

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 19 No 3: March 2014

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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**

### **Season of Change**

We will begin our Lenten observance with Ash Wednesday, March 5th. A LOGOS Soup supper will begin at 5:45 pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by the service in our sanctuary, which will

include the imposition of ashes, at 7:00.



Please join us as we participate in this Christian tradition of receiving ashes, reflecting, confessing, praying – meaningful ways to begin the 40 day period of preparing our souls for their spiritual “Springtime” awakening and new Easter growth. We may not yet feel the full warmth of the sun as there will still be some blasts of frigid air and snow, but we

know that Spring is coming

So, too, in our everyday lives the cold, sun-deprived days come – some bringing unwanted change such as illness, job loss, death of a loved one, destruction from a storm, loss of a safe place or other transition. On the worst of days it is hard to believe Spring will come again, that health will return, a new chapter of life will bring new joys, new challenges, new meaning. But new life is indeed there, it maybe hidden from view. Yet in Christ, new life will break through the hard soil of doubt and fear and make its way toward full bloom. New life may take us through unexpected places, but God is there God helping us discover again, “who we are,” and “whose we are,” and “the joy of serving others.”

I imagine if we had nothing but Spring year round we'd eventually stop noticing it, stop being amazed by its awesome color and beauty and stop being thankful for it.

As we make it through the cold, dark days of winter toward Spring, we begin to see the first budding leaves on the trees, the tips of flowers poking up in the flower beds, the return of the certain birds, which announces this wonderful miracle of Spring. Yet if we pay no

attention to our souls, or the life of the Holy Spirit within us, how can we experience the transformation of life and hope in Christ's resurrection? The more we are aware of the beauty, grace, wisdom and love of Jesus Christ, the more we experience new life with God and all others.

So - how do we "Do" Lent? We can respond in many ways: making time for prayer and meditation, journaling, worshipping, reading, attending Bible Study, doing acts of kindness, doing acts of justice. Take time to reflect and write what you believe about your faith. Put into words - what you believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, about being Christian, about the Church, and about mission (serving others). Take a look at how you relate this faith to your family, friends, church, job, God, persons in need, enemies, and as a citizen of this community, nation and world.

Waiting – whether for the earth's annual turning to Spring or for the spiritual rebirth of Lent and Easter – need not be passive. Like other areas of life, the more you put into it, the more you get out it. Each season of our lives carries its own special beauty, its own needed grace. Being a church community means we "wait" together, not alone, and we help one another discover what God is offering us in each season of change.

*Come experience God's amazing grace every **Sunday** in **worship 9 am Traditional** and **11:00 am Contemporary**. Our Sunday School is held during both worship services. Come join us at **10 am** in the Fellowship Hall for delicious refreshments and great fellowship! Check our awesome children's and youth **LOGOS** program on **Wednesdays** 4:15-7:15 pm.*

Join us as we actively "wait" together this Lent for the newness of God through the Risen Christ be awakened within us, our "neighbors" and the world!

*Pastor Dave*



## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be celebrated on Friday, March 7 at 100 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 201 W. North St.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday in March. Everyone is invited to attend. Women, men and children are welcome. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the service. This year the women of Egypt have prepared the service. We will hear stories from several Egyptian women and hear music from the Coptic Church.

Mark this special event on your calendars and plan to attend. Questions? contact Darla Weltmer 877-7008



## **DOES THIS NEWSLETTER LOOK SPARSE?**

### **WELL, IT IS...**

I can only put into the newsletter articles that you send me. For the last few months, very few articles have been sent in. I have contracted some of you for articles, but even then I could not get enough to fill the pages.

This is your newsletter, if you want it to provide news about the church and it's doings, someone has to provide the news. I would be happy to put extra pages in the newsletter if there was too much news for the present size. Let's all start thinking about news you would like in the newsletter.

The Editor

## 2014 SWEETHEARTS DINNER



**Our Vice President and her “sweetheart”**





**FEBRUARY 15**




**You see, Don can be helpful**



**Photos taken by Dave Carpenter**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b>			
2	3	<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>4:15-7:15</b>  <b>7:30 Adu</b>
9	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 Worship/</b> <b>Music Ministry</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>4:15-7:15</b>  <b>7:30 Adu</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>Primary Election</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>4:15-7:15</b>  <b>7:30 Adu</b>
23	24	<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>4:15-7:15</b>  <b>7:30 Adu</b>
30			



	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
			<b>1</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>It Choir</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>It Choir</b>	<b>13</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>It Choir</b>	<b>20</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:00-3:00</b> <b>Pastoral Card</b> <b>Making Day</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>It Choir</b>	<b>27</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Jessica</b> <b>Robertson Bridal</b> <b>Shower</b>
			



**No one I know!!!!!!**

### **JANUARY 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<b><u>Jan 14</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$15,672.57	\$15,672.57
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,414.05	\$17,414.05
<b>Income</b>	\$23,169.44	\$23,169.44
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,768.91	\$16,768.91



## Kroger Rebate Program

In Nov. we received a rebate check from Kroger for \$212.25. As they say on ABC World News, "That's real money!" You may get your Kroger card in the church office during the week, or from me on Sundays. Every card is worth \$20, and is easily loaded for more at Kroger. At the end of Jan. we received a Kroger rebate check for \$201.88.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship – We will meet on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall for a "Wearing Of the Green" celebration. Norma Lingenfelter and Sandy Cummings will have an authentic Irish lunch available for \$3. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. for fun, fellowship, and discussion. Please plan to join us. Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate with some good weather.



## **VBS 2014 AT FIRST CHURCH**

Plan to join us and our "Weird Animals" at VBS July 20-24. If you already know where you would like to help, contact Marsha Mower. More information will be available soon.



*You're Invited.....*

*Ash Wednesday Soup Supper*

**Wednesday, March 5, 5:45-6:45 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Followed by worship in the sanctuary,  
7:00 p.m.*

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a soup supper for our congregation and our LOGOS families. The Ash Wednesday worship service starts at 7:00, and we will invite our LOGOS families to join us for this service upstairs in the sanctuary. Our LOGOS schedule for this evening will be adjusted to accommodate the worship service. Your RSVP will help us plan for dinner, but is not required.



Sponsored by  
LOGOS Ministry





*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. Gregory Tsuda
2. Mitchell Daley
3. Celeste Ritter
4. Andy Baldwin  
Don Carter
8. Walter Jones
12. Erica Moster
13. Tucker Clark
15. Edna Palmer
16. Mary Hamman
17. Bekki Moore
18. Randal Beck  
Carol Cooley
22. Roger Kahila  
Clinton Mueller  
Wesley Pietsch
24. Melissa Boldizar  
Chase Brown
25. Jillian Daley
27. Kathy Ann Baker
31. Bette Lynn Fankhauser  
Gary Weiss

## **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. David & Sharon Walker
10. David & Marlene Gant
15. David & Judi Carpenter
17. Wallace & Laurel Lorey
27. Jack & June Fiddler  
McGinnis
28. William & Madeline Mitchell





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

**MARCH 2**

**LITURGIST:** Allen Gerhold

**FLOWERS:**

**COFFEE:**

**USHERS/GREETER:** Marilee Gordon, Alexis Fankhauser, Chuck Zweck, Bob Bunselmeyer

**MARCH 5**

**LITURGIST:** Marsha Mower

**USHERS/GREETER:** Bill & Martha Crookshank, Sandy Cummings, Carol Robertson

**MARCH 9**

**LITURGIST:** Alexis Fankhauser

**FLOWERS:** Roger & Melinda Redman

**COFFEE:**

**USHERS/GREETER:** Carl Jacobs, Tom & Paula Cordts, Joe Robertson

**MARCH 16**

**LITURGIST:** Ellen Starace

**FLOWERS:** Sharon Burbes

**COFFEE:**

**USHERS/GREETER:** The Todd Clark family.

**MARCH 23**

**LITURGIST:** Sharon Burbes

**FLOWERS:** Al Wilson

**COFFEE:**

**USHERS/GREETER:** Frank & Shelly Smith, Ted & Darby Mitchell

**MARCH 30**

**LITURGIST:** Carol Robertson

**FLOWERS:**

**COFFEE:**

**USHERS/GREETER:** Sandy Cummings, Don Carter, Marilee Gordon, Kristin Hargrove

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

**MARCH 2**

**USHER/GREETER:** Ashley Lofland

**REFRESHMENTS:** Missy Boldizar

**MARCH 9**

**USHER/GREETER:** Wes Pietsch

**REFRESHMENTS:** Wes Pietsch

**MARCH 16**

**USHER/GREETER:** Sandy Harmison

**REFRESHMENTS:** Sandy Harmison

**MARCH 23**

**USHER/GREETER:** Mark & Jeanette Flenner

**REFRESHMENTS:** Jeanette Flenner

**MARCH 30**

**USHER/GREETER:** Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski

**REFRESHMENTS:** Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski



