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First Congregational UCC
3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, IL. 62526-1450

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Congregational Comments

Vol. 17 No 8: August 2012

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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.

Congregational Comments is a publication of 1st Congregational UCC, 3465 N. MacArthur Rd., Decatur, IL. 62526-1450. Published monthly, it is used to keep its members informed about programs of the church and to report news about First Church's people



Pastor Dave Taylor

"WE'VE A STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS..."

So begins one of my favorite hymns which I learned in Sunday School a number of years ago.

We learn who we are from the stories we hear and identify with. What is your favorite story of

courage and caring?

God's story is our story because of God's grace. It is our story because Jesus, God's son, one of us, lived among us, died for us, was raised from the dead, and unites us with God and God's family. We know the reality of that story in our own lives and in the life of the church. We have experienced God's love in our lives. Who hasn't felt like the "Prodical Son"- experiencing the pain of separation and hurt as well as the healing power of forgiveness, of hope and love?

We have a story to tell.

In this 124th year of First Congregational United Church, we recall how God has worked through faithful people - that we, today may receive and pass that faith on. In the children's game "Telephone" a message is heard by one child then the child must whisper it accurately to next person. Each person is a vital link to passing the message on...so the last person can receive the message. What happens when one person doesn't pass the message on? All of those after that person miss hearing the message. Are you passing on God's message to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers -even strangers? Who isn't hearing God's message in our Decatur community?

Each of us -from the youngest child to the our oldest member...we've a story to share. God is still speaking to each of us. Through prayer, and mission, through devotional study, worship, Sunday School, LOGOS, VBS, Women's, and Youth fellowships and Outreach Ministry God's story and our story is being told.

God's message speaks in quiet ways as we serve a plate of food and share a smile with a person in need at our funeral dinners, in the hats and mittens we make and collect for children in our community, in listening as a friend, families in need receiving food baskets at Thanksgiving, in teaching the faith in Sunday School or LOGOS, VBS through voices and instruments music enhances our worship together, in visiting in friendship, working on Food Resource Bank project, and

in so many more caring and creative ways.

A new pew leaflet is being developed explaining our worship traditions for our visitors. Our evangelism and worship leaflets will be in our pews and in our church office. I invite to you pick copies and share the Good News of Christ's ministry at First Church with your family, friends and neighbors.

We invite you and a friend to join us for worship at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Sundays at 9:00AM for our Traditional Service and 11:00AM for our Contemporary Service. We also have a *faith growing Sunday School and Bible Study opportunities for children, youth and adults.* Also at 10:00AM *discover a new friend or renew a current friendship by visiting over delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall.*

We've a story to hear and to tell:

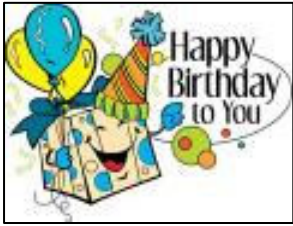
God is faithful;

Christ's love is always with us giving us hope that we may share that hope with everyone.

Believe it! Live it! Tell it!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave





God

bless you on your birthday and each day the whole year through, May all His blessings bring you joy in everything you do.

4. Janet Tiede
5. Zachary Wernecke
6. James Clifton
8. Jeffrey Mockaitis
Emery Bunselmeyer
9. Margie Malone
Isaiah Janvrin
10. Dick Cheatham
Richard Kelley
11. Gary Baker
Sharon Walker
12. Jim Baldwin
Ruth DeBruine
Don Wenneker
16. Mya Lofland
17. Darby Mitchell
Glenn Wernecke
19. David Logan
21. Betty Cummings
Melinda Redman
22. Charles Tribout
25. Claude Young
26. Gladys Alburts
Ingrid Cox
27. Dustin Goodman
Olivia Harmison
28. Christopher Harmison
Terry Stoa
Brent Morey
29. Skip Mower
Kelly Tribout
30. Betty Wheatley
31. Anna Belle Anderson
Amanda Williams

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. Michael & Rachel Ogden
3. Michael & Toni Longstreet
4. Jim & Jodi Baldwin
Allen & Ann Gerhold
5. Robert & Shirley Young
Gregory & Tara Baltimore
6. Don & Stacey Carter
7. Walter & Carolyn Jones
9. Thomas & Paul Cordts
11. David & Bobbie Taylor
12. Stephen & Malinda Dicken
15. Brandon & Valerie Janvrin
Lynn & Darla Weltmer
18. Robert & Sue Bunselmeyer
19. Wesley & Lori Pietsch
23. Randal & Mary Beck
25. Carl & Doris Jacobs
26. Don & Dee Wenneker
31. Ron & Harriette Horn

AUGUST

FIRST SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

AUGUST 5

LITURGIST: Bonnie Ruecker
FLOWERS: Al & Ann Gerhold
COFFEE: Bette & Alexis Fankhauser
USHERS/GREETER: Chuck Zweck, Marilee Gordon, Tom & Paula Cordts

AUGUST 12

LITURGIST: Carol Robertson
FLOWERS: Tom & Paula Cordts
COFFEE: Dave & Marlene Gant
USHERS/GREETER: Darla Weltmer, Norma Lingerfelter, Gary & Pat Weiss

AUGUST 19

LITURGIST: Paul DeBruine
FLOWERS: Marylin Cushing
COFFEE: Paul & Ruth DeBruine
USHERS/GREETER: Dave & Marlene Gant, Bill & Martha Crookshank

AUGUST 26

LITURGIST: Amy Leman
FLOWERS: Peggy Druessel
COFFEE: Mary Beck
USHERS/GREETER: Bill Huebner, Carl Jacobs, Bonnie Ruecker & Shirley Ritchie

SECOND SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

AUGUST 5

USHER/GREETER: Sandy Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy Harmison

AUGUST 12

USHER/GREETER: Mike Koyak
REFRESHMENTS: Mike Koyak

AUGUST 19

USHER/GREETER: Bruce & Debbie Whitney
REFRESHMENTS: Bruce & Debbie Whitney

AUGUST 26

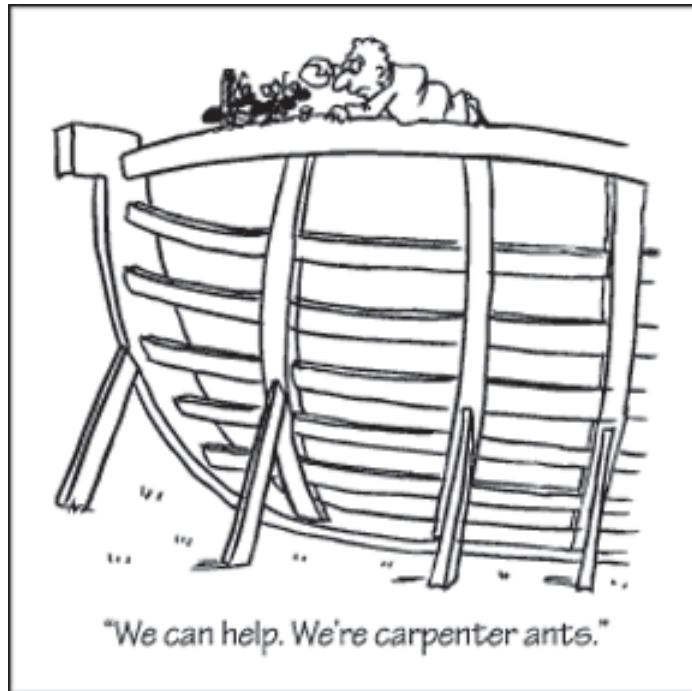
USHER/GREETER: Betty Wheatley
REFRESHMENTS: Betty Wheatley



THANK YOU

I would like to thank my "Church Family" for all the calls, visits, cards and gifts I have received while I have been living at Imboden Living Center. I truly appreciate all the kindness and love I have felt from everyone. Thank you so much.

Helen Johnson



THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all the gentlemen who participated in the July 1 summer music program. It is a great treat to hear those low voices projecting patriotic songs through our sanctuary. I know everyone in the congregation were very pleased to sit back and listen to the harmonizing. We all look forward to another time when they will sing for us again.

Shirley Kuhn



THANK YOU

I wish to thank all my church family for the cards, calls, food, and especially the prayers I received as I recovered from my surgical procedure. I am well on the way to getting back on my feet and looking forward to returning to my usual routine with my family and friends. Also, I give special thanks for the excellent care from my caregiver---Ev-- for keeping me on target. Special gifts from God come in many ways and I have been blessed as the recipient of many of those gifts.

Shirley Kuhn



Youth Activities

Keep September 22 open for the used books and cookie sale.

DECATUR PARK SINGERS



Everyone had a great time on July 21st when the Decatur Park Singers performed at the church. Thank you to Joe Moretti for setting this up and to the youth and their leaders for selling popcorn, snow cones and drinks.

GUYS' NIGHT OUT

Adult Program Ministry would like to thank all the men who attended Guys' Night Out. Thanks to Stan Seevers the mystery of the Whatsits has been solved. Thanks also to the kitchen crew and pie makers - Sue Bunselmeyer, Sharon Burbes, Judi Carpenter, Edna Palmer, Pam Tucker, Alfreda Tribout, Debbie Wicklund, and grill chefs - Bob Bunselmeyer, Charlie Tribout, and Al Gerhold.

August 12 Normal CornBelters vs. the River City Rascals

Join us for an evening of family fun when we trek to Normal to watch Frontier League baseball. We will meet in the church parking lot and carpool to Corn Crib stadium, home of the Normal CornBelters. The game begins at 5:00, so meet us in the north side parking lot at 3:15. We will depart shortly thereafter. Box seats are \$9. If interested, please add your name to the list on the Adult Program bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or call Alfreda Tribout (877-9896).

ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shirley Kuhn still needs volunteers to supply flower for the altar on September 30, November 25, December 9 and December 30. Please contact Shirley or the church office if you would like to volunteer.



UGLY TIES

Thank you to all who contributed to or participated in the the "Ugly Tie" contest June the 17th, Father's Day! All of your endeavors produced a successful event. The pie winners were: Chuck Zweck and Don Carter in the Traditional service, Pastor Dave and Joe Moretti in the Contemporary service.

Clarence Elliott, co-chair Worship/Music Ministry

JUNE 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>June 12</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$15,739.17	\$94,435.02
Budget Expense	\$17,140.48	\$102,842.88
Income	\$12,084.12	\$98,676.30
Expenses	\$22,125.42	\$94,636.43



FOODS RESOURCE BANK GROWING PROJECT UPDATE

As of July 15, our Foods Resource Bank corn crop is in desperate need of rain.

Some gardens have been watered and are producing vegetables. If you have one of those and are willing to share, please bring in your surplus for our FRB table in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to "shop" at the table in Fellowship Hall during Fellowship Hour and enjoy this produce. All donations will be used to pay for the expenses of planting our Foods Resource Bank corn crop.



We have received a thank you from Church of the Brethren. This is the lead church in the Foods Resource Bank program in North Korea. The letter reads in part:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
On behalf of Foods Resource Bank, its 15 member organizations, and local partners around the world, the Global Food Crisis Fund of the Church of the Brethren would like to thank you for your growing project's support. We . . . are grateful for your choice to support the work being done by many people in many places to end hunger. We know that together we are making a difference, one that is multiplied by many hands working together the world over. It is with great appreciation that we say again, on behalf of God's children everywhere, Thank you!"

The letter is posted on the Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall where you can read it in its entirety.



GETTING READY FOR LOGOS DINNER



PRAIRIE VOICES

Laurie Matheson will be leading the choral ensemble Prairie Voices in two upcoming programs in Champaign-Urbana (First Church tenor Kelly Cantrell is also participating). All First Church friends are invited to attend!

Saturday, July 28, 2012

7:30 p.m.

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Anglo-American Music Connections

*Also featuring Baroque Artists of Champaign
and the Prairie Ensemble*

Music of Handel, Ives, Wesley, Vaughan Williams, and more
Tickets \$15/\$5 students; information at KrannertCenter.com

Saturday, August 11, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Faith United Methodist Church, Champaign

Guest artist Stephen Cary, tenor

Johannes Brahms, *Zigeunerlieder*

Maurice Duruflé, *Four Motets on Gregorian Themes*

Irving Fine, Choruses from *Alice in Wonderland*

Laurie Matheson, *A Book of Songs* (premiere)

Salvador Moreno, *Nadie Puede ser Dichoso*

Michael Tippett, Spirituals from *A Child of Our Time*

Free admission

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Services 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	8	9	10	11
12 Corn Belter Baseball game—Meet @ church 3:00 pm	13 6:00 Worship/Music 7:00 Super Monday	14 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	15	16	17	18
19 10-11:00 am Children's Social	20 7:00 Church Council	21 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	29	30	31	