

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Western Springs*

1106 Chestnut Street, Western Springs, Illinois 60558 † 708/246-1900



GATHERINGS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

JUNE 13, 2016

One night a father overheard

his son pray, "Dear God,

make me the kind of man my

Daddy is."



Later that night, the father

prayed, "Dear God, make me

the kind of man my son wants

me to be."

Anonymous

COMING UP IN SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30AM

SUNDAY, JUNE 19:

Meredith will preach and church member, Rob Kos, will offer a personal Father's Day reflection. Liza Shorrock will serve as our Youth Reader.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26:

Katherine Willis Pershey will preach, and Kate Miklosz will serve as our Youth Reader. Following worship, Katherine will lead a discussion on Jim Wallis' book, *America's Original Sin*. (Childcare will be available for readers with young kids.)

SUNDAY, JULY 3:

Our Ministry & Mission Summer Intern, Caroline Dost, will conclude her month-long internship by preaching on July 3. (A Youth Reader is needed for this Sunday. If your child would like to read a prayer or scripture passage in worship, please contact Jeannette Lloyd at Jeannette@wscongo.org or ext. 212.)

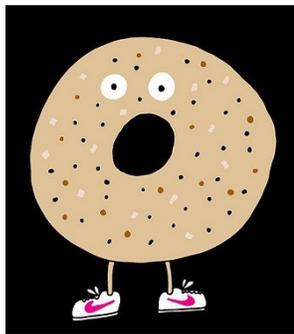
SUNDAY, JULY 10:

Meredith will preach and Natalie Halm will serve as our Youth Reader.

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Vanderbilt Divinity Library provides daily readings, which expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion by providing daily citations for the full three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary. These readings complement the Sunday and festival readings: Thursday through Saturday readings help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead; Monday through Wednesday readings help the reader reflect on and digest what they heard in worship. You can also find the readings by looking for the "DAILY" link on the Sunday and festival scripture text pages at the link below; it is in the box on the right hand side of the screen.

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>



Many thanks to the folks listed below who picked up our Bagel Bite order throughout the year and brought it to church:

- Melissa Bingham
- Cindy Blum
- Tara Bulger
- Zada & Brian Clarke
- Marcy Dusza
- Katie & Tim Eavenson
- Joann & Chuck Everett
- Amy Faison
- Julie Jarabeck
- Melinda Kaiser
- Erin McNaughton
- Lori Mitchell
- Jenny Morgan
- Joan Norton
- Debbie Pfafflin
- Katie Pogue
- Tina & Dave Rounds
- Pamm & Ray Zomchek

Coffee hour throughout the summer months is hosted by committee members as well as families and individual members. Hosts are still needed for the following Sundays:

- August 7
- September 4

If you'd like to host on one of these Sundays, please contact Linda Conlin at ext. 216 or linda@wscongo.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUMMER BOOK GROUP. The first of three summer book discussions is coming up on June 26, when Katherine Willis Pershey will facilitate a discussion on Jim Wallis' book, *America's Original Sin*.

The other two books, also about justice, faith and racism, include *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (July 24), and *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (August 21).

The hour-long discussions will take place following worship and will include free childcare. The location of the discussions (outside or in the Seim Room) will be announced in worship each morning.

TAI CHI CLASS will be led by Joan Norton the next few weeks, but will not meet on July 5.

ADULT MISSION/WORK EXPERIENCE.

Plans are underway for an adult work trip to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi from October 2-7. Rich Kirchherr says, "Don't worry if you are not a skilled worker, there is landscaping, painting and scraping — as well as more challenging projects for those so inclined." Back Bay Mission is about a 90-minute drive from the New Orleans airport, so if travelers can't make the full week, perhaps an abbreviated trip is doable.

Not only would this be an opportunity to serve God by helping others, but it is likely to be a wonderful fellowship experience as well. Folks who are interested should let our trip organizers know — Mike Thiessen (mike.chicago@gmail.com) and Gary Doten (doten7@gmail.com).

FAITH IN ACTION

NIGHT OWLS NEEDED FOR SHELTER

SHIFTS. Thanks to those who have already signed up to help host clients of BEDS Plus this summer during the week of July 3-9. The hardest slot to fill has, not surprisingly, been the third shift — from 3-7am, which involves supervising the overnight shift, serving breakfast and closing up for the day.

Probe your heart and see if you have what it takes to love and serve your neighbor in the middle of the night. See more details and/or sign up to volunteer under Latest News on our website. (If you are unable to help July 3-9, you are welcome to help at another shelter location that better accommodates your schedule.)

FIRST CONGO MISSION PARTNER

BACK ON MY FEET is looking for volunteers for its Glo Run on July 16. Details are online under Mission & Outreach Volunteer Opportunities. (First Congo is proud to support the work of Back on My Feet, a non-profit-organization that seeks to revolutionize the way our society approaches homelessness.)

BRIEFLY

SUGGESTIONS FOR A FUN AND FAITHFUL SUMMER.

During First Steps on June 5, Pastor Katherine gave the kids a list of "fun and faithful" summer activities. Teaching Sunday school could be a fun and faithful addition to a family's summer plans.

Adults and high schoolers are invited to participate in a fun and faithful way by teaching one class this summer. There are still several dates open. Lessons are easy to follow and require minimal preparation. Teaching Sunday school is a great way to meet children of our church and share God's love. Hope Sabbagha can tell you more about it or help you sign up. Email her at hope@wscongo.org or call her at ext. 215.

HELP PREVENT THE SUMMER SLUMP.

Everything seems to quiet down here over the summer, including giving. If you can, please remember to keep your pledge up-to-date.

take
note



More calendar items:

July 17	Family-friendly Labyrinth Walk (10:30am)
August 15	Ministry Team & Church Council Meetings (7 & 8:30pm)
August 21	Back-to-School Blessing & Commissioning of Hope Sabbagha (9:30 worship) and Final Book Discussion (10:45)
August 28	Celebration Sunday (Party on the lawn after 9:30 worship)
October 29	First Congo Day of Service (Serve. Worship. Together.)

WOMAN'S SOCIETY GIFTS. Woman's Society recently made four large charitable donations, following the receipt of \$35,000 in generous bequests from the estates of two beloved Woman's Society members. The bequests were distributed as follows:

- \$10,000 to Big Rig Books (a mobile library operating in the greater Chicago area and Ft. Myers, Florida, from which children in low-income schools can choose a book to take home);
- \$10,000 to the BEDS Plus Permanent Supportive Housing project in LaGrange;
- \$10,000 to the Automotive Mentoring Group (a Bedford Park-based organization in which at-risk Chicago youth are trained in auto restoration and mentored to resist gangs);
- \$5,000 to Reclaim 13/Cherish House (a west suburban long-term residential counseling facility and safe house for juvenile females who have been rescued from sexual slavery or exploitation).

Contact Karen Hendrick, Budget Chair, for more information on any of these charities.

My goodness. You all certainly know how to make a person feel loved and valued!

My retirement service and celebration was incredible, from start to finish. It was such a joy to hear the voices of our children's and adult choirs, as well as that of the congregation singing my favorite hymns. What a remarkable feeling to have the loving hands of the children upon me while I joined the company of those confirmed at First Congo and in possession of a one-of-a-kind silver cross.

That wonderful service alone would have sufficed, but to my amazement there was more - oh so much more! My favorite foods. My favorite Bible story tellers - vegetables of all ages that sing! A beautiful needlepoint representation of our church's cross and my favorite Bible verse.

The 10 commandments, commissioned in my honor to hang in the hallway outside our third floor classrooms. A collection of your words and drawings (and cards!) that lifts me off my feet every time I look at them. A most generous monetary gift to send Vic and I on future adventures. And a punster's dream come true - enough puns to elicit groans heard throughout Western Springs that day!

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. What a remarkable church family. Your care for each other and for our God is so evident. It has truly been an honor and a gift to have served with you and for you.

— Jan Fraccaro

PASTORAL STAFF

Rich Kirchherr
Senior Minister

Katherine Willis Pershey
Associate Minister

Meredith Onion
Associate Minister

Deb Stankiewicz
Parish Nurse

Gatherings is a biweekly publication of the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Articles for inclusion should be submitted to Meg Heinz at gatherings@wscongo.org.

Gatherings is emailed to members and posted on-line at www.wscongo.org.

BITS & PIECES

IN OUR PRAYERS. Please hold in your prayers this week: **Avery Denning**, undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma; **Donna Nichols**, undergoing additional treatment for ovarian cancer; and for **all of the people affected by the Orlando tragedy**.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING. **Preschool teacher Patti Mink** recently returned home from the hospital!

CONGRATULATIONS to **Tom and Nancy Conforti** for receiving Pillars Gift of Time Award. Here's what Pillars had say, "For over 12 years they (Tom and Nancy) have been valued volunteers for Buddy's Place and for even longer they have been supporters of Pillars (CFS). They are more than willing to give of their time and talents to Buddy's Place and journey with those attending the program. They are always willing to help when needed and even call to extend an extra bit of time to help."

STRAIGHT FROM HEAVEN.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to **Danielle (Pastwa) and Dan Weston** on the recent birth of their daughter, Emerson Rose.

NEW HOME FOR THE BEILMANS. Ted and Judy Beilman moved recently to Sarasota, Florida. We will miss them greatly and wish them much happiness in their new home at: 239 Cosmopolitan Court, Sarasota, FL 34236.

WEDDING BELLS. Congratulations and best wishes to **Judy Adams and Paul Arndt**, who were married on May 21.

Submission deadline for the
next *Gatherings*:
5PM ON FRIDAY, JULY 8.
[GATHERINGS@WSCONGO.ORG](mailto:gatherings@wscongo.org)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, May 1, we had the joy and privilege of welcoming the following people into our family of faith. Please help extend a warm welcome to them when you meet them face-to-face. (The next New Member group will convene in September. Linda Conlin has the details: linda@wscongo.org.)

Eva, Max and Mitchell Campbell are joining Eva's brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Anita, and Max and Mitchell's cousins, Alex and Owen Pusateri, here at First Congo. Eva grew up in Illinois but moved out east shortly after college, to begin her career as a political campaign consultant. Max and Mitchell were born and raised on the east coast and have "the audacity to claim east coast pizza is better than Chicago's." Max just finished his sophomore year at LT, where he played on the Varsity Golf Team for two years and went to state as an individual player last fall, tying for 26th in the state. Mitchell just graduated from LaGrange Highlands and will be attending Nazareth Academy next year, where he looks forward to playing football (mom hopes as a kicker) and running track. After 25+ years as a campaign consultant, Eva now serves as a trainer and lecturer teaching candidates and operatives how to run successful political campaigns and perfect their public speaking and communication skills. She also works as a local Real Estate Broker. Sponsors: Larry, Anita, Alex & Owen Pusateri

Nick and Molly Kepler met on a blind date in 2009 and were married in May of 2011. They moved to Western Springs from Chicago in 2014. From Sterling, IL, Molly is a dietician and stay-at-home mom. She enjoys running (6 marathons including London & Berlin) and cooking. Nick is from Nebraska and is a corporate banker at Wells Fargo. He enjoys hiking, hunting, fly-fishing and is currently trying to get past the "embarrassing stage" on the golf course. They have two children, Annelise (3) and Nickolas (1). Annelise will be attending Kids Day Out and Preschool here next year and Molly will be joining our Preschool Committee. Sponsors: Rochelle and Jim Heinz

Thomas and Diane Collevecchio have lived in Brookfield for four years. Tom originally grew up in LaGrange, IL, attended LT, ISU and then DeVry University. Tom owns a Farmer's Insurance agency in LaGrange. Diane was born in southwestern Pennsylvania, but spent the majority of her childhood in Herrin, a small town in southern Illinois. Dianne graduated college from the Illinois Institute of Art with a focus in Interior Design. She works in the commercial office furniture industry and is employed with Allsteel as a Regional Sales Manager covering the Midwest market. Their five-year-old son, Thomas, is looking forward to first grade next at Brook Park. He is an avid sports fan and an inspiring basketball player. Together, the family loves hanging out with their families, traveling or just hanging out in the backyard. Tom enjoys grilling and smoking meat, and Diane loves running and yoga, both practicing and teaching in her spare time. Sponsors: Clare Kralovec, Susan & John Kienzle

Jennifer Kierscht lives in Darien and grew up on the Southwest side of Chicago. She is mom to three-month-old Leah. Jennifer is the Day Program Enrichment Manager at Park Lawn, an agency that provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has also worked part time at SEASPAR for many years, supervising and providing support during recreational programs for individuals with disabilities. She enjoys traveling, reading, yoga, and spending time outdoors, walking, running and biking. She has attended church here for some time with her husband, Charlie, a long-time member. She was attracted to the church because of "its warmth and vitality, community and the church's strong commitment to outreach and social justice." Sponsor: Charlie Kierscht

Molly and Bill Dvorak moved two years ago from the city to Field Park and love it. They have four children: Will, age eight; Olivia, age seven; August, age three; and Charlotte, who is seven months old. Molly is from Cleveland, Ohio, and Bill is from Westmont, IL. Bill is an architect who now works in real estate development in Chicago. He enjoys golf, cycling and wood working. Molly does interior design and enjoys working with clients to help them with home renovations as well as interiors. She also enjoys running, gardening, and painting. As a family, they enjoy traveling and are scheduled to go to western New York to visit Molly's family and to Italy in the fall with Bill's family. Sponsors: Sarah & Jay Finnane

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carrie and Mike Christensen moved to Western Springs from Chicago in 2012. Their children are Alice (6), Audrey (3), and Mark (1 in July). Carrie worked in IT consulting and then HR staffing for 12 years, and now stays busy at home with their three kids. Mike works in technology, and is lucky in that he can work from home when not traveling to his office in Scottsdale. Audrey attended preschool at First Congo, and Alice is a rising first grader at Field Park Elementary School. Carrie is joining our Preschool Committee, and Alice is anxious to join our children's choir. Sponsors: Chris & Chrissie Cox

Rachel Shaw Callahan and Bill Callahan moved from downtown Chicago to Western Springs in August 2011. Bill grew up in Evergreen Park and attended Western Illinois University. Rachel grew up in Saginaw, MI and attended Michigan State University. Rachel is the People Operations Leader at Crowe Horwath, and Bill is the Director of Project Operations at R.W. Collins. They love to downhill ski with their kids, Trip (age 6) and Lux (age 4). Rachel has been involved in Moms In Faith here at church for three years and is very involved in the community. Sponsors: Lynne & Jay Barnes

Bill and Jen Soncini are both graduates of Indiana University. Bill grew up in Philadelphia and now works in sales for a business valuation company. Jen grew up in Indiana and previously worked in finance before staying home with their three children: Cora (4), Dominic (3) and Tillie (9 months). They moved to Western Springs from the city three years ago and currently live in Field Park. The family enjoys camping and hiking and hopes to camp at some of Bill and Jen's favorite places in Utah, Colorado, and California once the kids get older. Sponsor: Mike McNeily