

Congregational Comments

Vol. 18 No 9: September 2013

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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

Our children, teens and adults (all of us) are being bombarded daily with powerful messages. *Buy this, fear that, depend on this, trust this drug or cosmetic, this car will make you better, don't trust those people, and even worse, hate them* They are getting plenty of negative messages about what not to believe in.

As a community of faith, we are holding a sacred duty and an awesome opportunity in our hands. Through our Sunday School and LOGOS classes, our fellowship groups, Bible Studies, worship and outreach, we learn and we teach that there is a much larger vision – God's vision and love. Something to believe in and belong to...a community of Jesus Christ.

Here are some highlights of opportunities at First Church to grow and learn, to be a part of community, to heal, to worship and sing, to help others 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. 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. Our children's Sunday School classes will begin Sept. 15th. 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! **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.
- **Third**, children, youth, families, all First Church members and friends **check out our RALLY DAY Sept 8 1 PM.** Go ahead and write it in on your calendar. There'll be snacks, fun games, 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's Rally Day!!**

• **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. 11 has been suggested for our LOGOS program's registration and Sept 18th** a suggested beginning with lots of opportunities for kids and adults. **Please watch the bulletin or call the Church Office or check our website for the finalized dates.**

• **Fifth**, on our FRB **Harvest Celebration** at the Bunselmeyer's Farm is being discussed. Join us as we dedicate the harvest of our FRB plot to God and support a Foods Resource Bank Project to fight hunger. Come share in great faith, fellowship and fun. **Please watch the bulletin or call the Church Office or check our website for the final details.**

•

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

Illinois Conference Women's Retreat

Last year, Debby Beal and I attended the Women's Conference at Pilgrim Park in October. The accommodations were nice and the food was good. The event itself was uplifting and fun. Pilgrim Park in October is a beautiful sight. Please consider going this year on Oct 4 and 5. I will be glad to drive if you would like to ride along. You can register online at www.il-odm.org or see me for a hard copy registration form. Below is the description as it appears in the Outdoor Ministry brochure:

Illinois Conference Women's Retreat

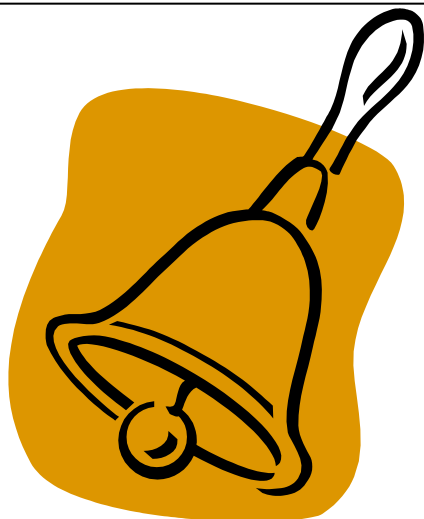
The Illinois Conference Women's Retreat is a 23-hour break from the many demands on our lives. Don't miss this chance to spend a relaxing get-away to renew your spirit while engaging God's Holy Spirit. Make new friends and/or bring friends from home with you. By the time you leave on Saturday afternoon for home you will find yourself refreshed and rejuvenated.

175 Illinois Conference October 4-5 Pilgrim Park
Women's Retreat Carol Currier-Frighetto

Cost: \$103.00*

***\$10.00 DISCOUNT PER CAMPER** – To receive the discount, mailed registrations must be postmarked or online registrations must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the event.

Sandy Harmison



FIRST RINGERS

First ringers will begin this season's rehearsals on Thursday, September 5 at 5:45 pm. Bring your calendars and be prepared to do some cleaning of equipment.

Bette Lynn Faulkhauser

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Church Council will propose three changes to the Church Constitution and By-Laws at the Pre-Annual Meeting. One of these changes affects all ministries:

BY-LAWS—ARTICLE ii. NOMINATIONS

Present form:

2. Terms of office for all members of ministries is two years. Normally, a member is eligible to serve two consecutive terms in the same ministry after which that member is ineligible to serve for one year in that ministry.

Replace with:

Ministry member will have two year terms that are renewable.

More information on all the proposed changes will appear closer to the Pre-Annual Meeting.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Due to a scheduling conflict, Decatur's Fire Chief will not be able to meet with us in October. He will, however, be available on September 13th.

The trip we had planned for traveling to Elkhart will now take place on October 11th. Brunch will be served at 9:30 a.m. and Chief Sekosky will speak at 10:00 a.m.

Chief Sekosky will be giving a power point presentation on what it is like to be a fireman and you will get an inside look at what takes place when they are fighting a fire.

We feel his presentation would be of interest to the men of the congregation too and they are invited and encouraged to join us for this meeting.



Kingdom Rock

Where Kids Stand
Strong for God

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 2013 goal was to share the Word of God with as many children as possible again this summer. We touched the lives of 34 children (23 families) and 46 youth and/or adult volunteers this year, along with the involvement of three ministries of the church. We had an exciting and action-packed week! Many of you volunteered to be part of **Kingdom Rock** and we thank you for your willingness to par-
ferred meals for each evening.

All school participated in *Sing Fanfare Finale VBS* each even-
rotated between ventures, Chad-
atre & Missions, Games, The Diner, and Imag-
Our Pip's Pre-
children joined in
and had their
contained pro-
own area of the



Sharon Burbes
As Queen Esther

age children par-
& *Play Rock* and
with *Spotlight*
ing. The Crews
Epic Bible Ad-
der's Royal The-
Tournament
King's Kitchen
ination Station.
school Palace
Sing & Play Rock
own self-
gram in their
building, with

their very own *Fanfare Finale* each evening. Each evening our fami-
lies were invited to join us in the sanctuary for our *Fanfare Finale*.
We reviewed the day's activities, sang some songs, and watched our

Spotlight VBS video.

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. We purchased "God's Love for You" Bible books, a kid-friendly Scripture piece written in Hindi that will be sent to children in India. Throughout the week, our VBS participants interacted with the Bible books. On Thursday evening, the books were personalized with pictures, notes, and drawings and we prayed for the recipients. The books were presented as an offering during the last *Fanfare Finale*. The books will be sent to Biblica to be shared with the hurting children of India. 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 and 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

Fellowship Hour Food

The Fellowship Hour cooks are taking a summer vacation. There will be no food on Sunday, August 25 or Sunday, September 1; however, you can still enjoy coffee and tea as you visit. Breakfast/brunch resumes on Sunday, September 8. Thank you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 Pastoral Card Sale	2	3 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	4 7:30 Cho
8 1:00 Rally Day	9 6:00 Worship/ Music 7:00 Super Monday	10 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	11 4:15 - 7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Cho
15	16 7:00 Church Council	17 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	18 4:15 - 7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Cho
22	23	24 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-anon 8:00 AA	25 4:15 - 7:15 LOGOS 7:30 Cho
29	30		

	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 Choir	5 5:45 First Ringers	6	7
15 Choir	12 5:45 First Ringers	13 10:00 Woman's Fellowship	14
15 Choir	19 1:00 Book Club 5:45 First Ringers	20	21 Work Day (Property Ministry)
15 Choir	26 5:45 First Ringers	27	28
			

THANK YOU

To the friends & members of First Congregational Church:

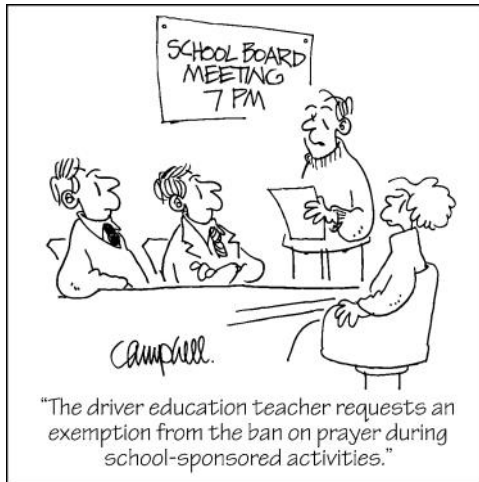
Thank you for the cards and kind words you expressed to me and our family after the death of my father and my aunt. We appreciated your thoughts and prayers.

Alice Huebner and Family



Thanks to everyone who made the day a little more bearable. All the cards, e-mails, food and prayers not to mention the support are cherished by our entire family

The Whitney Family



JULY 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>July 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$17,568.17	\$122,977.19
Budget Expense	\$17,685.50	\$123,798.50
Income	\$15,102.77	\$113,468.64
Expenses	\$10,098.02	\$105,919.54



ANGELS

Religious Explorations and
Discovery Group Discussion



Do angels really have
wings?

Do they protect people from harm?
Can people become angels after death?

Misconceptions about angels abound—in books, in movies
and on talk shows.

In eight intriguing studies, we will explore with you what the
Bible really says about angels, including their service to
God and their ministry to people.

Come join us every Sunday at 10:30 am in the Choir Room
starting September 8 for our study of angels.

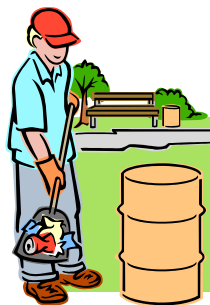
WORK DAY AT CHURCH

September 21st

8:30 am

Everyone is invited to come out on September 21 to help

Clean up, fix up, etc. at the church
There is enough work for everyone
Coffee and donuts will be available





Youth Activities

Youth Can Collection Campaign

Join the Youth Group

The Youth are collecting aluminum cans this summer to raise money for Youth Activities. We are going to make it easy for you to help us. All you have to do is drop off your aluminum cans behind the church on Sunday morning, and the Youth will store them until we get enough to take in. Put your cans in a plastic or a paper bag and place them in the designated area behind the church. The Youth will do the rest. We want to thank you in advance for helping to support the Youth of First Congregational United Church of Christ.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The Youth are now on facebook. Do you want to keep up with what the Youth Group is doing? Like us on facebook to receive updates about all of our upcoming events, projects, missions, and activities! Stay informed and help us spread the word!

Find us and like us at [FCUCC Decatur Youth](#) .

Ready for a Relaxing Read?

Need a good book to cozy up with during the upcoming winter months? Need a treat to snack on and satisfy that sweet tooth? Mark your calendar: The Youth's Second Annual Book and Bake Sale is Saturday, September 28th from 8 am – 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Stock your reading pile and your cookie jar with one-stop shopping.

If you have books to donate, please place them in one of the collection boxes that are located around the Church. Clean out those cluttered bookshelves and help the Youth Group.

Are you more of a baker than a bibliophile? We are also seeking donations of small baked goods (especially those mini bread loaves which were such a hot seller last year). Contact Joe Moretti ajmo40@comcast.net or 217/433-0522) if you will be one of our Baking Saints. Thank you for your continued support of our Church's Youth.

It's LOGOS Time!!!

Plans are underway for our thirteenth year of LOGOS at First Church. It promises to be another fun, faith-filled year and it won't be the same without YOU.

- All children and youth in first through twelfth grades are invited and encouraged to participate in LOGOS. We meet most Wednesday nights September 18 through April 9, from 4:15 until 7:15.
- Adults are invited to listen for God's call to you to serve this wonderful ministry in some way.
- There will be a *Sundae Wednesday* gathering at 6:00 on September 11 for ALL volunteer staff and ALL families of children/ youth. We will share specifics of the program, go over important information applicable to all participants, answer questions, introduce staff, register children and youth, and best of all - EAT ICE CREAM SUNDAES! Please plan to join us.

If you have any questions, please contact co-directors Marsha Mower and/or Maureen Ruski.

LOGOS THEMES 2013-2014

<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>8 - Rally Day 11 - Sundae Wednesday 6:00 staff & families 18 - Child of God 25 - Crazy Hats</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2013</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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						<p>OCTOBER 2013</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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			<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>2 - Fall Follies 9 - Batter Up 16 - Joint Event at Rock Springs (proposed) 4:30-7:00 23 - NO LOGOS 30 - Trunk or Treat</p>
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<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>6 - Celebrate Veterans 13 - Homeless and Hungry 20 - Give Thanks 27 - NO LOGOS</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2013</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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	<p>DECEMBER 2013</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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					<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>4 - Christmas Around the World 11 - A LOGOS Christmas 18 - NO LOGOS 25 - NO LOGOS</p>
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**Butter Braid Fundraiser PROPOSED
October 9 – November 13**



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 uer
15. Larry Cooprider
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
8. Jerry & Patty Stemple
17. Eddie & Teresa Goller
18. Kirk & Kristin Bainbridge
Ken & Vicki Dabrowka
19. Howard & Nancy Beede
22. David & Pat Mahr
29. Chase & Ashley Brown

SEPTEMBER

FIRST SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 1

LITURGIST: Dee Wenneker
FLOWERS: Homer & Nancy
Leoucis

COFFEE: Peggy Druessel &
Bonnie Ruecker

USHERS/GREETER: Marilee
Gordon, Gary & Pat Weiss & Bill
Huebner

SEPTEMBER 8

LITURGIST: Carol Robertson

FLOWERS: Betty Cummings

COFFEE: Ned & Sandy
Cummings

USHERS/GREETER: Alexis
Fankhauser, Everett Kuhn, Jodi
Baldwin, Kristin Hargrove

SEPTEMBER 15

LITURGIST: Mindy Bunselmeyer

FLOWERS: Howard & Nancy
Beede

COFFEE: Dave & Marlene Gant

USHERS/GREETER: Sheila
Mannweiler, Dave & Judi
Carpenter, Frank Smith

SEPTEMBER 22

LITURGIST: Paul DeBruine

FLOWERS: Ned & Sandy
Cummings

COFFEE:

USHERS/GREETER: Bill & Martha
Crookshank, Jodi Baldwin & Carl
Jacobs

SEPTEMBER 29

LITURGIST: Janet Tiede

FLOWERS: Ron & Bonnie
Ruecker

COFFEE:

USHERS/GREETER: Dave &
Marlene Gant, Tom & Paula Cordts

SECOND SERVICE
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 1

USHER/GREETER: Missy
Boldizar

REFRESHMENTS: Missy
Boldizar

SEPTEMBER 8

USHER/GREETER: Ruby
Voyles/Shirley Zimmerman

REFRESHMENTS: Ruby
Voyles/Shirley Zimmerman

SEPTEMBER 15

USHER/GREETER: Sandy
Harmison

REFRESHMENTS: Sandy
Harmison

SEPTEMBER 22

USHER/GREETER: Wes Pietsch

REFRESHMENTS: Wes Pietsch

SEPTEMBER 29

USHER/GREETER: Jeanette
Flenner

REFRESHMENTS: Jeanette
Flenner



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2013

The officers for Women's Fellowship met on March 14th to discuss plans for the rest of the year. The decision was made to schedule as many of our activities for the second Friday of each month as we can. The following schedule is TENTATIVE, but we hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us. **Women's Fellowship is open to all women.**

Please note the program change. Due to a scheduling conflict Fire Chief Sekosky will give his presentation on Friday, September 13 instead of October 11th.

We will travel to Elkhart on Friday, October 11th. The leaves should be in full color by then and this is a beautiful fall drive.

September 13th - We will have brunch at 9:30 on the 13th and Decatur's Fire Chief, Matt Sekosky will give a presentation.

October 11th - We will travel to Elkhart, IL to have lunch and shop at the Wild Hare/Horse Feathers restaurant and antique store. This is a beautiful drive in the fall when the leaves are turning.

November 8th – Bette Fankhauser will present a program on the beautiful bells that we are fortunate to have at our church.

December 13th – We will have our annual Christmas tea on this day.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. If there is something you would like for the group to do, please share your thoughts and ideas.