

Congregational Comments

Vol. 18 No 11: November 2013

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.



Pastor Dave Taylor

From the Pastor

Delight in Giving

“God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Delight in Giving is our Stewardship campaign theme for 2014. It's based upon giving to the Lord out of thanksgiving for all God has done for us, rather than out of obligation or duty. As the Lord has blessed us with all the gifts of life and new life in Jesus Christ, we respond by offering ourselves more fully to him with thankful and joyful hearts.

God's Love is shining through us in amazing ways! During November our church will celebrate that God's love as we recall how God delights in giving to us, in Jesus Christ our Savior, the Holy Spirit, the beauty of creation, wonderful relationships of family and friends, fun, laughter, peace, loving pets, faith, healing, comfort, good food, music that lifts our hearts up, warm and safe shelter, literature that inspires our minds, jobs that give us opportunities for a livelihood and can make a positive contribution, amazing human bodies, time, hope, and joy...and the list is endless.

We recall the ways our congregation is offering love, warmth, acceptance, and hope to others. We look to the future to see how God calls us to keep offering that love to others. Stewardship is part of the core of our lives. *“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”* Churchill. Stewardship is about how we use our time and our resources as a response to God's love. Stewardship is how we express gratitude for God's unfailing love in our lives. On Sunday, November 10, we will dedicate our best gifts by using symbolic estimate of giving cards and time and talent sheets during worship, asking God's blessing on all that we give and do.

Another emphasis for us this season is prayer. Stewardship is at the core of who we are, and at the core of Stewardship is prayer. The more we become a praying church, the more God's love and gratitude shines through us. During November we invite you to pray for yourselves, for one another, and for our church every day. Take out your church directory and pray for the persons listed on that page. The next day move on to the next page and pray for those persons. May God continue to bless us.

I invite you to give this prayer exercise a try: Each day, find something in your life for which you are grateful — a flower, a person, your favorite food, anything. Pick a time during each day you can stop everything for 1 minute. Take few seconds to calm down and to clear your head. Then take 30 seconds to think about what you are most grateful for, take a deep breath and exhale, smile, and give God thanks. Try that for one minute a day for a week. The next week, try it twice a day. This year we journey through this Stewardship season together in prayer.

I thank you for your support of First Church – your presence in worship, your giving of talents and time, your lifting us up in prayers and financial support. This helps make the presence of Christ real here in our church, our community and around the world.

Join us for these special services & events:

You are invited Sunday, November 3rd at 9 and 11 AM for our **All Saints - Memorial Services**. We will 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.

November 10th will be First Church's Stewardship Commitment Sunday. We will offer and dedicate our best gifts for 2014. Please join us as we support Christ's Ministry at First Congregational United Church of Christ. After all, it is first and foremost Christ's Church and ministry!

Join us November 10th at 10 AM for our Pre-Annual Meeting where the nominees for 2014 will be presented.

November 17th 5 PM, join us for our Thanksgiving Supper with delicious food and wonderful fellowship under the leadership of our Adult Ministry. Join us for a great evening.

November 17th First Presbyterian Church will host the **Community Thanksgiving Service**. Join our sisters and brothers in faith from our community as we gather together in praise and thanksgiving.

Come experience God's amazing grace every **Sunday 9am Traditional worship** and **11:00 am Contemporary worship**. 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! Bible Study Classes also meet during this time. Come grow with us.

Check our great children's and youth LOGOS program on Wednesdays 4:45-7:15 pm. Join us ...

Pastor Dave

CROP WALK - Nov. 10th - 2 PM

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

The Decatur Area CROP WALK will start at 2 PM on Sunday, November 10th at Good Samaritan Inn. Neighbors from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walk together to take a stand against hunger in our community and world. You are invited to join others in helping raise awareness and funds for local and international hunger relief and food development. DID YOU KNOW 25% of the funds we raise will stay in our community supporting our local hunger fighting agencies? Kathleen Taylor is this year's CROP WALK coordinator. **CROP WALK walkers envelopes are available from Pastor Dave. Join us!**



Playmates Preschool

October was filled with activities for the preschoolers. We visited the Fire station during fire prevention week. We also did many fall activities as we learned about fall. We had a dress up Halloween party at the end of the month! In November we will be learning about the first Thanksgiving and Mr. Turkey. We will have a "Taste of Thanksgiving" which will include turkey, pumpkin pie and the works! YUMMY! The 4 year olds will dress as the pilgrims and the 3 year old will be the Indians. From all the kids and staff at Playmates, Gods richest blessing for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Playmates Christmas Shop

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner. Once again, Playmates Preschool will be holding its Christmas Shop for their preschool students. The proceeds will go the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Equipment Fund.

This is a great opportunity to "regift" those brand-new items that you couldn't use. We need gifts for family members of all ages (from infant to great-grandparent). We always seem to run short on gifts for dads and teens.

We also appreciate donations of Christmas gift bags, as they make the wrapping much easier. Please leave your donations in the box outside of the office door. Monetary donations are also appreciated, so we can fill in as needed.

Thanks for your continued support.
Playmates Preschool



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Children's Ministry is coordinating "Operation Christmas Child" with the filling the shoe boxes for children around the world. We will be using our Sunday School offerings from the children of the church. Please know you are more than welcome to join our efforts...How can you help? You can donate items from the list below, you can donate money to help us pay postage to send the boxes which is \$7.00 per box or you can build you own boxes and we will take care of delivering them. The children of the church will be building our boxes on Sunday, November 17 between services, feel free to join us then as well. If you have ANY questions or concerns contact Mindy Bunselmeyer 217-412-5646 or mbunselmeyer@illinoisffa.org

Thank you all so much, your support is greatly appreciated by our children and children around the world. God Bless.

Items to donate: We will have a collection tub/area on the bench in hallway in front of the office. Thank you!

Toys: dolls, trucks, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up or make noise (include extra batteries). School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamp and ink pads, writing pads, paper, solar calculator, coloring or picture books. Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, washcloth, mild bar soap. Other: t-shirts, socks, ball cap, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

LOGOS Food Drive

LOGOS Food Drive - Thank you for your support of our recent food drive. A great time was had by all at our joint event with the LOGOS programs of Westminster & Mt Zion Presbyterian churches. We collected close to 2000 items that were donated to NE Community Fund. First Church was the winner of th trophy with 756 items!

Stewardship and Thanksgiving

In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere 'thank you' is in order to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions.

For those of you who are interested, the church offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form in the church office.



Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

On Sunday, October 20, 2013, during Church Service, the Route Captains made their Covenant and were given their route list and Notebook to distribute. Please look at the Notebook and consider your giving for the next year before taking it to your church neighbor.

A big "thank you" to photo contributors: Cheryl Warner, Clarence Elliott, Dave Carpenter, Susan Daly, Mindy Bunselmeyer and Bill Huebner. A special thank you to Bill Huebner for assembling the photos on pages!

Nominating/Stewardship Ministry
Betty Cummings, Kathy Moore, Sherry Palmer, Sheila Mannweiler,
Alice Huebner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
9:00 Traditional Service 11:00 Contemporary Service			
3 Memorial Sunday Pastoral Card Sale	4	5 1-3:00 God's Busy Hands. 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	6 4:15-7:00
10 Pre-Annual Meeting 12-4:00 Baby Shower	11 5:00 Admin 6:00 Worship/ Music Ministry 7:00 Super	12 1-3:00 God's Busy Hands. 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	13 4:15-7:00
17 5:00 Thanksgiving Dinner	18 7:00 Church Council	19 1-3:00 God's Busy Hands. 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	20 4:15-7:00 7:30 A
24	22	26 1-3:00 God's Busy Hands. 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	27

	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2
15 LOGOS	7 5:45 First Ringers	8	9
15 LOGOS	14 5:45 First Ringers	15	16
15 LOGOS Adult Choir	21 5:45 First Ringers	22	23
	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	29	30



THANK YOU

Thank you, Pastor Dave, for your visits, prayers and kindness in giving me a ride home from the hospital after my recent illness. And thanks to everyone for prayers and cards. I did appreciate them so much.

Thanks again.
Judy Koyak

We wish to thank our children and church "family" for all the cards, gifts and love extended to us for our 50th wedding anniversary. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful gathering of family and friends to help us celebrate our special occasion.

Ev and Shirley Kuhn



SEPTEMBER 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Sept 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,568.17	\$158,113.53
Budget Expense	\$17,685.50	\$159,169.50
Income	\$15,898.30	\$142,095.74
Expenses	\$26,430.04	\$144,885.08



FOODS RESOURCE BANK

The celebration of the harvest of our Foods Resource Bank growing project was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, September 29. Eighty-five of our church family and friends attended the blessing of the harvest in the corn field. All enjoyed rides on the combine and hay wagon, refreshments served by Outreach Ministry, and a few brave souls even harvested corn by hand for the preschool squirrel feeder. The proceeds of this harvest will benefit a sustainable food program for the people of Kenya.





Youth Activities

Thanksgiving Baskets

Join the Youth Group

Its basket time! Once again this year the Youth will be collecting monetary and food donations in preparation for one of our favorite annual service projects. Food donated at the Church through the month of November will be used for this project. We will assemble and deliver the baskets on November 24th. Thanks again for your continued support!

Good Deals for Good Deeds

As the weather gets colder Christmas gets closer. Help the Youth raise money for their 2014 Mission Trip when you **buy a book full of savings** in time for your holiday shopping. Your donation of only **\$5** will get you over \$500 and more in exclusive coupon savings! On November 15-16, Bergner's is offering exclusive deals and offers on a huge variety of items. There is a deal in here for every special someone on your list this year. See Devon, Malone, Joe, or Chuck to seal the deal by November 10th.

Adult Program News

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our church family Thanksgiving Dinner will be at 5:00 Sunday, November 17 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 salad or vegetable dish to share and those from the bottom half of the alphabet to bring a dessert to share. Look for a form in Sunday's bulletin. Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary.

Progressive Dinner

Please join us December 7 at 5:00 for the annual Progressive Dinner. We are still looking for two homes to host either appetizers or desserts. If you are interested in hosting, please call Alfreda Tribout 877-9896. Final details will be in December's newsletter.

2013 LOGOS Butter Braids & Show Me Dough Fundraiser



LOGOS' Butter Braids and Show Me Dough Cookies/Pizza Fundraiser begins on Wednesday, October 9th at LOGOS.

Orders will be taken October 9 - November 13. Payment must be made at the time of ordering.

Make checks payable to: First Congregational UCC-LOGOS

Pickup of items will be on Monday, November 25, 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Butter Braids (\$13.00) are 22 ozs. pastries in the flavors of: Caramel Roll, Cherry, Cinnamon, Cream Cheese, Strawberry Cream Cheese and Double Chocolate.

Show Me Dough Cookies (\$16.00) are 48 pre-portioned cookie dough, ready to bake, in flavors of: Chocolate Chunk, Peanut Butter, M&M's Candies and White Chocolate Macadamia Nut.

Show Me Dough Pizzas (\$18.00) are 2 delicious full-size pizzas in each box, ready to bake, in flavors of: Four Cheese, Ultimate Pepperoni, BBQ Chicken, and Meat Lovers.

These are FANTASTIC for the holidays, so stock up NOW!!!

LOGOS ministry will be in the Fellowship Hall between services and in the narthex after the 11:00 a.m. service on October 20, October 27, November 3 and November 10 to take orders **OR** see a LOGOS participant **OR** LOGOS ministry member to place an order. Ministry members are: Sharon Burbes, Jeanette Flenner, Sandy Harmison, Sheila Mannweiler, Marsha Mower, Maureen Ruski and Debbie Whitney.

Please help support the LOGOS program – order your Butter Braids and Show Me Dough Cookies October 9 – November 13!



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. Paula Cordts
Sicity Seitz
5. Katie Malone
Judy Koyak
Tyler Wernecke
Vicki Dabrowka
John Lofland
8. Teresa Goller
9. Linda Connelly
10. Bradley Malone
Peggy Ruff
12. Maureen Ruski
13. Peggy Druessel
14. June Coleman
David Mahr
16. Nancy Beede
20. Debbie Moster
21. Howard Beede
22. David Carpenter
Jake Sawyer
Robby Moore
25. Patrick Carter
26. Jodi Baldwin
27. Laurel Lorey
28. Ramona Borders
Chase Leman
30. Valerie Janvrin

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
8. Ned & Sandy Cummings
Craig & Pam Mueller
11. Tom & Barbara Wildy
24. Joe & Carol Robertson
25. Mark & Pat Jaberg
30. Gary & Judy Sawyer

NOVEMBER

FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 3

LITURGIST: Amy Leman
FLOWERS: Helen Johnson
COFFEE: Mary Beck
USHERS/GREETER: Gary & Pat
Weiss, Mike Koyak, Dave Carpenter

NOVEMBER 10

LITURGIST: Darla Weltmer
FLOWERS:
COFFEE: Frank & Shelly Smith
USHERS/GREETER: Joe & Carol
Robertson, Jim & Jodi Baldwin

NOVEMBER 17

LITURGIST: Marilee Gordon
FLOWERS: Bill & Alice Huebner
COFFEE: Gary & Pat Weiss
USHERS/GREETER: Dave &
Marlene Gant, Kristin Hargrove, Ev
Kuhn

NOVEMBER 24

LITURGIST: Janet Tiede
FLOWERS: Carl & Rikki Brady
COFFEE: Allen & Ann Gerhold
USHERS/GREETER: Sheila
Mannweiler, Mike Koyak, Ted &
Darby Mitchell

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 3

USHER/GREETER: Maureen
Ruski
REFRESHMENTS: Marureen
Ruski

NOVEMBER

USHER/GREETER: Ruby
Voyles/Shirley Zimmerman
REFRESHMENTS: Ruby
Voyles/Shirley Zimmerman

NOVEMBER 17

USHER/GREETER: Sandy
Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy
Harmison

NOVEMBER 24

USHER/GREETER: Wes
Pietsch
REFRESHMENTS: Wes
Pietsch



