

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 10, 2016



Our Faith Formation Committee invites one and all to participate in the Feed My Flock mission project. Activities have been created to teach children about world hunger and how God wants us to help others. The project also provides children and families an opportunity to give to others and reinforces generosity. After an activity is completed, families are asked to collect coins in a recycled container. The coins will be collected at church on October 23 and donated to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Activity packets can be picked up from the basket outside the Light Court.

All are invited to join IN and reach OUT at FMSC and turn despair into hope on October 29. See details on page 3 or online under Latest News.

COMING UP ON PROMISE SUNDAY, OCT. 16 RUMMAGE • CROP WALK • ACOLYTE MTG

This Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30, Meredith will preach and our steel pan band members will share their musical gifts. When you come to worship, please bring your 2017 pledge form and place it in the offering plate so it can be blessed at the altar. (If you have questions about the 2017 preliminary budget, please see Latest News at wscongo.org.) Our children's choirs will rehearse at 10:00 and 11:35.

In between services, members of our Diaconate will hold a brief meeting for fourth and fifth graders—and parents—interested in serving as acolytes.

From 9-1, we'll be accepting rummage in the church parking lot; hauling, heaving, sorting and laughing will continue until 5pm. Advanced sign-up is strongly encouraged, but not required. We hope you'll come whenever your schedule permits. Please see details under Latest News at wscongo.org.

At 12:30pm, members of PF, our confirmation class and JRneys will participate in the Annual CROP Walk starting at FCC of LaGrange. To learn more, register or donate, visit <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/lagrangeil/>.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 FAMILY WORSHIP & LAY LEADER TRAINING

Our children's choirs will participate in our 9:00 and 10:30 family worship services, during which time Katherine will preach and we will conclude the Feed My Flock project. Our confirmands will meet for class at 10:15. After the second service, Meredith and Katherine will conduct a Lay Worship Leadership Training class in the Seim Room. (See details on page two.)

Confirmation will be held at 10:15 and PF at 7pm.

In the afternoon at Fourth Pres Church in Chicago, church members Clare Kralovec, Murray Johnson and Bob Nichol will help present a RefugeeOne Resettlement Workshop. See details on page 3.

SPEAKER SERIES



CARYN RIVADENEIRA

OCT 21 9AM: Caryn is the author of five books. Her most recent book entitled *Mama's Got a Fake ID* is about rediscovering oneself and one's identity in the midst of motherhood. About parenting, Caryn says this: "It's easy to lose your identity when others see you as a mom and little else." In her talk, Caryn will help guests learn how to reveal the woman who got hidden behind "all that mom." The program is sponsored by our Moms in Faith and costs \$5 for non-registered MIF guests.

DARIUS LOGHMANEE

OCT 25 7PM: Parents, are you tired of chronically-tired kids? If so, then join us in Plymouth Hall on October 25 from 7-9pm to hear Dr. Loghmanee, Pediatric Sleep Medicine Specialist, discuss sleep and pediatric sleep disorders and answer your questions about kids and sleep! The program is free and is sponsored by our Advocate Parish Nurse, Deb Stankiewicz.

LORI MARTIN

NOV 5 10AM: A principal with Envision Benefits, Lori is passionate about educating people about choices for healthcare and long term care planning. Her presentation is entitled Medicare Coverage & Trends for 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

KATHERINE TO SPEAK AT FOURTH PRES.

If you missed the Very Married party or if you'd like to continue celebrating and supporting Katherine, join her at Fourth Pres in Chicago on Friday night, October 14, at 7:00. Admission is free.

RSVPS DUE SOON FOR OUR OKTOBERFEST PARTIES.

On Oct 22, four of our fellowship groups will come together at two separate parties to celebrate Oktoberfest. *All are welcome!*

Our **PRIMETIMERS & MIDSHIPPERS** will meet from 6:30-10pm at the Western Springs home of Jim and Rochelle Heinz. Folks in the PrimeTime AND MidShip age range (50-60 & 70-ish) are invited to attend. Guests are asked to bring a dish to share and a beverage of their choice. Brats, condiments and buns will be provided. **(Sign up on the event page under Latest News at wscongo.org.)**

FAMILIES IN FAITH* & M&Mers will meet at the church playground area at 6:30. Guests should bring their own beverage and a dish to share. Brats will be provided. Guests are asked to contribute \$5 per person as well as a perishable food donation for the local food pantry.

Please RSVP to Linda Conlin or Jeannette Lloyd by Friday, Oct. 21:

Linda: ext 216 or linda@wscongo.org
Jeannette: ext 212 or
jeannette@wscongo.org

**Babysitting will be available upon request and early RSVP by Oct. 17.*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

Leading worship by offering prayers and readings is a meaningful spiritual practice - and one that is open to non-clergy. If you are interested in serving as a Lay Worship Leader, join Meredith and Katherine for a training session at 11:45 on October 23. Come and discuss elements of the liturgy, available resources, and practical considerations. Lunch will be served, so please RSVP to katherine@wscongo.org.

SAVE THE DATE. FRB will host a dinner in the Seim Room on October 28 for folks who would like to better understand what it takes to implement a Foods Resource Bank growing project. FRB invites you to mark your calendar and watch for details.

PF FALL FRENZY is coming to the Western Springs Village Club on Friday night, November 12. We hope you'll save the date and watch for more details regarding this annual fundraiser for our high school youth group.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WITH HEARING LOSS. If you live with or are experiencing the onset of hearing loss, you may benefit greatly from this new group, formed by church member Carol Johnson. The group will meet for the first time on Wednesday evening, Nov 2, at Grand Avenue Community Center in Western Springs. All are welcome at 7pm in the Neal Room. Contact Carol with questions: CarolJnsn@aol.com.

MAKE IT A POINT TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. Only a few openings remain for our Annual Health Screening on Oct 29. Contact Debbie about making an appointment between 7:30 and 10:30am at Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange: Debbie@wscongo.org.



FAITH IN ACTION

WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER AND

REACHING OUT. All ages (five and older) are invited to join us for First Congo Mission Day on Saturday, October 29. The plan is to meet at church at 12:45, board buses and head to the Schaumburg and Aurora Feed My Starving Children locations. We'll serve together from 2-4 then return to church for light refreshments at 4:45. A 45-minute Spirit Worship Service will conclude the day. We expect that folks will be home by 6pm.

The staff is excited about this opportunity for all of us to come together to SERVE, WORSHIP AND CONNECT. We hope you'll join us. **Advanced sign-up is required by October 23. See the event page under Latest News and note that space is limited.)**

OFF THE STREET CLUB. On the third Thursday of every month from October-May, OTSC invites friends and supporters to visit with the boys and girls at the club. It's a great opportunity to meet new people, share a meal, play a game or just hang out. This month's program on Oct 20 involves pumpkin carving with the kids. To learn more, contact Jeannette Lloyd, who—along with her family—is an active supporter of OTSC.

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 will be needed preparing and serving the meal. Sign-up for this event will get underway shortly. (*Church Member Mike McNeily is actively involved in CSS.*)

FIRST CONGO MISSION PARTNER BEDS

PLUS is receiving lots of community support. On November 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.

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.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WORKSHOP.

On Sunday Oct 23, from 1-4:30, join RefugeeOne for an interfaith workshop to hear refugees' stories about coming to Chicago. Learn how congregations can help people fleeing war and persecution and leave inspired and equipped to engage in this important work. *Our very own Clare Kralovec, Murray Johnson and Bob Nichol are helping lead this event.*

For more information or to register, visit www.refugeeone.org/ WelcomingRefugees or contact Jenn Goodwin at 773-423-9854 or jgoodwin@refugeeone.org.

MORE ABOUT RUMMAGE

Unclaimed items from Plymouth Hall and Seim Room kitchens as well as our Lost & Found bin in the copy room will be donated to Rummage. Please claim your item by Saturday or you may have to buy it back.



KEEP CALM AND RUMMAGE ON

If you pitch in, we'll keep calm ;)

Here's the schedule for the week:

SET-UP:

Thur, Oct 13, 9-1

DROP-OFF & SORTING:

Sat, Oct 15, 9-1

Sorting continues 'till 5

Sun, Oct 16, 1-3

Sorting continues 'till 5

SORTING & PRICING:

Mon, Oct 17, 9-5

FINAL SALE PREP:

Tues, Oct 18, 9-3

VOLUNTEER SHOPPING:

Tues, Oct 18, 3:45-4:45

Wed, Oct 19, 4:45-5:45

SALE HOURS:

Tues, Oct 18, 5-8pm

Wed, Oct 19, 10-noon AND 6-8pm (1/2 price & bag sale)

TEAR-DOWN*:

Wed, Oct 19, 8-10pm

FINAL CLEAN UP*:

Thurs, Oct 20, 8am-Noon

**Come for the Work.
Stay for the Fun!**

Details and sign-up links (to volunteer and donate food) are online under Latest News. *Extra help is always needed on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Join us and be a part of something wonderful!

*Vote of the Church
and Welcome
(Read by the
Congregation)*

*“We then
affectionately
welcome you as
members with us of
the Church of Christ,
joining and rejoicing
with you in your
profession. We share
with you its work and
worship and
worldwide vision,
promising you such
fidelity in Christian
love as you have
promised.”*

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On September 25, we had the joy of welcoming 18 new members into our family of faith. Please take a moment to read about them below and help minister to them in the days and years ahead.

ERIN CONWAY and her husband Tom Tom Raddatz moved to Western Springs from Chicago five years ago. They have one son, Patrick (6), who is a kindergarten student at Forest Hills and also attends Grand Avenue. They also have two grown daughters, Sam and Cally and are new grandparents to Lincoln Clark, son of Sam and her husband, Joe. Originally from McHenry, Erin works full-time and enjoys running, swimming, biking, traveling and spending time with family. Patrick is very active and enjoys soccer, swimming, and doing projects with his dad. Sponsors: Eva and Bob Papineau

ALEX AND SARAH COLOMB moved to LaGrange in January of 2014 from Chicago. Sarah (maiden name Rodgers) grew up in Western Springs and attended First Congo Preschool. (Her dad, John Rodgers, was the associate minister under Bob Kemper.) When Sarah was in second grade, her family moved to Wheaton when John was called as Senior Minister to St. Charles Congregational Church. Alex was born in France, moved to the US in 1993, and attended high school in Minnesota. Sarah is a physician's assistant and works part-time at an urgent care facility. Alex is a software developer in Chicago. They have two boys, Max (7) and Caden (5). Sponsors: Lisa and Brian Edgerton

SCOTT FLYNN was born in 1951 in LaGrange Park where he has lived his whole life. He worked as a security officer for 35 years, earning Guard of the Year in 2006. He went to church at the First Congregational Church in Brookfield until it closed a few years ago. Scott enjoys music, especially the Beatles. He also enjoys bike riding and playing dominos. Sponsor: Bob Kos

JON DUMPYS AND STACEY JUTILA recently moved to LaGrange Park from Naperville and came to know of First Congo from friends who are members of the church. Jon teaches at Seton Montessori, where their daughter Liv is in the 3-6 year-old classroom. Stacey serves as Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Children's Hospital. Together Jon, Liv and Stacey enjoy spending time outdoors, and all three of them are always looking for the next good book to read. Together they look forward to learning and growing at First Congo. Sponsors: Megan and Jim Majernik

MARILYN FLYNN was born in Berwyn but has lived in LaGrange Park for 60 years. She has two sons and a daughter, 3 grandsons, one granddaughter and a great granddaughter and great grandson—all who live in the area except for one grandson, who works in Korea. She worked at Hinsdale Hospital as a secretary in the Physical, Occupational and Speech Dept. for 14 years then worked in a medical supply store until she retired. Widowed for over 30 years, Marilyn volunteers two days a week at LaGrange Hospital and enjoys baking. She and her late husband were married at the United Church of Christ in Brookfield, where she was a member until it recently closed. Sponsor: Cynthia Kos

CHRIS AND SARAH SIMON moved to Western Springs two years ago after living in Lakeview area of Chicago for many years. They have been married for 4 ½ years and have a son, Michael (3), and a newborn daughter named Olivia. Born in Delaware, Sarah attended Indiana University and is in management consulting. Chris was born in Michigan, attended Western Michigan and is a medical device sales rep. They both like to travel and stay in shape. Chris is an avid golfer. Sponsors: Rachel and Bill Callahan

SUSAN AND BRENT GELBUDA both grew up in the area. Susan was baptized here, went to First Congo Preschool, Sunday School, confirmation and PF. Susan and Brent were married at the church and “love the feel of the community here.” Susan is a metalsmith and jeweler with her own business. Brent is a CPA with KPMG. Susan loves all the different arts, while Brent loves to golf in his spare time. They have two children, Ben (3) and Alice (9 mos). Ben is following in his mom’s footsteps and just started in our Almost 3’s class here. Sponsors: Sara and Nate Gray

JOHN AND YVONNE JEANNERET live in Western Springs after moving to the village from LaGrange. They both are chemical engineers who met at the University of Wisconsin in Engineering Mechanics 214. They were married in the Unitarian Church in Milwaukee and have two adult children, Derek (married to Kaitlyn) and Danielle (married to Steven). Yvonne’s mom, Sheila Swanson has been a member of First Congo since 2007. Yvonne retired two years ago after 34 years at the UNOCAL/Citgo oil refinery in Lemont and now spends a lot of time with her three grandchildren. John retired after 35 years at Honeywell UOP in Des Plaines. After 18 months of retirement, John started working for a small start-up firm developing new high tech materials. For leisure, they enjoy biking in other countries, snow skiing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and backpacking. Sponsor: Sheila Swanson

KAREN MARTIN grew up in Western Springs with her parents and four siblings – three of whom still live nearby. She participated in Kathryn Price’s Sunshine Choir when she was at McClure and has many family friends who are still members, including the VerGowes, Sharon Bachmann, Marge Kemper, and others. Karen lived in downtown Chicago for many years and had her son, Charlie when she and her husband lived in Oak Park. After her divorce, she and Charlie moved back to Western Springs so that he could ►

have a similar upbringing to hers. Karen is busy renovating her home and loves to garden and be outdoors. She is also an avid reader, loves movies, and enjoys going the family’s lake house in Dowagiac, MI. Karen works at BMO Capital Markets, where she has been for the last 12 years of her 22 years in investment banking. Sponsor: Amanda Smith

MIRANDA AND JOSH THOMAS have been married for 11 years and live in Westchester. Miranda grew up in Joliet and Josh in Darien. They met on Halloween and report it was “love at first sight.” Josh is a 6th grade teacher at Forest Road Elementary School and Miranda is a sales rep for Marriott Hotels. Miranda loves home decorating and gardening, and Josh is an outdoor enthusiast who loves hunting, fishing and backpacking. They both love finding a great brewery and burger and indulging. They have two children, Lorelei (3 ½) and Trace (8 mos) and a mini Goldendoodle (Fritz). They are excited about their new church family and for the future blessings ahead. Sponsors: Amy & Marty Kalas

BUZZ AND MARY ANN SHAW have lived in Western Springs since 2010 and first became acquainted with First Congo through their daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Perry Buffett. Buzz is an educator with 28 years as a university president or chancellor and 15 years as an administrator or faculty member. Currently, he is a consultant to University presidents and boards of trustees. Mary Ann is a retired reading specialist and professional fund raiser, along with being an active community volunteer. She helps Buzz with his consulting work and enjoys reading and walking. Work, hobbies and their 3 children and spouses, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren keep them very busy. Sponsors: Lori Mitchell

*Covenant Promise of
Old and New Members
(Read in unison
by the Candidates and
Congregation)*

*“We covenant
with the Lord and one
with another; and do
bind ourselves in the
presence of God, to walk
together in all His ways,
according as He is
pleased to reveal Himself
unto us in His blessed
word of truth.”*



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

WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP. Our condolences go out to **Carolyn and Terry McNealy and family** on the recent passing of Carolyn's mom, and to **Jennifer and Kevin Convery and family** on the recent passing of Jennifer's mom. Our condolences also go out to the friends and family of long-time member **Ruth Mundt**, who passed way on September 26. Ruth will be remembered at a Memorial Service on October 29 at 1:30 at Plymouth Place.

DOROTHY STANEK will celebrate her 100th birthday with us between services on 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!

JUDY & PAUL ARNDT have a new phone number: 708/784-6333.

THANKS FOR YOUR CAPS. Our Green Team thanks you for contributing enough plastic caps to gift not one but two park benches!



DID YOU KNOW Pumpkins are comprised of 90% water and are loaded of nutrients that are good for the soil? According to SCARCE, decomposing organics make landfills the third largest producers of methane. However, composting pumpkins returns nutrients and water back to the earth. This fall, our Green Team urges you to recycle your pumpkin(s) at one of the many nearby collection centers listed at www.scarce.org/pumpkins. Most sites will be open from 9am-Noon on Sat., Nov 5.

And, your leftover Halloween candy? PF will be happy to take it off your hands and add it to the care packages they'll be assembling for our college freshmen.