



First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn
United Church of Christ

535 Forest Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630-469-3096

fccge.org



Welcome to FCCGE Ministries Fiscal Year 2026-2027 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.

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.

Join Our E-Mail List and receive our weekly e-newsletter with all the news and happenings at FCCGE! *Contact our Director of Communications (sberry@fccge.org).*

Visual Arts Ministry

The mission of this ministry is to enhance the worship experience through visual arts. We curate and install external Christian-themed fine art exhibitions for the “gallery” (the hallway between the sanctuary and the Welcome center), we create and install our own exhibitions or those created by Church School and other groups, and we create and install banners and other decorations in the Sanctuary in celebration of Liturgical seasons and special events. The goal is to reinforce sermon series messages and bring to life events and themes consistent with the Liturgical Calendar. No experience or special talent is necessary. *If you have questions or would like to join this ministry, contact Deb Giampoli via email at debgiampoli@gmail.com or by phone at (630) 697-2941. We'd love to hear from you!*

Wedding Coordinators

Do you want to help a Bride and Groom have a memorable wedding day? Please join the Wedding Coordinator Team. You will work with a seasoned coordinator in helping the couple with all church related arrangements. You will attend the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony to ensure everything runs smoothly. No experience necessary. *If interested, contact the church office at 630-469-3096 ext. 14 or laurap@fccge.org.*

A Community of Worship

Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry coordinates floral arrangement donations for worship. You can donate flowers in memory of a loved one, as a celebration of anything, or as a prayer for something on your soul - it's up to you, and it couldn't be easier. Simply email Susan Dudish-Poulsen, tell her what Sunday you'd like to give, and she will take care of the rest. Your flowers can be taken home after the service, or donated to remain at church. You can pay through our Tithely link. Look for "Flowers-Altar" in the drop-down menu. You can also send a check to FCC with "Flowers-Altar" in the memo line. (535 Forest Ave. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137) *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 Ted Harman (theodore.harman5@gmail.com).*

Music Makers Ministry

This ministry supports the music staff and helps the music ministry grow and flourish. *Contact Michele Hecht (michele@fcge.org).*

Worship Leadership

This ministry provides lay leaders to read scripture during worship. Training is provided as needed. *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 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, videotaping and livestreaming 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 and video work. *For more information, contact Lisa Crank (lzcrank@aol.com or 630-234-2024).*

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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A Community of Caring

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 contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).*

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.*

Racial Justice Ministry

This group is committed to forming new relationships with other groups of color in our area, educating ourselves and the congregation on these issues, and finding ways we can get involved in the community in meaningful ways to promote racial justice, and work against racial injustice in all its forms. This year they will be sponsoring a once-a-month dinner and film-based discussion event called Sacred Ground. *For more information, contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).*

Open and Affirming Ministry

The Open and Affirming Ministry continues to search for more and better ways to make FCCGE welcoming and relevant for all. We hold events to share inclusive resources with members of the congregation. This past year we hosted our Pride Brunch featuring an LGBTQ+ celebration and a game exploring famous LGBTQ+ figures throughout history, welcomed a guest speaker from NAMI for Mental Health Awareness month and established an ongoing relationship of support with the organization, helped organize Transgender Day of Remembrance and Transgender Day of Visibility services in partnership with eight other area faith communities including Jewish and Islamic congregations, and celebrated the launch of a "Longest Day" service for Alzheimer's awareness — a program we hope to expand with our Interfaith partners in the year ahead. We meet the third Sunday of the month in the All-Purpose Room after worship. *Contact Dorothy Powers (dorothy@a4te.net) with questions or for further information.*

Onward House Christmas Gifts Appeal

Every year members of FCCGE have an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for the needy children served by Onward House, an outreach facility located in the Belmont Cragin region of Chicago. Onward House provides services for people who are living below the poverty level. These include early childhood education, school age programs, adult education, English language classes, computer classes, citizenship classes, a food bank, and a clothing closet. They have also partnered with community health to provide health care for those without insurance.

At Christmastime, Onward House provides FCCGE with children’s names. Our members choose a child’s name, buy and wrap the gifts they purchase, bring them to the church and they are delivered to Onward House in time for the Christmas parties. *For more information, contact Marge Kovatch (630-858-7135).*

Computer Ministry

Do you consider yourself a “techie” or do you just like working with computers? We are seeking passionate and talented people of all skill levels to help solicit equipment donations, re-build and repair used PCs and laptops, and then deploy to community non-profit organizations and outreach centers within FCCGE’s community. If you have a passion for helping those in need while leaning into your inner techie, come join us! *For more information or to donate your computer equipment, contact Mike DeFlorio (630-913-2694 or mdeflorio@live.com).*

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 deliver through many volunteer cooks. The present roster includes 74 cooks and 4 shepherds, but new people are always welcome. *For more information, contact Jenny Fisher (jennyfischer@gmail.com or 630-981-7631).*

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

Green Team

This ministry is rooted in the belief that caring for God's creations is a sacred responsibility. By dedicating resources and active stewardship toward pressing and relevant environmental issues, they strive to make positive change within our church, the wider community and the world. The team extends their efforts through timely education, fellowship, recycling efforts, energy efficiency initiatives, and the Eden Project, a member sustained food growing program dedicated to supporting the needs of local food pantries. *For more information, contact Tom Rausch trausch222@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).*

Church Work Days

These happen twice a year, when a group of people who fix, paint, repair and assemble - small jobs in classrooms, offices, and other spaces around the church, to care for our building. If you have a special skill you'd like to share or *for more information, contact Mike Sorenson (michael.a.sorensen@gmail.com).*

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 Randy Briasco (randybriasco@gmail.com)*

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 Tom Drouin tomdrouin@gmail.com or Kathleen Drouin at kathleendrouin@batmail.com.*

DuPage United

First Congregational Church is a member of *DuPage United*, a broad-based community organizing group of faith-based and non-profit institutions. We learn and use organizing principles to develop public relationships that build our civic power. We act together on specific justice issues that strengthen our institutions and the lives of people in our local communities. *DuPage United* is part of a regional network affiliated nationally with *Industrial Areas Foundation*, the oldest and largest network of broad-based community organizations throughout the U.S., England, Germany, Australia, and Canada. *To learn more, contact Clara Hughes (clara.marie.hughes@gmail.com), Andy Livingston (andy.livingston@me.com), Laura Peccarelli (laura.pecc65@gmail.com) or Katie Lindberg (Katie.lindberg@yahoo.com).*

CREO DuPage

CREO is a beautiful Spanish word that means “I believe.” As an acronym, it stands for “Comunidades Realizando Estudiantes extraOrdinarios,” which translates to “communities creating extraordinary students.” CREO DuPage is a pre-college program that matches first-generation college-bound students from Spanish-speaking families with volunteers who help them accomplish academic and career goals during weekly virtual meetings. CREO provides activities, training, and ongoing support. *To learn more, visit the website: creodupage.org/volunteer. For details on the coaching/mentoring experience, contact FCCGE’s liaison, Maria Metz (MariaTMetz@outlook.com or 630-200-2222).*

World Relief Chicagoland

World Relief seeks to partner with local churches to welcome newcomers displaced by natural disasters, violence, and other crises and connect them with the vital services and community support they need to rebuild their lives and thrive in the United States. Support involves helping 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. Volunteers can choose from various roles, serving as a friendship partner, providing transportation from the airport or to appointments, setting up apartments for newly arriving families, tutoring, serving as a health advocate, and more. Over the years, FCCGE members have fulfilled various volunteer roles with World Relief. *For more information, contact Julia Kling (julia.kling@gmail.com).*

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Worship

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am

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

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. 14) for arrangements.

Weddings

Several meetings with the officiating minister must be arranged prior to the wedding. *Contact the church office (630-469-3096 ext. 14) for information.*

A Community of Service

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 any one of our quartet of Kitchen Chix leads: Laura Carey (lecarey19@gmail.com or 630-207-9553), Maggie Fredricks (maggie.fredricks@yahoo.com or 630-561-5560) Mindy Post (m.post@ameritech.net or 630-858-1321), or Celia Rodee (celiarodee@gmail.com or 630-564-1854). For specific dates and times for any of the special meals, see the church website (fccge.org), the weekly E-newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin.*

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% privately funded through grants and donations. The Pantry serves individuals and families from 12 DuPage communities through 20 programs. FCCGE is one of the founding churches and continues to be an active supporter. Donations of food or funds are welcome any time. FCCGE food drives are held several times a year. FCCGE volunteers are welcome at the Pantry. *Contact Andy Ginger (andyginger1@aol.com or 630-272-6304).*

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-Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon*, to distribute food certificates, sandwich vouchers, gasoline vouchers, utility assistance, car repair, 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; 630-469-3510).*

Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC)

For over 25 years, GECRC students have been supported academically and socially by dedicated volunteer tutors, GECRC staff, and local community partners. GECRC provides after-school tutoring and mentoring for children in grades K-8. Students are offered enrichment activities on Fridays, and a six-week summer program. *For more information, visit their website (gecr.com).*

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. *Directed by Michele Hecht*. (michele@fccge.org). Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:00.

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* (matthen@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 prayer 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

Angel Choir (4-years - 1st grade):

This group will sing once in worship in the spring. Directed by Sherry Flugel and Lora Ilhardt. . Two Rehearsals: See the church website(fccge.org), the weekly E-Newsletter, or Sunday's bulletin for updates regarding specific dates and times. *Contact Sherry Flugel* (sherry@fccge.org).

Joyful Noise Choir (2nd - 5th grade):

This group will sing once in worship in the spring. Two 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. *Directed by Beth Rosch*, (bruinbessie@aol.com).

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)

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

Pastoral staff

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Senior Minister	Seth Carey	seth@fccge.org
Associate Minister	Kyle Roggenbuck	kyle@fccge.org

Communications

Director of Communications	Sherry Flugel	sherry@fccge.org
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Education

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	Maggie Zita	
Nursery Care Coordinator	Polly Cooper	

Music

Director of Music Ministry	Michele Hecht	michele@fccge.org
Associate for Music Ministry	Jeff Haeger	jeff@fccge.org
Organist	She-Hui Janet Tsai	janet@fccge.org
Hand Bell Director	Matthew Prins	matthew@fccge.org

Office

Business Administrator	Michelle Jones	mjones@fccge.org
Administrative Assistant	Laura Peccarelli	laurap@fccge.org

Property & Grounds

Sexton	José Beltran
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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	Confirmation
Youth Fellowships	<i>Our Whole Lives</i>
Adult Education	Nursery
Library	Vacation Bible School
All Church Weekend Away	

Council & Committee Schedule:

Moderators and Clergy	2 nd Wednesday of the Month
Council	3 rd Thursday
Committee Meetings	Varies by Committee

Council & Committee Members for 2026-27 Fiscal Year

Church Council:

<i>Moderator</i> , Jesse White	jesse.white@yahoo.com
<i>Moderator Designate</i> , Dorothy Powers	dorothy@a4te.net
<i>Assistant Moderator</i> , Tom Petrich	illinitom@aol.com
<i>Treasurer</i> , Tim Keeley	tjkeeley1212@gmail.com
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> , Jason Savitt	j.t.savitt@gmail.com
<i>Clerk</i> , Carol Nunkovich	cnunkovich@comcast.net

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.*

30's-40's Small Group

Couples in their 30s and 40s to meet monthly (in someone's home or at church) for a time of fellowship, learning, and relating. *For information or to be included in the e-mails contact Whit Brooks wbrooks1982@gmail.com or 847-687-1961.*

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, Jo Ann Ginger, joannginger1@aol.com.

Book Group

Whether you are a casual reader or a serious book lover, this is your chance to gather *monthly at 7:00 pm*, 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. *For more information, contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).*

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, at a member's home, September through May.* *For more information, or if you're interested in joining, contact Cindy Christensen(christensen.cindy1@gmail.com).*

Small Groups

Want to get to know folks in our church on a deeper level? Interested in spending time with others who want to get to know you better? In an effort to create opportunities for those who want to connect and support one another, several groups are ongoing and welcome to newcomers *(and invite your ideas to create new groups):*

- Couples in their 30s and 40s to meet monthly *(in someone's home or at church)* for a time of fellowship, learning, and relating;
- Senior Drop-In—meet with your friends or bring a new friend to forge new relationships

For more information, or to suggest a new group, contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).

Bible Study

This group will meet twice-monthly on the second and fourth Mondays of the month (with a few exceptions) at 7pm in the All-Purpose Room. This year Pastor Seth or Pastor Kyle will choose a topic and together we will explore what the Bible may (or may not) say about those issues. *For more information, contact Rev. Kyle Roggenbuck (kyle@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 11).*

Connections Committee:

Term Exp.

2027	Jo Ann Ginger, <i>Chair</i>	joannginger1@aol.com
2028	Jen Ikens	jennifer_ikens@yahoo.com
2028	Sally Fairbank	Sallyfairbank@gmail.com
2028	Becky Gadowski	rjh2828@yahoo.com
2029	Chris & Mary Bass*	cbass683@gmail.com
2029	Katie Keeley	katiekeeley@yahoo.com
2029	Christine McMinn	christine.m.mcminn@gmail.com
2029	Brandi Wilson	

* *Sharing Duties*

Finance Committee:

Term Exp.

2027	Whit Brooks, <i>Chair</i>	wbrooks1982@gmail.com
2027	Tim Keeley, <i>Treasurer</i>	tjkeeley1212@gmail.com
2027	Jason Savitt, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	j.t.savitt@gmail.com
2027	Dave Mook, <i>Endowment Chair</i>	davem160@gmail.com

Property & Grounds Committee:

Term Exp.

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

Service and Justice Committee:

Term Exp.

2027	Catherine LaChapelle, <i>Chair</i>	catherine@hifrontier.com
2027	Andy Livingston	andy.livingston@me.com
2027	Alice Stuhlmacher	astuhlma@depaul.edu
2027	Mike DeFlorio	mdeflorio@live.com
2029	Jennifer Larrabee	jennifer.larrabee@outlook.com
2029	Tom Fate	tomfate8@gmail.com

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
Progressive Dinner	Kitchen Chix Ministry
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.

Euchre Night

Join us for our annual Euchre tournament (*usually takes place in late February, off-site at member's home*) . Current and new players welcome for an evening of fun and friends. *For further information contact JoAnn Ginger (joannginger1@aol.com).*

Holiday High Tea at the Drake-Ladies in the Loop Originally started as a group of women who worked downtown to occasionally meet up for lunch, at a minimum we still meet up annually, to celebrate the Christmas season with high tea at the Drake. This is open to anyone who would like to get together for tea and lively conversation. The sporadic lunch gatherings are also publicized in the FCCGE weekly E-blast *Contact Celia Rodee (celiarodee@gmail.com or 630-545-1854) to be added to the email list.*

Church Weekend Away at Tower Hill

One of the best intergenerational activities of the year! Individuals, couples and families stay in one of the lodges and enjoy swimming at a private Lake Michigan beach, swimming, playing in the sand, climbing the dunes, taking nature walks, star-gazing, spending time with friends and making new ones at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI. The weekend concludes with a Sunday morning worship service under a canopy of trees. Typically, the third weekend of July. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 ext. 23)*

A Community of Friendship

Fellowship and Coffee/Tea after Sunday Worship

After every Worship service on Sunday mornings coffee and tea is served in the Lobby. Enjoy conversation with fellow congregates, guests and pastors. *If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Jeff Basso (JJBasso@outlook.com).*

Heart to Heart Are you interested in forming deeper relationships with others from church and enhancing your sense of community and belonging? Would you like to participate in a small group and have connecting conversations? If so, *this adult group meets on the 4th Sundays, following worship.* You will be invited to share aspects of the service that were moving and inspiring to you. If this speaks to you, please join us! *If you have any questions, contact Teresa Exner (teresabexner@gmail.com or (630-478-1747) or Chuck Lindberg chucklindberg9@comcast.net*

Noon Prayer

Need a mid-week lift or time to reflect? *Every Wednesday we meet on ZOOM from Noon-12:20 pm*, for brief prayer time. Join us to listen and pray, silently or with your voice. Camera on/camera off—we just want you there. Hosted by clergy. You will find the link at the bottom of our weekly E-newsletter, under the Quick Link section and also on fccge.org under Resources>Member Resources.

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 5 to 10 with about half the group changing each month. *For more information, contact Norm Adams (260) 668-2673.*

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 (nicbaedke@gmail.com or 203-246-3885).*

Advent Festival

Join us for our annual all-ages Advent Festival on a Sunday at the beginning 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 over a simple meal and hot chocolate.

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:

Glen House Food Pantry
Children's Resource Center
DuPage United
DuPage PADS (Public Aid to Deliver Shelter)
Green Team Ministry
Onward House Christmas Gifts
Stephen Ministry
Open & Affirming Ministry

Walk-In Ministry Glen Ellyn
Bridge Communities
CREO
Computer Ministry
Rebuilding Together
Ministry of Meals
World Relief

A Community of Learning

Christian Education for Children & Youth

Guests are always welcome; please register infants, children and youth who will be participating in nursery care, Church School, Confirmation, Youth Fellowships, and any children or youth ministries for each program year. The program year is mid-August through the end of April. Summer programming is May through mid-August. Register online at: fccge.org/Ministries school registration link. *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) Nursery care is available for infants—toddlers during worship services and congregational meetings.

Church School Classes (Program Year: mid-August through beginning of May)

Sunday Preschool (ages 3, 4 & pre- K 5-year-old)-Sunday Mornings

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—1st Grade)-Sunday Mornings

This worship and learning model provide 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 where they are picked up after worship except for Communion Sundays when they return to worship for Communion. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

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.*

Special Events, Retreats, Lock-Ins

Various special events are held each year. This may be a canoe trip to experience the extraordinary power of God in the beauty of nature. We may visit a camp that puts on their own curated retreat or develop one of our own. There may be a regional or national youth event to attend. We may just have a lock-in at the church for some special holiday fun. Sometimes a youth may have a service project idea that they want to materialize or a particular cause to support. *For more information on current special events or to submit an idea, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

Senior High Work Camp (Summer, usually early June)

This mission trip is a long-standing tradition. Work campers have traveled to locations such as Trade, TN; St. Louis, MO; Clay, WV; and Breathitt, KY. In a community living setting, we work beside each other and those we serve to learn from them, to develop relationships, and to become advocates. We usually serve through an organization like the Appalachia Service Project or Urban Mission Experience. It is a formational week for youth and chaperones as they put their faith into action. Fundraisers are held during the year 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).*

Library

Located on the main floor off of the Lobby, the Church Library 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, empathy toward others, inclusion and diversity.

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).*

“Lighting the Way” (2nd—5th Grade) – Sunday Mornings

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 and Bible Exploration. Children begin worship with parents then meet leaders at the back of Sanctuary to go to class where they are picked up after worship except for Communion Sundays when they return to worship for Communion. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 23).*

Confirmation Years I, II, & III

The 6th and 7th graders are a part of our Confirmation process as the first and second years of a three-year program. During the first two years, youth will have a foundation of the Bible, learn about world religions, and the stories of the Old Testament. In addition, they will cover different types of myths (beginning of the world, birth of good/evil, and the end of the world) and compare them to other culture’s stories.

In the third and final year of the three-year Confirmation program, youth 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 have a sponsor, do service work, and go on a faith visit to another house of worship. The Confirmation program requires commitment, but is spread out over multiple years. *For more information, contact Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

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. Depending on the level of interest each program year, we offer programming for K-2nd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, and 10th-12th grades. *For more information, contact Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education (catherine@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 ext. 23) or Tanner Spears, Director of Youth Ministry (tanner@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 28).*

A Community of Fellowship

Fellowships for Children & Youth

345 Fellowship (3rd, 4th & 5th Grades)-*select Sundays, during worship*

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).*

VOYAGE Youth (6th-12th graders)-*Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm*

Is a welcoming, inclusive, co-creating community of 6th-12th graders fostering relationships with God, each other, ourselves, and the world. The group meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm to share food, fun, and fellowship. Each night consists of a topic, activity, and small groups based on age. They meet at both FCCGE and St. Mark's on alternating weeks. *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.

Special Events & Activities for Children & Youth

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

Christmas Pageant (Grades Kindergarten-12th), usually the Sunday before Christmas Eve (10:00 am worship)

In December, children may participate as pageant "players" or sound effects team members, while middle and high school youth and adults volunteer in a variety of roles including costuming, face-painting, set decoration and more. There is a rehearsal, typically the morning before the pageant, and another immediately before the pageant, 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. Staff Leads: Catherine Curtis and Cathy Basso.

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

4th Grade Bibles

Each spring our congregation celebrates the on-going faith journey of our children by gifting our fourth-grade students with their own Bible during a Sunday worship service. This celebration includes a Wednesday evening pizza Party for the fourth graders, their families and children in 3rd & 5th grade. It is followed by a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary and ending the evening with games for the whole family.

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@fccge.org, or 630-469-3096 x23).*

Vacation Bible School

This annual event is a hands-on intergenerational learning experience and fellowship, which is held the 3rd or 4th week in June from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon. A theme is determined in each year and planning begins during the winter months. Volunteers are crucial to make this a safe and impactful event.