

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 21 No 8: August 2016

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## Church Contact Information:

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Website: [www.firstchurchdecatur.com](http://www.firstchurchdecatur.com)

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

11:15-11:40 am Sunday School



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



## Pastor Jan Johnson

### FROM THE PASTOR

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." - Galatians 5:22*

Don't you just love, love, love summer fruit? At no other time of the year is watermelon so sweet and refreshing and crisp (not mushy as it is in winter). And fresh peaches and pears are incredible! Not to mention crunchy apples and sweet and juicy oranges and tangerines! Just thinking about summer fruits makes me want to run to Fresh Market or a Tanner's Roadside stands and buy up all their fruit and make fruit salad with nice big chunks!

Our Spirits are full of Fruit as well! And that 'Spirit Fruit' can be just as good if not better than our tasty fruit. Which one of us is not gentle? Which one does not love? (even the worst of us are loved by someone!) Which one of us is not patient (ok, not always but sometimes!) Which ones of us has never been kind or generous or exercised self control? Those Spiritual Fruit are an important in a Christian diet and they are important in our world! Can you imagine a world without those Spiritual Fruit? We might be getting a glimpse of what happens in the world when we have stopped using our Spiritual Fruit!

Did you notice that the list of Fruit of the Spirit does not include hate, anger, irritation, violence, manipulation, selfishness, meanness, turbulence, or rudeness? (the list could go on) What do you think might happen if hate was met by love? Or meanness by kindness? Or anger by self control? The world would look and feel MUCH different! So would we.

As you enjoy this summer's plums and peaches and kiwi and honeydew melons, think about those Spirit Fruit that make life a little sweeter as well!

Happy Eating and Happy Living!  
Blessings of Holy Spirit Fruit!  
Jan

## Meet the Pastor Groups

Meet the Pastor groups: If we have not yet met, please sign up for one of the 'cluster' groups and let's get to know one another a little better. There are a variety of times to sign up for, so try to make one of those gatherings! Even if we have met, come and let's get to know one another even better!!

Here are July and August times:

Wednesday, July 20 @ 10am

Sunday, July 24 @ 3pm

Monday, August 1 @ 11am

Wednesday, August 3 @ 6pm

Thursday, August 4 @ 6pm

Sunday, August 7 @ 2pm – Kids and Young People Only

Tuesday, August 9 @ 1pm

Wednesday, August 10 @ 6pm

I hope to meet and greet all of you, personally!!

Rev. Jan



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?





## FIRST CHURCH FOODS RESOURCE BANK GROWING PROJECT

**OUR CORN CROP** -- Our Foods Resource Bank growing project corn crop has reached its full height. The pollen has dropped from the tassel to the silk and pollinated each kernel. We have applied fungicide to prevent foliar leaf diseases to protect the plant health. From this point we need moisture for kernel fill and no excessive temperatures that cause plant stress to achieve maximum yield.

**GUESTS FROM INDIA** – First Church will welcome visitors from FRB food security programs in India on **Sunday, July 31**. Noni is a farmer from Patharkmah Village and Sundar is executive director with North East India Committee on Relief and Development which administers the programs. Both will report on the accomplishments made in their communities through the FRB programs. They will be accompanied by FRB staffer Rachel Brink. Please join us to welcome them to Illinois.

**PIE AUCTION** – This year we are “growing” pies for our FRB project and auctioning them to the highest bidder between church services one Sunday a month. Thanks to pie baker Sharon Burbes for her pie for the July auction. Our next auction is **Sunday, August 28**. Be there!



**GARDEN PRODUCE AVAILABLE SOON** – Watch the FRB Outreach table in Fellowship Hall for fresh garden produce. Church members have been growing vegetables and will be sharing their surplus with us. Everyone is encouraged to “shop” from our table and give a donation for our FRB growing project fund.

If you would like to contribute to the expenses of the 2016 FRB Growing Project corn crop, you may use the envelopes in the pews or mark another envelope accordingly. Please make your check payable to First Congregational UCC. Proceeds of this crop will support a sustainable food program in the developing world in a country that our church selects to help people learn the dignity and pride of feeding themselves.

## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Women's Fellowship ladies are starting to get more excited!! WHY?? - do you ask?? Because August is just around the corner and our ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE is fast approaching. Wednesday, 8/24 we will be getting racks out of furnace room, setting up every table available for us and moving boxes from storage places into the fellowship hall.

HELP is needed that day to accomplish this...hours are 9:00 - 4:00. Thursday 8/25 9:00 - 4:00 we will finish getting everything in good order and pricing certain items. Friday 8/26 from 8:00 - 4:00 and Sat. 8/27 from 8:00 - 11:00 AM are the big selling days. 11:00 AM when the doors are locked we need extra good help to pack up and load the cars to take remaining items down to Blessingdales. Hopefully the Sat. bag sale will make this easy again.

We are asking for help from ALL of you and wondering...Can we count on you? I plan to have some clip boards in Church and down in fellowship hall the 14th of August and hopefully you will be able to sign up days and times you can help.

Don't do garage sales you say? OK that is fine, however would you consider baking some goodies that we could also have for sale or even to feed our wonderful workers? Looking forward to having so much help we have to send some of you upstairs to dust the windows sills in Church!! Just joking!! THANK YOU in advance.

Questions?? contact Darla Weltmer 877-7008 [lmweltmer@juno.com](mailto:lmweltmer@juno.com), Ellen Whitrock 875-0835, Martha Crookshank 877-7468 Norma Lingfelter 877-3952 and all of us will be glad to talk to you.

# churchWIDE RUMMAGE SALE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	<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 Playmates</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>9 -1</b> <b>Sun</b>
<b>7</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>8</b> <b>5:30 Admin Meeting</b>	<b>9</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>6:30 Child Mobile Z</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</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>21</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</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>Rummage Set-up</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</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>	<b>31</b>

	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2:00</b> <b>Summer</b> ——— <b>Flight</b>			
<b>Children's</b> <b>Pool</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>je</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
—————→		<b>8-4:00</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b>	<b>8-11:00</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b>
			



ALL CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
YOU'RE INVITED!

SCOVILL MOBILE ZOO Presentation  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH AT 6:30 PM

First Congregational Church UCC

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.

Decatur, IL



## **JUNE 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<b><u>June 16</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$18,431.00	\$110,586.00
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,971.56	\$107,829.36
<b>Income</b>	\$21,071.10	\$110,209.34
<b>Expenses</b>	\$19,491.29	\$98,965.43

Jodi  
Baldwin

Jim Baldwin



**Thank you to Jim Baldwin for handling the sound system week after week for first service.**

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR AND VISIT MEMBERS WHO ARE IN ASSISTANT LIVING AND NURSING HOMES**

**Primrose Retirement Community**

Claude Young—Room 228

Lois Shelton—Room 132

**Keystone**

Carolyn Jones—Room 216

**Vonderlieth Living Center, Mt. Pulaski, IL**

Alice Roach

**Fair Havens Christian Home**

Al Wilson—Room 425

**Everygreen Place**

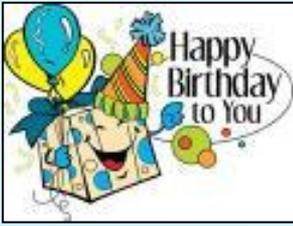
Mary Lou Phipps— Room 333





Laurie Matheson  
3465 North  
MacArthur Road,  
Decatur, Illinois  
April 24, 2011

**Thank you to our great organist and choir director,  
Laurie Matheson**



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

4. Janet Tiede
5. Zachary Wernecke
8. Emery Bunselmeyer
9. Margie Malone  
Isaiah Janvrin  
Ellen Starace
10. Dick Cheatham
11. Gary Baker
12. Jim Baldwin  
Ruth DeBruine  
Don Wenneker
16. Mya Lofland
17. Darby Mitchell
21. Betty Cummings  
Melinda Redman
22. Charles Tribout
26. Gladys Alburdis
28. Christopher Harmison  
Terry Stoa
29. Skip Mower
30. Betty Wheatley
31. Mark Jaberg

## **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!*

4. Jim & Jodi Baldwin  
Allen & Ann Gerhold
5. Robert & Shirley Young
6. Don & Stacey Carter
8. Katie Wright
9. Thomas & Paula Cordts
11. David & Bobbie Taylor
15. Brandon & Valerie Janvrin  
Lynn & Darla Weltmer
18. Robert & Sue Bunselmeyer
19. Wesley & Lori Pietsch
23. Randal & Mary Beck
25. Carl & Doris Jacobs
26. Don & Dee Wenneker
30. Brian & Jan Traughber



**FIRST SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**AUGUST 7**

**LITURGIST:** Marsha Mower

**FLOWERS:** Brandon & Val  
Janvrin

**COFFEE:** Sheila Mannweiler

**USHERS/GREETER:**

**AUGUST 14**

**LITURGIST:** Amy Leman

**FLOWERS:** Peggy Druessel

**COFFEE:** Dave & Marlene Gant

**USHERS/GREETER:**

**AUGUST 21**

**LITURGIST:** Marilee Gordon

**FLOWERS:** Marylin Cushing

**COFFEE:** Lynn & Darla Welmer

**USHERS/GREETER:**

**AUGUST 28**

**LITURGIST:** Sharon Burbes

**FLOWERS:** Don & Dee Wenneke

**COFFEE:** Kristin Hargrove

**USHERS/GREETER:**

**SECOND SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**AUGUST 7**

**USHER/GREETER:** Sandy  
Harmison

**REFRESHMENTS:** Sandy  
Harmison

**AUGUST 14**

**USHER/GREETER:** Leigh  
Myers

**REFRESHMENTS:** Angie Miller

**AUGUST 21**

**USHER/GREETER:** Ruski-  
Moretti Family

**REFRESHMENTS:** Ruski-  
Moretti Family

**AUGUST 28**

**USHER/GREETER:** Betty  
Wheatley

**REFRESHMENTS:** Betty  
Wheatley  
Wheatley



