



September 2017

The Spire

DeKalb First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

From Pastor Judy

With the re-dedication of the repaired steeple and cross atop our church building and Rally Day on September 10, we begin a new program year. New children will begin attending Sunday School, soon new members will be welcomed, and new ideas are percolating through our Ministry Teams. This is the time to think about your role as a church member. What new thing is percolating in your mind? Are you thinking about more/new ways to be involved in church life? Do you have a skill or hobby you would like to share/teach others? Could being a liturgist, an usher, a communion server, or greeter be just what you need? Is there a need in the larger DeKalb community you'd like to help alleviate and want some partners for the job?

I hope these are questions you ask yourself every year. If we never ask questions about where we might be needed or welcomed, things never change. Everyone has gifts, talents, money, time, knowledge, etc. to share with those in need. I invite you to talk to Pastor Joe or myself or our moderator, John Omerod, about your ideas. Or put your offer or suggestion in the suggestion box on the table by the door in narthex.

I hope to hear your ideas soon.
In the meantime, I'll see you in church!
In Faith and with Hope,

Judy



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Rally Day, Sunday, September 10th

Worship at 10 am.

After worship there is
lunch and games
for everyone!



Rally Day is Sept. 10!!

Please plan on joining us to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year on September 10! The following classes will meet during church on Sept. 10:

- Pre-School & K -- Ages 3 & 4
- 1st - 5th grade
- 6th - 12th

Welcome Back By Rev. Joe Gastiger



This past month, our son Michael turned thirty, which can't be possible part of me says. Whatever happened to the little boy I read to every night? One of our favorites, of course, **Goodnight Moon**: page by page, toy by toy, and rhyme by rhyme, we'd leave the clock and the mice and then, finally, the moon behind.

In almost that same soft, calm voice, I want to welcome back features of church. Welcome back choir director and choir, welcome back lemonade on Rally Day, welcome back Sunday school; night classes, too.

The fox and her kits—what does one call a female fox?—*vixen*—are lolling outside on the grave stones while, inside, we pray for the people of Texas and Louisiana. No doubt, we'll soon be talking about how we can try to help them.

Welcome back, everyone. . . .

Sunday School Schedule -- 2017-18

This year we will follow the same Sunday School schedule we have in years past:



1st Sunday of the month: "Cooking Sunday" -- Our 1-5 and 6-12 classes will work together during Sunday School time to create yummy treats for coffee hour.

Our pre-k -K children will meet as usual and have class.

Middle Sundays of the month: We will meet in age level group for Sunday School classes. During this time, we will also work to organize donations for local food pantries and learn more about how we can serve others.

Last Sunday of the month: "Family Sunday" -- On this Sunday, children 7 and older should plan to attend the church service with their families. Children 6 and younger are welcome to go to the nursery after the children's sermon. Our older Sunday School students will continue to help with the worship service by acting as ushers, greeters & liturgists.

Sermons in Print and Audio



Printed sermons are available before worship in the green folder on the Narthex table. For those with hearing problems these may be used to follow along during worship, or taken home to read later.

Sermons are also available to download and listen to on our website , www.uccdekalb.org.

THANK YOU TO MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you goes out to all who delivered Meals on Wheels during the month of August. We were responsible for covering 3 DeKalb routes on 23 weekdays. A special thank you to those who delivered meals on 4 or more days. Some of the volunteers were assisted by their children and/or grandchildren. We appreciate their help also.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nancy Allen | Carol Boesche | Mary & Jon Eddings |
| Pat Fagan | Jean & Joe Gastiger | Jan Graefen |
| Clinton Jesser | Jodi & Mic Johnson | Hillary Joy |
| Tana Knetsch | Heidi Koenig-Hagaman | Pat & Peter Lawes |
| Kathy & Ron Modell | Gertrude Netty | John Omerod |
| Amy Overton | Amy Powers | Nina Mounts & David Valentiner |
| Carol Rolf | Shane Sharp | Sonia Smith |
| Lolly Voss | Lori Waggoner | Carol & Corrine Wickens-Walther |

If you have never delivered Meals on Wheels, please consider joining in next year. Without the help of loyal volunteers they could not continue to provide this valuable service in our community. Delivering the meals is a big time commitment, so please let me know if your name was inadvertently omitted. I want to make certain that everyone who helped is recognized.



THANKS AGAIN!
Carol Rolf



Thank You Notes

School Supplies

Thank you for making this project a success! School Supplies were given to Clinton Rosette, Jefferson, Hope Haven, New Hope Missionary's "Back to School Bash", and NIU Services for Latinos.

AED: Automated External Defibrillator Training

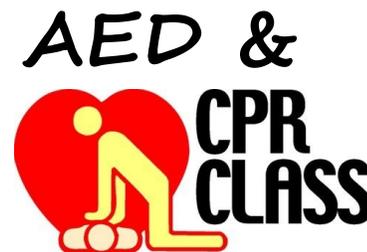
To all of our friends using 1st Congregational for their meeting place

The church has purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and will be installing it soon in a accessible location. We highly recommend everyone, group leaders and attendees, to learn how to use this AED.

Kishwaukee Hospital is offering a free class to learn the basics of CPR and administering the AED.

The class is Sunday, September 17 at Kishwaukee Hospital from 1 - 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Please call Heidi Carlson at [815.786.3782](tel:815.786.3782)

We hope you will take this opportunity to learn and become confident reacting in an emergency. *This is not a certification class.*



Chancel Choir

The school year has begun, which means the Chancel Choir is back! The choir stalls will soon be filled with singers, and you will hear from us every Sunday until Mother's Day. We have a wonderful mix of singers this year and, as is tradition, we will continue to employ a handful of Scholarship Singers who add leadership and talent our choir. These are trained vocal-students from the area who bring a fresh sound to our already vibrant group. This year, our Scholarship Singers come from NIU, DHS and Kishwaukee College. Alternately, our many loyal members who have been singing with the choir for years, help to add strength and experience to the ensemble. The Chancel Choir remains strong, year after year, because of these dedicated members.



Each Sunday, the Choir helps to connect the scripture, the prayer and the message through music. The choir also brings musical meaning to the extra services throughout the year, such as Easter, Good Friday and Christmas Eve. In addition, we pride ourselves in bringing the community together when we host our annual Carols and Candles Service. Our choir season is a busy one, and we couldn't do it without the love and support of our church family.

This will be my third year as Choir Director, and I have found that this position brings meaning to my spiritual life, just as it brings musical fulfillment to my career. Music has always been a way for me to feel connected to something bigger than myself. Music allows me to channel my thoughts and prayers into something more words: something that goes beyond you and me, and the choir. I think the members of the choir would say the same, and I hope that the members of our congregation would agree as well. If you find yourself moved by the music this year, please consider offering financial support to our music program here at First Congregational UCC.

Much love, Kate Swope

Pie/Cake Auction

DATE: November 12th, 2017

TIME: Serving Lunch (Sloppy Joes, Chips, and Beverages) 11:30 am, Auction will be at 12 noon.

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall THOSE INVITED: EVERYONE- OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

We are need of volunteers to sign up to make pies and cakes.

We will also need volunteers to sign up for serving the sloppy joes, etc..

There will be a donation for the lunch we are serving on the day of the auction.

Those proceeds will be contributed to the repair fund.

People can sign up in the following 3 ways:

Emailing me at brian.eide@frontier.com OR Calling me at [815-762-0901](tel:815-762-0901) (They can leave a message if I don't answer). AND We will also have a sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sunday, October 29.



Pie & Cake Auction

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

All service men and women in harm's way, for friends, parents, and neighbors fighting depression,

For Kevin Cassidy (Bonnie Amesquita's brother)

For the victims of violence and intolerance in Charlottesville, Spain and the whole world.

For those affected by Hurricane Harvey and natural disasters around the world

For the Navy sailors who have lost their lives, their families and friends.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

- 1 - Eugene & Amy Powers
- 20 - Ken & Joanne Hulmes
- 20 - Ross & Hillary Joy
- 22 - Jerry & Lisa Gorchels
- 28 - Dan & Johnna Jennings



Birthdays

- 2 - Sarah Valentiner
- 7 - Adam Weiss
- 9 - Hillary Joy
- 10 - Lori Waggoner
- 12 - Katie Heminway
- 15 - Aiden Powers
- 18 - Connie Pardridge, Corrine Wickens
- 20 - Amy Powers
- 21 - Kristin Rinehart
- 22 - Ian Wickens-Walther

Inquirers' Gathering

Sunday, September 17, 11:15 - 12:15 p.m. in the Library

How does the United Church of Christ differ from the Methodists, say, or Presbyterians? How does our particular church operate—how, for instance, do critical decisions get made? Who sits on our committees—and what do they decide? What kind of charitable work do we sponsor, close to home and around the world?

These and other topics come up during our gatherings for inquirers: times we invite folk who've been visiting our church to find out more about us, and perhaps consider becoming members here at First Congregational. Generally, we meet for two extended discussions. Part 1 features an overview of the church—a mini-history of our denomination—and tries to cover questions of faith informally and honestly. Part 2 describes the workings of *this* church, and welcomes newcomers to a dinner, so that those who wish to join might get acquainted with our church leaders.

These gatherings give us a chance to become better friends.

We'll host our next introductory meeting here in the library right after worship on September 17, and welcome all who'd like to learn more about the U.C.C. Together, we'll decide when to meet a second time—depending on the work and family schedules of our inquirers'. We provide child care here in the nursery.

Please tell Revs. Joe or Judy, or call our church office (758-0691) if you'd like to attend.



Loops of Love



Loops of Love, a knitting and crocheting group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. Join us in the library to make baby blankets, lap robes, and prayer shawls for those who need a little TLC. Bring your lunch if you like. If you would like lessons in knitting or crocheting, bring yarn and appropriate needles or hooks, and we'll be happy to teach you. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Judy (815-758-0691). We always have a good time, and would love for you to join us.

Morning Circle



Begins meeting again Thursday, September 28 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Meetings are the 4th Thursday of each month except November, December and January. You are always welcome to attend. We sometimes have speakers, but always have refreshments

Food Pantry Donations

Donations for Salvation Army:

Non Food Items (these are important, because food stamps can't be used for them):

Paper towels, Facial tissue, Toilet paper, Personal care items, Diapers, Wipes

Food Items:

Canned tuna, Canned chicken, Spices, Healthy snacks, Meals in a can, Rice, Peanut butter, Jelly, Boxed mac & cheese, Cereal

The Salvation Army no longer has a supply of eggs, so, sadly, egg cartons can no longer be used.



Collected on the first Sunday of each month.

A gray tub is outside the Narthex for you to place your items in.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Ushers are Needed on Sunday mornings



Our Ushers are 1st Congregation's welcoming smiles to all joining us for worship! Ushers hand out the bulletins, collect offering and prayer slips, assist guests and members with directions to our nursery, bathrooms and offer hearing devices. Please sign-up for a Sunday or maybe two! The sign-up board is in the narthex.

Thank you - Ken Burton

1st Congregational UCC - September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 - Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 a- Worship 11:15 a - Coffee Fellowship	Office Closed		12 p - Loops of Love 7 p - Chancel Choir	9 a - MTAM	8 p- Men's Group	
10 - Rally Day & Re-Dedication of	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship	8:30 a- Monday Morning Men 5:30 p-MOF mtg. 5 p-Centering Prayer		9 a - Clergy 7 p - Chancel Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship 11:15 a - Inquirer's Gathering 1 p - AED Training	8:30 a- Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer		12 p - Loops of Love 7 p - Chancel Choir		8 p- Men's Group	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship 11:15 a-Cabinet & Ministry Teams Meeting	8:30 a- Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer	9 a - "Forgiveness"	9 a - Clergy 7 p - Chancel Choir	9:30 a - Morning Circle		
		<p>Outside Groups Sunday - Narcotics Anonymous @7pm Monday - NA @ 10 am, Tai Chi @6pm , Youth Outlook @6:30 pm Tuesday - KVC Barbershop @7:30 pm, Tuesday - Wild About Words @4pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday - GS Troop 1690 @6:00 pm 1st & 3rd Wednesday - Yoga @ 4 pm Thursday - Women's AA @7:30 pm Friday - Saturday - Action Steps @ 10:30am, Narcotics Anonymous @6pm</p>				

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First Congregational
United Church of Christ
615 N 1st Street, DeKalb, IL 60115

*Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

*Communion is celebrated on
the first Sunday of each month.

*Nursery is provided during Worship.

Pastors

Rev. Joe Gastiger & Rev. Judy Harris

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30

Office Manager Days: M - W - F
Closed during lunch hour

Phone messages: 815-758-0691

Email: UCCDeKalb@gmail.com

Leave notes in the Church Office mailbox,
or slip under the door.

Worship Bulletins

Items must be submitted by Wednesday
to be placed in the Sunday Bulletin.

The Spire Newsletter

deadline is the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Facebook Page: We have an **open page** for events
and announcements,



Private Facebook Page

"First Congregational United Church of Christ,
DeKalb Community."

This is a **private group** for members of the church
to ask questions, post reminders,
and have open discussions.

Or you can type exact <http://bit.ly/FirstUCC>