

# 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

OCTOBER 31, 2016

### 8AM SUNDAY MORNING GATHERINGS

#### *renew*

Join us as we come together at 8am in the Chapel to slow down, get quiet and reflect on dimensions of spiritual health. Our Christian Ventures Committee invites you to attend as your schedule allows for 45 minutes of renewal through wisdom and silence....

#### **November 6**

Love: the love that surrounds us and the love within us.

Curated by Marv Baldwin.

#### **November 20:**

Gratitude: for special occasions or incorporated into everyday life?

Curated by Mark Laubacher.

Additional dates in this series include:

- Dec 18, A Christmas Reflection
- January 8, Mindfulness
- January 22, Who is my neighbor?

...

*These gatherings were developed as a result of the Strategic Vision process in response to the desire to "create new avenues to explore and deepen our spirituality together."*

## COMING UP THIS MEMORIAL SUNDAY, NOV 6 COMMUNION & LABYRINTH WALK

At 9:00 and 10:30, Rich will preach a Communion reflection entitled *Bread. Together*. At both services, we will share Communion and read the names and toll the bell for each of our members who has died over the past year. At 10:30, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmands will not have class on Sunday morning, but a small group of confirmands and their parents will prepare and serve a meal for the clients of Chicago's Night Ministry. (See details to the left regarding a new 8am offering from our Christian Ventures Committee.)

After both services, one and all are invited to the All Saints Day Labyrinth Walk, which is suitable for all walkers, not just those who have lost a loved one. If you have lost a loved one, you may choose to walk in memory of that person or simply come and sit in the quiet of Plymouth Hall. Walkers may place a flower onto our Memorial Cross and or may choose to walk directly into the center of the labyrinth to reflect upon their loss and then directly out of the labyrinth. Those walking in memory of a loved one are invited to place photos or personal items of their loved one on our Memorial Table.

PFers will have their Fall Retreat from Nov 4-6, so their regular Sunday evening class will be cancelled this week.

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY, NOV 13 STRING ENSEMBLE & ACE PROGRAM

At 9:00 and 10:30, Meredith will preach and musicians from the Western Springs School of Talent Education will share their musical gifts. Part 1 of a two-part new member class will be held at 10am in the Chapel. (See article on page two.) Our confirmands will have class at 10:15 in the Youth Room, and our Christian Ventures Committee will meet at 11:30 in the Kemper Library.

At 10:15 in the Seim Room, Dr. David Foxgrover will return to lead the second (but independent) Adult Christian Education (ACE) class on Critical Issues in Religion & Politics. All are welcome to come and discuss whether or not we can completely remove religion from politics. The group will consider — Is America the "chosen nation" of God? and Is "civil religion" a threat to Christianity (or to Islam)? PF will meet at 7pm in the Youth Room.

# SPEAKER SERIES



## LORI MARTIN NOV 5

**10AM:** A principal with Envision Benefits, Lori Martin is passionate about educating people about choices for healthcare and long term care planning. Her presentation, entitled Easy as ABC:

Medicare Basics & Trends for 2017, will be of interest to Medicare recipients as well as those caring for aging parents. Once you know the basics of Medicare, it's not too difficult to understand, and with Open Enrollment underway, it's important to know what changes are in store.

## BROMLEIGH MCCLEGGHAN

**NOV 18 9AM** Good Christian Sex: Reflecting on what's hot and holy. Bromleigh is the Associate Pastor at Hinsdale Union Church and a highly-acclaimed blogger and author. Her latest book will be the topic of discussion: Good Christian Sex.\* We may be unaccustomed to thinking about "good Christian sex." Good sex, sure. Christian sex? Maybe. But good, Christian sex? Not likely. Join us as we explore this unusual pairing, and ask questions about whether God cares about consent, whether Jesus is interested in mutual pleasure, and how the Holy Spirit might show up in your bedroom (or living room, or...). *Suggested donation \$5 for MIF guests*

Bromleigh will also have copies of her new book for sale and signing.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**PF FALL FRENZY** is coming to the Western Springs Village Club on Saturday night, November 12. The Fall Frenzy is our high school youth group's annual fundraising event, through which the profits help cover the costs of PF's annual mission trips; this year the group travels to Baton Rouge, LA to work with adults who have developmental and physical disabilities and also to Washington D.C. to work in soup kitchens and food pantries.

The \$50 entrance ticket will provide you with a night full of fun, live music by our Spirit Worship Band, food (catered by the Party Kart) and beverages! You can support the cause by attending the Frenzy and or by purchasing raffle tickets. See additional details on the event page under Latest News at [wscongo.org](http://wscongo.org).

**WOMAN'S SOCIETY.** Woman's Society will hold both its day and evening chapter meetings this Thursday, Nov 3. The group's General Meeting will take place at 12:30 in the Seim Room and will feature guest speakers from Reclaim 13 and the Automotive Mentoring Group. If you'd like to learn more or give this intergenerational Woman's Society a try, contact President Cynthia Kos at [cynbobty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynbobty@sbcglobal.net).

**THANKSGIVING SERVICES.** First Congo is happy to be hosting this year's ecumenical Thanksgiving eve service on Thursday, November 23 at 7pm in our Sanctuary. Christians from all denominations are invited to join us as we give thanks and glory to God. Worshipers are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit HCS Family Services in Hinsdale. A dessert reception will take place in our parlor after the service.

At 9:30 on Thanksgiving morning, we will come together for a casual yet moving service, complete with prayers, hymns, communion and a reflection by Ben Pershey. This 40-minute service is also open to all.

**SAVE THE DATES.** Plans are already underway for some upcoming fellowship Christmas parties. As always, these events are open to all members of the church. Attending them is a great way to get to know other church members. M&Ms (approximate age: 65-75) will celebrate Christmas together on Saturday evening, Dec. 3 at the WS home of Patty and Jim Colin. PrimeTimers (approximate age: 50-65) will celebrate together on Saturday night, Dec. 17 at the WS home of Brian and Zada Clarke. Watch for more details in the next Gatherings.

**NEW MEMBER CALL.** New members are invited to join the church on Sunday, Nov. 20. Prior to joining, potential new members are encouraged to attend a two-part orientation program. Part I will take place on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 10am in the Chapel and Part II on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Linda Conlin at [linda@wscongo.org](mailto:linda@wscongo.org) or ext. 216 to learn more.

**MEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST.** All men of the church are invited to attend this month's meeting on Saturday, Nov 12 at 7:45 in the Seim Room. This month's program, "Empathy or Advice?" will be presented by former associate pastor and church member, Leslie Ritter-Jenkins.

Leslie says this about the program: "When another speaks about a difficult situation in their life, it is easy to fall back on responses we have learned but may not be helpful. It is easy to minimize the importance of the situation. Empathy is the process of being fully present to the other...."

**HEAR THIS:** Untreated hearing loss can increase your risk of dementia, falls and poor physical and mental well-being. Join us in the Seim Room on Sat, Nov 19, from 9:30-11am when Lara Bruce will help us learn how to diagnose and treat hearing loss. (Free of charge and open to all.)

# FAITH IN ACTION

**HELP SERVE A THANKSGIVING LUNCH.** In Plymouth Hall on Wednesday, November 16, First Congo members and friends of Community Support Services will serve a Thanksgiving lunch to CSS clients. Help of all sorts will be needed (either purchasing, preparing, serving food or setting up or cleaning up from the event). Sign-up is currently underway under Volunteer Opportunities at [wscongo.org](http://wscongo.org).

First Congo is proud to be a Mission Partner with Community Support Services, a private, nonprofit agency that initiates and provides services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem, and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

**FIRST CONGO MISSION PARTNER BEDS PLUS** is receiving lots of community support. This Friday, Nov 4, at 6:30pm LaGrange Lions Club (*Todd Combs*) will host its annual Lions Share wine tasting party at the WS Village Club. Advanced ticket purchases are discounted, but tickets can also be purchased at the door. To learn more about the event, which will feature live music and little bites, email Ramya at [Ramya.Bavikatte@gmail.com](mailto:Ramya.Bavikatte@gmail.com).

On November 8, Chipolte at LaGrange and Ogden will donate 50% of their proceeds to BEDS Plus (*Tina Rounds*). *Eat for Change* between 11am and 10pm by simply mentioning this fundraiser to the cashier.



## KEEP CALM & THANK ONE PROFUSELY

“Thank you, thank you, and many, many thanks to everyone who worked at our Rummage Sale.....A very special thanks goes to the continued leadership, time and commitment of Erin Molek, Terri Lane, and Harriet Ver Gowe. They keep us all on track and never hesitate to lend a helping hand. It is so nice to see so many folks from our church and community work side by side so this all-church event can happen. We have Boy Scouts, PF and so many more groups from our congregation that come to set-up, donate food, serve food, collect donations, sort through countless bags, hang, sell, box after the sale, and then clean-up. I hope that if you worked during the sale you heard the positive feedback that I did from so many who shop our sale. So many shoppers said, "Thank you for having this sale and how nice everyone treats them. Blessings to you from a grateful Woman's Society!"

—Cynthia Kos, President



Please mark your calendar for our Spring sale on April 25 & 26, 2017

## BRIEFLY

**PUMPKIN PURGING.** Don't Let Your Jack-O-Lantern Haunt You. Our Green Team suggests you:

- Cut it up and compost your jack-o-lantern in your compost pile.
- Put in into a corner of your yard for the critters to enjoy.
- Take it (sans candles) to at a recycling site: Hinsdale South H.S. on Sat. Nov. 5 from 9am-Noon.

Check out [www.scarce.org/pumpkins](http://www.scarce.org/pumpkins) for other suggestions.

**FELLOWSHIP FIRE PIT PROJECT.** Work will begin soon on building a stone fire pit along the west side of the Education Building. Sixty percent of the money used for this project will come from the M. Cooper Heinz PF Memorial Fund. Private donations expect to help complete the project in the Spring of 2017. Drawings of the project, created by Jane Booth of the Properties Committee, are displayed on the bulletin board in the Ed Bldg.

**CHANGE IS IN THE AIR.** At our Congregational Budget Meeting on Oct 9, church moderator Nancy O'Brien announced the following staff changes: After 30 years, Linda Conlin will be retiring as our New Member Coordinator in June 2017. Meg Heinz, after 14 years with the church, will be resigning from her position after a replacement is found. A search for a part-time Communications Manager is currently underway. If you or someone you know might be interested in the job, please see the full job description under Latest News and or contact Nancy at [kjoneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjoneo@sbcglobal.net).

**2017 PLEDGE STATUS.** We have received pledge support from about half of our members and are hoping the balance will come in soon. To receive a pledge form, call the office at ext. 210 or download a form at [wscongo.org](http://wscongo.org).

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](mailto:gatherings@wscongo.org).

*Gatherings* is emailed to members and posted on-line at [www.wscongo.org](http://www.wscongo.org).

## BITS & PIECES

**WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.** Our condolences go out to **Dave and Stephanie Mortimer and Family** on the recent passing of Dave's father and to **Kelly and Steve Shumaker and Family** on the recent passing of Kelly's step mother.

**TRANSITIONS.** **Les Barritt** recently moved to the fourth floor of Plymouth Place (315 N. LaGrange Road, LGP 60526). **Sue and John Ryan** moved out of their home in WS and will be downsizing to a townhouse in Hinsdale. But first, the lucky couple is enjoying a few months in Arizona: 3881 S. Tranquil Dr., Tucson AZ 85739

**DOROTHY STANEK** will celebrate her 100th birthday with us between services this Sunday, Nov 6. Stop by the parlor between 10:00 and 10:30 to wish Dorothy a happy birthday and enjoy a piece of birthday cake!

**THANK YOU.** On Oct 16, approximately 50 youth from our church walked Church World Service's Annual **CROP Walk** in LaGrange and raised almost \$1,500. The recent **Feed My Flock** campaign sponsored by our Children's Ministry Committee, raised more than \$500 for Feed My Starving Children. Thank you for supporting these campaigns, which work to end hunger around the world.

Thanks also to all who donated to September's **Common Hope School Supply Drive**. These supplies were hand-carried by Gary Doten to Guatemala and are now part of the 3,400 school supply bags that Common Hope provides to students in need.

**THOU SHALL NOT BE TEMPTED.** If you'd like to get your leftover Halloween candy out of the house, feel free to drop it off in the donation box in the Light Court. Our PFers will use it in the care packages they will be shipping off in November to our college freshmen.