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

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Congregational Comments

Vol. 17 No 9: September 2012

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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.

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

FROM THE PASTOR

For just two minutes, I invite you to put down the smart phone, the iPad/tablet, the mouse, the TV remote, the Wii/game controller, the grocery list. Listen for a second, because there are good things happening this Fall at First Church that you need to know

about, so come December you aren't left saying, "How did I miss out on that???"

Now, I'm not saying you have to do all these things and be at all these great activities. Use your head and your heart. Ask yourself, "What can I do, where can I put my energy in these coming months that will: a) feed my spirit and my brain cells, b) renew my sense of joy and purpose, c) strengthen my sense of belonging to a wonderful faith community, d) help me figure out how I can better give of myself and my gifts in the process, e) any or all of the above?"

No, I can't promise all of that will magically happen these coming weeks, but I can promise there are plenty of opportunities for each of these to become a reality in your life. As we say during Holy Communion, "Come, for all things are ready and all are welcome." Here are some highlights, in no particular order:

- First, music. This is the perfect time to try out some aspect of the music ministry of the church: join the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, or our Praise Band, or simply try singing out more on Sunday morning. Nobody's giving out grades, it isn't a test – just let your heart sing!
- Second, look over all the options for worship at 9 and 11 am, Sunday School and Christian Education for all ages. Pray about them. Worship regularly and be nourished. Give in to that little nudge of the Holy Spirit and try one of the small group Bible Study classes. We have classes for all ages. No prior experience necessary! I heard it said, when it comes to Christian Education, we are all beginners, all our lives. Sundays at 10 AM you can also pick up delicious treats on your way to class or relax and visit with a friend in the Fellowship Hall. Look for details

about another Bible Study starting soon.

- Third children, youth, families, all First Church members and friends **check out our RALLY DAY Sept 9 1 PM.** Go ahead and write it in on your calendar, free food, fun games, awesome prizes, and a great time for visiting with your friends. Invite your neighbors, coworkers, classmates from school, friends family – everyone! **Come have a GREAT TIME at First Church!!**

- Fourth, don't forget the other great standing opportunities provided by our LOGOS youth program, Adult Ministries, Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries; all of these and more are real gems in our midst.

Sept. 12, our LOGOS program begins again with lots of opportunities for kids and adults.

- Fifth on **Sept 15th 1 PM will be our Harvest Celebration** at the Bunselmeyer's Farm. Join us as we dedicate the harvest of our FRB plot to God and a Food Resource Bank Project to fight hunger. Come share in great faith, fellowship and fun (including combine rides).

Right now is a great time to invite someone to First Congregational UCC.

The #1 reason people start going to a church is that someone invited them. Not a minister, usually, but a friend, a coworker, a family member, a neighbor. And most of us know people who would be surprised to learn that there is a church like ours, and who would welcome an invitation. Thank you for all you do to create such a warm, accepting, and vibrant place!

More than anything, I want you to find what tools you need to nurture your spirituality, deepen your sense of community, and honor God's call in your life. So whether it's learning new musical skills, discovering new spiritual understandings, volunteering your time to help others, please take these few moments to peruse this newsletter and the church website and make some choices. The old saying really is true about your faith life, *the more you put into it, the more you receive.*

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.

This is an exciting time of new opportunities and growth at First Church!. Come and be part of it!

Pastor Dave



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. Janice Kahila
Pam Mueller
Andrew Jenner
2. Katie Jenner
3. Patty Stemple
5. Helen Johnson
Everett Kuhn
7. Doris Nees
9. Rikki Brady
Nathan Harmison
Roger Metzger
10. Gehrig Bunselmeyer
Courtney Settles
12. Tim Gibson
13. Marie Bauer
Thomas Cordts
Patrick Malone
Malone Moretti
14. Ronald Brownfield
Nicholas La u er
15. Larry Coopridger
16. Brandi Brown
17. Carolyn Jones
18. Kathy Moore
Julie Mower
19. Kyle Brownfield
Tommy Robertson
20. Shelly Smith
21. Alyssa Baker
Sherry Palmer
Brandon Janvrin
22. Katie Hill
Ian Dabrowka
Thomas Painter

23. Aidan Seitz
24. Olivia Wernecke
26. Alexandra Jaberg
Deegan Martin
27. Phyllis Campbell
Ashley Lofland
29. Kevin Knop
Lauren Druessel
30. Beverly Capshaw
David Dragstrem
Brianna Senger

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. Charles & Alfreda Tribout
4. Gary & Kathy Ann Baker
7. Homer & Nancy Leoucis
James & Tracy Fisher
8. Jerry & Patty Stemple
17. Eddie & Teresa Goller
18. Kirk & Kristin Bainbridge
Ken & Vicki Dabrowka
19. Howard & Nancy Beede
22. David & Pat Mahr

SEPTEMBER

FIRST SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2

LITURGIST: Bonnie Ruecker
FLOWERS: Betty Cummings
COFFEE: Allen & Ann Gerhold
USHERS/GREETER: Chuck Zweck, Marilee Gordon, Norma Lingenfelter & Don Wenneker

SEPTEMBER 9

LITURGIST: Mindy Bunselmeyer
FLOWERS: Ron & Bonnie Ruecker
COFFEE: Mary Hamman & Sandi Pleasants
USHERS/GREETER: Jodi Baldwin, Ted & Darby Mitchell & Everett Kuhn

SEPTEMBER 16

LITURGIST: Darla Weltmer
FLOWERS: Ned & Sandy Cummings
COFFEE: Todd & Christine Clark
USHERS/GREETER: Jerry & Liz Scherer, Sheila Mannweiler & Sandi Pleasants

SEPTEMBER 23

LITURGIST: Paul DeBruine
FLOWERS: Homer & Nancy Leoucis
COFFEE: Jerry & Peggy Ruff
USHERS/GREETER: Gary & Pat Weiss, Ted & Darby Mitchell

SEPTEMBER 30

LITURGIST: Marilee Gordon
FLOWERS:
COFFEE: Frank & Shelly Smith
USHERS/GREETER: Don & Dee Wenneker, Marlene & Dave Gant

SECOND SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2

USHER/GREETER: Sandy Harmison
REFRESHMENTS: Sandy Harmison

SEPTEMBER 9

USHER/GREETER: Mike Koyak
REFRESHMENTS: Mike Koyak

SEPTEMBER 16

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

SEPTEMBER 23

USHER/GREETER: Betty Wheatley
REFRESHMENTS: Betty Wheatley

SEPTEMBER 30

USHER/GREETER:
REFRESHMENTS:



THANK YOU

Dear friends at First Congregational

In February I started an unexpected chemotherapy journey, which has now ended and all is well. Dave and I appreciate so much the e-mails, cards, thoughts and prayers during this time. Thank you all and God Bless.

Marge Hansen

Book Club

Are you interested in joining a book club? Adult Program Ministry is looking for those who would enjoy sharing their love of reading with others. We will have a brief meeting, just to see who might be interested, on September 9, in between services at 10:15. The meeting will be brief, so as not to interfere with Bible study. If you are unable to attend, but still are interested in joining, leave a note in the Adult Program mail box or call Alfreda Tribout, 877-9896.



LOGOS

Mark your calendars for LOGOS at First Church! *Registration* will take place during Rally Day on Sunday, September 9. Our *Staff Meet and Greet* will be Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. LOGOS *begins* on Wednesday, September 19. We have staff positions open for those who feel called to participate in this wonderful program.

LOGOS is a mid-week, inter-generational, relationship building program for children and youth in 1st through 12th grades. LOGOS meets on most Wednesdays from September 19 through April 17, 4:15-7:15 p.m. There are four parts to this weekly ministry: *Bible Study* - where children and youth are nurtured into intelligent, obedient and biblically-informed discipleship; *Worship Skills* - an essential and central part of the Christian community where young people learn about worship and prepare to lead in the Sunday morning service of worship; *Recreation* - where young people are allowed to experience great fun at the expense of no one else; and *Family Time* - where young people are assigned to a table along with adults who act as "table parents" and experience being a part of the family of God over a shared meal.

We hope you will join us this year. If you have any questions, call 877-2216 or email m.mower@sbcglobal.net.

Summer Reading Program

What a fun time and a successful start to a wonderful program! We had an average of 7 kids each Monday for the months of June and July. We started each reading session with a story read out loud by Chuck Zweck, then the kids did 20 minutes of independent reading with their reading volunteer, followed by a snack and rewards for extra reading done during the week.

Each week kids were encouraged to take home books to help build their own library of books. Books were donated by Carol Robertson, Debbie Beal, Mark and Jeanette Flenner and Susan and Mark Daley. A special thank you to all the volunteers for reading or listening to our young readers – Carol Robertson, Jill Robertson, Susan Daley, Dee Wenneker, Mark and Jeanette Flenner, Ron Palmer, Sandy Harmison, Cathy Moore, Chuck Zweck, Pastor Dave, Bobbie Taylor, Pat Mahr and Mindy Bunselmeyer



Join the Youth Group

Youth Activities

BOOKS AND BITES

The Youth are having a Bake Sale and a used Book Sale to raise funds for next year's mission trip. Mark your calendar now and join us on Saturday, September 22, 2012, in Fellowship Hall any time between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to choose your intriguing reads and delicious treats.

How can you help this small but mighty group with another good cause? Clean out your bookshelves and share those great reads that others can enjoy. Purge, purge, purge and place your books to donate in the boxes in Fellowship Hall any time between now and September 15. Pick up service can be arranged for large donations. Contact Joe Moretti or any other member of the Youth Ministry or Youth Group.

Are you willing to bake some treats? Contact Joe Moretti or any other member of the Youth Ministry or Youth Group and let them know the Youth can count on your culinary talents to help supply our inventory of goodies to sell.



RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 9, 2012

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rally Day is always the first Sunday after Labor day and kicks off the Fall events and activities of the church. It's a great day of games, prizes, food, fun and fellowship. It's our church's "block party" on God.

All are welcome!



On behalf of all the ministries at our church, I want to invite you to come and enjoy the fun! Each ministry will be running an activity and sponsoring a gift basket to be awarded at the end of the event. As participants play the games or participate in events they are given a ticket to place in a can for the gift basket they would like to try to win.

2012 Rally Day needs your help! Please look at the following list, if there are any items that you are willing to donate or contribute to the 2012 Rally Day – please call or email Mindy Bunselmeyer. There will also be a sign up /poster in fellowship hall for these items as well.

To simply borrow to use the day of the event and return that day:

Shade tents or awnings

Consumable items that we would love to have donated to serve 100 people:

- Marshmallows
- Hot dogs
- Hot dog buns
- Single-serving bags of chips
- Mustard
- Ketsup
- Relish
- Crystal light lemonade
- Cookies
- Brownies
- 9 ounce plastic drink cups
- Napkins
- Plastic forks
- Plastic knives
- Paper plates
- Plastic grocery bags
- Cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, or any treat for the cake walk



FIRST RINGERS

First Ringers will begin fall rehearsal schedule on Thursday, September 13 at 5:45 pm.

DECATUR AREA CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Decatur Area Church Women United will meet on Monday, September 10th, at 9:00 AM, First Baptist Church, 1320 Arbor Road. Human Rights Celebration "Embracing our Oneness" will be celebrated. Participating Churches are Antioch Missionary Baptist, St. Peters AME., Westminster Presbyterian, First UMC., Church of the Brethren and Crestview Christian. Ida Brooks is the Chair for this Celebration. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, October 8th we will meet at Grace United Methodist Church, 901 N. Main Street at 9:00 for Representatives Meeting and Bible Study. Polly Bilyeu will lead the Bible Study entitled "Sights and Sounds of Harmony" leading us to World Community Day Abiding in Community which will be celebrated on Friday, Nov, 2nd at 1:00 at New Salem Baptist Church, 1415 N. Edward St.

Come and experience a gathering of Christian women. All are welcome at any of our meetings.

Darla D. Weltmer, President

JULY 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>July 12</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$15,739.17	\$110,174.19
Budget Expense	\$17,140.48	\$119,983.36
Income	\$21,434.25	\$120,110.55
Expenses	\$11,912.82	\$106,549.25



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

Join us for our seventh

Harvest Celebration Sunday, September 16

Harvest Blessing Service --1:00 PM

*Ride in the combine, visit with friends,
and help us celebrate the harvest
of our corn growing project.
Bring a lawn chair and dress for the
weather.*

To locate FRB growing project field, go 2 miles north of Forsyth on Highway 51; turn left (west) on Wise Road 2 more miles and follow signs to project site.





VBS 2012

July 22-26

Sunday through Thursday

6:00-8:30 p.m.

All Children age 3 through completed
5th grade

Matthew 19:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Our VBS 2012 goal was to share the Word of God with as many children as possible this summer. We touched the lives of 52 children (32 families) and 47 youth and/or adult volunteers this year, along with the involvement of 3 ministries of the church. We had an exciting and action-packed week! Many of you volunteered to be part of **Sky** and we thank you for your willingness to participate. We offered meals for our volunteers each evening.

All school age children participated in *Up & Away Sing & Play* where we met Pat, Orville, Scout, Apollo and Rockette as they helped us with our daily Bible Point, Story and Verse. They also participated in *Fly Away Finale* with *Spotlight VBS* each evening. The **Flight** Crews rotated between Wild Blue Bible Adventures, Sky High Movie & Missions, All-Star Games, Skydive Diner and Imagination Station. Our Preschool Treehouse children joined in *Up & Away Sing & Play* and had their own self-contained program in their own area of the building, with their very own *Fly Away Finale* each evening. On Thursday evening, families joined us for a family Mission Craft, Skydive Diner, the final Chadder's movie episode and our final *Fly Away Finale* with *Spotlight VBS*.

Up & Away Sing & Music CDs were available for learning the VBS songs. If you did not purchase your copy, you may still get one for \$6.00 so you can continue singing these wonderful songs throughout the year!

Operation Kid-to-Kid was our mission project again this year. Most children don't understand the value of money - it's not a tangible "need" for them. But they are familiar with being outside in the summer and the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes. Our children have been sprayed, slathered, and soaked with insect repellent by their parents to avoid these pesky bites. But imagine if avoiding mosquito bites was a matter of life and death! This year's mission project gave us the opportunity to bring in monetary donations of any amount that will be sent to World Vision to purchase mosquito nets for children in Mali, Africa. We placed our donations under our mosquito net display in the sanctuary and blessed them at our final Firefly Finale. VBS families got the opportunity to share God's boundless love for his children by creating Friendship Cards to send to the children who will receive mosquito nets. THANKS to our VBS participants and our congregation, we will be sending a check for \$1050 to purchase 175 mosquito nets!!!! Thank you to Outreach Ministry for purchasing the project supplies.

We were truly blessed to have a WONDERFUL spirit-filled week again this year! We were blessed by many monetary contributions, as well as time & talents. We could not have done it without the support and prayers of our church family. Thank you and God Bless you all!

Co-Directors: Marsha Mower and Maureen Ruski



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	3 LABOR DAY	4 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	5 7:30 Choir	6	7	8
9 1:00 Rally Day LOGOS Registra- tion during Rally Day	10 6:00 Worship/ Music Ministry 7:00 Super Monday	11 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	12 6:30 LOGOS Staff Meet & Greet 7:30 Choir	13 5:45 First Ringers	14	15
16 1:00 FRB Harvest Celebration	17 7:00 Church Council	18 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	19 4:15- 7:15 LOGOS 1st-12th grades 7:30 Choir	20 5:45 First Ringers	21	22 8:30-2:00 Youth Books & Cookie Sale
23 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 Contemporary	24	25 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	26 4:15- 7:15 LOGOS 1st-12th grades 7:30 Choir	27 5:45 First Ringers	28 Wedding Rehearsal	29 Wedding
30 9:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 Contemporary						