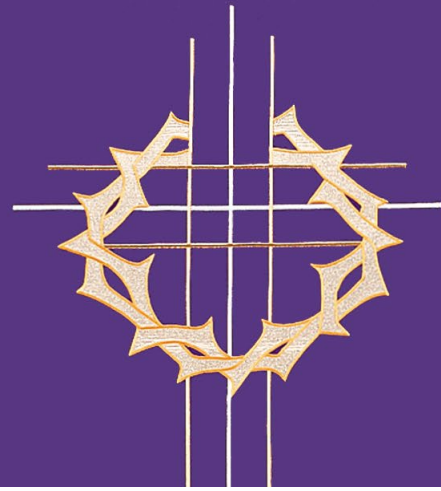


# CHURCH LIFE

February 2021



## *Journey with Jesse*

ALL ARE WELCOME

### Pastor Jesse's Office Hours are:

Tuesday 9:00am-2:00pm  
Wednesday 11:00am-4:00pm  
Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

(Pastor Jesse's Cell:  
816-288-0684)

[pastorjesse@fcc-elgin.org](mailto:pastorjesse@fcc-elgin.org)

Regular Church office hours  
are:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 am-4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am-12:00 noon

*First Congregational*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
256 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120  
847-741-4045 - [www.fcc-elgin.org](http://www.fcc-elgin.org)

Friends in Christ,

Since the 4th century, Christians have prepared for Easter with a season of spiritual examination and repentance. Lent has been observed as a solemn season in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday.

The purpose of Lent has normally been preparing Christians spiritually for Easter through prayer, repentance, almsgiving, and austerity. It often includes the willingness to take on some spiritual discipline, whether it's fasting or increased time for prayer or Scripture or acts of service and mercy.

While I get the importance of a time for spiritual self-examination, I've never resonated much with the solemnity and self-denial of the Lenten season. I've tended to see this whole time period as an opportunity to intentionally practice simplicity so as to open the doors for greater awakening and attuning to God's presence in our lives.

This Lent, we might take some time to ask ourselves reflective questions like: *What does it mean for me to live a time of Lenten simplicity and awakening? What does it mean for me embark on God's path of living the good news of Jesus Christ?*

As we journey into and through Lent together as a church, there are a few opportunities to get connected and reflect on our faith:

1) *Open and Affirming Sermon Series*: One of my pastoral goals for 2021 is to lead us in becoming more "out front" and expressive of our ONA identity. To support this, and as part of our Lenten journey, throughout February I'm leading a sermon series focused on exploring what ONA is and why it's so important in our life of faith.

2) *Ash Wednesday Service*: Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held live-streaming on YouTube this year, just like our weekly Sunday services. Since we're not meeting in person, obviously there will be no imposition of ashes during the service. However, if you would like a blessing and an ashes sticker from me, please come to Drive-Through Ashes behind the church on Wednesday, February 17th @ 11:00am - 12:00pm & 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

(contd from pg. 1)

3) *Lenten Class*: I will also lead an online class during Lent called *Unlikely Gifts: Exploring the Spiritual Benefits of Our Difficulties*. Join me as we take a look at some of the more difficult emotions that come up in life, especially these days, and explore how they might be “unlikely gifts” that can open us up to new experiences of God and life. We will be via Zoom on Wednesdays throughout Lent, starting February 24th and going through March 24th at 7:15pm.

As we move forward into Lent 2021, may we continue to look to Jesus Christ as the head of the church, guiding and shaping us into greater awakening and attuning to God’s Spirit within us and among us.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Pastor Jesse

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## *This Month in Worship*

### **February 7: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Online Communion Sunday*: Pastor Jesse will lead Communion liturgy during the online service with the elements. When viewing this worship we invite you to participate by using bread and juice (or similar items) in your own home or wherever you are. Let us join together to share in the spiritual meaning and message of this sacrament!

Scripture – Micah 6:1-8; Mark 12:28-34

Sermon – ONA Sermon Series 1: *“The What and Why of ONA”*

### **February 14: Transfiguration Sunday**

Scripture – Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 19:11-12

Sermon – ONA Sermon Series 2: *“Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation”*

### **February 14: Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Jesse Tanner**

2:00 PM Live-streaming on FCC YouTube channel

### **February 17: Ash Wednesday**

Service: 7:00 PM Live-streaming on FCC YouTube channel

Drive-through Blessing and Ashes Sticker:

11am-12pm, 4-5pm

### **February 21: First Sunday of Lent**

Scripture – Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 17:24-28

Sermon – ONA Sermon Series 3: *“Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality”*

### **February 28: Second Sunday of Lent**

Scripture – Mark 2:1-11

Sermon – ONA Sermon Series 4: *“Mental and Physical Ability”*

## ***Caring and Sharing Fellowship***

Given we no longer have in-person fellowship, we have started a monthly virtual variation to give individuals time to connect, share, and engage with one another. The third Wednesday of every month will be set aside for just that; an hour to check in with one another, share what's going on in your life, and to find how others are doing. Please join us!

Topic: Caring and Sharing Fellowship

Time: February 17, 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83802973515...>

Meeting ID: 838 0297 3515

Passcode: 059668

One tap mobile

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+19294362866,,83802973515#,,,,,0#,,059668# US (New York)

**Oak Street Health is delighted to have begun delivering COVID-19 vaccinations.**

### **Getting the COVID-19 vaccine.**

- Overall vaccine supply is currently limited though we expect more soon. We are currently vaccinating patients and community members 65+ in age. Visit us at [www.oakstreethalth.com/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.oakstreethalth.com/covid-19-vaccine) for scheduling options.
- The vaccine will help protect you and others around you, like friends and family.

### **What can I expect from the COVID-19 vaccine?**

- You will need 2 doses, approximately 3 weeks apart, to get the full protection from the vaccine.
- You may experience some side effects, like tiredness, headache, and muscle pain--but this is a sign that the vaccine is doing its job. Your immune system has kicked in. These side effects do not last long.



## **Pastor Jesse's Installation**

**February 14, 2021 - 2:00 PM**

Pastor Jesse will be officially installed as our Pastor and Spiritual Leader on February 14, 2021 - Valentine's Day! Please save the date and join us live-streaming on our YouTube channel to celebrate this special occasion! <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheFCCElgin/videos>

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## **Ash Wednesday Service and Drive-Through Ashes**

**February 17, 2021**

Ash Wednesday is a time in our life of faith when we have the opportunity to begin reflecting on and preparing for our journey toward Holy Week and ultimately Easter. Join us this year for our annual Ash Wednesday service, which will be held live-streaming on YouTube, just like our Sunday morning services. The service will be held online at 7:00 PM. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6gvhluWNLO\\_wlUaZGeZL0A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6gvhluWNLO_wlUaZGeZL0A)

In order to practice social distancing, this year's imposition of ashes will work differently. Pastor Jesse will not be able to place ashes on people during the live-streaming service. Instead, he will offer Drive-Through Imposition of Ashes by placing a sticker on your hand that was made from a picture Pastor Jesse made. From 11:00am-12:00pm and 4:00-5:00pm that day, please drive into the area behind the church building, where the back doors are located, and Pastor Jesse will give you a blessing and an ashes sticker.

May God's grace and guidance be with us each step of the way on our Lenten journey!



## **2021 Ministry Team Welcome Kick Off & Orientation**

**Tuesday, February 9th 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

If you are team member of a 2021 ministry team, please join us for our Welcome kick off and orientation meeting. We'll review FCC's governance model, expectations and overview of how ministry team and by-laws work at FCC and expectations as ministry leaders of FCC. You'll then breakout into virtual ministry meetings so you can set your 2021 meetings, appoint or meet your leader and discuss next steps.

In advance, thank you for joining us and for volunteering to share your gifts with us this year!

Topic: 2021 Ministry Team Welcome Kick-off & Orientation

Time: Feb 9, 2021 - 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81518563885?pwd=bysvR2U4bTVINWhZc2lWLyZTU5xQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1856 3885

Passcode: 465831

One tap mobile

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+19294362866,,81518563885#,,,,\*465831# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## **LENTEN CLASS**

### **UNLIKELY GIFTS: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF OUR DIFFICULTIES**

As humans, we not only have positive experiences in life, but also sometimes feel uncertain, lost, tempted, and alone. This past year has been extra full of these more difficult experiences. Although we often ignore or avoid these places in life, they can open us to new ways of encountering God. They aren't pleasurable, so we don't normally think of these as gifts, but they invite us to probe, question, and discover new insights on our spiritual journey. This class uses resources from the online progressive Christian community called "Darkwood Brew."

Join Pastor Jesse as he leads a Lenten exploration of what it means to find God in the midst of human life - the good and the bad.

Wednesdays February 24th - March 24th: 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Weekly Themes:

- 1) Gift of Uncertainty - 1st Corinthians 13:8-13
- 2) Gift of Emptiness - 1st Samuel 16:1-13
- 3) Gift of Lostness - Romans 8:18-28
- 4) Gift of Temptation - Matthew 4:1-11
- 5) Gift of Misfits - Luke 17:21

Join by Zoom:

Topic: Lent Class: Unlikely Gifts

Time: 7:15 PM CST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82455365347?pwd=SEFYK2tReU5yakxhbmRUVHFvMDFMUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 5536 5347

Passcode: 458933

One tap mobile

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+19294362866,,82455365347#,,,,\*458933# US (New York)

## First Congregational Staff

Rev. Jesse Tanner ..... Senior Pastor  
Jean Tuohy ..... Music Director  
Pam Patterson ..... Administrative Assistant  
Rich Wagner ..... Building Steward  
Sarah Hansen ..... Communications and Marketing Coordinator

### First Congregational United Church of Christ

256 E. Chicago St.

Elgin, IL. 60120

847-741-4045

Website: [www.fcc-elgin.org](http://www.fcc-elgin.org)

WORSHIP TIMES: 9:30 a.m.



2/1	Sandy Dalton	2/16	Betty Butler
2/1	Taylor Stark	2/16	Evelyn Carlson
2/3	Rich Wagner	2/17	Tom Leith
2/4	Elizabeth Sharf	2/22	Brian Stark
2/6	Pat Segel	2/23	Mary Underhill
2/6	Kathleen Mau	2/25	Michael Leith
2/9	Elizabeth Claxton	2/25	Pamela Swan
2/15	Gina Orazi	2/26	Rich Jacobs
		2/27	Kenneth Sanderson

*Thank You...*

I wish to thank my faith community for the many expressions of sympathy sent to me after Carl's death. Please know that your phone calls and cards were greatly appreciated.

Mary Ellen Flaks and Family