

Congregational Comments



Vol. 24 No. 11: November 2019

Important Contacts in the Church

Pastor: Rev. Jan Johnson, 309-267-3260
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Prayer Chain: Bette Fankhauser, 877-6723
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Playmates Preschool: Interim Director: Alfreda Tribout
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Church Contact Information:

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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.

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A Note from Pastor Jan



As I was reading the scriptures for Sunday's sermon, I saw the GISS meditation for the day.....this meditation by Rev. Phiwa Langeni so matched my sermon I used it to begin the Praise Service sermon. It's another perspective on the Leper's Cleansing.

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they left, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice ... he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you." - Luke 17:14-16, 19 (CEB)

Medicine labels list the ingredients in the product, often with a separate shorter list of active ingredients. All the ingredients on both lists work together as a healing agent, but it's the active ingredients that make the medicine most effective.

The story of ten lepers operates with multiple ingredients for healing. One is their faith as they rose up from the gate. Another is their obedience as they followed Jesus' instructions to go to the priest to formalize their newly cured status. But the active ingredient of deepened healing is the gratitude daringly expressed by the double outsider, the Samaritan who had yet to be determined suitable for public interaction.

Gratitude moves beyond physical healing. It transcends human-made divisions. It overlooks societal margins. It disregards the differences that keep us from recognizing our interconnectedness with each other and creation.

To embody gratitude as boldly as the lone Samaritan is to challenge the status quo. To embrace gratitude is to disrupt society's injustices.

Activating gratitude calls us into a new way of living and being as we experience the Healing Presence in our midst.

Prayer

As we engage the many ingredients you give us, loving God, activate our gratitude for the healing of your entire world.

Calling All Confirmands.....

Confirmation Class is beginning November 3rd. If your young person is in 7th grade or above and would like to join the class, please call the office and let us know. Presently we have 3 students: Gehrig Bunselmeyer, Cameron Malone, and Logan Moster. Mark and Mindy Bunselmeyer will be joining Rev. Jan as Confirmation instructors. We will be meeting on Sundays. Mark will have the students during Sunday School, Mindy will begin Chapters of the Student's Book and Jan will be doing extra Chapter work and setting up field trips to mission and benevolence institutions and projects.

The rest of the articles must be on the office computer....I won't be back in the office until Friday. So I will just use the email announcements and bulletin for other articles.

Thank You

Clarence & Carolyn Elliott

We are very thankful for all the cards, prayers, visits and offers for help.

Clarence and Carolyn Elliott

THANK YOU PASTOR JAN

As of October 15th, Pastor Jan has been with us for a year. This is the second time she has done a great job of filling in as our minister while we were looking for a new pastor. She will continue until we can find a new pastor.

Stop and tell Pastor Jan a very big **THANK YOU**.



Information

FFDO

November's first Friday dinner out will be at Tuscany at 6:00. Let me know if you will be joining us.

Sandy

Card Making Day

The next card making day will be November 2 from 9 to 2. We will met in the choir room.

Jodi Baldwin

2020 Stewardship Campaign

We have noticed that some of you have not received your mailing with the Time and Talent Sheet and the Pledge card.

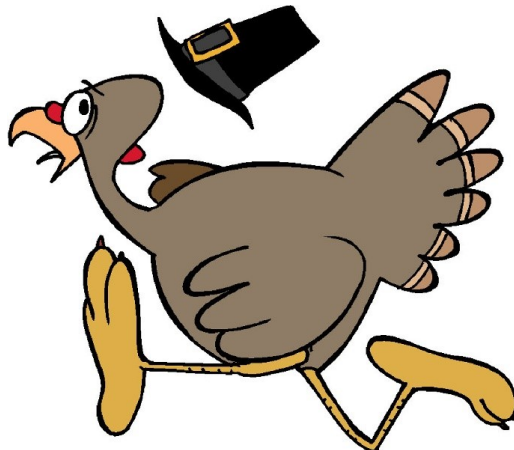
If this is the case, please notify Jackie in the office, to make arrangements to receive/pick up another mailing.

Alice Huebner and Sheila Mannweiler

Annual Thanksgiving/Veteran's Lunch

Please save the date of Sunday, November 10 for the Annual Thanksgiving/Veteran's lunch at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish of your choosing to share.

Shirley Zimmerman and Julie Keck, Adult Ministry Co-Leaders.



Fellowship Luncheon

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

The Subject of the Luncheon was Personal Safety



Crime Stopper Officer—George Kestner



Our Leader, Sheila, at Work

Stewardship Luncheon

Stewardship Luncheon



Sheila Mannweiler leading the dicusion



Photos by Dave Carenter

Finance Notes

SEPTEMBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Sept 19</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,051.92	\$153,467.28
Budget Expense	\$17,947.02	\$161,523.18
Income	\$18,275.00	\$151,523.18
Expenses	\$16,163.75	\$149,058.48



Happenings

FFDO

Tuscany

November 1

6:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

Admin Meeting

Monday, November
16

5:30 pm

Council of Ministry Teams

Monday, November
16

6:30 pm

Choir

Thursdays

7:00 pm



Sing With Us

First Ringers

Thursdays

5:45 pm



Exploring Christian Faith Study Group

Sunday 10:30 am

Choir Room

November 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. Paula Cordts
4. Miranda Miller
5. Tyler Wernecke
John Lofland
Katie Wright
9. Linda Connelly
10. Peggy Ruff
Bradley Malone
12. Maureen Ruski
Brian Traugher
13. Peggy Druessel
14. David Mahr
16. Nancy Beede
20. Debbie Moster
21. Howard Beede
22. David Carpenter
Robby Moore
25. Patrick Carter
26. Jodi Baldwin
27. Laurel Lorey
28. Ramona Borders
Chase Leman
30. Valerie Janvrin

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

8. Craig & Pam Mueller
24. Joe & Carol Robertson
25. Mark & Pat Jaberg



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	November 3	Penny Butts	
	November 10	Mindy Bunselmeyer	
	November 17		
	November 24	Judi Carpenter	
	November 3	Mac & Sharon Butler	
	November 10	Helen Johnson	
	November 17		
	November 24		
	November 3	Kristin Hargrove	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	November 10	Kristin Hargrove	Sandy Harmison
	November 17	Kristin Hargrove	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
	November 24	Ellen Starace	Wes Pietsch
 USHERS	November 3	Bill & Alice Huebner, Kristen Hargrove, Mike Koyak	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	November 10	Shelia Mannweiler, Gary Weiss, Frank ^ Shelly Smith	Sandy Harmison
	November 17	Mindy Bunselmeyer, Susan Daley, Mac & Sharon Butler	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
	November 24	Mike & Toni Longstreet, Tom & Paula Cordts	Wes Pietsch

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

November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:00 World Com- munity Day Celebration Fellowship Hall	2 9:00—2:00 Card Making Choir Room
3 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	4	5 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	6	7 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	8	9
10 Noon Thanksgiv- ing/Veterans' Celebration	11 7:00 Proper- ty Meeting	12 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	13	14 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	15	16
17 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	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	21 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	22	23
24 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellow ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	25	26 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	27	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29	30



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.