of giving households, and 16% have pledged to maintain their current level of giving.
- In total, we lost $26,770 due to relocation, death, and financial hardship; but we gained $89,600 in new and increased pledges.

We are very encouraged by the enthusiastic support we received from our Congregation, and we are hopeful to make up the difference in the weeks to come.
Endowment Committee 2021-22 members: Megan Savitt, Matt Szafranski, and Dave Mook (Chair)

The value of the Endowment Fund as of 12/31/21 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/21</th>
<th>12/31/20</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments*</td>
<td>$1,020,985</td>
<td>$932,625</td>
<td>$ 88,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Church Loan</td>
<td>$  14,627</td>
<td>$  38,496</td>
<td>$(23,869)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,035,612</td>
<td>$ 971,121</td>
<td>$ 64,491</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*At 12/31/20, investments were in Vanguard Wellesley ($631,155) and Vanguard Wellington ($301,470) mutual funds. At 12/31/21, investments were in the iShares ESG Aware Growth Allocation ETF (EAOR).

As of March 31, 2022, the total value of the Endowment Fund (made up of the two categories above) was $1,006,444.

Church Loan – Original balance was $190,000. The loan was made in 2012 for church office and kitchen renovations. It is amortized monthly on a 10-year schedule and is scheduled to be paid off by July 2022. *(Note: In May 2022, the Church Council voted to pay off the loan in June of 2022 so that the last loan payment would not carry over into the next fiscal year.)*

In November 2021, a payment of $20,066 was made from the Endowment Fund to the Church Operating Fund. This represented dividends / income for 2020. It includes salary augmentation of $2,014 for church staff as stipulated by the donor.

Since April 2021, funds have been invested in an ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) strategy to better align with the values and mission of our church.

Endowment Tree Transplanted to a New Home

After being taken down from its original location in the Narthex during Sanctuary renovations in 2020-2021, the Endowment Tree display was moved to its new home on the East wall of the Atrium. Special thanks to Property & Grounds Committee members Randy Briasco and Sharon Wussow who planned the installation and re-mounted all the Endowment Tree plaques (leaves, acorns and boulders) in this much more visible location (pictured at right).

The Endowment Tree acknowledges those who have made a contribution to the Endowment Fund or have informed us of a bequest they have made in their will (Covenant Club).

If you are interested in seeing your name on the Endowment Tree, contact one of the Endowment Committee members or contact the Church Office.

Columbarium Memorial Center

Since the time of early Christianity, the church has been the final resting place for members; first in the catacombs beneath the church and later in church cemeteries. The Memorial Columbarium at FCCGE continues this tradition. Located in the Church Narthex, the Columbarium Memorial Center, was installed and dedicated in 2004. The center provides individual niches or companion units for the inurnment of the cremains of members of our Church, a spouse, immediate family, former members and friends of the Church.

The Columbarium was funded by our Endowment Committee, so income from the sale of memorial units has been repaid to the Endowment Fund over the years. Approximately 30 small niches are still available for purchase. Information regarding purchase of a niche can be obtained from the Church Office.
The Property and Grounds Committee is responsible for maintaining our historic buildings and grounds. The committee works to ensure our facilities are safe and support the ministries of the congregation while striving to be good stewards of the congregation’s financial support.

The committee works closely with the Church’s excellent staff especially with Facilities Manager Wojciech Gracz, Business Administrator Laura Shellady, and Sexton José Beltran.

Completed projects in 2021-2022

- Youth room renovations that were started in 2020-2021 were completed this year.
- Water leak detectors were installed in the boiler room and the kitchen. These detectors notify the facilities manager and chair remotely if water is detected on the floor. This will allow us to address any problem quickly and reduce the amount of damage.
- A number of improvements were made to our computer network. Additional wireless access points were installed to improve and expand WiFi coverage. A new security gateway and network switch were installed to replace old ones.
- On the roof, north gable ends and southeast fascia were repaired to fix rotting wood and gaps that had allowed squirrels to get into the building.
- Our elevator was modernized including a new control system, power unit, car and hall fixtures, and safety systems. The labeling of the elevator buttons was also improved.
- Our first fall workday since the beginning of the pandemic was organized by Randy and Erik and included landscape work and cleaning out the old organ vault as well as painting railings, light pole, bike rack, and doors.
- Upgraded Internet service from 75/15 Mbps to 600/50 Mbps.
- Replaced HVAC system for all-purpose room and Chapel.
- Replaced circulating pump for one of the boilers and the flow switch for two boilers.
- Repaired exterior masonry windowsills in Pastor Seth and Pastor Kendra’s offices.
- Removed asbestos and added fire sprinkler in old organ vault.
- Painting and carpeting were done in the south office suites.
- Eagle Scout Henry Bayert’s project was completed including building picnic tables, staining the new fence, and landscape work. The picnic tables have been an especially popular addition to the back lawn area.

Ongoing Projects in 2022-2023

- The northwest fence near the kitchen blew over in a wind storm. The fence is around 20 years old making it not possible to repair. It will be replaced with a similar looking fence with stronger posts.
- As part of the new preschool project, the youth room will move to the current Chapel. Painting, flooring, and lighting updates are planned for the new youth room.
- Our current telephone system is over 20 years old. We are soliciting bids to update the telephone system.
- We will enhance our outdoor space for events and programming by installing outdoor string lights above the patio near the lower level gardens.
Ministries of the Property & Grounds Committee

**Garden Ministry**—Nancy Bell

**Ministry Members:** Nancy Bell, Ted Harmon, Andy Ginger and Jo Ann Ginger, Dean Fischer, Scott and Kristin Fischer, Rosemarie Freeman, Jill Foucre

The Mission of the Garden Ministry is to create and maintain the garden beds around the church. The Garden ministry kicked off the new church year WATERING!! It was a very hot and dry growing season for gardeners. While some of us tried to keep up with the watering and weeding for west and south garden beds, church members, Dean and Jenny Fisher worked hard to keep the newly installed garden outside the chapel entrance alive and thriving. In the fall, we all pitched in on Clean-up Day to get the gardens ready for the winter. The team also planted about 300 new spring bulbs in the fall primarily in the gardens outside the main sanctuary entrance and in the west garden on Forest. We did save a few for under the new Peace Pole and in the front sign garden. This spring, the bulbs took their time coming up, but when they did they opened up with quite a flourish! Some of the beds received a much-needed layer of mulch in April. Soon we will be making some drainage adjustments in the front beds and working to improve the lawns so they provide the right foreground for summer flowering.

**Before & After**—Prepared and planted in 2020, the Perennial Garden on the South lawn blooms beautifully in 2021!

**Handyperson Ministry** – Randy Briasco

The Handyperson Ministry does odds and ends jobs around the church where professional services are not required. This year the ministry set up the Fall Workday. With a picture perfect fall day there was a nice turn out of volunteers. Thanks to everyone who came out to paint railings and a light pole, clean out the outdoor shed and music vault, power wash a walkway, and help the Garden Ministry clean up the gardens for winter.

Also, after a two year absence, the Endowment Tree was reinstalled in its new location in the Main Lobby/Atrium. A special thanks to Sharon Wussow for all the help she provided.

We’re always looking for handy people—it's a rewarding ministry for someone who likes to tinker around.
Committee Members: Lisa Clay, Jill Hewitt (Vice Chair), Richard Jones, Julia Kling (Chair), and Ann VanSeters

Though the Pandemic continued to have an impact on our church’s mission partners and ministry teams, with the aid of vaccines and masks, they found ways to do the valuable work to which they have been called. The Service & Justice Committee participated in outreach to these organizations and made discerning decisions about our congregation’s financial contributions to support them. Some of the ways we maintained supportive relationships with our ministry teams and mission partners:

- Welcomed guest speakers/collaborators from the Education Committee, DuPage United, and One Voice.
- Provided input to DuPage United representatives on their Attainable Housing presentation.
- Contributed to the church fundraiser, creating a basket for the raffle and carefully selecting and developing informational material about the recipients of the money raised for four organizations: two addressing hunger and homelessness in our local community, another helping to restore communities in Chicago affected by violence and economic hardship, and the fourth providing critical aid to those suffering from the conflict in Ukraine.
- Worked with World Relief to learn more about their programs and to consider ways of sharing this information with church school students.
- Met with the facilitator of the Social Justice Community group to consider ways our committee and this group can coordinate efforts in the future.

Through the generosity of our member’s financial contributions and the offering of time and talent, FCCGE is able to financially support the many vital organizations described below. Additional funding support was provided to The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, PADS, and Ukraine Relief thanks to the donors and participants of the Viva Las Vegas Casino Night Fundraiser held May 7. Thanks to the many church members serving those in need in our community and beyond.

Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners

Bridge Communities—Leslie Dodge

Members: Leslie Dodge, Norm Adams, Joyce MacRitchie, John MacRitchie

2021-22 Accomplishments: As a Bridge Communities Program Partner, FCCGE financially supported a family and more broadly, continued to aid Bridge Communities’ ability to provide wraparound services for families and mentors, including case management, nutrition and employment services, and a car donation program. This year they were able to expand services to include support for volunteers, a dedicated resource for program partner stewardship, and data evaluation expertise.

Mission: Bridge Communities is a grassroots, non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families by partnering with individuals and groups in the community to house, mentor, and empower the families. Over the last 34 years, they have provided free transitional housing to more than 900 DuPage County families. During the two years that each family spends in the program, they are able to save money, learn budgeting skills, and obtain better employment so they can live self-sufficiently once they graduate. Members of the church often serve as mentors to the families.

Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center—Lisa Clay

2021-22 Accomplishments: The Center’s counselors worked hard providing counseling sessions and assessments for those with mental health needs through both telehealth services and in-person sessions when safe. They offered weekly sessions on mindfulness practice, which teaches acceptance and compassion to increase coping skills and reduce stress. The staff also conducted a survey to learn what churches are doing to increase mental health awareness; they will be sharing the results with the faith community. Though their funding was diminished, they were able to meet challenges and look forward to increasing their presence in affiliate churches.

Mission: The Center’s mission is providing high quality and affordable mental health care to all who seek their services. They offer a sliding scale to low-income clients. They share this message: “Life changes without warning. Sometimes you need more than a friend to help you work through a tough issue. Trained professionals can guide you through important life decisions, support you as you navigate challenging relationships, and help you discover your own resiliency in the face of adversity.”

DuPage United (DU)—Clara and Roger Hughes

Members: Clara Hughes, Roger Hughes, Chuck Lukavsky

Mission: DU is a group of collectively organized citizens building our relational power to achieve social justice change locally in our community. Our active initiatives include Housing, Mental Health, Racial Justice and Gun Safety. FCCGE has been a member of DuPage United (DU) for five years.
DuPage United 2021-22 Accomplishments

Housing Objectives: DU made strides on the Affordable, Accessible and Supportive Housing (AASH) initiative. In 2021, we gained the support of Glen Ellyn trustees and staff, who directed us to three properties that might be suitable. DU brought in an affordable housing developer that evaluated each site and found the Budgetel Hotel on Roosevelt and Taft most suitable. The village purchased the property in January 2022 and is conducting its due diligence. Simultaneously, we worked to gain support in the community. We held discussion group sessions and partnered with Rev. Seth to create an informational video that would convince congregations in Glen Ellyn and Lombard of the need for more affordable and accessible housing. We believe the efforts of DU, its allies, and concerned residents will culminate in a new AASH development on the Roosevelt/Taft site and will serve as a template and standard for future developments in other DuPage County communities.

Mental Health Objectives: DU continues to push for reform to decriminalize mental illness. We increased Crisis Intervention Team de-escalation training within county and local police departments. Nevertheless, police still lack somewhere to bring people suffering an episode of mental illness that can provide more effective treatment than emergency departments. We have engaged the attention of local and state public officials and are working with them to open at least one crisis stabilization unit in DuPage County.

Racial Justice Objectives: DU hopes to address cultural bias in our communities by raising awareness of it and partnering with allies to support and expand their efforts. In 2021 DU engaged the County Sheriff, who was initially receptive to developing a culture bias awareness training program for police officers. We are unsure whether a program has been put in place yet. We have developed relationships with the local NAACP, Together Is Better, Pizza and Social Justice, and Unity Partnership and are exploring avenues for specific action.

Gun Safety Objectives: Pre-covid, DU encouraged the County Sheriff Department to join the National Consortium to participate in testing various technologies and benefit from group purchasing. This year DU is regrouping to align our efforts with the national campaign to promote gun safety by 1) engaging community police departments to review smart gun technology and 2) increasing accountability of gun manufacturers.

Environmental Ministry—Jeannine Kannegiesser, Catherine Curtis

Members: Karen and Tom Pulver, Deirdre Winkelhake, Jim and Alice Stuhlmacher, Nancy Bell, Eva Schuchardt, Joan Looi, Tom and Debbie Rausch, Clara and Roger Hughes, Mary Ellen and Chuck Lukavsky, David Crane, Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Teresa and David Exner, Bob Burrows, Jennifer Sellers

2021-22 Accomplishments: The EMT hosted a visit to the new location of SCARCE that was attended by church members and friends. Members continued to share information and participate in groups outside of the congregation including the local chapter of the Sierra Club, Go Green Glen Ellyn, SCARCE, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares, and Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL). Member Jim Stuhlmacher has had an important role in improving the church’s sustainability and energy efficiency as chair of the Building and Grounds Committee this year. Member Tom Rausch delivered a presentation on the impacts of climate change and encouraged attendees to spread the word and sign an important petition to Congress. In the spring the EMT hosted several walks in local forest preserves. Member Nancy Bell provided a tour of the grounds of Cantigny Park in her docent role. The team also made a donation to Faith in Place, whose mission is to empower people of diverse faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth and advancing environmental and racial justice.

Mission: This ministry formed in 2007 to support love and respect for Creation and take action on climate change concerns. We work to reduce the church’s environmental impact and support sustainability initiatives within our church. We raise the congregation’s awareness of environmental concerns by hosting the Earth Sunday worship service, a Winter Indoor Farmers Market, and guest speakers. We participate in environmental summits and rallies and belong to and support organizations that seek environmental justice and care.

The GardenWorks Project—Nancy Bell

2021-22 Accomplishments: Despite the many challenges of 2021, The GardenWorks Project was able to reach and exceed its goals for the year, accomplishing the following: 115 home gardens installed; 7 new partnerships established; 4 new community gardens started; and 364 individuals served as new clients. We also started a new project to engage with the local food economy and form partnerships with local farms. We held two gleaning events during which volunteers harvested over 1500 pounds of produce that went to 7 different local food pantries.

Mission: The GardenWorks Project is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization founded in 2012 to serve the western suburbs. Our mission is to promote organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of our community, the environment, and those facing food insecurity. The Project collaborates with food pantries, social service agencies, and community organizations to grow fresh produce for households facing hunger. We will continue reaching within the community to improve the local food economy for long-term health and sustainability, and we hope to build on our momentum in 2022 with more opportunities to eliminate food waste and increase food access.
Gilead Chicago—Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

**2021-22 Accomplishments:** These Pandemic years were meant to be the years we dramatically grew our giving and our numbers, but that was not to be. Fortunately, our third annual telethon fundraiser last September was successful beyond our wildest goals. While accessibility came to mean digital access for many congregations during the pandemic, we knew that caring for our folks meant giving them reasons to get out of the apartment to see, taste, touch, and hear the community that supports and loves them. As an example, Easter 2021 was a mile-long “Happy Trail.” If it wasn’t safe to throw a party where we were all together, we would take the fun and excitement of that party and stretch it out through the neighborhood, a pilgrimage of joy. We held several outdoor worship services that allowed us to capitalize on what was possible: Camp in July had us making tie dye, roasting marshmallows, and giving each other hugs. Summer Jams and Jellies brought incredible guest instrumentalists to make amazing music.

**Mission:** Gilead is a church started in 2017 for and by people who have been left out or pushed out of the church. It’s also a church for people who live on different kind of margins — because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, mental illness, or socioeconomic status. Our core practices are to make beautiful, creative worship together, throw great parties, make real friends, and tell true stories that have been silenced or marginalized and that can save lives.

Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center—Celia Rodee

**Members:** Judy Cheney, Cleo Burtis, BJ Meier, Celia Rodee, Karen Winter

**2021-22 Accomplishments:** This year was GECRC’s 20th anniversary. With stretched resources and funding, staff and volunteers served many of the most vulnerable in our community with cost-free tutoring and mentoring. They continued to expand support within District 89 and helped English Language Learner students integrate into the community.

**Mission:** GECRC offers after-school and summer programming that empowers under-resourced K-12 students in School Districts 41 and 89 to meet state and local standards for academic and social-emotional learning; involves students in activities that enrich learning; and connects families to schools and other resources necessary to support student success and well-being. GECRC programs allow students, their parents, teachers, volunteer tutors, and GECRC staff to develop mutually enriching relationships that support and inspire learning and growth.

Glen Ellyn Food Pantry—Jennifer Darnall

**2021-22 Accomplishments:** In 2021, the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry provided over 696,000 meals to over 4,000 people. Through the Grocery Care Pack Program, about 150 refugee families in DuPage County receive essential groceries monthly. Through the SnakPak Program, 250 nutritious “snakpaks” are distributed weekly through Glen Ellyn and Wheaton schools to low-income families who struggle to provide meals on the weekends. Monthly, 50-100 families are served a dinner and can shop for essential groceries. Weekly, essential groceries are delivered to residential homes for seniors and veterans. Food collection drives are done two times a year in our church in May and September. This year, additional funding support was provided to The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry by FCCGE from proceeds of its Viva Las Vegas Casino Night fundraiser.

**Mission:** For more than 40 years, the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry has been dedicated to helping those experiencing food insecurity. An endeavor of 14 Glen Ellyn churches, First Congregational Church is proud to be a founding member of the Pantry and remains committed to the mission. The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Ministry fills one spot on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Board. Meetings are held on the third Monday 10 times a year. The Board is made up of representatives from 18 area churches and a few members at large. Volunteers are always needed to pick up recovered food from stores and cash donations are always welcome to purchase other items. The Pantry is currently located in the Grace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn, but the Pantry is remodeling a building to expand services and relocate. Visit the website for list of much-needed items: www.glenellynfoodpantry.org.

Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry—Open liaison position

**Members:** Sarah Bush, Lora Ilhardt, Melissa Cliff, Gretchen Rehm

**2021-22 Accomplishments:** Though we faced challenges due to Covid restrictions, we found a way to continue providing help to those in need. We took requests by phone and mailed food gift cards, bus and train passes, and gas vouchers to individual’s homes. We assisted with utility bills, car repairs, prescriptions, etc. by sending checks directly to the service providers. The on-site location in First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn has recently reopened, and we are excited to serve our clients in person once again. We plan to continue providing assistance by phone as well so that all can benefit from our ministry. Office hours will continue to be Monday through Thursday from 10 to noon.
Onward House Christmas Gift Appeal—Marge Kovatch

**Members:** Marjorie Kovatch, Sandi Wroblewski, Karen Ellis, Sylvia Rodee, Leslie Foster, Tom Pulver

**2021-22 Accomplishments:** For Christmas of 2021, gifts were provided for 200 children enrolled in Onward House programs. (Our Bridge family asked not to be included this year). Gifts were driven to Onward House on the Sunday before Christmas in a rental truck driven by Tom Pulver. Next year we hope to provide gifts for roughly 200 children from low income families and to our Bridge family.

**Mission:** This is a longstanding ministry which connects our church to a low income area in Chicago. The sole purpose is to provide Christmas gifts for children registered in the daycare, preschool, head start, and after school programs at Onward House, an outreach facility in the Belmont Cragin district in Chicago. This ministry usually also includes gifts for our Bridge family.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity—Debbie White

**Mission:** DuPage Habitat for Humanity partners with people in our community to help them build or repair a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage to achieve stability and independence for themselves and for their families. Thousands of DuPage County families and seniors with limited incomes are struggling to stay in the homes they already own. Habitat’s Home Repair Program offers a broad array of services to qualified homeowners to help keep them in their homes while reducing blight throughout their neighborhood.

Mental Health Ministry Team—Roger Hughes

**Members:** Christine McMinn, Amy Stout, Becky Gadomski, Jean Slevin, Hope Rodine

**Key Achievements this year:** In June, we sponsored a guided meditation workshop led by the Theosophical Society's Juliana Cesano. We had 15 in-person participants and 35 in attendance virtually. We have posted weekly mental health-related educational articles on the FCCGE e-blast and have maintained and updated the Mental Health Resources link on the FCCGE website.

**Plans for Next Year:** After an initial burst of enthusiasm and participation during the formation of the team, we have experienced some attrition, as well as limited participation. We plan to continue our e-blast offerings and also determine the best means to realistically increase participation and engagement within the team. May have a guest speaker or workshop.

**Mission:** In response to FCCGE listening sessions that listed mental health as a primary concern, this ministry team was formed in 2020 to help address the mental health needs of our members and the community beyond our walls. Following the UCC WISE model, we intend to promote a church that is Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaging.

Ministry of Meals—Jenny Fischer

**2020-21 Accomplishments:** During the past year, approximately 20 phone contacts were made and 64 meals were prepared and delivered to our church families. We use foodtidings.com to organize the meals online.

**Mission:** The Ministry of Meals is a thriving ministry that involves delivering meals to church members during times of illness or crisis. The volunteer roster includes 78 cooks and five “shepherds” who coordinate and schedule meal delivery.

One Voice Outreach Choir — Vicki Steevensz, Music Director

**2021-2022 School Year:** Established in 1982, the choir was created by the daughter of the FCCGE Music Director (at that time) as a way for teens to have outreach in the community. Until the Pandemic, the 40-60 member teen choir would rehearse once a week onsite at FCCGE and then perform for, and visit with, the residents of nursing homes and convalescent centers 8-12 times a year.

One Voice has been on hiatus from March 2020 until the present due to the Pandemic. We did meet for one month in October 2021, but attendance wasn’t adequate to form a choir. As a way of keeping the choir going, we invited adults to join the choir, but rehearsal challenges and rising COVID cases last winter ceased our efforts. Currently we are in the process of deciding whether to continue the 40 years of song, friendship and outreach to the community or dissolve it. While parents paid an annual fee for their teens to participate in the choir, an annual budget of $16,000 is needed to cover the director and accompanist salaries, purchase music, print programs, and host a few social events. It is unknown whether we will be able to form a real choir or be able to raise enough funds to support our mission going forward. I will be sure to inform FCCGE of our decision. I am ever so grateful to FCCGE for its support and generous use of space for our rehearsals and meetings (and file cabinets for our music) all these years.
Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)—Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

2021-22 Accomplishments: Under the direction of the new Conference Minister, the IL Conference has continued to gain control over their financial reporting. A task force has audited their historical records and created a handbook for financial policies and procedures. They are following the established rules with regard to use of restricted funds and obtaining appropriate approvals.

Mission: Through denominational support for the UCC at the Conference and National levels, the IL Conference focuses on helping congregations find new pastoral leadership, new church development and renewal of existing congregations, mediating and resolving church conflict, and providing assistance to local churches with their interpretation of Stewardship and Mission.

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation—Chuck Lukavsky

Members: Chuck and Mary Ellen Lukavsky, Ida Hagman, Mary Lhotak, Laura Peccarelli, MaryBeth & Rob Sackett

2021-22 Accomplishments: PBMR found jobs for 70 people, mentored 400+ youth, distributed 4,600 pounds of homegrown food to the community, assisted 42 citizens returning to the community after being incarcerated. Next year FCCGE intends to plan activities to create more awareness of this ministry and involve more of the congregation. PBMR is grateful for the additional funding support provided by FCCGE through its generous donors and participants of the Viva Las Vegas Casino Night fundraiser.

Mission: Our purpose is to develop ways in which FCCGE can support and enhance the work of PBMR, including building a strong relationship between the two organizations. PBMR serves youth, families, and community members who reside in the Back of the Yards neighborhood and have been impacted by violence and the criminal justice system. PBMR also works with men and women who are currently incarcerated. They strive to restore human dignity through hospitality, hope, and healing and to create safe spaces for people.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)—Tricia Kerns and Deb Wenninger

Members: Andy Ginger, Ted Harman, Tricia Kerns, Tom Pulver, and Deb Wenninger

2021-22 Accomplishments: FCCGE has served as a shelter location and supported this cause for over 30 years. The DuPage Country Board voted unanimously to grant DuPage PADS $5 million to buy and repurpose a former Red Roof Inn in Downers Grove as a permanent shelter. FCCGE is working with PADS to determine the nature of the support that will yet be required. FCCGE was able to provide additional funding support to PADS this year through its generous donors and participants of the Viva Las Vegas Casino Night fundraiser held May 7.

Mission: PADS provides short-term housing for 300 homeless guests in DuPage County. They offer year-round programs to feed and shelter these homeless individuals and families and to connect them to case management and services that can address the underlying cause of their homelessness, including: Emergency shelter; Career solutions – employment programs; Supportive housing; and Client service center offering support programs.

Rebuilding Together—Randy Briasco, Krys Kling

2021-22 Accomplishments: This year’s event took place on April 30, 2022. We made critical repairs and improvements to one homeowner's house. We were limited to 4 hours in the home due to COVID, but our large crew of volunteers and careful planning with the homeowner and trade labor allowed us to successfully meet all our goals for the home.

Mission: In the spirit of community partnership, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago improves homes and neighborhoods of people in need so they may continue to live in warmth, safety and comfort. Since 1991, they have repaired 1,900 homes and 285 community facilities with the assistance of tens of thousands of volunteers. They work in partnership with community leaders, trade unions, service clubs, and volunteers to improve Chicagoland homes and neighborhoods. Their efforts often act as a catalyst for additional neighborhood improvements. FCCGE collaborates with the Rebuilding Together organization to repair a chosen house the last Saturday in April.

Stephen Ministry—Maggie Fredricks

Stephen Leaders: Maggie Fredricks, Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Michael Muren

Stephen Ministers: Cathy Christoff, Becky Gadomski, Brian Hamilton, Steve Jungling, Tracy Kline, Leland Livingston, Kristin Malone, and Sara Waterloo
Stephen Ministry 2021-22 Accomplishments: The current Stephen Ministry has been in place for 16 years at FCCGE, and this past year served more than 20 members of the church individually as well as in small support groups.

Mission: The Stephen Ministry trains laity to walk beside fellow congregants who are experiencing life difficulties: grief, loss, divorce, illness, health issues, transitions such as job loss, children leaving home for college or work – or any other problem that calls for the ongoing help of a lay minister. (It is not meant as a substitute for professional counseling or the specialized help that clergy can provide.) Stephen Ministers work one-on-one with a fellow congregant, meeting for an hour weekly for as long as needed. We provide a safe, confidential relationship in which the congregant can share problems with someone who listens objectively, responds with empathy, and provides support and prayer. We honor privacy; all conversations and contacts, even an inquiry about the program, are kept strictly confidential. If you need a Stephen Minister to navigate a difficult time in your life or know someone who may benefit from this Christian support, please reach out to one of the pastors.

Stephen Ministers are trained by clergy and veteran Stephen Ministers from FCCGE and make a two-year commitment to the ministry. If you feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders.

UCC Outdoor Ministries--Catherine Curtis

Mission: IL Outdoor Ministries is the umbrella organization which oversees and manages the two camps of the UCC IL Conference. Tower Hill Camp is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Sawyer, Michigan is the location for our congregation's annual camping weekend as well as for Jr High and Sr High retreats. Pilgrim Park is located in the hills near Starved Rock State Park in Princeton, Illinois. It has also been host to retreats for Jr and Sr High retreats. Members of our congregation have ties to both these beloved camps as campers, counselors, staff, and visitors. Their mission is to provide a space to step out of the ordinary and into the sacred.

Highlights 2021-22: The 2021 IL Outdoor Ministries surpassed their expectations for their year-long fundraiser and closed the year at 107% of our original goal! The financial support provided will preserve our camps for future guests, keeping our campfires burning bright into the night! Donations were used to support these camps which provides more opportunities for retreats and summer camps that can be some of the most profound faith experiences of children and youth.

Challenges: The pandemic was the cause of a hiatus of UCC sponsored programming at both camps for 2020 and 2021. Prior to the pandemic, fewer and fewer of our church members were using our camps and sending their children to other camps. Not only has this reduced revenue to keep our camps open, it has also been noted that the theology and beliefs of other church camps do not support our congregation's Open and Affirming values and this has caused some confusion for our children and youth.

Plans for Next Year: Both Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park have returned to some of their sponsored camps and also added new ones like a Spring Break Camp and a PRIDE Camp. The Connections Committee and FCCGE Program Staff are planning a camping weekend at Tower Hill July 22-24, 2022, and hope to return to retreats for Jr High and Sr High youth this fall.

World Relief Chicagoland—Julia Kling

Members: Lisa Clay, Polly Cooper, Julia Kling, Carol Montgomery Fate, Michele Piver

2021-22 Accomplishments: In 2021, 1,547 volunteers, 1,111 donors, 121 staff, over 400 churches, 20+ foundations, and over 220 businesses joined together in a shared purpose—to welcome and walk alongside immigrants and support adjustment to their new home communities. FCCGE’s World Relief team played a role in this. After serving as a friendship partner to a family from Sudan in early 2021, the team divided up to handle three separate 6-month assignments working with female immigrants from Cameroon, Myanmar, and Dominican Republic during the 2nd half of 2021. The needs of the women differed, and each relationship offered challenges and rewards. Other members of FCCGE have volunteered to help with ad hoc needs like apartment setups and rides from the airport.

This fall World Relief Chicagoland welcomed over 300 Afghans after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August. This was more immigrants than arrived the previous two years combined, and the rapid increase put a strain on WRC’s staff and systems. Through a massive outpouring of support from churches and the community, they were able to welcome more Afghans than initially thought possible. Nevertheless, they have struggled to find suitable and affordable long-term housing options for Afghans and other refugees. In addition, the pandemic's persistence through 2021 increased stressors in the lives of many immigrants. From schooling to health and human services, many people who had reached a level of stability in life before the pandemic regressed and required the help of World Relief and local churches to find their footing again.

Mission: World Relief Chicagoland exists to serve refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations. Together with local churches, WRC has helped more than 40,000 immigrants find belonging by providing vital services, building welcoming and just communities, and bringing people together. In the year ahead, they anticipate an increase in refugee resettlement and are preparing for that work. They will continue to work with the local churches to serve these populations.
Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service—Deanna Filkins, LCSW, Executive Director

Mission: Glen Ellyn Youth & Family Counseling Service (GEYFCS) is a 501c3 non-profit community mental health center housed in the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn which provides reduced-fee counseling services for low-income individuals and families and those who may lack insurance resources. GEYFCS consists of three clinicians total, one of which is part-time. We are partnered with local schools and police to provide mental health treatment, group supports, community referral and linkage and substance abuse assessment services. GEYFCS offers services on a sliding-scale fee, which is based off a client’s income level. GEYFCS’ mission states that no individual or family is ever denied services based on their inability to pay.

This year: GEYFCS programming and agency goals related to increasing staff to meet service needs, expansion of our school-based counseling program, expansion of our partnership with the Glen Ellyn Police Department and purchasing updated software/electronics were some of the various focal points throughout the 2021/22 year. GEYFCS was thrilled to hire on an additional full-time, bilingual counselor, Sarah Bruno, LSW, in February of 2022 to expand school-based counseling and group supports in addition to her role as liaison with the GEPD. GEYFCS is proud to have increased our school-based counseling program to include GWHS, GSHS, Hadley Jr. High School, GlenCrest MS and Lincoln Elementary. GEYFCS staff provided weekly school-based counseling services to over 30 local GE students throughout the past year, free of charge. Additionally, Sarah has developed curriculum to support the LGBTQ community and immigrant youth population and assimilation challenges. GEYFCS in partnership with the Village of Glen Ellyn and the GEPD was able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding contract which enables GEYFCS staff to provide follow up crisis care and long-term counseling services for any local residents referred by the GEPD for mental health support. In February 2022, GEYFCS and Bridge Communities solidified an ongoing partnership to provide contracted mental health services for Bridge families experiencing transitional housing and employment needs. GEYFCS staff continue to facilitate a monthly Mental Health Task Force made up of various community stakeholders which aims to prevent youth and adult suicide and to educate/spread awareness regarding the signs and symptoms of various mental health disorders. Lastly, with the increased staffing needs at GEYFCS, additional funding was used to purchase more laptops, software and a new phone system that allows for more efficient client care throughout the treatment process.

The funding support from FCCGE was used to supplement reduced-fees for clients at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, to hire additional counseling staff, and to purchase updated software/office materials.

Challenges: The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to cause immense challenges with family engagement, isolation, employment challenges and telemental health treatment (virtual services). Client fees throughout the past year have decreased by $8,000 which could be attributed to job-loss, unemployment and other financial barriers related to the Pandemic. Additionally, an unexpected challenge is the limited pool of qualified mental health practitioners throughout the hiring process as the current mental health crisis is bringing to light staffing challenges.

Next year: GEYFCS goals for the upcoming year include continuing to build on school-based counseling supports by integrating into more lower level D41 elementary schools. GEYFCS staff would like to develop grief supports and groups specifically targeting the grief symptoms experienced by many youth due to the COVID-19 pandemic. GEYFCS would like to hire on an additional 2 part-time (preferably bilingual) clinicians to meet the needs of families who need evening hours and/or prefer telemental health virtual services only. GEYFCS would like to continue strengthening our partnership with the Village of GE and GEPD by providing support services to GEPD personnel, officers and staff on-site. GEYFCS will begin as a field-instruction site for Aurora University MSW and Bachelors level Social Work students in April of 2022 which will allow for supervisory experiences and additional counseling/group work opportunities.

GEYFCS aims to continue diversifying its Board of Directors to include ethnically diverse populations represented in our clientele. GEYFCS would like to look purchasing more software/laptops to look at outcome measures and data that support client satisfaction, effective treatment outcomes, ACES (trauma) assessments and SES data for grants.

Lastly, with increased hiring needs, GEYFCS is still assessing office space and addressing the client experience as they come for services. We are so grateful to FCCGE staff and members for allowing our office to be integrated in the church and would like to continue acquiring satellite office space in more community locations that are easily accessible for clients.
Boy Scout Troop 41—DJ LaChapelle

Highlights 2021-22: BSA Troop 41 has had a great year, especially considering the challenges presented by all things Covid. We have had five Scouts achieve the Eagle rank over the past year (including Eagle #100 since the troop’s inception!). Eagle projects included two projects at FCCGE (new picnic tables in the courtyard, plantings, and staining the fence; and a garden walk on the west side of the building); playground upgrades at Congregation Etz Chaim; a sensory garden at Lincoln Elementary, and an outdoor education area at the Theosophical Society in Wheaton.

Troop 41 sent a crew to hike for a week at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and camped at Starved Rock, Kettle Moraine, Devil’s Lake, and Apple Valley. Also, 25 Scouts and 10 adults went to camp at Owasippe Scout Reservation in Michigan for a fabulous week and earned many merit badges and rank advancements. Early Spring 2022 has included a cave camping trip to Eagle Cave, WI and out to Lowden State Park. A crew will be headed to the Boundary Waters in June of 2022, and, at Owasippe this year, we will be having 13 Scouts from Viet Nam joining us!

On May 14, 2022, after a three-year hiatus, the Troop 41 Pancake Breakfast was held in Pilgrim Hall at FCCGE!

Overview: Boy Scout Troop 41 operates with a single bank account at Chase Bank. The current balance as of May 20, 2022 was $13,814. The bank account is comprised of four distinct “buckets” as follows: 1) Troop Money; 2) Scout Account Funds; 3) Markham Fund; and 4) Trailer Fund.

Troop Money — There are two primary sources of revenue for the Troop each year—a Pancake Breakfast in the Spring and Popcorn/Wreath Sales in the Fall. This year, the Pancake Breakfast brought in approximately $2000 after all expenses and a 10% donation to FCCGE. The Popcorn/Wreath Sales brought in approximately $3,500 in net profit to the troop (after profits that were applied to the scouts’ individual accounts).

Offsetting this revenue each year are the following major expenses which the Troop pays for or subsidizes:

- Annual Troop registration and insurance ~$1,000
- Campouts (varying subsidy for each campout)
- Eagle Scout Court of Honors (subsidy, depends on the number of scouts reaching Eagle rank in that year)
- Annual Court of Honor Dinner (~$500)
- Trailer Storage of ~$90/month (this is going to more than double and we are looking at alternate storage sites)
- Scout Store purchases (merit badges, neckerchiefs, patches, etc.) ~ $1,000/year

Scout Account Funds—Boys earn money in their scout accounts from popcorn/wreath and pancake breakfast sales (as well as pancake breakfast ticket sales). Scout accounts may be used to pay for campout/summer camp fees, annual registration fees, troop gear, etc. The current balance of this portion of the overall account is approximately $2,378 (comprised of varying earned amounts available to each of the approximately 30 scouts for these activities).

Markham Fund—This fund was established many years ago in honor of a former Scoutmaster. It is used to assist boys who need financial help in paying for campouts and/or to help support boys going High Adventure campouts ($50/scout). The Fund has a current balance of approximately $1,800. In a typical year, proceeds from a bake sale held at the pancake breakfast are added to this fund.

Trailer Fund—Money comes into the Trailer Fund in one of two ways, either as a donation (usually from a former troop member) or upon a boy’s exit from the troop. When a scout leaves the troop (either by quitting boy scouts or graduating to Eagle rank), any leftover funds in his Scout Account are transferred to the trailer fund. The current balance in the Trailer Fund is currently at $880.
Staff Members: Cathy Basso Youth Education Coordinator, Kathleen Page and Torrie Holst, Nursery Care Providers. After 12 years as a staff member, Kathleen Page left FCCGE in August. New Nursery Care Provider Torrie Holst was hired to begin in September 2021 but the nursery reopening was delayed until mid-March 2022 due to COVID.

Summer Church School (June - mid-August 2021)

- Preschool - 5th graders - Virtual asynchronous church school each Sunday, with a scripture lesson taught with a pre-recorded Young Children and Worship Bible story, told by a Temple of Light storyteller. We finished our gatherings with “I wonder” questions and shared thoughts about the scripture.

Vacation Bible School (June 21 - 25, 2021)

- This self-funded ministry was co-hosted with Grace Lutheran and Faith Lutheran churches for a “Community VBS” using Illustrated Ministry’s “An Invitation to Join God at Work in the World” curriculum. We returned to in-person VBS but modified it by hosting it outdoors for families from 5:30 to 7:00 pm and included dinner.
- Each evening included Gathering Time with a skit of the bible story and music. We would then have three rotations that family groups moved through: mission, crafts, and games.
- Our final VBS evening together was a “fun day” with bubbles, water games, VBS bread, popcorn, parachute games, and a photo station.
- 25 families participated from six different congregations.

Program Year (Mid-August - April) — Return to In-person Church School Options

Online Registration - 55 families registered for 96 children/youth

- Program year, in-person outdoor church school began August 22nd in line with the public school districts’ return to school dates
- Initially we hosted church school outdoors on the back lawn and rear courtyard area. We moved to indoor church school the first Sunday of November.
- Rather than beginning the program year with our usual unit on one of the three patriarchs, we began with a unit focused on the Parable of the Good Samaritan utilizing a new curriculum that we were testing and sharing feedback on for Sparkhouse Publishing.
- Church school was a “one room school room” model for preschoolers through 5th graders we moved to two separate classes the end of March with one class for the preschool - 1st graders in the Temple of Light led by staff and a volunteer and the other class for 2nd - 5th graders in Windows to God led by a staff member and a volunteer.
- Attendance in church school began increasing once we returned to a 10:30 am worship service time on February 6th and masks became optional.
- Zoom church school returned as an option twice a month at the beginning of March to support families who could not attend 10:30 am church school or who live out-of-state.
- Our church nursery re-opened with one staff member and a volunteer each Sunday on March 13th during the 10:30 am worship service.
Special Events

- **Presentation of Bibles** was on Education Sunday May 1, 2022 to twelve 4th graders. This special worship service included the return of an in-person children’s choir, a special musical guest and author of children’s book *Little Girls, Little Girls*, and a sermon by the Director of Christian Education. A cookie reception followed both worship services. We had a return of our traditional pizza party and rehearsal the Wednesday evening beforehand and invited 2nd, 3rd, and 5th graders to attend for games, pizza, and a s’mores buffet to garner interest in fellowship on weeknights for next fall.

Heifer Market transitioned to the Heifer Cupcake Sale
(October 22 & 24, 2021)

- FCCGE families baked cupcakes which students decorated during church school for two Sundays and froze.
- Church members could reserve and prepay for a box of 2 or 6 cupcakes or purchase on-site during the Friday evening Oktoberfest celebration in the church parking lot or on the following Sunday, October 24th after worship.
- The congregation supported this beloved ministry and we raised over $2,100!

Christmas Pageant - December 24, 2021

- Return to in-person Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve for the 10:30 am Family Service
- All participants were masked but were provided with fun “character” masks. Much of the pageant was “pantomimed” by the characters and we had two narrators providing the story and character lines.
- Our traditional, pre-pandemic script from Caroline Andres was edited in order to limit the worship service to less than 45 minutes for COVID safety purposes.
- All Christmas Eve worship services required online registration and reserved seating.
- Director Cathy Basso and Stage Manager Catherine Curtis
- Fifteen children and youth participated.

Sledding & Hot Chocolate event - new event for families at Newton Park held February 19th

**Our Whole Lives retreats** - placed on hold; plans to resume in late winter 2023.

Library/Resources

- Over the summer Pastor Kendra and seminary intern Sarah Swindall weeded books from the library. We then had a book sale at the church and all remaining books were donated to SCARCE.
- The adult books and children’s books were “switched” so that the children’s books were not next to the railings and stairway.
- Several church members signed up to provide story time following worship while we were outdoors for our Coffee Hour.
- Volunteer Dolly Rada continued with some additional weeding, integrating new books into circulation, and finessed the newly relocated books into a neater and easier to use shelving system while re-labeling the spines of the books.

Coordinating with Union Church Early Childhood Programs

- Christian Education staff continue to work closely with clergy, staff, and lay leaders of Union Church Hinsdale and FCCGE as we partner with them to open an early childhood program utilizing church school, youth, and other common spaces at FCCGE.

Intern Support Committee Report — Karen Pulver

**Committee members:** Anne Stout, Ida Hagman, Marge Kovach, Leslie Foster, Ed Kolar, Ginnie Miller, JoAnn Ginger and Karen Pulver. We still miss those we lost in recent years—Virginia and Ward Highstone, Bob Stout, and Ernie Wright, all active former, founding members.

In our second COVID summer we were lucky enough to have three interns: **Sarah Swindall** was finishing her last year at Augustana Lutheran Seminary. She took over the supervision of our two summer interns, **Ethan Baedke**, long time member, and **Clayton (Tovo) Navarro**. Tovo, grandson of Marcie Navarro, came to us from VMI. He led several virtual and in-person Bible study sessions. Ethan had just completed his senior year in high school and led a campfire get-together for families at Blackwell Forest Preserve.

All three participated in worship and preached sermons. Since then, Sarah has graduated from seminary and accepted a call as Associate Pastor at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in Naperville (Pastor Kendra’s husband, Pastor Dan’s Church). Ethan is a freshman at the University of Denver and is active in a church there. Tovo is interested in military chaplaincy.
Jr. High Youth Fellowship/Confirmation—This year Jr. High Fellowship and Confirmation were combined into an hour-long session that took place every Sunday during the second service and every 1st Sunday of the month at 6:30pm. After a year on Zoom we started meeting in person again, leading to a lower attendance but much needed increase in energy to the program. Each morning we would start outside with donuts, move inside for some get-to-know you activities and games, break up into 6th/7th grade and 8th grade groups for lessons, and end with highs and lows and prayer. This group is led by Nicole Baedke, Dan Hitzmann, and Kate Brooks who teach the 6th and 7th grade class, as well as Chris Henkel and myself who teach the 8th grade class.

This year we also had high school upperclassmen, Henry Bayert and Gretchen Bayert helping as high school leaders. Average attendance each week was 14 youth.

The 6th and 7th grade youth began their year with engaging the principles of other major world religions and comparing and contrasting their beliefs and principles with Christianity. Later, they transitioned into reading different stories from the bible and began examining the mythological components of them to better understand their deeper themes.

This year we had 12 8th grade confirmands welcomed as official members of FCCGE. Over the past year they have engaged with a multitude of subjects such as the context for biblical literature, the roles of faith and science, Christian ethics, sin and evil, faith and justice, and more. Over the year each confirmand met with Pastor Kendra, Pastor Seth, and I on three different occasions to talk about: who God is to them, what values they hold, and finally what they wrote in their Faith Papers.

Sr. High Youth Group—Senior High Youth Group happens every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30. Each night we meet, hangout, play games, get to know each other, and pray. Our last meeting before summer programming was last Sunday on May 22nd but we will resume again in September. Youth leaders this year included: Polly Cooper, Tanner Spears, Paige Gawrys, Catherine and DJ LaChapelle, Damon Holst, and Danny Harman.

This year we were able to start meeting in person again. Each youth group this year met at the church where we did a wide of activities including but not limited to: video scavenger hunts, cook outs, escape rooms, pumpkin carvings, sleepouts, Christmas parties, live-action-among-us, work camp fundraisers, work camp meetings, trivia nights, Jesus Christ Superstar watch parties, cardboard box fight nights, glow in the dark floor hockey, and more!

Last Summer in lieu of a work camp mission trip, Sr. Highers, myself, and youth leader Zoe Larson went on a week-long canoe trip down northern Wisconsin’s Flambeau river. This trip to the wilderness was done to inhibit interaction from outside groups while COVID was an ever present threat. Minus some broken van windows, tipped canoes, and torrential downpours, the trip was a major success all learned the importance of communal support and leadership.

This Summer, 16 of our youth and 6 leaders are heading to West Virginia for Work Camp! We are partnering with ASP to provide home repairs to families in need. Youth leaders this year include: Damon Holst, Chris Henkel, Tanner Spears, Jeff Basso, Sydney Melms and Danny Harman.

More volunteers are always welcome! We are currently looking for high school junior to college age folks for our summer young adult seminary internship program. If you want to become involved or are interested in the seminary internship program, email danny@fccge.org for more details!
Clockwise from Top Left: Confirmand’s Holi Color Powder Night; Cardboard Box Fight Night 2022; Jr High Lock-in Picture with Fred; Burning Palms for Ash Wednesday; Sleep Out Saturday lawn set up; and Senior High ‘Trashket’ ball.
It has been a year of ups and downs with pandemic restrictions affecting the music ministry, especially singing. It was an incredibly powerful moment when the choir first sang together in person in September, and we continue to treasure every moment we have together to make music.

**Worship** - With the exception of a short hiatus in January due to the surge of the Omicron variant, the congregation enjoyed a joyful return to lifting our voices together in song. Worship has been filled not only with talented soloists, but also with music from the adult choir and handbells. Special services, such as the Vespers Service of Remembrance, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday returned to the sanctuary, along with music from our soloists and Taizé Ensemble. We also added a new Transgender Service of Remembrance in November that involved leaders and musicians from several area churches. Based on feedback from many families, we shifted the worship time from a single service at 9:30am to a single service at 10:30am. In Lent, we added a 9am worship service, finishing the season with a triumphant return to two full services on Palm Sunday and Easter with orchestra. Starting on Confirmation Sunday, May 15, the summer worship schedule will be a single service at 10am.

**Memorial Services** - The fall brought a wave of memorial services that had been postponed due to the pandemic. The music staff and soloists, along with clergy, office staff, and the worship ministry team, stepped up to provide comfort to these families in the form of special and meaningful music. The tech team assisted by live streaming these services to a wider congregation.

**Concerts** - A Jazz Vespers service was held in October, filled with music from Jeff Haeger, our Associate for Music Ministry, and a few of his professional jazz colleagues. Over 75 people attended the concert, and many more enjoyed the livestream. The freewill offering collected almost $1,500 for the music ministry - to an account that is used for larger expenses, like equipment, guest musicians and choir trip scholarships. On Friday, April 22, we hosted a concert of the youth choir and handbell choir from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, as they began their annual tour. At the end of May, we hosted a concert with Whim-N-Rhythm, a female a cappella group from Yale (Grace Larrabee, an alumnus of One Voice, is a member of the group.)

**Choir** - Since September, the choir has been rehearsing in the sanctuary and singing in worship on a regular basis. We leaped for joy when the mask mandate was lifted, but the choir has otherwise maintained a measured approach to lifting other restrictions, such as distancing. Both the choir and the handbells have enjoyed sharing music in worship at least once a month. We were particularly grateful to sing together (masked) on Christmas Eve, as other churches around us were forced to close their doors. In January, with the surge of the Omicron variant, the choir refrained from gathering, returning in mid-February when the situation improved, which led to a joyous and triumphant Easter with full choir and orchestra. The choir looks forward to planning their next trip, perhaps to Carnegie Hall in 2023!

**Handbells** - The handbell choir has enjoyed a steady and consistent schedule of rehearsing and playing in worship throughout the pandemic, continuing their practice of distancing. We are grateful for the creative gifts of our handbell director, Matthew Prins, who is a celebrated published composer of handbell music used by churches around the world.
Youth - It has been especially challenging to gather youth to sing and play music, as they are a more vulnerable population. For Christmas, we offered video projects to two different age groups - Angel Choir (ages 4-2nd grade) and Joyful Noise (grades 2-6)/Jr. High Singers (grades 6-8). A total of six kids participated in the two projects, singing traditional carols for the final Sunday of Advent and the Pageant service on Christmas Eve. In April, we offered a Kids Spring Sing, gathering kids together of many ages (age 5 through 8th grade) to sing in worship on Education Sunday, May 1. It is our hope that children's music can be offered at least once in the fall and once in the spring for children of all ages.

Anniversaries - It was just last May that we celebrated my 20th anniversary as Director of Music at FCCGE, and a few short months later, in October, we celebrated Jeff Haeger's 20th anniversary as Associate for Music Ministry at FCCGE. We have enjoyed two amazing decades of making music together! The choir sang Jeff's original gospel composition, "Magnify", in worship and presented him with gifts. A special gift from one of our church member families was announced in worship that day - the offer to purchase a new grand piano for the sanctuary! We have been researching possible pianos, with the hopes of making a purchase as early as this summer. We also recognized the first anniversary of our organist, Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, at the beginning of November.

Music Makers Ministry - Special thanks to the members of this team for providing care for our choir members, assisting with special worship services, and helping to plan socials and other big events. Members: Norm Adams, Martha DeForest, Lora Ilhardt, Karen Koenig, Jackie McCarthy, Beth Rosch, Colleen Spaeth

Worship Ministry, Communion, Paraments and Sacristy—Karen Koenig and Maggie Fredricks

The Worship Ministry oversees the needs of the worship services. Returning to in person in 2021-22 tasks included: Setting the correct altar/lecrern/pulpit Liturgical Color, communion set-up with disposable host and juice, providing a bread loaf for each service, maintaining a clean sacristy space, maintaining clean clergy robes and paraments.

Worship resumed in person with a single service at 9:30 AM. For Christmas Eve services in 2021, reservations and assigned seating were implemented to maintain social distancing during the Omicron outbreak of COVID-19. Services were held at 10:30 AM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 10:30 PM. In 2022, worship continued with a single service each Sunday along with video streaming. The service was moved to 10:30 AM beginning in February, and a 9 AM contemplative service was added in March.

Special services included a Jazz Vesper service October 6, 2021, Longest Night service, December 14, 2021, Holy week services included Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter (with a new sunrise 7 AM service, along with the 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.)

Ushers and Greeters—Jennifer Lindstrom

The primary purpose of the members of the usher ministry is to greet worshipers as they enter the sanctuary, provide them with bulletins and other information and help everyone feel comfortable and safe as they find the place where they will worship.

For most of the program year, we served as ushers during our one worship service at 9:30. We adapted to the ever-changing needs following Covid protocols to help everyone who attended to safely enter the Church and sanctuary. We assisted at each Sunday worship service as well as other special services such as Holy Week, Christmas Eve and remembrance services. Beginning with Palm Sunday, we began again to usher at 2 worship services each Sunday and anticipate that will continue going forward, except during our one service summer schedule.

The Usher Ministry is made up of approximately 25 dedicated members. There are too many to list here but they are recognized in the bulletin each Sunday.

The joy of sharing a smile and greeting worshipers as they arrive is the reward of ushering. We do whatever we can to help worshipers, members, and visitors feel comfortable.

There is always a need for more ushers and greeters, so we invite others, including our youth, to join the work is easy, fun and appreciated.
Flower Ministry—Jennifer Darnall

The Flower Ministry provides flowers to decorate the altar for Sunday services. The ministry conducts a sign-up on designated date (previously on Rally Day) (and until all spaces are filled) for families/individuals to select dates to sponsor flowers. A reminder is sent the month prior to the date – individuals are able to specify types and colors of flowers, and to indicate what is to be printed in the bulletin. This information is then e-mailed to Joyce and the florist (The Green Branch in Glen Ellyn). Special orders are done at Christmas and Easter.

Tech Team Ministry—Lisa Crank

2021-2022 Team members: Lisa Crank, Paul Flugel, Andy Livingston, Tom Melms, Matt Stout, Robb Sackett, Will Sackett, Danny Harman, Elliott Wright, and new recruits Norm Adams and Paula Rada. Our technical director is Dave Hecht.

The Tech Team Ministry records weekly worship services and special events for the Church in audio and video format, and live streaming the service.

Visual Arts Ministry—Deb Giampoli

It was great to be back in the building this year! Over the summer, we took down the mural in the main gallery, made repairs in the wall that the mural had kept well-hidden, and installed a new hanging system that added a look of polish and professionalism to the gallery and made it much easier to hang and position (and reposition) art without making holes in the walls. Hanging a new exhibit typically took two people 1-2 days; now it takes about 2 hours. YAY! Our first traveling “rental” exhibit this year was called “Immanuel, God With Us”, celebrating Jesus’ life as seen through the eyes of 23 artists from 10 countries, beginning with the Annunciation and His birth, followed by His ministry, Resurrection, culminating with His Ascension. In mid-February we installed another traveling exhibit, this one, called “Steadfast Vision”, 18 prints, the work of French printmaker, Georges Rouault (1871–1958). Rouault was considered by many to have been the most important Christian artist of the 20th century, known particularly for resisting the tide of art movements of the time, determined to depict the world as he saw it, even when others tried to discourage his artistic direction. This exhibit will be with us until August, when it ships to its next location, making room for another exhibit to kick off the new program year.

In addition to curating and procuring Christian Art for the main gallery, Visual Arts supported the staff in decorating the Sanctuary for Advent, Christmas and Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter), and helped with the selection of paint colors, furnishings and art for other areas around the building, as needed.

Many thanks to team members Sharon Wussow, Matt Stout, Steve Rochelle, Jack Miller, and Roy Giampoli, without whom this work would not have been possible.

Wedding Coordinator Ministry—Sarah Bush

The purpose of the wedding coordinator ministry is to help wedding couples make their wedding ceremony as meaningful as possible in accordance with church policy. Coordinators meet with couples about two months before their wedding day to help plan their church wedding. Coordinators assist wedding parties, family and clergy at the rehearsal and at the ceremony.

Worship Leaders—Missy Carlson


Once again, our ministry team remained flexible in the face of changes! Our group said a bittersweet farewell to a few volunteers, but fortunately a few new participants joined our ranks. Tasked with reading scripture at most services, our members recorded readings, wore masks when required, split duties, and eventually got back into the swing of predictable worship leadership.

Our entire budget is the willingness and time of our volunteer members, with the same monetary requirements expected next year. One hope is that more volunteers join us in the worship leader rotation! Youth readers, one-time readers, and regular readers would be welcome! If interested, please contact Missy Carlson at k-mcarlson@sbeglobal.net.


Building Capital Fund - Updated Projection May 2022

In 2017, the Congregation generously responded to the Called Forward capital campaign, pledging contributions over a 3-year period to fund capital projections. The plan is adjusted regularly, restated and published annually. The next several years will bring significant and necessary investments in roof and HVAC maintenance, as well as technology items such as the elevator control system, as well as our phone and security systems. The plan includes projected projects and costs out to 2030. The revised plan is outlined below.

### Prior to 2018-19 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimate/Actual</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air handling and condensing units, split systems</td>
<td>12,446</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior door - west side</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt pavement, total replacement</td>
<td>52,377</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light fixture refurbishment - sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light fixtures, bell tower</td>
<td>10,832</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofs, asphalt shingles, dormers at clay tile roofs</td>
<td>8,227</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>89,882</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2018-19 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimate/Actual</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Window refurbishment: stained glass and double-hung</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof, asphalt shingles and downspouts, chapel</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire panel replacement</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South exterior doors</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic electric door opener</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooftop ventilator for rest rooms / showers</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sanctuary gutters, downspouts, roof valley, woodwork</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney cap</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace / relocate 5 rooftop HVAC units - Stage 1 and 2</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>2,325</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>268,875</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pilgrim Hall Renovation: 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimate/Actual</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>580,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sanctuary Restoration: 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimate/Actual</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of Sanctuary, Narthex, Stairwells, Equipment</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary: audio visual</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>475,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimate/Actual</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payback endowment loan</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture: public areas</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convert Temple Of Light to 4 season room</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital HVAC control systems</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior masonry and tuckpointing including chimney</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical ceiling tiles - first floor restrooms - professionally installed</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace refrigerator</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,343</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>74,993</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Building Capital Fund - Updated Projection May 2022

#### 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payback endowment loan</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital HVAC control systems</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooftop HVAC - Stage 3</td>
<td>58,666</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof Maintenance - Multiple Areas</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofs, thermoplastic, CPE, 2001 (Moved one year earlier)</td>
<td>98,837</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior painting (Balance Moved Later)</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>224,303</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Youth Room Renovation: 2020-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Through 2019-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,750,053</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payback endowment loan</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attic Air Handler and HVAC - Stage 4</td>
<td>42,181</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased</td>
<td>7,440</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler circulating pumps</td>
<td>3,378</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ vault asbestos and fire sprinklers</td>
<td>8,108</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevator Control System</td>
<td>85,564</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Painting (Covered under operations budget)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security / phone system (Underfunded - Bidding)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>193,321</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remaining Capital Campaign Funds (as of 3/31/22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>735,601</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed</td>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed</td>
<td>16,835</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooftop air intake unit for boiler room</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen equipment</td>
<td>13,184</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small &amp; tower roofs (Validating estimate)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window maintenance</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>151,069</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boilers, building heat</td>
<td>124,595</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gutters and downspouts, copper</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat</td>
<td>3,302</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofs, thermoplastic, TPO, 2007 (Validating estimate)</td>
<td>118,200</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofs, clay tiles, underlayment and partial tile replacement</td>
<td>298,869</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture: Public Areas</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>567,966</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Through 2023-2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,662,409</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Target (Reserve estimate plus Pilgrim Hall at $580 K)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,721,265</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Building Capital Fund - Updated Projection May 2022

### 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost (2024)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes</td>
<td>38,129</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window maintenance</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows, wood frames, phased</td>
<td>13,824</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light fixtures, can and pendant, atrium and chapel</td>
<td>6,424</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light fixtures, sanctuary, narthex and stairs, dome</td>
<td>3,115</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed</td>
<td>16,835</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skylights</td>
<td>46,933</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second floor attic air handlers and HVAC</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Fixtures, sanctuary, refurbishment</td>
<td>12,710</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat</td>
<td>3,673</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>204,643</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2025 -2026 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost (2025)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs</td>
<td>64,742</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Coverings, tile, common areas</td>
<td>9,398</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest Rooms, multiple stalls, renovations</td>
<td>66,569</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest Rooms, single stall</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security system</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Safety System, Emergency Devices (Recost devices)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>177,709</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost (2026)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen equipment and appliances</td>
<td>34,418</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC replacement units</td>
<td>16,245</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace fences</td>
<td>18,937</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ restoration, electrical</td>
<td>71,791</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>144,391</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2028-2029 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost (2028)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piano replacement</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen cabinets, counters, renovations</td>
<td>39,206</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor coverings, common areas</td>
<td>102,225</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat</td>
<td>3,673</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>268,104</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2029-2030 Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost (2029)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pew cushions and pew restoration</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer / security equipment</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>REV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor coverings</td>
<td>104,905</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,905</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Five Year Total 2024-2030** 952,752
Ukrainian Refugee Support Through the Town of Tenczyn, Poland

FCCGE's facilities manager, Wojciech Gracz, was born and raised in a small village in Tenczyn, Poland, which has been taking in refugees since the start of the war in Ukraine. Households in Tenczyn are taking in families of 3 to 4, offering beds, and providing food and clothing. The village has created language classes, daycare facilities and job searches for the women, as well as schooling for the children. For a town of 2,000 people to take in more than 200 women and children has been a herculean effort. And our Congregation answered the call to help. Through generous donations and funding raised at the casino night fundraiser, FCCGE has provided more than $18,000 in support for the local Tencyzn effort and the funds have been successfully transferred to charitable groups in Tenczyn, Poland, and supplies have been purchased and are being shared.

A Note from the People of Tenczyn to our Congregation:

On behalf of the members of TEN–CZYN Association, the Volunteer Fire Department in Tenczyn, the Rural Housewives’ Association and Tenczyn residents who have welcomed refugees from Ukraine into their homes, we would like to thank you for the support we receive from you. We faced a great trial of helping runaway mothers with children from Ukraine. Nobody was prepared for this challenge. We are all saddened by the development of the situation and the destruction of the peace in Ukraine. At this point, your attitude of selfless help is worthy of the highest respect. The funds we have received from you allow us to safely look after Ukrainian families residing in our small village of Tenczyn. The money is allocated to the most urgent and specific needs, such as, among others, food, medicines, hygiene products, clothes and shoes, cleaning products. We are very grateful to all the donors who have supported us since the beginning of the war crisis in Ukraine. It is a great work of each of you, flowing from a pure heart, an impulse of humanity and the will to help war victims. It is very important to us in our daily activities. The awareness that we were not alone in our actions gives us strength. The time of trial that we go through allows us to strengthen our faith in other people. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you! Dziękuję! Dyakuyu! (English-Polish-Ukrainian)
Open & Affirming Statement

At First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, we rejoice in our community of faith, strengthened by diversity, including: 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.

Global Mission Statement

A Global Mission Church: prays regularly for partners, missionaries and the world; educates its members about global issues from preschool age to adult; seeks justice for the "least of these" in the international community; receives the gifts of the global church; gives to the work of global mission; sends its members into the world to share the Good News; and grows in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

Just Peace Covenant

Just Peace invites all of us to testify with our actions and lives. As a Just Peace Church, it is our commitment to act in love, faith and spirit as we live and work toward:

- Just Peace in the community—so that all may live free from fear
- Just Peace with the environment—so that life is sustained
- Just Peace in society—so that all may live with dignity
- Just Peace among the nations—so that human lives are protected

Therefore, we resolve to grow in love of God and neighbor as a Just Peace congregation and faithfully live out our vision to be grounded in tradition, centered in worship, called to serve, fortified by justice, sustained by peace, and free to dream.