



# The Spire

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
DeKalb, Illinois



To embody God's love for all by living an active faith in service to others      October 2018

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### **Pastors Hours**

Monday - Thursday

Please make  
Appointment

### **Office hours:**

Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday, 8:30-4:30

Closed during lunch hour

### **Phone**

815-758-0691

### **Email:**

UCCDeKalb@gmail.com

[www.UCCDeKalb.org](http://www.UCCDeKalb.org)

### **Facebook:**

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ

### **Private Facebook:**

<http://bit.ly/FirstUCC>

### **Worship Bulletins**

Submit items/articles  
by Wednesday  
to be placed in the  
Sunday Bulletin.

## Celebrating

Pastor Judy Harris's 16 wonderful years as co-pastor  
at First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb

**Sunday, November 4th**

We will celebrate her time with us as part of the morning service and  
will continue the celebration afterwards at a catered luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

More information will be coming soon.

Please plan to attend and reminisce with members of the church,  
and family, and friends of Judy.

## *Crop Walk hosted by 1st Congregational!*

**Sunday Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018!**

Please consider joining our team and walking or make a pledge to our Team.

The Walk begins and ends at our Church at 3pm  
with registration between 2:00pm and 3:00pm

You can also pre-register by visiting <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil/Team/View/82403/First-Congregational-UCC> and clicking on "join our team". .

**See Colleen Bredeson after worship to make a pledge or sign up to walk.**

**You can also donate online @ <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil/Team/View/82403/First-Congregational-UCC>**

## **Stewardship Announcement from Ministry Team for Finance**

**Theme: What Kind of Shoes are You Wearing as Christians?**

**Sunday, October 14th** Walk Worthy with Happy Feet

**Children's Sermon** about Stewardship

**Potluck Brunch** after church featuring Mike Groark's famous biscuits  
and sausage gravy. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share

**Sunday, October 21** Walk Worthy with Sincere Feet

**Stewardship Announcement** in Church

**Sunday, October 28th** Walk Worthy on Holy Ground

**Sermon** by Lauri Allen *What Kind Of Shoes are You Wearing?*

**Meeting** in Library after church discussion on: Walk Worthy on Holy  
Ground and Information about Next Year's Budget

## From Pastor Judy

I love the changing of seasons! Even though I prefer more moderate temperatures than the extremes of summer and winter, I am energized by the change of the colors of the sky, clouds, trees, and flowers. It reminds me that there is always something positive that comes with change—like putting on that extra layer of clothing on a chilly day.

This is my last newsletter article to you. A month from now I will begin a new season in my life—retirement. Many of you have asked me, “What are your plans for your retirement?” My answer is usually, “I don’t know yet.” I say that because I feel I need to let go of my work here at First Congregational so I can receive what is waiting for me. I plan to be busy, though. I am on Conference and Association committees that will require time. I plan to stay involved with the Artist Way, Loops of Love, and Centering Prayer groups that meet here too. And then there are always those home projects that require time that never seems to be available when you are working. Ministry opportunities will come, I am sure—supply preaching and perhaps even teaching. Tom and I also want to travel and see more of this country and others. Travel is one of the best ways to keep learning that I know. We are eager for it, and look forward to taking advantage of opportunities that we couldn’t before.

And then, of course, there is family. Now we will be freer to babysit the littlest ones and spend time with the older ones. Visits rather than phone calls will become the preferred way we communicate.

Tom and I plan to remain members at First Congregational and to stay in our home in Kingston, but we will take a short break from events at church. Eventually, you will see us in worship again. Part of my responsibility to the Prairie Association Church and Ministry Committee that I serve, however, is to serve as an ambassador to some of our churches. So I will attend worship with them for awhile. Eventually I will return to worship here. My work as your pastor has come to an end, but my love for you has not.

See you soon,

*Judy*

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## *Sunday School*

Sounds like everyone had lots of fun Sunday building bat houses & butterfly houses for our church! Thanks again to Hillary & Ross Joy for covering Sunday School! Here's what's coming up in Sunday School:

**Oct. 7 -- First Sunday Cooking** -- please send Amy O your ideas for what we should prepare for coffee hour. Something with a fall theme would be great. :)

**Oct. 14** -- We will help set up for the CROP walk since our church is hosting this year. We will also harvest our garden and sort food for the Barb Food Mart & Salvation Army. We also could use some Sunday School kids to help out during the CROP Walk by passing out maps, distributing water, etc. Thanks to Amanda Bengford & kids for helping out in the afternoon!

If you can help out too, please let one of the Amys know!

Amy Doll, Amy Overton & Amy Powers

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# The Gift of Autumn by Rev. Joe Gastiger

Sure I love spring, and the long days of summer, but count me as one of those who feels most at home in the shadows and bittersweet beauty of fall. In his book, *Holidays and Holy Nights*, my friend Christopher Hill says that “the dynamics of the fall of the year have the sweep of a great symphony or an epic poem.”

We may not hear the music or find the right words, yet something awakens in us, irresistible, and heartfelt.

Perhaps as we watch leaves fluttering to the ground, we are reminded fall is a time for us as well to, yes, let go. All religions pay homage these small relinquishments — giving up things, ambitions, desires that we don’t need —that have become a burden.

It is time to take walks in the woods, if you can, letting the Spirit lead the way. . . .

Somewhere in *Kinds of Power* James Hillman notes that “what the actor tries to achieve on stage is to ‘get out of the way’ so that the character he or she is portraying can come fully out. So, too, the writer and the painter; they have to get out of the way of the flow of the work onto the paper and the canvas.”

Something about the leaves changing color — the apples, pears, ripe in my hand—tries to persuade me I need to get out of my own way.

Rabbi Harold Kushner notes in *The Lord Is My Shepherd* that if we are truly in tune with fall, “We cherish the beauty of a sunrise, of a New England autumn, of a relationship, of a child’s hug, precisely because those things will not be around forever and neither will we be around to enjoy them.”

I’ll sign off with Part 3 of a poem by Lloyd Schwartz, simply called “Leaves”:

You’ll be driving along depressed when suddenly  
a cloud will move and the sun will muscle through  
and ignite the hills. It may not last. Probably  
won’t last. But for a moment the whole world  
comes to. Wakes up. Proves it lives. It lives—  
*red, yellow, orange, brown, russet, ochre, vermilion,*  
*gold.* Flame and rust. Flame and rust, the permutations  
of burning. You’re on fire. Your eyes are on fire.  
It won’t last, you don’t want it to last. You  
can’t stand any more. But you don’t want it to stop.  
It’s what you’ve come for. It’s what you’ll  
come back for. It won’t stay with you, but you’ll  
remember that it felt like nothing else you’ve felt  
or something you’ve felt that also didn’t last.



What is the “it” Schwartz speaks of here? I’m sure we’ve all sensed it, one time or another, and if it were in my power to give it to my dearest friend Judy Harris, as she retires at the end of this month, I surely would.

I believe “it” is something we cannot hold on to, and something we can’t live without.  
I believe it is grace.

## October Birthdays

- 1 - Cindy Harness
- 3 - Carrie Niles
- 6 - Laurie Lindstrom
- 7 - Jerry Gorchels
- 8 - Bernie Engh, Ann Quinlan
- 10 - Dave Yordy
- 11 - Phyllis Moore
- 12 - Mykiah Tomlinson
- 13 - Susan Roberts, Seth Wickens-Walther
- 18 - Christian Spielman
- 19 - Lisa Gorchels
- 20 - Deborah Armah
- 22 - Pat Suchner
- 23 - Virginia Cook
- 24 - Adam Weckerly
- 25 - Johnna Jennings
- 26 - Kate Swope
- 27 - Eden Chasteen, Charles Quinlan
- 28 - Jackson Nettey
- 30 - Katie Boesche

## Anniversaries

- 6 - William & Polly Shearer
- 10 - Miles & Kristin Rinehart
- 20 - Jim Dionisopoulos & Tanya Knetsch
- 20 - Ron & Lucille Nelsen



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- The family of Marilyn Derrington at her passing.
- The family of Ken & Jodie Burton at the passing of Jodie's mother, Bernice Kayes.
- The Engstrom family for an unexpected death.
- The Caryl Steimel family with her death.
- All service men and women in harm's way.
- For friends, parents, and neighbors in need of God's care and support.
- For the victims of abuse, violence and intolerance in our community and in the world.
- For those affected by natural disasters around the world.

*If you have additions or wish to remove a name, please call the office at 815-758-0691.*

## Dear Women's Morning Circle

*Thank you for getting me to Spirit camp. My favorite thing was Archery. All the Arrows were all crooked, it was my first time at Camp So I was nervous but I got through it. Pilgrim Park was a beautiful place. Thanks again!*

*Charles  
Sanderson-Hague*

## Hope Haven Meals - October 29 and 30

### Food Pantry Collection - place in gray tub outside of Narthex

**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

### Woodside UCC, Rockford - Plastic Cap Collection - Please see information sheet on the Narthex table for types of plastic needed. Collecting 800 pounds to make benches! Collection container is in Narthex.

### Cabinet Meeting Minutes - There is a binder "Cabinet Minutes" in the Church Office with the 2018 minutes. Please feel free to look through the minutes and make copies. Please do not take the book or contents out of the office. Thank you, Julie, Office Manager.

## 1st Congregational UCC - October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer	6:45 p - Cannato Discussion Group			8p - Men's Group	<b>8:30 a - Youth Outlook Training</b>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a - Coffee Fellowship	8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer	6:45 p - Cannato Discussion Group	Noon - Loops of Love 7:30 p - Choir Practice			<b>8:30 a - Youth Outlook Training</b>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Stewardship Dinner 2 p- Crop Walk	8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer	6:45 p - Cannato Discussion Group	7:30 p - Choir Practice		8p - Men's Group	<b>8:30 a - Youth Outlook Training</b>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship 11:15 a - Cabinet & Ministry Teams	8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer	6:45 p - Cannato Discussion Group	Noon-Loops of Love 7:30 p - Choir Practice	9:30 a-Morning Circle		
28	29	30	31			
10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship	8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer <b>Hope Haven Meals</b>	6:45 p - Cannato Discussion Group <b>Hope Haven Meals</b>	7:30 p - Choir Practice	9:30 a - Morning Circle		

## Church Activities

**Worship Services** - Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

**Sunday School** - Sundays at 10:00 a.m. gathers in Sanctuary and moves to Sunday School rooms

**Morning Circle Meeting** - October 25 at 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Fellowship** - Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

**Ushers** - Sundays at 9:45 a.m. - Sign-up Sheet outside of Sanctuary doors

**Monday Morning Men's Group** - Mondays at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and discussion in Fireplace Room

**Centering Prayer** - Mondays at 5:00 p.m. in Fireplace Room

**Cannato Discussion Group** - Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.

### Outside Groups

Sunday - Narcotics Anonymous @7pm

Monday - Youth Outlook @6:30 pm

Tuesdays - 1st & 3rd - Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

Wednesday - Yoga @ 4 pm

Thursday - Women's AA @7:30 pm

Saturday - Action Steps @ 10 am, NA @ 10am,  
Narcotics Anonymous @6pm



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-Wednesday-Friday  
8:30 to 4:30  
Closed for lunch

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## Sermons in Print and Audio

Printed sermons are available before worship in the green folder on the Narthex table.

Sermons are also available to download and listen to on our website

**[www.uccdekalb.org](http://www.uccdekalb.org)**