

# Congregational Comments

Vol. 20 No 3: March 2015

**Pastor:** Rev. Dave Taylor

**Prayer Chain:** Marsha Mower: 875-0733

Email: [m.mower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.mower@sbcglobal.net)

**Playmates Preschool:**

Director, Amy Miller

**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Huebner

Telephone: 876-1446 Cell: 855-7677

Email: [wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net](mailto:wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net)

## Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216 Fax: 877-9665

Email: [firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.firstchurchdecatur.com](http://www.firstchurchdecatur.com)

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**

**THE SEASON OF LENT**

Imagine you have been given 40 days to do nothing but focus on getting your life in order. Time to take stock, figure out what's working and what is not, conduct a spiritual, emotional,

and physical house-cleaning, spend all the time you've ever wanted reading what you wanted to read, read and reflect on the scriptures, listening to great music, time for prayer, talking with a mentor, or cherished friend, spending time in solitude.

Few of us ever find such an uncluttered opportunity. What we do have, is Lent. And while we may not be able to take off from work and family duties, there is plenty we *can* do.

We can stop. Set aside 20 minutes per day, preferably all together, but it can be divided into 5-10 minute segments if needed, to stop and breathe, clear our heads and listen to God.

We can pray. Begin the habit now and by Easter it will be as natural as breathing. Whisper your thanks to God in the morning for another day. Use the simple breath prayer, "God, you are here, I am here," off and on throughout the day. Call to mind people who are in need, and "lift them up to God". You can pick up devotional material here at church such as "These Days" to help you grow in your faith.

We can practice spiritual discipline. Give up something that has become a little too important in our lives like -- a certain food? Video games? TV? Computer/Internet? Cell phone? -- and make space for God. Rediscover again our true priorities and our true identity as Children of God. Write down your questions, your prayers requests, your spiritual discoveries, answers to your prayers, the closeness of God in your life – to help you grow in your faith. Give anonymously to good causes that help God's people in need. Ask or offer forgiveness where needed. Make amends.

We can take inventory: what have I allowed to clutter up my

life? What do I need to “shed”? Whom or what have I neglected? What one change could I make in my life that would leave me feeling more positive, energized and hopeful?

We can get involved. Help serve a meal to the hungry at Good Samaritan. Help a student with reading or math as a tutor at their school. Learn about a current social justice issue. Help your community become stronger and more caring – working toward solutions for the neediest in our midst.

We can worship. On Sunday mornings we are not just a collection of individuals doing our own thing. We are responding to God’s invitation to be a beloved community.

We may not have the luxury of stepping away from our real lives for the next few weeks of Lent, but we have a rich, opportunity filled, time in which draw us ever closer to God who draws near to one another. May this season be filled with surprising blessings, fruitful reflections, and new spiritual growth for all of us.

*Come experience God’s amazing grace every Sunday in worship 9am 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. Also check out our 2 GREAT Adult Bible Study groups. We also have an awesome children and youth **LOGOS** program on **Wednesdays** 4:45-7:15 pm. Check it out!!!*

Join us as we actively “wait” together this Lent for the newness of God through the Risen Christ be awaken within us, our “neighbors” and the world! **Come grow with us!**

*Pastor Dave*

# INFORMATION ON KROGER REWARDS CARDS

From Jeanette Flenner

## Linking Your Kroger Rewards Card to the New Community Rewards Program

Our First Congregational United Church of Christ number is **10619**.  
TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

Simply register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
  - If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
  - Click on Sign In/Register
  - Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
  - Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
  - You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
  - Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
  - *At this point I had to click on "Community" in the top tabs, then on Community Rewards in the dropdown.*
  - Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
  - Update or confirm your information.
  - Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
  - To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
  - REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
  - Do you use your phone number at the register? Call [800-576-4377](tel:800-576-4377), select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

# 40 Notes in 40 Days

## Cultivating relationships through Lent

For forty days (take Sundays off, or use them to catch up. There's no mail anyway), write a note to someone in your life. This list is a suggestion for someone to think of. Pray for the person you want to write to first, then write a note. You can tell them what you're doing. You can tell them why you thought of them. Or you can just keep it secret, and keep it as simple as, "I was just thinking of you. I said a prayer for you today, and I hope you are doing well." Tweet experiences #40Notes40Days. Or share on facebook.com/TheFatPastor

*Write a note to someone who:*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Start with a note to yourself. Who are you most looking forward to contacting? Open on Easter. | 13 was a classmate.                          | 28 is a mother-figure.   |
| 2 is in need of healing.   | 14 you once got into trouble with.           | 29 is a father-figure.   |
| 3 walks to the beat of their own drummer.  | 15 could (but won't) blackmail you.          | 30 is a good dancer.   |
| 4 you taught.  | 16 is good at their job.                     | 31 hurt you.   |
| 5 you share a secret with.   | 17 inspires you.                             | 32 someone who does a service for you (like postal carrier or regular server at a restaurant). |
| 6 taught you a valuable lesson.  | 18 you need to forgive.                      | 33 knows your nickname you try to forget.  |
| 7 is family.   | 19 once forgave you.                         | 34 is really smart.  |
| 8 once gave you good advice.   | 20 is struggling.                            | 35 works for justice.  |
| 9 is a part of your chosen family.   | 21 you met in the last six months.           | 36 is a peacemaker.  |
| 10 you admire.   | 22 you've known as long as you can remember. | 37 You once shared a great meal with.  |
| 11 you have not seen in at least a year.   | 23 might be lonely.                          | 38 walked with you through the valley of the shadow of death.                                  |
| 12 a random person on your friend list.  | 24 shares an inside joke with you.           | 39 you have seen transform.  |
|  | 25 is or was your pastor.                    | 40 Happy Easter. Open your note  |
|  | 26 is mourning.                              |  |
|  | 27 you are proud of.                         |  |

Robb McCoy at fatpastor.wordpress.com

## 2015 SWEETHEARTS DINNER



Our Youth



**FEBRUARY 14**



**Two Sweethearts**



**The Chef**



**Photos taken by Dave Carpenter**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>
<b>1</b>  <b>Pastoral Card Sale</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>4:45-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Church Services</b>  <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>9</b> <b>5:30 Admin</b> <b>7:00 Property</b>	<b>10</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>4:45-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>St. Patrick Social</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:00 Worship/Music</b> <b>7:00 Church Council</b>	<b>17</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Church Services</b>  <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>11:00 Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>4:45-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Confirmation Presentations</b> <b>Easter Social &amp; Egg Hunt</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy Hands</b> <b>7:00 Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	



	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>5</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>5:45 First Ring-ers</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>5:45 First Ring-ers</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Soup Challenge</b> <b>Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>oir</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>1:15 Book Club</b> <b>5:45 First Ring-ers</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>5:45 First Ring-ers</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
			

# LOGOS THEMES 2014-2015

## MARCH

- 4 – Colors of the Rainbow
- 11 – Spuds 'n Suds
- 18 – NO LOGOS
- 25 – March Madness

MARCH 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## APRIL 2015

## APRIL

- 1 – Autograph T's
- 8 – FINAL Banquet

APRIL 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**LOGOS meets 4:45 - 7:15pm, unless otherwise noted.**



## **JANUARY 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u><b>Jan 15</b></u>	<u><b>YTD</b></u>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$17,753.08	\$17,753.08
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,437.57	\$17,437.57
<b>Income</b>	\$15,152.26	\$15,152.26
<b>Expenses</b>	\$12,741.48	\$12,741.48

# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** ladies have re-scheduled their Irish luncheon to Friday March 20th at 12:00 noon. Mark your calendars as Chef Norma with her Assistant will be preparing our traditional Irish foods.

Watch bulletins for more details.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be held on Friday March 6th at 1:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 201 W. North St. All are invited!

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 the Bahamas have prepared the service around John 13: 1-17 JESUS SAID, "DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR YOU?"

There will be stories from several Bahamian women, a skit and we will hear music from the Bahamas.

For further information contact Darla - 877-7008.



After 3 surgeries at the moment my bladder is still not functioning (I'll know more tomorrow after I see the Dr. again) I'll let you know correct info by Tuesday!!!

I certainly want to THANK everyone for your cards, food, calls, e-mails and especially your prayers. It has been a long haul since Jan. 28th but I am hanging in there!! I am sure the Dr. will get me all back to normal after my visit to him on Mon. Feb. 16th.

DARLA WELTMER

# Youth Activities

## Youth Fund Raiser

The Youth will be taking orders for Butter Braid Pastries, Cookie Dough, and Pizzas through March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Items will be available for pick up on Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> just in time for Easter. See any of the Youth or adult leaders to place your order. All proceeds will be used for the 2015 youth Mission Trip to Bayou LaBatre Alabama. Thank you for your support.

## NEW DIRECTORY

New Directory: The church is in the process of updating the church directory information for the 2015 printing. Street addresses, phone numbers and email addresses can be included. If you have any changes that need to be made to the directory, please notify the church office before March 1.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

St. Patrick's Social is scheduled for Sunday March 15th. There will be activities and a snack provided in the back of the fellowship hall after choir practice. The Children's Choir will perform during the first service.

Easter Social is scheduled for Sunday March 29th. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and a snack provided in the back of the fellowship hall after choir practice. The children will wave palm branches at the beginning of first service.

## **CAR UPDATE**

We're happy to report, due to the generosity and hard work of many "angels," we have purchased a car and covered the associated repairs to make it a safe and reliable car for our family. The 2002 Mercury Grand Marquis was picked up on Monday at Baum Chevrolet Buick in Clinton and taken to Decatur Cares Auto (a ministry of the Decatur Cares Rescue Missions), as we hope they are able to do most of the repair work. It seemed very fitting to have the work done there, since they are in the "outreach/mission" field, like us! We will also be outfitting the car with 4 new tires and then turning it over to the recipient. She is pretty overwhelmed and feels very blessed by the generosity of our congregation. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in some way. Your work, financial resources and prayers were instrumental in making this gift a reality. **God Bless you all!**

**Marsha**

## **SAVE THIS DATE!**

Please join us March 15<sup>th</sup>, in between first and second services, for a cake and punch reception in honor of Mary Hamman's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Although the family has requested no gifts, there will be a basket for birthday cards. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us in Fellowship Hall to celebrate this special day with Mary.

## **CARD SALE**

Pastoral Care Ministry will be having a card sale Sunday March 1, after the first service, in Fellowship Hall. Easter and spring cards will be featured in addition to the usual birthday and other cards. Future card sale dates are the first Sunday of the month and are approximately every other month: May 3, July 5, September 6, and November 1.



*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 1**

**LITURGIST:** Marilee Gordon  
**FLOWERS:** Betty Henry  
**COFFEE:** Pat & Margie Malone  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Alex & Angie  
Miller, Bill Huebner, Kristin  
Hargrove

**MARCH 8**

**LITURGIST:** Dee Wenneker  
**FLOWERS:** Roger & Melinda  
Redman  
**COFFEE:** Kristin Hargrove  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Jim & Jodi  
Baldwin, Tom & Paula Cordts

**MARCH 15**

**LITURGIST:** Melinda Redman  
**FLOWERS:** Sharon Burbes  
**COFFEE:** Tom & Paula Cordts  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Marilee Gor-  
don, Sheila Mannweiler, Ted &  
Darby Mitchell

**MARCH 22**

**LITURGIST:** Darla Weltmer  
**FLOWERS:** Ellen Starace  
**COFFEE:** Sandi Pleasants  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Patrick &  
Margie Malone, Joe & Carol  
Robertson

**MARCH 29**

**LITURGIST:** Marsha Mower  
**FLOWERS:** Homer & Nancy  
Leoucis  
**COFFEE:** Sheila Mannweiler  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Don & Dee  
Wenneker, Sandi Pleasants, Frank  
Smith

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

**MARCH 1**

**USHER/GREETER:** Sandy  
Harmison  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Sandy  
Harmison

**MARCH 8**

**USHER/GREETER:** Ruby  
Voyles & Shirley Zimmerman  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Ruby Voyles  
& Shirley Zimmerman

**FEBRUARY 15**

**USHER/GREETER:** Wes Pietsch  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Wes Pietsch

**MARCH 22**

**USHER/GREETER:** Howard &  
Nancy Beede  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Howard &  
Nancy Beede

**MARCH 29**

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



