



First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn



MINISTRIES

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

WELCOME TO FCCGE

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CHURCH

At First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, 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.

Please take a copy home!

Welcome!

We're glad you're here. The following pages contain many opportunities to participate in our community in a variety of ways—serving the homeless, making new friends, cooking, working with kids, and even cultivating the arts, to name just a few. Those of us who share our time in the service of our church have been richly rewarded with the joy and warmth we feel from doing God's work. We hope you will share in our ministry, and share in the joy we feel from serving others and being more connected with our church family.

Our Connections Committee is ready to help you find the ministry that's right for you. Contact the church office (630-469-3096) for more information.

What is God calling *you* to do?

**No matter who,
No matter what,
No matter where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.**

Mission Statements

Mission Statement

We are a community of Christian Discipleship that is grounded in God centered in worship, called to serve fortified by justice, sustained by peace, and free to dream.

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

- We support just peace in the Community—so that all may live free from fear *(for example, we support gun reform, immigrant rights and shelter, LGBTQ rights and activism, inter-faith partnership, racial and gender equality)*.
- We support just peace in the Marketplace—so that all may live with dignity *(for example, we support food, housing, employment access and opportunity for all)*.
- We support just peace among the Nations—so that human lives are protected *(for example, we support analysis of our military's unjust practices, as well as their best practices; we support alternative forms of peace and conflict resolution before the rush to warfare where service members' and civilian lives are at risk)*.
- We support just peace with the Earth—so that life is sustained *(for example, we support nuclear disarmament and climate concern awareness; we challenge drone warfare)*.

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Worship

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am

Holiday services:	Christmas Pageant	Christmas Eve
	Ash Wednesday	Maundy Thursday
	Good Friday	

Our Sunday and special holiday season worship services, along with some Celebrations of Life, are always available online on the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn YouTube channel. The services may be viewed live or any time after the service. *If you'd like to receive Sunday morning emails, and our Thursday noon E-Newsletter, email info@fccge.org and request it.*

Nursery

Nursery care is available for infants—toddlers during worship and congregational meetings.

Rites of the Church

Baptisms

Conducted in the context of a worship service. A meeting with clergy must be arranged prior to the baptism. *Contact the church office (469-3096 ext. 14) for information and available dates.*

Communion

1st Sunday of every month and other special services.

Confirmation

In May, during worship.

Membership (Newcomers Information Sessions)

Find out who we are, what we believe and how to get connected with FCCGE. *See the church website (fccge.org) or contact the church office (630-469-3096 ext. 14) for more information.*

Funerals/Memorials

Contact the church office (630-469-3096 ext. 10) for arrangements.

Weddings

Several meetings with the officiating minister must be arranged prior to the wedding. *Contact the church office (630-469-3096 ext. 10) for information and available dates.*

Church Office

You may contact church office at any time by calling 630-469-3096, or visiting the church's website: fccge.org.

Office hours are: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Staff

	<i>Name</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
<u>Pastoral staff</u>		
Senior Minister	Seth Carey	seth@fccge.org
Associate Minister	Kyle Roggenbuck	kyle@fccge.org
<u>Communications</u>		
Director of Communications	Sherry Flugel	sherry@fccge.org
<u>Education</u>		
Director of Christian Education	Catherine Curtis	catherine@fccge.org
Youth Education Coordinator	Cathy Basso	cathy@fccge.org
Director of Youth Ministry	Tanner Spears	tanner@fccge.org
Nursery Care Coordinator	Ellison Priebe	
Nursery Care Coordinator	Amy Zita	
Nursery Care Coordinator	Bobby Zita	
Nursery Care Coordinator	Maggie Zita	
<u>Music</u>		
Director of Music Ministry	Michele Hecht	michele@fccge.org
Associate for Music Ministry	Jeff Haeger	jeff@fccge.org
Organist	Shu-Hui Janet Tsai	janet@fccge.org
Hand Bell Director	Matthew Prins	matthew@fccge.org
<u>Office</u>		
Business Administrator	Michelle Jones	mjones@fccge.org
Administrative Assistant	Joyce Driver	joyce@fccge.org
<u>Property & Grounds</u>		
Facilities Manager	Wojciech Gracz	tersusinc@gmail.com
Sexton	José Beltran	

Committee Structure

Church Council

Our congregation is governed by an elected Church Council, which is comprised of our Moderators, Treasurers, Clergy, Clerk, and the chairpersons of our four elected committees.

The Staff-Directed Ministries aligned with the Church Council are the Worship Ministry and the Education Ministry.

Worship Ministry includes:

Flower Ministry	Ushers
Music Ministry	Visual Arts Ministry
Music Makers Ministry	Worship Leaders
Name Tag Ministry	Wedding Coordinators
Tech Ministry	

Education Ministry includes:

Church School	Nursery
Youth Fellowships	<i>Our Whole Lives</i>
Adult Education	Church Weekend Away
Library	

Council & Committee Schedule:

Moderators and Clergy	Monday before Church Council
Church Council	3 rd Thursday
Committee Meetings	4 th Tuesday

Council & Committee Members for 2024-25 Fiscal Year

Church Council:

<i>Moderator</i> , Rich Troyer	richtroyer@gmail.com
<i>Moderator Designate</i> , Jesse White	jesse.white@yahoo.com
<i>Assistant Moderator</i> , Cathy Christoff	cchristoff@sbcglobal.net
<i>Treasurer</i> , Jason Savitt	j.t.savitt@gmail.com
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> , Tim Keeley	tkeeley1212@gmail.com
<i>Clerk</i> , Sandy Butt	sandy@firecracker.com

Connections Committee:

Term Exp.

2026	Jennifer Sellers	squirrelster@hotmail.com
2026	Tom Petrich	illininitom@aol.com
2026	Tanner Spears	tanner@fccge.org
2026	Sara Waterloo	sarawaterloo344@hotmail.com
2027	Jo Ann Ginger	joannginger1@aol.com
2027	Melinda Mahr	melindamahr@yahoo.com

Finance Committee:

Term Exp.

2025	Whit Brooks, <i>Chair</i>	wbrooks1982@gmail.com
2026	Jason Savitt,, <i>Treasurer</i>	j.t.savitt@gmail.com
2027	Tim Keeley, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	tkeeley1212@gmail.com
2025	Dave Mook, <i>Endowment Chair</i>	davem160@gmail.com

Property & Grounds Committee:

Term Exp.

2025	Mike Sorensen, <i>Chair</i>	michael.a.sorensen@gmail.com
2025	Mike Artrip	drmartrip@comcast.net
2025	Mike Zita	mzman111@yahoo.com
2026	Tom Rausch	trausch222@sbcglobal.net
2027	Rick Hall	hallrick54@gmail.com
	Wojciech Gracz, <i>Facilities Manager</i>	tersusinc@gmail.com

Service and Justice Committee:

Term Exp.

2025	Maria Metz, <i>Chair</i>	mariatmetz@outlook.com
2026	Catherine LaChapelle	catherine@hifrontier.com
2026	Andy Livingston	andy.livingston@me.com
2026	Alice Stuhlmacher	astuhlma@depaul.edu

Connections Committee

The Connections Committee will enhance the spiritual life of the congregation by fostering a culture of engagement. It is responsible for enhancing the community experience at our Church by creating an inclusive environment, communications to foster involvement, and the coordination of membership integration.

Groups, ministries & activities aligned with the Connections Committee are:

Community Groups	Men's Lunch
Growing Families Ministry	Progressive Dinner
Kitchen Chix Ministry	Women's Retreat
Open & Affirming Ministry	Ladies in the Loop

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee provides financial oversight to build and preserve resources necessary for church missions and ministries, both short-term and long-term. The team manages the process to develop the annual operating budget, then reports and monitors adherence to budget on a monthly basis. They support and guide the Business Administrator and the church on financial and accounting process and create policies to protect organizational assets.

The Endowment Team oversees and manages our long-term endowment. They establish investment policies to guide portfolio management. They work to encourage membership to participate in long-term support of our congregation through investment in our endowment.

Property & Grounds Committee

The Property & Grounds Committee inspects and oversees the condition of the building and grounds through repair and preventive maintenance activities. They negotiate contracts for administrative and maintenance services. This team directs and manages a multi-decade capital plan and the related improvement projects, including specifications, contractors, bidding, contracts and oversight. They collaborate with our Facilities Manager on project plans/execution and supervision of our Sexton.

The Garden Ministry is aligned with the Property & Grounds Committee.

Service & Justice Committee

The Service & Justice Committee oversees our funding and activities related to a wide range of ministries that deliver services and integrate with external organizations seeking to deliver service and justice in our community and world. They maintain and build on current relationships, identify and establish new opportunities and integrate these into the church calendar. They help us focus on key issues like homelessness, affordable housing, mental health and feeding our community.

Groups, ministries & activities aligned with the Service and Justice Committee are:

Bridge Communities	Onward House Christmas Gifts
DuPage United	PADS (Public Aid to Deliver Shelter)
Environmental Ministry	Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Glen House Food Pantry	Rebuilding Together Ministry
Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry	Stephen Ministry
Ministry of Meals	Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center
Garden Works Project	Mental Health
Ukraine Relief	Gilead Chicago

A Community of Learning Staff-Directed Ministries

Christian Education for Children & Youth

Guests are always welcome; please register infants, children and youth who will be participating in nursery care, Church School, Youth Fellowships, and any children or youth ministries for each program year. Register online at fccge.org/youth.

For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).

Nursery

Infants and Toddlers (*Sundays, during worship, year-round*)

Church School Classes (*Program Year: late August through May*)

Sunday Preschool (ages 3 & 4)

Preschool is in a loving, nurturing environment. Teachers are there to meet the parents, welcome each youngster and to help them feel secure in a new setting as a part of a faith community. Children learn the stories of our faith tradition followed by an activity and fellowship. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

Young Children & Worship (K—2nd Grade)

This worship and learning model provides the opportunity for children to *experience* God at the same time as *learning* about God through a sensory-motor style of Biblical storytelling. By providing the freedom and sacred time to respond to God via a variety of ways, children worship meaningfully together and are prepared to worship with the congregation and to tell the stories of God to others. Children begin worship with parents then meet leaders at the back of Sanctuary to go to class. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

“Lighting the Way” (3rd—5th Grade)

This program utilizes the workshop Rotation Model and emphasizes interactive and experiential learning. Children experience the same Bible story during a multi-week unit by visiting a different workshop each Sunday. The workshops include: Art, Drama & Puppets, Games, Computers, Film, Bible Exploration, and Cooking. Children begin worship with parents then meet leaders at the back of Sanctuary to go to class. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

Confirmation Years I & II (6th & 7th Grade)

The 6th and 7th graders are a part of our Confirmation process as the first and second years of a three-year program. The youth in this class will dig deeper into the Bible by discovering who wrote the Bible, understanding the time line of when it was written, and why different books were included or excluded. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fcgje.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Confirmation Year III (8th Grade)

In the third and final year of the three-year Confirmation program, our 8th graders will prepare for church membership by exploring the Christian story, learning about the United Church of Christ, and discerning what it means to follow Jesus. Each Confirmand is required to select a sponsor who will help them through the nine-month process. The Confirmation program requires a high commitment from class members, their families and their sponsor. Confirmands will also have several opportunities for relationship-building. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fcgje.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Junior High Retreat—*usually scheduled in the autumn.*

Senior High Retreat—*usually scheduled in the autumn.*

Church Weekend Away at Tower Hill

Individuals, couples and families stay in one of the lodges and enjoy swimming at a private beach, playing in the sand, climbing the dunes, star-gazing, and time with friends and fellowship. A weekend of fun at UCC Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fcgje.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

Our Whole Lives (*Lifespan Sexuality Education*)

Our Whole Lives offers children and youth a profound opportunity to deepen their faith and put their values into practice. The curriculum promotes sexual and emotional health in our communities and fosters meaningful dialogue between peers, partners, families, and friends.

Our Whole Lives is comprehensive sexuality education, which is about much more than just anatomy and health. It's about values, respect, emotions and justice too. It's about the sacred aspects of sexuality, which is part of the miracle of creation. This is why we teach *Our Whole Lives* in church—because sexuality is sacred, and sexuality education is ministry. We currently offer programming for Junior High youth and Senior High youth. Both are two-year programs that include one retreat each of the two years. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 ext. 23).*

Safe Sanctuary Policy

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, UCC takes seriously its responsibility to provide Christian education and fellowship for its members in a safe environment. In order to maintain a safe environment, our church has adopted a Safe Sanctuary policy to provide adequate supervision of all children and youth activities. Our teachers and volunteers receive training on safe procedures when serving children and youth and have agreed to follow guidelines that make our church a safe sanctuary for all children, youth, and adults engaged in our programs. *You may find the policy online for review at fccge.org.*

Library

Faith & Life Center

Located on the main floor off of the Lobby, the Faith & Life Center is open on Sunday mornings and weekdays during regular office hours.

It contains a wide selection of books for adults on subjects such as personal and family life, social issues, church leadership, devotional life, Bible studies, fiction and biographies. Many of these titles are not found within the public library system, although we do include bestsellers of spiritual and social justice nature. The children and youth sections contain a wide selection of books that address spiritual and moral formation with an emphasis on loving relationships and empathy towards others.

Special books are available that parents may check-out to read along with their children about difficult to discuss topics such as death and dying, divorce, drug and child abuse, aging and sexuality. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 ext. 23).*

Adult Education

For specific dates, times, further details, and upcoming series, see the church website (ccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's worship bulletin.

Church Book Club

Whether you are a casual reader or a serious book lover, this is your chance to gather monthly and share the love of stories and the ways they shape, inspire and inform us. We read all kinds of books, both fiction and non-fiction, mostly reader-suggested. We hope to see you there.

Digging Deeper: Adult Education

This year, we plan to have a dedicated Adult Education hour immediately following worship. Here we will dig deeper into various topics that affect our faith. Grab a cup of coffee after worship and meet us to learn, reflect and discuss.

A Community of Fellowship

Fellowships for Children & Youth

Fellowship Schedule (during the program year)

- 345 Fellowship (3rd, 4th & 5th Grades), select Sundays, 1:00 pm
- Junior High Fellowship (6th, 7th & 8th Grades), Sundays, 5:00 pm
- Senior High Fellowship (9th—12th Grades), Sundays, 6:30 pm

345 Fellowship (3rd, 4th & 5th Grades)

The 345 group has fun learning about their faith, through play and activities. We engage in open conversation to guide fundamental reflection and spiritual practices related to their age group. The youth participate in service opportunities to better our community both near and far. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Junior High Fellowship (6th, 7th & 8th Grades)

The Junior High group plays crazy games, reflects together about their faith, and learn about practices that will deepen their spiritual lives. They also go on fun outings and participate in meaningful service projects. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Senior High Fellowship (9th—12th Grades)

The Senior High group plays, discusses life, faith and things that really matter. They are encouraged to reflect, question, and share their opinions in a compassionate and caring space. It is a place to belong, no matter what you believe. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

For specific dates and times for any of the camps, retreats or special events, see the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin.

Mission Camp for Youth

Senior High Work Camp

This mission trip has a long tradition for the Senior High Youth, where we live into beloved community with one another and those we serve. Work campers have traveled to locations such as Trade, TN; St. Louis, MO; and Breathitt, KY to learn about the challenges and struggles facing communities, to work alongside community members and develop relationships, and to become advocates. It is a formational week for youth and chaperones. Fundraisers are held during the winter and spring to defray the cost. Scholarships are available. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Special Events & Activities for Children & Youth

See the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin for any updates or upcoming events, including specific dates and times.

Christmas Pageant (Grades Preschool-8):

Christmas Eve (10:00 am worship)

In December, children and youth volunteer for the pageant. There is one dress rehearsal during the day, so that the children are comfortable putting on this performance.. We invite interested folks to help tell the story of Jesus' birth, via the pageant, at our morning Family Christmas Eve service.

Staff Leads: Catherine Curtis and Cathy Basso. *Contact Catherine Curtis (catherine@fccge.org).*

4 Rehearsals: *See the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin for specific dates and times.*

Children's Baptism Sunday (infant—5th grade), late January during worship

4th Grade Bibles

Bible Pizza Party (6 pm) & Rehearsal (6:30 pm): Wednesday before event
Bible Presentation: Sunday, Mid-April (10:00 am worship)

Junior High Fall Retreat

The Junior High Fall Retreat is designed for our 6th, 7th and 8th grade Confirmands. Confirmands have time and space to get to know each other better and create relationships of trust that will enrich their confirmation journey. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Senior High Fall Retreat

The Senior Hall Fall Retreat is a chance for the senior high youth to get away, reflect, build community, pray and play together. This allows youth a chance to break out of the ordinary and experience the extraordinary power of God in the beauty of nature and relationships like no other. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Heifer Market

The mission of Heifer International is to end hunger and poverty, while caring for the earth. Heifer does this by providing appropriate livestock, training and related services to small-scale farmers and communities, both in the U.S. and worldwide. The children and youth (Preschool through 12th grade) work together to raise money for this organization by creating “wares” for the congregation to purchase after Sunday worship. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fcge.org, or 630-469-3096 ext. 23).*

Junior High & Senior High Holiday Party Lock-Ins

Annual Christmas celebration at the church for fellowship and fun. Come for some good old fashioned holiday fun! *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fcge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Vacation Bible School

This annual event is a hands-on intergenerational learning experience which is held almost completely out-of-doors in June from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. A theme is determined each year and planning begins during the winter months. Volunteers are crucial to make this a safe and impactful event.

College Ministry

Care Packages & Snail Mail

We have watched our young people grow into the incredible young adults that we have blessed and sent to school, some near and some far. Our love and care of these youth does not end with graduation. In this new stage of life let us remind these young people no matter where they go or what they face they are loved.

Ministry of Hospitality

Fellowship and Coffee/Tea after Sunday Worship

After every Worship service on Sunday mornings, Boy Scout Troop 41 prepares and serves coffee and tea in the Lobby. Enjoy conversation with fellow congregates, guests and pastors.

Kitchen Chix

Starting out as a couple of culinary cuties who helped out in the kitchen, this ministry has grown into the one and only five-star chef service requested for our church functions. They have cooked up delectable delights for Rally Day, the Confirmand/Sponsor dinner, appetizers for fundraisers, and more. They also provide crisis response receptions. *If you would like to join this group of gourmet gals, contact Mindy Post (m.post@ameritech.net or 630-858-1321)*

For specific dates and times for any of the special meals, see the church website (fcgc.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin.

Ladies in the Loop paused, but exploring creative options for connecting. This women's group is open to anyone working in Chicago (or anyone who would like to hop the train) to get together for lunch and lively conversation. A different venue is chosen each month. Annually, we celebrate the Christmas season with high tea at the Drake. *Contact Celia Rodee (celiarodee@gmail.com or 630-545-1854) to be added to the email list.*

Men's Lunch

The men of the church meet the first Wednesday every month. There is no planned program other than fellowship and good social conversation. The group varies in size from 15 to 20 with about half the group changing each month. *For more information, contact Norm Adams (260) 668-2673.*

Community Groups

Want to go deeper? Life is better in community. These committed groups strive for friendship, authenticity, and spiritual growth.

Here at FCCGE, we offer a wide range of community groups that cater to different spiritual needs, topics of interest, and stages of life. To learn more about these groups, contact the Connections Committee Chair.

OASIS

A connection group for the local LGBTQ community on issues of faith. Hosted by FCCGE, this group meets from 6:00-7:30 pm twice a month: the 1st Sunday (at church) and 3rd Sunday (via Zoom). *For more information, contact Deb Wenninger (wazbikwa@gmail.com).*

Sisters on a Sojourn (S.O.S.)

A women's discussion group that is open to women of any faith or church affiliation. We choose religious or spiritual books and discuss one chapter at each meeting. Members of the group volunteer to lead discussions. Meetings are on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, at 9:00—10:30 am, in the church Parlor, September through May. *For more information, or if you're interested in joining, contact Cindy Christensen (630-858-0038 or christensen.cindy1@gmail.com).*

Soul Sisters

Creating a safe space for women to be their authentic selves, share, laugh, be social, support one another and have lunch. Women need to prioritize themselves. This group's purpose is to form friendships with other women from discussing specific topics, outings, or just needed time away. Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at the church, after worship. *For more information, contact Pastor Kyle (kyle@fccge.org).*

Social Justice Group

A community for those who want to learn more about the systemic issues of injustice in our world, and who want to channel their passion towards progress and change. *For more information, contact Mary Lhotak (marylhotak@gmail.com)*

Saturday Play Group This group meets once a month, and is a wonderful way for parents and caregivers to meet each other and for children to make friends from church. This play group is an opportunity for families with young children, in kindergarten and younger, to meet and build relationships for the children as well as the adults in their lives. Older siblings are welcome to join play dates too, as an opportunity for them to have fun and to grow into their roles as mentors and nurturers, while building relationships with other adults in the congregation. *Check your Sunday bulletin, the church website or your weekly E-Newsletter for further details.*

Yoga

Community Yoga will be offered *every Tuesday evening at 5:30 pm (beginning mid-September)*. Class is structured around gentle movements, promoting a strong and flexible spine, ease in your joints, and steady balance. This class moves at a slower pace, features breath-centered movements, and allows for adaptations due to injury or sensitivity. *Contact Cathy Christoff with any questions (cchristoff@sbcglobal.net or 630-936-9146).*

Community Events

For specific dates and times for any of the special retreats or events, see the church website (fcge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's worship bulletin.

Progressive Dinner

An evening of fun begins with appetizers in one home, dinner in a second and dessert at a third as church adults come together for food, fun and fellowship. *This takes place on a Saturday in early November, at various locations. Contact Nicole Baedke (baedke@sbcglobal.net or 203-246-3885).*

Advent Festival

Join us for our annual family Advent Festival on the 1st Sunday of Advent! Come share the joy of the season with other church families and friends when we create holiday crafts and talk at the table. Bring your own sandwich and side dish to share. There will be a short service in the sanctuary afterwards when we'll sing carols of the season.

Euchre Night

Join us for our annual Euchre tournament (usually takes place in early March, off-site at member's home). Current and new players welcome for an evening of fun and friends. *Contact Nicole Baedke (baedke@sbcglobal.net or 203-246-3885).*

Ministry of Welcome

Newcomers Ministry

This ministry serves the congregation offering visitors a warm welcome and information through a one-hour session *Newcomers Information Session*, providing an overview of our faith community programs and membership. *Contact Clara Hughes (clara.marie.hughes@gmail.com) or Teresa Exner (teresahexner@gmail.com) if you have any questions or you are considering being a part of this ministry program.*

Open and Affirming Ministry

The purpose of the Open and Affirming Ministry is to keep the tenets of the O&A Statement before the congregation. To help educate members of the church on various issues brought forward in support of the O&A Statement, the following events were held: Ally Awareness, Transgender Day of Remembrance, the addition of All-Gender Restrooms in the church, addition of Pride Banners and the celebration of Pride Month. *Contact Chuck Lukavsky (cjlukavsky@yahoo.com) with questions or for further information.*

A Community of Music

See the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin for any updates or upcoming events.

Adult Choir (Grade 9 through adult)

The FCCGE Choir sings a variety of musical styles and performs in worship on a regular basis. Co-directed by Michele Hecht and Jeff Haeger. Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org). Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm.

Handbell Choir (Grade 6 through adult)

The ability to read music is very helpful, but ringing experience is not a pre-requisite. Directed by Matthew Prins. Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org). Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:30 pm.

Soloists/Instrumentalists

Soloists and ensembles are invited to share their talents during Sunday morning worship services. On special occasions, we invite players to participate in a large ensemble. Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org).

Taizé Ensemble

Experienced instrumentalists are invited to play in a small ensemble on Communion Sundays (usually once a month). We use the prayerful and repetitive music from the Taizé community of France. Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org)

Recorder Ensemble

The Recorder Ensemble is a group of adult musicians who play recorders of all sizes and perform many styles of music. The group meets on an occasional basis. Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org).

Music for Children and Youth

Kids' Spring Sing (Grades K-3rd): mid-April (during worship)

Directed by Sherry Flugel, Lora Ilhardt. Contact Sherry Flugel (sberry@fccge.org).
3 Rehearsals: See the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin for any updates or upcoming events, including specific dates and times.

High School Musicians are invited to join the adult choir and handbell choir and perform as soloists or in small groups.
Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fccge.org).

A Community of Service

Bridge Communities

FCCGE sponsors and mentors a homeless family to enable them to become self-sufficient within a two year program. We have supported several families in a transitional housing apartment through *Bridge Communities*. Mentors meet with the family once a week to provide advice, encouragement, and support toward their ultimate goal of financial independence. Mentors are always needed. *For more information, contact Leslie Dodge (Leslie@LAinbox.com or 630- 248-4335).*

DuPage United

First Congregational Church is a member of *DuPage United*, a non-partisan group of faith-based and non-profit institutions. We learn and employ organizing principles to build public relationships and act together to create sustainable change that will improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. *DuPage United* is part of a regional network and affiliated nationally with *Industrial Areas Foundation*, the oldest and largest network of community organizations throughout the U.S., England, Germany, Australia, and Canada. *For more information contact Clara Hughes (clara.marie.hughes@gmail.com) or Roger Hughes (hughes1234@ameritech.net).*

Green Team (formerly the Environmental Ministry Team)

This ministry is dedicated to environmental issues within our church, the wider community and the world. Not only does this team provide information, but it acts on ways to be good stewards of the environment through education, recycling, energy efficiency and fellowship. *For more information, contact Tom Rausch (trausch222@sbcglobal.net) or Nancy Bell (nbra6ge@sbcglobal.net).*

Garden Ministry

This ministry creates, plants, and maintains the flower beds and other landscaping around the church. Hosting workdays to clean-up the beds and lay new mulch, and coordinating the watering crews are examples of the work that this ministry performs to create a more welcoming landscape to our church grounds. The Garden Ministry and the Green Team ministry work closely together to provide sustainable and environmentally friendly gardens. We strive to be good stewards of the portion of God's creation in our care. *For more information, contact Nancy Bell (nbra6ge@sbcglobal.net) or Dean Fischer (DFischer@wmp.com).*

Glen House Food Pantry

The Glen House Food Pantry provides essential groceries and support to neighbors at risk of hunger through a collaboration of local churches and the broader community. The Pantry is dedicated to “making hunger history” for neighbors who live, work, or go to school in DuPage County. The Pantry was founded in 1979, has a Platinum rating on Candid (formerly GuideStar), and is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, 100 percent privately funded through grants and donations. The Pantry serves individuals and families from 12 DuPage communities. FCCGE is one of the founding churches and continues to be a gracious supporter. FCCGE food drives are held in June and September. Volunteers are welcome at the Pantry. *Contact Andy Ginger (andyginger1@aol.com or 630-272-6304).*

Onward House Christmas Gifts

Every Christmas, those from our congregation who participate, choose names and buy gifts for the needy children or seniors of *Onward House* (an outreach facility on the west side of Chicago that provides *Head Start* programs, preschool, day care, after school tutoring and social clubs, senior programs, a food bank, and clothing depot for those at and just above the poverty level). Participants bring the gifts to the church and volunteers deliver them to *Onward House*. *For more information, contact Marge Kovatch (mvg661@aol.com or 630-858-7135).*

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)

PADS is a DuPage County initiative to address homelessness. For over 35 years, FCCGE has been a leader in delivering shelter and meals for homeless families. Recent developments have led to that shelter being delivered in a central location, after years of housing in churches like FCCGE. Expanded goals include housing and feeding these families and connecting them to case management and services to address the underlying causes of their homelessness. We are gradually shifting our volunteer activities to this new model.

You may contact DuPage PADS directly (601 W. Liberty Dr., Wheaton 60187): 630-682-3846, dupagepads.org/contact or dupagepads.org/solutions/volunteer.

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR)

PBMR started in 2000 when a few friends – priests of the *Missionaries of the Precious Blood* together with sisters from various *Precious Blood* communities associated with the *Precious Blood Leadership Conference*– sat down and shared their stories of ministry, of the suffering they had witnessed and experienced, and of their work for reconciliation. They shared stories of many years of jail ministry, of community renewal, of inner city parish work, of retreat ministry for reconciliation. Out of those shared experiences was born the dream of the *Ministry of Reconciliation* – what would it look like to have a ministry whose purpose was to work for healing and reconciliation in the midst of the violence and alienation of our world? *Contact Mary Beth Sackett (mbsackett@gmail.com) with questions or for further information.*

Rebuilding Together (last Saturday in April)

This ministry is open to enthusiastic people who enjoy helping others and working with tools. These handy people gather for one Saturday in April for an all-day building blitz on a pre-selected home in the Chicagoland area. Projects have included: replacing porch stairs and stair railings, painting, replacing kitchen cabinets, countertops, and bathroom light fixtures. *For more information, contact Krysl Kling (kryskling@gmail.com).*

Walk-In Ministry

The *Walk-In Ministry* is a coordinated effort of 16 Glen Ellyn area churches to provide a single source of assistance to individuals and families in need. Volunteers work in pairs, Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, to distribute food certificates, sandwich vouchers, gasoline vouchers, rental/utility assistance, transportation, car repair, lodging and medications to Glen Ellyn residents, members of Glen Ellyn churches and DuPage PADS members in good standing. *This ministry is located at 1st United Methodist Church (424 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn; 630-469-2862).*

Boy Scout Troop 41

FCCGE has proudly sponsored this long-standing troop for many years. Weekly troop and parent committee meetings are held in Pilgrim Hall. The annual Troop Pancake Breakfast held here brings many into the church for support and a hearty breakfast. With much appreciation on both parts, there have been many upgrades and fixes to the church by Scouts working for their Eagle Scout rank. The troop continues to be available for service projects. *If you would like further information, please contact DJ LaChapelle (dj@bjfrontier.com).*

A Community of Caring

Ministry of Meals

The *Ministry of Meals* provide meals to church members during times of illness or crisis. In this ministry, shepherds coordinate and schedule meal delivery through many volunteer cooks. The present roster includes 77 cooks and 6 shepherds, but new people are always welcome. *For more information, contact Jenny Fischer (jennyjfischer@gmail.com or 630-858-0518).*

Stephen Ministry

The *Stephen Ministry* is a well-regarded and long established program in which lay people are trained in the basics of pastoral care giving and commissioned to journey alongside those in the congregation who are going through a difficult transition. It might be the loss of a job, or a loved one. It might be the birth of a child, or a farewell to one's children as they leave home for the first time. It could be a divorce, or even a marriage. *Stephen Ministry* is not therapy, nor is it a brand of professional counseling. Rather, it is faith-centered care giving, a pastoral relationship offered to those who may need more regular and ongoing care than our pastors can provide. *If you think that you, or someone you love, might benefit from a relationship with a Stephen Minister—or if you are interested in being trained as a Stephen Minister—contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).*

Intern Support Ministry

The role of the Intern Support Ministry is to develop relationships with both the Seminary and Summer Intern programs. They meet with the interns throughout the year to help integrate them into the activities of the church and gain feedback on how to improve our programs and activities. *For more information, contact Karen Pulver (k.k.pulver@gmail.com or 630-247-4454).*

Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (CDPCC)

FCCGE is an affiliate church for the *CDPCC*, a non-profit organization that provides affordable, professional, pastoral counseling services to the public in an ecumenical setting. If a church member is recommended to *CDPCC* by one of our staff or clergy, then that person is eligible for a sliding-scale discount on services. *CDPCC is located at 507 Thornhill Dr., Carol Stream IL 60188; phone 630-752-9750.*

A Community of Worship

Flower Ministry

This ministry conducts a sign-up throughout the year for families or individuals to sponsor altar flowers for the Sanctuary for Sunday worship. Flower bouquets can be picked up by the families after worship. *To schedule flowers, e-mail Susan Dudish-Poulsen (doctor.mom.51999@gmail.com).*

Ushers

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet members and visitors of the church. Our Ushers greet congregants, distribute bulletins, pass the offering plates, and assist with other worship service-related processes. They also answer questions and direct visitors and members alike. *For information and training, contact Jennifer Lindstrom (jenmlindstrom@gmail.com).*

Music Makers Ministry

This new ministry supports the music staff and finds new ways to help the music ministry grow. *Contact Michele Hecht (michele@scge.org).*

Worship Leadership

This ministry provides lay leaders to read scripture during worship. Training is provided. *If you feel comfortable in front of a gathering of people and would like to participate during worship, contact Missy Carlson (k-mcarlson@sbcglobal.net).*

Tech Ministry

This ministry supports Sunday worship services with lighting, sound, and video production including recording the services. As a member of the team, you learn about: microphone selection, microphone placement and balancing, mixing live recordings of the service, burning and ripping CDs, videotaping and editing, in addition to experiencing a great worship service. The skill required is the desire to contribute to the church and an interest in how sound, lighting and video work. *For more information, contact Lisa Crank (lzcrank@aol.com or 630-665-8862).*

Visual Arts Ministry

The mission of this ministry is to enhance the worship experience through visual arts. Work consists of installations and curated exhibitions consisting of fine art, banners, and other materials displayed in the sanctuary, the “gallery” (the hallway between the sanctuary and the Welcome center), and sometimes other areas around the church. The goal is to reinforce sermon series messages and bring to life themes consistent with the Liturgical Calendar. No experience necessary. *If you'd like to join, or have questions, contact Deb Giampoli at (debgiampoli@gmail.com or 630-697-2941).*

Wedding Coordinators

We are looking for a second coordinator, who would be assigned to every wedding, to assist and advise the bride and groom with all the arrangements relating to the church. They attend the rehearsal and wedding ceremony to make sure that the wedding runs smoothly and to ensure the church's integrity. *If interested, contact the Church Office (ext. 10).*

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn
United Church of Christ

535 Forest Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630-469-3096

fccge.org

