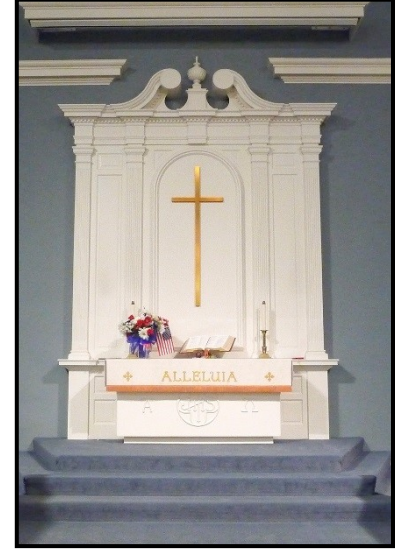


Congregational Comments



Vol. 24 No. 5: May 2019

Important Contacts in the Church

Pastor: Rev. Jan Johnson, 309-267-3260
 Email: jancastegnarojohnson@comcast.net
Prayer Chain: Bette Fankhauser, 877-6723
 Email: blfankhauser@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:

A Note from Pastor Jan	2	Information	6	First Church Sunday Morning	10
General Information	3	Finance Notes	7	Calendar	11
General Information	4	Happenings	8		
General Information	5	Birthdays & Anniversaries	9		

A Note from Pastor Jan



OK, every year, when I sit down to write the newsletter article for May, the song goes through my head.....When April showers, bring May flowers....and the images that float through my mind are huge beds of flowers – tulips, daffodils, roses, iris's, all coordinated at their planting so they are grouped by color: all the reds together, all the yellows and the pinks and the purples and the blues – a massive blanket of a flower rainbow! The flowers pull the colors of the rainbow after the rains of April, down onto the ground in stunning array! I'm sure these pictures are stored in my memory from National Geographic magazines and seed catalogues that both my grandfather and my husband collected over decades!

But then I also see the destruction of towns and grounds, highways and by-ways that come from tornadoes and floods that disrupt the beauty and order of our daily lives. Nature produces incredible beauty and then, angrily, tears it up and throws it away, leaving broken homes and broken dreams and broken hearts in her wake.

Jesus' New Commandment: Love One Another, at times, is about Love in Action. If we love others, neighbors close and far away, then we cannot stand by and watch them struggle to survive. We are commanded to put our love into action!

No one is protected from the destruction of storms! But if there is a rainbow of hope in the midst of the destruction, it is how caring people show up – like the rainbow after the storm – to help out those affected by the destruction. People reaching out to help people is always beautiful! There is a story from some years ago now about an older man who drove many miles from his home to a place that had been hit by fire and flood; a place where nature had done her worst. He had pulled up bulbs from his own garden and took them to that terribly battered area, found a place and planted his gift. Some days later after the bulbs had the chance to put down roots and absorbed the sun's rays, the bulbs came up, a signal to everyone who could see them, that out of destruction can come beauty. Life reasserts itself – over and over again! It's the message of Resurrection that nature contributes to remind us that nothing we do can stop God's purposes that provide beauty of life and new life, but there is much we can do to help God's purposes to come to fruition!

May God Bless You this month with the ability to help others experience New Life!

Jan



General Information

FFDO

First Friday Dinner Out will actually be First Tuesday Dinner Out. We are going to Richland Community College's Bistro 537 at 6:00 on May 7. Always good food and good company. Let me know if you will be joining us .

Thanks , Sandy Harmison



Greetings from the the Pastoral Search Committee. We are actively receiving and reviewing ministerial profiles. This process will take time as we give each one careful and prayerful consideration. We ask you all to keep the committee in your prayers as we seek our new pastor.

Thank you. Susan

CHURCH MEMBERS IN HOLLAND

April 9 to 19

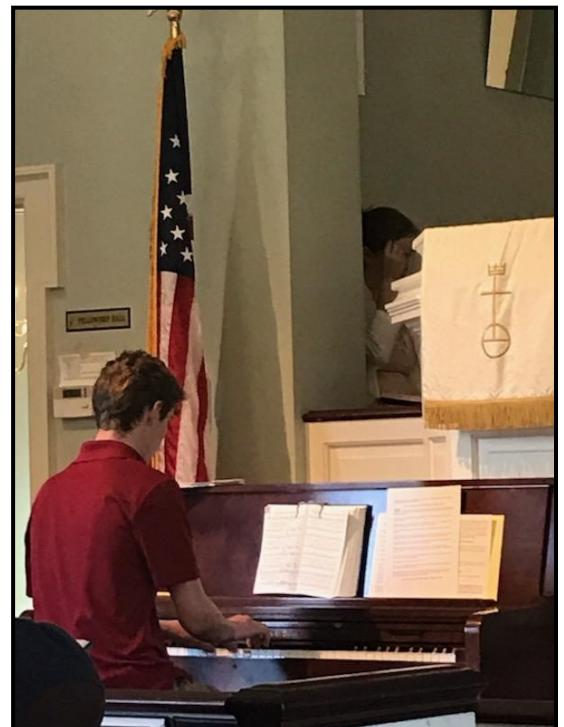


Bill and Alice Huebner, Roger and Melinda Redman, Roy and Kim Tsuda and Paul and Ruth DeBruine

General Information



EASTER YOUTH SUNRISE SERVICE



General Information

DMH Hospice Needs you!

Can Your Church Help?

Do you have someone who would **like to be a volunteer?**

We are looking for **volunteers**. Our volunteers work with patients and families in a 35 mile radius surrounding Decatur. Our Hospice Volunteers help out in many ways. They provide companionship for our patients, respite for our caregivers, run errands, deliver supplies and make phone calls, light meal preparation or light housekeeping.

Prior to becoming a volunteer, individuals must complete a brief interview, have a fingerprint and background check and attend a Hospice Training course.

For more information on either of these opportunities, please

Call Whitney Glosser, DMH Hospice Bereavement/Volunteer Coordinator

676-6785 or stop by our office at

2870 N. Main St., Decatur, IL 62526

Pastoral Care Ministry

Pastoral Care Ministry recently held a card-making workday on Saturday March 23. We had been very low in all card categories but now are well-stocked again. Thank you to those attending and making cards: Bette Fankhouser, Shelly Smith, Judi Carpenter, Betty Cummings, Sheila Mannweiler, Alice Huebner, Ellen Starace, and Jodi Baldwin.

Most of the cards will be sent out to members but some will be sold at our monthly (1st Sunday of the month) card sale in between services in Fellowship Hall.

To All Meals on Wheels Volunteers

You are invited to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on May 8 from 8-9:30 AM at DMH in Classrooms A-B. Special musical guest Zach Garrett will perform at 8:30 AM. For overflow parking, use Lot C. The breakfast is Hawaiian themed so wear your flowered luau shirt if you have one! Aloha.

Information

Dear First Church Family,

For the past 21 years I have had the pleasure of serving our church, first for two years as a singer in the choir and then, for the past 19 years, as your choir director and organist. It has been my joy to lead our choir in bringing a high level of musicianship and ensemble to our church (and also to see the bell choir sustain a high level of musicianship under Bette Fankhauser's direction over the same period). Our choir has taught me how to be an effective leader of amateur singers; and through your patience and encouragement, I have become a competent church organist and a pretty fair composer of anthems suited to the needs of a small church choir. I love this work, and I love all of you. And you have given so much back to me, especially reiterating on a weekly basis how much you appreciate the music in our church.

Nonetheless, after much soul searching I have to share the news that May 19 (Music Sunday) will be my last Sunday in the official capacity of your organist and choir director. This is owing to the press of increased responsibilities at my "other" job as director of the University of Illinois Press, which simply does not leave enough time and energy for me to continue any longer as music director at First Church. I do anticipate substituting from time to time and will look for other opportunities to see you in the future. Meanwhile, please accept my love and heartfelt thanks for all you have given me as my family in Decatur.

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson



Finance Notes

MARCH 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Mar. 19</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,051.92	\$34,103.84
Budget Expense	\$17,947.02	\$35,894.04
Income	\$ ND	\$ ND
Expenses	\$ ND	\$ ND



Happenings

FFDO

Bistro 537

May 7

6:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Admin Meeting

Monday, May 20

5:30 pm

Council of Ministry Teams

Monday, May 20

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



May 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.

3. Carol Robertson
7. Andrew Butts
12. Jessica Robertson
14. Leigh Myers
17. Martha Crookshank
20. Todd Wernecke
21. Melinda Bunselmeyer
Debbie Whitney
22. Emily Carter
Emma Cordts
Jerry Stemple
23. Matthew Cordts
25. Jill Hubbard
27. Cameron Malone
30. James Jordan

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

1. Gerald & Peggy Ruff
2. Todd & Jennie Wernecke
25. Skip & Marsha Mower
26. Ronald & Janet Brownfield
29. James & Marilyn Jordan
Richard & Vicky Williams
30. Mark & Susan Schleeter



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	May 5	Sharon Butler	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
	May 12	Ellen Starace	Wes Pietsch
	May 19	Mindy Bunselmeyer	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	May 26	Melinda Redman	Betty Wheatley
	May 5	Erick Hubbard	
	May 12	Brandon & Val Janvrin	
	May 19	Gerry & Peggy Ruff	
	May 26		
	May 5	Don & Dee Wenneker	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
	May 12	Betty Cummings	Wes Pietsch
	May 19	Kristin Hargrove	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	May 26	Lynn & Darla Weltmer	Missy Boldizar
 USHERS	May 5	Don & Dee Wenneker, Mac Butler, Chuck Zweck	
	May 12	Normal Lingengelter, Martha Crookshank, Mike Koyak, Ev Kuhn	
	May 19	Brandon & Valerie Janvrin, Bob & Penny Butts	
	May 26	Shelia Mannweiler, Darlla Weltmer, Bill & Alice Huebner	

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

May Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 Choir Practice	2 6:00 1st Ringers 7:00 Bible Study	3	4
5 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	6	7 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	8 7:00 Choir Practice	9 6:00 1st Ringers 7:00 Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	13 7:00 Property Meeting	14 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	15 Playmates Graduation 7:00 Choir Practice	16 6:00 1st Ringers 7:00 Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	20 5:30 Admin 6:30 Council of Ministry Teams	21 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	22	23 6:00 1st Ringers 7:00 Bible Study	24	25
26 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	27	28 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	29	30 6:00 1st Ringers 7:00 Bible Study	31	



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
- Goal No. 3—Hire a new pastor for the church.