

Congregational Comments

Vol. 19 No 4: April 2014

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Office Hours: Mon. –Thursday, 8:00-4:30

Worship and Sunday School Times

9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:15-10:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

11:00 am - Contemporary Worship
Service

11:15-12:00 am Sunday School



*First Congregational
United Church of
Christ
"A united and
uniting church"*

Our Mission is to worship God,
Welcome all who seek God, and
Express our faith in our actions.



Pastor Dave Taylor

From the Pastor

**YOU NEVER KNOW
WHEN
IT'S GOING TO BE
EASTER!**

"When is Easter this year?" is a question I frequently hear. Its date "floats" - occurring the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring).

Easter Sunday, April 20, will soon be upon us. Yet Easter is not something that one can limit to a day on the calendar.

The Bible tells us 'On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus himself came up and walked with a couple of disciples - yet they did not recognize him. It was in the routine task of sharing a meal they finally recognized Jesus. Jesus comes up and walks with us, but something keeps us from knowing who it is. Perhaps we don't expect Jesus to be with us here and now, or perhaps we're caught up in our own concerns and activities. Have you ever felt the darkness of a problem overshadowing you like Good Friday - when hopelessness fills the air?

Yet, like the dawn of Easter there comes a Spirit, a strength, a friend, an answer, something that you hadn't noticed before - breathing new life back into you. Yes, right here in our midst of our everyday tasks, Christ is transforming you, all the world and me. It doesn't matter what day it is, a spring filled day in April or a summer day of May, "Suddenly, it's Easter!" as God's presence fills you and the world with new hope and possibilities.

Remember your "Easters," those times you have felt Christ especially close to you - give thanks to God for them. Let them remind you that Christ is with you always - especially today. Consider how you can share the "Easter" spirit with someone else, through your smile, your listening, your comforting words, your friendship, your talents and resources... your faith and prayers.

Every day is Easter as we are born anew to be creatures of God's love, sharing the Good News of Easter, and helping others experience the miracle of God's love in their lives.

JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL SERVICES

April 17 at 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday PASSOVER SEDER- LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE in Fellowship Hall.

Come experience - take part in a Passover Seder as we learn about this important Jewish festival which is where Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper. We will only be taking part in the Seder Service' There is **.NO** Passover supper meal following the Seder service. A Maundy Thursday offering will be received. **Please call the church office by April 15 to make your reservation with the church office or Pastor Dave so that we can plan for everyone.**

April 20th Happy Easter!!

Join us at First Church as Jesus, God's Son rises in our hearts and our world today!

7 am Easter Sunrise Youth Service

8 am Delicious Easter Breakfast

9 am Easter Festival Service and

10:30 am Easter Contemporary Service

Holy Communion will be served at all Easter services

O Spirit of Christ, fill us with the transforming power of the Resurrection, that we might experience and be a part of the power of God's life-giving love to all creation. Amen.

Have a blessed Easter!

Pastor Dave





Be Respectful of Others

As we grow as unique persons, we learn to respect the uniqueness of others.

- Robert H. Schuller

There is no respect for others without humility in one's self.

- Henri Frederic Amiel

There is overwhelming evidence that the higher the level of self-esteem, the more likely one will be to treat others with respect, kindness and generosity.

- Nathaniel Brandwn

Every good relationship, especially marriage, is based on respect. If it's not based on respect, nothing that appears to be good will last very long.

- Amy Grant

Every human being, of whatever origin, of whatever station, deserves respect. We must each respect others as we respect ourselves.

- U. Thant

Once you respect yourself, there is no longer any reason to disrespect anyone else. Once you are confident of your own worthiness, the worthiness of others ceases to be an issue.

- Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Taken from the St. James and Zion-St. Peter United Church of Christ newsletter of March, 2014, Morrison, MO



Easter Breakfast

Adult Program Ministry will once again host our annual Easter Breakfast at 8:00, following the Sunrise Service. Reservations can be made, beginning in April, by calling the church office or filling out the form in the weekly church bulletin. Although they are appreciated, reservations are not necessary.



It's Thyme for Ladies' Night!

Ladies, mark your calendars for May 9. It's Ladies' Night Out at First Congregational Church. Dinner will be served at 6:00. Afterwards, Mike King, of Mari-Mann Herbs, will join us and share his knowledge of herbs. Tickets will go on sale in mid-April. Adult tickets are \$10, young ladies 12 and under are \$5.

Wanted – a few good men

Ladies' Night is May 9th and we are in need of help from the men of our church. If you can cook, serve, or clean up, please contact Bob Bunselmeyer (877-5926), or Alfreda Tribout (877-9896). Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Chris Reyman

Piano Recital

April 26, 2014

2:00 P.M.

Chris Reyman will present a piano recital at 2:00 pm on April 26 in our sanctuary. He will present a varied repertoire. There will be offering/donation containers at the doors. Tell your friends about this recital. Everyone is welcome.

Worship Life/Music Ministry



Best Prayer I Have Heard in a Long Time

Heavenly Father,

Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is worried 19-year-old college student, balancing the apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Submitted by Kenny Hackmann of St. James United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Church Services 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship		1 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	2 4:45-7:15 7:30 Cho
6 Pastoral Card Sale	7	8 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	9 4:45-7:15 7:30 Cho
13	14 5:30 Admin 6:00 Worship/music 7:00 Property	15 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	16 7:30 Cho
20 8:00 Easter Breakfast	21 7:00 Church Council	22 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	23 7:30 Cho
27 Scholarship Deadline	28	29 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	30 7:30 Cho

	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 LOGOS ir	3 5:45 First Ringers	4	5
5 LOGOS ir	10 5:45 First Ringers	11	12
ir	17 <u>6:00 PASSOVER</u> <u>SEDER- LORD'S</u> <u>SUPPER SERVICE</u>	18	19 Fellowship Hall Preparation for Easter Breakfast
ir	24 5:45 First Ringers	25	26 2:00 Chris Reyman Recital
ir	31 5:45 First Ringers		



FEBRUARY 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$15,672.57	\$31,345.15
Budget Expense	\$17,414.05	\$34,828.10
Income	\$12,748.81	\$35,918.25
Expenses	\$15,064.27	\$31,833.18



Kroger Rebate Program

In Nov. we received a rebate check from Kroger for \$212.25. As they say on ABC World News, "That's real money!" You may get your Kroger card in the church office during the week, or from me on Sundays. Every card is worth \$20, and is easily loaded for more at Kroger. At the end of Jan. we received a Kroger rebate check for \$201.88.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship forms are available outside of the office in the hallway on the table by the mail boxes. Deadline for submitting the application is Sunday, April 27th to Chair Darla Weltmer. The Memorial Committee will be meeting on Monday May 12th at 2:00 PM.

The UCC, What We Believe

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

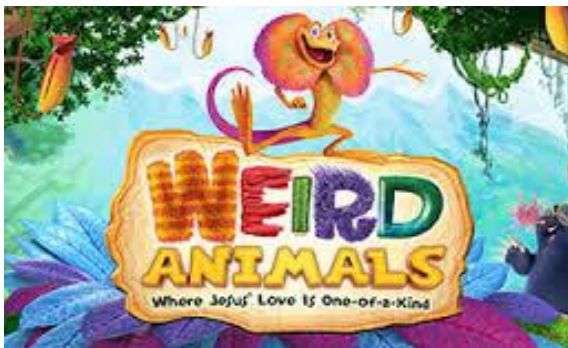
We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials–unity, in nonessentials–diversity, in all things–charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...



VBS 2014 AT FIRST CHURCH

Plan to join us and our "Weird Animals" at VBS July 20-24. If you already know where you would like to help, contact Marsha Mower. More information will be available soon.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Officers for the year were elected at their March 14th luncheon..

President Darla D. Weltmer
Vice President Sandy Pleasants
Secretary Ellen Starace
Treasurer Martha Crookshank
Advisors Ellen Whitrock & Norma Lingenfelter

Watch for upcoming dates for their meetings.



God bless you on your birthday and each day the whole year through. May all His blessings bring you joy in everything you do.

1. Norma Jean Lingenfelter
4. Michael Koyak
Elizabeth Scherer
5. Kim Tsuda
Lois Hofstetter
6. Clarence Cummings
7. Jeanette Flenner
9. Paige Tsuda
10. Morgan Malone
14. Betty Henry
17. Sandi Pleasants
Bruce Whitney
Katie Slingerland
18. Brittany Mueller
19. Joe Moretti
David Taylor
23. David Gant
25. Megan Hartman
26. Kristin Hargrove
28. Mark Bunselmeyer
29. Logan Moster

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

*And may the many blessings that have come from God above fill your hearts with all the joys of His enduring love.
Happy Anniversary!*

15. Patrick & Margie Malone
16. Roger & Melinda Redman
19. Eugene & Nellie
Brookhouzen



FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

APRIL 6

LITURGIST: Judi Carpenter

FLOWERS: Skip & Marsha Mower

COFFEE: Peggy Druessel

USHERS/GREETER: Alexis Frankhauser, Darla Weltmer, Al Gerhold, Darby Mitchell

APRIL 13

LITURGIST: Amy Leman

FLOWERS:

COFFEE: Tom & Paula Cordts

USHERS/GREETER: Dave Carpenter, Mike Koyak, Ev Kahn, Tom Cordts

APRIL 20

LITURGIST: Marsha Mower

FLOWERS: Easter Flowers

COFFEE: Don Carter

USHERS/GREETER: Chuck Zweck, Joe & Carol Robertson, Todd Clark

APRIL 27

LITURGIST: Melinda Redman

FLOWERS: Dave & Marlene Gant

COFFEE: Bill & Martha Crookshank

USHERS/GREETER: Sandi Pleasants, Sandy cummings, Carl Jacobs, Shelly Smith

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

APRIL 6

USHER/GREETER: Betty Wheatley

REFRESHMENTS: Betty Wheatley

APRIL 13

USHER/GREETER: Anna Waller

REFRESHMENTS: Anna Waller

APRIL 20

USHER/GREETER: Mark & Jeanette Flenner

REFRESHMENTS: Jeanette Flenner

APRIL 27

USHER/GREETER: Howard & Nancy Beede

REFRESHMENTS: Howard & Nancy Beede



