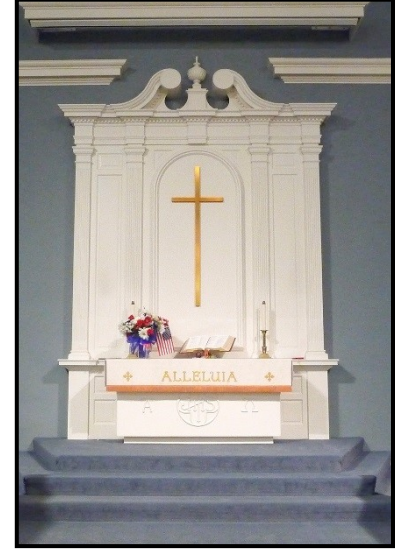


Congregational Comments



Vol. 24 No. 9: September 2019

Important Contacts in the Church

Pastor: Rev. Jan Johnson, 309-267-3260
 Email: jancastegnarojohnson@comcast.net
Prayer Chain: Bette Fankhauser, 877-6723
 Email: blfankhauser@comcast.com
Playmates Preschool: Interim Director: Alfreda Tribout
Newsletter Editor: Bill Huebner, 876-1446, cell 855-7677
 Email: wshuebner.editor@prodigy.net

Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
 Decatur, IL 62526
 Telephone: 877-2216
 Email: firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.firstchurchdecatur.org
 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
 11:15-11:40 am Sunday School

Our Mission is to worship God,
 Welcome all who seek God, and
 Express our faith in our actions.

Inside this issue:

A Note from Pastor Jan	2	Confirmation Reunion	6	Happenings	10
General Information	3	Children & Youth Activities	7	Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
Church History	4	Growing Hope	8	First Church Sunday Morning	12
General Information	5	Finance Notes	9	Calendar	13

A Note from Pastor Jan



September Scriptures

September Scriptures begin taking us to the end of the church's liturgical year. We will continue in Luke for the entire month. September 1st the theme is "Open Table" and then we move into A New Identity for Faith Formation Sunday, followed by Growing in God's Love on Just Peace Sunday, continuing with Prayerful Living and ending the month with Surprising Investment for American Indian Ministry Sunday. The scriptures keep urging us forward in our faith and we would all do well to follow the Spirit's urging!

September is also Stewardship Month at FCUCC. We begin our Stewardship program in earnest as we ask the question: What Shall I Bring? A children's musical from a few decades ago asks the same question, only they sing, "What Shall I Give?". And they answer their question, singing, "I give my heart; I give my hands; I give my head; I give my home." And another song in that same musical sings: "My hands belong to you, Lord, my hands belong to you! My heart belongs to you, Lord, my heart belongs to you!" Out of the mouths of babes comes truth and faith that can put the adults in the congregation listening, to shame. As I remember the song, when the young boy finished singing it, there wasn't a dry eye in the house! Sometimes it takes young faith to touch our old souls and remind us that we are all children in God's eyes. It's that same faith that we had as children when we were less hardened, less busy, less distracted. For a few weeks in September we are going to hear testimonies from people in our congregation who will share some of their faith with us. They will speak about Gifts of Love, Word and Deed, and Gifts of Presence.

As we move through Labor Day and Homecoming/Confirmation Reunion and Stewardship, may our hearts be touched by all we hear and experience and may our lives respond to what we experience. Let your life reflect God's goodness!

Blessings of Autumn and Harvest!

Jan



General Information



Our Church Secretary, Jackie Hagan, Playing for the August 18 Church Service.

Church History

When our church was built in 1957, Paul and Wanta Breyfogle were members (Paul worked in Staley Management). When the indebtedness was completed on the original building, a committee was formed to add a needed new educational wing and Paul Breyfogle was the Chairman of that Building Committee spending almost daily time at the building site after work to make sure things were going correctly. When the new wing was completed in 1961, Paul was presented with a oil painting of the original church to remember the history.

Since both Paul and Neat have passed away as well as two of their four children (Nancy and John) who grew up in this church, Bill Breyfogle, who is probably age 58, asked if the Church would like to have the painting since it is such a big part of our history. His older sister, Jan and husband, have moved to San Diego as she isn't well) Of course he was told a big yes and Bill had it packed and shipped to us - arriving in perfect condition from their home in Wyoming.

You may view our "new" oil painting on the wall by the lift/elevator on the lower level. It is a gorgeous painting and a great part of our history!



General Information

FFDO

First Friday Dinner Out will meet at Starship Billiards on Friday September 6 at 6:00. Here is your chance to have a bite to eat, some conversation, and a game of pool. Let me know if you will be joining us.

Sandy Harmison

Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park

I would like to invite the ladies of First Congregational United Church of Christ to attend the Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park on September 27 and 28th. The cost is \$116. Please feel free to ask me, Jeanette Flenner, Maureen Ruski or Debby Beal about our experience at this retreat. More information is available on the Pilgrim Park web site.

Sandy Harmison



Confirmation Reunion



Confirmation Reunion 1950-present

*First Congregational United Church of Christ
Please join us for
Homecoming Weekend 2019
Filled with activities, September 7-8, 2019*

Saturday, September 7, 2019

"Teaching and Tasting"

Chefs Brian Tucker and Michael Stubblefield

Richland Community College

In Fellowship Hall

9am – 11am: Teaching 11am – 1pm: Tasting

\$10 donation for 9am-1pm

\$5 donation for either 2-hour session

Door prizes will be given

Sunday, September 8, 2019

9am Worship: Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Rev. Kevin Strobe, Class of 1971, Guest Preacher

10am Fellowship Hour

11am Praise Service: Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Rev. Mark Schleeter, Guest Preacher

Noon: Lunch on the lawn & Praise Band Concert

Followed by

Bingo, Cake Walk, Kids' games, crafts until 2pm

R.S.V.P to the Church Office: 217-877-2216

(Jackie is the secretary)

Children & Youth Activities

Children and Youth Summer Outreach Project

Children's Youth and Outreach ministries are teaming up to help with disaster relief in this country and around the world. This summer, we will be collecting items for School Kits and Hygiene Kits as a part of Church World Service's disaster relief. We are also supporting the nurses at DMH with Hope Kits to send home with needy mothers with newborns and for babies who are going directly into foster care.

A list of specific items needed will be posted and published as well as a poster showing the progress towards our goal of 50 School Kits, 50 Hygiene Kits and 25 Newborn Hope Kits.

HYGIENE KITS

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One fingernail or toenail clipper
- One bath-size bar of soap
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

SCHOOL KITS

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter /12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser (no pencils with erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons

NEWBORN HOPE KITS

- One sleep and play outfit
- Three onesie undershirts
- Two burp cloths
- One pack newborn diapers
- One pack diaper wipers
- Three pack Evenflo bottles
- Bottle brush
- Baby body wash and shampoo
- A & D diaper rash TREATMENT cream
- Safety 1st Baby Care Basics (brush, comb, clippers, nasal aspirator)

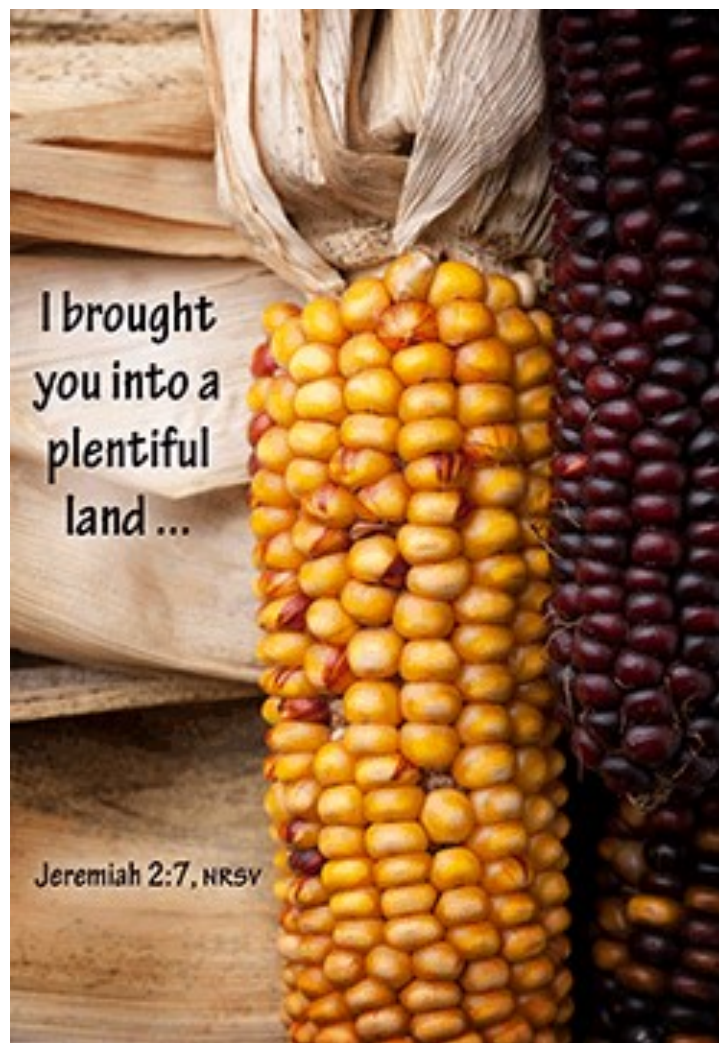
Growing Hope



GROWING PROJECT UPDATE – August 15

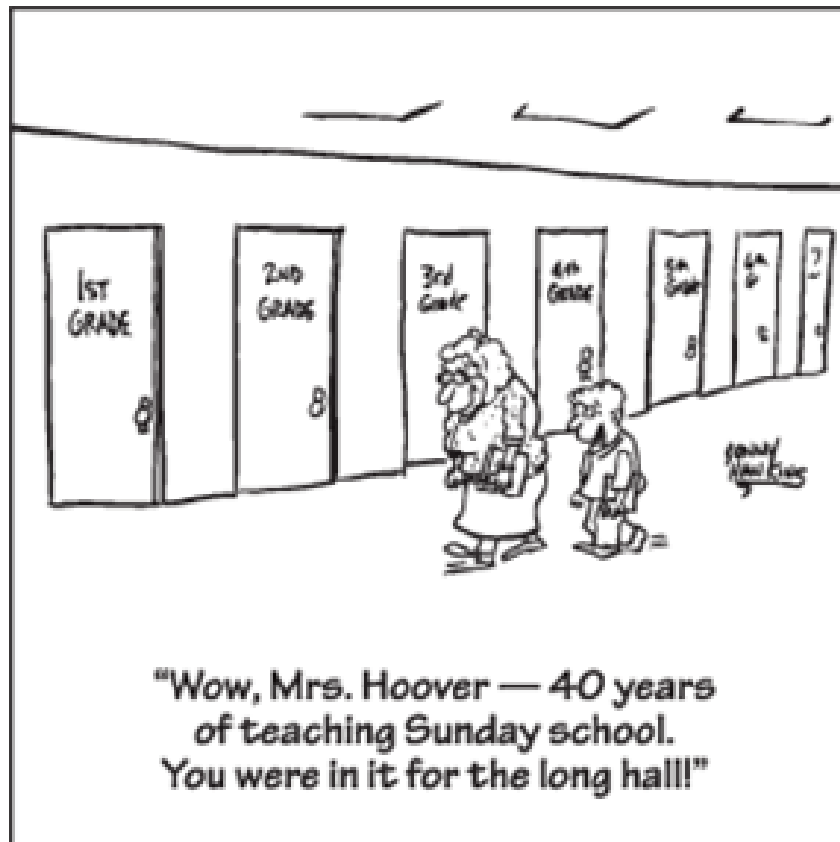
We got a little over an inch of rain that has helped our corn crop to fill the kernels on the ears. The kernels are just starting to dent which means the kernels are firming up the material inside. They are getting doughy rather than milky. The rainfall will help the plants add dry matter to the kernels which will increase kernel size and weight and add to yield. Fungicide to help reduce the impact of foliar leaf diseases was applied by airplane.

Our church members and friends are bringing in their excess garden produce for sale by donation during Fellowship Hour. Growing Hope Globally says that \$55 will teach a person to feed himself for the rest of his life. At that rate, our garden sales have already helped 2 people to become food sustainable and they will never have to worry about being hungry again!



Finance Notes

No date at press time.



Happenings

FFDO

**Starship
Billards
September 6
6:00 pm**



God's Busy Hands

**Tuesdays
1:00 - 3:00 pm**



God's Busy Hands

**Admin Meeting
Monday, September
16**

5:30 pm

**Council of
Ministry Teams
Monday, September
16**

6:30 pm

Choir

**Thursdays
7:00 pm**



Sing With Us

**First Ringers
Thursdays
5:45 pm**



**Exploring
Christian Faith
Study Group**

**Beginning again on
September 15
10:30 am**

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

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
3. Patty Stemple
5. Helen Johnson
Everett Kuhn
9. Rikki Brady
10. Gehrig Bunselmeyer
12. James Huckile
13. Marie Bauer
Thomas Cordts
Sally Hubard
Patrick Malone
Malone Moretti
14. Ronald Brownfield
Nicholas Lauer
17. Carolyn Jones
18. Kathy Moore
19. Kyle Brownfield
20. Shelly Smith
21. Sherry Palmer
Brandon Janvrin
24. Olivia Wernecke
Angie Miller
25. Susan Schleeter
27. Ashley Lofland
Phyllis Campbell

And may the many blessings that have come from God above fill your hearts with all the joy of His enduring love. Happy Anniversary.

1. Charles & Alfreda Tribout
7. Homer & Nancy Leoucis
8. Jerry & Patty Stemple
22. David & Pat Mahr



First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 LITURGISTS	September 1	Mindy Bunselmeyer	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	September 8	Amy Leman	Betty Wheatley
	September 15	Ruth DeBruine	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	September 22	Dee Wenneker	Sandy Harmison
	September 29	Judi Carpenter	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
 Altar Flowers	September 1	Marilyn Cushing	
	September 8	Betty Cummings	
	September 15	Robert Ruehrup	
	September 22	Missy Boldizar	
	September 29	Roger & Jan Kahila	
 Fellowship hour	September 1	Chuck Zweck	Steve & Kelli Fonseca
	September 8	Kristin Hargrove	Betty Wheatley
	September 15	Marlene Gant	Shirley Zimmerman & Ruby Voyles
	September 22	Gerry & Peggy Ruff	Sandy Harmison
	September 29	Mike & Toni Longstreet	Mark & Jeanette Flenner
 USHERS	September 1	Ted & Darby Mitchell, Jim & Jodi Baldwin	
	September 8	Mindy Bunselmeyer, Susan Daley, Tom & Paula Cordts	
	September 15	The Butts Family	
	September 22	Mike Koyak, Norma Lingenfelter, Gary Weiss, Shelia Manneiler	
	September 29	Sam & Erick Hubbard, Don & Dee Wenneker	

Thank you to all who participate in these very important activities!

September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	2	3 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	4	5 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	6	7 9:00 Teaching and Tasting
89:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	9 7:00 Property Ministry	10 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	11	12 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	13	14
159:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	16 5:30 Admin 6:30 Council Of Ministry Teams	17 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	18	19 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	20	21
229:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	23	24 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 Al-Anon 8:00 AA	25	26 5:45 Bell Choir Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	27	28
299:00 Traditional 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:00 Contemporary	30					



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

2019 Church Goals

Your Council of Ministry Teams has approved the following 3 goals for 2019:

2019 Church Goals

- Goal No. 1—Reestablish an active evangelism ministry
- Goal No. 2—Instituting new fellowship programs for working women, men and young families
- Goal No. 3—Hire a new pastor for the church.