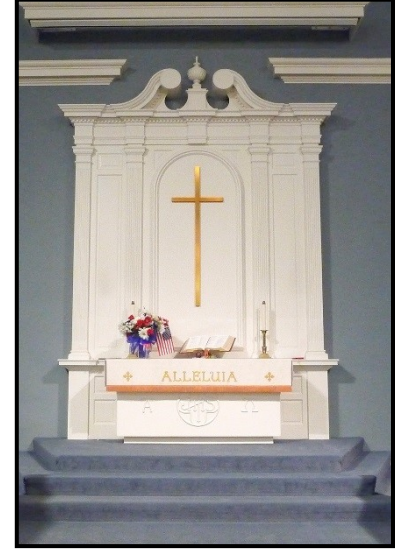


Congregational Comments



Vol. 23 No. 8: August 2018

Important Contacts in the Church

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Travis, 217-413-4272

Email: pastorryan@firstchurchdecatur.org

Prayer Chain: Bette Fankhauser, 877-6723

Email: bfankhauser@comcast.com

Playmates Preschool: Interim Director: Alfreda Tribout

Newsletter Editor: Bill Huebner, 876-1446, cell 855-7677

Email: wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net

Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.

Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216

Email: firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.firstchurchdecatur.org

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.

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A Note from Pastor Ryan



Pastor Ryan

Whose Approval Are We Seeking?

As human beings, we were created to be social creatures. Accordingly, it's necessary on some level to seek to please those in our environment. Indeed, the approval of others in many contexts is healthy and appropriate to seek. For example, you want to do a good job to win the approval of your boss so that you'll get a raise – or keep your position. And we all can think of situations where people have openly refused to consider the approval of others: think about a rebellious teenager who's making destructive life choices. But like all good things, sin can twist legitimate human desires to the opposite extreme. The desire to please our parents in childhood can, for instance, become overt dependence and unhealthy entanglement in adulthood. Just ask anyone who has married into a family who continues to meddle in a spouse's life. And while it's popular for some to declare, "I don't care what anybody thinks," this is demonstrably false: The one who utters it usually is wearing deodorant and takes showers. We all care what other people think.

When it comes to moral choices we must make, or when considering where God may be calling us to serve, there is only One we must take heed to please: God. In Mark 6, Herod has John the Baptist imprisoned for speaking out against his adulterous relationship with his brother's wife, Herodias. After Herodias tricks him by tying him to a promise he made to his stepdaughter to give her anything she desired, Herod had to make a moral decision: Would he execute John the Baptist, a righteous and holy man, or would he go back on his word in front of his associates and influential leaders in Galilee? In those days, it was considered scandalous if a king didn't follow through on his word (I suppose politicians were expected to be more honest back then!). Even though it was expected he would follow through on his promise to provide anything to his stepdaughter, even if that meant John's execution, Herod had the opportunity to eat humble pie and offer her something else instead. At the end of the day, Herod chose to please the crowd around him and maintain his standing in their sight rather than to obey the dictates of conscience and God and allow John the Baptist to live. He gave in to people-pleasing and peer-pressure.

If you are facing a moral choice, or if you are discerning in your life what God is calling you to do, at the end of the day, it's most important to heed the voice of God. Listen to that still, small voice within. Search the Scriptures. Seek the counsel of people you trust, especially fellow believers. And then do what God is guiding you to do.

I am not saying we should totally disregard the wishes of others, nor should we neglect how our decisions might impact those around us. Those are all important factors. Rather, I am saying we must hold those other factors in lesser standing than the call and utterance of God. We must be able to live with ourselves. Nothing is more valuable than a clear conscience. To that effect, Herod proves instructive. After he had John beheaded, he was paranoid and anxious, worrying even that John might come back from the dead to haunt him. Seeking to please others at the expense of his conscience proved futile for Herod, as it will for us, too. In Christ, Pastor Ryan.

Rally Day



RALLY DAY Sunday, September 9, 2018
Bring your Family and Friends!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, 3465 N. MACARTHUR RD.
DECATUR

PIZZA and SALAD LUNCH at 12:00 NOON
MICHAEL AND ZACH at 1:00pm
JURASSIC WORLD EVENTS at 1:45-
2:45pm
BINGO, CAKE WALK



Adult Progressive Dinner



SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, December 8 – 5:00 PM ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Tom and Paula Cordts have volunteered to host the dessert portion of the evening event. We are looking for someone to host the heavy appetizer course. If you are interested in hosting, please call Bob Bunselmeyer at 877-5926.

FFDO

First Friday Dinner Out will meet Friday, August 3 at 6:00 at Benny's. Come join us for food and fellowship. Let me know if you can come.

Sandy

Can You Believe It

Food Service During Fellowship Time is Ten Years Old

Our great food service during fellowship time in the church started on July 4, 2018. It was started to provide something to do for the parents of Sunday School children. This was when the church tried having combined Sunday School between services. After a year, it was decided that the combined Sunday School did not work, but the food service was so popular with everyone it was decided to continue serving food.

From the beginning, Sue Bunselmeyer, Alfreda Tribout and Helen Johnson ran the food service. They buy the food, decide on the menu, cook and serve the food. They get part time help from Bob and Charles. No church money is used to support the service. The free will offering each week is enough to cover the costs. One week they do not get enough, but the next week they get more than they need, so it all works out.

About a year ago, Helen had to drop out, but Sue and Alfreda have continued on.

Next Sunday, everyone should give Sue, Alfreda and Helen a big thank you.



Foods Resource Bank



FIRST CHURCH FOODS RESOURCE BANK GROWING PROJECT

Routed in a Community Grounded in Faith

OUR CORN CROP -- Our Foods Resource Bank growing project corn crop got 2" of rain the weekend of July 14 and the corn is doing great. If the garden sweet corn is any indication of the field corn – which it usually is – we are going to have a bumper crop. Now we are just waiting for big kernels.



GARDEN PRODUCE AVAILABLE – 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.

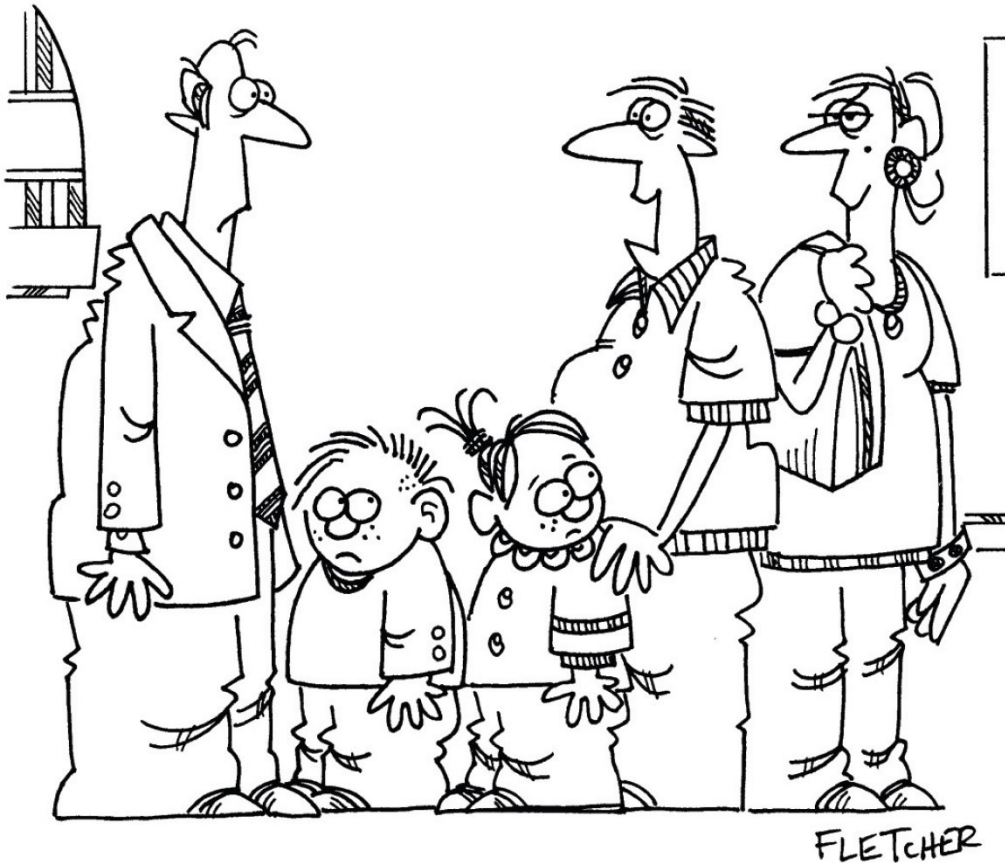
If you would like to contribute to the expenses of the 2018 FRB Growing Project corn crop, you may use the envelopes in the pews or mark another envelope accordingly. Please make your check payable to First Congregational UCC. Proceeds of this crop will support a sustainable food program in the developing world in a country that our church selects to help people learn the dignity and pride of feeding themselves.



Finance Notes

JUNE 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>June 18</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,420.92	\$
Budget Expense	\$17,269.15	\$
Income	\$ No Data	\$
Expenses	\$	\$



**"We're teaching our children the importance
of regular church attendance . . .
what time should we pick them up?"**

Happenings

FFDO

Benny's

Friday,

August 3

6:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Admin Meeting

Monday, August 20

5:30 pm

Council of Minis- try Teams

Monday, August 20

6:30 pm



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

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 Alburtis
28. Christopher Harmison
Terry Stoa
29. Skip Mower
Kelly Brennan
30. Betty Wheatley
31. Mark Jaberg

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

1. Rob & Penny Butts
3. Michael & Toni Longstreet
4. Jim & Jodi Baldwin
Allen & Ann Gerhold
6. Don & Stacey Carter
8. Jeff & 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
Montana & Hayley Daniels
23. Randal & Mary Beck
25. Carl & Doris Jacobs
26. Don & Dee Wenneker



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	August 5		
	August 12		
	August 19		
	August 26		
	August 5	Peggy Druessel	
	August 12	Tom & Paula Cordts	
	August 19	Don & Stacy Carter	
	August 26	Betty Weatley	
	August 5	Paul & Ruth Debrune	
	August 12	Dave & Marlene Gant	
	August 19	Dave & Judy Carpenter	
	August 26	Kristin Hargove	
 USHERS	August 5	Ev & Shirley Kuhn, Mac & Sharon Butler	
	August 12	Dave & Marlene Gant, Dave Carpenter, Gary Weiss	
	August 19	Bill & Alice Huebner, Chuck Zweck, Jodi Baldwin	
	August 26	Darla Weltmer, Kristin Hargrove, Robert & Penny Butts	

Thank you to all who participate in these very important activities!

August Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 6:30 Bible Study	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 6:30 Bible Study	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	<i>13</i> 7:00 Property Ministry	<i>14</i> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 6:30 Bible Study	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	<i>20</i> 5:30 Admin 6:30 Council Of Ministry Teams	<i>21</i> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 6:30 Bible Study	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 6:30 Bible Study	<i>31</i>	



First Congregational UCC
3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, IL 62526-1450

2018 Church Goals

Your Council of Ministry Teams has approved the following 3 goals for 2018:

2018 Church Goals

Working on goals for 2018, let one of the church officers know if you have an idea for a goal.

1. Create a safe church policy and conduct training to support this policy.
2. Reestablish an active evangelism ministry.
3. Initiate a second Bible study for this year.