

narthex

News and Happenings of Flossmoor Community Church

November 2018



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR SHOW OFF TO BENEFIT FCC PADS

FRI NOV. 16 A community night out
6-10 P.M. featuring outstanding
local talent
@ the community house

FREE-WILL DONATION • SPECIALTY COCKTAILS
LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES • FOOD TRUCKS

**MANY THANKS TO
OUR SPONSORS**

Betsy & Rick Hanzelin, Jody Scariano
A Piece of the Pie, Tito's Handmade Vodka

THANKFUL FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

*"...for I was hungry and
you gave me food, I was thirsty
and you gave me something
to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me..."*

Matthew 25:35

We have entered the season of Thankfulness, and this month we focus our gratitude on our PADS Ministry (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). For over twenty-five years, FCC has been a PADS Sunday night site, providing shelter, meals and supplies for homeless men in the Southern Suburbs. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve, for the men who visit our site, for the countless volunteers, and for the generosity of our community.

Please join us for our 2nd Annual PADS Fundraising "Homewood-Flossmoor Show Off," and see more information on page 8 about the awesome ways this vital ministry is being sustained and supported by our congregation and community.



ABUNDANCE



GRATITUDE



HOSPITALITY

I believe that somewhere in each of us there is a measure of **ABUNDANCE** God provides for us to share with others. I believe that somewhere in each of us there is a measure of **GRATITUDE** for **ABUNDANCE** through which God generates a ready willingness of heart for us to be generous. I believe that somewhere in each of us there is a measure of **HOSPITALITY** through which God equips us to put our **GRATITUDE** for **ABUNDANCE** into action for the sake of God's loving will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

Our experiences may vary—but the **ABUNDANCE**, **GRATITUDE**, and **HOSPITALITY** are there.

This year, I long for a different kind of participation in our annual Stewardship Campaign. This year, I don't want to hear about what we cannot do. Each and every one of us can do—and can do more—whether we pledge \$1.00 a week or \$10.00 a week or \$100.00 a week or \$1,000.00 a week.

This year, I want to hear about what we can do—and will do—to act generously together. Because when we act generously—personally and as a congregation—we make ministries happen here at FCC.

And by “make ministries happen” I mean not only sustaining current ministries. I also mean expanding those ministries and, even more, making entirely new ministries happen.

For several years now, FCC has been doing what amounts to bare bones ministry because of underfunding. That being said, FCC still does amazing things that focus on Christ being central, on diversity being cherished, on being inspired by the risen Christ to Seek—Connect—Serve.

But there is so much more that we could do—and can do—by increasing our giving.

Underfunding limits possibilities for growing our ministries. Underfunding discourages and even prevents thinking big and outside the box about our ministries. Underfunding frequently handcuffs our staff as well as our boards and committees when it comes to generating and then having the resources to carry out new ideas for our ministries. Underfunding sells FCC's ministries short.

Increasing our giving will expand our current ministries and make new ones happen. Increasing our

giving can and will generate a generosity that, in the words of St. Paul, “not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.” Such generosity also supplies the needs of those beyond our community of faith.

Whatever measure of **ABUNDANCE**, **GRATITUDE**, and **HOSPITALITY** we experience in our lives, it is incumbent on every one of us to join together to act generously. Otherwise, we are limiting our capacity to make ministries happen, ministries through which we lovingly serve God, gladly uphold one another, and compassionately reach out beyond our congregation, near and far.

It is time to overcome minimalist “cannot-do” giving by embracing abundant “can-do” giving. Because as Walter Brueggemann reminds us, when it comes to being recipients of God's grace: *“Together we have enough... and more than enough to share.”*

Our Stewardship Campaign runs through Commitment Sunday, November 4, when we encourage all to dedicate their pledges by placing them in the offering plate during worship. We also invite you to visit FCC's website for more online giving opportunities and resources, especially to establish “Automatic Deduction via ACH Transfers.” If you cannot be in worship on November 4, please return your pledge card by mail, online, or email your pledge to judyjensen@fccfaithful.org. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

Peace,

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

All Saints Sunday

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4
AT 9:45 AM

Every year on All Saints Sunday, our FCC community prayerfully remembers and celebrates the lives of church members, as well as immediate family of members, who have died in the past year. This year our commemoration of All Saints will be on Sunday, November 4.

At our 9:45 a.m. worship service we will share a special time of remembrance as the names of those lost this year are read, and a bell is tolled to praise God for the gift of their life and discipleship. Join in giving thanks for all the saints who have recently gone before us.



Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service

Wednesday, November 21

7:30 p.m. (Location to be Announced)

Join with friends and neighbors for this annual service sponsored by the South Suburban Interfaith Ministerial Association.

In addition to prayers and hymns of praise and thanksgiving, the service will include music by the HF Viking Choir. An offering will be collected to benefit the work of Respond Now in providing social services in our community.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SEMINAR SERIES

Planning Your Final Exit - What Steps Can I Take Today?

Sunday, November 4
at 11 a.m. in Bell Chapel

Please join us as we welcome Michele Johnson, who brings more than 20 years experience in funeral service.

Would you like to learn about pre-planning your funeral? Bring your questions about burial, embalming, cremation, new technology, trends in the industry, effects on the environment. All women are invited! Invite a female friend to attend service with you on this day and stay for the seminar. Sponsored by Focus Elder, Rosanne Goodrich Schutz.

Women's & Men's Association presents

Songs of Love from the Stage and Screen

Wednesday, November 14
at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Baritone David Ranlett takes you on a vocal tour of songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, and Leonard Bernstein to name a few. Join him, accompanied by the very talented Kay Sue Nagle on piano, for a program of some of your favorite songs from "The King and I", "Carousel", "My Fair Lady", "West Side Story" and other treasures.

Reserve all your Luncheon/Program Tickets (\$12 each) by signing up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space or by calling Kim Sifner at 754-2683.



Four Gospels, One Jesus

Sundays in November at 11 a.m. in the Family Room
Led by Phil & Rebecca Courington

Many people ask, "Do we really need four gospels in the Bible? Shouldn't one do the trick?" Maybe that would work if Jesus had been just a regular person who just did regular things. But he wasn't and he didn't! We have four gospels because during the early church period, four people found it necessary to tell the story of Jesus from four different perspectives. Each of the gospels was written for a different audience, by a different author, who was trying to accomplish a different purpose.

As we read through the gospels during this 4-week class, look for new insights and details you may have missed in before. Try viewing the events and lessons from a new or different perspective. As you read, ask yourself these questions:

- What does Jesus say about himself?
- Who is Jesus talking to? (disciples? enemies? a crowd?)
- What does Jesus say about God?
- How does Jesus react to different situations? What pleases him? What upsets him?
- What does Jesus tell people to do?

To prepare for classes, please read the following Gospels: Mark (for 11/4), Matthew (for 11/11), Luke (for 11/18), John (for 11/25).

Almost Everything by Anne Lamott

November 4, 11 & 18 at 11 am in the Parlor
Book Discussion Led by Theresa Gibbons

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes. Including you."
- Anne Lamott

Struggle, anxiety, hopelessness, sometimes all it takes is catching a snippet of the news to make one feel instantly depressed and despondent about the future of the world. We all could use some time to unplug from the clamor and hear the still message of hope inside us. Anne Lamott, author of *Hallelujah Anyway*, *Small Victories*, and *Help, Thanks, Wow* has a new book out exploring hope in seemingly impossible times through her vulnerability and trademark humor that is so very relatable. *Almost Everything* is about the persistence of holding onto hope in difficult times. The book is available at Bookies in Homewood, at area libraries, and online. Please read chapters 1-4 for Nov. 4, 5-8 for Nov. 11, and 9-12 for Nov. 18.

Hum If You Don't Know the Words by Bianca Marais

Sunday, November 25 at 11 a.m. in the Parlor
Book Discussion Led by Trina Hayes

Join us for a discussion of a novel of apartheid's effects described by Publishers Weekly as handling topics "such as grief and racism with a delicate intensity that will make readers fall in love with her characters. From the first few heartfelt chapters to a fast-paced and heart-wrenching ending, Marais has created a stunning historical drama that shouldn't be missed." The book is available at Bookies in Homewood, at area libraries, and online.

SHOP LOCAL

FCC has made arrangements to have our Adult Education books carried at Homewood's new bookstore, Bookie's! Please visit to pick up our upcoming titles!



BOOKIE'S
NEW AND USED BOOKS

2015 Ridge Road, Homewood

708.377.0789

FCC WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

Fall Has Arrived at Weekday Preschool!



FALL CLEAN-UP

We have enjoyed the changing of the seasons on our beautiful playground. The children like to pile the leaves and jump in them. Fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 3, from 9 – 11 a.m. We welcome all volunteers! Grab a rake and join our hardworking crew of parents.



THE PAJAMA PROJECT

Look for the Great Bedtime Story gift box in the Gathering Space in late November. We are working with the Pajama Project to collect PJs and Scholastic Books will match each pair of PJs collected with a new book. Watch for details!



THE CHILDREN'S FARM

All of the classes went on Pumpkin Patch field trips in September and October. The children took a hay ride to pick out their very own pumpkin and visited with the many different farm animals. We thought about foods that grow on a farm and what kind of animals would live on a farm. We even explored worms in some of the classrooms.



EXOTIC VISITOR SPOTTED!

Thank You to Sue Bertram, who brought Bella the Scarlet Macaw to visit the Weekday Scientists class. The children had fun learning about macaws and had a chance to "pet" Bella's feathers.



Phew! October was very full and lots of fun! We wrapped up our discussion about Joseph during Parent Visiting Day with a reenactment of the story for the parents. Our 5th & 6th graders had some great discussions about the flood and made rainbows which are now hanging in the Promised Land hallway. Special thanks to all who attended Parent Visiting Day and got to experience what we've been up to.

The children have enjoyed beginning Sunday School in the Temple with all ages together, where we have a prayer with Pastor Fred, sing together, celebrate any birthdays, and hear the day's lesson. It's a great chance for all of the kids to see each other and share laughs together. From there, they go their separate ways to delve deeper into the story in their own age-appropriate way. 5th & 6th graders continue the topic with a video and open discussions. Our 1st-4th graders experience a science, art, or drama project, and our littlest learners enjoy an interactive story, craft, and fun snack matching the lesson. If you are able to donate snacks for our littlest ones, please contact Leslie at Imaxie@fccfaithful.org.

We have been off to a great start this year, and I could not have done it without my amazing volunteers. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of those who stepped up to volunteer this month! They have been absolutely wonderful and are the main reason the kids are enjoying Sunday school each week!

Special thanks to teachers Barbara Johnson, Alicia Perkins, Erick Deshaun Dorris, Jeff Groen, Tessa Zevallos, Kathryn Stolzenbach, Robin Predny, and Jamie Kneeland.

Thank you as well to our classroom volunteers Lois Toolan, Tracey Danadio, and Bill McCormick, and to Karen Cheung and Beth Oldaker for donating snacks. This program would not be possible without all of you!

Leslie Maxie, Children's Ministries
Imaxie@fccfaithful.org

WooHOO Wednesday Movie Night!

**Wednesday, November 7
at 6 p.m. in MasterPeace Theatre**

Join us for a fun movie night to watch Disney's Moana together! Come in PJ's and bring a sleeping bag to watch Moana with friends and enjoy some popcorn. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign-in by an adult is required for all.



Greeter Sign-Ups

Some of our Children's Ministries cuties participated as Greeters for worship on October 21. They sure loved seeing you all and we hope they made you smile. Our kids will have the opportunity to serve as greeters again on November 25. Please sign your child up on the Greeter sign-up sheet upstairs on the Sunday School check-in table if they are among those who wish to participate. Our congregation will also be treated to a liturgist from Children's Ministries on that day.

A Little Help with a Big Impact

We need YOU for Children's Ministries to continue to thrive! We can find the perfect fit for your availability and restrictions, and your help, even in small ways, can make a big impact! If you can give your time in the coming weeks, please contact Leslie Maxie at Imaxie@fccfaithful.org.



Retreats! Quest "retreated" to Tower Hill October 12-14 and learned more about themselves through Myers-Briggs & spiritual gifts (above).

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 1

Work Trip Deposit Deadline

Don't forget to sign up for the Shenandoah Valley Work Trip. Forms and \$100 deposit are due by November 1. Looking for more information, or have questions? Contact Allison Billings at 708-798-2800 ext. 19 or email abillings@fccfaithful.org.

NOVEMBER 18

Sunday Night Youth Group

Come for dinner & a service project with SCARCE from 6:30 - 8 p.m at the Community House.

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World Communion

On October 7, Youth helped World Communion Sunday worship, including serving communion to the congregation and leading time with children.

HELPING OUR PADS MINISTRY

Bel Canto Choir Raises Needed PADS Supplies and Funding Through Multiple Lemonade Stands



The children of Bel Canto Choir, a community choir which rehearses at FCC, worked together to raise money for the FCC PADS program by running multiple neighborhood lemonade stands in September. The children's joint efforts raised an astounding \$1,639.57! The choir's director, Carrie Bonanote, shares that learning to use their voices on stage as well as in the community is an important part of the Bel Canto Choir.



With the money raised, items were purchased to replenish the PADS donation closet at FCC, with enough left over to donate \$500 to replenish supplies down the road when needed. Winter coats, gloves, hats, warm socks, underwear, belts, blankets, work boots and toiletries were among their generous gifts pictured below.

You can check out Bel Canto Choir as they kick off the evening of live entertainment at the Homewood-Flossmoor Show Off on November 16 at the Community House.



THANKSGIVING PIE RAFFLE!

TO BENEFIT FCC PADS

\$5 PER TICKET

for a chance to win one
of 5 pumpkin pies baked
by A Piece of the Pie
and delivered the day
before Thanksgiving

*Raffle tickets are available
for pre-sale at the FCC office.
Winning tickets will be drawn
at the Homewood-Flossmoor
Show Off benefitting FCC PADS
on November 16 at the
Community House.*



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Angels

You can help a local needy family experience the true spirit of Christmas giving by becoming a Christmas Angel.

We are hoping to match the families with Christmas Angels who can fulfill their Christmas wishes. We would also appreciate any monetary donations (by December 1, if possible) for gift certificates for groceries, shoes, and other essentials. (Make checks payable to Flossmoor Community Church, noting Christmas Angels on the memo line.)

You may also provide items such as towels, blankets, sheets, toiletries, pots & pans, dishes, laundry detergent and canned goods.

To participate, simply fill out the blue Christmas Angels 2018 Sponsor Information Sheet, available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space, and return it as soon as possible. Any questions? Please call Sis Flor at 288-0333 (cell) or Sue Detrick 708-707-9312 (cell).

*Sponsored by the FCC
Board of Outreach Ministries.*



Christmas Giving which Gives Back

For those unable to take on a Christmas Angel family, we have smaller giving opportunities available that benefit the work of Jones Memorial Community Center in Chicago Heights. (www.jonescenter.org)

Thanksgiving Pies:

We are looking for volunteers to make pies (our goal is 20 total) for the Jones Center Thanksgiving Dinner served on November 22. Dinner is served that day to over 100 people! Pies can be delivered to Sis Flor's house by 11 am on Wednesday, November 21, or contact Sis if you need pick up.

Hams for Holidays:

We collect monetary contributions which go towards purchasing hams for the Family Baskets given to the families served by the Jones Center. Please drop off your check or cash donations to the envelope on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space prior to December 1. Please make checks payable to FCC, noting "Hams" on the memo line.

Giving Tree:

A chance to give one gift to a child. We will have gift tags with names and ages of children (ages 5-16) available in the Gathering Space and in the Preschool Hallway. Take a tag, purchase and wrap \$15 age appropriate gifts for your child.

Mitten Tree:

Bring your donations of new hats, gloves and mittens for adults and children and hang on our mitten tree in the Gathering Space. The tree will be up from December 2 through 19 and all donations will go to the Jones Center. The Mitten Tree is sponsored by Women's & Men's Association.

Toy Drive:

We are collecting new unwrapped toys for children of all ages for Jones Center to add to their Family Baskets.

Penny & Dime Store:

The store is an opportunity for children to "buy" Christmas gifts for their parents or siblings. We are looking for small new items (such as playing cards, mugs, balls, socks, etc.) to fill out the store.

Drop off Giving Tree, Mitten Tree, Toy Drive and Penny & Dime Store items in the designated areas in the Gathering Space or at Christmas Angels drop off on December 14 in the Community House. If you have questions, please contact Sis Flor at 288-0333

FCC HAPPENINGS

QUESTERS "Miracle on 34th Street" Outing

Wednesday, December 5

Come join the Questers December outing to the Theatre at the Center in Munster for "Miracle on 34th Street." Tickets are \$55/person for the show and includes lunch. Please get your reservations in early; checks to be made to Barbara Burleson. We will carpool from the Community House so will need drivers. Departure times and other particulars will be given closer to the date of performance. Please call Barbara Burleson at 708-922-0422 with questions or to reserve your spot.

FCC Youth Group Alums Advent Homecoming

Sunday, December 2

FCC welcomes ALL our Youth Group Alums back to your home church on December 2 for the opening Sunday of Advent. Whether you live close by, or far away, we invite you back for a morning of worship and fellowship and reconnecting with old friends and youth group leaders.

That morning we will celebrate communion, followed by "Deck the Halls" time of adorning our Sanctuary and public spaces with Advent/Christmas decorations. We end the morning with a potluck shared meal in Fellowship Hall. Worship starts at 9:45 a.m. "Deck the Halls" starts at 11 a.m. The potluck starts at Noon.

We would all love to welcome you home on December 2. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Allison Billings, of Youth Ministries (708.798.2800 ext. 19 or abillings@fccfaithful.org) OR Betsy Hanzelin, of Congregational Life (708.798.2800 ext. 18 or bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org). *Help Spread the Word!*

FCC Children's Choir - More Than Just Singing!

Our FCC Children's Choir delights our congregation by singing in worship once a month - but there is so much more to our Children's Choir than singing! Under the direction of Katie Van Heel, our Music Ministries Coordinator who also teaches elementary school music, Children's Choir participants learn the fundamentals of choral singing as well as experience the many benefits of performing such as teamwork, building friendships, achieving personal and group goals, self-expression through performance and an appreciation for music. On top of this, we enjoy a lot of fun and laughter!

In order to accommodate more family's schedules, the Children's Choir has moved its rehearsal time to **Thursdays from 5 - 5:30 p.m.** and is open to all kids ages K - 4th grade.



All-Church Potluck

Sunday, December 2
11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

All Ages will gather at 11 to help "deck the halls" of FCC. Youth & Adults will work together to adorn the Sanctuary and public areas, and children will make decorations/ornaments. Many hands will make light work! To complete our morning we will have a Potluck at noon, so bring a dish to share and be ready to usher in Advent in fellowship with your church family.

There will be no formal education hour on December 2.

*Sponsored by the
Board of Congregational Life*



WORTHY OF NOTE

Looking Ahead: Pastor Fred's Mini Sabbatical

Part of my terms of call as your pastor include taking a sabbatical after my first five years of service at FCC. Over the past couple of years, for a variety of reasons, I haven't been able to take my full 8 to 10-week sabbatical. Recently, I have been working with staff and church leaders to put together a mini sabbatical for 2019 as an alternative, and I'm excited to share with you that I will be taking this mini sabbatical from Thursday, December 27 through Saturday, January 26.

I have been very involved in lining up several guest preachers, which will be announced in the near future. In addition, I have already met with Laurel Hamilton (our Temporary Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care) and our volunteers from the Diaconate Board and Stephen Ministers to help with pastoral care needs during my absence. We have made every effort to lighten the financial impact of my absence by working closely with the Finance Committee chair.

We will be sharing more details over the next few weeks, but know that I am leaving you in good hands, and am looking forward to this opportunity for rest and renewal.

Peace,



Your Foundation Dollars at Work

With guidance from the Reserve Study conducted last year, the Properties Committee has completed several more projects with the financial backing of the Foundation. The projects completed so far this year were all identified as part of the recommended regular maintenance schedule.

The Community House

We continued the work on updating the Community House, with a total roof replacement in March, complete floor refinishing in April, and shrub and tree trimming around the parking lot in June. We also replaced the microwave and vacuum.

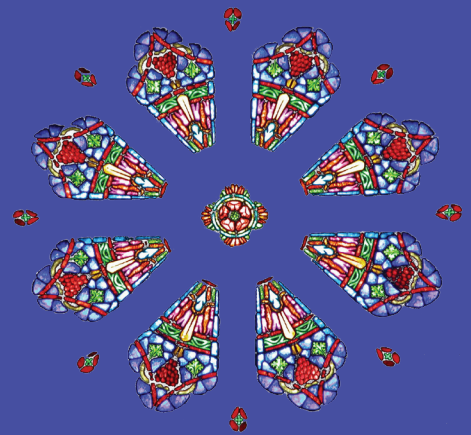
Efficiency Improvements

In April, all of the light bulbs in the Sanctuary and Narthex were updated to LED, for more uniformity and cost savings over time. We also had the aging control system for the heating and air conditioning updated, for more precise programming that can be done right from the office area, instead of from the air handler room!

Trimwork

Finally, we will be painting all the church doors and wood trim next May. Although we had hoped to have this completed this fall, the bidding took longer than expected and we couldn't get on the schedule for this year.

Take a look around and enjoy the enhancements to our beautiful facilities!



We celebrate the births of

Sullivan June Calderón, born October 5. Sullivan is the son of Annie & Fidel Calderón, the brother of Oliver, and the grandson of Val Litchfield.

Gavin Zachary Samargin

Spuhler, born October 1. Gavin is the son of Domenica Samargin & Zach Spuhler, the grandson of Beth & Frank Samargin, and the nephew of Kristiana & Matt Bailey, Aline & Matt McGivern, and Frankie Samargin.

Our sympathy and prayers

to the friends and family of long-time member, **Gretchen Hannan**, who died October 4.

to **Craig and Leslie Lowry** in the death of Craig's sister, Nena Lowry Mason, on October 14. A memorial celebration will be held at the Community House on December 1. More information will follow.



Flossmoor Community Church
Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

A Thanksgiving Prayer

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home, help me remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering:
 help me to destroy my complacency;
 bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help,
By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for
granted.

Amen.

by Samuel F. Pugh

