

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



The Annual Meeting of the Members **Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**

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

- Election of the Slate of Candidates for Church Council and Committees
- Discuss and vote on the proposed Church budget for 2024-25

Submitted by Liz Cooper, Clerk

FCCGE Staff and Church Council

Staff

Senior Minister..... Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
 Associate Minister Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck
 Administrative Assistant Joyce Driver
 Business Administrator Michelle Jones
 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
 OrganistShu-Hui Janet Tsai
 Director of Youth Ministry Danny Harman
 (through June 30, 2024)
 Confirmation Coordinator Tanner Spears
 (Begins role as Director of Youth Ministry July 1, 2024)
 Facilities Manager Wojciech Gracz
 Sexton Jose Beltran
 Nursery Care Coordinator Amy Zita
 Nursery Care Provider Ellison Priebe
 Nursery Care Provider Bobby Zita
 Nursery Care Provider Maggie Zita

Church Council 2023-24

Moderator Jeannine Kannegiesser
 Moderator Designate Rich Troyer
 Assistant Moderator Jesse White
 Treasurer Whit Brooks
 Assistant Treasurer Jason Savitt
 Clerk Liz Cooper
 Connections Committee Chair Nicole Baedke
 Finance Committee Chair and
 Treasurer Emeritus Matt Szafranski
 Property & Grounds Committee Chair Mike Sorensen
 Service & Justice Committee Chair Maria Metz



All-Church Retreat at Tower Hill | July 19-21, 2024

Tower Hill Camp on the Shores of Lake Michigan (adjacent to the Warren Dunes) in Sawyer, MI.

Come for a weekend of fellowship, fun and sun! This tradition is a great way to enjoy nature, relax and meet new people! This is an all ages event for the entire congregation. Enjoy swimming, playing in the sand, climbing the Dunes, trail walking, star gazing, storytelling, campfires and more! Register from the Thursday Noon eBlast, fccge.org or the FCC App.

Accommodations include: Tent camping or trailer camping and indoor lodging in Schrag Hall (with running water and electricity).

Questions? Contact Cathy Basso cathy@fccge.org | 630-469-3096 x19

Vacation Bible School at FCCGE

Monday, June 24 — Friday, June 28 | 8:30 a.m.—12 noon

Today, June 2nd is the deadline to register participants for VBS! We need volunteers in all areas, but especially as small group leaders (Village Chiefs). Contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education for information (catherine@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 23). Details and registration for BOTH participants and volunteers via your Thursday e-newsletter, fccge.org or the FCC App.

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

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Introduction to the 2024 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, June 2, 2024

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Welcome & Invocation	Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck, Assoc. Minister
Call To Order—Declaration of Quorum	Jeannine Kannegiesser, Moderator
<i>FCCGE Bylaws, Section 5a—A quorum will be: Fifty members at any annual or special meeting of the members.</i>	
Approval of Minutes	Elizabeth Cooper, Clerk
Minutes of the June 4, 2023, Annual Meeting of Members	
Minutes of the July 30, 2023, Special Congregational Meeting to Call Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck as Assoc. Minister	
Moderator’s Report	Jeannine Kannegiesser
Nomination and Election of Leadership Candidates	Jesse White, Asst. Moderator 2023-24, Designate Moderator 2024-25
Minister Reports (including staff-led Ministries)	Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister
Treasurer’s Report & Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget....	Whitney Brooks, Treasurer; and comments
from Dave Mook, Endowment Committee Chair	
Committee Reports	
Connections Committee	Nicole Baedke, Chair
Finance Committee	Matt Szafranski, Chair
Property & Grounds Committee	Mike Sorenson, Chair
Service & Justice Committee	Maria Metz, Chair
Looking Forward	Rich Troyer, Moderator 2024-25
Opportunity for Comments from Members	Moderators
Closing Prayer.....	Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

Church-Year Goals for 2024-2025

- **Spiritual Development:** Encourage our Congregation to face today’s challenges with spiritual maturity, grounded in the teachings of Jesus.
- **Environmental & Financial Sustainability:** Execute an annual fund drive & capital campaign to support our mission, continue capital improvements, and grow our endowment fund.
- **Building Community:** Foster a relational culture where folks share their struggles, make friends, and trust and depend on one another.

Minutes of the June 4, 2023, Annual Meeting of Members

Minutes for FCCGE Annual Meeting June 4, 2023

I. Welcome and Invocation—Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck, Associate Minister

II. Call to Order—Declaration of Quorum—Andy Ginger, Moderator, 2022-2023

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, conducted in person in the sanctuary, was called to order at 11:16 a.m., by Moderator Andy Ginger. A quorum was determined with 74 persons seated in the sanctuary. In attendance were staff, Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister, and Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck, Associate Minister; members of the church council, Andy Ginger, *Moderator*, Jeannine Kannegiesser, *Moderator Designate*, Rich Troyer, *Assistant Moderator*, Matt Szafranski, *Treasurer*, Tim Rodine, *Finance Chair, (Treasurer Emeritus)*, Tim Waterloo, *Chair, Property & Grounds*, Liz Cooper, *Clerk*; and members of the congregation.

Andy welcomed people to the meeting, and emphasized that while this is a business meeting, it is also a celebration of the church's goals for the year. He thanked the Kitchen Chix for providing cake to mark that celebration. Andy reviewed the protocol for meeting conduct and asked that members speak clearly or come to the microphone when commenting, and to please state their names. People are also live-streaming, and we will collect those votes after the meeting and fold them into the live votes. There will be no Zoom voting as we have done in previous years.

There are 3 documents for the meeting: Annual Report, the redlined copy of the Bylaws and the redlined copy of the Constitution, which were sent out to the membership on May 25, 2023. The agenda for the meeting is on page 4 of the Annual Report.

III. Approval of minutes from June 2022 Annual Meeting—Liz Cooper, Clerk

The minutes of the FCCGE Annual meeting on June 5, 2022, appear on pages 5-7 of the Annual Report.

- **Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 5, 2022, as presented. Sylvia Rodee moved to approve, and Maria Metz, seconded. The motion is approved.**

IV. Moderator's Report—Andy Ginger, Moderator

Andy thanked Jackie McCarthy for her expertise editing the Annual Report. He thanked Laura Shellady for her outstanding service in the Business Office. She's made a big difference to the Church, and we will miss her.

Andy reviewed his three goals for the year:

- Revive and reinvigorate our missions and ministries;
- Increase our economic stability; and
- Cultivate participation in fellowship events.

We saw increased participation in fellowship events, and Andy thanked Nicole Baedke and the Connections team for planning those events. We've bolstered our financial strength and maintained our economic health. Tim Rodine and Matt Szafranski updated and streamlined our budgeting process, allowing us more time to focus on important causes. We updated the bylaws, improved emergency procedures, addressed the archives, and rewrote the employee handbook. We've developed a communications strategy. Christian Education and Music Ministries are important, and we've seen marked growth in both areas. Andy thanked our dedicated staff, musicians, and choirs for their contributions. We have new strategic views of our ministries thanks to Jill Hewitt and the Service & Justice Committee. This year partner ministries completed a goal setting workshops to improve their effectiveness and congregational participation. We've surveyed our homeless and recognized Food Pantry outreach. We have a computer recycling ministry and a revived Green Team. GEYC and the Boy Scouts have reached new areas. We've supported DuPage United's efforts for affordable housing. We've helped Ukrainian refugees living in Tenczyn, Poland. Tim Waterloo and the Property & Grounds Committee implemented repairs, improved energy sustainability for our building, and planned for the replacement of the clay tile roofs. Andy thanked the congregation and summarized his report by saying: Show up, join in, and make a difference.

V. Nomination and Election of Leadership Candidates—Rich Troyer, Assistant Moderator

Rich thanked Andy for his service to the church as Moderator. Rich presented the slate of new officers and committee members as printed on page 8 of the Annual Report, with the addition of Jesse White as *Assistant Moderator*. New committee members and officers include Jason Savitt, *Assistant Treasurer*; Liz Cooper, *Clerk*; *Connections Committee* members Jennifer Sellers, Tanner Spears, Sara Waterloo; *Finance Committee* members Jason Savitt, *Assistant Treasurer*, Dave Mook, *Endowment Chair*; *Property and Grounds Committee* members Don Bartell, Tom Rausch; *Service & Justice Committee* members Catherine LaChapelle, Andy Livingston; and *Endowment Team* members Dave Mook (*Chair*) and Kyle McClure.

- **Motion to approve the slate of new nominees and church officers as presented plus Jesse White, as Assistant Moderator. Moved by Jackie McCarthy, seconded by David Exner. No discussion followed. The motion passed.**

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting—continued

VI. Senior Minister's Report—Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister

Seth noted that this is our 160th annual meeting, as we gather to celebrate accomplishments of the past year. He stated that we came back slowly after the pandemic; church school attendance was sparse, but we picked up speed as the year progressed. We are steadily building momentum; our attendance has increased by 300% since last fall. Younger families are bringing new families with them to church. Our youth groups continue to be a big attraction. The choir has grown tremendously—they've had to move to the all-purpose room to practice. The choir cantata had over 1,000 views on YouTube and will be performed again at Carnegie Hall. We are providing support and outreach for a wide variety of causes, including homelessness, food insecurity, affordable housing with DuPage United, and the Eden project to grow food to share. We raised over \$28,000 to support efforts in Ukraine. Seth sees the church creating a sustainable and compassionate force in the world. He acknowledged sadness over Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller leaving her position and moving to North Carolina, while celebrating the gifts of Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck who has stepped in. We also bid farewell to members of our community, and we honor them all. Seth thanked the congregation for being part of the momentum of the church. He thanked our dedicated staff. He offered thanks to the Church Council and a special thank you to Andy Ginger as Moderator. Seth pointed to the many areas Andy has worked on, from helping refinish church pews to editing the HR manual, bylaws, and emergency procedures manual.

VII. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Fiscal Year 2023-2034 Operating Budget—Matt Szafranski, Treasurer

Matt thanked the Finance Committee. He thanked the congregation for its continuing financial support, which makes his job easy. The church is in good standing financially. We have no debt outstanding. We have money in reserves. Operations continue to be solid. Pledges and offerings are good. Digital offerings have had a positive effect. We are forecasting a small surplus for the year as expenses have been lower.

Budget, FY 2023-2024: We are planning a small deficit, but will try to keep expenses flat. Budget will include a 4% increase for staff.

Discussion: Clara Hughes asked why there were lower costs for this year's program budget. Sylvia Rodee explained that some Connection events charge fees, and the hope is that those fees can support other fellowship events as well. Clara also asked about the change to the Council's budget. Andy Ginger responded that the difference is the fund-raiser; this year we had no fund-raiser, but we will plan for a fund-raiser in the next year. The Education budget is increased due to increased participation. Celia Rodee asked why we are still proposing a deficit budget if we ended this year with a small surplus? Andy responded that historically we've planned a deficit budget, and while we try to keep spending in check, this budget reflects our best guess. Matt also explained that we still have households that haven't turned in pledges yet, and that this budget builds in a safety net.

- **Motion to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget as presented. Moved by Tom Petrich, seconded by Eva Schuchardt. The motion passes.**

Renewable Line of Credit with Wheaton Bank and Trust, for \$200,000. We have never drawn on this line, it's for an emergency. Council would ask for approval from the Congregation at a special meeting if we were faced with a financial emergency.

- **Motion to renew the line of Credit with Wheaton Bank and Trust. Moved by John Mulherin, seconded by Karen Pulver. No discussion. Motion passes.**

VIII. Committee Reports

Service & Justice Committee —Jill Hewitt, Chair

Jill Hewitt presented a video report about the committee's work this year. The committee organized our partner ministries around the pillars of equity, health, and security. Our ministries focus on both community efforts and a Ukraine effort. Jill thanked Lisa Clay for her commitment to this project. She also thanked the congregation for its support. Through the Casino Night fund-raiser and the Holiday Ornament sale, we raised \$28,000 to assist Ukrainian refugees. She noted Clara and Roger Hughes's involvement with DuPage United and the affordable housing project. DuPage United also worked to create a mental health crisis response center with the DuPage County Health Department. We've renewed our commitment to DuPage PADS. Tricia Kerns, and members of the Congregation, recognized that families need help keeping their children active and engaged while staying at the shelter. To that end, we supported a Fall Festival, providing food, cotton candy, games, a Bounce House, and face painting. It was a huge success. We hope to plan 3 to 4 events in the coming year to foster relationships. We continue to support people served by Bridge Communities. Leslie Dodge, Norm Adams, Mary Lhotek, and Kerry Burroughs have served as mentors to Bridge families. We saw one family move into an apartment, and we are working with a new family this year. Goal-setting workshops for our ministries revealed the need to build awareness and the need to recruit volunteers. Jill encouraged the congregation to review the ministry reports and consider getting involved.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting—continued

Property & Grounds Committee—Tim Waterloo, Chair

Tim highlighted our upcoming roof replacement project, outlined on page 27 & 28 of the Annual Report. The committee's major initiatives were to evaluate vendors and roofing materials. They recommended that we hire Conrad Roofing to replace the roof, with an estimated replacement cost of \$650,000 and Council voted to approve this. Tim celebrated that we have the funds to complete this project. The flat roofs over the towers will be replaced starting in July. This project will take about 3 weeks. We will be re-routing the parking lot so that the roofing contractors can have the space for staging. The tile roof replacements will take place next year and will take about 4 months. When that is completed, we expect the tile roofs to last for another hundred years.

The building capital fund has funded many projects that had been deferred for years. The remaining funds will be used for the roof. Tim also addressed what else we will need to do for capital projects. Based on this list, the congregation needs to be thinking about replenishing the capital fund. Council is considering whether we should borrow against our credit line, against the endowment fund, or asking congregational members to contribute early so that we can accomplish these projects.

Tim thanked the committee members, with special thanks to Wojciech, Andy, and Jose.

Connections Committee—Nicole Baedke, Chair

Jeannine Kannegiesser reported for Nicole. She thanked the members of the Connections Committee and welcomed the new members to the team. The Connections Committee sponsored fellowship events that were very successful. This year Rally Day moved indoors (with the Bounce House) and was well attended. Oktoberfest and the Progressive Dinner returned and were well received. These events brought us together in person, renewed connections and revived past traditions.

Jeannine and Nicole thanked the many ministries that support Connections, including the Kitchen Chix, Newcomers, Open & Affirming, and Soul Sisters. Each ministry brought about growth in membership and fulfilled their missions. Jeannine also thanked Nicole for continuing as Chair of Connections for the coming year.

Finance Committee—Tim Rodine, Chair

The committee worked on streamlining finance procedures. They improved the budget process. They identified and improved transparency surrounding our limited use funds and encouraged use of those funds in a timely manner. Tim described how using cloud-based tools allows the team to work from anywhere. Adopting QuickBooks has streamlined many of the church's financial processes. The Finance team has worked to increase transparency and create more checks and balances. Tim thanked the congregation, the committee, and the Council. Tim thanked the congregation for always coming through to support the church's programs.

Associate Minister Search Committee—Tom Pulver, Chair

Nine members were commissioned to serve last November. Their report is on page 17 of the Annual Report. The team has worked closely with Illinois UCC Conference Minister for Transitions, Stephanie Perdw. During this time, they have revised the Church Profile, updated the new position description, and posted the position on the UCC Ministry Opportunities web site. They interviewed four candidates for initial interviews on Zoom. They have identified finalists to spend the day with committee members and Rev. Seth Ethan Carey. Tom thanked the members for their incredible work. He also thanked the congregation for their trust in the committee.

IX. Constitution and Bylaws Updates—Andy Ginger

A subcommittee of Council addressed the entire document. A key to the revisions is on page 9 of the Annual Report, with key letters and synopses of changes. We'll take separate votes for each section.

Bylaws A: General Updates & Committees: Changes on pages 4, 5, 6, and 13 to align the Bylaws with practices ongoing for multiple prior years. Changes on pages 6, 10, 11 and 12 to update the description of the four standing Committees to reflect current practices for the past several years.

- **Motion to adopt redlined general updates and committee changes in the Bylaws. Ted Harman moved to approve, and Nancy Bell seconded. Motion passes.**

Bylaws B: Council. Changes on page 7. The moderators and minister have functioned as an executive committee for many years. The Church Council has been expected to establish goals and strategic direction for many years.

- **Motion to amend the bylaws to accurately reflect the current roles of Moderators and Council. Jim Stuhlmacher moved to adopt, and Teresa Exner seconded. Motion passes.**

Bylaws C: Experts: Changes on page 8. As operations and administration have evolved, we have expanded the number of important roles that involve professional, expert assistance beyond attorneys and financial professionals. Currently, all of these are members who are volunteering their time as experts.

- **Motion to accept these redlined changes of Bylaws C regarding experts. Moved by Tom Rausch, seconded Becky Gadomski. Motion passes.**

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting—continued

Bylaws D: Volunteer recruiting and role of Connections: Changes on pages 8 and 10. The task of effectively recruiting, electing and training a full range of volunteers reaches well beyond the scope of the prior arrangement. Out of necessity, Council has developed this new process over two years and will continue to refine it.

- **Motion to accept redline changes in Section D. Lora Ilhardt moved, and Brian Hamilton seconded. The motion passes.**

Bylaws E: Human Resources: Changes on pages 15 and 16 of the Bylaws and page 6 of the Constitution. The important process of human resources administration has not been addressed by the previously described task force for over 5 years. The Council and Clergy have deployed a new process and will continue to refine it. Among several key provisions, the new Bylaws will require an annual review/update of the Employee Handbook.

- **Motion to approve changes on pages of 15, 16 of the Bylaws as described, and page 6 of the Constitution. Moved by Clara Hughes and seconded by Debbie White. Motion passes.**

X. Looking Forward—Jeannine Kannegiesser, Moderator, 2023-24

Jeannine feels hopeful and confident about the next year. She is grateful for the work done by Andy Ginger, and the strong example set by previous moderators, as well as our full slate of candidates. We are blessed with excellent clergy and staff. Her goals for the next year are:

- **Faith & Fellowship:** Meaningful worship, education, and fellowship to engage and inspire our community.
- **Sustainability:** Focus on environmental and financial sustainability for our church.
- **Outreach and Welcome:** Invite and engage with our greater community with authenticity and curiosity; leading and following as appropriate.

She reflected that we continue to benefit when we engage in worship and support the community. She recognized our support of so many ministry teams. Looking ahead, the Search Committee will finish its work and we will need to gather to call a new Associate Pastor. We will be planning a fund-raising event in the spring with the Connections team. We are also looking for ideas to supplement annual giving. Our capital campaign is capping off years of successful projects, and we'll need to start planning for those ongoing projects. Jeannine thanked the congregation for being present today and for being involved.

XI. Opportunity for Comments from Members—Moderators

Sylvia Rodee commented that capital campaign was originally intended for 10 years. Has there been discussion about why we need more money so soon? Andy Ginger responded that when the original reserve study was done in 2014, some projects were funded partially from member donations and the endowment. However, it was going to take too long to finish those projects using that process. In addition, we renovated Pilgrim Hall, which wasn't originally included in the study. We added a new audiovisual system (\$250,000), which we had not envisioned. We didn't account for software updates for the fire system. We postponed roof repairs—but the roof really needs to be repaired now. The replacement cost is much greater than what we had projected (tiles couldn't be re-used as originally planned). The good news is that we were able to accomplish a lot with the funds that we had.

Celia Rodee noted that we've been combining maintenance with envisioning new things, which was a positive thing. However, she is concerned that we haven't been adding funds each year for building maintenance. The original plan when we did the reserve study was that we would be adding \$200,000 each year toward future repairs. Her concern is that successive capital campaigns are not sustainable. Andy's response was that there are multiple ways of getting the funding. Some churches rely on income from the endowment for these projects. Others set monies aside for repairs, or request donations for specific projects. We'll have to make decisions going forward about how we'll fund the list of projects. Our future expenses for the building should be lower in the next 5 years because we've done so much already. We now have a much more accurate view of what needs to be done to maintain our space.

Jeannine asked the congregation to bring ideas about funding such projects in the future to Council.

Clara Hughes thanked the leadership team and expressed gratitude for the spiritual growth in the leadership of the church.

XII. Closing Prayer—Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m. Minutes submitted by: Liz Cooper, *Clerk*

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

A motion will be made to approve the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting as presented, followed by any discussion, and a vote of the members present.

Minutes of the July 30, 2023, Special Congregational Meeting

Minutes of FCCGE Special Congregational Meeting to call Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck as Associate Pastor on July 30, 2023

I. Opening Prayer Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

The Special Congregational meeting of the FCCGE Church Council, conducted in person, was called to order at 11:00 am. Seth offered a welcome and a prayer.

II. Welcome Jeannine Kannegiesser, Moderator

Jeannine welcomed the congregation and thanked members of the search committee. She outlined the process for the meeting, beginning with an overview of the search, time for questions, and concluding with a vote to accept Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck as our candidate.

III. Attendance and Quorum Liz Cooper, Clerk

With 112 members present, we have met the required quorum of 50.

IV. Presentation of the Candidate Tom Pulver, Chair, Search Committee

Tom Pulver thanked the committee for its hard work. He outlined their search, which included reviewing 10 profiles, 4 planned interviews on Zoom, and in-depth interviews with 2 finalists. The discussion highlighted Kyle's focus on collaboration with all members across the wide demographics in the Church. The committee also clarified that Kyle's role has been as acting Associate Pastor, serving in a somewhat different role from an interim pastor.

V. Motion to approve the call of Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck as Associate Pastor of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn. Motion by Andy Ginger, seconded by Roger Hughes.

The vote was held by Ballot. Ballots were distributed to the Congregation.

Ballots in Church: 84 voted aye, 5 voted nay, 1 abstained

Email ballots: 71 voted aye

Total: 155 ayes, 5 nays (approval margin of 96%)

Kyle Roggenbuck is approved as Associate Pastor for First Congregational Church, Glen Ellyn.

VI. Motion to Destroy Ballots Jeannine Kannegiesser, Moderator

Motion to destroy ballots securely. Moved by Jesse White, seconded by Russ Graunke. Motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned to celebrate Rev. Kyle with cake at 11:20 am.

Minutes submitted by Liz Cooper, *Clerk*

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting

A motion will be made to approve the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of July 30, 2023, 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, 2024.

Officers:

Rich Troyer, Moderator	2025
Jesse White, Moderator Designate	2026
Cathy Christoff, Assistant Moderator	2027
Jason Savitt, Treasurer	2026
Vacancy, Assistant Treasurer	2027
Sandy Butt, Clerk	2025

Property & Grounds Committee:

Mike Sorenson, Chair	2026
Mike Artrip	2025
Mike Zita	2025
Tom Rausch	2026
Rick Hall	2027

Service & Justice Committee:

Maria Metz, Chair	2025
Catherine LaChapelle	2026
Andy Livingston	2026
Alice Stuhlmacher	2026

Connections Committee

Jennifer Sellers, Chair	2025
Tom Petrich	2026
Tanner Spears	2026
Sara Waterloo	2026

Finance Committee:

Whit Brooks, Chair	2025
Jason Savitt, Treasurer	2026
Vacancy, Assistant Treasurer	2027
Dave Mook, Endowment Chair	2025

Endowment Team:

Dave Mook (Chair)	2025
Dean Fischer	2025
Matt Szafranski	2025

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. Most committees have room to grow, so please contact a committee chair, moderator team, or clergy member to inquire if there may be a place for you to contribute through committee service.*

Experts Serving the Church

In addition to our dedicated officers and committees, several members with professional experience in needed disciplines have provided strong, volunteer support to FCCGE. For the coming year, these are some of the people who have committed to make a difference in specific areas. We are grateful for their support.

Legal: Ted Harman	Church Archives: Karen Pulver, Dolly Rada
Insurance: Martha DeForest	Audio-Visual: Dave Hecht
Human Resources: Clara Hughes	Annual Report Editor/Designer: Jackie McCarthy

Treasurer's Report 2023-2024 — Whitney Brooks

The Treasurer's Report contains two sections. The first is a report on the financial activities of the current fiscal year to-date (July 2023- June 2024) and the second outlines the 2024-2025 budget passed by Council.

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. Since our annual meeting is prior to our fiscal year-end, year-end financial statements are not available. Fiscal year-end statements will be published to the congregation in August, 2024. All illustrations and figures below are as of April 30, 2024.

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, 2024.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GLEN ELLYN			
Balance Sheet			
As of April 30, 2024			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Accounts		Current Liabilities	
1.3002 Charles Schwab Endowment Fund	1,086,521.22	Credit Cards	\$ 2,499.36
1008 Limited Use Money Market		Total Liabilities	\$ 2,499.36
1008.10 Ensuing Year Pledge	78,700.00		
1008.11 Capital Campaign	11,826.49	Total Equity	\$ 8,786,350.28
1008.13 Other Limited Use	440.00		
1008.2 Bldg Reserve Council Desig	14,560.82	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 8,788,849.64
1008.3 Music	9,335.06		
1008.4 PADS	46,560.94		
1008.5 Youth Work Camp	5,569.35		
1008.6 Sem Scholarship	3,311.23		
1008.7 General Education	16,285.73		
1008.9 Charitable Crisis Council Designation	908.56		
Total 1008 Limited Use Money Market	\$ 187,498.18		
Operating Accounts			
1.1001 Checking	268,062.46		
1.2003 Morgan Stanley			
2003.1 Morgan Stanley	382,883.68		
2003.2 Morgan Stanley Capital Campaign	88,870.30		
2003.3 Morgan Stanley Ensuing Year	25,396.80		
Total 1.2003 Morgan Stanley	\$ 497,150.78		
Total Operating Accounts	\$ 765,213.24		
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 2,039,232.64		
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,039,232.64		
Fixed Assets			
1.4001 Land, Bldg, Equip	6,745,792.00		
1.4004 Columbarium	3,825.00		
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 6,749,617.00		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,788,849.64		

Cash Position

Many activities of the church are seasonal in nature. For example, the programs of the church are limited during the summer, leading to a lower level of expenditure. Further, contributions to the church are highest in July (beginning of fiscal year) and in November/December (end of the calendar year). Therefore, our operating cash balance typically spikes in those months.

Treasurer's Report — continued

Our historic monthly cash balances with a horizontal line depicting the recommended 90 days' cash balance we should be maintaining are shown in the chart at right.

In summary, the church has maintained a cash position well above the recommended 90 days' cash balance for the past several years. This is due in part to a mindful approach to expenses. It is also a reflection the church earning more on our operating and capital positions in this higher interest rate environment.

Receipts vs. Budget

We estimate and budget our receipts based on the historical seasonality of collections. The chart below reflects our current fiscal year actual receipts vs. budget. The large spike in July is due to pledges given in advance for the entire fiscal year and the other spikes occur in November/December. In recent years we've seen a trend that members are giving more in spike months rather than donating on a monthly basis. This trend is being considered in future projections.

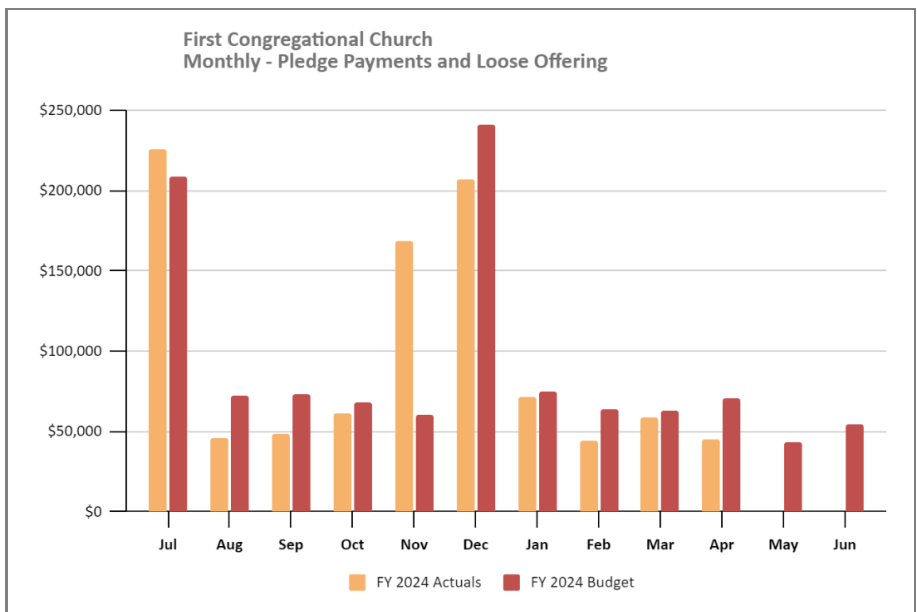
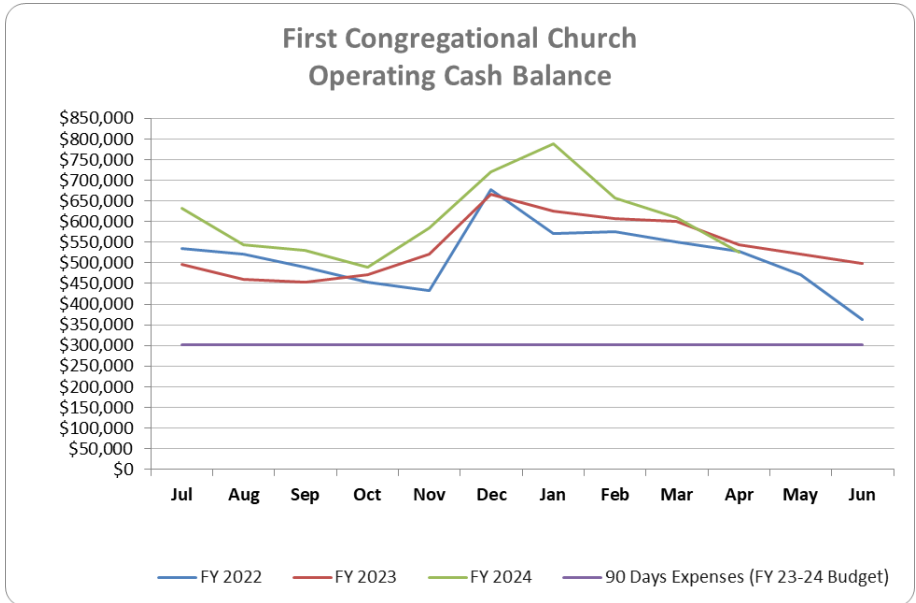
Line of Credit

In February 2008, the Church Council approved a line of credit in the amount of \$200,000, secured by a mortgage on our building and carries an interest rate of prime. This loan had been renewed annually until March 2024. The line of credit had never been used and Council agreed that the line of credit is no longer required given the progress made in the endowment fund.

Summary of Fiscal Year 2023-2024

The approved budget for FY2023-2024 anticipated a deficit of \$24,528. Our pledge revenue forecasts are well-aligned with our budget of just over a million dollars, which has been very consistent over the past several years. As of April 2024, realized expenses have been lower than budgeted. Assuming these trends continue, we forecast a modest surplus by the end of the year.

As of April 2024, FCCGE had \$525,946.14 in operating cash, continuing a positive trend in our cash position for several years. As mentioned above, this is attributable to diligent expense management and a high interest rate environment. The Church maintains a minimum cash threshold of \$301,687, representing 90 days of operating costs as a good financial practice. Given this cash position, the Finance Committee will recommend that we transfer operating cash to support capital projects at the end of Fiscal Year 2023-2024.



Annual Fund Report (July 1, 2023 through June 1, 2024) — Rev. Seth Carey

This year, our Church’s Annual Fund Campaign —*Tend These Gardens* — encouraged members to celebrate the many good things that are growing here at FCCGE, and to water them with our financial generosity.



We had hoped to raise \$1 million to fund the Church and its ministries in the coming fiscal year. We aren’t quite there yet; we are still waiting to hear from **66** households who pledged last year and have not pledged yet this year. Here is what we have received as of June 1, 2024:

Our pledge total for this coming fiscal year’s campaign, thus far, is \$879,156.

- 183 households have pledged to support the Church financially.
- Approximately 66 households that pledged a gift for the current fiscal year have not yet made a pledge for the upcoming fiscal year. We are still hoping to hear from you! Altogether, these households pledged \$179,599 for the current fiscal year and would help us exceed our \$1 million goal for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- We are pleased to share, that based on the 183 pledges we have received to-date, there are 129 new or increased pledges, 70% of pledging households, and 23% have pledged to maintain their current level of giving. In total we lost \$50,357 due to relocation, death, and financial hardship; but we gained \$151,162 in new or 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. If you participated in this year’s campaign – thank you! All of your gifts and contributions are appreciated, and will help us to *Tend These Gardens* in the coming year.

Endowment Fund Committee Report — Dave Mook, Chair

Committee members 2023-24: Dean Fischer, Kyle McClure, Matt Szafranski, and Dave Mook (Chair).

The value of the Endowment Fund as of 12/31/23 was as follows:

	<u>12/31/23</u>	<u>12/31/22</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fund balance	\$ 1,073,761	\$ 895,219	\$ 178,542

Investments are in the iShares ESG Aware Growth Allocation ETF (EAOR). Funds were moved to an ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) strategy in April 2021 to better align with the values and mission of our church. The 2023 return on EAOR was 12.34%.

As of March 31, 2024, the total value of the Endowment was \$1,122,883.

In November 2023, a payment of \$17,568 was made from the Endowment Fund to the church operating fund. This represents dividends / income for 2022. It includes salary augmentation of \$1,763 for church staff as stipulated by a donor.

The fund received \$59,472 of contributions during 2023.

In March 2024, the committee approved a change in the methodology by which we calculate the annual distribution from the Endowment Fund to the church operating fund. We will move from distributing dividends and income to distributing 4% of the balance of the fund as of the prior year-end. As such, the distribution made in calendar 2024 will be \$42,950 (it would have been \$25,307 had we only distributed dividends and income). This methodology is more in line with other endowments, and the endowment has reached a size that enables us to make this change, better support church operations, and still grow the principal balance in the fund.

The Endowment Tree is located on the east wall of the Atrium and 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’d like to get your name on the Endowment Tree, see one of the Endowment Committee members or contact the church office.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025—Comments

We are proposing a deficit budget of \$33,203 for FY24-25. This deficit is a result of inflationary pressures on expenses (particularly employee wages and benefits) while revenues remain remarkably static. 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. Furthermore, we have regularly budgeted at a deficit while running a surplus in recent years. While that is not a predictive sign for next year, the Finance Committee is comfortable that our cash position can support a budget deficit in the near term.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Revenue

- Pledge and loose offerings estimated based on giving trends, which have been flat in recent years.
- The endowment fund will increase giving to the operating budget, donating 4% of the overall balance each year into operating. This will improve the sustainability of our operating accounts and more than doubles the endowment fund's contributions to church operations related to the last several years.
- Interest income is dramatically increased to properly account for interest earned on operating and capital balance (budget assumes 4% interest rate, current rate is slightly above 5%).

Mission Support

- We have budgeted essentially the same level of generous mission support for FY24-25.

Staff Support

- The FY24-25 budget assumes all clergy and personnel positions are fully staffed for the entire year.
- An increase of 3.25% cost of living adjustment for personnel has been budgeted. This is in-line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation over the past 12 months.

Debt Service

- No outstanding debt, therefore are no debt service payments in the proposed budget.

Building Support

- The property & grounds budget is relatively flat as certain cost saving initiatives are providing relief while other services are increased by inflation.

Program Support

- Church school and Youth Groups are showing steady growth in participation rates thus associated expenses are budgeted to increase to meet those needs.
- Other program budgets were increased to include offerings that have been on hiatus since the pandemic (such as Our Whole Lives).

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 heartfelt hospitality, justice and progressive Christianity in both the upcoming year and long into the future.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget with Prior Year Comparisons

	Fiscal Year			
	<u>FY22-23</u>	<u>FY23-24</u>	<u>FY24-25</u>	<u>%</u>
	Budget	Budget	Proposed	Increase
Pledge Revenue	1,020,000	1,048,100	1,034,812	
Loose (Non-pledged) Offerings	20,200	43,100	60,000	
Endowment	22,000	22,000	42,950	
Interest	900	900	24,605	
Building Usage	19,400	4,200	2,566	
Church Fundraiser	-	20,000	-	
Donation Processing Income	1,540	1,580	2,500	
Other	-	-	-	
Total Unrestricted Revenue	1,084,040	1,139,880	1,167,433	2.4%
Connections				
Program Revenue	9,900	9,500	9,500	
Program Expense	12,450	9,725	9,750	
Net Connections Costs	2,550	225	250	11.1%
Council	2,250	10,250	2,500	-75.6%
Finance	53,047	51,880	51,855	0.0%
Property & Grounds	154,316	156,747	152,205	-2.9%
Service & Justice				
Program Revenue	3,800	13,300	6,500	
Program Expense	69,400	75,650	70,200	
Net Service & Justice Costs	65,600	62,350	63,700	2.2%
Education/Music/Worship				
Program Revenue	65,500	36,340	25,882	
Program Expense	105,739	82,299	79,690	
Net Edu/Music/Worship Costs	39,454	45,959	53,808	17.1%
Personnel	802,926	836,998	876,318	4.7%
Total Expenses Less Program Revenue	1,120,926	1,164,408	1,200,636	3.1%
Excess/(Deficit)	(36,886)	(24,528)	(33,203)	

Approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

A motion will be made to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget as presented, followed by any discussion, and a vote of the members present.

FCCGE Member Responsibilities

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.

God welcomes all! FCCGE welcomed 42 new members during our fiscal year 2023-24. Upon joining, new members are featured in our weekly eBlast. The eight members pictured at right were the first to join in July 2023. Among them is 2023 Confirmand Katie Meehan who was unable to attend and join with her Confirmation Class in the Spring of 2023.



Beverly White



**Mary and Chris,
Willoughby and
Evelyn Bass**



Nadia Ilhardt



Katie Meehan



Katie and Mike Miley



Jason Savitt

Membership & Attendance 2023-2024

All membership and attendance figures compiled from data beginning May 31, 2023 - May 31, 2024.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2023: 1,665

TOTAL MEMBERS ADDED (10 New/Transfer
17 Reaffirmation of Faith & 15 confirmands): + 42

TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED (Transfers and
members removed by own request): - 5

DEATHS: - 10

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2024: 1,692

BAPTISMS: 27

(2 Confirmand, 4 Adults, 21 Infants & Children)

MARRIAGES: 2 (1 OFFSITE, 1 ONSITE)



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE Fiscal Year 2023-2024 June 4, 2023 - May 12, 2024 (50 Sundays) <i>FCCGE offers both in-person and live-stream worship services. Attendance figures include in-person attendance taken by our Usher Ministry and online views as recorded on YouTube.</i>	Total In-person Attendance: 8,407 Avg. In-person Attendance per Sunday: 168	Total Online Views: 5,809 Avg. Online Views: 116
ATTENDANCE SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES	In-person Worship Attendance	Online Views of Worship Services
Christmas Eve (3 services)—Total: 930	778	152
Ash Wednesday—Total: 140	81	59
Palm Sunday—Total: 322	186	136
Maundy Thursday—Total: 205	82	123
Good Friday—Total: 156	69	87
Easter Sunday (2 services)—Total: 749	529	220
Cantata Sunday—Total: 780	301	479
Confirmation Sunday—Total: 290	205	85
CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:	Church School Participants	
Nursery & Church School Attendance	Avg. 31 children weekly	
Nursery & Church School Volunteers & Staff	3 youth / 6 Staff volunteers	
Confirmation Class Attendance	11 youth / 4 Adults weekly	
2023-24 CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	45 students / 10 adults weekly	

Senior Minister Report — Rev. Seth Ethan Carey



“Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

—Matthew 13:8-9

Having been ill recently, I went to the doctor to get checked out. As she examined my ears, she stuck a camera up there, and I could see the feed on a nearby screen. I didn’t want to see it; I have no desire to behold the inner workings of my body — or anyone else’s — up close. There are plenty of realities in this world that we would just as soon close our eyes to, and plenty of reasons to cover our ears.

But Jesus reminds us that, if we have ears to hear, there is also good news to be heard.

Even as wars and rumors of war rage far to the East, even as our own nation feels more divided than ever, even as a dozen other troubles clamor for our attention, things have seldom felt more fruitful here at FCCGE than they have this past year. It’s not that we’re walled off or immune to the world’s many crises, or that we turn a blind eye to them; but we’ve built our house on solid ground, and our gardens in good soil, as Jesus taught us. And that is yielding a bountiful harvest that feeds a hurting world.

Indeed, there are many wonderful things growing here at FCCGE. Regular worship attendance, membership, and children & youth programs are all growing, but those numbers only tell part of the story. I’m also excited by numbers like the **\$15,000** we raised for humanitarian aid in Ukraine, and **hundreds** of coats that we collected for migrants and others in need, the **475 lbs.** of produce we grew for the hungry last spring, and the **42** units of affordable housing that we helped to secure here in Glen Ellyn, and the **\$5,000** we raised for the NAACP’s Afro-Academic Cultural, Technical, and Scientific Olympics scholarship. And the *Tend Our Gardens* Annual Fund campaign has also been a success, raising nearly **\$1,000,000** to fund our ministry in the coming year.

Good things are growing here, in the good soil of the Gospel.

This is to say nothing of the vibrant worship, the festive community gatherings, and the friendships that are growing amongst our members; those things are hard to quantify, as is our engagement with the most pressing issues of our time. As I mentioned earlier, those troubles are legion; but we face the future with courage, wisdom, and grace, as we deepen our relationship with God and strive to follow the teachings of Jesus, which are truly timeless; and they serve as a blueprint for the Kingdom of God right here on earth, if we are willing to build it, and good news if we have ears to hear it.

In Christ,

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey



Far left: Pastor Seth rocks it out at the 2024 Staff Recital with his rendition of “Breaking the Law” by Judas Priest.

Left: Pastors Seth and Kyle on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Associate Minister Report — Reverend Kyle Roggenbuck

We rejoice in our community of faith, strengthened by diversity, including diversity of culture, economic status, age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, and physical or mental abilities. We affirm that God is glorified when we welcome all people to our spiritual community, as Jesus did. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

I believe we as a church strive to embody the statement that we read on the front of our bulletin each week. We do this in a variety of ways. Some of my highlights this year have been hosting the wonderful play, "Five Lesbians Eating Quiche" in October 2023, gathering for a wonderful Women's Retreat in November 2023, and launching our Royalties for Spirituals initiative for Lent in the Spring of 2024.

One of the personal goals I set for myself this year was to schedule Adult Education offerings on as many Sundays as possible, hoping that FCCGE would build a culture of "digging deeper" in our faith and in our witness. We have had offerings on Mental Health, on various aspects of Racial Justice, on Environmental Awareness, among others. When we became aware of challenged books in our school district, we decided to order them for our library. Our FCCGE Book group read and discussed them all and this year we have been reading and digging into books that have been historically banned in different parts of the country.

When we became aware of immigrant buses dropping off vulnerable folks at the Glen Ellyn train station, we mobilized a winter coat collection for them. As part of our witness in DuPage United we showed up to successfully lobby for affordable housing. As part of our Lenten series on Liberation and Justice in conjunction with the royalties project, we decided it was imperative not only to educate ourselves, but to build important relationships with the people of color in our community. We attended NAACP meetings, met with black pastors, attended One Community (an organization which invites community leaders and students to have open conversations about race), and we were able to volunteer with and contribute to ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) for African-American Students. There is more to be done and we hope to launch a new Racial Justice Ministry in our church to continue building these vital relationships.

Within the church, there are many ongoing relationship-building opportunities. We host Sisters on a Sojourn (a book study based group that meets twice a month) and Soul Sisters (a fellowship and discussion based group that meets twice a month). For men, continue to meet for Men's Lunch monthly at Seven Dwarves. There is a group for young parents and one for Young Adults. In the upcoming year, we hope to offer more opportunities for people to get to know one another as we journey together in this beloved community. Stephen Ministry continues to be strong and provide care for those who are passing through difficult seasons in their lives and we hope to have a training for New Stephen Ministers this year. Oh—I was installed as your Associate Pastor on October 27, 2023! When our statement says, "we rejoice in our community of faith..." I really do, I rejoice in having found and in serving in this community of diversity and love. Thanks.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kyle



Rev. Kyle shows off the coveted brain-shaped trophy won by her team during the 2024 Church Trivia Night Fundraiser.

Director of Music Ministry Report — Michele Hecht



We offer a variety of music at FCCGE. On any given Sunday, you might hear the choir, handbells, Taizé Ensemble, and soloists presenting music in an array of music styles from traditional, classical, folk, rock, pop, country and jazz, among others. Our talented music staff includes Jeff Haeger, Music Associate; Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, Organist; and Matthew Prins, Handbell Director. This year, in addition to providing music for weekly worship, the music ministry was involved with several different projects connected to important missions and ministries.

In June 2023, 32 choir members traveled to New York to perform Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" as part of a festival chorus, 200 strong, accompanied by full orchestra, on the stage at **Carnegie Hall**. They spent three days rehearsing in a clinic with guest conductor, Dr. Jennaya Robison. Through contributions from individuals and previous fundraisers like the staff recital, we were able to offer scholarships to three singers who would not otherwise have been able to participate. The choir typically travels once every two to three years.

In October, we presented a **Jazz Vespers** service, utilizing the unique talents of Jeff Haeger at the piano alongside some of his professional jazz colleagues on saxophone, bass guitar, and drums, with myself on vocals. Music alternated with scripture, poetry and prayer to create an evening service that offered moments of contemplation as well as spirit-filled joy. The event was well attended and live streamed on our YouTube channel. A freewill offering was taken to benefit the music ministry, which offset the cost of the musicians.

The choir continued its **Musical Conversations with the people of Tenczyn, Poland**. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, FCCGE has offered financial and moral support for people in the region, like the Viking Group, who provide refuge and sustenance to those suffering from the war. Through Wojciech Gracz, FCCGE's Facilities Manager, we produced a video with our choir and two music groups in Tenczyn - the Youth Brass Orchestra and the Little Toporzanie (children's) Folkloric Group. Each group recorded their own performance of the Polish traditional Christmas carol "W Żłobie Leży (Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)", and Matt Stout, a member of our tech team, edited them together into a single video that we shared online before Christmas. We hope that by making music together, we can keep the needs of our new friends in the front of our minds and hearts.



With help of a dedication task force, we launched the **Royalties for Spirituals** program this year (see the report of the task force on page 24).

On **Cantata Sunday, April 28**, the choir, along with a ten-piece orchestra, presented a program of anthems from around the world in many languages. The music was lifted up as a prayer for peace through word and song. The songs were interwoven with scripture and readings as well as artwork that was projected onto the screen, inspired by the Visual Arts Ministry exhibit titled "Fill the Earth With Music" and the Diversity Arts Project Guest sponsored by One Community. Guest soloists represented Ukraine and Taiwan. Tatyana Sigidina, from World Relief, joined the choir and performed a special song in her native Ukrainian language. The Taiwanese soloist, Rebecca Lee-Yan Hong, is a musical colleague of our organist, Shu-Hui Janet Tsai.

Cantata Sunday—Our choir and 10-piece orchestra presented music from around the world. Soloists included Rebecca Lee-Yan Hong (bottom left) who sang in Taiwanese and Ukrainian native Tatyana Sigidina (bottom right).



Music Ministry Report — continued

Our **Staff Recital** made a triumphant return in May after a 6-year hiatus. Our talented music staff, clergy, and volunteer music leaders (*pictured below*) offered a delightful and diverse program to an appreciative crowd. A freewill offering was taken to benefit the music ministry.

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: Martha DeForest, Lora Ilhardt, Karen Koenig, Jackie McCarthy, Beth Rosch, and Colleen Spaeth. Leslie Foster provided weekly assistance to Michele as the FCCGE Music Librarian, as she has done for 20+ years!



Handbell Choir (*above*)—Many of the arrangements offered in worship are by Matthew Prins, our resident published composer and handbell director. In October, we celebrated Matthew's 15th anniversary at FCCGE .

The Ad Hocs (*left*)—Andy Livingston (*far right*) leads our ad ensembles, a fluid collection of musicians that offer special music in worship, often in coordination with sermon series. Also pictured (*l to r*): Ryan Clarin, Norm Adams and Alan Bayert.



Angel Choir (*above*) —On April 14, volunteer music leaders Sherry Flugel and Lora Ilhardt directed our youngest singers to “Chatter with the Angels.”

2024 Staff Recital Performers (*at right*)—Front: Rev. Seth Ethan Carey; Row 2 (*l to r*): Michele Hecht, Sherry Flugel, Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck; Row 3 (*l to r*): Ruth Kao, Janet Tsai, Rick and Laura Hall, Lora Ilhardt, Back row (*l to r*): Jeff Haeger, Chris Walker, Andy Livingston, and Recital Emcee Dean Fischer.



Worship Ministry Reports

Worship Ministry Members 2023-24: Maggie Fredricks, (Leader) Michele Hecht (Staff Liaison), Karen Koenig (Worship Provisions), Jennifer Lindstrom (Ushers), Deb Giampoli (Visual Arts), Lisa Crank (Tech Team), Susan Dudish-Poulsen (Flowers) ; Missy Carlson (Worship Leaders)

The Worship Ministries of our church are under the guidance of the Director of Music Ministry, Michele Hecht. Five teams of volunteers oversee all the details of handling specifics of Sunday worship and special services.

Flower Ministry—*Susan Dudish-Poulsen* coordinates the donations and ordering flowers for the altar each Sunday as well as special arrangements for Christmas and Easter. To sponsor altar flowers, click the link in the weekly eBlast or visit the church website at <https://fccge.org/flowers/>

Tech Team Ministry—*Lisa Crank (Leader); Dave Hecht (technical director)* and 12+ other members record and livestream weekly services and special events



Worship Provisions: Communion, Baptism, Paraments, Sacristy, Clergy Robes—*Karen Koenig (Leader)* supports the needs of each Sunday and special worship service, including the set up and provisions for:

Communion: Served the first Sunday of the month and Maundy Thursday. From a pool of 15 volunteer servers, four servers and one clergy serve each communion.

Paraments: The colors for the altar, pulpit, and lectern paraments and robe stoles are changed as determined by liturgical calendar and changed Special services (Jazz Vespers, Longest Night, Holy Week, Weddings, Funerals) may require a specific color.

Sacristy: weekly clean-up and organization of the room and supplies, upkeep of communion vessels, and inventory of worship materials.

Robes: Clergy Robes/Stoles follow an annual cleaning schedule in July.

Baptisms: Baptismal font is set and the silver bowl is washed and filled with warm water. Work with clergy for special instructions.

Usher Ministry—*Jennifer Lindstrom*

Members: Jennifer Lindstrom (Leader) and 25 other dedicated volunteers

Our primary purpose is to greet worshippers as they enter the Sanctuary for Sunday worship service as well as other special services such as Holy Week, Christmas Eve and memorial services. Ushers' duties include lighting the candles, handing out bulletins, counting attendance, adjusting Sanctuary lighting during the service, and collecting offerings and placing them in the church safe. Ushers are scheduled to serve once a month and are recognized in the bulletin each week. There is always a need for more ushers and greeters, so all who are interested, including our youth, may join us—the work is easy, fun and appreciated!

Worship Leaders—*Missy Carlson (Leader)*

2023-2024 Members include: Norm Adams, Kathy Bayert, Eli Berry, Todd Buckton, Beth Carlson, Missy Carlson, Cathy Christoff, Sarah Clarin, Liz Cooper, Linda Davenport, Carla Deflorio, Joe Fortunato, Didi Foth, Phil Gliori, Shane Hibbard, Lora Ilhardt, Karen Koenig, Kristen Malone, Laura Peccarelli, Tom Petrich, Karen Pulver, Celia Rodee, Sylvia Rodee, and Jennifer Sellers.

Our team breathes life into the Scripture readings every Sunday and on occasional holidays. 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@sbcglobal.net.



Worship Ministry Reports—continued



Visual Arts Ministry—*Deb Giampoli*

Members: Deb Giampoli (Leader), Sharon Wussow, Matt Stout, DJ LaChapelle, Andy and Jo Ann Ginger, Jim and Alice Stuhlmacher, Andy and Jo Ann Ginger, Steve Rochelle, and Roy Giampoli

The Visual Arts Ministry's mission is to "enhance the worship experience through visual art". For 2023-24, we planned and installed four gallery exhibits, with a fifth in progress, and supported the staff in creating and hanging banners, and decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas and Holy Week.

Our first exhibit was FCCGE member Matt Stout's photography titled "**Pathways.**" His photographs, taken all around the world, placed the viewer in the midst of a journey with an uncertain end (a metaphor for life), and a reminder that no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. *(Pictured at right is Deb Giampoli helping Matt unpack his works for the exhibit).*

Next in the gallery was a rental exhibit called "**Fill the Earth with Music**", a collection of Christian music themed fine art from six centuries and many countries, including serigraphs, lithographs, manuscripts, and engravings.

Third was an exhibit titled "**When my Other Normal Isn't Normal**", a collection of photographs, each expressing the photographer's experience of mental health issues through a loved one's, a friend's, or the artist's own personal journey.

Our most recent exhibit was an annual **Diversity Arts Project**, sponsored by One Community, consisting of art created by Glen Ellyn youth. FCCGE hosted a reception, followed by a show of the work capturing each artist's perspectives of life in the US. At the time of this writing, we're planning an exhibit by our own Confirmands – visual representations of their statements of faith, a multimedia exhibit which may include art, poetry, and essays.

We've committed to a rental exhibit for Rally Day titled "**Come: The Table is Ready**", a multi-media Christian-themed fine art collection from all over the world, celebrating the table, one of the foremost places of human connection, gathering, blessing, sharing and serving. Budget permitting, we'd like to host at least one additional traveling exhibit in the gallery in the coming year. We're also hoping to fund a professional photographer to take photos of our members in worship and at some of our special events, so that we can share the good news about what goes on inside FCCGE with the broader community.



Royalties for Spirituals Report—Michele Hecht, Director of Music Ministry

Royalties for Spirituals Task Force: Michele Hecht, Director of Music Ministry; Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck, Associate Minister; Karen Koenig, Andy Livingston, Mary Lhotak, and Colleen Spaeth.

Inspired by an initiative started in 2020 by a fellow UCC Music Association director, I was led to form a task force to explore bringing **Royalties for Spirituals** to FCCGE. **Royalties for Spirituals** aims to pay a debt, in the form of music royalties, in honor of the unnamed musicians and composers of the Spirituals that fill our modern day Hymnals. This music was originally created and sung by enslaved people as they worked and toiled in the fields of slave owners. Since the names of these enslaved composers are unknown, no royalties were ever paid for such beloved songs as "This Little Light of Mine" and hundreds more. We often sing these songs without realizing their origins and legacy. While we cannot trace the actual descendants of the composers of Spirituals, we can choose to pay 'royalties' forward in honor of those composers by supporting nonprofit organizations that focus on the development of African Americans and music.

After several months of work by our task force, Council approved a two-year pilot program for the **Royalties for Spirituals** initiative, a national social justice project which embraces the idea of paying a debt for the use of Negro Spirituals in worship. The term "Negro Spiritual" is the official historical term for folk songs created collectively by enslaved black people in America, the Caribbean, and other colonies. We respectfully use the term "Negro Spiritual" commonly used by leaders and musicians in the black community. Since the names of the enslaved composers of these songs are unknown, we choose to pay 'royalties' forward to their descendants by supporting non profit organizations that focus on the development of African Americans and music.

The first offering on March 17 brought in over \$3,000 to be donated to a local organization that primarily benefits African Americans and focuses on music. The **DuPage County ACT-SO** (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics.) ACT-SO, the "Olympics of the Mind," is a nation-wide program sponsored by the NAACP that encourages high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. Our Associate Minister, Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck, made a connection with the organization and attended part of the annual student competition on Saturday, March 16. Rick Hall, one of our newest choir members, gave a testimony in worship about his experience as a volunteer judge for the poetry competition.

The special **Royalties for Spirituals** offering was the culmination of a robust six-week program that included **adult education offerings and guest speakers and musicians** throughout the Lenten sermon series titled "Let My People Go." Boston church musician Susan DeSelms, who initiated the idea for Royalties for Spirituals back in 2020, gave a presentation via Zoom to a large group at our church in early February. Guest preachers Rev. Dwight Stewart and IL-UCC Conference Minister Rev. Shernell Edney

Stilley spoke from the pulpit and led discussions after worship on the topic of racial justice. Finally, on the day of the special offering on March 17, renowned guest organist/composer/conductor **Dr. Keith Hampton** (pictured at left with Michele Hecht), played the organ and led the choir in singing his acclaimed gospel song "Praise His Holy Name!" After worship, he led a workshop about the differences between Negro Spirituals and gospel music (pictured at right).

It is our hope that the Royalties for Spirituals initiative will foster further education, conversations and engagement in racial justice work.

Adult Education

In addition to a focus on spirituals in worship, we had a robust adult education schedule with book and film discussions. Books on related topics are also available in the church library.

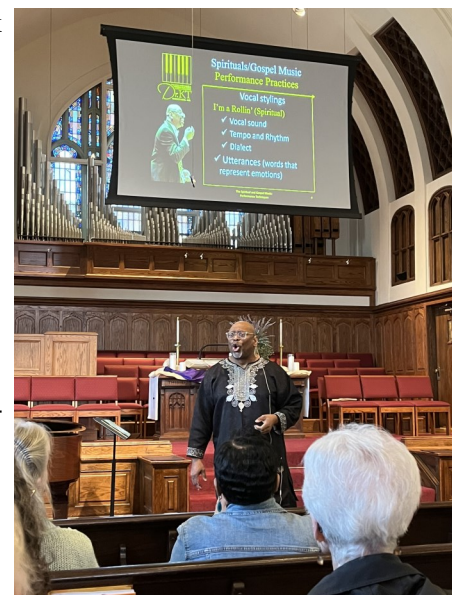
Feb 7, 7pm - "Royalties for Spirituals" with Susan DeSelms

Feb 18, 11:15am - "The Cost of Inheritance" film screening

March 3, 11:15am - "American Whitelash" book discussion with guest preacher, Rev. Dwight Stewart

March 10, 11:15am - Racial Justice initiatives in the UCC with guest preacher Rev. Shernell Edley Stilley, IL Conference Minister

March 17, 11:15am - "Spirituals vs Gospel Music" with guest musician, Dr. Keith Hampton



Director of Christian Education Report — Catherine Curtis



Staff: Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education; Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator; Tanner Spears, Confirmation Coordinator; Amy Zita, Maggie Zita, Bob Zita, and Ellison Priebe, Nursery Staff; Summer Youth CE/YM Interns: Morgan Baedke, Ashe DeFlorio, and Tia Knuth

Regularly Scheduled Volunteer Teachers and Assistants (“Y” indicates Youth Volunteer): Chris Henkel, Kate Brooks, Dan Hitzemann, Polly Cooper, Diane Pyzik, Jessi Fleming, Russ Graunke, Lisa Kolomay, Lexi Kolomay (Y), Ashley Darst, Calvin Savitt (Y), Sherry Hatlestad, Ellison Priebe, David Zita (Y), Grace Garvy (Y), Meredith McCormick, and Ashe DeFlorio (Y)

At FCCGE the **Christian Education** staff collaborates closely with Youth Ministry, Music Ministry, and Clergy to provide not only education about our own faith tradition but to also foster understanding and knowledge of other faith traditions, facilitate a community of caring and service where questions are welcomed, discussion is thoughtful and civil, and the root of our understanding is that we are beloved children of God and are called to love God, ourselves, and neighbors, no matter where they may live. We strive to welcome all children where they are at in their faith journey and personal journey of learning about themselves and the world.

Program Year — Mid-August - Mid-June Online Registration - 49 families registered for 94 children/youth

Participation— We have had a joyful year of participation in church school with increasing engagement and participation. Our average attendance for Nursery/Church School/Confirmation is 41 with an additional 10 staff and volunteers (including youth) for a total of an average of 51 folks involved in Christian Education and Family Ministries on Sunday mornings! We continue to offer Zoom Church School and Confirmation during the program year. Nursery needs expanded so that we now routinely schedule three staff members in the nursery each Sunday. Church School Curriculum was Year C of our three year Scope and Sequence with units on the Patriarchs of Abraham/Sarah/Hagar, Advent/Epiphany, Miracles of Jesus, Lent/Holy Week, and Paul Spreads the Good News taught in developmentally appropriate ways for our three classes: Preschool, K-2nd and 3rd-5th so that families might have conversations about the same Bible stories.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Confirmation welcomed Tanner Spears as our new Education staff member overseeing this ministry. Confirmation this year was composed of 20 lessons. We had an average of 15 students per lesson with the majority of those being 8th graders. We had two group effort service initiatives: in December, we made chocolate covered pretzels for the senior cookie delivery; and in February we packed onions at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We also had two faith visits to the BAPS temple in January and Congregation Etz Chaim in February. We plan to double both service and faith visits next year.



Pictured are just some of the church school and other Christian Ed activities in 2023-24

This page—Top: Lesson in the Temple of Light; Bottom: 4th Grade Pizza Party

Christian Education Report — continued

The 8th grade class focused on exploring their individual faith journeys with an emphasis on personal values and beliefs in addition to the broader UCC/FCCGE ideals. The 6th & 7th graders explored four types of myths—beginning of the world, birth of good/evil, hero, end-of-the-world—and had lessons on people from the Bible that reflected those myths.

Our **Summer 2023 Youth Interns** program was reimagined and revitalized by including two additional options for interns to serve: Music Ministry and Christian Ed/Youth Ministry. We were delighted to welcome and mentor three Christian Ed/Youth Ministry interns in June and July 2023: Morgan Baedke, Ashe DeFlorio, and Tia Knuth.

Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) was June 26-30, 2023, when we returned to FCCGE as our Community VBS location for our theme Operation Restoration: Mending God's World. We were thrilled to have 90 participants plus 10 nursery children and 101 volunteers, staff, and clergy leading from twelve congregations (a third of volunteers were from our congregation). We are looking forward to once again hosting Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 24-28, 2024.

Baptism Sundays were scheduled and coordinated between CE and clergy in July and January to invite families who might have older children they wished to have baptized.

Blessing of the Backpacks (and the people who carry them) was held in worship on August 20, 2023.

Heifer Market was on October 15, 2023, with 70 children, youth, and adults participating. The congregation supported this beloved ministry and we were able to raise \$2000.00 dollars for Heifer Int'l which was triple matched.

Christmas Pageant (*Pictured at right*) was on December 24, 2023, during the morning Family Christmas Eve worship service and was based on "The Friendly Beasts." With the assistance of staff and volunteers, church member Jessica Zolmierski directed the pageant of 30 children, 12 youth crew, and 12 adult volunteers.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) ministry had four new leaders trained in September. The planned retreat for the Jr and Sr Hi youth on February 29-March 2 was canceled due not enough participants. However; we are not giving up on this vital ministry to support our youth and live into our Open and Affirming commitment. We have shared a survey with families to garner their feedback, reached out to other UCC suburban congregations to discuss collaborating, plan to offer sample sessions to our youth to familiarize them with the curriculum before a retreat, and plan a series of small group discussions in the fall: Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators in order to education the congregation, support parents and caregivers, and encourage more youth to participate in the 2024-2025 program year. Staff and volunteers are also going to be trained in the K-1st curriculum since we have such a vibrant and growing community of families with children in that age-range.

Presentation of Bibles was on Education Sunday April 14, 2024 with ten 4th graders receiving their bibles and was preceded by a pizza party, game night, and rehearsal to celebrate with the 4th graders. *Pictured at right is Cathy Basso presenting each 4th grader with a bible.*

Library/Resources 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 and volunteer book reviewer, Marilyn Peretti began reading and writing



Christian Education Report — continued



“Acting out” is always allowed in the Son-Shine Theater—where church school activities invite children to explore Bible stories by performing skits and putting on puppet shows.

reviews of books from our church library which are posted in the Thursday all church email and online. These reviews align with special events of the congregation Transgender Day of Visibility, the liturgical calendar, or special months such as Black History month. Two of our 7th grade Confirmants, Leah Shorner-Johnson and Kara Rebman, wrote a book review of *“The 1619 Project: Born on the Water”* as part of their service to the congregation. New books are continually being added to our church library that reflect diversity, inclusivity, justice, and joy in Creation and the teachings of Jesus. Our library has seen a wonderful increase in use since we moved our train set to it this year! Books are provided for children in worship via our library cart in the Narthex.

For next year: We are excited to continue providing a welcoming and thoughtful space where children feel beloved and comfortable asking questions and exploring their faith alongside each other, older youth friends, and adult mentors. We have A LOT of young families and look forward to engaging them beyond Sunday mornings. We hope to put more focus on returning to the Our Whole Lives ministry which is life-saving and one the most important ministries that we provide our children and youth.



Enjoying Rally Day are youth volunteers (l to r): David Zita, Levi Savitt, Ian Smethell, Calvin Savitt, Andrew Smethell, and Tyler Zita.

Youth Ministry Report — Danny Harman, Director of Youth Ministry

Youth Group Leaders and Volunteers: Danny Harman, Tanner Spears, Lizz Mook, Polly Cooper, Paige Gawrys, Mac Mehr, and Jaime Harman.

Youth Ministry is focused on the formation of community amongst the youth of our congregation, mostly those from 6th-12th grades. We also include youth in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade on occasion. We form community through weekly meetings, weekend retreats, weeklong mission trips, games, devotionals, and more.

Over the past year, Youth Ministry has met about 70 times. These meetings were usually held on Sundays at 5:00 pm for Middle School and 6:30 pm for High School. While a typical night involves a simple game and lesson, this year our youth also engaged in the following ministry outreach activities:

- Travelled to Appalachia to install tin roofs and vinyl siding for folks who needed it
- Raised money for Bridge Communities through Sleep Out Saturday
- Helped pack meals to go out to refugees in Ukraine
- Assisted the folks with projects at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago
- Captured the Mothman that got loose in our church right before Halloween (you're welcome).

The coming year should be a good one! In early June 2024, we head to St. Louis for our yearly Work Camp trip, this year with the Urban Mission Experience.

Then, starting in July we welcome our fearless leader, **Tanner Spears**, as he picks up the mantle of Director of Youth Ministry.

2023-24 Confirmation—FCCGE Member Tanner Spears served as Confirmation Coordinator this year. Confirmation Sunday was on May 5, 2024, when we welcomed 14 of our 8th grade Confirmands into our church community as members (pictured below). Over the past year they have engaged with a variety of topics such as the roles of faith and science, Christian ethics, sin and evil, faith and justice, and more. Over the year each confirmand meets with Pastor Kyle and Pastor Seth to talk about who God is to them, what values they hold, and finally what they wrote in their Faith Papers.



Danny Harman



Tanner Spears, Confirmation Coordinator 2023-24



The 2023-24 Confirmation Class (left to right): Granger Beckett, Molly Clarin, Maggie Garvy, Gus Hewitt, Asa Leslie, Cole McCormick, Corinne McCormick, Levi Savitt, Ian Smethells, Alex Sorensen, Sofia Sorensen, Nathan Stacy, Alex Szafranski, and Tyler Zita.

FCCGE Oktoberfest 2023



Roof project completed 2024



Council,
Committees,
Ministries &
Partner
Reports

DuPage United speaks at
Village of Glen Ellyn Meeting



Moderator's Report 2023-2024 — Jeannine Kannegiesser

Dear FCCGE community members,

Today, as we gather for our Annual Meeting, I reflect on our church community as a local embodiment of our shared faith in a loving God. It's been a privilege to journey with you at FCCGE since the early 2000s, as a member with my family and through involvement as a volunteer. One year ago, we set three goals for the church year, and I'm eager to share highlights under each category, made possible by the presence and efforts of so many members of this blessed community.

Faith Formation & Fellowship: Our commitment to meaningful worship, education, and fellowship has been evident throughout the year.



- Our weekly worship services, and special services help each of us to center ourselves in prayer and song and be open to God's enduring love for us in good and challenging times.
- We continued to be blessed by the leadership and care of Senior Pastor Seth Carey and Associate Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck, who is completing her first year with us as a called minister.
- Our Christian Education and Youth Group programs have created valuable spaces for children and their families to learn and connect. Thanks to Education staff and volunteers who make this work week after week.
- Events like Rally Day, Oktoberfest, and Trivia Night Fundraiser have nurtured connections among us.
- Through many ministries of caring, we accompany one another through life's journeys: ministry of meals, Kitchen Chix event hospitality, cookies for seniors, greeting card ministry, flowers ministry, etc.

Sustainability: Staff and volunteers kept a focus on environmental and financial sustainability for our church:

- Thanks to households that pledge through the Annual Fund appeal and give in weekly collections, fiscal responsibility of staff and volunteers, FCCGE's cash position remained strong all year.
- Improved financial practices strengthen our financial foundation. Finance committee collaborated well with our business administrator Michelle Jones and helped continue the updating of procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of finance operations.
- Growing endowment investments are making a larger impact on our annual budget and continue to be an opportunity for investment in the church's mission.
- Green Team helped us learn and demonstrate our commitment to environmental stewardship as individuals and as a congregation.
- The successful completion of the tile roof replacement project helps ensure the long-term integrity of our building. The project benefitted from effective collaboration among committee members, staff and contractors and good communication with the congregation.

Outreach and Welcome: Engaging authentically with our broader community:

- Our Welcome Table, greeters and ushers extend hospitality to visitors and members alike on Sundays.
- Modifications to our pews and better signage on our building have increased accessibility and safety.
- Mission support, volunteerism, and advocacy of our church membership makes a meaningful difference locally and globally.

Consider this message a warm-up for the detailed reports you will hear and read today. My heartfelt gratitude goes to this year's council, committees, ministry teams, staff and clergy for their exemplary leadership and to everyone who shares their gifts generously to enliven this community. I'm confident that our incoming leaders will carry us forward faithfully.

Thank you all for being part of this loving community. Here's to a promising future for FCCGE in 2024 and beyond!

With love,

Jeannine Kannegiesser

Finance Committee—Matt Szafranski, Chair and Treasurer Emeritus

Committee members: Matt Szafranski (Chair and Treasurer Emeritus); Whit Brooks (Treasurer); Jason Savitt (Assistant Treasurer)

The Finance Committee's purpose is to enable the church to carry out its mission. The committee plays an important role in ensuring compliance with government legislation and procedures, and with the FCCGE policies regarding financial matters. With accurate and accessible records, the congregation is fully equipped to work together to determine annual budgets and future missions.

The Finance Committee's primary objective is to oversee and keep financial records for the congregation. This includes tracking of financial contributions, operational expenses and managing large investments. Over the past year, that included a significant roofing project which will house our congregation for a century to come. Thanks to the generous contributions of our membership, and diligent expense management from our staff and volunteers, the church's finances remain robust and healthy. Please see this year's Treasurer Report for further details. Operationally, the Finance Committee oversaw a significant transition in our Business Administrator role. This involved recruiting, onboarding and supporting Michelle Jones in her new position on the church staff. We are fortunate to have added such a dedicated, experienced staff member to the team! Lastly, the Finance Committee played a role in a key decision to expire our longstanding line of credit with Wheaton Bank & Trust. This line of credit had been established as a "rainy day" option for many years. However, given the church's robust operating cash position (averaging over \$600k throughout this fiscal year) and our improved endowment position (over \$1m in assets), the Finance Committee recommended that a line of credit of only \$200k was no longer necessary. Council agreed to let the line of credit expire in March, 2024.

GOALS FOR COMING YEAR: The Finance Committee's goals center around two themes for next year. First, we intend to improve daily operational processes for efficiency and security. For instance, we introduced an electronic means of communication with our accounting firm this past year, and there are additional steps that can be taken to further strengthen this relationship. We are also committed to improving our financial security hygiene, given cybersecurity and other fraud risks in the financial markets. Next, the Finance Committee is focused on pursuing new strategies to improve the sustainability of our church's finances in the long-term. We currently operate in a financial environment where revenues have been remarkably static, whereas expenses have been on the rise (especially in the recently high-inflation economy). This dynamic makes it difficult to provide raises to our deserving staff, and the Finance Committee remains steadfast in our commitment to provide fair compensation to those who dedicate their careers to our church and its congregants.

Connections Committee Report — Nicole Baedke, Chair

Committee Members 2023-24: Nicole Baedke (Chair), Tom Petrich, Jennifer Sellers, Fay Shong, Tanner Spears, Sara Waterloo.
Spring Fundraiser Task Force: Tony Trillo, Anne Weber

The **Connections Committee** enhances the spiritual life of church members by fostering a culture of engagement. It is responsible for creating an inclusive environment, fostering involvement, and coordinating membership integration. Connections organizes and executes important all-church fellowship and recreational events.

Rally Day – We hosted a picnic-themed kickoff to the program year which featured live music from Roger Hughes' band, delicious food from the Kitchen Chix, volunteer sign-up sheets and a variety of kids' activities coordinated by the Christian Education team (including an outdoor bounce house—pictured at right). We also encouraged church members to upload pictures to our online church directory.

Oktoberfest – We were blessed with beautiful fall weather again for this outdoor event. The boy scout troop erected two large tents with twinkling lights and the Kitchen Chix provided a bountiful array of German fare. We sat together at long tables, listening to German music, soaking up the warmth of the fire pits and enjoying each other's company.

Women's Retreat – Pastor Kyle organized this November retreat called Women Unplugged. About 20 women attended. It was an encouraging day of fellowship, worship, and getting to know one another better. The theme was finding ways to nurture our souls and unplug from the pace of life.



Connections Committee Report — continued

Progressive Dinner – We continued this long-standing annual event where participants gather together at a member's home for appetizers, then progress to various individual homes for sit-down meals and reconvene at a final home for desserts. *Pictured right: The progressive dinner at Martha DeForest and Dan Czuba's home where guests included Pastors Seth and Kyle.*



Advent Festival – Mindy Post once again spearheaded this annual kickoff to the Advent Season with Christmas crafts to be completed either at the church or at home. The Kitchen Chix provided a light lunch and Christmas treats.

Christmas Cookie Delivery to Seniors – We delivered boxes of homemade Christmas cookies to the homes of all church members age 80+.

Euchre Tournament – The annual Euchre Tournament was held at the end of February. The tradition is for the winner from each year to host the next year's event.



Easter Egg Hunt – On March 23, 2024, 30 children and their families raced throughout the church collecting eggs. Connection Committee helped the Christian Education staff with this fun event held indoors with hot chocolate and donuts. *(Pictured left: Easter Egg Hunters Jim and Kim Galvin with their daughter Evelyn.)*

Trivia Night Spring Fundraiser – Over 100 church members and friends met in Pilgrim Hall in April for a fun evening of fellowship and fundraising. The Kitchen Chix provided an array of pub themed food, and we played three rounds of trivia, judged by our own Linda Davenport. There was also a silent auction, and all proceeds went to support FCCGE Missions.

2024 Tower Hill Retreat – We will be supporting the All-Church Retreat this summer at Tower Hill in Michigan.

The robust response from our community to each of these events indicates that people are enjoying opportunities to connect with each other. We look forward to finding even more ways to create fellowship opportunities in the coming year!

Ministries of the Connections Committee

KITCHEN CHIX LEADERSHIP – Laura Carey, Maggie Fredricks, Mindy Post and Celia Rodee

The Kitchen Chix continue to be a delicious and welcoming ministry team of **over 50 church members** and we are still growing, welcoming several new (and not so new members in the past few months.)

The Chix welcome all new (or new to us!) volunteers to this Christ inspired ministry that helps sustain and nourish our congregation in all seasons.

The Chix helped provide the extravagant welcome and opportunities for fellowship and celebration throughout the year by baking, making and serving delicious dishes for our members and guests.

August: New Leadership Orientation Brunch (8/20/23)

September: Rally Day (9/10/23) - Made cookies, veggie wraps, iced tea and lemonade for over 200 attendees



Ministries of the Connections Committee—continued

Sep-cont. **Oktoberfest (9/29/23)** – Attended by 100+ members, prepped, cooked and served a German Feast for our annual Oktoberfest, including pretzel bites, potato salad, red cabbage and sausages all served outdoors under the stars!

October: **Fall Fest for PADS (10/1/23)** and guests with Sloppy Joes, Chips and Desserts

Dinner Theatre (10/11/23) – Lesbians Eating Quiche – and yes, we served QUICHE!

Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck’s installation (10/29/23) — celebrated with a parade of cakes!

December: **Advent Festival (12/3/23)** Finger Food Lunch with hot cocoa and marshmallows for 80+ as part of the Annual Advent Festival.

Christmas Cookies for Seniors (12/10/23) Baked, packaged and helped deliver cookies to Seniors in the Congregation (another fabulous and much loved annual tradition)

March: **Easter Sunday (3/31/24)** continued annual tradition of making more than 300 devilled eggs and 150 rice crispy treat nests for Easter attendees.

April: **Trans Day of Visibility (4/7/24)** by serving cake, cookies, glasses of milk and coffee after church.

Trivia Night fundraiser (4/13/24) – baked and made a delicious array of savory and sweets to encourage attendees and entice more contributions.

Education Sunday (4/14/24) Baked and served cookies to celebrate 4th graders receiving their bibles and the children’s Cantata.

May: **Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner (5/3/24)** Taco Bar for approximately 40 people including confirmands, their families and sponsors

June: **PRIDE Sunday (6/30/24)** Brunch in Pilgrim Hall



Memorial Services—Preparing memorial celebrations continues to be an important area of our ministry. Kitchen Chix catered 9 receptions ranging from small celebrations for immediate family to receptions for 100-200 attendees:

- Dick Brown 6/3/23 • Carl Gray 12/16/23 • Don Bartell 3/9/24
- Ed Kolar 9/16/23 • Lou Hoornbeek 1/13/24 • Lorraine Tyler 4/20/24
- Holly French 9/23/23 • Russell Hurst 2/3/24 • Jerry Clousson 4/27/24

And a shout out to the Green Team environmental ministry who provide dishwashers for all of these events so that we can be more GREEN in our extravagant hospitality!

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY - Clara Hughes, Teresa Exner and David Exner

The purpose of the Newcomers’ Ministry Team is to welcome visitors to our church on Sundays, to host scheduled information sessions and introduce new members during the designated Sundays for joining our faith community.

For purposes of this report, the numbers include newcomer information sessions and new member joining sessions from April 2023 through March 31, 2024. The 2024 April sessions will be recorded in next year’s report given the deadline for this year’s report submission. The newcomers’ ministry held four in-person newcomer welcoming sessions with 25 visitors attending and two private sessions to accommodate two newcomers with special circumstances. A total of 19 newcomers who attended sessions within the last 12-24 months chose to become members of FCCGE.

This Fall we welcomed David Exner to the newcomer ministry team. David and Teresa also host the Welcome desk every Sunday. Their gracious welcoming has continued to bless all of us as we enter into worship. We would not be as successful if it weren’t for our staff who attended the meetings or watched the young children in our nursery during the newcomer sessions. Special thanks to our Communications Director Sherry Flugel who publishes our new members in our weekly eblast and for Church Administrative Assistant Joyce Driver who sets the stage so we can keep a smooth program running.

Ministries of the Connections Committee—continued

OPEN & AFFIRMING (ONA) MINISTRY — Dorothy Powers (Chair)

Members: Carla DeFlorio, Teresa Exner, David Exner, Christine McMinn, Dorothy Powers (Chair), Tanner Spears, Bob Tyler.

Our purpose is to keep the tenets of the ONA Statement before the congregation. "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." We achieve this through a regular review of events and opportunities, and development of events to share with the congregation and community at large.

- October 11, 2023, ONA hosted "Five Lesbians Eating Quiche," a colorful play. Our Kitchen Chix made quiches, both for attendees and for the centerpiece prop of the play.
- Sanctuary flowers were provided by ONA from its budget.
- April 7, 2024, FCCGE celebrated Transgender Day of Visibility with light snacks after the service provided by the Kitchen Chicks. Member Bob Tyler donated 100 buttons in the pink, blue, and white trans flag colors.
- May 12, 2024, ONA coordinated personal testimony from a church attendee who lives with a mood disorder to mark May as Mental health Awareness month.
- May 15, 2024, ONA hosted a panel discussion of trans- and gender non-conforming youth to help our church and community understand how we can better support this underserved portion of the community. Light snacks were provided by church members led by ONA's Teresa Exner.
- June 30, 2024, 4th annual Pride Brunch after Sunday service.

We are working to create broader awareness of God's Open and Affirming love for all through events and activities for both our congregation and community. Our Open and Affirming (ONA) model has proven to be a significant attraction for individuals and families considering a new church home.

SOUL SISTERS—Meetings are volunteer led and Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck is our clergy liaison

Soul Sisters was founded more than 5 years ago to sustain meaningful relationships among women of our church and provide ongoing encouragement and support. Soul Sisters meet twice a month on the first and third Sundays after church services from September-May. The group continues to represent all ages (30s to 70s) in diverse stages of life: single, married, divorced, widowed, new parents, new grandparents, working outside the home and in, retired, etc.

Discussion topics are varied and determined by the interests of the group. Sometimes we talk about the sermon, current events, or an issue someone is facing. Members may attend at any time and any level of commitment is welcome.



Property & Grounds Committee — Mike Sorenson, Chair

Committee Members 2023-24: Mike Artrip (2025), Tom Rausch (2026), Erik Schuchardt (2024) Mike Sorenson (Chair, 2025) Sharon Wussow (2024), Mike Zita (2025); staff liaison Wojciech Gracz (Facilities Manager). *The committee also recognizes Don Bartell who served on the committee from July to December 2023 before his sudden passing.*

The Property and Grounds Committee oversees the general maintenance and improvement of the church building, as well as overseeing ways in which to make the church more sustainable and usable for our community.

The Property & Grounds Committee had a busy year overseeing multiple projects. We successfully completed the new roof project, with much of the thanks going to previous committees for their planning and financing efforts.

Additionally, we resealed and lined the parking lot, repaired sprinkler and boiler system components, finalized new signage for exterior entrances, fixed a staff toilet, and improved wheelchair-accessible seating in the sanctuary. With the many day-to-day issues of a church this large and complex, we are fortunate to have so many people and resources on which to call to help keep the church looking and performing its best. We would also like to note that **since 2013, we've reduced electricity usage by 54% due to lighting and HVAC upgrades**—an impressive achievement.

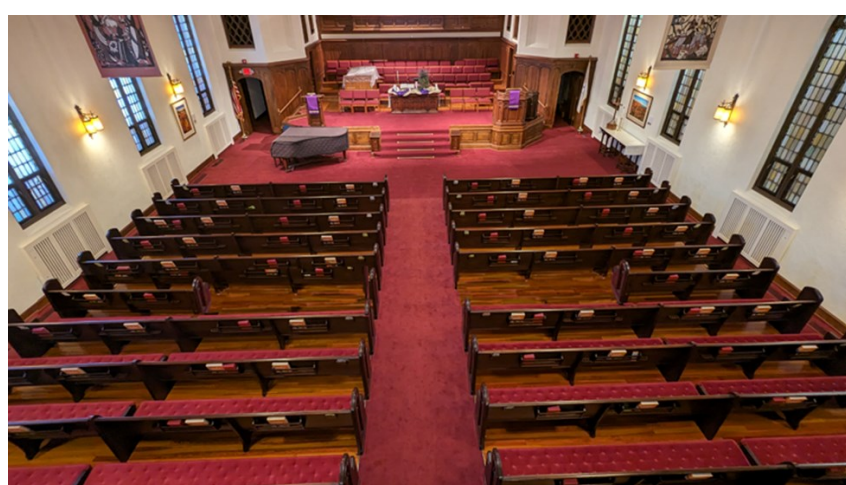
With the roof replacement complete, we wind down a large part of the capital fund. The roof looks amazing and it's all thanks to the years of planning and donations from the congregation. We have not drawn down the capital fund completely as predicted, and have approximately \$213K remaining. This is largely due to costs being offset with operating funds when possible, some rebates, and over budgeted items. *Please refer to the Appendix (pgs. 49-51) for a Building Capital Fund Update and Updated Projection as of May 2024.*

For the next few years, we will focus on rising energy costs and reviewing existing contracts to find savings. There are a few larger projects yet to complete, including replacing the final in-church HVAC system and putting it on the roof with the rest of the units; assessing the skylights for repair and/or replacement needs; upgrades to our kitchen gas stove tops to create a cleaner and greener working environment; security considerations of door and window systems; and the possibility of adding solar panels to our flat roofs. These future projects will be considered with a new capital campaign to fund future and the ever-present maintenance needs of our historic and beautiful church building.



At left: 100-year old clay roofing tiles that were cracked and failing were replaced in 2023-24 as part of the church's 2014 Reserve Plan and 2018 Capital Fund.

Below: Portions of pews at the center of the Sanctuary were removed to make our space more welcoming to those using wheelchairs and rolling walkers.



Ministries of the Property & Grounds Committee

Garden Ministry—Nancy Bell

Ministry Members: Nancy Bell (Chair), Teresa and David Exner, Jenny and Dean Fisher, Leslie Foster, Katie Miley

This team is responsible for planting, watering, weeding and maintenance of all the spaces around the grounds where one sees flowers, shrubs and trees blooming!

Our spring gardens were filled with colorful bulbs until mid-May. And as we do each year in the fall, hundreds of tulips and daffodils were added to fill in gaps in these well-established spring bulb gardens.

Five years into the overall garden renovation, weeding, pruning and watering are ongoing. The shrubs and perennials are well established, providing lots of color, continuous bloom and plenty of food for the pollinators. Weeding is our perennial challenge. Church members pitched in for the Spring and Fall clean-ups. Many bags of topsoil and fresh mulch were installed to help control weeds and to reduce watering.

To further complement the garden plantings and materials donated by Jenny and Dean Fisher in 2021, this year they generously added a stunning rain garden along with many perennials outside of the Chapel entrance on Anthony Street.

We will continue to nurture and care for the garden beds and will thoughtfully replace shrubs and plants where needed. Everyone is welcome to join this ministry!



Service & Justice Committee — Maria Metz, Chair

Committee Members: Lisa Clay, Richard Jones, Catherine LaChapelle, Andy Livingston, Maria Metz (Chair), Alice Stuhlmacher

The Service & Justice Committee prayerfully assesses the allocation of mission dollars to appropriate organizations and helps our ministry partners operate effectively. Our focus this year has been on updating and documenting the steps we take to evaluate the ministries we will support, allocate budget, and address ad hoc requests for funding. We also were blessed to work with the team forming the new Royalties for Spirituals ministry (see report on page 24).

In the coming year, we will implement the updated processes and formally consider adding new ministries. We will continue our cross-committee collaboration with Finance and Connections to ensure smooth progress towards our common goals.

Our Service & Justice Partners help us to sustain our congregation, the community and the wider world through work in three pillars of sustainability—Equity, Health, and Security—as outlined in the chart below. Please review the great work of our Service & Justice Partners on the following pages and learn more about getting involved by contacting the organization lead.

<p>Equity Partners—promoting equality of status, rights, and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DuPage United • Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center • Royalties for Spirituals Program 	<p>Health Partners—promoting mental, physical, spiritual, and environmental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling • Glen Ellyn Youth & Family Counseling • Mental Health Ministry • Ministry of Meals • Stephen Ministry • Green Team (includes Eden Project and Garden Works that support Food Security) • Creator’s Purpose Computer Ministry 	<p>Security Partners—promoting safety and stability in housing, food, and other basic needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Communities • DuPage Habitat for Humanity • Glen Ellyn Food Pantry • Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry • Onward House • DuPage PADS • Rebuilding Together • World Relief • Ukraine Relief
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Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners

Bridge Communities Mentor Team

Members 2023-2024: Leslie Dodge (leader), Norm Adams, Mary Lhotak, Carrie Burrows

As a Bridge Communities Program Partner, FCCGE financially supports a family and more broadly, continues to aid Bridge Communities' ability to provide services during the family's time in the program including case management, nutrition and employment services, and charitable services that support them. Our team of mentors has been working with the current family to assist in building new skills for financial independence, budgeting, career development, and overall well being along with encouraging the use of the many services that Bridge Communities and their partners offer.

Bridge Communities is a grassroots, non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of families facing homelessness through partnering with talented, resourceful individuals and groups in the community. Their program of housing, mentoring, and empowering people focuses on moving families towards a goal of self-sufficiency and serves 100+ families every year. 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 our church serve as mentors to the families.

The Bridge team will help prepare the current family to transition out of the program into a more self-sufficient arrangement. The Bridge team expects to welcome a new family into the program later in the year.

Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (CDPCC)—Nancy E. Cochran, Psy.D., Executive Director

Our mission is to provide quality mental health services (therapy and assessment) to all of those who come to our door. We offer a unique opportunity to a behavioral health experience that includes an integration of spirituality with psychology. Our therapists are trained in Christian perspectives, but we meet individuals where they are at on their journey with respect and without judgement.

This past year the center's focus was on staff development. We hired two full-time therapists who had been in training with us previously. They have eagerly worked to fill their caseloads and we no longer have long waitlists of clients. Funds from FCCGE allowed us to offer those therapists support in terms of necessary technology for telehealth services. Many clients of the center express gratitude to conduct some sessions this way and not have to leave home or work when it is burdensome to get to the center.

Our goals for this year are to continue to develop staff. We are currently interviewing for another full-time staff therapist position and hoping this individual will have child and adolescent experience or marriage and family experience. We are also expanding our outreach goals in the community and are increasing our group and workshop offerings starting in the fall. Our goal is to have therapists providing groups for Mental Health and Wellness, Grief Support, Mindfulness for Reducing Anxiety and Care Giver Support in churches open to having us such as FCCGE. Funds for next year will help us with the technology support (laptop computer/zoom license, etc.. for new staff and for the training and supervision costs of our interns to provide the groups and workshops out in the community.

The Creator's Purpose Computer Ministry—Mike DeFlorio

The computer ministry at First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn takes in old and used PC's and refurbishes them for people who are in need of a PC for learning basic computer skills, job employment, and Internet skills. Types of equipment we accept are monitors, Desktop PC's, laptops, and any other computer related equipment. We also work with local community centers, schools, libraries, and local businesses.

This year, developed a partnership with Peoples Resource Center (PRC) by working together and sharing ideas and information on where to get donations, what organizations are in need of getting refurbished PC's, to their clients and who to contact for further assistance. Working with various Non-Profit organizations (Bridge Communities, DuPage Pads, World, Relief) and FCCGE staff on getting exposure and build relationships with future clients who are need to getting a PC.

I would like to get more volunteers by working with other ministries at FCCGE and continue building the ministry. Please contact Mike DeFlorio (mdeflorio@live.com) for any other questions you may have.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity—Debbie White

DuPage Habitat for Humanity's mission is to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. Our work encompasses neighborhood revitalization, new home construction, home rehabilitation, and repairs—providing affordable home ownership and affordable home repair for limited income families. Diversity, equity and inclusion have been central for Habitat for Humanity since the 1940s, and today, minority populations, refugees and female-led families make up the majority of our clients. We believe in a world where everyone—no matter who they are or where they come from—deserves

Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners

a decent place to live and we strive to break down barriers, bring people of all backgrounds together, and generate equity, respect and lasting change for underserved populations.

This past fiscal year, DuPage Habitat grew our volunteer programs, services, corporate engagement, and advocacy efforts. Funds from FCCGE helped contribute to providing affordable home ownership to 12 new Habitat Homeowners (with 13 more families soon to be closing on their houses). DuPage Habitat also continued to grow our efforts in affordable home repair, focusing on veterans as well as seniors with our Aging in Place home repair program. By providing affordable home repairs (everything from grab bars, wheelchair ramps, and new roofs), we provided home repairs on 18 homes this past year. DuPage Habitat continued our efforts in advocating for affordable home ownership, which included hosting a Veteran Panel event in November, attending "Habitat on the Hill" in Washington, DC (discussing federal policy and federal funding for affordable housing), leading a virtual "lunch and learn" discussion during Black History Month on the inequities of home appraisals as it relates to black homeowners, and in March hosting a Women's History Month panel (which featured a Habitat Homeowner and her adult daughter).

Future goals: 1) Deliver reliable impact by refining project management processes & maintaining a people-first approach to programming; 2) Grow a sustainable retail operation; 3) Develop diverse sources of funding & overall organizational support; 4) Become a leading collaborator in the housing & social service space across DuPage & Chicago South Suburbs.

DuPage United—Clara Hughes

Members: Katie Lindberg, Andy Livingston, Laura Peccarelli, Roger Hughes, Clara Hughes

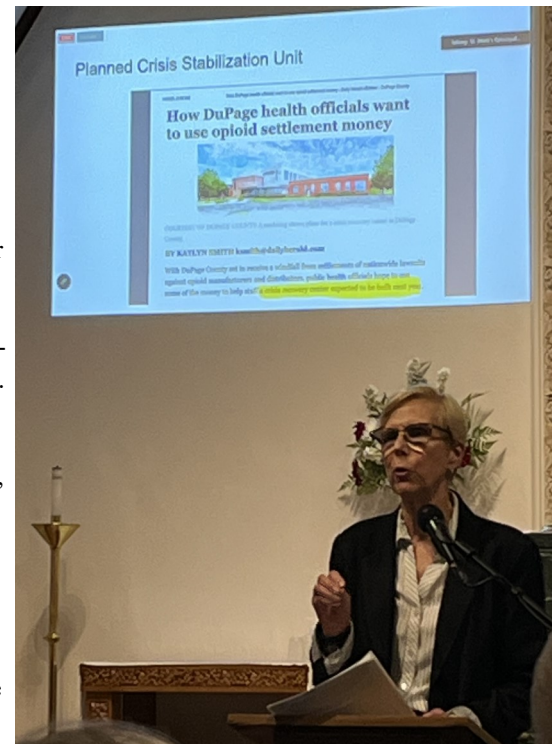
DuPage United is a collection of 28 institutions organized to work collectively to build power to create targeted social justice change to improve the lives of DuPage County residents. DuPage United builds its power by developing leaders within its institutions. These leaders are trained to develop public relationships with local community members, and public officials. Leaders also learn to use organizing tools to develop and implement local initiatives around specific, actionable and urgent needs.

Affordable, Accessible, Supportive Housing (AASH) Initiative—This year we successfully gained Glen Ellyn Village Trustee approval to build an AASH development on the site of the abandoned hotel on Taft and Exmoor. Our efforts to build our “people power” within FCCGE and among community leaders to increase awareness of the need for affordable housing continued. We held an action on January 22, 2024, inviting key DU leaders and community allies to attend in support of a February decision (*See photo of DuPage United attendees at the Village Trustee meeting on page 29*). On February 26, 2024, the Village voted unanimously to accept the Full Circle Communities proposal to build a 42-unit AASH development with a 30% set-aside for tenants with disabilities.

Decriminalization of Mental Illness Initiative—DuPage United has fought to decriminalize mental illness in DuPage County and state-wide since 2015. On April 8, DuPage County officials held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new center which is targeted to open in the summer of 2025. It will go far in assuring that our county residents have an alternative to jail or crowded emergency rooms when they experience a mental health crisis

Dis-organizing and Re-organizing—In October, 20 DuPage United leaders showed up to support United Power Action and Justice to witness the public commitment from Chicago’s Mayor Johnson to build 1000 homes on vacant city-owned lots in South Lawndale and surrounding areas. In October, DuPage United leaders facilitated a listening event providing an opportunity for members to get to know each other in a safe and structured session. Over 20 people attended the one-hour session. On November 12th, DuPage United leaders held an assembly to highlight our push for affordable housing and “safe crossing” initiative in Wheaton. Over 300 attended, 30 of which were FCCGE members.

Future goals: Expand DuPage United Ministry team at FCCGE; Conduct an information session for FCCGE members to understand the approach DuPage United takes to build power in order to create change; Develop financial campaign to receive up to \$100,000 of matching funds from Metro Industrial Area Foundation; Build six affordable, accessible, supportive apartment developments throughout DuPage County.



Clara Hughes speaks at a DU assembly.

Gilead Church Chicago—Vince Amlin and Rebecca Anderson, Co-Pastors

Gilead is a queer, storytelling bar church started in 2017 to be church for, with, and by people who've been turned out, turned off or just left cold by church. We're a church that makes beautiful, creative worship together, throws great parties and makes real friends, and tells true stories that save lives.

We put FCCGE's generous support to use in our general operating budget: paying pastors and musicians, renting bar space for worship, and offering hospitality in many settings. In 2023, Gilead sent each of our pastors on a much needed sabbatical, hired part-time co-pastors in their absence, and hired a new Communications and Admin Hoss. We also hosted our (and the world's?) first ever Easter Peep Show — an Easter service featuring Chicago burlesque performers. We marched in the Pride Parade again and deepened our partnership with Lighthouse Foundation of Chicagoland, working for Black Queer Equity. We celebrated our seventh anniversary as a church and held our first ordination in 2023. We once again held our Telethon fundraiser: that's 8 hours on Facebook live, turning stewardship into an endurance sport. We're nesting in another bar, welcoming new people into worship and community, and pulling hard toward a September 15th relaunch. Thank you, FCCGE, for your ongoing support!



Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center—Celia Rodee

GECRC Board members from FCCGE—Celia Rodee, Judy Cheney, Cleo Burtis, Janis Pfister, Karen Winter (and many other FCCGE members who are also volunteer tutors!)

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. GECRC helps students, parents, teachers and volunteer tutors to develop relationships that support and inspire learning and growth.

GECRC's cost-free tutoring and mentoring serves some of the most vulnerable students in our community. We now host 5 after-school program sites—Churchill, Lincoln and Parkview Elementary Schools and Hadley and Glen Crest Jr. High Schools. This summer, GECRC will serve 175 students in the annual 6-week program, a 17% increase over summer 2023.

Some of our goals are to increase Summer Program enrollment; open the door to more students in Districts 41 and 89, strengthen and deepen the social-emotional (SEL) work we do, and provide more enrichment opportunities to students (field trips, access to sports teams, theater programs, etc..



GECRC Board President Celia Rodee and Lincoln Elementary students celebrate math literacy with PI day (3.14) and homemade pies.

Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners — continued

Glen House Food Pantry—Andy Ginger

The Pantry has been serving DuPage County residents experiencing food insecurity for over 40 years, seeking to Make Hunger History. Along with 13 other area churches, FCCGE was a founding member of the Pantry and remains committed to its mission. Our ministry fills one spot on the Pantry board and our members contribute their time as volunteers, and via donations of food and funds that supplement donated food. Everyone at FCCGE can help. We publish the list of needed items in our weekly eBlast and on the website.

In late 2023, the Pantry moved to a house renovated with support from the community at 55 N. Park Blvd., near Roosevelt and next to Faith Lutheran Church. Our members contributed to the capital fund drive. In 2023, over 1 million lbs. of groceries, including 256,865 lbs. of produce, were distributed to more than 7,000 neighbors. Client demand has increased significantly. Over 200 drives, including ours at FCC, collected over 69,000 lbs. of food. The Pantry team rescued 405,940 lbs. of food from local grocers. More is needed every day. *(Pictured below in green are Pantry staff.)*

In addition to services at the Pantry, partnerships with DuPage PADS, Habitat for Humanity, Kiwanis and 7 other organizations enabled decentralized distribution to thousands of families across the county. Fundraisers are held at many Glen Ellyn events.

FCCGE collects food throughout the year in a collection bin just inside the parking lot door. We hold collection drives in May and September. *(Our May drive is featured in the photo with Pastor Kyle blessing our donations.)* Envelopes for cash donations are in the lobby. Project Eden of the Green Team yields produce to contribute. Join the volunteer ranks by visiting the Glen House Food Pantry website. Thanks to all for your past and future contributions.



Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry—Lora Ilhardt

The Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry (WIM) was created 30 years ago to provide a source of compassionate assistance to Glen Ellyn residents and members of Glen Ellyn churches who are in need of emergency aid. It is an all-volunteer mission coordinated and funded by 13 Glen Ellyn churches, including FCCGE.

We assist our clients by giving them food gift cards, train passes, and gas vouchers. We also assist with utility bills, car repairs, and prescriptions by sending checks directly to the service providers. We interact in-person with our clients at our offices located at the First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. WIM is facing a financially challenging 2024 based upon the needs of Glen Ellyn residents. There was a 15% increase in the number of clients served in 2023 versus 2022, and a 39% increase in the total services provided during that time period. With the impact of rising prices for gasoline and food, more clients are in need and have requested assistance.

Our goal is to be able to continue providing much needed emergency services to the community. Accordingly, WIM is requesting that each member church consider increasing its 2024 financial support.

Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service—Clarque Johnson, LPC, Executive Director

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 is 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. We are so grateful to FCCGE staff and members for allowing our office to be integrated in the church property. The funding support from FCCGE helps us to not only supplement reduced-fees for clients but to maintain counseling staff and meet operational needs.

Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners — continued

Green Team—Nancy Bell and Tom Rausch

Leaders: Nancy Bell and Tom Rausch **Members:** Chris Bass, Nancy Bell, Bob Burrows, Angela Cary, Seth Carey, Lisa Crank, Catherine Curtis, Karen Elis, David Exner, Teresa Exner, Rosemarie Freeman, Andy Ginger, Melissa Guido, Daniel Harman, Clara Hughes, Roger Hughes, Jeannine Kannegiesser, Katie Lindberg, Joan Looi, Maria Metz, Katie Miley, Rosemarie Pinkos, Karen Pulver, Diane Pyzik, Debbie Rausch, Tom Rausch, Kyle Roggenbuck, Evan Schuchardt, Jen Sellers, Amy Shorner-Johnson, Leslie Sommers, Mike Sorenson, Tanner Spears, Alice Stuhlmacher, Jim Stuhlmacher, Myra Walden, Deirdre Winkelhake

This ministry was formed in 2007 and reconstituted in 2023 as the **Green Team** to support love and respect for Creation and to act on environmental and climate-related 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 and actively partner with organizations that seek environmental justice and care.

- Our members embraced **Project Eden**, growing produce at home, in community gardens, and in raised beds in front of the church. Eden Project included 20 home gardeners which generated 460 pounds of fresh produce that was donated to local food pantries.
- **GardenWorks** Project was our prototype for the on-site demonstration garden at the Chapel door entrance. Katie Miley led those efforts supported by a handful of waterers.
- We also supported the local **Bridge Garden** that provided food for five participating families. Nancy Bell was the Lead and was joined by Eva and Clara.
- Held a **Harvest Celebration Luncheon** in October after church where our Project Eden produce was highlighted.
- The Green Team **washed dishes and silverware** after large church meal events, preventing the use of throw-away plastic utensils. Karen Ellis worked with the Kitchen Chix to coordinate Green Team clean-up volunteers.
- We initiated **monthly nature and fellowship hikes** at various locations and enjoyed strong attendance.



Above: Members of the Green Team meet up for a monthly nature hike.

Below: Spring planning resulted in a great harvest for Project Eden and being able to donate 460 pounds of fresh produce last year.



Enjoying the Harvest Celebration Luncheon are (left to right) Eva Schuchardt, Karen Koenig, Lisa Peyton, Tracy Gliori, and Nancy Bell

Green Team report—continued

- Bob Burrows donated and actively managed **new compost bins**, preventing food and landscape waste from entering landfills where it eventually would produce methane.
- Hosted three **climate change-related adult education sessions** led by Tom Rausch, which were coordinated with local Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) members, including one on how and why we need to electrify everything.
- Hosted two nonpartisan **Environmental Voter Project** postcard writing campaigns encouraging low propensity environmental voters to vote, including one with CCL.
- Donated to **Faith in Place**, whose mission is to empower diverse faith members to reduce their environmental impact and advance racial justice
- Hosted screening and discussion of the film **Common Ground** profiling white, black and indigenous farmers using alternative "regenerative" models of agriculture that helps balance the climate and improve health.

The Green Team plans to grow Project Eden participation and continue supporting kitchen cleanup, composting, and other ministries related to reducing the church's environmental impact. We will continue to hold events that bring people together to learn about climate change and sustainability and to share each other's perspectives. The team will work with the Property and Grounds Committee to help identify and implement energy efficiency improvements. This includes considering installation of solar panels on the south-facing roof and on the church's extensive flat roof.

Ministry of Meals—Jenny Fischer

The Ministry of Meals continues to be a thriving ministry that delivers meals to our church family during times of illness or crisis. Our volunteer roster includes 75 cooks and 5 "shepherds" who coordinate and schedule meal deliveries. This year many phone contacts were made to our church family as suggested by clergy and staff. Our cooks prepared and delivered a record 98 homemade meals! We use mealtrain.com to organize the meals online. Our goal is to reach more people in need!

Onward House Christmas Gift Appeal—Marge Kovatch

Program Facilitators: Marge Kovatch (Lead), Karen Ellis, Sandi Wroblewski, JoAnn Ginger, and Sylvia Rodee

Onward House, located in the Belmont Cragin area of Chicago, is an outreach facility that supports under-resourced families by offering daycare, head start and afterschool programs. Each year, our ministry's purpose is to provide Christmas gifts for the children registered in those programs as well as to the Bridge Communities family our church mentors and supports. Selecting and giving these gifts brings joy not only to the recipients, but also to the congregants who provide the gifts. We do not use any funds from FCCGE, only what congregants choose to donate to the program.

For Christmas 2023, we were given names of 200 children from Onward House. Gift tags were provided with the child's name and gift suggestions. Members of the congregation were able to choose a name and provide gifts for one or more children.

Thanks to our facilitators and the many church members that helped with wrapping, loading the gifts at FCCGE, and unloading the gifts at Onward House. The 200 gift boxes were delivered to Onward house in a truck driven by Tom Pulver on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023. The 12 Bridge gifts were delivered locally by the Bridge mentors.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)—Tricia Kerns

DuPage PADS operates a Transitional Living Center in Downers Grove to provide a central location where clients are not forced to travel daily between congregant shelters as they once did, endure harsh conditions, or have concerns about where they may eat and sleep. This allows clients to focus on their wellness and stability, making it possible to move forward using DuPage PADS resources to regain their independence.

DuPage estimates that a third of the homeless population in the county are children. To show our support of families with children living at the center, FCCGE has hosted a Fall Festival there for the past two years. We bring a day of fun activities and food to the center parking lot where families can enjoy a day of play. The Fall Festival has been well received by the PADS staff, FCCGE volunteers, but especially the clientele.

We hope to broaden FCCGE-sponsored events with PADS in the future for both families and singles staying in the center.

Service & Justice Ministries & Mission Partners — continued

Rebuilding Together—FCCGE Liaisons: Randy Briasco, Dale Todd, Dave Hecht

Volunteers: Dave Hecht, Dale Todd, Randy Briasco, Nicole, Kemp & Xavier Ross, Jill Foucre, Erin & Jason Miller, Ted Harman and over 12 tradespeople from IBEW local 134 (Electricians), Painters from Local 14, Plumbers from Local 130, a window replacement company, and carpenters from Local 1.

For the 26th straight year, FCCGE was proud participate in Rebuilding Together, Metro Chicago, where we partner with local tradespeople and church volunteers to help a person stay in their home and keep it warm, safe and dry. This year's event took place on April 27, 2024, in Park Forest. We made repairs and improvements including fixing the kitchen sink, repainting the kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom, upgrading electrical outlets, replacing smoke and CO detectors, adding an air conditioner, repairing damage flooring, replacing leaking faucets, installing three new windows, repairing a ceiling fan, installing accessible kitchen cabinet hardware and lighting, and dramatically updating the landscaping.

Since 1991, Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago has repaired over 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 Chicago-land 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.



Social Justice Group —Mary Lhotak

Members: Mary and Roger Lhotak, Clara Hughes, Marilyn Peretti, Jim and Alice Stuhlmacher, Ida Hagman, Rev. Seth Carey and Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck

Our Social Justice group focused on a variety of topics including racial and justice issues, environmental change, causes of poverty, and freedom of speech. Our group met at the beginning of the month from September through May. This year, we volunteered in several programs that address some of these problems:

- Volunteered at **Feed My Starving Children** and **Northern Illinois Food Bank**.
- Wrote letters for **Amnesty International** to support freedom of expression.
- We also wrote letters for **Vote Forward** to encourage fair representation, and have sent letters to our representatives to request support of bills that advocate for policies to help end hunger.
- We participated in a simulation to learn about **unfair economic and housing laws** established in the past that continue to affect those in poverty today.
- We read the book **The Color of Law** to learn how entrenched our laws are in discrimination.
- Through a presentation by **Bread For The World**, we saw how the justice system is not just for people of color.
- We had a **guest speaker** address the most effective ways to recycle, and provide information about larger environmental concerns.

Because of all the wonderful work of other committees and ministries at FCCGE, our plan for the coming year is to meet periodically to address specific calls to action for justice.

Stephen Ministry—Maggie Fredricks

Stephen Ministers: Stephen Ministers: Maggie Fredricks (lead); Cathy Christoff, Becky Godomski, Brian Hamilton, Steve Jungling, Tracy Kline, Leland Livingston, Kristin Malone and Sara Waterloo

The Stephen Ministry program is trained laity who walk with 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, which calls for the ongoing help of a lay minister. The Stephen Ministry is not meant as a substitute for professional, counseling, or for the specialized help that clergy can provide. Stephen Ministry's work one-on-one with a fellow congregant meeting for an hour weekly for as long as the problem persists. A Stephen Minister is trained to provide a safe, confidential relationship in which the congregant can share problems with someone who listens objectively, acts with empathy and provide support and prayer. Stephen ministers are trained by clergy, and veteran Stephen ministers from FCCGE. Stephen Ministry is making a two-year commitment to the ministry. All conversations in contacts with any of the above people even an inquiry about the program is kept strictly confidential.

The current Stephen Ministry program has been in place for 18 years at FCCGE and this year 10 members of the church of benefited from the program. We honor your privacy and hold all interactions with confidentiality. If you need a Stephen minister to navigate a difficult road in your life or know someone who could use this Christian support, please reach out to one of the pastors. We'd like to expand our ministry to serve more FCCGE members. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Maggie Frederick.

Tower Hill / Pilgrim Park Outdoor Ministries—Catherine Curtis

Members: Catherine Curtis, Gabriel Koenig, Paula Rada, Noah Pottebaum

The IL Conference of the UCC is blessed with two camp and conference centers: Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI and Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL. Both camps provide opportunities for children, youth, families, adults, and clergy to explore their faith in the beauty of God's Creation through retreats and camps.

Some of the most powerful faith experiences occur in these places and settings when there is time and space to foster and nurture relationships and to be open to the presence of God's Spirit. We hosted our annual Church Retreat the third weekend of July with 10 attendees. Initially we had a Jr Hi and Sr Hi Our Whole Lives retreat scheduled the end of February but needed more participants and needed to cancel. Our congregation continues to offer scholarships to youth who wish to attend summer camp at either location. Two of our own church members served as summer staff at Tower Hill: Gabriel Koenig and Paula Rada and church member Noah Pottebaum served as a camp counselor for Godstock camp at Tower Hill.

We have the Church Retreat scheduled for the third weekend of July at Tower Hill and are planning on once again offering Our Whole Lives as a possible retreat option. We continue to budget scholarships for summer camps and hope that your children and youth will experience the wonder and fun of these summer camps.



World Relief Chicagoland—Julia Kling

Members: Julia Kling (FCCGE Liaison) and other church members volunteer directly with World Relief

At World Relief, the mission is to boldly confront the displacement of people around the globe resulting from natural disasters, violence, and other crises. Response to asylum seekers and immigrants involves holistic services that help low-income immigrant and refugee families build meaningful relationships, access needed resources, and overcome cultural, economic, language, legal, and social barriers in their new country. World Relief works alongside local churches to create thriving, welcoming communities where families flourish and people experience restorative relationships with God, their neighbors, themselves, and all of creation.

In 2023, financial support and volunteers from FCCGE and other churches helped World Relief Chicagoland to resettle 846 refugees and serve 8,640 people throughout the region. 1,510 volunteers gave 29,405 hours of time to support their new immigrant neighbors. We are in the midst of resettling over 1,000 refugees in 2024 and serving hundreds of additional immigrants and asylum seekers across Chicagoland. We will continue to partner with local churches to welcome newcomers and connect them with the vital services and community support they need to rebuild their lives and thrive in the United States.

Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service (GEYFCS)

Administrative Director: Allison Henley

Board members: Mary Kate Bertane, Chris Gladish, Phil Hartweg, Caicina Jones, Fiona Miller, Phil Norton, Wendy Pawelski, Beth Powers, Kim Reed, Julian Rogus, Mary Ellen Schmidt, and Jean Slevin.

Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service (GEYFCS) is a community-based, not-for-profit mental health service whose mission is: "...to promote the mental health and well-being of youth, families, and individuals in the larger Glen Ellyn community through the provision of professional counseling services and community-based support and education. No individual, family or group shall be denied services based on an inability to pay." GEYFCS was incorporated in 1979 and has been housed at FCCGE since its inception (Thank you, FCCGE!). At any given time, 70-90% of GEYFCS's clients fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

GEYFCS is extremely grateful for the generous donations from FCCGE—including rent-free office and counseling space! Through these and other donations and grants, GEYFCS has been able to continue to offer affordable counseling services to the Glen Ellyn community, offering a sliding fee scale and never refusing a client because of an inability to pay. GEYFCS has been able to respond to the increasing needs for counseling, crisis intervention, and small group work. Additionally, the agency has been able to make much needed referrals and linkage to critical community-based resources.

GEYFCS has expanded its school-based mental health support at Glenbard West and Glenbard South as well as at some of the Glen Ellyn elementary schools. At the high schools, GEYFCS has provided weekly individual school-based counseling sessions for youth struggling with various mental health disorders, behavioral concerns, school truancy, family conflict, and other concerns. GEYFCS staff, which has grown over the past year, is always coming up with creative solutions to help meet the needs of at-risk and high-risk students, especially those with lower socio-economic backgrounds who desperately need quality mental health care at reduced- or no-fees. Additionally, GEYFCS has continued to partner with the Glen Ellyn Police Department, especially on suicide prevention and follow up care to domestic violence and crises, as well as with the Glen Ellyn Public Library, to offer community support. Also, GEYFCS has been working with Bridge Communities and has begun exploring the opportunity to do group work with the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center.

GEYFCS would like to hire an additional part-time therapist to help the agency meet the growing need for affordable mental health care in the Glen Ellyn community as well as to continue developing valuable partnerships with other local service agencies, schools, and the Glen Ellyn Library.

Church-sponsored Cub Scout Pack 51—Aaron Stott, Chair 2023-24

Members: Aaron Stott, Committee Chair; Craig Turner, Cub Master; and Chad Thompson, Treasurer

Cub Scouting offers children and their families a program filled with fun, adventure, and character-building experiences. This program promotes the values of the Scout Law, which encourages Scouts to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These principles are woven into all aspects of the Cub Scouting experience, ensuring that while children have a great time with their friends and families, they are also absorbing important life values. Additionally, we hope to provide a space where children in our community can explore and grow outdoors, developing new skills in a supportive environment.

Summary: Pack 51, chartered through the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, predominantly recruits members from Forest Glen Elementary School. This self-funded Cub Scout Pack consists of 48 scouts ranging from kindergarten through 5th grade for the 2023/24 school year, supported by 7 registered adult volunteers. Each grade group is led by a den leader, typically a parent, who organizes monthly meetings at both the church and various community locations.

Overview: Pack 51 manages its finances through a single bank account titled "Boy Scouts of America Pack 51" at Wheaton Bank & Trust Company, N.A., a Wintrust Community Bank. As of April 23, 2024, the account balance is \$3,200.22. The sole source of revenue is the annual collection of dues at the beginning of each year, which covers both BSA enrollment and operational costs. After national and local BSA fees are deducted, the remaining budget per scout is approximately \$50. The Pack's annual activities include the Pinewood Derby and the Blue and Gold Banquet, both hosted at Pilgrim Hall, along with model rocket shoots that engage scouts in building and launching rockets. Additionally, Pack 51 also participates in Glen Ellyn Food Pantry canned food drives, family bowling, box car races & camping. Pack 51 is actively seeking volunteer opportunities with FCCGE to further enrich our program and support our local community.

As a pack, our goal is to ensure we recruit and keep the organization solvent and growing. We continually seek volunteer opportunities and strive to instill the principle of "do a good turn daily" in our children. If FCCGE has any activities suitable for younger children with adult supervision, we are always eager for a new adventure.



Church-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 41—DJ LaChapelle, Chair

Members: DJ Lachapelle, Chair; Pete Witte, Scout Master; Mike Sorensen Asst. Scout Master; Nick Laufenberg, Asst. Scout-Master

The mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

It's been a great year for scouts over the last 12 months. On top of our weekly meetings on Tuesdays and monthly camp outs, we attended summer camp and Owasippe Scout Reservation as we have for many years now. We had a number of guest speakers; a DEA agent, D41 School Board member and attended Coffee with the Cops.



Our BSA service projects to FCCGE included:

- Cleaning the sanctuary and getting pen caps out of pew holders;
- Moving furniture to/from classrooms and storage, including carrying the Cantata stage pieces to and from the boiler room;
- Clearing the church west garden of weeds and over growth (big project!);
- Setting up tents for various events
- Making and serving coffee after Sunday Worship services and helping with kitchen cleanups.

Our membership was impacted by the Pandemic in the past few years, but we are just seeing it start to recover with three new scouts that we look forward to growing with the Troop.

Overview: Boy Scout Troop 41 operates with a single bank account at Chase Bank. The current balance as of April 30, 2024 was \$20,415. A large portion of that will be paid out for the 2024 Apostle Islands Sea Kayaking High Adventure trip. The bank account is internally organized into four “buckets” as follows: 1) Troop Money; 2) High Adventure; 3) Markham Fund; and 4) Trailer Fund.

Troop Money: This bucket holds day-to-day expenses: monthly camping trips, supplies (new tents, cook stoves, etc), and pays out for summer camp at Owassippe Scout Ranch in Michigan. Major expenses include:

- Annual Troop registration and insurance ~\$3,500
- High Adventure ~\$6,500
- Scout Store purchases (merit badges, neckerchiefs, patches, etc.) ~ \$1,000/year

The primary source of revenue for the Troop each year is the Holiday Wreath Sale. 2023 was another big success with over \$10,000 in total sales, for which the troop was rewarded with a big burrito feast! Another fundraiser, “Coffee with the Scouts,” will be held early summer 2024 in Pilgrim Hall.

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 \$2780.

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. The current balance in the Trailer Fund is currently at \$150.

FUTURE GOALS: Continue to grow the troop and diversify our fund raising and have more events with the church to show our support. Troop 41 is available to help other ministries and groups at church. Do you need stuff moved? Tables set up? We have Scouts that can help! If you have any question about the troop or Scouting, please contact DJ LaChapelle or Mike Sorensen.



Ukrainian Relief Mission—Wojciech Gracz, FCCGE Facility Manager

Liaison: Wojciech Gracz, liaison to Tenczyn, Poland

Members: The entire Congregation through their generous donations and prayers

Our mission is to provide relief to Ukrainians in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Poland and other countries. The help comes in the form of prayers and financial contributions.

The Viking Community Organization is a group of Tenczyn volunteers who deliver food, supplies, generators, phones, clothing, and medicine to impacted civilians in Ukraine. When the Viking's building in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, was shelled and damaged, the daily operations of the day care center for children and adults had to stop. In July 2023, FCCGE raised and transferred \$12,000 to the Viking organization to help restore the building back to normal activities.

Future goals include continuing to support our Ukrainian sisters and brothers in their efforts to organize their communities, help their suffering people, and offer assistance to Ukrainian refugees abroad.

FCCGE is blessed to have Wojciech as our liaison and contact. Wojciech was born and raised in Tenczyn, a small village in southern Poland that has been providing support to refugees from Ukraine since the start of the war. He continues to serve the important role of “point person” for ongoing relief and communication efforts.

Pictured below: A frame captured from the video the Vikings sent thanking FCCGE for restoring their community center. Also, images of the van FCCGE donations helped replace when it was damaged by bullets so that the Vikings can continue their important work to aid those in need.



APPENDIX: Building Capital Fund Update — Mike Sorenson

Building Capital Fund — Updated Projection May 2024

In 2015, FCCGE embarked on a journey to maintain our historic building. In 2017, the Congregation generously responded to the Called Forward capital campaign, pledging contributions over a 3-year period to fund capital projections. The funds have allowed us to renovate the Sanctuary, Pilgrim Hall and much of our infrastructure, as well as replace the 100-year-old tile roof.

Looking forward, we need to upgrade an aging HVAC system, evaluate skylight repairs/removals, and have the organ cleaned/refurbished. A full organ cleaning has never been done since it was installed in the late 80s—a significant undertaking and cost estimated at \$72K as 3,300 pipes have to be removed, cleaned, reset, and then tuned. As of May 2024, the remaining capital funds of \$213K will not cover the anticipated expenses through 2030. This means our Congregation will need to discuss a plan to fund the next several years of capital improvements. Outlined below is the total spend to date and updated projections through 2030.

KEY FOR EXPENSES

Original Reserve Est. = OR

Completed = COM

Needs Research = RES

New / Revised Item = REV

Prior to 2018-19 Fiscal Year

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

2018-19 Fiscal Year

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

Pilgrim Hall Renovation: 2019-2020

580,000	COM
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Sanctuary Restoration: 2019-2020

Restoration of Sanctuary, Narthex, Stairwells, Equipment	250,000	COM
Sanctuary: audio visual	225,000	COM
Total	475,000	

2019-2020 Fiscal Year

Payback endowment loan	25,000	COM
Furniture: public areas	5,300	COM
Convert Temple Of Light to 4 season room	15,000	COM
Digital HVAC control systems	1,500	COM
Exterior masonry and tuckpointing including chimney	18,000	COM
Acoustical ceiling tiles - first floor restrooms - professionally installed	750	COM
Asphalt pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,600	OR
Replace refrigerator	2,500	COM
Computer / security equipment	3,343	COM
Total	74,993	

Building Capital Fund Update — continued

Building Capital Fund — Updated Projection May 2024

2020-2021 Fiscal Year

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

Youth Room Renovation: 2020-2021

37,000	REV
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2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Payback endowment loan	23,463	COM
Attic Air Handler and HVAC - Stage 4	42,181	COM
Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	12,832	COM
Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs	1,500	REV
Exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes	7,150	OR
Boiler circulating pumps	3,378	COM
Organ vault asbestos and fire sprinklers	8,108	COM
Elevator Control System	43,057	COM
Fence post replacements	1,614	COM
Computer equipment	-	COM
Interior Painting	-	COM
Total	143,283	

Total Through 2021-2022	1,893,336
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2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Fence replacement	7,858	COM
Floor coverings, carpet in back offices	12,832	COM
Signage for exterior doors	800	
Exterior- Temple of Light fascia repair	10,550	COM
Security / phone system replacement	9,250	COM
Water heater	14,700	COM
Kitchen equipment- exhaust fan/hood, dishwasher booster heater	10,050	COM
Computer / security equipment	3,000	REV
Total	69,040	

2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Small & tower roofs	123,705	COM
Sanctuary roof-new clay tiles, underlayment	282,700	COM
Temple of Light roof- new clay tiles, underlayment	233,240	COM
Tile roof contingency	51,594	COM
Roofing credits	(25,360)	
Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	-	COM
Computer / security equipment	3,000	COM
Total	673,302	

Total Through 2023-2024	2,635,678
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Remaining Capital Campaign Funds as of 5/23/2024 is \$213,000
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Building Capital Fund Update — continued

Building Capital Fund — Updated Projection May 2024

Remaining Capital Campaign Funds as of 5/23/2024 is \$213,000

2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Replace second floor attic air handlers and HVAC	60,000	REV
South windows, wood frames	13,824	OR
Skylights	46,933	OR
Furniture: Tables	4,000	REV
Gutters and downspouts, copper	15,800	REV
Computer / security equipment	3,000	REV
Total	143,557	

2025-2026 Fiscal Year

Boilers, building heat	124,595	OR
Rooftop air intake unit for boilers	15,000	REV
Tuckpointing exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes	38,129	OR
Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs-Bell tower	64,742	OR
Floor Coverings, tile, common areas	9,398	OR
Computer / security system	3,000	REV
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	10,000	REV
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed	16,835	REV
Stained glass window maintenance	10,000	REV
Total	291,699	

2026-2027 Fiscal Year

Organ restoration, electrical and enhancement	71,791	OR
Life Safety System, Emergency Devices	30,000	REV
Kitchen equipment and appliances	30,000	REV
Kitchen equipment- cooktops	15,000	REV
Replace north parking lot fence	4,000	REV
Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,673	OR
Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	60,000	REV
Computer / security equipment	3,000	REV
Furniture: Public Areas	4,000	REV
Rest Rooms, single stall	4,000	OR
Total	225,464	

2028-2029 Fiscal Year

Rest Rooms, multiple stalls, renovations	66,569	OR
Light Fixtures, sanctuary, refurbishment	12,710	OR
Light fixtures, can and pendant, atrium and chapel	6,424	OR
Light fixtures, sanctuary, narthex and stairs, dome	3,115	OR
Kitchen cabinets, counters, renovations	39,206	OR
Floor coverings, common areas	102,225	OR
Computer / security equipment	3,000	REV
Total	233,249	

2029-2030 Fiscal Year

Rest Rooms, single stall	4,000	OR
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	10,000	REV
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed	16,835	REV
Computer / security equipment	3,000	REV
Floor coverings	104,905	OR
Total	138,740	

Five-Year Projected Total 2024-2030	1,032,709	
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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.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GLEN ELLYN

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