

# narthex

## LENT AT FCC

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MAR  
2020

## holy TRANSITION

God Moves Us From One  
Thing to Another

# LENT AT FCC



## FCC Welcomes the Rev. Dr. James McDonald "Home" to preach Sunday, March 29

We're excited to welcome a special guest preacher at the end of the month who began his journey of faith right here at FCC!

Jim writes: "What makes this day with Flossmoor Community Church special for me is that FCC was where my grandmother, Ninon Walden, was Director of Music, for 19 years from the late 1940s to the late 1960s—my formative years. As a kid, I used to sit in the chancel next to her at the organ console as she played. Names of choir members, especially Ellen Mersh, Betty Crouse, Beryl Sprinkle, still come to mind. Dr. Bell was the senior pastor during that time, and he and his wife, Helen, were formative influences on my life. FCC's Youth Minister in the mid-1960s, Bill Myers, was important for me in my final high schools years. When my grandmother retired, she had 13 choirs, including adult, youth and children's choirs along with several handbell choirs. I loved being a part of FCC."

From 2011 to 2019, Jim served as President of San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) and Professor of Faith and Public Life. In June 2019, SFTS completed a successful merger with the University of Redlands (U of R), creating a new Graduate School of Theology. Following the merger, Jim assumed a new role as Special Assistant to the President of the U of R. Before coming to SFTS, Jim worked for 13 years at Bread for the World, in Washington, DC, where he served as Vice President for Policy and Program, and then Managing Director. Prior to Bread for the World, Jim served as director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program at American University, and taught courses at George Washington University and American University.

Jim is married to Dean McDonald, also a Presbyterian minister. They have three grown children and four (growing) grandchildren.

## "Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes"

*There is nothing permanent except change.*

~Heraclitus~

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

~Isaiah 43:19~

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away—behold, everything has become new!*

~2 Corinthians 5:17~

More than being aware of a certain permanence about the ongoing reality of change, healthy congregations welcome changes that correspond with discerning how, when, and where God is making holy transitions. This is because throughout the Bible, God is regularly up to doing new things around us and generating new creation within us that lead God's people into the future, within and beyond their community.

### "Holy Transition: God Moves Us from One Thing to Another"

is our 2020 Lenten theme. During this season of repentance, we contemplate and respond to how God presents us with changes that lead to redemption. May we embrace transitions that will make us the new creations God intends us to be.

March 1	Matthew 4:1-11	"From Tempted to Faithful"
March 8	Acts 20:36-38	"From Uncertainty to Stability"
March 15	John 4:5-30, 39-42	"From Enemy to Advocate"
March 22	Psalms 23	"From Scattered to Shepherded" <i>with a time for healing and wholeness</i>
March 29	Ezekiel 37:1-14	"From Death at Breath"
April 5	Matthew 21:1-15	"From Palms to Passion"

Peace,

# FCC HAPPENINGS

## THIS IS OUR STORY 2020 CHALLENGE

We face a ~~\$77,252~~ <sup>\$60,690</sup>  
budget shortfall.

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign concluded in December, but the work of our committee continues throughout the year. As of today, our pledge total for 2020 is significantly behind our total for 2019 (\$626,311). While we are still expecting more pledges to come in, we are facing a budget shortfall.

We could erase our shortfall if  
FCC received 300 individual  
contributions of \$258.

5 people have already stepped up to the challenge, and others have increased their pledges - thank you! We invite you to be one of the 300 who, in addition to what you are already giving, participates in this challenge by giving a one-time contribution of \$258 to support our budget. These funds will support the ministries and mission of FCC and will assist in putting us in a stronger financial position in anticipation of the arrival of our new Pastor later this year.

Please give this challenge prayerful consideration. If \$258 is out of your reach, consider giving a portion of the challenge. All giving is deeply appreciated. Give what you can because your generosity makes a difference.



## @ the Community House

BYOB and snacks and come out to try your hand at luck on the unluckiest night of the luckiest month during a fun Adults Only BINGO night with split-the-pot cash prize! \$5 entry includes your first card. Additional cards are \$2 (cash only).



**Our last event raised nearly \$800 for FCC.**  
**This month's pot will go to our 2020 Challenge!**



When we have this much fun together, everyone wins!  
*Must be 21+ Sponsored by the Board of Congregational Connections.*

## SPRING FOOD DRIVE for



**Sunday, March 15**

Respond Now is celebrating their 50th Anniversary of serving our community! Over 30,000 individuals were provided food last year, due to the efforts of Respond Now. The Board of Faith in Action will be collecting non-perishable food, toiletries and household items on Sunday, March 15. Vehicles will be parked in front of the church to take your donations before and after worship. Brown grocery bags are available at the desks in Gathering Space and Lobby for you to pick up and load up!

# AD ED

ADULT EDUCATION

We never become too old to grow, learn, and connect while being formed and informed for following the Way of Jesus. Your presence and participation, whether regular or occasional, is most welcome!

## SUNDAY MORNING COURSES

### (Continuing) Book Study: *Holy Envy*

**Sundays March 1, 15, 22, 29 @ 11 am / Family Room**

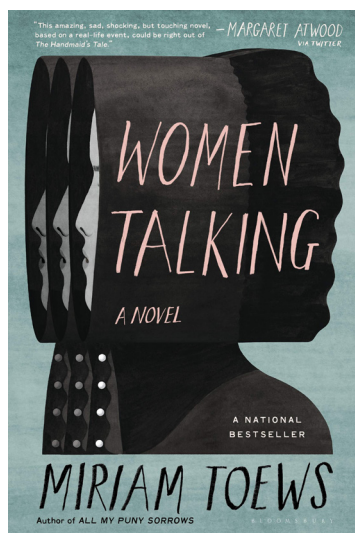
Led by Trina Hayes

Continuing our chapter by chapter book study of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. This book by Barbara Brown Taylor tackles the questions and concerns that arise when we encounter anything different or "other." We are exploring the spiritual riches God shares with us through the faith of others while we remain true to our own faith and beliefs.

### Discovery Book Club: *Women Talking*

**Sunday March 8 @ 11 am / Family Room**

Led by Trina Hayes



*Women Talking*, by Miriam Toews, is based on the true story of 130 Mennonite women and children in Bolivia who were drugged and raped for four years and had been told that ghosts had attacked them. Toews turns their story into a propulsive novel showing how eight women in the colony might have reacted. As they were all illiterate, their story is narrated by a shunned man who keeps "minutes" of their conversations. This is an original

and fierce manifesto that reveals itself in an irresistible story that it's tempting to read in one sitting.

*We encourage you to shop local and purchase the books featured by FCC Adult Education at Bookie's Bookstore in Homewood.*



## DROP-IN CLASSES

*A series of stand-alone classes designed to support families, promote diversity and safe spaces, developing Bible literacy, and cultivate community engagement.*

**Sunday mornings @ 11 am / Bell Chapel**

### LCFS' See the Change Tour

**March 1** Leslie Lopez, LCFS Director of Development, will facilitate a presentation from the organization of Lutheran Child and Family Services in Illinois. Attendees will hear about the impact they have on Illinois children and families. Presenters will share their own stories of triumph and success due to their hard work and the help of LCFS' programs and services.

### How To Become a Positive Deviant

**March 8** Audrey Wiedman, Certified Stress Mastery Educator of the American Institute of Stress, will share evidence-based findings on how to become happier. Audrey has been a student of Positive Psychology and wants to share simple actionable steps anyone can take to become happier starting right now.

### Old Testament Lecture Series: #5 - Isaac

**March 15** This class will open with a viewing of the fifth lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 5 comments upon Genesis 21-22, with a fuller discussion of the encounter between Isaac and his father that nearly ended in child sacrifice. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7. Facilitated by Bill McCormick

### Dear Ijeawele: Suggestions 7-10

**March 22** In this drop-in class, we will discuss several more of the fifteen suggestions in a short pamphlet written by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to friend of hers from childhood. Her friend, Ijeawele, had asked Adichie for advice on how to raise her baby girl a feminist. We will read aloud together from our personal digital devices, so bring a tablet or smartphone with you.

### Legacy Giving During Your Lifetime

**March 29** Janet Bolton, a financial advisor and certified investment management analyst, will give a presentation that helps members consider ways we can support FCC beyond the budget, and beyond our annual giving/pledge.

# Children's Ministries



*Congratulations to Kathleen Mitchell, Sean Ojode, and Brady Williams in completing 3rd grade bible class! Special thanks to teachers Nils Wickstrom and Jessica Groen for giving their time and knowledge to a wonderful group of kids!*



## Children's Lenten Devotional Guides

We have put together children's Lenten devotional guides that will be available for pickup at Sunday school.

This is an excellent way for parents to involve their children in Lenten reflection, discussion and a prayer each day together.



## MARCH

### WooHOO Wednesday

**March 11 from 6-7:30 pm**

All kids are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for some mischievous fun making Leprechaun Traps for St. Patrick's day! Ages 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

### Spring Break

**March 22-29**

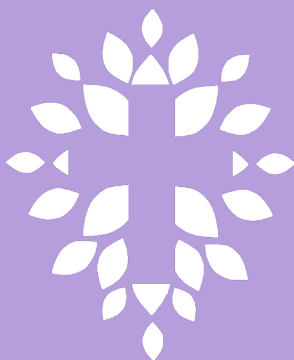
Happy Spring! Classes will resume April 5 for Palm Sunday. We will not have classes on Easter (April 12) but will enjoy an Egg Hunt between Easter morning worship services with a special visit from the Easter Bunny!

## Easter Sunday Egg Hunt & Candy Donations

Easter will be here before we know it! We have over 700 eggs to fill for this much-anticipated annual event, and we welcome donations of INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED candy, containing NO NUTS. Please leave your candy in the church or Children's Ministries' office.

The Egg Hunt will take place between services (approximately 10 a.m.) on Easter Sunday on the front lawn.





## FCC Weekday Preschool



### Butter Braids are Back!

These yummy pastries benefit our FCC Weekday Preschool and make an excellent addition to your Easter Brunch, Mother's Day Morning or a regular Saturday breakfast! Order forms are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Order forms and money are due back by Sunday, March 15. Please make checks payable to FCC Weekday Preschool. Butter Braid pick up will be the morning of Thursday, April 9 upstairs in the Family room. \*40% of all sales go to our school. Thank you for your support!

### Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year

Registration materials for 2020 - 2021 will be available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space March 15. Completed forms and the registration fee can be returned to the Preschool office. Open enrollment (for those other than FCC church members and Weekday Preschool families), will begin March 20. If you have any questions, please see Dallas Collins or [dcollins@fccfaithful.org](mailto:dcollins@fccfaithful.org).

### Weekday Preschool Launches New Website

Same address, but a new look we hope you'll find more user-friendly and visitors will find more navigable for answers. Visit us at [www.fccweekdaypreschool.com](http://www.fccweekdaypreschool.com), take a click around, and share with your friends!



## Welcome, Travis Adams!

We are excited to announce that we have called a new Director of Youth Ministries at FCC! Travis Adams comes to FCC having worked with youth at churches in St. Louis and in London, England. He brings a new energy and perspective to our great tradition of Youth Ministry at FCC, and has a strong commitment to creating relationships and sharing faith with young people. In his letter to the DYM Search Committee, Travis wrote, *"I deeply value the immeasurable worth of having a space of worship and community where one is permitted to ask questions without fear, express feelings without constraint and encounter love without conditions."*

*When such parameters and expectations are met, I have been blessed to see God do amazing things in the most unlikely of places."*

Travis and his wife, Megan are new to the area and found FCC after searching for churches to visit that were progressive, open and affirming! They visited several times beginning in December and we are blessed that his visits lined up with our search for a new Director of Youth Ministries. Megan is a veterinarian and practices at a clinic in Orland Park. They currently live in Frankfort with their three lovable dogs!

Travis began working with church staff, Youth Leadership Staff and our Youth in late February. Please introduce yourself to Travis and keep him in your prayers as he leads our exceptional youth and volunteers.

Many thanks to our Search Committee who called Travis:

Rebecca Courington, Annie Detrick, Sharon Dobben, Dana Dolan,  
Matt Epperson, and Denise Morris

# FCC HAPPENINGS

## Women's AND Men's ASSOCIATION

*presents Leslie Goddard as*

### Rachel Carson, the Woman Who Launched the Environmental Movement

**Wednesday, March 11 at Noon in Fellowship Hall**

Rachel Carson, an American marine biologist, author and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement which led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Reserve tickets (\$15 each) by signing up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space or by calling Kim Sifner at 708-754-2683.

## Got the feeling you've found the place where you belong?

We regularly offer "Information Sessions" for those who are interested in finding out more about FCC and/or are considering church membership. If you have been worshipping with us and would like to learn more about our church family, we encourage you to attend.

Our next session will be Sunday, March 15 from 11 am – 1 pm in the Parlor (Second floor). Please contact Betsy Hanzelin, Director of Congregational Enrichment at [bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org](mailto:bhanzelin@fccfaithful.org) or 708-798-2800, ext. 18 if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

## We celebrate the births of

**Lucas Reb Akai**, born February 17. Lucas is the son of Taylor Blythe and Joe Akai and the grandson of Lora & Ross Blythe.

**Theodore Michael Durkin**, born February 26. He is the son of Dr. Michael Durkin & Dr. Julianne Ruppel, brother of Isla Durkin, and grandson of Michael & Sue Durkin.

## Our sympathy and prayers

**to Carolyn Parsons and family** in the death of her mother, Bertha Jean Berger, on February 1.

**to the friends and family of Bertha West**, who died February 2.

**to the friends of Nancy VanLaten**, who died February 19. Visitation will be held at Flossmoor Community Church Friday, March 20 at 10 a.m. with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m.

## Easter Gifts of Beauty

Although we are no longer offering the opportunity to order Easter lilies, we will beautify the Sanctuary with large Easter arrangements to celebrate.

If you would like to have a dedication in honor or memory of a loved one mentioned in the bulletin, we ask that you make a donation toward their purchase. Please contact Megan Maginity at [mmaginity@fccfaithful.org](mailto:mmaginity@fccfaithful.org) or 708-798-2800, ext. 11 to make arrangements for your donation and the wording of your dedication to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

