

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 18 No 6: June 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*

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

### **BUILDING ON STRENGTH**

We have something special here at First Congregational UCC, don't we?!" And when you have something special, you take extra good care of it. Several years ago, church management experts shifted their approach, advising congregations to stop focusing so much time and energy on their weaknesses and instead to identify their strengths and build on those.

One of our great strengths is the loving, compassionate spirit of our members and regular visitors. So how do we build on that vital strength? I want to suggest five ways:

- 1. PRAY: Make a habit each day to remember those on our prayer chain, our staff, our congregation and our ministry together.** Ask God to fill all with healing, peace, strength. Or simply be still and hold everyone in the Light of God's grace. You are invited to join our Bible Study on Prayer as we explore "how we pray" and "what happens when we pray" and more. Contact Pastor Dave for more information.
- 2. NOTICE: Look around on Sunday morning. Who's been missing in action for a while?** Give 'em a call, send an email letting them know they are missed, asking if they are o.k. Don't leave it to staff; when a person hears from members and friends, it means a great deal.
- 3. RISK: Talk with people, even if you aren't sure they are newcomers.** Invite them to come join you for the fellowship hour after worship, introduce them to others. People are rarely offended by someone asking their name and if they are new (even if they are not), but are more likely to be offended by no one speaking to them in the sanctuary or fellowship hall! Want to feel more "plugged in?" Take a risk: stay for refreshments, talk to people, come for a program, volunteer.

**4. ASK: If you or a loved one have a need, are facing surgery or other procedures – whatever may be weighing heavily on you at present, let staff and other members know rather than assuming people will somehow hear about it. We all want to support you.**

**5. LOVE: When you have a concern, go to the appropriate person and speak from a place of love.** When you are grateful for the efforts of other members or staff, let them know. To truly love another person, a group, a congregation, is to understand that perfection is neither a helpful goal nor a reasonable expectation. At the end of the day what we will cherish is how well we loved and were loved, whether we walked in grace with one another. We really do have something special here. Let's build on it.

**We invite you to join us for worship at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Sundays at 9:00AM** for our Traditional Service and Sunday School for children and **11:00AM** for our Contemporary Service. At **10:00 AM** we have creative adult Bible Study opportunities. Also at **10:00 AM** you can enjoy renewing or making new friendships while visiting over delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Come join us in the refreshing experience of worship as we learn God's truth and love for our lives and as we are called to that gift with others. Have a great summer!!  
In Christ's Spirit,

*Pastor Dave*

### **IS CHURCH CAMP ON YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR?**

There is still time to register for a great time at church camp event. Registration information is available. Contact Pastor Dave

**Our Sympathy** and love for the family of John Gerhold who passed from this life to life eternal in Jesus Christ. John was Al Gerhold's father. We remember Al and Ann Gerhold, and Laura and Megan in our prayers.

**Our Sympathy** and love for the family of Larry Coopridner who passed from this life to life eternal in Jesus Christ. Larry was an faithful worshipper at our 11 AM service. We pray God's blessings and comfort be with all who have loved John and Larry. Amen.

**Our Ladies' Night Out event was a great success! A BIG Thanks to our preparers, servers, cleaners, presenter, and participants.**

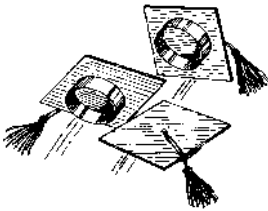
## **MUSIC SUNDAY was OUTSTANDING!** **OUR SINCERE THANKS!**

A BIG THANK YOU to the members of our Vocal and Handbell Choirs and Laurie Matheson and Bette Fankhauser for their dedication and wonderful talents. Our thanks also to Laurie for serving as our gifted organist.

A BIG THANK YOU to the members of our First Praise Band and tech team and to Rick Boldizar for their great talents and dedication. Be sure to tell all our gifted musicians..."well done!"

Also a BIG Thank You to all our ministry members such as Worship and Music, whose efforts throughout the year helps make First Church a great place to worship.

You are all appreciated so very much! Please take a moment to express your thanks to these folks for their gifts.



### ***CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!***

life.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates as you begin a new chapter in your

We're proud of you! May God continue to bless you in your future plans.

## **A BIG THANK YOU**

**We THANK all our LOGOS and Sunday School teachers, ministry members and helpers** for helping our students learn more about their faith and a job- WELL DONE! **We also want say to our families, parents, grandparents and students - THANK YOU** for making faith a priority in your life and life of your children and youth. Our thanks to all our all of you, church family, for making faith education a vital priority and for remembering our Christian Education programs in your prayers and through your caring support of time, talents and money.

**Our thanks to our "Wet Vac brigade"** who moved furniture and removed water from our church April 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM until 1 AM Friday, Chuck Zweck, Alfreda Tribout, Al Gerhold, Al's worker Bill, Bob Bunselmeyer, Clarence Elliott, Pastor Dave, Tom Cordts, and Matt Cordts. And thanks to Tom Cordts for making a temp. wall/floor repair. WELL DONE!!

**A BIG THANKS to the many folks who helped out as we transitioned to a new secretary:** Sue Bunselmeyer, Dee and Don Wenneker, Betty Henry, Jeanette Flenner, Chuck Zweck, Sharon Burbes, Tom Cordts and Pastor Dave.

**A BIG THANKS to the many folks who helped out as we transitioned to a new custodian by helping to clean our church:** Christina Clark, James Huckile, Mindy Bunselmeyer, Sue Bunselmeyer, Marlene Gant, Chris Leman, Paula Cordts, Paul & Ruth DeBruine, Ron and Sherry Palmer, Todd Wernecke, Bonnie Ruecker, Mark & Jeanette Flenner.

We give thanks to all who have helped out and apologize for the oversight of anyone's name who should have been included here and was not listed.

## **VACATION TIME**

Pastor Dave and family will be on vacation from May 24-June 9. Rev. Paula Carmichael will lead worship May 26<sup>th</sup> and Rev. David Wence will worship June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call the church office (Kapora Boone) at 877-2216 or Charles Zweck at 615-0265 with any church concerns. For pastoral care emergencies you may call one of our church leaders or Rev. Paula Carmichael, chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital at 464-2045 or home cell 231-288-6870.



**WE WELCOME KAPORA BOONE,  
OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY**

Hi, I am Kapora Boone. I am a long time resident of Decatur, IL. I graduated from MacArthur High School in 2006. I have a strong Christian based faith and I attend New Vision Christian Church where Napoleon Mond resides as pastor. I am hoping to work with your church for many years to come.



**APRIL 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>April 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,568.17	\$70,272.68
Budget Expense	\$17,685.50	\$70,742.00
Income	\$12,671.95	\$63,335.02
Expenses	\$12,966.85	\$60,595.84

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our annual rummage sale will be held on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The money that is raised will be used for church related needs. For example, we recently gave our youth \$500 to be used for their mission trip this summer

We will be sorting and pricing all items on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday June, 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided that day. There will also be a short business meeting. These two days are always "fun" days. You can come and stay all day, or work the hours that you can. All help, no matter the time, is welcome and much appreciated.

This is the time of year to really get busy with that spring cleaning and sorting out those items you no longer need or want. Remember, one man's stuff is another man's treasure.

### CHURCH NEEDS NEW MOWER

The old church mower has finally wore out. We need a new mower. We have decided that we are going to up grade to a heavy duly commercial model mower that will last longer and fit our needs better. This means that it will cost more. We have about \$2,500 in the mower fund, but will need a few thousand dollars more for the new mower. Response to our needs has been good, but any members that would still wish to contribute may make their checks out to the church and designate it for the "mower fund".



Thank you.

Paul DeBruine

\$ \$ \$ \$

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>
<b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b>			
<b>2</b>  <b>Pastoral Care</b> <b>Card Sale</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Rummag</b> <b>Set-up</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 Worship/</b> <b>Music Ministry</b> <b>7:00 Super</b> <b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>16</b>  <b>10:00 Children's</b> <b>Social</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>7:00 Church</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>30</b>			



	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
			<b>1</b>
<b>e Sale</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b> <b>Set-up</b>	<b>7</b> <b>8-4:00 Rummage</b> <b>Sale</b>	<b>8</b> <b>8-11:00</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Wedding</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>15</b> <b>4:00 Stacy Baker</b> <b>Wedding</b>
	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 Book Club</b>  <b>6-8:00 Park</b> <b>Singers</b>	<b>21</b> <b>8:30-3:00 19th</b> <b>Dist. Women's</b> <b>Club</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Wedding</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>29</b> <b>3:00 Bekki</b> <b>Cheatham</b> <b>Wedding</b>
			



**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.)**

Plans are moving right along for VBS 2013 at First Church. We hope you have SAVED THE DATES and have been thinking and praying about how you can be involved in this year's program. This is a church-wide endeavor and we always have room for anyone who would like to help out!

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).

We need a few more adult Crew Leaders to shuttle the children through the events each evening; assistants for All-Star Games and Preschool Treehouse; someone to run the sound and projection during the opening and closing each evening, help with 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. Please contact us as soon as possible and let us know which area God is calling you to.

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 who 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!

## **Adult Program News**

### **Ladies’ Night Out**

We would like to thank everyone who made Ladies’ Night a huge success. Eighty ladies of all ages came to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Don Carter and hear about wedding dresses from days gone by with Nancy Torgerson.

In addition to thanking Don for his culinary skills, we would like to thank the kitchen crew for all of their hard work. Crew members were Dave Carpenter, Bill Huebner, Ev Kuhn, Pastor Dave Taylor, Charles Tribout, and Chuck Zweck; also ministry members Bob Bunselmeyer, Todd Clark, and Chris Leman.

### **Guys’ Night Out**

Gentlemen, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 13 at 6:00. Our annual men’s event will be going to the races. We are holding the First Congregational Pinewood Derby. We will have an official track and give everyone an opportunity to build his own car. Kits will be given out when you buy your ticket. Building a car is an option not a requirement. You can choose to just come and enjoy the competition. We will also be serving dinner. Ticket sales begin Father’s Day June 16th in Fellowship Hall between services. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for young men 12 and under. Call Alfreda Tribout (877-9896) with any questions.



*Join the  
Youth Group*

# Youth Activities

## Youth Can Collection Campaign

The Youth are collecting aluminum cans this summer to raise money for Youth Activities. We are going to make it easy for you to help us. All you have to do is drop off your aluminum cans behind the church on Sunday morning, and the Youth will store them until we get enough to take in. Put your cans in a plastic or a paper bag and place them in the designated area behind the church. The Youth will do the rest. We want to thank you in advance for helping to support the Youth of First Congregational United Church of Christ.

## Decatur Park Singers and the Young Park Singers

Join us for an enjoyable evening of entertaining music and fellowship. Enjoy the Decatur Park Singers with the Young Park Singers on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on the north side of the church. The Youth group will be selling cold drinks, hot popcorn, and other yummy concessions. Have fun while supporting the Youth.



# MUSIC SUNDAY



**The Handbell Choir**



**The Vocal Choir**



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

2. Patricia Weiss  
Reed Cordts
3. Stacey Carter
5. Claire Nicholson
6. Mark Flenner
8. June Lindsten  
Madeline Mitchell
9. Sydney Riewski
10. Dee Wenneker
14. Emily Pomrening  
Alexandra Baltimore
15. Bernice Woodhall  
Wallace Lorey  
Mary Lou Garfield
17. Alex Fisher
18. Marla Russell  
Hayden Palmer
19. Harold Harmison
21. Jamie Hill
22. Penny Kotal  
Annell Gibson
23. Ann Stringer  
Shawn Painter  
Jennifer Ruff
24. William Hickman  
Anthony Hamilton  
Tracy Jeffers
25. Allen Gerhold  
David Kelley
26. Sue Bunselmeyer
27. Paula Carmichael
28. Hannah Dicken
30. Bonnie Ruecker  
Nathan Hamilton

## **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!*

1. William & Alice Huebner  
Robby & Kathy Moore
2. Frank & Shelly Smith
3. Richard & Ingrid Cox
4. Bob & Lindy Blackwell
5. Bill & Megan Reininger
7. Tom & Bette Lynn Fankhauser  
Ryan & Liz Luedtke
8. Paul & Ruth DeBruine  
Terry & Heather Stoa
10. David & Brandi Brown  
Michael & Cynthia Gann  
Anthony & Holly Hamilton
11. Todd & Christine Clark
12. Ronald & Sherry Palmer  
Peter & Lisa Jaberg  
Michelle & Courtney Settles
14. Bruce & Debbie Whitney
15. James & Christen Clifton
16. Nathan & Natalie Harmison
17. Tom & Penny Kotal
18. Roger & Claudia Metzger
19. Roger & Janice Kahila
20. Neal & Kay Janvrin  
Ron & Bonnie Ruecker  
Kyle & Emily Pomrening
21. Denny & Tammy Stanton
22. Russell & Janet Tiede
25. Tommy & Jill Robertson
26. Clarence & Carolyn Elliott

# **JUNE**

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

**JUNE 2**

**LITURGIST:** Dee Wenneker  
**FLOWERS:** Dave & Pat Mahr  
**COFFEE:** Betty Cummings & Laurel Lorey  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Dave & Judi Carpenter, Sandi Pleasants & Bette Fankhauser

**JUNE 9**

**LITURGIST:** Judi Carpenter  
**FLOWERS:** Ron & Sherry Palmer  
**COFFEE:** Howard & Nancy Beede  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Bill & Martha Crookshank, Pat & Margie Malone

**JUNE 16**

**LITURGIST:** Sharon Burbes  
**FLOWERS:** Gary & Kathy Baker  
**COFFEE:** Ned & Sandy Cummings  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Sandi Pleasants, Gary & Pat Weiss, Church Zweck

**JUNE 23**

**LITURGIST:** Al Gerhold  
**FLOWERS:** Mable McCane  
**COFFEE:** Sheila Mannweiler & June Coleman  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Ted & Darby Mitchell, Todd & Christina Clark

**JUNE 30**

**LITURGIST:** Marilee Gordon  
**FLOWERS:** Dick & Gloria Cheatham  
**COFFEE:** Mary Beck  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Everett & Shirley Kuhn, Paul & Ruth DeBruine

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

**JUNE 2**

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

**JUNE 9**

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

**JUNE 16**

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

**JUNE 23**

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

**JUNE 30**

**USHER/GREETER:** Missy Boldizar  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Missy Boldizar



## 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.

**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>**. We begin setting up at 9:00 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided. There will be a short business meeting.

**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.