

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 18 No 4: April 2013

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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*

### **SOMEONE IS WATCHING YOU**

“What a humbling experience” said one parent, “to see some of your faults and strengths running around on two little legs.” Few people would dispute that being a personal example has one of the lasting influences on our children’s lives.

You are a personal example as parent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, classmate, spouse, concerned person... which is a powerful influence because of the lessons and attitudes that you model day after day to your children, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, with whomever you come into contact.

Younger children may forget the wording of your rules and advice, but they rarely forget your example. Persons older in age may argue with you, but they will respect more a living model of your values than a spoken description of them. Perhaps this is why God sent Jesus to us – that we might have a living example of God’s values: honesty, love, forgiveness, mission, compassion, justice, in the flesh.

How do you keep life in line with your teaching? “Practice what you preach” is the response. Each of us is a living example to someone in our lives.

Who were your childhood heroes? You could probably name several: a president or astronauts, baseball players, a musician, or an actor. Yet a majority of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a recent survey found it difficult to name a single role model. Even high school students had a difficult time with that question. Of the children who said they did have role models, the most frequent answer was their parents.

For this generation, unlike the past, negative, problem behavior seems to attract more attention than positive behavior and noteworthy achievements. The alcohol and drug use and sexual incidents of some famous athletes, rock stars, and Hollywood personalities seem to be emphasizing breaking moral codes instead of supporting positive role models. Marian Edelman, child advocate, says, “Telling our children to ‘Just say No’ is hypocritical and useless while parents and other cultural role models send messages and provide examples that say, ‘Yes’”.

Studies show that parents and adult friends such as LOGOS, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, VBS leaders, coaches, and church

friends are by far the most important factor in shaping the kind of adult that children will become.

Some ways to be a great role model:

- 1) Share your values with your children, neighbors, friends, and family. Let them see you pray and read the Bible. Let them know where you stand on drug use, sexual behavior, and other important issues.
- 2) Demonstrate your own sense of self-respect and self-esteem.
- 3) Show that you value your independence. Let children and friends know by your words and actions that you don’t just follow the crowd by making your own decisions.
- 4) Set a good example.
- 5) Share your successes and failures. It is important to let others know how you deal with mistakes and ‘injuries’ and how you grow from them.
- 6) Show that you love and value each member of your family, friends, as well as people of other nationalities.
- 7) Discuss how the media portrays alcohol and drugs, violence and sex.
- 8) Take an interest in our community, our church, community agencies and other people. Do a favor for a neighbor, help others grow up to value kindness and compassion.

May your witness help others discover the love, wisdom, and joy of Christ in their lives as you discover it in your life. Be aware! Someone is watching you, wanting to be just like you!

**We invite you and a friend to join us for worship at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Sundays at 9:00AM for our Traditional Service and 11:00AM for our Contemporary Service. We also have a faith growing Sunday School and Bible Study opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Also at 10:00AM, discover a new friend or renew a current friendship by visiting over **delicious refreshments** in Fellowship Hall. Come grow with us!**

*Pastor Dave*





*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
2. Jill Stogner
3. Doris Teer
4. Michael Koyak  
Elizabeth Scherer  
William Schoettle
5. Kim Tsuda  
Levi Goodman  
Lois Hofstetter
6. Lucas Goodman  
John Priestler
7. Jeanette Flenner  
Joshua Mower
9. Paige Tsuda
10. Morgan Malone
12. Edward Smith
14. Bob Blackwell  
Betty Henry
17. Sandi Pleasants  
Bruce Whitney  
Katie Slingerland
18. Brittany Mueller
19. Joe Moretti  
David Taylor
22. Brianna Hill  
Lindsay Langan
23. David Gant
25. Megan Hartman  
Vicky Williams
26. Byron Beede  
Delaney Dabrowka  
Jalynn Martin  
Kristin Hargrove
28. Mark Bunselmeyer

29. Logan Moster  
Robert Cordes
30. Kay Janvrin  
Libby Fisher  
Heather Martin

### 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!*

3. Jeff & Erin Toberman
7. Kenneth & Kathleen Johnson
8. Joshua & Julie Mower
12. Edward & Martha Smith
15. Patrick & Margie Malone
16. Roger & Melinda Redman
19. Eugene & Nellie Brookhouzen
20. Jeffrey & Connie Mockaitis
23. John & Shawn Painter
27. Joe & Melissa Flies

**APRIL**

### FIRST SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

#### APRIL 7

**LITURGIST:** Carol Robertson  
**FLOWERS:** Russ & Janet Tiede  
**COFFEE:**  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Dave & Marlene Gant, Joe Robertson, Bob Bunselmeyer

#### APRIL 14

**LITURGIST:** Bill Huebner  
**FLOWERS:** Pat & Margie Malone  
**COFFEE:**  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Sheila Mannweiler, Mike Koyak, Kristin Hargrove, Marilee Gant

#### APRIL 21

**LITURGIST:** Marilee Gordon  
**FLOWERS:** Dave & Marlene Gant  
**COFFEE:**  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Ted & Darby Mitchell, Dave & Judi Carpenter

#### APRIL 28

**LITURGIST:** Janet Tiede  
**FLOWERS:**  
**COFFEE:**  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Bill & Martha Crookshank, Sandi Pleasants, Carl Jacobs

### SECOND SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

#### APRIL

**USHER/GREETER:** Jeanette Flenner  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Jeanette Flenner

#### APRIL 14

**USHER/GREETER:** Mike Koyak  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Mike Koyak

#### APRIL 21

**USHER/GREETER:** Bruce & Debbie Whitney  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Bruce & Debbie Whitney

#### APRIL 28

**USHER/GREETER:** Betty Wheatley  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Betty Wheatley



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2013

The officers for Women's Fellowship met on March 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the rest of the year. The decision was made to schedule as many of our activities for the second Friday of each month as we can. The following schedule is TENTATIVE, but we hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us. Women's Fellowship is open to all women.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – We are planning on having a book exchange. A lot of us have books that we have already read, so we will be asking you to bring a book to exchange for another one. If possible, we would like just a short sentence or two to explain what the book is about. Everyone will go home with a new book. This meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and you should bring a snack to share. There will be a short business meeting.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – This month we will celebrate Cinco De Mayo with a lunch of Mexican food at noon. Bring your favorite Mexican food to share. We will have a short history of this Mexican holiday. We will also be planning for our annual rummage sale in June.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** will be set up, sorting and pricing days for our annual rummage sale which will be held on **June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** We hope to have lunch at an Amish Home. We did this several years ago and the food was delicious and our hosts were very accommodating and interesting.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** We will travel to Elkhart, IL to have lunch and shop at the Wild Hare/Horse Feathers restaurant and antique store. This is a beautiful drive in the fall when the leaves are turning.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** – October is Fire Prevention month and we hope to have a presentation by Decatur's Fire Chief.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** – Bette Fankhauser will present a program on the beautiful bells that we are fortunate to have at our church.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** – We will have our annual Christmas tea on this day.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. If there is something you would like for the group to do, please share your thoughts and ideas.



Three Churches...

Three long standing LOGOS programs...

Coming together...

to learn more about this important program. A time to get refreshed, reenergized, and ready for many more years of leading our children and youth to a relationship with Jesus.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church are combining their collective knowledge to bring you "The Reality of LOGOS".

**When:** Saturday, April 27, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1360 W. Main St, Decatur

**What:** A fun, experiential day of learning more about the LOGOS program, the four parts of LOGOS, how they all fit together, and why they are all important.

**Who:** Current volunteers, future volunteers, parents, Church governing bodies, supporters of the program and anyone who has ever wondered what happens at your church each Wednesday!

**Other important info:** This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Westminster. You can enter from the east or north doors. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Babysitting is provided for the entire day. There is no cost for this event. Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided.

**Questions:** If you have any questions please contact Teresa Goller at Westminster, Marsha Mower at First Congregational or Jacob Sefton or Sue Wilson at Mt. Zion.

We are looking forward to sharing this day with you!

*RSVP to Marsha Mower by April 22, 2013  
[m.mower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.mower@sbcglobal.net) or 217-412-8797*



Join the  
Youth Group

# Youth Activities

## Easter Sunrise Youth Service

The youth will again present the early service on Easter morning. Everyone is invited to the 7:00 AM service.

## Donations Drive for Dove

The Youth Group is sponsoring a soap drive during March and April. They will collect toiletries and first aid items, all of which will be donated to Dove, Inc. Suggested items for donation include soap and shampoo, baby items, tooth paste and tooth brushes, lotions, basic first aid supplies and over the counter medicines. Please place all item in one of the boxes that have been placed around the church. Please help the youth make a difference.

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## Wanetta Breyfogle

Former long-time member of 1st Congregational Church, Wanetta Breyfogle, passed away in her sleep last night at the private nursing home where she had been staying in Littleton, CO. She was 92 and life was harder and harder to enjoy after having more than one stroke. Her husband, Paul and two of her children, Nancy and John, had preceded her in death. Oldest daughter Jan and her husband, Ray and oldest son Bill and his wife, Debbie are all the immediate family left.

A Memorial Service will be held next Sunday afternoon at 4 P.M. at Wind Crest - the lovely Assisted Living place in Highlands Ranch, Co. where she owned a condo. That will be so convenient for so many of those good friends.

Many will remember that Paul was part of the building committee when the new Educational wing of First Church was added.

## Stewardship Message

### Stewards of Our Relationship with Money

*Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1*

What a concept: no money, no problem. Come, buy and eat! How can we buy wine and milk, or anything, without money?

Are we so entangled in a life defined by earning and spending – getting what we want if we have money or doing without if we don't – that we may not consider there's another way? The prophet Isaiah promises us there is; a life profoundly connected to the source that meets our deepest needs.

Isaiah asks bluntly: *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Isaiah 55:2*

We are confronted by the smallness of our vision. During Lent we are invited to examine our lives so that we may reconnect to that which is "bread" for us. Lent offers an opportunity to repent, to turn to a new vision. Listen carefully: eat, delight yourself. Make sure it's the rich food intended for God's beloved. Priceless!

*A message by Doris Powell, author of Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship.*

**March 2013**



# Memorial Committee Scholarship

It's that time of year again for students to submit their scholarship application for consideration of the 2013 Memorial Committee Scholarship. The applications will be on the table outside of the Church Office beginning Palm Sunday. April 29 will be the deadline for submitting your scholarship application. Be sure you fill out the forms completely per the instructions, and submit to Darla D. Weltmer, Chair of the Memorial Committee. .

Thank you.



## FEBRUARY 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$17,568.17	\$35,136.34
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,685.50	\$35,371.00
<b>Income</b>	\$18,591.85	\$33,259.85
<b>Expenses</b>	\$14,194.21	\$27,690.17

## What does it mean to be an active church member?

The following is taken from a newsletter of a couple of small churches in Missouri.

### The following is taken from Zion-St. Peter's Constitution and By-Laws

**Section 1. Members shall live sober, righteous and godly lives.** They shall take an active part in the life and work of the church, including regular attendance of the worship service, devout use of the Holy Sacraments, liberal financial support of the church's maintenance and its benevolent obligations, obedience to the established authorities, untiring zeal in bringing others to Christ and sincere endeavor to apply the teachings of Christ in all human relations.

**Section 2. A member is required to have his children baptized, instructed and confirmed in the Christian faith and provide Christian teaching in the home.**

**Section 3.** If a member shall neglect to partake of Holy communion, or refuse to contribute to the support of the church, or continuously absent himself from public worship for one year, such conduct shall be deemed worthy of censure and he shall be admonished by the pastor or Spiritual Council. **If he then continues in such neglect of duty for another year, the Spiritual council shall notify him that he is no longer in good and regular standing and that his name is being placed on a list of members under Christian discipline.** If before the expiration of another year, he shall give evidence of change of heart and conduct, his name shall be returned to the list of active members. If at the end of the third year he shall give no evident of change of heart and conduct, the Spiritual Council shall place his name on the inactive list and notify him of such action.

The following sections were similar to our constitution.

**They may be going overboard a little, but some of their ideas would be good for all of us.**



## VBS 2013

**July 21-25**

**Sunday through Thursday**

**6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**All Children age 3 through completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend!  
(preschool children have the option of leaving at 8:05 p.m.)**

SAVE THE DATES for VBS 2013 at First Church! I hope you have been thinking and praying about your involvement in this year's VBS program. It promises to be another action-packed, fun-filled week. Plans are taking shape, but we are still looking for YOU to help us make it another successful year. Serving as co-directors this year are Marsha Mower and Maureen Ruski. We have a few people that have already committed to join us, but will need lots of additional help to make this a wonderful experience for all involved. As we have the past few years, we want to make this a church-wide endeavor, involving as many people and ministries as possible. We are committed to reaching out to children in our church family and the community. So, don't miss out on this opportunity to be involved!

Our theme is *Kingdom Rock - Where Kids Stand Strong for God*. We will meet Truman, Duke, Swift, Sir Valiant and Victoria as they help us with our daily Bible Point, Story and Key Verse. We will have an amazing experience that will help kids (and adults) explore God's incredible love for his children. The dates are Sunday, July 21 - Thursday, July 25 from 6:00-8:30, with the preschool children having the option of leaving at 8:05 and dinner available for the volunteers at 5:15 (\$3 per person, per evening).

Areas of need include: Adult Leaders for Imagination Station and Tournament Games; Adult Assistants for Chadder's Royal Theatre & Missions, Imagination Station, The King's Kitchen (snacks), Tournament Games and Pip's Preschool Palace; Crew Leaders and Assistants to shuttle the children through the events each evening; Registration; Decorations and possibly Child Care. We will need help with set-up before and take-down after. Those children who complete 6<sup>th</sup> grade this school year are invited to join us as Assistant Crew Leaders. We also have "staff spots" for mature and responsible Jr/Sr High youth to assist in the various areas.

Monetary donations are always a blessing to help defray costs. We are planning for 65 children this year, with a cost of approximately \$25.00 per week (\$5 per day), per child. We want to provide for any and all children that wish to participate. We encourage you to sponsor a child (or children) for this year's program. Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church, with a memo for VBS 2013.

Included in the program again this year is a mission project. This year, we will purchase "God's Love for You" Bible books - a kid-friendly Scripture piece, written in Hindi - that will be sent to children in India. Throughout the week, our VBS participants will interact with the Bible books and during the family craft time on Thursday evening, the books will be personalized.

And of course, we always need your prayers. For more information, contact VBS Co-Directors Marsha Mower and Maureen Ruski. THANKS!

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## ***ADULT PROGRAM MINISTRY***

### **Easter Breakfast**

Please join us for Easter Breakfast at 8:00. Reservations are appreciated, but certainly not necessary.

### **Ladies' Night Out**

**May 10, 6:00"**

**"Here Comes the Bride"**

In honor of Mother's Day, Adult Program Ministry invites ladies of all ages to an evening of fun and fellowship. We will begin at 6:00 with dinner, followed by an entertaining program, "Here Comes the Bride", presented by Nancy Torgerson. You are invited to bring a wedding photograph to share. This could be from your own wedding or even a friend's or relative's. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for little ladies 12 and under and will be available in April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>3</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>4</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10:00 Pastoral Care Card Sale</b> 	<b>8</b> <b>6:00 Worship/Music</b> <b>7:00 Super Monday</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Elections</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>10</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>11</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10:15 Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 Church Council</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>17</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 Book Club</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>				