

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

### February 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher – John Kauffman

Scripture readings: Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: *Impossible?! Let's Fly!*

Anthem: *Hearken, Stay Close to Jesus*  
by David M. Michael

### Holy Communion

### February 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher – Paris Donehoo

Scripture reading: 1 Kings 3:3-14  
Micah 6:6-8

Sermon: *Magic Eight Ball*

Anthem: *Offertory* by John Ness Beck

### February 19: Last Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher – Paris Donehoo

Scripture readings: Exodus 34:29-35  
Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: *Shine On!*

Anthem: *Sing to God* by G. F. Handel

### February 26: First Sunday in Lent

Preacher – Paris Donehoo

Scripture readings: Psalm 23  
1 Thess. 4:13-18

Sermon: *Grieve with Hope*

Anthem: *When Jesus Walked the Wilderness* by  
Lloyd Larson

### Ash Wednesday – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Lent is a season of preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. During this time we are invited to take a 40 day faith journey to look inside our hearts. It invites us to see ourselves with compassion and truth — to see both our brokenness and our beauty, our failings and our faithfulness. Too often we want to arrive at Easter without having taken the journey through the Lenten season. When we do that we prevent ourselves from experiencing the growth that occurs along the way. This year won't you commit yourselves to participate in the **WHOLE** journey? See you in church on Ash Wednesday!



## Two Opportunities for Ash Wednesday

### Individual Communion and Ashes

From 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Dr. Donehoo will be in the chapel to serve communion, pray with you, and impose ashes (if you would like to receive them). You may come by yourself, as a couple, or as a family at any time during those hours.

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7pm

Please join us for a special service of worship at 7 p.m. in the chapel. This service will be a time of quiet reflection and an invitation to enter into a deeper journey of discipleship. It will include readings, candlelight, prayer, quiet music, silence, communion and imposition of ashes (for those who desire them). Please bring the whole family to this service so that we can all begin this journey through the Lenten season together.

### Grief: Walking the Valley of the Shadow

*Everyone can master a grief but he that has it.*

— Shakespeare

Perhaps no experience is more pervasive in human life, and more unwelcome, than grief. The transitory nature of our time in this world means treasured relationships, events, or situations will inevitably end before we want them to. Should Christians grieve? Should we grieve differently from others? What resources does the Bible give us



for dealing with our losses — whatever they may be?

During this Lenten season you will have the opportunity to explore grief with your sisters and brothers in Christ at FCC. Like our “Transitions” and “Forgiveness” studies, small groups will be meeting during the weeks of **February 27, March 5, 12, 19 & 26**. (Watch Weekly Window, email blasts, and posters around the church for specific times groups will meet.) You can pick the time that best fits your schedule. Each week will focus on a different biblical passage dealing with grief. Paris will be preaching a sermon based on that biblical passage at the end of each week. All you need to do is commit only one hour a week for only five weeks. Let's have everyone at FCC (also any of your friends and neighbors) involved in this time of growing together.




Thanks to Jesse Caldwell (See Exodus 20:1-21) 02-07-2001

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'VE ONLY FOUND A COUPLE THAT WORK FOR ME


**Breakfast with the Bible**

There may be only Ten Commandments, but we are finding a plethora of opinions about them — and we haven't even gotten to "Thou shalt not commit adultery" yet. Come to the fellowship hall every Sunday morning at 9:15 for our in-depth study of the book of Exodus, and explore the place of these and other laws in the life of a Christian. Breakfast is served, starting at 9:00, and child care is available.

**Beer, Burgers, and the Bible**

 "Say WHAT?" is the theme of the new Bible study for Beer, Burgers, and the Bible (a.k.a., "Dude-maris," or "Triple B"). We will be taking a close look at some of the Bible's problematic passages. Join us on **February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at Elgin Public House, 219 E. Chicago Street. Order something to eat (it's half-price burger night), if you like, and come upstairs for an hour of Bible study for dudes only.

**Faith Foundations and Families**

 After a break for the holidays, "Faith Foundations and Families" is back. "Faith Foundations and Families" (or F3, if you prefer) is an online Bible study specifically targeted toward our church's young families with children at home. Because family and work responsibilities are often so demanding, it can be difficult to attend a Bible study at church or at someone's home. F3 is a way for you to do Bible study and interact with others in your church family any time that's convenient for you. If you haven't

taken advantage of this opportunity yet, all you need to do is go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/FCCYoungFamilies/> and request to become a member. (We're keeping the group "closed" so that it won't be sabotaged by some of the crazies out there on the internet.) When you become part of the group you will find a Bible passage and some questions written by Paris which are designed to spark discussions about the text. And the beauty is, you can participate whenever and wherever you want. If you have questions, please see Paris.

***The Jane Hampton Chipman Memorial Recital Series is coming in March.***  
Watch this space for more details.

**AOK GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Starting with the Annual meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have a giving tree on display with heart-shaped ornaments that list the food items that we are asking to be donated as we prepare for our cooking day on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We will prepare and freeze meals for our members in need. Anyone who is interested in donating one or more of the items is asked to pick an ornament from the tree and affix it to the item when you drop it off at the AOK food bin located in the Narthex. Non-perishable items can be dropped off any time. Please bring perishable items to church on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would rather make a monetary donation instead of purchasing a food item, you can write a check with AOK in the memo line and drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday through March 4<sup>th</sup>.



A great big thanks for the generous donation from an anonymous donor who gave \$5,000.00 to the Renovation Fund, Phase 2, matching that amount given earlier this year. First Congregational Church of Elgin is truly blessed!

### **A Change in the Scripts Program**

For the time being, Scripts will not be ordering any new inventory. However, we do have a large inventory ready to sell. Please take note of the list below. Contact Jen Phillips or Shirley Mae Byrnes for your purchase.

AMC Theaters (\$9.50)	8
American Eagle (\$25)	1
American Express (\$25)	2
American Express (\$200)	1
American Girl (\$25)	1
Arby's (\$10)	2
Barnes & Noble (\$10)	2
Barnes & Noble (\$25)	2
Baskin Robbins (\$2)	10
Bass Pro Shops (\$25)	1
Bath & Body Works (\$10)	1
Bed, Bath & Beyond (\$25)	1
Best Buy (\$25)	1
Boston Market (\$10)	2
Burger King (\$10)	1
Burlington Coat Fac. (\$25)	1
California Pizza Kit. (\$10)	3
Chevron (\$50)	1
Children's Place (\$25)	2
Chili's (\$25)	
Also good at Maggiano's,	1
Chipolte (\$10)	1
Claim Jumper (\$25)	1
Cracker Barrel (\$10)	2
CVS (\$25)	3
Denny's (\$10)	3
Dunkin' Donuts (\$10)	3
Fannie May (\$10)	3
Game Stop (\$25)	1
Gap (\$25)	2
Gordman's (\$25)	1
Hallmark (\$25)	1
Home Depot (\$25)	1
IHOP (\$25)	1
iTunes (\$15)	1
iTunes (\$25)	3
Kohl's (\$25)	1
KFC (\$5)	2
Lettuce Entertain You (\$25)	
Good at Ben Pao, Big Bowl, Brasserie Jo, plus	1
L.L. Bean (\$25)	4
L.L. Bean (\$100)	2
Marathon (\$25)	1

Michael's (\$25)	1
Meijer(\$100)	1
Old Country Buffet (\$25)	1
Outback Steakhouse (\$25)	1
Pottery Barn (\$25)	1
Pottery Barn (\$100)	1
Red Robin (\$25)	2
Restaurant.com (\$20)	3
See's Candies- (\$16.50)	3
Shutterfly (\$25)	3
Starbuck's (\$10)	3
Starbuck's (\$25)	1
Steak n' Shake (\$10)	5
Sweet Tomatoes (\$25)	2
TGIF's	2

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### **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Thanks to your generosity the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is more solvent than it has been in years. It's nice to have some funds for helping needy folks around Elgin. There are a few people, of course, who abuse the system, but most of the needs are legitimate. We will do our best to use the monies wisely.

Sincerely,  
Pastors Paris & Lois

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### **Women, Wine and the Word**

Women, Wine and the Word, our women's fellowship group, will be meeting at Café Roma (off Randall Road near Country Inn and Suites) at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is an informal group. We would love to have you join us for lunch and conversation. If you have any questions about this group please contact Lois or Evelyn Johnson or Lee Ellsworth 847-888-1661.

### **Finding Christ in the Chaos and Clutter of Our Lives – Heartspa Women's Retreat – February 24 – 25 and optional 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars now to join us for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual women's retreat which will be held at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Elgin We are very excited about theme "Finding Christ in the Chaos and Clutter of Life." When it comes to clutter, we all seem to accumulate it. We all find ourselves one day staring at an overflowing junk drawer, hall closet, or garage and wondering, "Where did it all come from?" Controlling your clutter gives you peace of mind and adds comfort and efficiency to your home. Our keynote speaker, Mary Kirkman,

will share misconceptions about organizing, discuss what's holding you back, and how to enjoy the lightness of a clutter free existence. Our weekend will include Bible Study, group activities, spa treatments, pool time, and relaxation. Brochures, including registration forms, will be available soon.

## COMING SOON



### Moral Obligation Scholarship

Our church is pleased to be able to offer Moral Obligation Scholarship Loans to church members who are taking college classes. These are interest free loans for any age student. Students are allowed to take out a loan of up to \$500 per semester. These loans are then repaid to the church after graduation (or as soon as you stop taking classes). This repayment allows funds to be available for future students. With the high cost of education, this loan may not pay for a class, but it may help to cover book costs. For more detailed information and requirements please contact Lois or Pam Patterson.

### Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Retreat February 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>

Youth will leave the church at **6pm** on Friday, February 10th for our youth retreat to the Prairie Club in Hazelhurst, Michigan. Participants should eat dinner before we leave. This is a great winter get-away and group building weekend. There are all kinds of activities planned, including times of bible study, discussion and reflection, movies, games, and outside activities. Bring sleds and winter gear. It is always a fun-filled weekend. We will return on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at about 3 pm. The cost of this trip is \$50 which includes lodging for 2 nights and meals on Saturday and Sunday. Registration money for this event should be given to Adam McCoy as soon as possible. Youth should bring: a sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, winter clothing for playing in the snow, a snack to share and a bottle of pop (**NO high caffeine drinks – including Mountain Dew, Red Bull, Jolt, etc.**).



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> our church will be participating in the “**Souper Bowl**” of caring. Our youth will take a special offering for the hungry in our community. “**Souper Bowl**” offerings will be given to local soup kitchens. More than 10 million dollars was collected last year by congregations all across the USA. It all was donated to local food pantries. So bring your loose change and/or a dollar or two and we can make a difference.

### **FROG FRIDAY HAPPENINGS**



Frog Friday, our youth group for those in kindergarten through 6th grade will be held on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 6p.m. - 8:30p.m. The cost is \$7 per person or \$10 if you want to pay for February and March (our two winter sessions) together. FROG Friday includes dinner, craft, story, music, and games. Our FROGs have been having a hopping good time. Come join us and as always, you are invited to bring a friend.



### **Angel Tree Program**

The Elgin Salvation Army Christmas “Angel Tree” Toy Drive says thanks to all of you who participated in the program this year. It is because of your kindness and generosity that more than 600 less fortunate families were helped this year. May God continue to Bless you and yours with Peace, Health, and Happiness in the New Year.

## *To Our Christmas Carolers.....*

From **Margaret Muntz** – “Thank you for visiting The Greens. The cookies were delicious and I appreciated you just being here. Thank you for thinking of me.

And

**Melba and Paul Schickler** – Paul and I give many, many thanks topped off with a plate of homemade cookies – a real treat. God Bless you all.

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**Thank you all for your cards and prayers for my family and me over the loss of my brother Paul. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. Pam Patterson.**

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### *In Sympathy, With Prayers and Concerns*

**Kyle Hennessey**, infant son of **Evan and Brenda Hennessey**, was hospitalized early in January. He is home and recuperating well.

**Ron Whetstone** passed away on January 21. A funeral service, led by Pastors Donehoo and Bucher, was held at the church on January 25.

Long time church member **Marjorie Bye** passed away on January 15.

Dallas Jurgens, grandfather of **Cathy Jurgens**, passed away in Iowa on January 18.

Jane Browning, **Dick Browning**'s mother, passed away on January 5.

Administrative Assistant **Pam Patterson**'s brother, Paul Schwegel, passed away on January 1.



**John Dalton** was given the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award by the City of Elgin Human Relations Commission at a gala celebration on January 14.

Annabelle Marie Rohde was born on December 24 to **Rick and Sonya Rohde**.



### *175th Anniversary Photos*

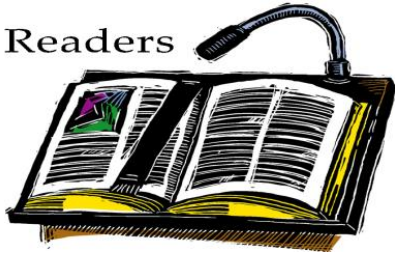
Photos taken at our 175th anniversary banquet are now available for you to view and purchase on the church website at [www.fcc-elgin.org/175th-Anniversary](http://www.fcc-elgin.org/175th-Anniversary). Check them out. They are really nice. All proceeds will go toward the stained glass window fund. Thanks to Chandler Swan for taking the pictures.



### *February Birthdays*

2/01	Sandy Dalton
2/01	Taylor Stark
2/04	Elizabeth Sharf
2/06	Pat Segel
2/06	Kathleen Mau
2/09	Sandra Taenzer
2/14	Kristian Zoerhoff
2/16	Betty Butler
2/17	Thomas Leith
2/19	Alex Richardson
2/22	Brian Stark
2/23	Mary Underhill
2/26	Olivia Munson
2/27	Jaxon Tsuji
2/28	Ruth Munson

## Readers



- 02/05 Lee Ellsworth
- 02/12 Sandy Magana
- 02/19 Mark Hartwig
- 02/26 Jeanne Rothlisberger



- 02/05 Dennis & Mary Hewitt
- 02/12 Jennifer Bellini
- 02/19 Sandy Dalton
- 02/26 Lorri Powell



## First Faces

- 02/05 Charlie & Lauren Rantz
- 02/12 John Kauffman
- 02/19 Whitney Anderlick/Meg Pfister
- 02/26 Kevin & Letty Jocius



## BIBLE BEARER

- 02/05 Bailey Stark
- 02/12 Pablo Payne
- 02/19 Emilie Kottmeier
- 02/26 Amanda Harris



## Sound System

- 02/05 Kevin Jocius
- 02/12 Mike Kemmler
- 02/19 Frank Kottmeier
- 02/26 Curt Phillips



## Ushers

- 02/05 Stackowiak, Kirsten Pedersen  
Laura McMinn, Cherie Murphy, and Sandy Dalton
- 02/12 Alex Halfpenny, Taylor Stark, Jhon Payne,  
and Eric Turnquist
- 02/19 Walt Kilmanas, Ron Banwart, Lorri Powell,  
Sandy Dalton, and Ron and Karen Carlson
- 02/26 Jim Schock, Stacie Widder, Whitney  
Anderlick, Sandy Dalton and Chuck  
Zimmerman



## ACOLYTES

- 02/05 Aaron Harris
- 02/12 Jaylen Thomas
- 02/19 Brik Garcia
- 02/26 Aidan Garcia

First Congregational Church UCC  
256 East Chicago St  
Elgin, IL 60120

Change Service Requested

**NEXT CHURCH LIFE DEADLINE IS:  
February 20, 2012**

This is a publication of First Congregational United Church of Christ. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy, and for whom Christ is the Lord of life. Find here an accepting, caring, non-judgmental spirit where faith is renewed and power for living is found

**STAFF**

PASTORAL TEAM

**Dr. Paris Donehoo**

and

**Rev. Lois Bucher**

Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Donald Schmidt**

Director of Music/Organist

**Jon Warfel**

Superintendent of Sunday School

**Michael Blackwood**

Children's Music Director

**Letty Jocius**

Administrative Assistant

**Pam Patterson**

Congregational Associates

**Pat Lindquist and John Kauffman**

Custodial Staff

**Catherine Gotham & Tom Bradley**

Ministers

**All of Us**

