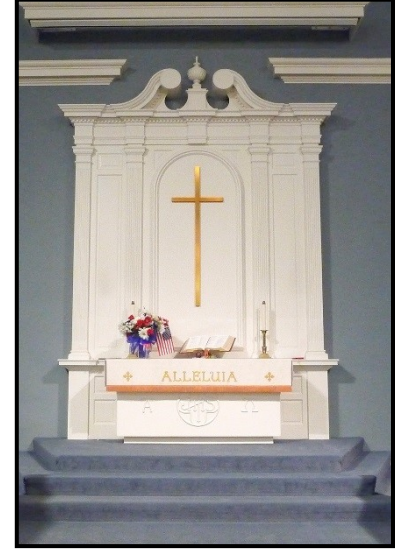


Congregational Comments



Vol. 24 No. 3: March 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



Pastor Jan Johnson

Prophets and Jesus

This year for the season of Lent we will have a new option for helping you on the journey to Jerusalem. Sunday morning we will have messages focusing on the messages (teachings) of Jesus and Wednesdays at noon we will have messages that come out of the prophets – sort of a point/counter-point process. Mark Schleeter will be helping me develop this process. Please feel

free to join us on Wednesday's at noon beginning March 13th at noon in the sanctuary.

Also, to help you along the way to Jerusalem we have Lenten Devotional Booklets from the teachings of Henri Nouwen and C.S. Lewis. Find them at the doors to the sanctuary or in the office.

Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday is April 14; Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will have Seder Meal in Fellowship Hall and then move upstairs to the sanctuary for Communion; Good Friday we will experience a Tenebrae Service: "Lord, Is It I?/Lord, It Is I!" with Communion.

Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service lead by the Youth of the Church, Easter Worship at 9am and Easter Praise at 11am.

Please join us as we move from Transfiguration's Mountaintop Experience and for the Journey to Jerusalem culminating with the Mountaintop Experience of Resurrection! No matter where you are on the journey, you are welcome here!

Have a Blessed Lenten Journey!

Rev. Jan

Tyler Wernecke's Wedding

We wish God's Blessing on the marriage of Anastasia Iakiviak and Tyler Wernecke on Saturday, March 9th! God Bless You, both!

Pastor Jan's Email Address

Please do not use Pastor Jan's church email address to contact her (PastorJan@firstchurchdecatur.org). Please use her personal email (jancastegnarojohnson@comcast.net) .

Information

Jaylen Davis, Our new Bell Choir Director



"Born and raised in Gurnee, IL, Jaylen grew up in one of the largest school districts in the Midwest. His love for music and education did not stop him as he pursued many student leadership roles within the fine arts department and directed 2 academic choral ensembles while in high school. As Jaylen grew older, he decided to turn his dreams into a reality and major in Music Education with a Vocal Emphasis at Millikin University. He currently serves as a Baritone and Tenor 2 in Millikin's Flagship of the choral fleet, The Millikin University Choir, who have just returned from a 16 day tour in the South-Eastern United States. Performing in states like Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Jaylen says that the music changed lives and left a message of peace, which is what we all need in this world that we live in today. Jaylen is currently the Vice President of The American Choral Directors Association at Millikin, Recruitment Chair of Delta Sigma Phi, and Career Specialist at the Millikin University Center for Academic and Professional Performance. Along with Jaylen's leadership presence on campus, he also teaches one general music class twice a week at a local Decatur Middle School. Jaylen is very excited to direct the First Congregational United Church Bell Choir and hopes that you, the member, look forward to hearing and/or participating in the future!"

Sweethearts Dinner



Joe Moretti

On February 10th the Youth hosted the Annual Sweetheart dinner at First Church. Around 40 people enjoyed a dinner of salad, spaghetti with garlic bread, and a sweet treat, all prepared and served by youth members. We would like to thank all those that attended, we greatly appreciate your support. The money raised will go towards future youth activities.

Photos by Dave Carpender and Susan Daley



Betty Wheatley, Peggy Druessel & Mac Butler



The Butts Family and friend



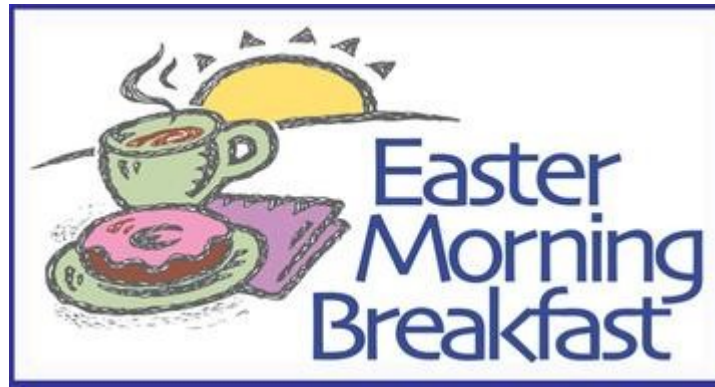
Michael & Toni Longstreet



The Working Youth Group

EVENTS

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST



All the congregation is invited to the Easter Breakfast on April 21 at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall .

Julie Keck & Shirley Zimmerman

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship held their Valentine Party today enjoying great sweet treats and following the business meeting an election was held. There were 13 present. President Sheila Mannweiler, Vice President Janice Kahila, Secretary Darla Weltmer, Treasurer Martha Crookshank, Advisors Betty Cummings and Norma Lingenfelter.

Reminder to Women's group, we will be making Corned Beef Quiche on Thursday, March 14 at 11:45am in the kitchen! All are welcome to come and help prepare for the St. Patrick's Day meeting on Friday, March 15th at 1pm!

FFDO

FFDO

FFDO will take place on March 1 at 6:00pm at Diamonds. Let me know if you plan on attending.

Sandy Harmison

The Decatur Area Church Women United

The Decatur Area Church Women United will hold their annual World Day of Prayer on Friday March 1st at 1:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 201 W. North Street.

Everyone is invited, men, women and children to this service. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of this worship service. This year the women of Slovenia have developed the theme "COME---EVERYTHING IS READY" from Luke 14:15-24, the parable of the Great Dinner. We will hear their stories.

Contact Darla Weltmer 877-7008 for further info.

Kroger Report

From Oct. 1- Dec. 31, twenty-nine households earned \$69.66 for the church.

Jeanette Flenner

Do you shop at Kroger's and are you using the Kroger Plus Shopper's Card? If you are, do you have the church's name included on your card? If you are doing all these things, thank you. If not, talk to Jeanette Flenner about the program. It does not cost you anything, but it can make money for the church.



Finance Notes

JANUARY 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Jan. 19</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,051.92	\$17,051.92
Budget Expense	\$17,947.02	\$17,947.02
Income	\$14,941.00	\$14,941.00
Expenses	\$16,071.26	\$16,071.26



Happenings

FFDO

Diamonds

March 1

6:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Admin Meeting

Monday, March 18

5:30 pm

Council of
Ministry Teams

Monday, March 18

6:30 pm

Choir

Wednesdays

7:00 pm



Sing With Us

Interim Task Force
Members

Gary Baker

Jeanette Flenner

Kelli Fonseca

Erick Hubbard

Alice Huebner

Shelia Mannweiler

Robert Ruehrup

Exploring Christian Faith Study Group

Sundays at

10:30 am

Choir Room



March 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.

- 2. Mitchell Daley
- 4. Andy Baldwin
Don Carter
- 12. Erica Moster
- 13. Tucker Clark
- 16. Mary Hamman
- 18. Carol Cooley
Randal Beck
- 22. Roger Kahila
Clinton Mueller
Wesley Pietsch
- 24. Melissa Boldizar
- 25. Jillian Daley
- 28. Penny Butts
- 31. Bette Lynn Fankhauser
Gary Weiss

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

- 15. David & Judi Carpenter
- 19. Edward & Mary Yonan
- 28. William & Madeline Mitchell



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	March 3	Chuck Zweck	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	March 10	Dee Wenneker	Sandy Harmison
	March 17	Mindy Bunselmeyer	Betty Wheatley
	March 24	Sharon Butler	Wes Pietsch
	March 31	Penny Butts	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
 Altar Flowers	March 3	Don & Dee Wenneker	
	March 10	Mack & Sharon Butler	
	March 17	Roger & Melinda Redman	
	March 24		
	March 31		
 Fellowship hour	March 3	Kristin Hargrove	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	March 10	Kristin Hargrove	Sandy Harmison
	March 17	Bill & Alice Huebner	Betty Wheatley
	March 24	Kristin Hargrove	Wes Pietsch
	March 31	Betty Cummings, Peggy Druessel	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
 USHERS	March 3	Kristin Hargrove, Marilee Gorden, Ted & Darby Mitchell	
	March 10	Kristin Hargrove, Darla Weltmer, Frank & Shelly Smith	
	March 17	Joe & Carol Robertson, Pat & Margie Malone	
	March 24	Shelia Mannweiler, Mac Butler, Bill & Alice Huebner	
	March 31	Mike & Toni Longstreet, Tom & Paula Cordts	

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

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00 MCYP	2
3 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Contem- porary	4	5 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	6 7:00 Choir Practice	7 6:30 Bible Study	8 6:30 Rehearsal 6:00 MCYP	9 1:30 Wernecke Wedding
10 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Contem- porary	11 7:00 Property Meeting	12 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	13 7:00 Choir Practice	14 6:30 Bible Study Playmates Evening Program	15 6:00 MCYP	16
17 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Contem- porary	18 5:30 Admin 6:30 Council Of Ministry Teams	19 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	20 7:00 Choir Practice	21 6:30 Bible Study	22 6:00 MCYP	23 9:00-2:00 Pastoral/ Cards Mfg.
24 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con-	25	26 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	27 7:00 Choir Practice	28 6:30 Bible Study	29 6:00 MCYP	30
31 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Contem- porary						



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