

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LA GRANGE

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

S. LA GRANGE RD AT COSSITT AVE
100 S SIXTH AVENUE
LA GRANGE, IL

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

mainoffice@FCCLG.org
www.FCCLG.org
708.352.0800

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

We acknowledge that First Congregational Church of La Grange sits on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral homelands of Native peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Indigenous peoples who have been caretakers of the land for thousands of years, into the present day.

**Signifies Please stand as you are able.*

BLESSED

God is with us, even when we do not understand how or why. God continues to bless us to be a blessing to all Creation. Like Jacob, we are on an ongoing journey of grasping God's presence. Like the psalmist, we can celebrate how God knows us. With Paul and Jesus, we give thanks for our place in God's family.

PRELUDE:

Variations on Unser Herrscher

arr. Robert J. Powell

AnnLaura Tapia, organ

WELCOME

Nancy Coleman

***GATHERING WORDS**

Nancy Coleman

Here in this space, heaven and Earth touch.

Here in this place, the gateway to grace is wide open.

Here the people of God come to worship and God enfolds us close in a welcoming embrace.

"I am with you," God declares.

We repeat God's welcome in this community of grace,

I am with you.

Let us worship.

***GATHERING SONG:**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer;
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be;
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



O how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
to my heart O en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

***GATHERING PRAYER** (*unison*)

Nancy Coleman

Help us to listen to the groans in our midst, O God:

creation's groans of labor pains,

our neighbor's groans of loneliness,

the groans that we bring, with trepidation and awe.

We come bringing the yearnings that are on our hearts this day.

Draw us into your waiting presence where we can learn how to wait as you wait:

eagerly,

hopefully,

joyfully,

for our holiness to grow and our chaff to be burned away in the brilliant fire of the Spirit.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 28:10–19a

Nancy Coleman

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway^[a] set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the Lord stood beside him^[b] and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed^[c] in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel,^[d] but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

WORD FOR ALL AGES

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

Rev. Carly Stucklen Sather

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Give Me Jesus

arr. Lloyd Larson

Amanda Murphy, Noah Gartner and AnnLaura Tapia

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus,
You may have all this world, but give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Just about the break of day, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, but give me Jesus.

O, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, but give me Jesus.

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER*(unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Nancy Coleman

OFFERTORY

O God, You Search Me Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell
Amanda Murphy, Noah Gartner and AnnLaura Tapia

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
And with love everlasting you besiege me:
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
You have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
Still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,
Gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Coleman

***SONG:**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS



1 Go, my chil- dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil- dren, fed and nour- ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep- ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv- ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis- mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow- er filled you, here with ten - der com- fort stilled you;



Go, my chil- dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil- dren, fed and nour- ished, joy - ful and free.

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE:

Tocatta in G Major

Pachelbel

THANK YOU TO:

Usher: Lawrence Bain
Reader Leader: Nancy Coleman
Coffee Hour: Jean O'Brien
Laundry Hero: Laurie Braun
Audio/Video: John Hoo & Lisa Obeng

CREDITS:

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Scriptural Notes:

- a. . Or ramp
- b. . Or stood above it
- c. . Or shall bless themselves
- d. . That is, house of God

This Week in Our Church

Sunday	7/23	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room
Monday	7/24	6:30 p.m.	AA	Drawing Room
Friday	7/28	9:00 a.m.	OA	Drawing Room
Saturday	7/29	10:00 a.m.	Reception for Christine Moe service	Founders' Room
		10:30 a.m.	Saturday Meals Program	Dining Room
		11:00 a.m.	Celebration of Life: Christine Moe	Sanctuary
Sunday	7/30	10:00 a.m.	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary/online
		11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Founders' Room
		7:00 p.m.	OA	Drawing Room

Announcements

WACKY WALKERS MEET TODAY AT 1 PM AT MAPLE GROVE FOREST PRESERVE

(1602 MAPLE AVE. IN DOWNERS GROVE)

Heading west on Maple, the entrance is just before the baseball field. Drive to the very end of the parking lot to meet the group. You are invited to come walk or simply join in fellowship afterwards at the Palmers' house. If you are not walking but would like to meet at the Palmers' house, please let Petra know you will attend so you can be contacted when the group finishes walking (630-272-9135, or email hentzel91@comcast.net).

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION – LAST WEEK TO DONATE!

We are more than halfway there! Thank you to all who have given generously for the LeaderShop's back to school fair, which provides school supplies to local children. To date, you have donated 101 marker sets and 146 wide-ruled spiral notebooks. This meets our goal for markers (hooray!); 104 spiral notebooks are still needed to meet our goal of 250. Collection bins are at the Cossitt and 6th Avenue entrances, and a bin is also available for 24/7 dropoff on Laurie Braun's porch, at 115 6th Ave. The last day to donate is July 31.

CHURCH NURSERY CLOSED TODAY, JULY 23RD & JULY 30TH

The nursery will be closed today and Sunday, July 30th. Nursery care resumes on Sunday, August 13th (there will be no worship service at the church on August 6th).

FUN FOR ALL AGES: MESSY CHURCH RETURNS JULY 30TH!

We welcome back Messy Church with the theme *Our Community*: Mustard Seed Faith. Messy Church celebrates exploration and sacred play for all ages during the worship service. We need volunteers to facilitate the table activities (supplies and instructions will be provided). Please contact Carly or Adrienne if you are interested. Prior experience with Messy Church is not necessary.

ALL-AGES CHOIR FOR MESSY CHURCH

Singers of all ages are invited to join their voices on 7/30! Rehearsal will be in the sanctuary.

High-School age and up: 9:15 am

Grade-school age: 9:30 am

Please let Ryan know that you and/or your children would like to participate.

AN INVITATION: WEST SUBURBAN SUMMER READ 2023

The FCCLG Missions Team invites you to join in the West Suburban Summer Read! We have been invited to join a community of other local faith communities and non-profit organizations in reading a book this summer and hosting or join a book discussion in September. This summer's book selection is [See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love](#), by Valarie Kaur. Once the book discussions have been scheduled, we'll share the dates and locations, which will be open to all the organizations participating in the Summer Reader. This initiative is sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Racial Equity Team and the CommUNITY Diversity Group of La Grange Area.

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE INTERFAITH SERVICE AT GORDON PARK ON AUGUST 6TH

There will be no worship service held at the church on Sunday, August 6th. We encourage you to attend the interfaith worship service at 10:30 am at Gordon Park (by the bandstand). Volunteers are needed to arrive 20 minutes early to set up chairs and to remain after the service to help put the chairs away. Please let Carly know if you're available. This service is sponsored by the Ministerial Association.

FCCLG BOOK CLUB MEETS TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Our selected book is *A Psalm for the Wild-Built: Monk & Robot, Book 1* by Becky Chambers. Named as one of the best Science Fiction books of 2021, this story is said to "soothe your weary soul." Chambers' series asks: In a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?" Please email Kathy Donaldson (kathygdonaldson@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation or with questions.

CHURCH BUDGET CATCH UP

We encourage those who have pledged to continue submitting your pledges online and by check. To date, our pledged giving is significantly under budget, and we are having some challenges maintaining our current expenses. We appreciate your continued support as we work to return things to normal.

HOW TO SHARE ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH THE CHURCH

The deadline for all announcements is Wednesday at noon.

Announcements for the bulletin can be sent to Adrienne at mainoffice@fcclg.org.

Announcements for the upcoming *Telling Tuesday* can be sent to Ariel at events@fcclg.org.

Prayer Requests

- For the family of Christine Moe, who died on July 13th.
- Linda Lauterbach, for strength and healing.
- Jim Palansky, who is home from the hospital following treatment for cancer.
- Kent Llewelyn, who is recovering at home.
- The BEDS Clients who have lost their housing due to lack of funding.
- Our volunteers, who give generously of their gifts, abilities, and time.

First Congregational Church of La Grange

Ministers	www.fcclg.org	All of Us
Pastor	Carly@fcclg.org	Rev. Carly Stucklen Sather
Music Director	Ryan@fcclg.org	Ryan Cox
Organist	AnnLaura@fcclg.org	AnnLaura Tapia
Nursery Attendant		Morgan Sander
Office Administrator	MainOffice@fcclg.org	Rev. Adrienne Stricker
Communication, Events & Building Coordinator	Events@fcclg.org	Ariel Walton
Volunteer Coordinator	VolunteerCoordinator@fcclg.org	Stephanie Johnston
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Video Editor/Producer		TBA