

Congregational Comments

Vol. 19 No 10: October 2014

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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.



Pastor Dave Taylor

FROM THE PASTOR

“WILL THE REAL MINISTER PLEASE STEP FORWARD?”

Just to make a point, *give this a try:*

1. Make a name tag. Write your name in the top half.
2. Write “Minister” in the lower half.
3. Put the name tag on – over you heart.

How do you feel? Are you saying: “Who, ME--- a Minister?!” Are you objecting? “I haven’t gone to seminary. I can’t quote scripture off the cuff. I hate getting up in front of people.”

Instead of “Minister” (the title of a position), try thinking about “minister” with a small “m”. Think...“What does it mean to minister?” (an action)

A Confirmation class and I visited Trinity UCC in Chicago (a large UCC church), and I was impressed to learn that every member of that congregation must select and pledge to carry out one of that church’s 73 specific ministries. So in that church, every member has a ministry. Every one thinks of him or herself as a minister – doing God’s action (small “m”).

I asked one lady “What is your ministry?” She replied “I’m a parent” and proudly pointed to a little boy who was serving as a junior usher. (small “m”) At first, I became less impressed with the Trinity “ministry” program. After all, lots of people are parents.

But then I began to understand that his mother’s whole approach to parenting was different – because she took her parenting to be a *ministry*. Her own ministry. (Big “M” to her – and to her little boy.)

It’s the difference between just doing something to get it done and doing something to build God’s kingdom on earth. You probably have a ministry of your own or several of them, but do you think of it that way?

Let's say you are asked to be a Greeter/Usher for Sunday morning. Do you grump silently, "I'll have to stand there in the drafty doorway and shake hands"? Or do you think, "Minister of Hospitality! I'm going to make everyone who comes through that door – long time members and newcomers, adults and kids – feel that it's great to be in this church family."

When you're at work and someone asks about your weekend, do you say "Oh, we just stayed home"? Or "I worked on the yard?" What if you said, "I had a blast teaching Sunday School or LOGOS this week or helping with the Youth Book sale. I'm a youth minister for our First Church children and youth."

Consecration Sunday is our stewardship program this year and it has begun. In the next few weeks we'll share a time and talent sheet with you with ministry opportunities with fellowship groups, church Ministries, choirs, and more to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ at First Church. You will have an opportunity to tell us what "your ministries" will be at First Church.

When you get home from church on Sunday and sit down for lunch, do you say, "Pass the salad, please"? What if you said, "Today, Pastor Dave was talking about grace – you know, forgiveness and healing – I began to think about the fight we had yesterday ..." (minister of forgiveness) If you're alone - instead of watching another TV rerun - why not pick up the phone, send an email or text or visit and reach out to touch someone else who may need a call? (minister of caring)

When you are visiting with your friends about the next time you'll be getting together and they say, "How about our getting together, Saturday the 7th at Red Lobster?" What if you said, "That's great! And how about you're joining us? Our church is having a great service that will include wonderful music by our adult choir. I think you might enjoy it!" (minister of evangelism)

When you go into the voting booth this November, will you say, "Who's going to get me lower taxes?" What if you said, "Which of these candidates will do the best job of caring for God's people and building God's kingdom on earth?" (minister of justice)

The point is – with or without a nametag, at church, at work, at home, at the restaurant or the mall, even when you're at the 'Y' *you can be a real minister for Jesus Christ.* We need your gifts and actions of God's love

to make First Church a growing, loving, healing, hope-filled community of faith. Live your ministry everyday!

Come join us for worship and Christian Education - Sundays at 9:00AM for our Traditional Service and children's Sunday School
11:00AM for our Contemporary Service and at **10:00AM** for our creative, faith growing Sunday School and Bible Study opportunities for youth and adults.

10:00AM discover a new friend or renew a current friendship visiting over **delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall.**

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.
I Corinthians 12

Join us in the Christ's life-giving ministry. Come make a Holy difference with your life!

Pastor Dave

Sunday, October 5
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Holy Communion, God's loving grace for all believers, will be offered at both worship services at 9 and 11:00 am. Join us as we celebrate with Christians worldwide God's amazing love. We will receive our Neighbors In Need offering in October.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN FIRST CHURCH?

Would you like to learn more about First Church, our faith and the opportunities we provide? Contact Pastor Dave or the church office 877-2216 for information.

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving response to the question "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Girding Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he/she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Tom Cordts, Church Council President

New Closet in Lounge



Clarence painting the closet doors

The new storage closet in the lounge is complete. Groups are beginning to use the space. The following people helped complete the closet. Willis Parker did the design work and purchased most of the material. He, Clarence Elliott and Wesley Pietsch built the shelves and did most of the painting. Brandon Janvrin and Tom Cordts built the closet and dry walled it. Bill Huebner helped as needed. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THEM.**



The front of the closet, showing the sliding doors.



MEN'S CHOIR



A sincere thank you and applause to all the men who sang praises in our service on August 31. We all enjoyed the exceptional harmonizing and beauty of the music. Also, many thanks to Laurie Matheson for arranging the music and accompanying them. A job appreciated and well done.

Singers: Bill Brooks, Kelly Cantrell, Keith Carmichael, Don Carter, Tom Cordts, Clarence Elliott, Dave Gant, Al Gerhold, Bill Huebner, Ev Kuhn, Chris Leman, Dave Mahr, Ron Palmer, Rev. Dave Taylor, Brian Traugher and Charlie Tribout.

Shirley Kuhn

PLAYMATES PRESCHOOL

Playmates Preschool is seeking donations for their annual Christmas Shop. We need gifts for all ages, from baby to great-grandparent. This would be a good time to regift those brand new items that you never used. We would also appreciate donations of money, so we can fill in as needed and Christmas gift bags, to make the wrapping easier. There is a donation box in the hallway outside of the office door. All proceeds go to the Emergency Scholarship Fund and Equipment Fund.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1
5 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship Pastoral Card Sale	6 5:30 Admin Meeting	7 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	8 4:15—7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Adu
12 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship 6:30 Leaders Dessert Mtg.	13 7:00 Church Council	14 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	15 4:15—7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Adu
19 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship Consecration Sunday	20	21 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	22 4:15—7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Adu
26 9:00 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary Worship	27	28 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	29 4:15—7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Adu

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	4
15 Alt Choir	9 5:45 First Ringers	10	11 9-3 pm Card Making Fellowship Hall
15 Alt Choir	16 1:15 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	17	18
15 Alt Choir	23 5:45 First Ringers	24	25
15 Alt Choir	30 5:45 First Ringers	31	

CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Administrative Ministry reluctantly accepted the resignation of our custodian, Natalie Harmison, effective September 19. We thank Natalie for her time with us and wish her well in her new position at CEFCU. We are now in search of a part-time custodian (15 hours per week). Applications and job duties are available in the office for anyone with an interest.



AUGUST 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$15,672.57	\$125,380.56
Budget Expense	\$17,414.05	\$139,312.40
Income	\$15,788.52	\$133,893.01
Expenses	\$14,541.94	\$131,409.01

LOGOS THEMES 2014-2015

SEPTEMBER

- 7 - Rally Day
- 10 - Sundae Wednesday
6:00 staff & families
- 17 - Welcome to LOGOS
- 24 - Joint Event (4:30-7:00)
at Rock Springs
(Food Challenge)

SEPTEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2014

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

OCTOBER

- 1 - Guten Tag
- 8 - Take Me Out to the Ballgame
- 15 - Parlez-vous Francais?
- 22 - NO LOGOS
- 29 - Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER

- 5 - NASCAR Night
- 12 - Honoring Our Veterans
- 19 - Thankful Hearts
- 26 - NO LOGOS

NOVEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2014

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

DECEMBER

- 3 - Crazy Hats
- 10 - Happy Birthday Jesus
- 14 - Christmas Pageant
- 17 - NO LOGOS
- 24 - NO LOGOS
- 31 - NO LOGOS

JANUARY

- 7 - LOGOS (Staff?)
- 14 - Opposites
- 21 - Board Games
- 28 - Super Bowl

JANUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2015

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

FEBRUARY

- 4 - Animal Friends
- 11 - NO LOGOS
- 18 - Ash Wednesday
- 25 - Hooray for Hollywood

MARCH

- 4 - Colors of the Rainbow
- 11 - Spuds 'n Suds
- 18 - NO LOGOS
- 25 - March Madness

MARCH 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2015

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

APRIL

- 1 - Autograph T's
- 8 - FINAL Banquet

TENTATIVE

Butter Braid/Show Me Dough Fundraiser
October 8 - November 12
(delivery 11/24 - pick-up 5:30-6:15pm)

LOGOS meets 4:45 - 7:15pm, unless otherwise noted.

Youth Activities

Youth Can Collection Campaign

The YOUTH are still collecting aluminum cans to raise money for Youth Activities. Your can contributions help us raise approximately \$200 a year, which is very helpful.

Please continue to donate your aluminum cans in the designated area behind the Church. Thank you for your continued support of the YOUTH.

LOGOS is BACK

LOGOS is Back!!! We started our fourteenth fun, faith-filled year on September 17, with a staff of 30 dedicated volunteers and 12 children/youth registered at this time. All children and youth in first through twelfth grades are invited and encouraged to participate. We meet most Wednesday nights through April 8, from 4:45 until 7:15. We held a joint training event with Westminster and Mt Zion Presbyterian churches and 13 of our staff attended. Thank-you to Devon and Malone Moretti for helping with the child care duties that day.

Our *Sundae Wednesday* event (meet/greet/register/eat ice cream) was attended by 17 of our staff and 5 of our families. September 24 meet jointly at Rock Springs with the LOGOS programs of Westminster and Mt Zion Presbyterian churches for an evening of fellowship, fun and food. We will have our 2nd annual "friendly competition" of collecting non-perishable food items which will be donated to Northeast Community Fund in honor of World Food Day. Thanks to Outreach Ministry for partnering with us and delivering the food items to Rock Springs. Our Butter Braid/Show Me Dough fundraiser will run October 8 through November 12, with pick-up on November 24. We are very blessed to serve God and First Church in this way.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship—Ladies toured the North Fork Museum for our September meeting. If you haven't been there for some time, you are encouraged to go see it. It's Wonderful and full of Lincoln Memorabilia plus the original Old Court House, etc. in the outdoors along with other buildings—A \$2.00 donation is well worth it. A dinner at the Main Hanger ended a great day.

Women's Fellowship will be meeting at the church for our October 17th gathering. Ruth DeBruine will be taking us on their recent trip to Alaska and Europe. You won't want to miss this. The meeting will be at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Talk to Martha Crookshank, Ellen Starace or Darla Weltmer and let us know if you can attend.

The Decatur Area Church Women United

The Decatur Area Church Women United will meet on Monday, October 13, at 9:00 AM at the Grace United Methodist Church, 901 N. Main St. This is our Representatives Meeting and Bible Study. Refreshments are served at 9:00 and the business meeting and Bible Study.

The Bible Study is led by Polly Bilyeu leading us to World Community Day, which will be a celebration on Nov. 7th, at 1:00 PM hosted by the New Salem Baptist Church 340 W. Wood Street.

All are welcome to attend the Representatives Meeting and the World Community Day.

Contact Darla Weltmer, 877-7008 for further information.



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. Sarah Kahila
5. Stephen Hill
6. Todd Clark
 Alfreda Tribout
7. Don Merritt
17. Ronald Palmer
19. Bobbie Taylor
20. Frank Smith
21. Marilyn Jordan
22. Amy Leman
 Don Moster
24. Robert Ruehrup
 Christina Huckile
26. Mary Beck
28. Tyler Brownfield
 Tracy Johnson
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
7. Charles & Ann Stringer
10. Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski
11. Mark & Susan Daley
12. Everett & Shirley Kuhn
20. John & Ashley Lofland
21. Don & Debbie Moster
22. Carl & Rikki Brady
23. Robert & Betty Henry
30. Stephen & Jamie Hill



FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 5

LITURGIST: Chuck Zweck
FLOWERS: Homer & Nancy
Leoucis
COFFEE:
USHERS/GREETER: Gary & Pat
Weiss, Sandi Pleasants, Jerry
Scherer

OCTOBER 12

LITURGIST: Marilee Gordon
FLOWERS: Ev & Shirley Kuhn
COFFEE:
USHERS/GREETER: Frank &
Shelly Smith, Jim & Jodi Baldwin

OCTOBER 19

LITURGIST: Judi Carpenter
FLOWERS: Jerry & Peggy Ruff
COFFEE:
USHERS/GREETER: Kristin
Hargrove, Dave & Marlene Gant,
Ev Kuhn

OCTOBER 26

LITURGIST: Paul DeBruine
FLOWERS: Carl & Rikki Brady
COFFEE:
USHERS/GREETER: Ted &
Darby Mitchell, Sheila Mannweiler,
Elizabeth Scherer

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 5

USHER/GREETER: Sandy
Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy
Harmison

OCTOBER 12

USHER/GREETER: Wes
Pietsch
REFRESHMENTS: Wes Pietsch

OCTOBER 19

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

OCTOBER 26

USHER/GREETER: Anna
Waller
REFRESHMENTS: Anna Waller



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Children's Ministry is requesting donations for our Operation Christmas Child program. Donations may include: Toys like dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls. School supplies like pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books. Non-liquid hygiene items like toothbrushes, bar soap, and combs, and washcloths, etc. Accessories like t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches. flashlights (with extra batteries). Please bring your donations to Fellowship Hall and place them in a box labeled Operation Christmas Child.

PLAYMATES PRESCHOOL

We are excited for another school year at Playmates! I first came to Playmates as a parent over 10 years ago and then started teaching the 4's class about 4 years ago. I am thrilled to be taking on the position of director. We have 11 kids in our 4's class and so we hired Kim Colbert as our teacher's assistant. She has been a Playmates parent also. Alfreda Tribout returns as our 3's teacher.

We have our visit to the fire station coming up on Oct. 9th, which is always fun for the kids. You can check out pictures and see what other activities are going on at the preschool on our Facebook page. Find us and see what's happening!

Amy Miller