

narthex

SPRING
2022

On Sunday, someone joked with me about when I'd break my run of mentioning green pastures somewhere in the worship service. It's an image that runs through the gospel of John, painting a picture of abundance, protection and deep satisfaction underneath the realities we face daily. In fact, we began Lent on Ash Wednesday immersing our mortality in this landscape, leaning our lives into the care of the Good Shepherd.

Funny story: One Sunday, I suggested bringing this image to mind just after you wake up but before grabbing your phone or letting your feet hit the floor as a prayerful meditation. One of my children, partly to prove they listen sometimes to some parts of the sermon, said, "I tried it. Problem - I fell back asleep. Not gonna work for me."

This past Sunday, I didn't say a word about that image, but you would have heard an echo in the congregational song, "Come Away from Rush and Hurry", whose text was written by Marva Dawn:

*Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's face.*

*In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.*

At the beginning of Lent, we passed out marbles before worship as another way to help turn your mind toward God's presence with you. If you didn't get one, pick one up this Sunday or find one in your home. You can put it in your pocket or in a dish on your desk. Like a fidget toy, it physically reminds us of the option we have, mentally and spiritually, at any moment, to turn. A deep breath and a roll of the marble might help gently shift your focus away from what troubles you toward the deep reality of God's presence with you, right here and now. It's not a denial of the struggle or challenge you face, but a reminder of your deepest identity, your truest Source of love and life, abundant and eternal.

Just as we'll turn soon from Lent to Easter and winter to spring, may we be part of the daily, God-fueled movement that turns from fear to trust, from despair to hope, from cruelty to dignity, from violence to peace, from death to life.

Pastor Julie

LENT & HOLY WEEK

Our worship schedule and
special guest Palm Sunday

p2-3

ADULT EDUCATION

Diving in to Wholehearted
Faith

p5

HOME STRETCH OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

News from Children's,
Youth, and Preschool

p6-9

FCC HAPPENINGS

Staff News, upcoming
events and more

p10-11

TURNING

2022 Lenten Journey



During Lent, John's Gospel invites us into a season of intentional turning. Our hearts turn with compassion for those who grieve. Our lives turn toward our neighbors in acts of solidarity and service. Our eyes turn toward the cross, and we see Jesus turning the world upside down with love.

Our Lenten worship this year is enhanced with special liturgy created by "Worship Well". We hope that your load will be lightened and you will experience a faithful and memorable framework to your Lenten journey as we gather for worship, reflection, and study.

Sundays in Lent – Worship at 10 am

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 13

Master *turns* Servant: Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 20

Disciple *turns* Denier: Peter's Betrayal (John 18:12-27)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 27

Hero *turns* Criminal: Jesus and Pilate (John 18:28-40)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – APRIL 3

Praising *turns* to Taunting: Jesus is Condemned (John 19:1-16a)

Holy Week at FCC

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 10

Hosanna *turns* to Crucify: The Crucified Messiah (John 19:16b-22)

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 14

Worship at 7:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17

Worship at 10 am

FCC is Thrilled to Welcome Jeff Chu

APRIL 10, PALM SUNDAY



Jeff Chu is a writer, reporter, editor, preacher, teacher, and co-curator and co-host, with Sarah Bessey, of *Evolving Faith* (evolvingfaith.com). He also serves as an editor-at-large at *Travel+Leisure* magazine, and has served on the staff of *Fast Company* and *Time* magazines. Jeff is also the author of “Does Jesus Really Love Me? A Gay Christian’s Pilgrimage in Search of God in America”.

He is a graduate of Princeton, the London School of Economics and Princeton Theological Seminary.

The grandson and nephew of Baptist preachers, Jeff finds his faith home in the Reformed Church in America (RCA), where he is an elder and candidate for ordination. It is through his RCA ties that he met our Pastor Julie, and it because of that friendship that he graciously agreed to preach the word in worship and lead our Adult Education Forum on April 10.

Through his relationship with Rachel Held Evans, Jeff was invited into the early days of the *Evolving Faith* conference and quickly became integral

to the culture and leadership of the organization. *Evolving Faith* seeks to “cultivate love and hope in the wilderness, pointing fellow wanderers and misfits to God as we embody resurrection for the sake of the world”. When Rachel suddenly passed away in 2019, her husband Dan asked Jeff to finish the book that Rachel began, and with Jeff’s tireless work and energy, “Wholehearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu was published in November of 2021. Our book club will be reading “Wholehearted Faith” (see page 5) and our Adult Education Forum on April 10 will focus on his journey of bringing this book to life.

Jeff lives in Grand Rapids, MI with his husband, and describes himself as a “cook, gardener, and dog walker to Fozzie”. Please plan to join us Palm Sunday, April 10 to meet and be blessed by Jeff Chu.



OUR EASTER OFFERING

Dear Flossmoor Community Church Family and Friends,

Each year, as we reflect on the good news of Christ's resurrection love and our call to serve and share with others, the Board of Faith in Action selects two organizations as recipients of a special Easter Offering. As you know, the past two years have been difficult for many, and organizations have struggled to meet the needs of our South Suburban neighbors. After careful discernment, the Board has chosen two local organizations, one that honors an old relationship, and another that begins a new chapter as a community partner with FCC.

PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER (sspads.org)

The COVID-19 pandemic caused PADS to make a major shift in their services in 2020, as providing shelter in churches was no longer a viable and safe model for both those experiencing homelessness and the countless volunteers who served. PADS continues their work to help individuals and families overcome homelessness and build healthier, happier, and more sustainable futures. FCC is grateful for our long relationship with PADS (25+ years) and blesses their work as they seek new models of serving this vulnerable population.

AUNT MARTHA'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS (auntmarthas.org)

Aunt Martha's has grown since it was founded in 1972 in both scope and size. Since then, Aunt Martha's has become a trusted partner focused in three areas of work: Integrated Health Care, Child Welfare, and Integrated Community-Based Services. We see many opportunities for our congregation to share in and partner with Aunt Martha's in the years to come, as their purpose and intent are aligned with the Board of Faith in Action. We would like to welcome Aunt Martha's as a community partner by naming them one of two recipients of our annual Easter Offering.

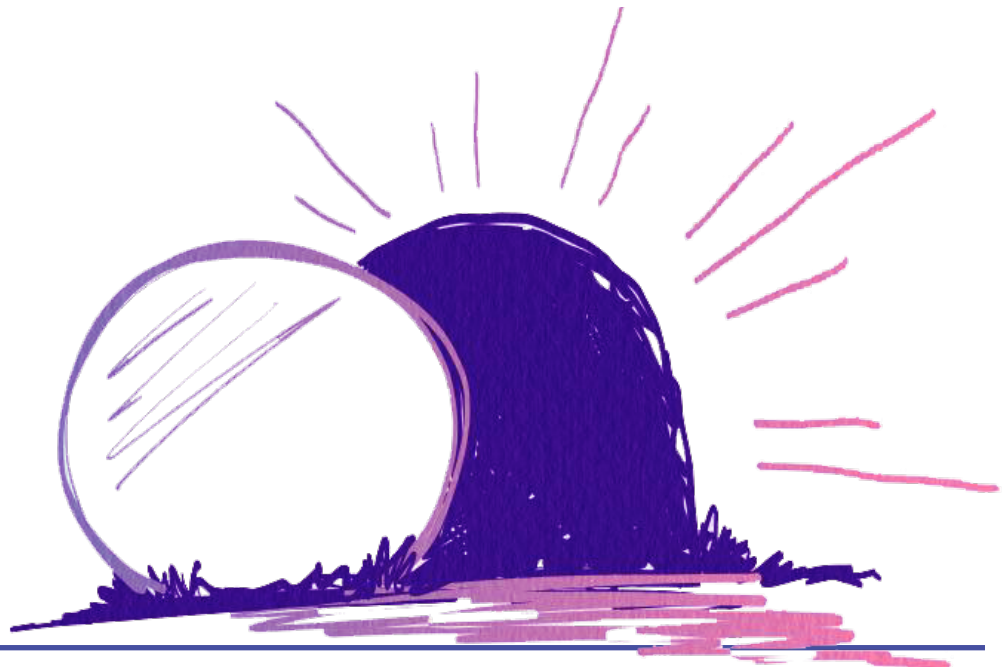
We know that the transformational power of the empty tomb is good news that makes a difference in our lives. We can share this good news by supporting programs that make a difference in the lives of others in our extended community.

You can make your offering in the Offering Boxes on Sundays, by mailing a check to church (Memo: Easter Offering) or donating online through our giving portal (fccfaithful.org/giving), choosing option B – Special Offering. Please respond to God's grace with grateful hearts by generously supporting FCC's 2022 Special Easter Offering.

In Christ,

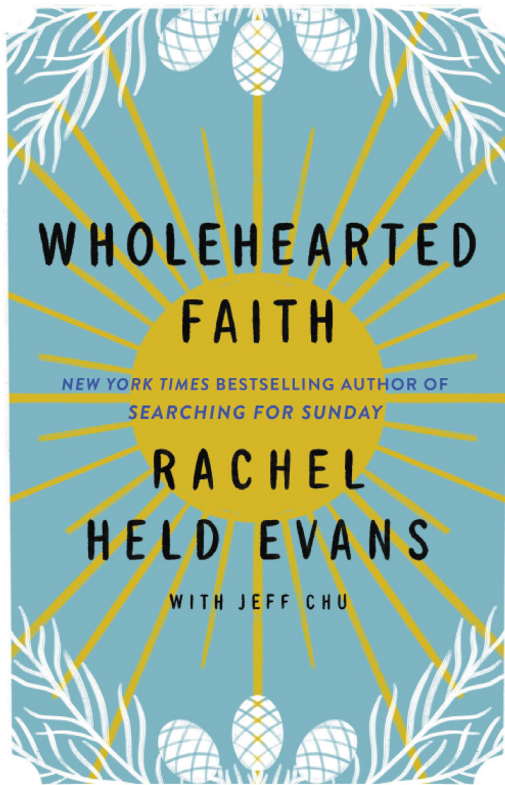


Jackie Riffice
Chair, Board of Faith in Action



ADULT EDUCATION

spring 2022



Join us for a preview of the book and a discussion of Part One: Wholehearted Faith, the Foreword and Introduction through page 75 on April 3. On April 24, we'll discuss pages 79 through 135. On May 3, we'll discuss pages 136 through the Afterword by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

The book is available at area libraries and at Bookie's in Homewood.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Genesis Room

All are welcome to drop in on any given week of this ongoing weekly study led by Betsy Hanzelin.

Wholehearted Faith

Introduction & Discussion

Sundays @ 11:15 am

April 3, 24, & May 1
in the Chapel

Led by Trina Hayes

Special Forum with
Co-Author, Jeff Chu

Sunday, April 10 after
worship

When acclaimed theological writer Rachel Held Evans died in 2019, she was working on a book about wholeheartedness and finding one's place in the family of faith. With the help of her friend, author Jeff Chu, the book came to fruition. Jeff will be leading us in worship on April 10.



Newcomers Coffee

Sunday, March 20
Following worship

If you have been visiting FCC, our Newcomers Coffee is an informal gathering after worship that provides opportunity to meet our Pastor and church members and learn about the ministries of our active congregation. All are welcome! (Childcare is available.)

New Members Class

Saturday, April 9
from 10 - 11:30 am

New Members Class is the next step after Newcomers Coffee, for those interested in pursuing membership. The class is designed to give an introduction to Flossmoor Community Church and the many opportunities for worship, education, fellowship, care, and outreach. New Members will join the church on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Please register for the New Members Class by contacting Betsy Hanzelin at bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org or 708-798-2800, ext. 18. Childcare is available upon request.





Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry is starting to ramp up after a long time of uncertainty. Each week, it seems we see more familiar faces returning as families begin to feel more comfortable. With temperatures on the rise and case numbers on the decline, we're beginning to plan small fellowship gatherings once more!

Save these dates for fun and fellowship!

Build a Leprechaun Trap

Sunday, March 13, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Bring a shoebox and create your own Leprechaun Trap in time for St. Patrick's Day! (A limited amount of shoeboxes will be available for those who don't have one.)

Palm Sunday Parade & Egg Decorating

Sunday, April 10

Children will shout Hosannas and wave palm branches in a parade to welcome Jesus during worship at 10 a.m.

Return in the afternoon for egg decorating from 2-3 p.m. at the Community House

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 17 at 10 a.m.

He is Risen Indeed! Join in celebration of the resurrection with all-church worship.

Spring Games in the Church Lawn

Sunday, May 15, from 2-3 p.m.

Intergenerational Worship & End of Program Year

Sunday, May 29 at 10 a.m.

Evening Fun & Games on the Church Lawn

Thursdays, June 9 & 23, from 6-7 p.m.

FCC Vacation Bible School

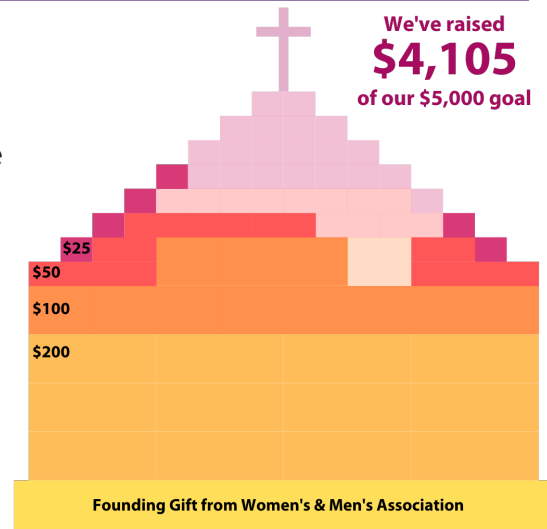
Monday - Thursday Evenings, July 18-21



Huge thanks to our wonderful volunteers who invest in our future church by engaging with our kids in Children's worship. These individuals miss worship every other week to spend time growing our children's faith, and we could not go on without

them! If you see them, won't you please thank Andrew

VanTil, Ave VanTil, Jamie Kneeland, Kenny Maxie, Barbara Johnson, Alicia Perkins, and Kathryn Stolzenbach?



Building Blocks Project

Goal: \$5000 by the end of Lent

Thank you to all who continue to support Children's Ministry through our Building Blocks fundraising campaign! We're getting so close to our goal - less than \$1,000 to go!

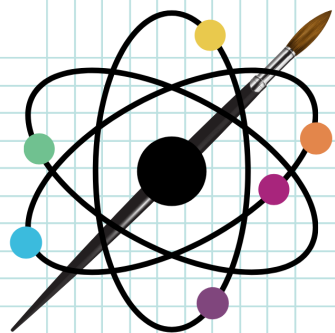
We are so very grateful for the love and support everyone has shown for the future of Children's Ministries through investing in our new curriculum. These story sets will help us lay the foundation of our children's faith for years to come.

Individuals, families, and groups can sponsor "building blocks" in our project wall. Blocks are available in a variety of price ranges, from \$25 - \$200, allowing us to purchase whole story sets, partial sets, and single pieces. Gifts can also be made *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* special people in your life or the life of our congregation. All gifts will be acknowledged in the Children's Ministry Hallway.

Donations can be made by check, or online through our giving portal at fccfaithful.org/giving



FCC Weekday Preschool



Art Showcase & Innovation Station

Thursday, March 24, 8:30-11:30 am
@ the Community House

The community is invited to visit with the staff and families of Weekday Preschool! Come enjoy a morning of fun and help support FCC Weekday Preschool at the same time!

\$5 per family includes:

Light refreshments, make & take art, to-go science experiments, and a chance to win a one-of-a-kind preschool community project!

Plus, more chances to support Weekday!

Fabulous Butterbraids delivered by Easter (order due 3/24)
Custom Weekday stationary cards designed by our kids, 5 cards for \$10

BELL BaSH

**Saturdays March 26
and April 2 & 9,
9-11 a.m. in the Chapel**

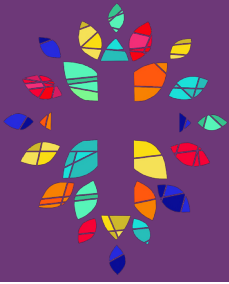
Join our new Music Ministry Director, Rob Calhoon, and see how much fun it is to work together as a team to make beautiful music as he revives our Chancel Ringers. All are welcome - come try your hand at it and see if it rings your bell! (Sorry, we had to.)

Spring Playground Clean-Up



SAT. APRIL 9 8:30-11 A.M.





YOUTH MINISTRY

What a fantastic start of the year for the FCC Youth Group! After a slow start due to Omicron complications, the kids were finally able to reunite in person at the end of January, and we haven't slowed down since! We finally celebrated a hilariously orchestrated Christmas party featuring challenging team competitions, excellent music, a little bit of shaving cream, and a whole lot of Cheetos! Since then, the kids have enjoyed Sunday Night Youth group nearly every week, where we play games, sing worship songs, and tackle challenging Bible study material.

We have been super involved in Sunday mornings too! Our kids have blessed the congregation with their remarkable singing voices and used their acting skills to promote the Souper Bowl of Caring! The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide fundraising effort to provide for those who don't even have a bowl of soup to eat on the day of the Super Bowl. After the youth provided a theatrical demonstration of how to donate pocket change for the cause, the group raised \$632.09 for the Center of Food Equity in Medicine! What a play!

Our Confirmation Class has been super busy! We concluded our World Religions Retreat, where students, parents and leadership visit multiple places of worship to learn more about the commonalities and differences of other faiths. We were blessed with donuts and fellowship at the American Islamic Association as they dialogued with us about day-to-day Muslim life and Islamic history. We were gifted with



framed photos of Quran passages that speak about Mary and Jesus, along with cards featuring our names in Arabic as a gift for our visit. Later, we were able to engage in a prayer service at the very elaborate Hindu Temple of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, discuss philosophy at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, silently reflect on the call for inclusivity at the Temple of Bahá'í, and learn more about the challenges of the African American church at New Faith Baptist Church. Everywhere we went, we discovered warm smiles and open hearts that will never be forgotten! (More photos on the next page.)

After reflecting on our experience upon returning to FCC, we also found time to play a hyper-competitive game of sardines, while others engaged in some of the best karaoke the world has ever heard! A great weekend with great kids, great conversations, and great memories!





We still have lots planned in the upcoming months before the school year wraps up! We have Junior High Game Night featuring board games, junk food, and hilarious activities. We have a Drive-Thru Dinner featuring a full-length presentation of Napoleon Dynamite and BBQ treats! Soon we shall conclude our Confirmation Class with our final retreat at the end of April followed by our Confirmation Service and Celebratory evening BQQ just a few weeks afterward. Then all of our Seniors will graduate, and we shall shed tears as we watch the kids grow up all over again in the senior video at church!

Can you believe it?!?! It feels like we just started the year, and now we are talking about the end of the year! But what a great time it has been. This program year is the first time I have been able to conduct a regular youth class at FCC due to Covid complications. I must say, this group of kids are fun, intelligent, energetic, and overall a fantastic group, who are willing to try anything, and open to learning more about themselves and God. I am surrounded by a pack of adult leaders who support me through thick and thin, even when I ask them to do pretty bizarre things! Plus, we have amazing parents who will host overcaffeinated kids in their homes, speak with me monthly to help improve our program during our Caregiver Coffee Collaborations, and drive teenagers across the universe for retreats. It has been an enormous blessing to see the FCC Youth Community in action, and I could not ask for more! Thank you, leaders, for making things happen! Thank you, parents, for all your kindness and patience! Thank you, Jesus, for allowing us to be Church with one another every single day!

May God continue to bless our community with healthy bodies, serving hands, and open hearts. May The Redeemer continue to inspire our children to seek out Truth and Justice as they find their identity in Christ. May the Spirit continue to strengthen and inspire the leaders and parents of this program as they relentlessly work to create a place where these teens feel loved, wanted, and challenged.

Amen!

Rev. Travis Adams, Youth Ministry Director



FCC STAFF NEWS



Announcing our New Music Ministry Director, Rob Calhoon!

Rob was born and raised in Flossmoor, and even spent portions of his youth participating in FCC Music programming. He is thrilled to return to FCC as our Music Director, directing choir, ensembles, and hand bells. Rob is also the Director of Orchestras at Parker Junior High School, as well as the founder and Artistic Director of the Sounds of Illinois Community Music Center. He has a Masters in Music Education from Northwestern University

and a lifetime of experience as a musician performing everywhere from jazz clubs and orchestra pits to hotel lobbies and even on top of a circus wagon! Rob and his wife Alanna Cotch have two children: Sam, who studies Music Education at the University of Illinois, and Avery, who is currently at Homewood-Flossmoor High School.



Jeff Hamrick joins FCC staff officially as Organist & Accompanist

We've been deeply blessed and moved by Jeff's gorgeous playing in an interim capacity since the end of November, and we are absolutely thrilled to announce that he has accepted our offer to join FCC staff as our organist and pianist - or as he prefers to be called, "collaborative keyboardist!" Jeff's thoughtful selections and emotive playing have proven us to be very lucky indeed. He and his partner, Chris, live in the neighborhood and in warmer months can often be found working in their beautiful garden.



Katie Van Heel concludes her time on FCC staff March 15

Katie grew up at FCC, and once she became a member of staff, she was all over the place, but always with music in her heart! During her 7.5 years on staff, she has filled the roles of Director of Jubilate Children's Choir, Alternate Day Porter, Children's Ministries Vacation Bible School Music Leader, and Music Ministries Coordinator.

Throughout the pandemic Katie proved herself to be flexible, resourceful, and eager to learn and adapt. She worked closely with other FCC staff to make online worship possible through Zoom and Youtube. Katie spent countless hours learning new technology and

navigating technical difficulties to make our worship experience smoother and more fulfilling for our at-home viewers. She has spent many a Sunday behind the camera/livestream, always a positive and personable presence, including our remote viewers in our Church worship and fellowship.

The FCC Staff, Leadership, and congregation is forever grateful that Katie has shared her gifts with FCC as a invaluable member of staff. We look forward to continuing to see Katie in church as a volunteer or relaxed in the pews! Please join us to celebrate Katie in worship Sunday, March 13. A reception will be held in the Community House after worship.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MAKES STAFF REVISIONS AND UPDATES

The Personnel Committee has refreshed job descriptions and made some structural changes to the FCC staff.

Betsy Hanzelin's position of "Director of Congregational Enrichment" was expanded and updated to the "Executive Director of Church Ministries". She will now supervise and champion the Youth Ministry Director, Travis Adams, the Children's Ministry Director, Leslie Maxie, and the Communication & Connection Director, Brooke King-LaBreck.

Jamie Ford, the Executive Director of Church Operations, will continue to supervise and champion the Finance Manager, Judy Jensen, the Administrative Assistant, Nina Harris, the Maintenance Manager, Simon Duckett, and the Porters, Bob Callahan, and Dylan Parry.

Rob Calhoon, The Music Ministry Director, will supervise and champion the Organist/Pianist (Collaborative Keyboardist!), Jeff Hamrick, the Sound Tech, Jaya Russell, and any positions that will support Sunday morning worship.

The Personnel Committee would like to thank Pastor Julie and the Personnel Chair, Mike Rogers for their tireless time, effort, heart, and commitment to the recent job searches and staff updates!

FCC HAPPENINGS

FCC Board of Faith In Action

STOCK UP SUNDAY



The Board of Faith in Action is again sponsoring STOCK UP SUNDAY for the Center for Food Equity in Medicine pantry is located in our church basement. They are asking for specific items to stock their shelves and assist their clients:

Toilet paper

Liquid dish soap

Taco Dinner kits (both hard and soft shell)

Mild taco sauce

Broth (Low sodium chicken or vegetable, no beef)

Progresso Soups

Please place your donation in the bins located in the front Lobby and Youth Crossings on March 20. Thank you for supporting this worthy organization!

Our sympathy & prayers...

to Aline Krala and family in the death of her husband, Hilary, on January 26.

to Angela Butler and family in the death of Angela's mother, Gloria D. Howard Butler, on January 28.

to Bob and Jane Hindsley and family in the death of Bob's brother, Harold "Huck" Hindsley, on January 17.

to Peter and Shannon Williams and family in the death of Peter's mother, Judy Williams, on January 14.

to the friends and family of Frank Acuff, who died January 4.

to the friends and family of Joan Smith, who died January 3.

FCC Properties Update

Sanctuary updates have begun! You may have noticed new monitors on either side of the sanctuary, as well as a new 75" monitor hanging on the balcony front. This will allow our speakers and musicians the ability to see what we project on the screen and monitors! Due to nationwide parts shortages, we are still waiting for our new microphones and advanced assisted listening system. We are working to re-tune the audio system and pre-sets to address video livestreaming mix levels and balance, as well as monitoring the audio at the pulpit and lectern to better feed the choir loft area.

In January, we welcomed Karen Cheung as our new Properties Chair. Karen will be working closely with Executive Director of Church Operations, Jamie Ford, as we prepare for an updated Reserve Study in March.

Please stay tuned and be on the lookout for spring clean-up dates and other opportunities to volunteer to help keep our buildings and grounds maintained, beautiful, and welcoming.





Flossmoor Community Church
Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Flossmoor, Illinois
Permit No. 4

spring 2022

narthex

