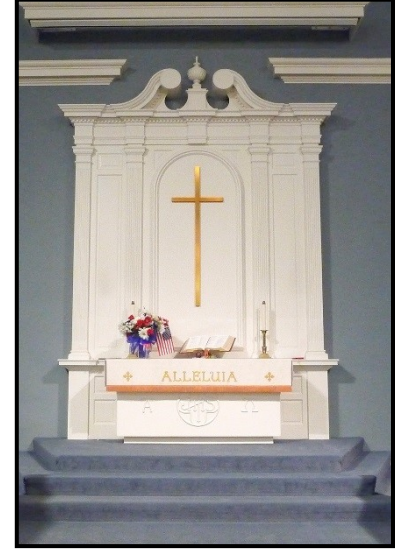


Congregational Comments



Vol. 24 No. 7: July 2019

Important Contacts in the Church

Pastor: Rev. Jan Johnson, 309-267-3260
 Email: jancastegnarojohnson@comcast.net
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.

Inside this issue:

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A Note from Pastor Jan

July 2019



This month we celebrate Independence Day! The 4th of July has become a time of band concerts and with them comes the fireworks. There are family picnics with hotdogs, potato salad, chips, lemonade, and watermelon OR there are picnics with ribs and 7 layer salads and red, white, and blue desserts made from berries and cool whip, with iced tea and French fries. Or you just go out to eat and let the ants starve! The celebration is always great and the togetherness makes our hearts beat proud.

We Americans treasure our Independence! And yet we all know that we are not independent! We celebrate the independence won for a fledgling country in 1776 that has now become a great melting pot of a country with people from all corners of the world who come together to celebrate US – a United States! My heritage is Italian, Scotch-Irish, and Cherokee. My husband's was German and Swedish. My daughter is part Polish and Lithuanian and my son is Thai and Chinese. The first Christmas Dang was with us we signed our Christmas Cards: The United Nations with our birth names and Dang's in Thai script. Only in America could we have 4 people with a 9 country heritage!

We are not Independent! We are INTERDEPENDENT. From birth until we can walk, we are fully Dependent. And even after that we are dependent upon parents. When we leave home we are more Independent – although, there are still strings of Dependence that hold us together as family. Eventually, however, we are no longer Dependent, nor are we Independent! To grow into responsible adults, we must become INTER-dependent. That would be a spiritual designation as well as a mental or psychological designation. We need one another! Together we have liberty – apart we have emptiness.

As Christians, we celebrate liberty – the freedom to come and go (within bounds) as we please and as it pleases God. God sets the boundaries of our liberty. In Christ we are free from that which enslaves us: sin. Those 10 Commandments and Jesus' additional commands, hold us fast in the heart of God! Our true freedom comes from our dependency upon Christ's sacrifice and through God's grace and mercy.

Galatians 5: 1-13, For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.....For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

Have a safe holiday!
Jan

kidz daze

ALL kids K-12

are welcome to spend a day with Rev. Jan. During each day there will be theme such as 'wood' or 'color' or 'family'. We will have a craft and lunch and stories! We will see a video or a movie, go to a nursing home and visit.

**9am –1pm on June 29 and 8am – 4pm on other days.
Friday, June 29. Wednesday, July 10. Monday, Aug. 12
R.S.V.P. to the church office by the Sunday before**

General Information

FFDO

FFDO will meet on Friday, July 5 at 6 pm at Bijou. Let me know if you can make it.

Sandy Harmison

Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pank

I would like to invite the ladies of First Congregational United Church of Christ to attend the Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park on September 27 and 28th. The cost is \$116. Please feel free to ask me, Jeanette Flenner, Maureen Ruski or Debby Beal about our experience at this retreat. More information is available on the Pilgrim Park web site.

Sandy Harmison

Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale

Women's Fellowship rummage sale is going to be taking over Fellowship Hall...August 28th - 29th 8:00 - 4:00 for setting up & pricing....30th - 8:00 - 4:00 and 31st 8:00 - 11:00 AM SELLING all the wonderful items you bring in. Any questions see me in church or e-mail me. Please plan to let me know when you can help set up, sell, load up what's left etc...Much appreciated.

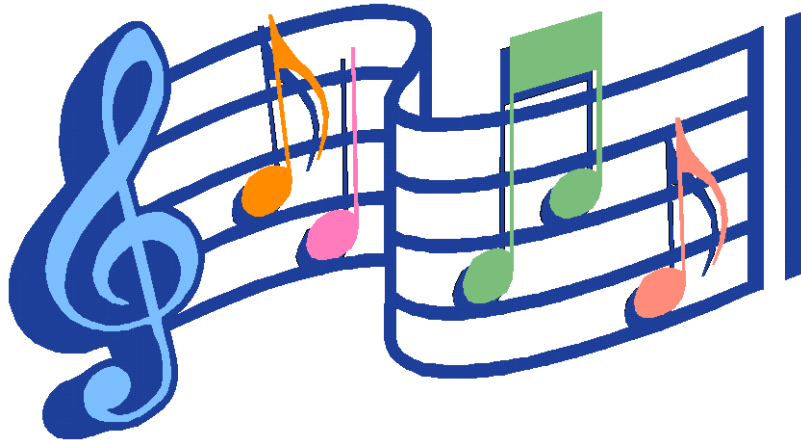
THANKS...AND PLEASE save the brown paper bags from grocery store for us...we need at least 100 brown bags.

Darla Weltmer

Summer Music

Here is a list of the volunteers for summer music for the church.

July 7	Dave Mahr
14	Laurie Matheson
21	Gavin Butts
28	
Aug 4	
11	Gavin Butts
18	Jackie Hagan



General Information

Church Property Clean-up Conducted on May 25, 2019

The Church Property Committee would like to thank the following people for their participation on the Annual Church Property Clean-up day, Saturday, May 25:

Paul DeBruine	Frank Smith	Bob Bunselmeyer	Don Carter
Marlene Gant	Bill & Alice Huebner	Joe & Carol Robertson	
Janvrin Family – Brandon, Valerie, Isaiah and Quincy		Jim & Jodi Baldwin	

The Church has 10 acres of property to maintain, consisting of multiple flower beds, playground, forest, campground, lawn, and building. Anyone wishing to help maintain any part of these areas may contact the Property Committee. Thanks again to all those that helped on May 25th.

Save Caps

A friend of mine has a 7 year old great nephew's Cub Scout troop in Blue Mound who are collecting caps from various products...spray starch cans, bottles, plastic lids, jars with plastic lids etc..... The caps are weighed, somehow melted down and molded into park benches for veterans or children's playgrounds.

I think this is a well worth project since GFWC Decatur Woman's Club gave up pill bottles!!! Save the lids for me.

I have a bag on the table by the office door and you can put them in that bag along with any stamps, tab tops, greeting fronts.

THANKS Darla Weltmer

Children & Youth Activities

Children and Youth Summer Outreach Project

Children's. Youth and Outreach ministries are teaming up to help with disaster relief in this country and around the world. This summer, we will be collecting items for School Kits and Hygiene Kits as a part of Church World Service's disaster relief. We are also supporting the nurses at DMH with Hope Kits to send home with needy mothers with newborns and for babies who are going directly into foster care.

A list of specific items needed will be posted and published as well as a poster showing the progress towards our goal of 50 School Kits, 50 Hygiene Kits and 25 Newborn Hope Kits.

HYGIENE KITS

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One fingernail or toenail clipper
- One bath-size bar of soap
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

SCHOOL KITS

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter /12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser (no pencils with erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons

NEWBORN HOPE KITS

- One sleep and play outfit
- Three onesie undershirts
- Two burp cloths
- One pack newborn diapers
- One pack diaper wipers
- Three pack Evenflo bottles
- Bottle brush
- Baby body wash and shampoo
- A & D diaper rash TREATMENT cream
- Safety 1st Baby Care Basics (brush, comb, clippers, nasal aspirator)

Growing Hope



Formerly Foods Resource Bank

Our Growing Hope growing project has been planted and is about 6 inches tall. The corn crop is currently at the V5 growth stage, which means the plant has five mature leaf collars. The crop is transitioning from using the seed reserves to developing its roots to gather nutrients.

Now is the time for members and friends to help support the costs of the growing project. This year the cost for one acre is \$373 and breaks down as:

- \$140 corn seed
- \$145 fertilizer
- \$ 40 herbicide
- \$ 25 fungicide
- \$ 11 diesel fuel
- \$ 12 crop hail insurance

Therefore, with a 5-acre growing project, we are needing \$1,865 to cover the input costs for this year.

As in the past, the farmland, labor and equipment to plant, grow and harvest our crop is donated.

If you would like to participate in this project, there are envelopes in the church pews and on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or you may mark your donation "Growing Hope Globally" and the money counters will get it in the appropriate account. This is the 14th growing project for our church and these proceeds will benefit people in West Africa to help them become food sustainable and never go hungry again.

Womens Fellowship

Womens fellowship regular meeting is June 28. we will meet in the church parking lot (north side) at 11:15 and carpool to Coney Mckanes restaurant. please make a reservation in the church office or with Sheila Witts-Mannweiler at sheila938@comcast.net (email); 877-4332 (home); 620-8196 (text).

We are scheduled to be at the Mueller museum at 1:00. (cost \$2).

Sheila

Finance Notes

MAY 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>May 19</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,051.92	\$85,259.60
Budget Expense	\$17,947.02	\$89,735.10
Income	\$13,644.06	\$83,265.54
Expenses	\$17,272.88	\$84,736.13



Happenings

FFDO

Bijou

July 5

6:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Admin Meeting

Monday, July 15

5:30 pm

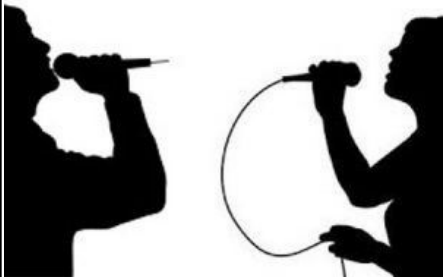
Council of
Ministry Teams
No meeting in July

Summer Music

July 7 Dave Mahr

July 14 Laurie Matheson

July 21 Gavin Butts



Interim Task Force Members

Gary Baker

Jeanette Flenner

Kelli Fonseca

Erick Hubbard

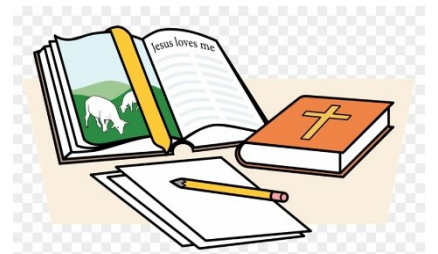
Alice Huebner

Shelia Mannweiler

Robert Ruehrup

Exploring Christian Faith Study Group

Taking a Vacation
Until After Labor
Day



July 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.

1. Toni Longstreet
5. Joe Seitz
6. Shirley Kuhn
Nancy Leoucis
7. Robert Blackwell
Gerald Ruff
Darla Weltmer
Cole Mitchell
9. Aiden Miller
13. Christina Clark
15. Carl Jacobs
Charles Zweck
19. Lindsay Malone
21. Ellen Whitrock
22. Connor Butts
Gavin Butts
Doris Jacobs
23. Zoey Clark
26. Hayley Bunselmeyer
Alexis Fankhauser
27. Sharon Burbes
28. Lois Shelton

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

9. Christopher & Amy Leman
19. Mark & Melinda Bunselmeyer
24. Nicholas & Sally Lauer
25. Robert & Carol Blackwell
Richard & Sheila Mannweiler
27. Kelly & Christen Cantrell



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	July 7	Dee Wenneker	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	July 14	Judi Carpenter	Sandy Harmison
	July 21	Amy Leman	Betty Wheatley
	July 28	Ellen Starace	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
 Altar Flowers	July 7	Mark & Jeanette Flenner	
	July 14	Jan Johnson	
	July 21	Rob & Penny Butts	
	July 28	Mike & Toni Longstreet	
 Fellowship hour	July 7	Chuck Zweck	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	July 14	Marlene Gant	Missy Boldizar
	July 21	Kristin Hargrove	Betty Wheatley
	July 28	Sheila Mannweiler	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
 USHERS	July 7	The Butts Family	
	July 14	Ted & Darby Mitchell, Erick & Sam Hubbard	
	July 21	Darla Weltmer, Dave Carpenter, Gary Weiss, Kristen Hargrove	
	July 28	Paul & Ruth DeBruine, Carol Cooley, Marlene Gant	

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

July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	3	4	5 6:00 MCYP	6
7 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	8	9 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	10 8:00—4:00 Kidz Daze	11	12 6:00 MCYP	13
14 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	15 5:30 Admin 7:00 Property Meeting	16 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	17	18	19 6:00 MCYP	20
21 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	22	23 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	24	25	26 6:00 MCYP	27
28 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	29	30 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	31			



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

2019 Church Goals

Your Council of Ministry Teams has approved the following 3 goals for 2019:

2019 Church Goals

- Goal No. 1—Reestablish an active evangelism ministry
- Goal No. 2—Instituting new fellowship programs for working women, men and young families
- Goal No. 3—Hire a new pastor for the church.