

Congregational Comments

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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

11:15-11:40 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 Ryan Travis

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ:

Whenever a change in pastoral leadership occurs at an established congregation like First, incoming clergy owe a debt of gratitude to their predecessors. Each previous pastor contributed something unique to the tapestry of the church, leaving a lasting impact on the facilities

and worship life, and especially on the hearts and minds of those they shepherded.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul compares the church to a farmer's field and notes that each successive pastor has a different function and style. Some plant, some water, but it is only God working through them that produces the harvest. Likewise, Paul also compares congregational leadership to the building in the construction process. Some pastors lay the foundation and others build upon it. But in the end, it is the Holy Spirit that crafts believers (metaphorically speaking) into a temple—the dwelling place of God.

So, I offer thanks to Pastor Jan, Pastor Dave, and everyone who came before me – all the way back to those Decatur Presbyterians overcome by the Congregational spirit in 1888. By opening themselves up to the movement of God's Spirit, faithfully serving both the Lord and the members of this church, the groundwork for the ministry you and I will share together has been laid.

Most importantly, thanks be to God, who blessed this congregation with such capable and kind servants.

And now, our work begins! The handoff has taken place, a new era has begun. Together, guided by the Holy Spirit, let this church be a city on a hill, a candle burning brightly on a lampstand for all people to see—not for our glory but for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am a firm believer that God has wonderful things in store for this church and our community. I also believe God has given us everything we need to accomplish his will. My goal as your pastor will be to draw out those talents, insights, words, visions, and actions that God has placed inside each of you for the growth of Christ's kingdom.

I've got my watering can. I've got my rake. I've got my hoe and my gardening gloves. I am so excited to join you working in this field, and I can't wait to see what God will build through us.

Pastor Ryan

Contact Information

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Pastor Jan's Article

Yesterday I toured the Humane Society's Macon County Animal Shelter. I was struck by the care and attention given to each cat and dog. Volunteers were out walking the large dogs and they were having a great time in the warm sunshine! The cats were all lounging in that wonderful glassed in play porch and I have pictures of what 'toys' I would like to have for my four fur-kids. Such care was being taken with each animal, it was striking to me to see the real love and tenderness the human caregivers showed to these discarded or orphaned animals. Each had a name and were called by their name. Each had wrapped towels and toys and sleeping beds and comfort blankets. Their needs were met by the ones who have stepped up to care for them and find them good and loving homes. Each one of those abandoned bundles of energy and love were excited to have human touch and love shown to them. Their need was painfully obvious. They need a home!

It dawned on me that we humans are not all that different from these shelter animals. Everyone needs a home, someone to care for them, a few creature comforts, decent food and shelter, a toy and someone to play with once in a while. We need attention, we need affection, we need love. Our awesome God has provided for exactly what we need in this life through the earth we have been given! We have food to eat and beds to sleep in, we have those who care for our health, and those who care for our spirits. We have friends who care and we have love to share....God's love has made all this possible. We are created in God's image which means we have the ability to do the same for others - 2 or 4 footed, winged or scaled or finned.

Perhaps during the upcoming Lenten Season a couple of us will feel called to help out our brothers and sisters in need. Perhaps a few more of us will feel called to reach out to our animal friends and provide safety and a home filled with love. Perhaps a someone or two will volunteer to help out at one of the local animal shelters or feel compelled to reach out to those who must live in homeless shelters. There is always a need to provide care and love and support for those who share this life with us.

As you begin the Lenten Journey to Jerusalem with your new Pastor, Ryan Travis, remember that he has come into your midst to help you draw closer to God and to do those things which will reflect God's image to the world.

Blessings and Thanks for being God's people in Decatur!

Jan Johnson



You're Invited.....

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 1, 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. Your RSVP will help us plan for dinner, but is not required.



Sponsored by
LOGOS Ministry



FFDO

First Friday Dinner Out will be celebrated March 3 at 6:00 at Coney McKane's. Let me know if you will be able to join us. email: sharmison2002@yahoo.com or call 877-4775.

Sandy Harmison

Kroger Report

Good news from Kroger: "Your supporters (29 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **10-1-2016** and **12-30-2016** (Cycle 2016, Qtr 4) have contributed to your **\$125.75** total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 1-19-2017. " Hurrah for Kroger, hurrah for us!!

Jeanette



God's Busy Hands



Examples of God's Busy Hands Projects



Crocheted Afghan made by Sandy Cummings



A Sampling Of Blankets



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 5:45-6:45 Wednesday Supper 7:00 Worship Service
5 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	6	7 9:15 Playmates Board 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	8 No LOGO 7:00 Cho
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 4:15-6:45 7:00 Cho
19 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Kids' St. Pat's Party	20 5:30 Council of Ministry Teams	21 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	22 4:15-6:45 7:00 Cho
26 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	27 6:30-8:00 12 Step Program	28 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	29 4:15-6:45 7:00 Cho

	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Ash Day Soup Fellowship	2 5:45 First Ringers	3 Noon Women's Fellowship Meeting	4
OS Fair	9 5:30 PFLAG 5:45 First Ringers	10	11 5:00 Celebrate Our Seniors Dinner
5 LOGOS Fair	16 1:00 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	17 Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon 4:00-6:00 Coloring for All Ages	18
5 LOGOS Fair	23 5:45 First Ringers	24	25
5 LOGOS Fair	30 5:45 First Ringers	31	

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will hold their Annual Irish luncheon celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17th at a 12:00 noon. Reservations are necessary so please mark your calendars and keep the date open. Cost will still be \$5.00. SO get out your green clothes and plan to spend a couple of hours with us. Don't have anything GREEN..that's OK...you can wear Orange, Blue, Pink or Purple!!! We will have a program for you to enjoy.

THANKS!

Darla

Decatur Area Church Women United

The Decatur Area Church Women United will hold WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday, March 3,2017 at 1:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 201 W North Street. 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 Philippines have prepared the service. We will hear stories from several Filipino women. We will have a speaker who is arriving the end of the month from there to speak to us.

Contact Darla Weltmer, 877-7008 for further information and please consider joining her at this

Celebration.

SIDE NOTE...OUR Church will be hosting the May Friendship Day Celebration on Friday, May 5th at 1:00 PM. I will be needing help in the kitchen so will you please mark this date down on your calendar and help me host this meeting? Please let me know if you could help.

THANKS Darla

Coloring Afternoon

All ages, all generations! Come color with us. Bring your own supplies and projects, or use some which will be provided. FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 4p-6p. We all had a great time when we colored together before. There will be snacks.

Jeanette



JANUARY 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$18,288.92	\$18,288.92
Budget Expense	\$17,714.72	\$17,714.72
Income	\$20,629.74	\$20,629.74
Expenses	\$13,302.90	\$13,302.90

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone at First Church for your support and prayers over the last few months. A special thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages and to the ladies for the beautiful blanket they made. My treatment is completed, my prognosis is excellent and hopefully life can get back to normal once more. Thank you all for your continued support and faith. They are priceless.

Melinda Redman

Pastoral Care Ministry would like to thank all those attending the Card-Making Day on Saturday February 4 in the Choir room. Approximately 60 - 70 cards were made. Bette Fankhauser, Shelly Smith, Sheila Mannweiler, Betty Cummings, Darla Weltmer, Ellen Starace, Alice Huebner, and Jodi Baldwin assembled cards and enjoyed lunch together. Sue Bunselmeyer and Judi Carpenter were unable to attend but made cards on their own. If you missed this event, there will probably be another card-making day within the next few months

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

Primrose Retirement Community

Claude Young—Room 228

Keystone

Carolyn Jones—Room 216

Vonderlieth Living Center, Mt. Pulaski, IL

Alice Roach

Hickory Point Christian Village

Al Wilson—Room 202

Evergreen Place

Mary Lou Phipps— Room 208

Fair Haven Christian Home

Lois Shelton—Room 113



THANK YOU

Dear FCUCC Family and Friends,

I would like to extend an enormous Thank You to everyone in my church family. I have received love, support, gifts, and prayers beyond belief over the past several months. I am extremely grateful for everyone and all that you have done for my family and me. I had a very rough transition going back to school almost immediately after having surgery and I often felt like quitting. I received an abundance of get well cards and letters every day from my church family that helped keep me going. On days I did not feel like I could continue with school I would look at all the cards I received and it they would push me forward. The past semester was very hard for me but I was able to overcome with a 4.0 GPA due to all of your love and support.

I went to my 3-month check up with my oncologist back in December and my blood results came back better than I could have asked for. I overcome my daily health struggles often through humor and a lot of prayer. I have many more hurdles to overcome in my life time and I know I will be successful because I have such a loving and supportive church family to help guide me through this difficult time.

Thank you all again, for being there for me throughout my time of need.

God Bless you all,

Olivia Wernecke



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. Mitchell Daley
4. Andy Baldwin
Don Carter
12. Erica Moster
13. Tucker Clark
16. Mary Hamman
18. Carol Cooley
22. Roger Kahila
Clinton Mueller
Wesley Pietsch
24. Melissa Boldizar
Chase Brown
25. Jillian Daley
28. Penny Butts
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!

10. David & Marlene Gant
15. David & Judi Carpenter
28. William & Madeline Mitchell



FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

MARCH 5

LITURGIST: Dee Wenneker

FLOWERS: Harold & Sandy Harmison

COFFEE: Kristin Hargrove

USHERS/GREETER: Marilee Gordon, Dave Carpenter, Kristin Hargrove, Martha Crookshank

MARCH 12

LITURGIST: Mindy Bunselmeyer

FLOWERS: Sharon Burbes

COFFEE: Ellen Starace

USHERS/GREETER: Clarence Elliott, Mike Koyak, Frank & Shelly Smith

MARCH 19

LITURGIST: Ellen Starace

FLOWERS: Roger & Melinda Redman

COFFEE: Kristin Hargrove

USHERS/GREETER: Mike Koyak, Robert & Penny Butts, Kristen Hargrove

MARCH 26

LITURGIST: Sharon Burbes

FLOWERS: Frank & Shelley Smith

COFFEE: Bill & Alice Huebner

USHERS/GREETER: Ev Kuhn, Darla Weltmer, Sheila Mannweiler, Mike Koyak

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

MARCH 5

USHER/GREETER: Ruby Voyles & Shirley Zimmerman

REFRESHMENTS: Ruby Voyles & Shirley Zimmerman

MARCH 12

USHER/GREETER: Kathy Richardson

REFRESHMENTS: Kathy Richardson

MARCH 19

USHER/GREETER: Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski

REFRESHMENTS: Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski

MARCH 26

USHER/GREETER: Betty Wheatley

REFRESHMENTS: Betty Wheatley



