

First Congregational Church, UCC

2201 7th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265 * 309.762.0787

* All Members, Ministers * Rev. Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor

* Rev. Jacqueline Perry, Associate Pastor

Saturday Worship 5:30p.m., Lower Level

Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

Fellowship Hour 11:00a.m., Lower Level

September 2, 2009



New Beginnings Sunday September 13, 2009



A Celebration of Ministries

WORSHIP AT 9:00a.m. AND 11:00a.m.

Commissioning of Education and Music Ministries, plus other Congregational Ministries

FIRST DAY OF CHURCH SCHOOL

10:10a.m. – 10:50a.m.

Multi-Generational - Lower Level, Large Dining Room

Please see page 2 for the complete Music Ministry Rehearsal Schedule

Beginning September 20 - Classes Look for Your Banner:

Nursery: Sunshine Banner

Pre-K: Rainbow Banner

K, 1, 2: Pillar of Fire Banner

3, 4, 5: Royal Fish Banner

Junior High: Trinity Banner

Adult Lectionary Series: Sheep Banner (Parlor)

CONTINUING IN SEPTEMBER AND AFTER:

Wednesday, September 9, 10:00a.m.-11:00a.m.

Morning Bible Study Resumes Weekly, Parlor

Led by Pastor Jackie, All Are Welcome

Thursday, September 17, 5:00p.m.– 6:30p.m.

Youth Group Resumes Weekly – Mitchell Youth Room

Sunday, September 27, 5:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

Confirmation Orientation Supper, Large Dining Room

Class Schedule To Be Announced

The National Healthcare Debate

Tempers are flaring and words are being exchanged as people, politicians, and special interest groups take sides on the issue of healthcare and the possibility of a National Healthcare plan. As a pastor of a church with many people of very diverse opinions, I do not wade lightly into the swamp of emotions and arguments – many of them increasingly personal - that this debate generates. Humility demands that we all acknowledge that no one can say for absolutely certain what the right plan is. But my job, as a pastor, is to speak from a faith vantage point – especially the issues of morality that are involved. My Christian morality says that the need for our nation to do something regarding healthcare is not debatable – only the details are.

I offer several suggestions for reflection that are influenced by what I understand to be the imperatives of our faith:

One: The principles of justice from both our Hebrew and Christian scriptures demand that all God's children be shown equitable compassion and mercy when it comes to the care of both the body and the mind. It is not acceptable that some people have great healthcare while others have none or inadequate healthcare. There is hardly a book in the Bible that does not raise the issue of justice for especially the weakest in our society and the marginalized. The core scriptural principle is that God has compassion on us and that we therefore out of gratitude are to have compassion on others. The scriptures are also clear this is not simply a matter of personal morality, but that the nations of the world and its leaders are commanded to act with justice and regard for the weakest. The question is: will we (as a nation/society) be the Pharisee and the Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan who passes by the injured man along side the road or will we be the Samaritan who was an enemy of the man, but who acted like a friend? For too long we have walked by the man in the ditch as a nation when compassion and Christ-like concern demands that we stop and care for the neighbor in need.

Two: The example of selfless concern and the spirit of Christ's sacrifice demands that we think not only about how any healthcare plan will effect us, but also the most in need. Whatever the plan – we want to be sure that all are covered and that we no longer will tolerate our friends and neighbors going bankrupt in order to pay for healthcare for their loved one. We make sure people are not excluded from affordable healthcare because they have a pre-existing condition. We are willing to help pay the cost for those who cannot afford it. Community is not built by everyone being out only for himself or herself. The spirit of Christ means that my neighbor's child is my child when it comes to being sure he or she receives good healthcare. It has been painful to listen to many people discuss healthcare and say things like, "I should not have to pay for anyone's healthcare but my own" or only ask, "How does this affect me?" How is that having the mind of Christ?

Three: Let truth reign. There is falsehood on both sides of this debate. Let the light of God's truth cut through falsehoods being spoken and rumors being spread. God's truth builds up community and shows compassion and fosters positive movement, it does not distort or tell half-truths or pass on falsehood in the interest of tearing down.

Finally: Our words need to move to positive action. At lot is at stake in this debate. The founding pastor of First Congregational Church, Moline, Rev. Alan Hitchcock, and many of our early members fought a long battle against slavery – they backed up their convictions with action. It was controversial with some members in our church, but we now look back at their convictions and know they were on the right side of history. It is up to us to continue the tradition of social involvement for the common good. We may not bring the Kingdom of God on earth, but we can give the world a humane taste of what God's reign of justice is like. That will happen if we can do our part to bring about meaningful healthcare reform.

***Peace and grace,
Pastor Allen***

Youth Calendar

September 6 - Last 10:00a.m. Worship Service

September 13 - First day of Church School, Multigenerational

September 17 - First Youth Group 5:00p.m. in the Youth Room, MESS FEST!

September 24 - Youth Group 5:00p.m.

September 27 - Confirmation Orientation Dinner for Confirmands/Parents/Mentors 5:30p.m. in the small dining room

Youth Group - Mess Fest Scheduled!

The youth are invited to join in the First Annual **MESS FEST** on Thursday, September 17 starting at 5:00p.m. Please bring a friend. Invite someone who doesn't normally go to church. We will have one BIG MESS when we are finished! **I PROMISE!** Let's show everyone that Christian youth **CAN** have **FUN!**

Church School Registration

It is surprising to me how fast time goes. It is just getting warm, and yet it's time for school again! The CE Board would like to invite everyone to join us in a Church School Class this program year. We will begin classes on Sunday, September 13 at 10:10a.m. Nursery through Jr. High classes will be held in the lower level education wing, Opend (Sr. High) will be in the Mitchell Youth Room on the third floor, and the Adult lectionary series will be held in the parlor. There is a class for everyone! If you have a child ages Nursery to 12th grade, please fill out the Church School registration form, that can be picked up in the church office, and return to the office by September 6. If you have any questions, please contact **Heidi Hulme**.

Multigenerational Church School

The CE Board would like to invite everyone to the Multigenerational Church School on New Beginnings Sunday, September 13. It will be held at the 10:10a.m. education hour in the large dining room. Join us as we learn the scriptures together, as a full church family.

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion group will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 30 from 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. in the parlor. Bring your lunch if you like. The first meeting of the season will be to discuss a meeting time for this year and a direction we would like the group to go. All are welcome. Last year, the group met every other week at 12:00p.m. on Wednesdays. Contact **Pastor Jackie** for details.

Advent Craft Items Needed!

The Advent Festival committee is looking for 30-35 empty Pringles cans with lids. If you have any that you would be able to donate, please bring them to **Heidi's** office. Thanks!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Morning Bible Study meets Wednesday from 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. in the Colonial Parlor. **Pastor Jackie** provides a session handout that day. All are welcome. If participants will read the scripture ahead of time their study will be enhanced, but it is not required. Bring your Bible (multiple versions welcome). The study is designed for those who are able to pop in as their schedule will allow, as well as those who seek study as part of a weekly discipline. Lunch after is optional. All are welcome!

Sept. 9 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Psalm 125
Sept. 16 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12 Psalm 19
Sept. 23 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Psalm 1

Prayer List & Other Events

Please Pray For...

Friends & Family

Ron Smith, Rochester
Mary McKoon, Assisted Living
Mary Woodburn, Amber Ridge, Bill Frazier's aunt
Terry Frazier, Bill Frazier's father
Ruth Brink
Marjorie Parker, Lighthouse
Jan Bjurstrom
Robert Glass, son of Sandy Glass
Richard Laws
Sydney Sophia Mowen
Karla Lohman, friend of Kristin Dowell
LaVerne Dunham, friend of Kristin Dowell,
uncle of Scott Maranda
Bryan Glass, son of Sandy Glass
Marvin Anderson, grandfather of Denise Browning
Catherine Jasper, Rosewood
All those in assisted or skilled care facilities
**For those going through surgery and their
recovery**

The Church

Church of Peace UCC, Rock Island
First Congregational UCC, Springfield

The Community

The still suffering alcoholic

The World

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia,
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montene-
gro, Serbia

Those Serving in the Military

**Matt & Kelly Walters, Vance Johnson, Leon &
Sara Starberg**, military, family members of Leon &
Karen Starberg

**Thank you for your prayers for Joel Price.
He has returned home from Afghanistan!**

****Please contact the church office
when it is time to remove names from the
Prayer Request list.**

Women's Connections Event



Ten ladies met August 23 to learn the art of scarf tying and napkin folding under the expert leadership of **Lois Florence** and **Rosemary Graham**. Fortified with instruction sheets, women mastered the scarf ties named hermes knot, bandit/cowl, faux bow, evening shawl, and ascot. Napkin favorites were the flower napkin fold, pleated fan, bishop's hat, and the rose. We even learned about napkin etiquette! Thank you, Lois and Rosemary, for a delightful connection!

The sign up sheet is now in the library for the van trip to the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield on Tuesday, September 15. We will leave from the church at 8:30a.m. and return by 5:30p.m. The museum fee for seniors aged 62 and up is \$7.00, \$10.00 for those under age 62. This is a "must see" museum which is easy to navigate and first rate with special effects theatrical presentations. Husbands and friends are welcome. Sign up early for this repeat connection from last fall.

Congregators September 10

Join us on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00p.m. at the home of **Buck** and **Coralie Wendt** on the Rock River. We will provide the entrée, beverages and table service. Please bring a dish of your choice. We welcome new members to join us.

Men's Golf Outing October 11

The Annual Men's Association Golf Outing is scheduled for October 11, 2009 at Golfmohr in East Moline. Lunch will be served at noon with golf beginning at 1:00p.m. Cost will be \$45.00 per person with 24 slots available. Please sign up during fellowship in the café or contact **David Hulme** at 563.514.1456 or d.hulme@mchsi.com.



A Message from Your Parish Nurse...

Peace and Good Health to You...

As I opened the Quad City Times today, the front page read "Get flu shots sooner this year, experts say". According to the Times, Quad City health experts are suggesting that people get vaccinated as soon as possible for the seasonal influenza to make way for a second wave of vaccinations for H1N1. The bulk of the seasonal flu vaccine will be available for general public distribution around October 1.

Thankfully, we scheduled for our flu clinic early this year and have a confirmed date for **Monday October 5 from 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.** in the parlor. Immunizations will be available to those ages 9 years and older.

Influenza, or the flu, is a respiratory disease and the most common symptoms include fever, cough, malaise, headache, and sore throat. The best protection against the flu is a flu shot.

The flu shot contains an inactivated vaccine that contains the three influenza viruses that are recommended for this year. The viruses in the flu shot are inactivated (killed), so you can't get the flu from a flu shot. It takes up to two weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination and lasts up to a year. If you are unable to get your flu shot at our FCC clinic, try to get one before November if possible; but if this is not possible, vaccination in December is still beneficial. Most cases usually occur in January or February. People that are at high risk for influenza should receive their vaccination in October. High risk individuals include health care workers, children age 6 months to 5 years, anyone over 50, women who are pregnant, anyone with long-term health problems and their caregivers, anyone living in dormitories, residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities. On average, 226,000 people are hospitalized every year because of influenza and 36,000 die - mostly elderly.

There will be pneumonia shots available, as well as the flu shots at the FCC clinic. The **flu shots cost \$35.00 and the pneumonia shots cost \$50.00. VNHA will bill all insurances, except Medicaid. Have your insurance card with you. They will also bill Medicare, as well as Medicare Advantage Plans.**

VNHA will give the flu shot and pneumonia shot the same day, one in each arm. If for some reason you receive a flu shot and decide later to get a pneumonia shot, VNHA will have you wait two weeks between shots. The CDC recommendation for

pneumonia shots is to receive the first one around age 65 and one more shot five years later. At one time, they recommended the shot every five years, but now they say one booster after the initial shot and they are good forever. (The recommendation may change, but that is what they have said the past three years).

*** Find out if you need to monitor your sugar intake with a **FREE diabetes screening.****

7:00a.m.-9:00a.m., September 14-18 and September 21-25 Trinity at Terrace Park, Conf. Rm. C, 4500 Utica Ridge Rd., Bettendorf

OR

7:00a.m.-9:00a.m., September 14-18 and September 21-25 Trinity VNHA, 106 19th Ave., Suite 101, Moline

**An 8-hour fast is recommended*



Sara McLees, B.S.N. E-mail: smclees@netexpress.net

It's a Boy!

Paul & Ilona Ylinen are the proud parents of a new son. **Lukas Paul** was born on August 24. Proud grandma is **Karen Ylinen** and great-grandma is **Charlotte Scott**. Congratulations and God's Blessings on this family!



HELP!

A blue velvet miniskirt from the 60's might have been returned to you instead of it's rightful owner. If you loaned clothes to the Tulip Luncheon Style Show, please check your closets. Call **Mary Mahar** at 309.762.3545 if you have it. Thank you!

Western Association Fall Meeting

Join us on Saturday, October 31 at Hope UCC in Moline. Registration will begin at 8:30a.m. Our keynote speaker will be **David Schoen**, Minister and Team Leader, Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC, Cleveland.

Meal Site Dates for 2009

Sign up in the library and pick up a guide for serving at the Churches United meal site. The next opportunity is **November 19 at Mt. Zion**. See **Pastor Jackie** if you have any questions. Here is the last date for 2009:

Mt. Zion, East Moline
December 17



Coffee fellowship is being served by Diaconate Board in September

Would you like a ride to worship?

If you would like the church van to bring you to 10:00a.m. worship, please call the church office by Friday at 309.762.0787. Driver for September is **Pat Oberg**.



It's Our 40th Anniversary!



On October 18, you are cordially invited by Red Wagon Staff & Board Members to the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Red Wagon Pre-School & Daycare Center, a strong mission of First Congregational Church of Moline. First, bring your family to the 9:00a.m. Worship Service, then, come to Red Wagon's educational wing for the Red Wagon Open House starting at 10:00a.m. to view the facility, meet the staff, and have a look at what goes on at Red Wagon.



First Congregational Church is needing to hire two (2) more nursery workers. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply, please see **Heidi** in the office for applications.

Stewardship

Fall Stewardship Kick-off Friday, October 2, 2009

**Rock Island Arsenal
Golf Club
6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.**

Come join your church family for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship as we kick-off the fall stewardship campaign.

The evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and a silent auction to support church renovations. A \$16 donation is payable at the door. Child care will be available. Please sign up in the church library or call the church office to make your reservations.

You may also contribute to the evening by donating items for the silent auction. The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination and see what you might donate to this very special event. Please call the church office, 309.762.0787, to tell us of your donation.



Stewardship Moment

A Round of Applause

The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza and Susanna and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

(Luke 8:1a-2)

I attended a play at a small local theatre company and discovered my name listed in the program as an "archangel". Wow! I felt good about myself. Wow! If I'm in the top tier of donors, they don't get what the world calls -- big gifts, but in proportion to my income the gift was big and, apparently, in proportion to their budget, it was what was needed.

At this start of the church "program year"...Ovation for the donors! Ovation comes from the Latin verb *ovare* - to rejoice. It means we reach up and clap!

A small group of women were the major donors for Jesus' ministry. Their resources are mentioned at four crucial junctures. They supported the Galilean ministry - new wineskin, mustard seed, oil-in-the-lamp work of teaching, healing, storm-stilling, and multitude-feeding. These same women were the last to leave Calvary and first with their oils and spices at the open tomb. They were also among the followers on Pentecost who were scorched by the Spirit and told the good news in many tongues.

Then, as now, some donors are comfortable to be named, while others prefer to be "many others". Perhaps Susanna was as surprised as I was to find herself in print. But for all of them -- ordinary archangels, dedicated donors, generous givers, sustaining supporters, resourceful resources - *an ovation!*

Bless us, O God, each time we touch money in the week to come - buying with it, receiving change, being paid - to name ways our resources can serve you. We pray in the name of Jesus, who was never ashamed of the usefulness of money. Amen.

You will find this newsletter on our website: www.FCCMoline.org

Calendar

Saturday, September 5

10:00 am Habitat for Humanity, Small Dining Room

5:30 pm Worship, Large Dining Room

Sunday, September 6, LAST 10:00a.m. Service

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary, 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

11:00 am Fellowship, Café, Lower Level

Monday, September 7, OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 8

6:00 pm Embroiders Guild, Large Dining Room

6:00 pm Church Life & Growth Meeting, Jr. High Room

6:00 pm Mission Board Meeting, Parlor

7:00 pm Church Council Meeting, Board Room

7:00 pm Banjoleers, Music Room

Wednesday, September 9

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Parlor

3:00 pm Warm Fuzzies, Parlor

5:30 pm Youth Choirs, Music Room

6:00 pm Metro Mini Makers, Board Room

7:15 pm Bells Rehearsal, Bell Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, September 10

10:00 am Prayer Group, Parlor

6:00 pm Congregators, Home of Buck & Coralie Wendt

Friday, September 11

10:00 am Red Wagon Grandparent's Day, Sanctuary & Dining Rooms

Saturday, September 12

5:30 pm Worship, Large Dining Room

Sunday, September 13, New Beginnings Sunday

9:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am Fellowship, Café, Lower Level

10:10 am Multigenerational Church School, Large Dining Room

11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

Monday, September 14

6:30 pm Mary Kay Meeting, Parlor

Tuesday, September 15

8:30 am Women's Connections Tour of Lincoln Memorial, Springfield

9:00 am Retired Folks, Village Inn, 53rd St., Moline

4:00 pm CommU, Jr. High Room

6:00 pm Nova Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:00 pm Mission Board Meeting, Parlor

7:00 pm Habitat for Humanity, Small Dining Room

7:00 pm Banjoleers, Music Room

Wednesday, September 16

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Parlor

10:00 am Newsletter Mailing, Library

3:00 pm Warm Fuzzies, Parlor

5:30 pm Youth Choirs, Music Room

7:15 pm Bells Rehearsal, Bell Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, September 17

9:30 am Card Ministry, Library

10:00 am Prayer Group, Parlor

5:00 pm Youth Group, First Annual MESS FEST!

5:30 pm Michl Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary & Dining Rooms

Friday, September 18

7:30 pm Michl Wedding, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 19

1:00 pm McGuire Shower, Dining Rooms

5:30 pm Worship, Large Dining Room

Sunday, September 20

8:30 am Christian Hospitality Meeting, Parlor

9:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am Fellowship, Café, Lower Level

10:10 am Church School

10:20 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Red Flames Room

11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

Newsletter Article

DEADLINES:

Fridays 5:00p.m.

September 11

September 25

October 2

**DATES ARE FINAL, SO BE
SURE TO GET YOUR ITEMS
TO THE OFFICE ON TIME!**

Email your items for the newsletter to cminge@netexpress.net



Happy Birthday to...



September

1. Faye White
2. Larry Wiebel
Jeanne Rich
France Driscal
3. Kathy Shepard
Ella Christopher
Jerry Siebersma
4. Buck Wendt
Margaret Driscal
5. June Gustus
- 6.
7. Nicole Zude
Mason Moorhusen
8. Emma Wichman
Kathryn Goldsmith
Jon Melin
9. Sue Lawson
Katie Bopes
John Grossman
Pam Chapman
10. Adam Carlson
Jeff Miller
11. Betty DeWispelaere
12. Amanda Miller
Angela Foster
13. Barbara Trimble
J. C. Millman
14. Mary Mason
Sue Hahn
Karsten Hulme
Phyllis Hallene
Scott Maranda
Ashley Moore
15. Sue DeGrande
Harriett Paschall
16. Ally Wichman
17. Gwen Johnson
Alyssa McCormick
Sarah Hillbloom
Nancy Keller
Brian Holtz
18. Alan Larsen
- 19.
20. Peg Smithers
21. Pam Engstrom
Linda Gimble
Jacqueline Perry
22. Bob McKay
Suzan Rowley
Ray Choudhry
Brandon Bealer
23. Vicky Bealer
Michelle Mampre
Linda Shearer
Shirley Poneleit
24. Sarah Ainswoth
Chris King
Christie Brown
25. William Geyer
Claire Wallace
26. Betty Porter
Ron Smith
27. Joan Nerdahl
Shelley Reed Dorner
Whitney Granet
Parker Marchant
28. Lara Grossman
29. Karen Koenig
Josh Oberg
Kayla Dinquel
Deanna Warpehoski
Carolyn Byrnes
30. Kimberly Franck
Becky Neighbors
Nolan Wandrey
Adam DeMont
Jeff Nelson

*Please let the
church office
know if we
have missed
your special day!*



**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**
2201 Seventh Avenue
Moline, Illinois 61265

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Return Service Requested



We want to be good stewards of the church's financial resources.
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact
Coral at 309.762.0787 or cminge@netexpress.net. Thank you!



Mission Statement of
First Congregational Church
Seeking, Serving, and Sharing Christ