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

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# Congegational Comments

Vol. 17 No 10: October 2012

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## Church Contact Information:

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Website: [www.firstchurchdecatur.com](http://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**

***To Everything There is a Season***

Do you know how, when the seasons change, you notice it not so much by the calendar but by what stirs your senses? The cooler breeze when you walk out to get your paper in the morning, the later sunrise and earlier sunset, combines hum in the fields, leaves begin to float in the air and rustle across the sidewalk whispering fall is here. Something in the air invites us to stop, listen, look around, and take notice of, even celebrate the changing season.

Our season at church is changing. No, not the official liturgical season: we are still in the season of Pentecost. Nevertheless it is a new season here, with plenty of reasons to celebrate. That good energy will continue as the coming weeks and months bring a variety of wonderful worship opportunities,

**October 7<sup>th</sup>– World Communion** Come join us at 9am and 11am for this special day as we join Christians around the world celebrating God’s amazing presence and grace – that makes us one in Christ’s Spirit. We’ll also received our Neighbor-in-Need offering which also aids hurricane victims. How great it is to have the Adult Choir and the Hand bell Choir back in worship again sharing inspirational music. And we celebrate our awesome Praise Band energizing our Praise worship service. Come experience God’s amazing Spirit!!

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** will be the kickoff Sunday for our Stewardship program **Delight in Giving**. God delights in blessing us and is even more delighted when we give in helping others. Our Stewardship Ministry members have been working hard, preparing our “Pony Express” style campaign which includes a notebook describing First Church’s Ministry and commitment materials for each family/person along each route stop. We’ll dedicate our best to God through our Estimate of Giving Cards

and Time and Talent Sheets in November. This is a wonderful time of celebrating our past ministry work and dreaming about what God is calling us to do in the future. And we respond with our commitments together with the Holy Spirit to make those dreams of faith into amazing realities of hope and new life.

**CROP WALK 2012 - October 7<sup>th</sup> Get a Walker’s Envelope** from Pastor Dave, and ask your friends and family to sponsor you. Walk with us or help sponsor a walker – both ways help fight hunger. **1:30 PM registration at Grace United Methodist Church on Main Street - the WALK begins 2 PM. Did you know** our FIRST PRAISE BAND has provided the opening praise music for the CROP WALK for past 5 years? 25% of the funds collected will remain in Macon County to help hunger with the remaining fighting hunger in the U.S. and around the globe. Join us!!!!

**We begin our fall Bible Study in October** – so watch the bulletin, or contact the church office for more information about this great opportunity to learn and grow! Come join us!

The familiar passage from Ecclesiastes begins, “*to everything there is a season*”. This is a season of change providing you, me, and everyone, an opportunity to step out that life sucking lifestyle and renew, rediscover, reconnect with our ever faithful and loving God through life affirming worship and ministry. Have you noticed a First Church member or friend who hasn’t been in worship with us the last few weeks? This is a great opportunity for you to invite them to come join us for this autumn season of growing in our faith.

Autumn is indeed making its way to us, and as a congregation, we have embarked upon a full, rich, colorful season bringing some fresh breezes and opportunities along with the familiar. Indeed, we have much for which to be grateful.

Continued on Page 4



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. Maxine Taylor
5. Stephen Hill
6. Todd Clark  
Alfreda Tribout
7. Don Meritt  
Donna Druessel  
Cynthia Gann
12. Jean McCane
13. Jennah Baltimore
14. Coltin Anderson  
Seth Young
15. Brett Walker
16. Peter Jaberg
17. Ronald Palmer  
Megan Reininger
19. Bobbie Taylor  
Brylynne Riewski
20. Frank Smith
21. Marilyn Jordan  
Sam Yonan
22. Meghann Wollitz
23. Amy Leman  
Don Moster
24. Robert Ruehrup  
Christina Huckile
26. Mary Beck  
Kathryn Reyman
27. Breanna Kelley
28. Fred Alburtis  
Tyler Brownfield  
Tracy Johnson
29. Julie Senger
31. William Crookshank  
Mark Jaberg

### 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!*

4. Ted & Darby Mitchell
6. Tim & Jennifer Evans
7. Charles & Ann Stringer
10. Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski
11. Mark & Susan Daley
12. Everett & Shirley Kuhn  
David & Mary Anne Logan
20. John & Ashley Lofland
21. Don & Debbie Moster
22. Carl & Rikki Brady
23. Robert & Betty Henry
26. Mark & Ellen Henry  
Kevin & Donna Knop
30. Stephen & Jamie Hill

**OCTOBER**

### FIRST SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

#### OCTOBER 7

**LITURGIST:** Bill Huebner  
**FLOWERS:** Gerry & Peggy Ruff  
**COFFEE:** Dave & Judi Carpenter  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Darla Weltmer, Chuck Zweck, Marilee Gordon & Everett Kuhn

#### OCTOBER 14

**LITURGIST:** Janet Tiede  
**FLOWERS:** Lois Shelton  
**COFFEE:** Everett Kuhn  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Norma Lingenfelter, Dave & Judi Carpenter, Sandi Pleasants.

#### OCTOBER 21

**LITURGIST:** Dee Wenneker  
**FLOWERS:** Don & Dee Wenneker  
**COFFEE:** Tom & Paula Cordts  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Dave & Marlene Gant, Gary & Pat Weiss

#### OCTOBER 28

**LITURGIST:** Darla Weltmer  
**FLOWERS:** Helen Johnson  
**COFFEE:** Jim & Jodi Baldwin  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Mark & Susan Daley, Tom & Paula Cordts

### SECOND SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

#### OCTOBER 7

**USHER/GREETER:** Sandy Harmison  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Sandy Harmison

#### OCTOBER 14

**USHER/GREETER:** Mike Koyak  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Mike Koyak

#### OCTOBER 21

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

#### OCTOBER 28

**USHER/GREETER:** Betty Wheatley  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Betty Wheatley



Come experience God's love in worship and Christian Education - Sundays at **9:00 AM** for our Traditional Service and **11:00 AM** for our Contemporary Service and **10:00 AM** for our creative, faith growing Sunday School and Bible Study opportunities for children, youth and adults. At **10:00 AM** discover a new friend or renew a current friendship visiting over delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall

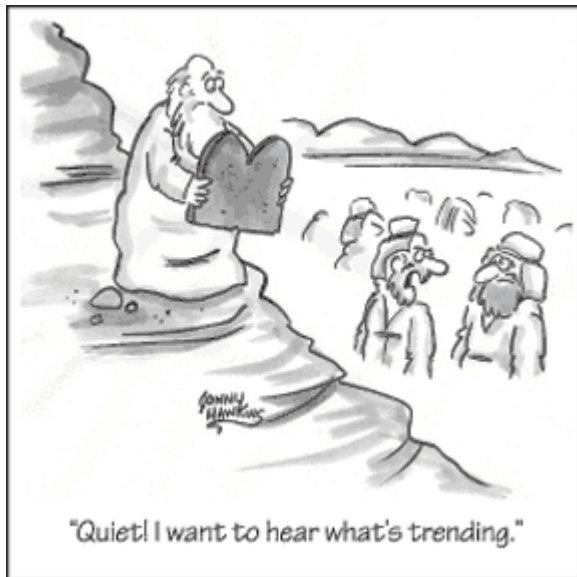
Come and join us!  
Pastor Dave

### THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers. I am thankful for the wonderful hematologist that I had in Champaign that noticed I have a blood disorder that can be dealt with by medicine and not leukemia. As always, the UCC family is ready to help when needed. God Bless all of you.

Sincerely, Debbie Moster



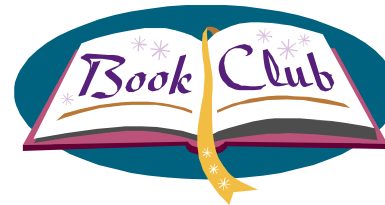
## Playmates Christmas Shop

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 could use gift bags of any size.

Please leave your donations in the box outside of the office door. Monetary donations are also appreciated, so we can fill in as needed. We also could use gift bags

Thanks for your continued support.  
Playmates Preschool



### NEW BOOK CLUB

Adult Program Ministry is starting a new book club on October 18. The first book selection will be Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen. The group will be meeting from 1-3:00 pm at the church. For more information, contact Judi Carpenter.



# Youth Activities

## YOUTH LOCK-IN

Katie is making plans for an all night lock-in at church sometime in October. Games, food, movies and fun (and maybe some sleep) will be the main attraction. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin or ask any youth ministry member.

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## Meals on Wheels

Thank you to these volunteers who helped deliver meals the week of September 3:

Bill and Alice Huebner  
Sharon Burbes  
Betty Cummings  
Maureen Ruski  
Devon Moretti  
Malone Moretti  
Bill and Martha Crookshank  
Paul and Ruth Debrune  
David and Marlene Gant  
Betty Henry  
Gary and Pat Weiss  
Darla Weltmer  
Judi Carpenter  
Clint and Ellen Whitrock

We always need more volunteers to deliver meals. If you think you may have time to help with this service, please mark "Meals on Wheels" on the time and talent sheet in this fall's stewardship packet. Our next turn to deliver meals will be the week of May 13, 2013.

# The 2013 Stewardship Campaign is Coming

On Sunday, October 7, 2012, during Coffee and Fellowship Time, the Route Captains will pass out their Notebooks to begin First Congregational UCC Stewardship Campaign for the year 2013. The notebooks will be passed to the members on the route, ending at the Route Captain's.

Prayerfully consider the items in the notebook and pass it on to the next family within 24 hours.

We will be mailing packets to those shut-ins, members living out of town and other members unable to participate in the relay. NEW this year is the use of One Time and Talent Sheet for two members in a family. We are trying to cut down on the amount of paper that we will put into your Enclosure Envelope.

Alice Huebner  
Stewardship/Nominating Chair



**DECATUR AREA CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Decatur Area Church Women United will hold their Representatives Meeting and Bible Study at Grace United Methodist Church, 901 N. Main Street on Monday, October 8th starting with refreshments at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to attend any of our Celebrations and Representatives meetings and call Darla for any further information as she would welcome to take you along to the meetings.

Our Bible Study, led by Polly Bilyeu, entitled "Sights and Sounds of Harmony" will be leading us to our World Community Day Celebration, abiding in Community to be held on Friday, November 2nd at 1:00 PM at the New Salem Baptist Church, 1315 N. Edward Street.

Any questions or concerns contact me.  
 Darla D. Weltmer  
 877-7008

**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.

**AUGUST 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$15,739.17	\$125,913.36
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,140.48	\$137,123.84
<b>Income</b>	\$11,927.20	\$132,037.75
<b>Expenses</b>	\$15,155.96	\$121,705.21



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



**Soup Supper**

**SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ANNUAL SOUP CHALLENGE!!!**

Property has the honor of hosting this year's Soup Challenge which will be held on Saturday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have delicious soups to try for a donation and mouth-watering desserts to tempt even those with the strongest of willpower. It will be lots of fun and may even have some surprises!!! This is a family event, so bring the kids. See you there!

## THANK YOU

From Knox Presbyterian Church in Springfield (they also donated \$110 to our VBS fund) -

"Marsha & The Congregation of First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for supporting our VBS by loaning us your supplies. You enable us to put on a much nicer program than we could have done on our own. The kids that come really love the music, the Chadder DVD's & the bright visuals. Thank you!

Mary Rogers & the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church"

From Cristina Huckile -

"Dear Marsha & church family,

Thanks for sending me to camp. I had the time of my life. I didn't even want to come home. I did creek walking, a dance lesson, canoeing, pool games, and cards and games. I learned how to make lanyards in arts and crafts. I also made 6 new friends! Camp really brightened up my whole summer! Thanks again.

God bless you all, Christina Huckile"



**THANK YOU  
DAVE**

Thank you David Gant for refinishing the butcher block top on the kitchen island. It looks like new!. Dave also cleaned up the heavy-duty can opener. With a little care from all of us, they should be good for another 50 years. Stop by the kitchen and check it out!

## LOGOS CALENDAR

2012 - 2013		
DATE		THEME
<b>September</b> (Sunday/Rally Day)	9	Parents/Children/Youth RALLY DAY Registration
	12	Staff Meet and Greet
	19	Welcome Back
	26	Tailgate Party
<b>October</b>	3	Noodles and Spoons
	10	NO LOGOS
	17	Take Me Out to the Ballgame
	24	Trunk or Treat
	31	NO LOGOS
<b>November</b>	7	Veteran's Night
	14	Give Thanks
	21	NO LOGOS
	28	Western Hoedown
<b>December</b>	5	Dinner on the Move
	12	Merry Christmas
	19	NO LOGOS
	26	NO LOGOS
<b>January</b>	2	NO LOGOS
	9	Beach Party
	16	Favorite Hat
	23	Strikes and Spares
	30	Rise and Shine
<b>February</b>	6	NO LOGOS
	13	Ash Wednesday
	20	thgiN sdrawkcaB
	27	Fly Away
<b>March</b>	6	Little Italy
	13	NO LOGOS
	20	Spuds 'n Suds
	27	Happy Easter
<b>April</b>	3	Renaissance Night
	10	Autograph T's
	17	Banquet

□ LOGOS/LOGOS Lounge times are 4:15-7:15 p.m. for 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b> <b>Contemporary</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>3</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>4</b> <b>5:45 First Ring-</b> <b>ers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>6:00 Worship/</b> <b>Music</b> <b>7:00 Super</b> <b>Monday</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>10</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>11</b> <b>5:45 First Ring-</b> <b>ers</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10:15 Outreach</b> <b>Ministry</b>	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 Church</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>17</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>18</b> <b>5:45 First Ring-</b> <b>ers</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Women's</b> <b>Fellowship</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>24</b> <b>LOGOS Trunk or</b> <b>Treat</b> <b>4:15-7:15 LOGOS</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>25</b> <b>5:45 First Ring-</b> <b>ers</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10:00-11:00</b> <b>Children's Hal-</b> <b>loween Parade</b> <b>&amp; Social</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>31</b> <b>7:30 Choir</b>			