



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 September 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

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.

From Pastor Judy

The seasons are changing and so is my life. By now you are aware that I am retiring in November. I am not sure just what that word 'retirement' means yet, but I do know it doesn't mean sitting around eating bonbons all day. What a disaster that would be! I expect to keep busy (And probably drive Tom crazy in the process!) doing the things on my list titled "When I Have Time."

As I said in my letter to you, the one thing I've learned so far in life is that things change. Just as the season is moving from the green, growing time of summer into the golden harvest time of fall—a cycle that is repeated over and over again each year—it is time for me to seek the harvest of my life up to this point. I look forward to embracing the change ahead of me.

Change requires some kind of transformation in our thinking—perhaps even in the way we live. Change is a big part of our faith. Christianity calls us into transforming our lives in order to live in the Kingdom of God. God's kingdom was never meant to be something extraordinary or exclusive. Jesus certainly didn't see it that way. He saw a way to live in God's 'kindom' while living in this world and he shared his vision with anyone who would listen. I use that word 'kindom' intentionally, because it says something key to understanding what Jesus meant. The kingdom is made up of relationships—between God and humanity, between you and me, and between all living things. The kingdom is a kinship.

Science, especially quantum physics, is now beginning to discover that this kinship is found in the entire cosmos. Author Judy Cannato has written about this in her book Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology Is Transforming Spiritual Life, and I want to share her thoughts with you this fall.

Beginning Tuesday, September 25, and continuing through October 30, at 6:45 p.m., we will meet to discuss Cannato's thoughts. I have several copies of the book available for \$13 each or you may order your own. Please let me know if you will participate in our discussion. I'm looking forward to being with you and hearing your thoughts.

In Faith and With Hope,

Judy

Cannato Discussion of
Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology
Is Transforming Spiritual Life
Tuesdays Beginning September 25
6:45 p.m. with Pastor Judy

A Place for Prayer by Rev. Joe Gastiger

Medical schools — at least a few — are starting to pay more attention to cultivating this depth of soul.

Margaret Plews-Ogan is Chief of the Division of General Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Care at the University of Virginia. She argues that it's not just "experience" or growing older but "certain kinds of experiences" and ways of getting through that create some bittersweet something we call wisdom.

She's studied people co-workers regard as wise, and found that they overcame similar challenges:

"All . . . had at one point made a choice, a conscious, deliberate choice to pursue something that was hard. It may not have been what they really wanted to do, and certainly not something they thought would necessarily end up well. But it was something they felt they had to do to set things straight. They chose, in many cases, the harder course of action. They chose to face their circumstances head on. . . . They may have decided to apologize to a patient or family, to go into a room full of intense judgment. It might have meant that they had to face their addiction, or take control of their health. At some point they made a courageous choice to make a difference in their own lives."

What gave them the ability to that? What made them brave enough to even try?

Turns out, the community that they knew, the work environment, the kind of guidance and support they counted on, made a big difference.

That, and in many, many cases, a vibrant spiritual life — among people they cared about who cared about them in return.

Plews-Ogan explains,

"When we foster compassion, empathy and forgiveness, in ourselves and in others, we are opening up the possibility for wisdom. When we foster the capacity for self-reflection in our children, or our community, we are creating the matrix for wisdom to develop. When we foster gratitude, wisdom is likely to follow. . . ."

Singing with the people beside you at church, setting aside some time to pray each day, may give us access to a kind of wisdom we can't find otherwise.

You have no idea how grateful I am to see you each week.



Introducing our new Choir Director!

Yes - it's Travis Erikson!

Travis is now our Choir Director and Organist

beginning in September.

Choir Rehearsals start August 29th at 7:30 p.m.



Rally Day is Sept. 9!!

Please plan on joining us to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year on September 9! The following classes will meet during church on Sept. 9:

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

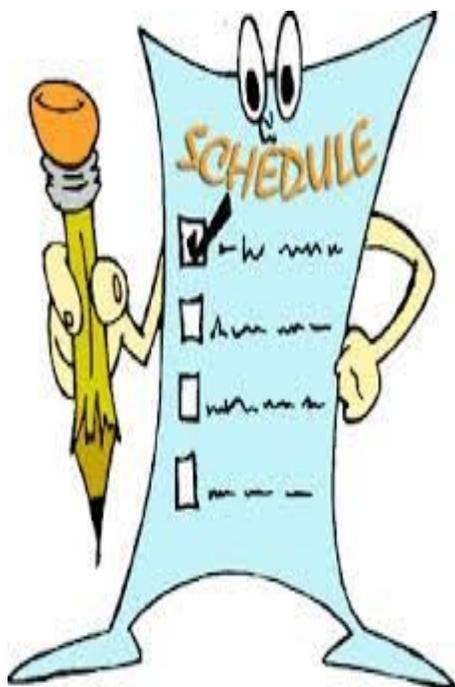
We'll play some team-building games & talk about the types of activities we want to do as a Sunday School class this year.

Then, after church, please join us as a church family to eat a wonderful meal and play some fun intergenerational games.

(Yes, there will be water balloon volleyball! :))

Thanks to Tom Harris for coordinating games and to the Christian Fellowship team for preparing our meal!

Sunday School Schedule -- 2018-19



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

1st Sunday of the month: "Cooking Sunday" -- Our classes will work together during Sunday School time to create yummy treats for coffee hour! :)

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.

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

Colleen Bredesen

Amy Doll

Mary Eddings

Pat Fagan

Joe Gastiger

Jan Graefen

Jodi & Mic Johnson

Hillary Joy

Pat & Peter Lawes

Bob Meissner

Kathy & Ron Modell

Nina Mounts

John Novak

Amy Powers

Carol Rolf

Duane Schroeder

Shane Sharp

Pat & Bob Suchner

Linda Tillis & Joan Burger

Heather Tomlinson

Corrine Wickens & Carol 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



We can Recycle More than Paper!

The list of recyclable items is extended to the **Top 10 in the Bin** found below!

Please remember that items can not have food left on them.

Example: Pizza boxes are not recyclable because of food remnants.

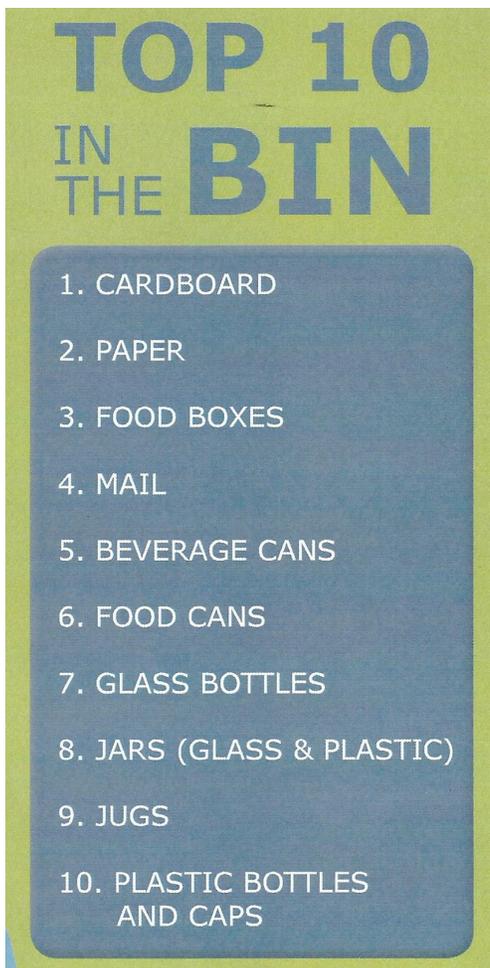
Plastic Containers must have food rinsed off of them before they go in the Recycle bins.

Magazines are recyclable but books are not!

Please watch where you are placing trash!

Some is ending up in the Collection container for Caps or in the Recycling bins.

Thank you, Julie, Office Manager



September Birthdays

2 - Sarah Valentiner
6 - Euphrates Sanderson-Haque
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
29 - Dave Changnon

Anniversaries

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



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

For Christy Neller Engen, dear friend of Doug & Donna Chamberlain, who is facing serious medical issues.

For David & Capri Hernandez as they begin their life together.

For Eric & Allison (Genis) Kohnen as they begin their life together.

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.

Morning Circle Meeting

September 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Refreshments and Business

Special Guest: Rev. Jane Ann Moore

Topic: My Retirement Activities

Come and Join the Conversation

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 - September 018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10 a– Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a - Coffee Fellowship | 8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer | | 7:30 p - Choir Practice | | 8p - Men’s Group | |
| 9 - Rally Day | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a– All Church Picnic & Games | 8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer | | 7:30 p - Choir Practice | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship | 8:30 a-Monday Morning Men 5 p-Centering Prayer | | 7:30 p - Choir Practice | | 8p - Men’s Group | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 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 | 7:30 p - Choir Practice | 9:30 a - Morning Circle | | |
| 30 | | | | | | |
| 10 a- Worship & Sunday School 11:15 a- Coffee Fellowship | | | | | | |

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| <p>Outside Groups</p> <p>Sunday - Narcotics Anonymous @7pm</p> <p>Monday - Youth Outlook @6:30 pm</p> <p>Tuesdays - 1st & 3rd - Girl Scouts @ 6 pm</p> <p>Wednesday - Yoga @ 4 pm</p> <p>Thursday - Women’s AA @7:30 pm</p> <p>Saturday - Action Steps @ 10 am, NA @ 10am, Narcotics Anonymous @6pm</p> |
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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** - Sept. 27 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** - Tuesday Sept. 25 at 6:45 p.m.



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

815-758-0691
UCCDeKalb@gmail.com
www.UCCDeKalb.org

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