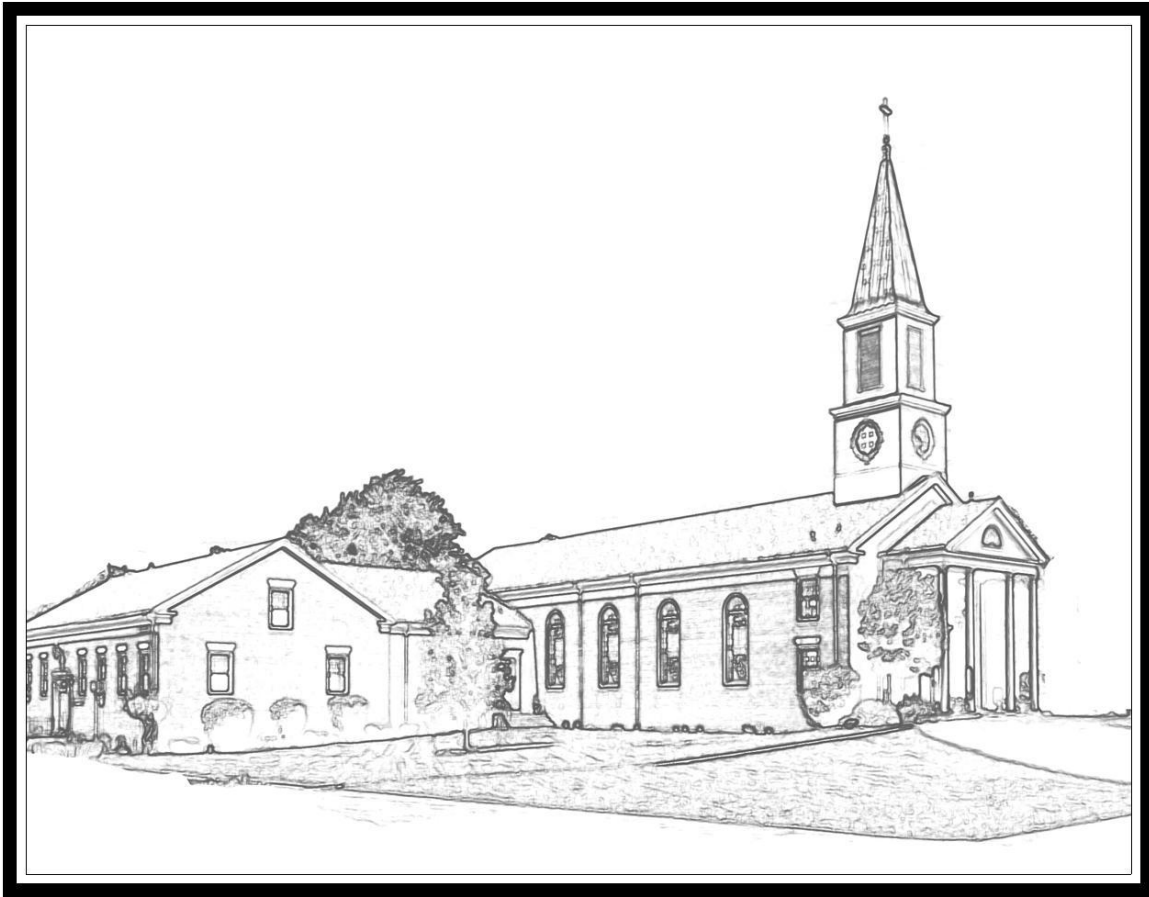




First Congregational United Church of Christ

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, Illinois 62526
(217) 877-2216
firstchurchdecatur.org

Sunday, August 9, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026
9:00 A.M.
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ryan D. Travis, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Morning Has Broken"

Second Wind Flute Choir

Gaelic melody arr. Derek Haydn

Streamed with permission of the composer ARR

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come, all who have forgotten the goodness already surrounding you. Come, all who have measured your lives against the lives of others. God calls us away from envy and covetousness, and God invites us to receive our lives with thanksgiving. We come to remember that every good gift comes from God. We come to praise the One whose grace is sufficient and whose mercy is abundant. Let us worship God with grateful hearts.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Thy Word"

#664 (refrain)

Amy Grant. © 1984 Meadowgreen Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing) and Word Music. ARR

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Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

All: Gracious God, every good gift we possess comes from your hand, yet we confess that we often overlook what you have given us and dwell upon what has been given to someone else. As we worship you, awaken gratitude within us. Turn our eyes away from comparison and resentment. Teach us to recognize your daily mercies, to give thanks for our own lives, and to rejoice in the blessings of our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Word of God Incarnate”

#670

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***CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Let us call to mind those ways we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. *(Silence is kept to reflect on our sins.)*

All: Merciful God, you command us not to covet, yet we confess that we often fail to give thanks for what you have already placed in our hands. We compare our lives with the lives of others. We envy their success, their possessions, their relationships, their recognition, and their opportunities. We become so preoccupied with what we lack that we fail to notice the blessings before us. Like Joseph’s brothers, we have allowed another person’s blessing to become a source of resentment. Instead of rejoicing with our neighbors, we have treated their good fortune as though something had been taken from us. Forgive our envy, our ingratitude, and our lack of trust. Open our eyes to your generosity. Teach us to receive our lives as gifts, to give thanks in all circumstances, and to desire what is good for our neighbors. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor: Hear the good news: God’s mercy is greater than our envy, our resentment, and our ingratitude. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Christ frees us from the endless burden of comparison and opens our eyes again to the goodness of God. By grace, we are taught to receive what God has given us with thanksgiving and to rejoice when others are blessed. Receive this forgiveness, and live with grateful hearts. Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, Amen.***

MUSIC MINISTRY

"How Can I Keep From Singing?" Second Wind Flute Choir

Quaker song arr. Nora Kile Copyright © 2008 Fall House Press ARR
Streamed with permission from the publisher ARR

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mindy Bunselmeyer

New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®
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"Teach me your way, LORD..."
Psalm 86:11

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 37:1-4; 12-28

Liturgist

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United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgist: A reading from the book of Genesis in the 37th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for persistence...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.

Hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Pastor: Please rise and join me in confessing what Christians have believed throughout history in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"Lake Solace"

Second Wind Flute Choir

Catherine McMichael Copyright © Alry Publications
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***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

Liturgist: Generous God, everything we have comes from you. Receive these gifts as an expression of our gratitude. Free us from covetousness and from the fear that what you have given us is not enough. Teach us to recognize your abundance, to give joyfully, and to use what we possess for the good of our neighbors. Through these offerings, bring comfort to those who suffer, help to those who are in need, and the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. In Christ's name we pray.

All: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"God Has Spoken by the Prophets"

#667

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the LORD bless you and keep you. May the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious. May the LORD look upon you with favor and grant you peace. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*O God of love, help me to be more loving.
God of forgiveness, help me to forgive.
God of all grace, help me to be more gracious.
God of all gifts, help me more freely give.
O God of truth, help me to work for justice.
O God of mercy, help me to be kind.
O God of peace and goodness, help me serve you,
with all my heart and strength and mind.*

"Benediction" Composed by Laurie Matheson. Used by permission.

POSTLUDE

"Love Lifted Me"

Second Wind Flute Choir

Howard E. Smith arr. Ed Dickinson Copyright © David E. Smith Publications LLC
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August 9, 2026
From Our Prayer Chain
Please Remember in Your Prayers

Joan Wolfram, Katie Elvidge, Larry Huckile, Martha Crookshank,
Clint Whitrock, Robin Reynolds, Marian Simpson-Rorick,
Helen Johnson, Steve Martin, Kelly Gonzalez, Dean Lorbach,
Robert Bean, Norma Morrison, Tom Irwin, Margaret,
Diana Kitchell, Jennifer K, Brad Johnson, Becky Corbin,
Nancy Leoucis, Marilee Gordon, Letsa, Randy Habbe,
Eric Wolfram, Don S, Mary Stewart, Murray Elliott,
John & Lois Pennock, Preston Wikoff, Richard Laswell,
Ellen Heavner, Tom Cooley, Matt, Olivia Wernecke Dees,
Kerry Waltenbaugh, Glenn Wolfram, Jerrold Fallstrom,
Laura Fankhauser, Pat Woodcock, Erika Kelley, Meg Phillips,
Shelly Long, Michelle, Mathew Clary, Gary Heymen,
Erica Moster, David Marshal, Jason Mumm, Norma Lingenfelter,
Rick Bein, Sheila S, Malinda Callaway, Ty Ditty,
Lexi Boyer, Kim Leon, Ryan Habbe, Band Family,
Anne, Aaron Heartt, Carl Erbsen, Michelle Unruh,
Connie Hall, Jodie Trembe, Kay Penk-Burrus, Heather,
Quinton Lefler, Mike Travis, Jeannie Miseles, August Scherer,
Quincy's friends, Noah Gallion, Barbara Wence, Sam Miller,
Liz Lynch, Sue, Charlie Spurlock, Madeline Mitchell,
Larry Elvidge, Rhett Ruecker, PJ Patterson, Lucas, Jessica,
Maddy, Marcus' sister, Melba.