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

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Congregational Comments

Vol. 17 No 11: November 2012

Pastor: Rev. Dave Taylor

Prayer Chain: Marsha Mower: 875-0733

Email: m.mower@sbcglobal.net

Playmates Preschool:

Director, Cathi Tavarczyk: 875-7054

Newsletter Editor: Bill Huebner

Telephone: 876-1446 Cell: 855-7677

Email: wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net

Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216 Fax: 877-9665

Email: firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net

Website: 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.

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

IN GRATITUDE

What moves you to give thanks? I don't mean just a muttered, barely audible "thank you." I mean the enthusiastic, wide-eyed, unsuppressed smile kind of gratitude!

Perhaps those moments don't seem to come around very often. Or, if you're really fortunate, perhaps they are a daily occurrence. Either way, gratitude can become a life transforming habit if we're willing to pay attention. Think back on your day and your week and you're likely to find reasons to give thanks that you may have overlooked.

Especially now in these difficult economic times, look back over your life with an eye to the amazing coincidences, the turns in the road that turned out to be fortuitous, the people who graced your days with wisdom, love and inspiration, and you'll likely be amazed at how generous God has been. Count your blessings.

So what moves you to give thanks? Who have been the wise, welcoming souls in your life? What has happened over the last few days, weeks, or years that causes you to take in a deep breath and say, THANKS!, whether to a person, to God, to the universe, to a group, to the congregation.

Watching for, looking back to discover, paying attention to reasons to be grateful — these habits go beyond sentiment. They have the power to open our eyes to the ways God is transforming the world, and each of us along with it. In worship we'll take a deeper look at gratitude and share some of the reasons we have to give thanks.

Join us November 4th at 9 & 11 AM for our Memorial Services. We will reflect on and give thanks for those loved ones who have touched us and passed away over the past 12 months. Who have been your saints and what have they taught you about faith and life?

In this season of Thanksgiving – it is right and good for us to honor our loved ones. Please join us for this special day.

Join us November 4th at 10 AM for our **Pre Annual Meeting** where the nominees for 2013 will be presented.

First Church's Commitment Sunday will be on November 11th. We will dedicate our best gifts - our estimate of giving cards and Time and Talent surveys for 2013. Please join us as together we support Christ's Ministry at First Church. After all, it is first and foremost Christ's Church and ministry!

November 18th 7 PM, we of First Congregational United Church of Christ, will host the Community Thanksgiving Service. Our sisters and brothers in faith from our community will be joining us as we gather together in praise and thanksgiving. Our worship will include anthems sung by a community choir and be led by pastors from our community. Invite your friends and family and **join us for this special service** as we come together in the Lord's blessing.

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!** Check our great children's and youth **LOGOS** program on **Wednesdays** 4:15-7:15 pm.

Come join us ... This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! 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.

1. Hunter Chumbley
2. Paula Cordts
Sicity Seitz
3. Jennifer Waite
Stephanie Williams
5. Katie Malone
Judy Koyak
Tyler Wernecke
Vicki Dabrowka
Sheldon Long
John Lofland
8. Teresa Goller
9. Linda Connelly
Ashley Brown
10. Bradley Malone
Peggy Ruff
12. Maureen Ruski
13. Peggy Druessel
14. June Coleman
David Mahr
Scott Johnson
15. Molly Lauer
16. Nancy Beede
18. Martha Smith
19. Ryan Stoa Luedtke
20. Debbie Moster
Jennifer Weber
21. Howard Beede
Brianna Henderson
Taylor Gann
22. David Carpenter
Jake Sawyer
Zachary Kretsinger

22. Robby Moore
23. Mark Yonan
24. Mason Jaberg
25. Patrick Carter
26. Jodi Baldwin
27. Trevor Henry
Laurel Lorey
Emily Flies
28. Ramona Borders
David Painter
William Mitchell
Chase Leman
30. Valerie Janvrin
Ronald McCane

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 & Judy Koyak
Sheldon & Melanie Long
6. Johnathan & Jennifer Weber
8. Ned & Sandy Cummings
Craig & Pam Mueller
11. Tom & Barbara Wildy
19. Jared & Drumarie Grandon
24. Joe & Carol Robertson
25. Mark & Pat Jaberg
28. Tom & Connie Booth
30. Gary & Judy Sawyer

NOVEMBER

FIRST SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 4

LITURGIST: Chuck Zweck
FLOWERS: Sharon Burbes
COFFEE: Ned & Sandy Cummings
USHERS/GREETER: Chuck Zweck, Dave & Marlene Gant, Bill Huebner

NOVEMBER 11

LITURGIST: Sharon Burbes
FLOWERS: Betty Wheatley
COFFEE: Lynn & Darla Weltmer
USHERS/GREETER: Darla Weltmer, Bill & Martha Crookshank, Kristin Hargrove

NOVEMBER 18

LITURGIST: Janet Tiede
FLOWERS: Bill & Alice Huebner
COFFEE:
USHERS/GREETER: Jerry & Liz Scherer, Dave & Judi Carpenter

NOVEMBER 25

LITURGIST: Carol Robertson
FLOWERS:
COFFEE: Allen & Ann Gerhold
USHERS/GREETER: Ted & Darby Mitchell, Dave & Marlene Gant

SECOND SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 4

USHER/GREETER: Sandy Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy Harmison

NOVEMBER 11

USHER/GREETER: Mike Koyak
REFRESHMENTS: Mike Koyak

NOVEMBER 18

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

NOVEMBER 25

USHER/GREETER: Betty Wheatley
REFRESHMENTS: Betty Wheatley

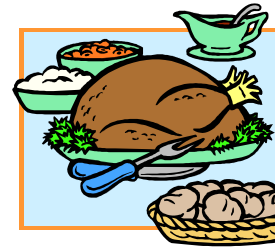


DECATUR AREA CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Decatur Area Church Women United will hold their World Community Day Celebration on Friday, November 2nd at 1:00 at New Salem Baptist Church 1415 N. Edward St. All are welcome to attend. Contact Darla Weltmer for more details...877-7008



Adult Program News



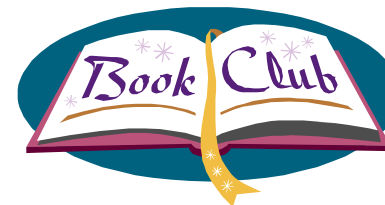
Thanksgiving Dinner

Our church family Thanksgiving Dinner will be at 5:00 Sunday, November 11 in Fellowship Hall. Our ministry will provide turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, and drinks. We are asking those attending, whose last name starts with the letters A – M, to bring a dessert to share and those from the bottom half of the alphabet to bring a salad or vegetable dish to share. Look for a form in Sunday's bulletin. Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary.



Progressive Dinner

Please join us December 1 for the annual Progressive Dinner. We are changing the format slightly this year, by having only two courses, appetizers and desserts. We will begin our evening at 5:00 at the home of Peggy and Jerry Ruff (5527 N Oakland). Our hosts for desserts are Christina and Todd Clark (610 W Forsyth Parkway). Please call the church office to leave your reservations. If you have any questions, contact Alfreda Tribout.



Book Club

We have started our book club, with the reading of Three Cups of Tea. We are meeting on Thursdays at 2:30. For more information, contact Judi Carpenter.



Youth Activities

Join the Youth Group

Youth Thanksgiving Baskets

A very important event is coming soon; something the youth look forward to every year. They will again be collecting nonperishable food items (and monetary donations for last minute turkey's, ham and etc.) to fill as many Thanksgiving baskets as they can. Baskets will be delivered Sunday November 18.

Please leave food items in the tubs located at the church entrances beginning October 28th through November 18th. Donations can be made using envelopes found the pew racks and marked for the Youth Thanksgiving Baskets; or by giving your donation to any youth or youth ministry member. Thank you for helping us give others a great Thanksgiving week.

Mark your calendars now for the month of December for two great Youth events.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Start your Christmas shopping early, take in a movie, or just relax and let our youth and adult advisors entertain your children for a few hours with food, games, crafts and a possibly a movie. We have set two dates for **Parents Night Out** this year, December 1st and the 15th from 5 pm to 10pm.

Youth Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

Just in time for the Christmas guests; the Annual Youth Cookie Walk is set for December 23rd in the fellowship hall between services. Come help the youth earn money toward the 2013 Youth Mission Trip and stock up on the most delicious goodies at the same time.

The youth are also looking for volunteers to help by donating as many baked goods as you would like. This is a very big event that everyone enjoys. Please let any Youth Group or Youth Ministry know what you will be bringing.

LOGOS CALENDAR

2012-2013		
THEME		
November	7	Veteran's Night
	14	Give Thanks
	21	NO LOGOS
	28	Western Hoedown
December	5	Dinner on the Move
	12	Merry Christmas
	19	NO LOGOS
	26	NO LOGOS
January	2	NO LOGOS
	9	Beach Party
	16	Favorite Hat
	23	Strikes and Spares
	30	Rise and Shine
February	6	NO LOGOS
	13	Ash Wednesday
	20	thgiN sdrawkcaB
	27	Fly Away
March	6	Little Italy
	13	NO LOGOS
	20	Spuds 'n Suds
	27	Happy Easter
April	3	Renaissance Night
	10	Autograph T's
	17	Banquet

LOGOS/LOGOS Lounge times are 4:15-7:17 p.m. for 1st—12th grade

Parent Note: ???shoe boxes, butter braids, trunk or treat, veterans, ornaments, hats, WS dates

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jared and Dru Marie (Krusenoski) Grandon in Landstuhl, Germany had a daughter October 2, 2012. She is named Sophia Jean Grandon and will be called Sophie.

Betty Lou Johnston

Church Keys

There is a New Key Box in the church office. We plan on organizing the keys that we have. We would like everyone that has a key or keys to let Nancy know what you have. If you do not have a need for the keys that you do have, please turn them in to Nancy.

SEPTEMBER 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Sept 12</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$15,739.17	\$141,652.53
Budget Expense	\$17,140.48	\$154,264.32
Income	\$13,977.73	\$146,015.48
Expenses	\$18,653.86	\$140,359.07



First Congregational United Church of Christ 2012 Foods Resource Bank Growing Project

The congregation voted to use the proceeds from our 2012 Foods Resource Bank growing project to support a sustainable food program in KENYA. The total \$ 226.13 generated from the voting process was added to our Foods Resource Bank growing project fund. Final tabulation of figures for this year's growing project will be available soon. Watch the Outreach Bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for news about the Kenyan program. And, thank you again for your support for Foods Resource Bank and our growing project.



Stewardship Campaign Thank You

The Stewardship Campaign, *God loves it when the giver delights in the giving*, is nearing completion. The Nominating/Stewardship Ministry: Betty Cummings, Alice Huebner, Pat Mahr, Sherry Palmer, and Sheila Mannweiler wish to thank all who have received the Notebooks, filled out the information for the enclosure envelope, and passed the notebook along to the next member on our church family route.

A big "Thank You" to the Route Captains who watched over the notebooks: Christina Clark, Bob and Sue Bunselmeyer, Darla Weltmer, Alice Huebner, Sherry Palmer, Betty Cummings, Dave Carpenter, Church Zweck, Sheila Mannweiler, Janet Tiede, Don Wenneker, June Coleman, Pat Mahr, Mike Koyak, Ann Gerhold, Joe Moretti, Sandi Pleasants, Shirley Kuhn and Paula Cordts.

Also, to be thanked is Bill Huebner, who assembled the photos and the Narrative Budget information which made up the notebooks. Photos were received from Betty Cummings, Sheila Mannweiler, Susan and Mark Daley, Betty Fankhauser, Dave Carpenter, Clarence Elliott, Ashley Lofland and Bill Huebner.



Thanksgiving Feasting

When the Halloween pumpkins are gone,
And the leaves have all fallen to ground,
When the air has turned windy and cold,
Then Thanksgiving will soon be around.

Thoughts of loved ones all feasting together,
Pleasant pictures from past times appear
To dwell in each heart and each mind--
Then Thanksgiving is finally here!


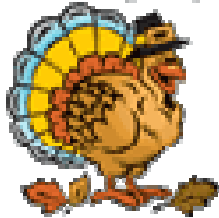
The kitchen has scrumptious aromas,
The dining room looks oh, so fine,
Decorations with pilgrims and turkeys,
And now we are ready to dine!

First the napkins are placed on our laps;
Now the prayer for the meal to be blessed,
Then we stuff the good food in our tummies,
And we hope for it all to digest!

By Joanna Fuchs

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. ~Erma Bombeck



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary				1 2:30 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	2	3
4 10:00 Pre-Annual Meeting Pastoral Care Card Sale	5	6 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	7 4:15 - 7:15 pm LOGOS 7:30 Choir	8 2:30 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	9	10
11 5:00 Thanksgiving Dinner	12 6:00 Worship/ Music Ministry 7:00 Super Monday	13 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	14 4:15 - 7:15 pm LOGOS 7:30 Choir	15 2:30 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	16	17
18 10-11:00 Children's Social Thanksgiving Party 7:00 Ecumenical Service	19 7:00 Church Council	20 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving 	23	24
25	26	27 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	28 4:15 - 7:15 pm LOGOS 7:30 Choir	29 2:30 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	30	