

Congregational Comments

Vol. 20 No 7: July 2015

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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

**FROM THE PASTOR
SUMMER TIME**

This past week Bobbie, and I were able to coordinate our calendars and work schedules so that we could spend some vacation time together. We thought it

was going to be a working vacation – but I discovered due to a severe case of bronchitis I was going to have a more time for recovery and relaxation than I had planned. God works in mysterious ways!! We found ourselves enjoying good conversation, laughing, sharing meals, walks and good times together as a couple and with friends. What a gift it was unhurried, de-stressed, precious time. A true summer blessing! Summer presents us with such varied and enjoyable opportunities to slow the pace, enrich our lives, breath more deeply, relax with friends and family.

Whether you stay close to home or travel, the opportunities are abundant, and do not necessarily require much money. What fortunate people we are, to have such options!

If you are like me and tend to put off simple things like enjoying a concert, slowly savoring a meal rather than rushing through it, reconnecting with friends, or simply setting aside unhurried, de-stressed time with those you love, I hope you will make space for the enriching blessings of summer.

Gratitude, attentiveness, delight – such are the spiritual practices well-suited for these days. They call us to a different rhythm of living, and a deeper relationship with God the Creator, Jesus the Savior, the Holy Spirit the Enabler and with one another.

On a different note I wanted say to that we have accomplished our goal of \$8,000 for the replacement of our office copier and computer software, through your special giving and through memorial gifts. On behalf of our church leadership, **we give thanks for your wonderful support!!! Well Done First Church!!**

While the choir is on hiatus for the summer, good music certainly isn't! Every Sunday we are being blessed with a wide variety of musical talent.

I do hope you will plan to be here for worship when you are in town. And as always, the offering plate tends to suffer a bit dur-

ing the summer months, so please remember your giving to First Church.

May your summer blessings abound. Mine have already begun. God be with you!

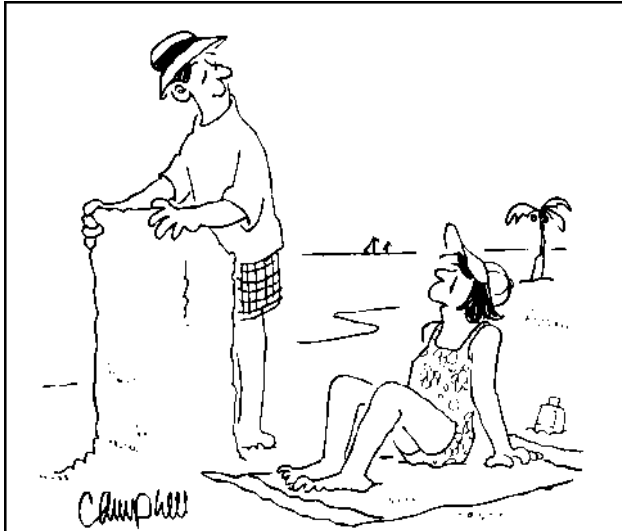
Pastor Dave

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** and at **10:00AM** we have our **faith growing Bible Study opportunities for adults**. And at **10:00AM** discover a new friend or renew a current friendship visiting over **delicious refreshments** in Fellowship Hall.

JOIN US JULY 26-30
6-8:30 PM FOR OUR AWESOME VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

"EVEREST -
Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty
Power"

Bring your children, invite your neighbors' children, support VBS with your donations of time, talents and money! **Come enjoy VBS with us and share in God's love!!**



You're supposed to be on vacation, Dave

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

Primrose Retirement Community

Claude Young—Room 228

Hickory Point Christian Village

Mary Lou Phipps— Room 210

Celeste Ritter—Room 304

Imboden Gardens

Harriette Horn—Room120

Keystone

Carolyn Jones—Room 216

Vonderlieth Living Center, Mt. Pulaski, IL

Alice Roach



THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, acts of kindness and support to my family and me during the last years and especially the days following Russ's passing. We all appreciate it SO MUCH. Love to all, Janet and family.

Thank you to these 21 First Church volunteers who helped deliver Meals on Wheels the week of May 19:

Sharon Burbes	Peggy Druessel	Tom and Paula Cordts
Gary and Pat Weiss	Dave and Marlene Gant	Ev and Shirley Kuhn
Gerry and Peggy Ruff	Bill and Alice Huebner	Darla Weltmer
Judi Carpenter	Charles Zweck	Alfreda Tribout
Sue Bunselmeyer	Paul and Ruth Debruine	

Meals on Wheels always needs more volunteers to deliver meals. Volunteers deliver one route on one day and work in teams of 2 (usually one driver and one runner). Meals are picked up at Decatur Memorial Hospital about 10:00 AM and each route includes detailed directions and instructions for each home. Routes require about an hour for delivery. Our church's next week to deliver meals is September 8, 9, 10, and 11. If you would like to be included on the list to help with this rewarding service and you have not already signed up on the time and talent sheet in last fall's stewardship packet, please contact Sue Bunselmeyer, 877-5926.

Thank You

The family of April Hudson, (my sister) would like to thank everyone for their kind words of support. We give thanks for April's life and that she is past all illness and that she is with Jesus and loved ones, happy and healthy in life eternal. Thank you for your thoughtful cards and prayers during this time, we have felt uplifted by your caring support. May God continue to bless each of you and our First Congregational UCC family.

Pastor Dave and Bobbie, Christen and Kelly Cantrell, Aaron and Becca Taylor, and Jason Hudson

INFORMATION ON OUR PAST MINISTRIES



To our First Congregational friends: Pastor Dale Bartels is celebrating 40 years of ministry and service to the Glory of God! He will also be retiring later in June from St. John's UCC- Chesterfield.

We welcome and encourage you to share your well wishes by sending cards to Pastor Dale and Marti c/o St. John's UCC, 15370 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017



Pastor Mark Jaberg and his wife Pat retired on May 31. Mark had recently served at St. Paul's UCC church in Sheboygan, WI. Mark is also celebrating 40 years of ministry.

We encourage everyone to share your well wishes by sending cards to Pastor Mark and Pat at their new home at N7429 Lake Terrace Dr., Plymouth, WI. 53073



VBS 2015 at First Church!

EVEREST - Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power. Plans are mostly in place for this year's VBS program, Sunday, July 26 – Thursday, July 30 from 6:00-8:30,. Registrations forms will be available very soon on the bulletin boards. A HUGE thank-you to those who have already volunteered to help. We still need an Adult Leader for Spotlight VBS (videographer/photographer), a couple of "helpers" for Preschool Peak, a sound/digital projection tech and a couple of Crew Leaders. We will need help with set-up before and take-down after. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be involved! Please let us know as soon as possible if you can fill one of our open spots. THANKS! Marsha Mower and Maureen Ruski, co-directors



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1
5 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship Pastoral Card Sale	6	7 Preschool 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	8 Sum
12 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	13 5:30 Admin Meeting	14 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	15
19 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	20	21 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	22 Rummag Set-Up
26 Vacation Bible School	27 VBS	28 VBS 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	29 VBS

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	4
mer	9 Flight	10	11
	16 1:15 Book Club	17	18
ge	23 Rummage Set-Up	24 Rummage Sale	25 Rummage Sale
	30 VBS	31	

Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale

Women's Fellowship will hold their Annual Rummage Sale in JULY!!
Weddings take priority over our Fashion Show of Unique Items.

Save the dates July 22 -23 - 24 - 25

On Wed. we will start setting up our tables etc. MEN welcome to come and help us. We will work from 9:30 - 12:00 and then have luncheon - (compliments of Women's Fellowship) and then hold a short business meeting. Ellen Starace has taken a job and we need a Secretary. Come prepared to volunteer to step into that position.

Thursday we will mark everything that needs pricing and then Friday sale from 8:00 - 4:00 and Sat. 8:00 11:00 with our \$3.00 bag sale on Sat. THEN we need helpers for cleaning up and hauling (IF we have anything left) down to Blessingdales.

We need grocery brown bags for the bag sale so save those for us.
THANKING YOU ALL IN ADVANCE.

DARLA

MAY 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>May 15</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,753.08	\$88,765.40
Budget Expense	\$17,437.57	\$87,187.85
Income	\$19,861.50	\$93,388.28
Expenses	\$11,408.93	\$76,627.63

Garden by Quinn G. Caldwell

"In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground...the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there God put the man whom God had formed." Genesis 2:4b-7

The people we bought our house from were successful early retirees. Which means that they not only had a lot of time, but also a lot of energy. Consequently, when we moved in, our yard featured a fenced vegetable garden, a formal herb garden with stone paths, a berry patch, lovely foundation plantings, lush lawns, kidney shaped island beds, perennial borders, huge perfect hedges, and more. Now, a few years later, it features great masses of dandelions and caustic wild parsnip, hedges ravaged by deer, a lawn that could best be described as "diverse," and perennials killed by a combination of neglect and dog visits.

When the author of Genesis wants to indicate the nothingness of the time before creation, he describes an earth with no one to plant and garden it. Then the first thing God does is to create a garden, followed by a human to tend it. Gardening, it turns out, is the first task given to humans, arguably our defining characteristic.

A garden is the interaction between human action and the world of dirt and flora. By that definition, there is in fact no place on earth that we are not currently gardening, intentionally or not. There is no place unaffected by the actions of humans, not even so-called wildernesses; pollution, genetically modified organisms, invasive species, and climate change are at work in even the most protected places.

Our gardening started with a little patch of earth in Eden. As with the gardens of people everywhere with enough time and energy, our plots have spread and spread. Now they cover the entire world, and the question is, what are we going to do with the garden we have inherited?

Prayer

God, grant that I might remember that beauty takes work and that dandelions are flowers. Deliver me from the temptations of Roundup and riding mowers. And at least once in a while, let me set aside my anxiety

CHURCH WORK DAY

Thank you to all the people who worked around the church on our Spring Cleanup Day, June 13. Property Ministry would like to thank the following people for their help.

Bob Bunselmeyer
Jodi Baldwin
Paul Debruine
Alice Huebner
Al Gerhold

Don Carter
Dave Mahr
Dave Taylor
Kathy Moore
Carol Robertson

Jim Baldwin
Tom Cordts
Bobbi Taylor
Rob Moore
Joe Robertson





FIRST CHURCH
FOODS RESOURCE BANK
GROWING PROJECT

“We can all F.A.R.M.”

Our First Church growing project is underway. The 5 acres of donated land have been planted in corn. It is waist high and growing rapidly. It needs sunshine and less rain. When the crop is harvested, it will be sold and the dollars generated will be given to the Foods Resource Bank sustainable food program in a developing world that we have selected. The money will buy supplies and provide instruction to create community gardens, herds, irrigation, or food storage, allowing the hungry people to know the dignity and pride of feeding themselves.

FOCUS on those that are hungry. In prayer allow yourself to enter into the suffering that occurs when people hunger and watch their children go hungry.

ADVOCATE for those that are hungry. 840 million people who go hungry will have little chance to tell their story. You and I will. We must.

REALIZE your God-given talents through serving others. Our First Church growing project creates a wide variety of opportunities to use your God-given strengths to serve others.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. Individually, we spend more on trash disposal in this country than millions of people earn. A small contribution of money, time, expertise, land or resources can make the difference for people. The First Church growing project applies those contributions to bring food security in an effective way that provides dignity. We see community ownership develop - leading to long lasting improvements. Donation envelopes are available in the pew racks or on the Outreach bulletin board.



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. Toni Longstreet
4. David Brown
5. Joe Seitz
6. Shirley Kuhn
Nancy Leoucis
7. Robert Blackwell
Cole Mitchell
Gerald Ruff
Darla Weltmer
13. Christina Clark
14. Jack McGinnis
15. Carl Jacobs
Charles Zweck
16. Albert Wilson
19. Lindsay Malone
21. Ellen Whitrock
19. Doris Jacobs
20. Zoey Clark
21. Anna Waller
26. Hayley Bunselmeyer
Alexis Fankhauser
27. Sharon Burbes
28. Lois Shelton

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. Dale & Beverly Capshaw
7. Harold & Sandy Harmison
Jerome & Elizabeth
Scherer
9. Christopher & Amy Leman
19. Mark & Melinda Bunselmeyer
24. Nicholas & Sally Lauer
25. Robert & Carol Blackwell
Richard & Sheila
Mannweiler



FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 5

LITURGIST: Bill Huebner

FLOWERS: Mark & Jeanette
Flenner

COFFEE: Dave & Judy
Carpenter

USHERS/GREETER: Paul & Ruth
DeBruine, Chuck Zweck, Kristin
Hargrove

JULY 12

LITURGIST: Ellen Starace

FLOWERS: Church Zweck

COFFEE: Darla & Lynn Weltmer

USHERS/GREETER: Robby &
Kathy Moore, Kristin Hargrove,
Marylin Cushing

JULY 19

LITURGIST: Dee Wenneker

FLOWERS: Dick & Sheila
Mannweiler

COFFEE: Frank & Shelly Smith

USHERS/GREETER: Dave & Pat
Mahr, Pat & Margie Malone

JULY 26

LITURGIST: Carol Robertson

FLOWERS: Betty Wheatley

COFFEE: Don & Stacey Carter

USHERS/GREETER: Martha
Crookshank, Dave & Marlene
Gant, Sandi Pleasants

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 5

USHER/GREETER: Ruby
Voyles, Shirley Zimmerman

REFRESHMENTS: Ruby
Voyles, Shirley Zimmerman

JULY 12

USHER/GREETER: Joe Moretti

REFRESHMENTS: Maureen
Ruski

JULY 19

USHER/GREETER: Bruce &
Debbie Whitney

REFRESHMENTS: Bruce &
Debbie Whitney

JULY 26

USHER/GREETER: Praise
Band

REFRESHMENTS: Missy
Boldizar



