

# THE PILGRIM

News for our church community

December 2011

## The Gift

By Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel

John 1:1-3

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

At the risk of stating the obvious on Christmas morning, in the beginning was not the thing, the stuff or the loot. In the beginning was the Word.

We are coming to the end of the Advent season. This year we prayed that Advent would be different from what is happening around us in the world.

Out there in the world, we are nearing the end of the shopping season, but in the calendar of the church it is the beginning of Jesus' life on earth.

Out there, we celebrate with presents you can open, touch and use. In the calendar of the church, we celebrate the mystical, the intangible and the mysterious.

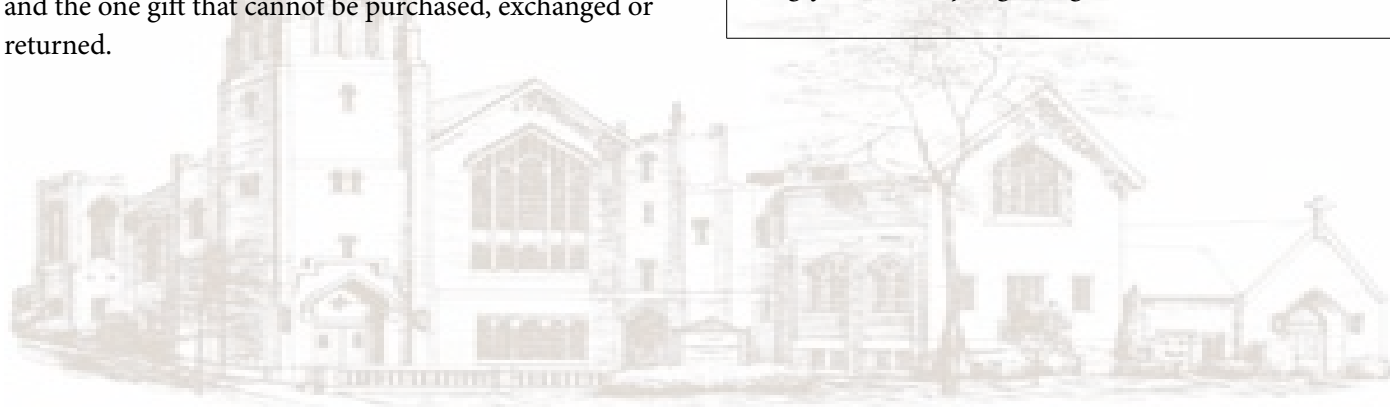
Out there in the world, Christmas is pay off day, when you open the gifts you have been waiting for, or watch the faces of those you have purchased gifts for. But in the calendar of the church, we recognize the birth of Christ and the one gift that cannot be purchased, exchanged or returned.

Giving is generous, so God delights in it. Take no guilt in the pleasure you feel when a child delights in a new bicycle, or when you delight in a thoughtful gift you have received. God is generous and when we are generous, God delights in us.

But remember that the gift beyond price was yours all along. And remember that the best gifts you have to offer were yours to offer long before you spent a dime.

### A Christmas Prayer

*In the beginning was the Word. Allow that Word to live in me, and bring love, light and generosity into the world. I thank you, Lord Christ, for this Advent season as a time to draw closer to you. Allow that season to be crowned by your birth on this day, and for the gift that was with us all along, from the very beginning. Amen.*



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## Leadership Workshop, January 28

We are all enjoying the positive environment and ensuing growth at First Congregational Church. In an effort to build upon this great momentum, the Leadership Committee is providing a workshop in transformational leadership. Please mark your calendar now for Saturday, January 28, 2012, 9:00am – 4:30pm for the ***Transformational Leadership and Peacemaking Skills: A Day of Discipleship Training for Church Leaders and Stakeholders*** workshop to be held at the church.

In order to effectively meet the new challenges we face as our church continues to grow, we need to have our leaders trained in transformational leadership; therefore, it is an expectation that all LEAP committee members will attend this workshop. We appreciate how busy everybody is, but please consider that our Leadership Committee has invested significant expense in this workshop, which is being led by the internationally renowned Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and offered at no expense to attendees. We are fortunate to have the ability to offer this workshop and hope to have maximum attendance to insure maximum benefit. ✨

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## UCC Global Ministries Alternative Christmas Giving

With an alternative Christmas gift, you honor your loved ones and make a difference in the lives of people around the world at the same time. Alternative Christmas gifts don't get returned because the recipient already has one. They're the perfect gift for the person who has "everything" and are sure to bring smiles to the gift recipient and to the faces of global partners. For details, go to the UCC website. ✨

## Annual Holiday Tea, December 18

Escape the holiday hustle and bustle for a few hours at the 'Ladies in the Loop' Annual Holiday Tea Friday, December 16, 2:30pm at The Drake in downtown Chicago. Advance sign-up was requested; however, if you'd still like to attend, email Celia Rodee (or phone her at 630-564-1854) to see if there are spaces still available. Cost is \$43 (includes full tea service, tax and gratuity); all are welcome. ✨

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## Holiday Stroll at Cosley Zoo, December 20

The Environmental Ministry Team invites everyone to spend some time in a barn this advent season! Remember, Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable as they welcomed baby Jesus. Stroll together at Cosley Zoo (1356 N. Gary Ave., Wheaton) on Tues., Dec. 20. We'll meet in front of the Visitors Center at 7:30pm; admission is free. For more information, e-mail Jeannine Kannegiesser or phone her at 630-340-0395. (You may call this number the night of the event if you need help finding us.) ✨

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## People's Resource Center Matching Gift Opportunity

Generous friends of People's Resource Center (PRC) have offered matching gift funds that can double your year-end gift. This opportunity is so important because PRC has been receiving record numbers of requests for food and emergency financial assistance. PRC's greatest strength is the support they receive from generous and caring community members. You can make your gift any time before December 31 by sending a check to People's Resource Center, 201 S. Naperville Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187 or make an online donation. Please write "2011MATCH" in the memo line of your check or in the Notes section of your online donation. ✨

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1 Epiphany/New Year's Day</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:30am Worship <i>No Sr. High Fellowship or music rehearsals</i> 7:00pm PADS</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>New Year's Holiday (office closed)</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:15pm One Voice Choir 7:00pm AMEN Men's Bible Study 7:30pm One Voice Student Council 7:45pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>11:30am Men's Luncheon at Seven Dwarfs No Youth Fellowships</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:30pm Sanctuary Singers rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:15am Moms &amp; Psalms</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8 Health &amp; Healing Sunday</b></p> <p><i>(Communion)</i> 9:00am Worship 9:00am Faith Forum 9:00/10:30am Parish Nurse Open House (time TBD) 6th and 7th Grade classes visit Mosque 10:30am Worship 10:30am 8th Grade Confirmation Class <i>No Adult Education</i> 5:30pm Joyful Noise Cast Party <i>No Sr. High Fellowship</i> 7:00pm PADS 7:30pm Celebration Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><i>Pilgrim deadline</i> 6:45pm Moderators &amp; Chairs 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Plenary Session for all Committees 7:30pm Committee Meetings: Administration, Education, Leadership and Parish Life</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:30am Prime Times Ministry No One Voice Choir rehearsal 6:30pm Global Mission Trip Ministry 7:30pm One Voice Parent Council 7:45pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>No Youth Fellowships 6:15pm Crosswalk Dinner 7:00pm Crosswalk Program: A Cappella Underground concert 7:00pm 8th grade Confirmands - Faith Paper Discussions</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Groups 6:00pm Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Sanctuary Singers rehearsal 7:30pm Guys' 'Groop'</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00pm 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Classes leave for Pilgrim Park Retreat</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>(time TBD) One Voice Retreat at Inspiration Center through January 16</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:00am Faith Forum 10:30am Worship 10:30am 6th Grade Confirmation Class 11:00am 7th and 8th Graders return from retreat 11:45am Adult Education, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Beyond 'I Have a Dream...'" with Kathryn Price 3:30pm Angola Partnership Team <i>No Joyful Noise rehearsal or Sr. High Fellowship</i> 7:00pm PADS 7:30pm Celebration Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (office closed)</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><i>Pilgrim mailed</i> 10:00am Prime Times/Youth Brunch 6:15pm One Voice Choir 7:00pm AMEN Men's Bible Study 7:45pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>5:00pm TF<sup>2</sup> Fellowship 6:30pm TF<sup>2</sup>/Jr. High Dinner 7:00pm Jr. High Fellowship</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:00pm Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Sanctuary Singers rehearsal 7:30pm Environmental Ministry</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:15am Moms &amp; Psalms</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>4:00pm Sr. High Youth prepare meals for Night Ministry 7:00pm Sr. High Youth visit Chicago for Night Ministry</p>
<p><b>22 Open &amp; Affirming Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:00am Faith Forum 10:30am Worship 10:30am 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Classes 12:00pm Student Leader Training (until 2:00pm) <i>No Adult Education, Joyful Noise or Jr. High Singers</i> 7:00pm Senior High Fellowship (small group) 7:00pm PADS 7:30pm Celebration Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:15pm One Voice Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Church Council 7:45pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>5:00pm TF<sup>2</sup> Fellowship 6:30pm TF<sup>2</sup>/Jr. High Dinner 7:00pm Jr. High Fellowship</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Groups 6:00pm Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Sanctuary Singers rehearsal 7:30pm Guys' 'Groop'</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00am - 4:30pm Transformational Leadership Workshop for LEAP committee members</p>
<p><b>29 Stephen Ministry Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:00am Faith Forum 10:00 &amp; 11:30am Blood Pressure Checks (time TBD) 8th Grade Church Visit 10:30am Worship 10:30am 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation Classes 11:45am Jr. High Sunday Planning 11:45am Adult Education, "Navigating the Crisis: Survival in a Bad Economy" with Jon Noel Dowat <i>(Jr. High Singers moved to February 16 and 23)</i> 6:00pm Sr. High Adult Leaders 7:00pm Sr. High Fellowship (large group) 7:00pm PADS 7:30pm Celebration Choir rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:00pm Music Makers Ministry</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>6:15pm One Voice Choir rehearsal 7:45pm Bells rehearsal</p>				

## Youth Education (Church School + Youth Ministries)

Catherine Curtis  
 Director of Christian Education  
 catherine@firstconge.org

Rachel Bahr  
 Director of Youth Ministries  
 rachel@firstconge.org

Caroline Andres  
 Youth Education Coordinator  
 caroline@firstconge.org

Linda Sear  
 Youth Education Coordinator  
 linda@firstconge.org

### Register for Church School and Youth Fellowship Activities

We invite all guest and current families who have not done so to complete a 2011 – 2012 Children and Youth Registration Form found on the church web site. Your information will assist us as we welcome your family. Blank copies are also located in the main lobby. Give completed forms to the church office.

### Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant Information

Please remember that this year’s Family Christmas Eve Worship Service and Pageant will be one hour earlier than in the past; this year the worship service is at 4:00pm. Each child will receive a glow stick to represent a candle during the service.

There will be angel and shepherd costumes available in the Atrium for children who wish to wear them during the Pageant. Near the end of the service, the children will be invited to bring their glow sticks with them to the front of the sanctuary and become part of the Nativity tableau.

### Church School and Youth Fellowship Renovations Coming

Renovations are tentatively scheduled to begin the last week of December or beginning of January. With this process, we’ll begin realizing the benefits of months of planning. Construction work will begin on classroom spaces for the preschool and middle school church school classes, nursery and youth fellowship spaces. The results of this work will be updated and inviting spaces that better serve the growing needs of our children and youth. Please pardon any inconvenience during the construction process. Temporary signage will be posted and the weekly church e-blasts will contain detailed updates each week. Don’t hesitate to contact Youth Education Staff regarding the temporary and permanent locations of the affected classes and youth fellowships. See chart below for explanation of renovations.

#### Church School & Youth Fellowships Impacted

Current Location	New Location	Church School & Youth Fellowships Impacted
Miss Missy’s Classroom and Garden Classroom (Sunday morning preschool classrooms on lower level)	Temporary: Garden Room (lower level) Final: current Confirmation Classroom (lower level)	9:00am 3- and 4-year old preschool class 10:30am 3- and 4-year old preschool class
Confirmation Classroom (lower level)	All-Purpose Room (former Pilgrim Preschool, lower level)	8th Grade Confirmation Class, TF <sup>2</sup> Youth Fellowship
All-Purpose Room (former Pilgrim Preschool, lower level)	Garden Room (lower level)	6th Grade Confirmation Class
Nursery (main level)	Current Parlor	Infants through 2-year-olds
Parlor (main level)	Miss Missy’s Classroom (lower level)	Small groups

## Crosswalk 2011-2012: Special Attention Confirmands and Sponsors

Monthly Crosswalk evenings include a delicious buffet-style meal planned, cooked and served by our hard-working and talented Kitchen Chix at 6:15pm. Following the meal is a program or worship service at 7:00pm.

The cost of the meal is \$4/person and peanut butter & jelly sandwich meals are available for children. Carry-out meals are also available for \$5/person. In order to aid with meal planning and shopping, please sign-up and pre-pay the Sunday before each Crosswalk meal. The menu and sign-up sheet for each Crosswalk are in the main lobby. Confirmation sponsors are reminded to sign-up and pay for their meals the Sunday beforehand as well. A pre-pay option is available for everyone.

Programs are free and childcare is provided as dictated by the program topic.

Here are upcoming programs and worship services:

- *Wednesday, January 4* - No Crosswalk
- *Wednesday, January 11* - Faith Paper Prep Information and Discussion
- *Wednesday, February 1* - No Crosswalk
- *Wednesday, February 22* - Ash Wednesday worship service
- *Wednesday, March 7* - Marie Ringenberg, storyteller

## Confirmation Retreat to Pilgrim Park

We're taking our 7th - 8th grade Confirmation youth on our annual retreat to Pilgrim Park January 13 - 15 (the long MLK weekend). Please sign up by turning in your check for \$135 by December 18 to Rachel Bahr, Director of Youth Ministry. (Checks should be made out to First Congregational with "Confirmation Retreat" noted.) This weekend is a beautiful opportunity for our youth to grow together as a group as well as explore their faith within God's creation. We'll take part in activities such as a low-ropes course and workshops on our UCC identity plus plenty of time for divine play and presence.

## Youth & Primetimer Brunch, January 17

We're looking forward once again to an 'intergenerational play date' between our Senior High Youth Fellowship and the Primetimers Tuesday, January 17, from 10:00am - 12:00pm. We will share brunch together, as well as fun games, good conversation, and opportunities for building bridges across the generations. Please RSVP our Director of Youth Ministry, Rachel Bahr, by Wed., January 11.

## Night Ministry Meal, January 21

We're making a meal for 150 folks in the Pilsen neighborhood in Chicago. We need 10 volunteers for meal prep from 4:00 - 7:00pm, and 4 volunteers to go into the city to serve the meal from 7:00 - 11:00pm. The Night Ministry is an organization that provides health services to at-risk populations in the Chicagoland area free of charge. Their ministry also provided a meal six out of seven nights a week in various neighborhoods in Chicago. Please contact Rachel Bahr, Director of Youth Ministry, if you're interested in participating.

## "Tool Raiser" in January

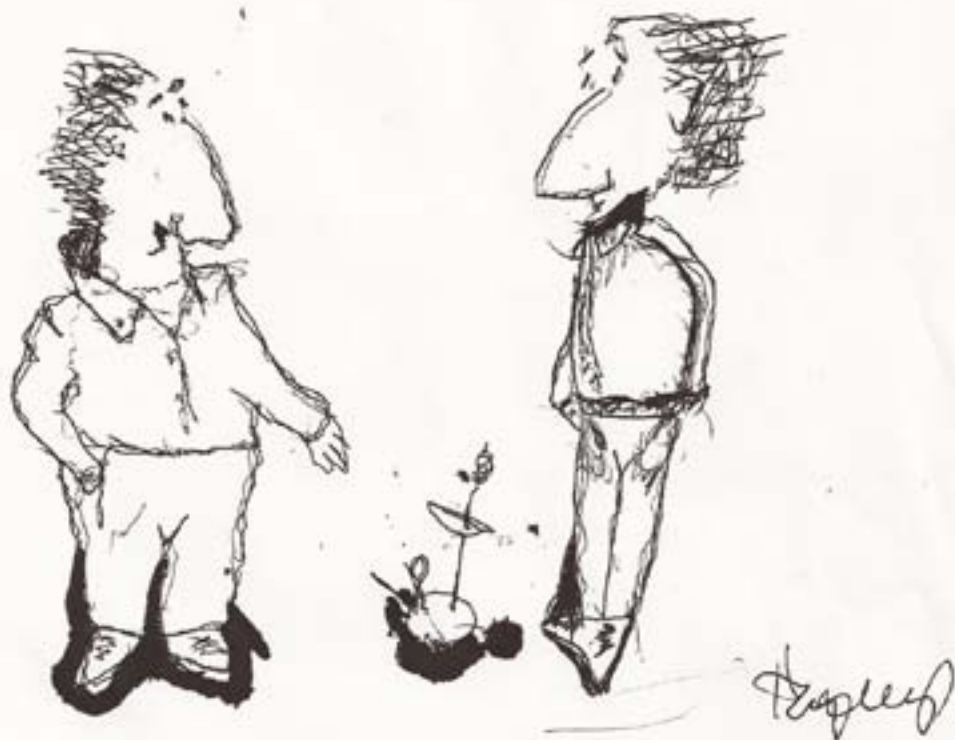
Please save your gently used tools as you receive new ones for Christmas. Senior High Youth will be conducting a "Tool Raiser" January 8, 15, 22 and 29 to collect gently used tools for use at Work Camp. Contact Rachel Bahr, Director of Youth Ministry, for more information.

## Church School & Youth Fellowship Events and Activities

<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>RSVP &amp; Details</b>
Christmas Pageant Actors and Actresses	Sun., December 18 9:00 - 10:00am	Pilgrim Hall lower level	Third Pageant rehearsal	Caroline Andres
Senior High Youth	Sun., December 18	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
TF <sup>2</sup> and Junior High Youth Fellowships	Wed., December 21	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
Christmas Pageant Actors and Actresses	Fri., December 23 3:00 - 5:30pm	Sanctuary	Pageant dress rehearsal	Caroline Andres
Christmas Pageant Actors and Actresses	Sat., December 24 3:00pm	Sanctuary	Call Time for Pageant	Caroline Andres
Families	Sat., December 24 <b>4:00pm</b> (new time this year)	Sanctuary	Christmas Eve Pageant and Family Worship	Catherine Curtis
Congregation and Guests	Sat., December 24 7:00pm	Sanctuary	Christmas Eve Worship	Joyce Driver
Congregation and Guests	Sat., December 24 11:00pm	Sanctuary	Christmas Eve Worship	Joyce Driver
Congregation and Guests	Sun., December 25 <b>9:30am only</b>	Sanctuary	Christmas Day Worship - no church school or childcare	Joyce Driver
Senior High Youth	Sun., December 25	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
TF <sup>2</sup> and Junior High Youth Fellowships	Wed., December 28	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
Congregation and Guests	Sun., January 1 9:00am and 10:30am	Sanctuary	New Year's Day Worship - no church school or childcare	Joyce Driver
Senior High Youth	Sun., January 1	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
TF <sup>2</sup> and Junior High Youth Fellowships	Wed., January 4	<b>NO</b> <b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b> <b>CROSSWALK</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
7th Grade Confirmation Class	Sun., January 8 Time TBD	Meet in Youth Room	Mosque Visit	Rachel Bahr
Senior High Youth	Sun., January 8	<b>NO</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>
8th Grade Confirmands and Sponsors	Wed., January 11 6:15pm	Pilgrim Hall and Sanctuary	Crosswalk Fellowship Meal and Faith Paper Discussion	<b>IMPORTANT:</b> Sponsors please sign up and party for your meal by Sun., Jan. 8 Rachel Bahr rachel@firstconge.org
7th and 8th Grade Confirmands	Fri., January 13 - Sun., January 15 Times TBD	Meet at church and drive to Pilgrim Park	7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat Weekend	Rachel Bahr
7th and 8th Grade Confirmands	Sun., January 15	<b>NO CHURCH</b>	<b>SCHOOL DUE TO</b>	<b>RETREAT</b>

## Church School & Youth Fellowship Events and Activities (cont'd)

Who	When	Where	What	RSVP & Details
Senior High Youth	Sun., January 15	NO	YOUTH	FELLOWSHIP
Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders	Wed., January 18 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Confirmation Classroom lower level	TF <sup>2</sup> Youth Fellowship	Rachel Bahr Caroline Andres
Third - Eighth Graders	Wed., January 18 6:30pm - 7:00pm	Pilgrim Hall lower level	Youth Fellowship Meal	Caroline Andres
Junior High Youth	Wed., January 18 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Pilgrim Hall lower level	Junior High Fellowship - Service & Justice Night	Rachel Bahr
Senior High Youth	Sat., January 21 4:00pm - 10:00pm	Church Kitchen	Night Ministry - food prep followed by delivery	Rachel Bahr
Senior High Youth	Sun., January 22 noon - 2:00pm	TBD	Senior High Student Leadership Training	Rachel Bahr



"I understood it perfectly  
until you explained it."

*cartoon by FCC member Bill Hagerup*

## Musical Notes

Michele Hecht 469-3096 x15  
Director of Music Ministry  
michele@firstconge.org



### Join the Choirs in January

After the intense preparation for the Christmas season ends, all of the choirs start fresh in January. That makes it a good time to join. You can even come to several rehearsals before you decide you are ready to sing in worship. We have adult choirs that meet on Sundays and Thursdays, so choose the one that works for your schedule. They both perform a wide variety of musical styles and often sing together as a combined choir. We will be learning Jeff Haeger's brand new commissioned choral piece to perform in worship on February 12. We will also begin preparing new music for the big 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on April 29. The Joyful Noise children's choir is open all year to new members, too, including kids who do not attend FCC, so bring a friend! Contact Michele Hecht to sign up.

### Special Musicians

Thanks to all of the special musicians in worship during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Season:

November 27 – Julia Anderson (piano)

December 4 – Alan Bayert (guitar/vocals), Lillian Daniel (bass) and Andy Livingston (mandolin/vocals)

December 11 – Evan Johnson (trumpet) & Nathan Hokenson (piano)

December 18 - Alan Bayert (guitar/vocals), Lillian Daniel (bass),

Theresa Holly (vocals), Andy Livingston (guitar/vocals) and Jackie McCarthy (vocals)

Christmas Eve (4:00pm) – Julia Ilhardt (cello)

Christmas Eve (7:00pm) – Alex Flugel (guitar), Lora Ilhardt (harp), Julia Ilhardt (cello), Chris Paulus (tenor) and Danielle Post (soprano)

Christmas Eve (11:00pm) – Peter Ilhardt (cello)

Christmas Day – Quartet: Cindy Heuer, Linda Davenport, Russ Graunke and Richard Link

January 1 – Alan Bayert (guitar/vocals)

January 8 – Timothy Barnes (oboe) & Julia Ilhardt (harp)



## From our Parish Nurse: Antibiotics--when to use and when not to use

Antibiotics are drugs used to treat different bacterial infections. Common bacterial infections include strep throat, urinary tract infections, most ear infections and some sinus infections. However, antibiotics cannot be used to kill viral infections such as colds, the flu, most coughs or sore throats. One way to differentiate between bacterial and viral is that bacterial targets one local area of the body and viral targets several areas of the body. It is important to understand that even though one may feel ill, it does not necessarily mean an antibiotic is needed. With the misconception that antibiotics can be used to treat anything such as the common cold, overuse of antibiotics has contributed to the increase in drug resistance. Drug resistance means that over time, the organism can mutate and build defenses that prevent the drug from working. Another way that resistance can occur is through the improper use of antibiotics by stopping your antibiotic before your doctor tells you to, which allows the bacteria to form resistance to that antibiotic. This occurs because the organism has been exposed to the antibiotics and learns how to fight against them; this is why it is essential to know the proper way to use antibiotics.

### *How to properly take antibiotics:*

- Follow dosing directions exactly as prescribed
- Continue taking medication even when you start to feel better
- Do not skip doses
- Do not share
- Call your doctor if you do not start to feel better after a few days
- Call your doctor if you miss or skip a dose

Reference: Alliance Working for Antibiotics Resistance Education. (2008) Retrieved on November 23, 2011 from <http://www.aware.md/default.aspx>

*Contributed by Nanci Peek, MSN RN, Nursing Instructor/  
Coordinator of Continuing Education at Lewis University  
College of Nursing & Health Professions*

Lesley Wheeler, our Parish Nurse, is looking forward to seeing you on December 18 for blood pressure checks and January 8 for a Health and Wellness event in Pilgrim Hall. Details are forthcoming. ✨

## Mission of the Month: Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center

Guided by the slogan, "Helping the World's Children in Our Own Backyard," the GE Children's Resource Center mission is to help children from low-income families acquire the necessary skills in academics and social interaction to move successfully through grades K - 12 and into adulthood. They do this by providing after-school and summer programs that emphasize literacy and community involvement and utilize the talents of teachers, volunteer tutors, adult caregivers and a variety of local support services.

First Congregational member Kasey O'Connell is one of the original founders of the organization. Kasey currently serves on the Board of Directors along with fellow FCC members Cleo Burtis, Celia Rodee and MaryBeth Sackett.

Watch the announcements and weekly e-blasts for more information about the GE Children's Resource Center. ✨

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available on the desk in the Main Lobby for those who regularly use them or have requested them. If you would like to request a box, please call the church office at 630-469-3096—but don't forget to pick them up! ✨

## Adult Spiritual Formation Classes

*January 15*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.: Beyond “I Have a Dream...”*

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his life, Kathryn Price, Seminary Intern, will lead us in discussion as we come together to consider King’s prophetic role as a Christian minister and disciple of Christ. There is more to this man and his vision than the famous “I Have a Dream” speech, much more. Come hear about a man who loved Jesus enough to lose his life for him and for his fellow brothers and sisters of all races.

*January 29*

*Navigating the Crisis: Survival in a Bad Economy*

Join attorney Jon Noel Dowat for an informative discussion that aims to provide strategies for navigating the ongoing economic downturn. Dowat brings a Christian perspective to his work and will address issues such as restructuring debt, safeguarding your retirement, understanding the fundamentals of bankruptcy and how to settle tax debts with the IRS, among other matters.

Classes are held in the Chapel at 11:45; all are welcome. A light lunch will be served. ✨

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## Flower Donations

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar on a Sunday, the following 2012 dates are available: February 26, August 19 and 26, September 30. Email Jennifer Darnall or phone her at 630-469-3712. ✨

## Please Submit Your 2012 Financial Pledge

If you participated in Stewardship Sunday November 13 and have already turned in your pledge form, THANK YOU.

Your pledge is the amount you intend to contribute to the ministry of our church in the year 2012, and now is the time to let the church know. Our church depends upon the annual gifts of the members and knowing these gifts in advance allows us to plan for the future.

If you’ve not yet turned in your pledge form, please bring it to church and put it in the offering plate. You may also drop off your form at the church office during the week or mail it to the attention of Joyce Driver at the church, 535 Forest Avenue, GE, 60137. ✨

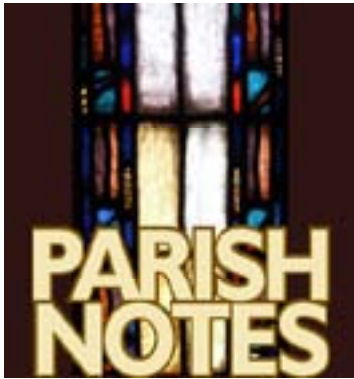
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## 2011 Contributions

There are just a couple weeks left to fulfill your planned contributions for this calendar year. To ensure that your year-end gifts are recorded in calendar year 2011:

- Place your contribution in the offering plate at one of the services on or before Sun., Dec. 25, 2011.
- Drop off your contribution in the church office to be received before noon on Thurs., Dec. 29, 2011.
- Mail your contribution to the church. All mailed checks must be postmarked by Sat., Dec. 31 to qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2011. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2012 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2011, even if the check is predated to 2011.

When gifting stock, please make sure that you notify the church office of the stock transfer. We thank you for all the time, talent, and treasures that you give to the church. ✨



## Joys

*Johnny Gillespie*, one of our former Seminary Interns, passed his Ecclesiastical Council and has been approved for ordination in the UCC, which will take place December 18 at 3:00pm at the First Congregational Church in LaGrange

*George Allen and Jennifer Darnall*, for their efforts, and to all those who contributed to Mission 1; 569 food items were collected

*Amber Heppner*, daughter of Melissa Finch, on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday

The *children of the church*, who led us in worship December 11

For all who helped facilitate our kitchen renovation, whether out in front or behind the scenes, whether big jobs or small

## Concerns

*Lillian Williams and family*, on the sudden death of her husband and church member, *Dean Williams*

*Marguerite Bollinger and family*, on the death of her husband and former FCCGE Interim Minister (1983 - 1985), *John Bollinger*

*Kathleen Hokenson and family*, on the death of her stepfather, *John Weymouth*, and special prayers for Kathleen's mom, *Therese Weymouth*

*Sharon Wussow*, recovering at home from back surgery

*Jessy Beltran*, son of *Jose Lopez*, our Sexton, recovering from leg surgery

*Susan Zehnder*, godchild of Marilyn Peretti, who has sudden and severe breast cancer

*Barbie Marie Burkhardt*, daughter of friend of Bob Knobbe, hospitalized from a stroke

*Lora Ilhardt*, recovering from hip replacement surgery

*Ryan Clarin*, recovering from emergency appendectomy

*Mike Hoskinson*, undergoing mental health treatment in Holly, Michigan, and misses FCCGE

Healing thoughts and prayers for *Emily Oberst*, cousin of Kyle, Chris and Megan Oberst, as she starts chemotherapy

*Sue Markowski* and family, on the death of Sue's mother, Doris Adair

*Rowland Thomas*, recovering from surgery

*Estelle Prester*, newborn daughter of Amy (Sikorski) and Eric Prester (friends of Allie & Justin Beyer), facing serious health issues ✨

## Community Counselor/ Coordinator Position Available

Independent subcontractor position available; successful candidate must live in Glen Ellyn/Wheaton or surrounding communities.

Duties include recruiting and interviewing potential host families for year-long cultural/child care experience, as well as providing ongoing support to hosting family and au pair during contract period.

Additionally, this person will advise and coordinate activities for international au pairs. Flexible hours, work from home. Wonderful opportunity for computer-literate person with excellent people skills and experience working with young adults from different countries. Marketing experience a plus.

Submit letter and resume describing qualifications to Pat

visit us at: [www.firstconge.org](http://www.firstconge.org)



535 Forest Avenue  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Jacob at Au Pair in America. For more information, visit their website. ✨

## Host Families Needed

The Toulouse/Marseille-Chicago student exchange program provides high school-age students the opportunity to live with an American host family. During the weeks of April 15 - 28 and April 21 - May 5, French students ages 15 - 18 will be placed with local families.


Students originate from high schools in France. The students tour Chicago on certain dates with chaperones. All students arrive with insurance via the French international exchange organization. Hosting an exchange student allows your family to share American hospitality, creating lifelong friendships and reciprocal travel opportunities.

To find out more, contact Amy Hansberger at 630.779.3340 or email Dottie Lipinski or phone her at 630.251.4270. ✨

church office: 630-469-3096

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois  
Permit No. 77

Next Pilgrim Deadline:  
**Monday, Jan. 9**

 **God is still speaking,**