

# Congregational Comments

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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**

***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 4<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.

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!!

**Come join us October 11 - Consecration Sunday.** We’ll offer and dedicate our best to God as an expression of our gratitude for God’s bountiful goodness. 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.

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 of our life sucking life-style 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.

**Come experience God's love in worship** and Christian Education - Sundays at

**9:00 AM** for our Traditional Service *and Sunday School for our children* and

**11:00 AM** for our Contemporary Service *and Sunday School for our children*

**10:00 AM** *there are creative, faith growing Adult Bible Study opportunities. At*

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

Come and grow with us!  
*Pastor Dave*

## **Our Sympathy**

**We offer our love and prayers** to the family of Matt Hicks, who passed from this life to life eternal in Jesus Christ.

Matt was the uncle of Sheila Mannweiler and the brother of June Coleman as well as many other family relations and friends. Matt's Memorial Service celebrating his life was held September 12, 2015, at Graceland Fairlawn Cemetery.

We give thanks for Matt's life and that he is with Christ in Eternal Life. We remember Matt's family with our love and caring support and we pray God's comforting spirit be with all who loved him..



## FOODS RESOURCE BANK

I am sorry to announce there will not be a Harvest Celebration in the field this year.

The crop is growing and will be harvested in the next few weeks. At another date our congregation will select a sustainable food program to receive the proceeds of our growing project.

If you would like to make a donation for the cost of the inputs of our growing project corn crop, envelopes are available in the pews. Checks may be made to First Congregational United Church of Christ and marked "FRB" in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us to help others to learn to feed themselves and experience the dignity and pride in doing so.

### **REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR AND VISIT MEMBERS WHO ARE IN NURSING HOMES**

#### **Primrose Retirement Community**

Claude Young—Room 228

Lois Shelton—Room 132

#### **Imboden Gardens**

Harriette Horn—Room 120

#### **Keystone**

Carolyn Jones—Room 216

#### **Vonderlieth Living Center, Mt. Pulaski, IL**

Alice Roach

#### **Fair Havens Christian Home**

Al Wilson—Room 425

#### **Evergreen Place**

Mary Lou Phipps— Room 333



# WINTER WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, if church services are cancelled, the decision will be made by 6:00am on Sunday mornings. A message will be posted on the church telephone system no later than 7:00am. To check the message, call 877-2216. After the recorded greeting plays, press "5" for general announcements.

## Lost

Playmates Preschool is missing a 3 foot stuffed penguin. "Lily" is on loan from Mrs. Miller's daughter, Kate, who loves her very much. Lily's return would be much appreciated. If located, just leave her in the office.



# MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to these volunteers who helped deliver Meals on Wheels the week of August 31 – September 4:

Sharon Burbes  
Peggy Druessel  
Kristin Hargrove  
Ev and Shirley Kuhn  
Gary and Pat Weiss

Tom and Paula Cordts  
Dave and Marlene Gant  
Bill and Alice Huebner  
Gerry and Peggy Ruff  
Charles Zweck

Meals on Wheels is continually recruiting volunteers to help with the program. First Congregational UCC provides volunteers to deliver meals one week in May and another week in September. Volunteers work in teams of two and are provided excellent delivery instructions. Meals are picked up at Decatur Memorial Hospital between 10:00 and 10:30 AM and the delivery routes take about an hour to complete. 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. Sue Bunselmeyer will call on you to arrange a day for you to help with this mission. Thank you.

## THANK YOU FROM BREAKFAST CREW

The Breakfast Crew thanks all the church members who stepped forward to serve during Fellowship Hour in our absence. Thank you God's Busy Hands, Clarence and Carolyn Elliott, Marlene Gant, Emery Bunselmeyer, Tom and Paula Cordts, and Rob and Kathy Moore. We truly appreciate your filling in to feed the church while we were away.

Helen Johnson, Alfreda Tribout and Sue Bunselmeyer

## THANK YOU

THANK YOU for the blessing of your love and support through calls, emails, cards and prayers during my recent mini-stroke and recovery. I can't begin to tell you how much your thoughtfulness means to me! You are definitely the hands and feet of Jesus. Sincerely, Marsha Mower

# LOGOS

**LOGOS' Butter Braids and Show Me Dough Cookies/Pizza Fund-raiser begins on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at LOGOS.**

⇒ Orders will be taken October 7 - November 11. Payment must be made at the time of ordering.

**Make checks payable to:** First Congregational UCC-LOGOS

⇒ Pickup of items will be on Tuesday, November 24, 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

- ◆ Butter Braids (\$14.00) are 22 oz. pastries in the flavors of: Cinnamon, Cherry, Cream Cheese, Strawberry Cream Cheese and Blueberry Cream Cheese. (Discounted 3-packs and 6-packs are available, too!) Butter Braid Roll Packs are available in Apple Cinnamon, Blueberry and Caramel, with 3 rolls per pack.
- ◆ Show Me Dough Cookies (\$17.00/\$16.00) are 40 pre-portioned cookie dough, ready to bake, in flavors of: M&M's Candies, White Chocolate Macadamia Nut/ Chunky Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Peanut Butter and Snickerdoodle.
- ◆ Show Me Dough Pizzas (\$18.00) are 2 delicious full-size 11' pizzas in each box, ready to bake, in flavors of: Four Cheese, Ultimate Pepperoni, Meat Lovers and BBQ Chicken.

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 11, 18 & 25 and November 1 & 8 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b> <b>Contemporary</b>			
<b>4</b> <b>Stewardship</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>3rd Consecration</b> <b>Lay Speaker</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>7</b> <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:30 Cho</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Consecration</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b> <b>5:30 Admin</b> <b>7:00 Property</b>	<b>13</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>14</b> <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:00 Cho</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b> <b>Contemporary</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:00 Worship/</b> <b>Music Ministry</b>  <b>7:00 Church</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 Cho</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:00 Traditional</b> <b>10:00 Fellowship</b> <b>Hour</b> <b>11:00</b> <b>Contemporary</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 God's Busy</b> <b>Hands</b> <b>7:00 AA: Al-anon</b> <b>8:00 AA</b>	<b>28</b> <b>4:45-7:15</b> <b>7:00 Cho</b>



	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	<b>1</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>8</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>15</b> <b>1:15 Book Club</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 AM –1:00 PM</b> <b>AA in F.H.</b> <b>Caria Spitzer</b>
<b>oir</b>	<b>22</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>5 LOGOS</b> <b>oir</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Playmates</b> <b>Halloween Party</b> <b>5:45 First Ringers</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 25<sup>th</sup> will be our **Halloween Children's Social** and Costume Parade! Wear your costume to church for the beginning of 1st Service and **Trick or Treat** in Fellowship Hall at 10:15. 2<sup>nd</sup> Service children are invited to come to church early at 10:15 for Trick or treating and our social time and then wear their costumes to 2<sup>nd</sup> Service!

## **AUGUST 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>Aug 15</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Budget Income</b>	\$17,753.08	\$142,024.64
<b>Budget Expense</b>	\$17,437.57	\$139,500.56
<b>Income</b>	\$17,287.15	\$141,625.82
<b>Expenses</b>	\$14,624.40	\$127,737.01

# 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 in 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 Giving 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 or 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.

Church President, Darby Mitchell

# NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 4th supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible.

Prayerfully consider a donation on October 4th.

## **Our Sympathy**

Our sympathy goes out to Toni Reifsteck and her family on the death of her husband and our former pastor, Rev. Wallace Reifsteck. Wally passed away on Wednesday, September, 9. Pastor Wally serviced as minister of First Church from 1992 until his retirement in 2000.

During Wally's long ministry, he served churches in both the Eastern and Western Associations as well as having had an active role on the Conference level. After his retirement, he had an active role in the Lincoln, IL church.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

## THANK YOU.....

**Rally Day on September 13<sup>th</sup> was a great success!**

Our ministries stepped up to create a fun afternoon for approx. 60 of our children of all ages! A tasty sandwich and salads luncheon was prepared by the LOGOS and Administrative ministries. The Amazing Dudley (Justin) Magician performed a fun, inclusive, Christian themed batch of illusions and tricks that we all enjoyed! He has been penciled in for next year to bring a new show. Thanks to Joe Moretti and our Youth for bringing a few new activities : Giant Jenga (Adult Program), Giant KerPlunk and a Water Balloon launch! We also had our favorite Plunko (Dave Mahr/Property) and Ring Toss (Pastor Dave). Bingo is an all church favorite with Worship Music Ministry providing prizes. Last but not least, Jodi Baldwin and the Pastoral Care Ministry (along with volunteer bakers) gave out numerous plates of cupcakes and cookies at our revised version of the Cake Walk.

We hope everyone enjoyed! Thanks to Robert Reuhrup and Debbie Moster for helping me plan and execute! Please pass on your thoughts for next year to one of us! Carol Robertson

**Fall Sunday School Kicked off on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** here at First Congregational. We wish all our church children a successful new school year! They grow up so fast!

**Our Staff includes:** Katie Hammon teaching our 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children, Erica Moster and Susan Daley co-teaching our Pre-school through Kindergarden with assistance this year from Christina Clark, Mark Bunselmeyer, Debbie Moster, and Carol Robertson. Also, Mindy Bunselmeyer and Stacey Carter are returning for the Children's Time Messages. Katy Koyak and Devon Moretti will be continuing in the Nursery this year.

**New this year**, will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Sunday School lesson taught by **Missy Boldizar**. She will teach a lesson in the lounge during the Sermon portion of the service.



*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. 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
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
30. Stephen & Jamie Hill



**FIRST SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**OCTOBER 4**

**LITURGIST:** Allen Gerhold  
**FLOWERS:** Gerry & Peggy Ruff  
**COFFEE:** Betty Henry, Kristin Hargrove  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Marilee Gordon, Gary Weiss, Ev Kuhn, Bill Huebner

**OCTOBER 11**

**LITURGIST:** Ellen Starace  
**FLOWERS:** Ev & Shirley Kuhn  
**COFFEE:** Lynn & Darla Weltmer  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Dave Carpenter, Sheila Mannweiler, Sandi Pleasants, Martha Crookshank

**OCTOBER 18**

**LITURGIST:** Bill Huebner  
**FLOWERS:** Ted & Darby Mitchell  
**COFFEE:** Betty Cummings  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Joe & Carol Robertson, Kristin Hargrove, Darla Weltmer

**OCTOBER 25**

**LITURGIST:** Bonnie Ruecker  
**FLOWERS:** Don & Dee Wenneker  
**COFFEE:** Sheila Mannweiler, June Coleman  
**USHERS/GREETER:** Sandi Pleasants, Jerry & Elizabeth Scherer, Jodi Baldwin

**SECOND SERVICE**  
**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**OCTOBER 4**

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

**OCTOBER 11**

**USHER/GREETER:** Mark & Jeanette Flenner  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Mark & Jeanette Flenner

**OCTOBER 18**

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

**OCTOBER 25**

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



