



First Congregational United Church of Christ

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, Illinois 62526
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firstchurchdecatur.org

Sunday, May 17, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday in Eastertide

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
9:00 A.M.
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ryan D. Travis, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Festival Piece No. 1"

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come, let us worship God together. We do not come as people who always agree, always understand one another, or always get relationships right. We come as people who need the mercy of Christ. In a world filled with pride, division, and self-interest, Jesus calls us to humility, patience, and love. Jesus Christ did not seek his own glory but emptied himself and took the form of a servant. So let us worship the crucified and risen Lord, who is still at work within his people, shaping us by grace.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Praise the Name of Jesus"

#115

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Praise the name of Jesus, praise the name of Jesus.

He's my Rock, he's my Fortress,

He's my Deliverer, in him will I trust.

Praise the name of Jesus.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself and took the form of a servant for our salvation. Teach us to walk in your way. Quiet our pride, soften our hearts, and heal the divisions that wound your church. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may be of one mind and one love, caring for one another with humility and patience. Remind us that you are at work within us, shaping us into your people through grace. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

#455

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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: Most merciful God, we are redeemed sinners who continue to struggle with the weakness of our flesh. Have mercy on us. We are often more concerned with ourselves than with one another. We cling to pride, nurse resentments, compete for recognition, and allow small conflicts to grow into larger wounds. We speak harshly, judge quickly, and struggle to forgive. Too often we seek our own interests instead of the good of our neighbors and the unity of your church. Forgive us for the ways we resist the mind of Christ. Teach us humility, patience, gentleness, and love. Heal broken relationships, soften stubborn hearts, and help us become a people shaped not by rivalry or ego, but by the self-giving love of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor: Hear the good news: The one who humbled himself even to the point of death has been exalted by God above every name. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. God is at work within us, and by grace, we are being made new.

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

"I Set My Hope"

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Popa arr. Mary McDonald Copyright © 2023 and this arr. © 2024 Messenger Hymns Love Your Enemies Publishing Getty Music and Hymns Getty Music Publishing ARR UBP
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mindy Bunselmeyer

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Every good and perfect gift is from above...
James 1:17

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-13

Liturgist

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Liturgist: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, in the 2nd chapter.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Looking for Division in All the Wrong Places”

Pastor Ryan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Father in heaven, grant to us the mind of Christ...

**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**

Lay Leader: 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

"Trust and Obey"

Daniel B. Towner arr. Carmine Toreador Copyright © 2026 Toreador Productions, Inc. ARR
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***DOXOLOGY**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

Liturgist: God of all blessings and abundance, our land is prosperous. Thank you for the endless goodness you have granted us. In both times of financial gain and loss, you remain faithful to us. Thank you for the honor of being able to give to you. Help our sisters and brothers who struggle with poverty and debt, that they might be set free. Receive both financial gifts and gifts of the heart that are offered to you today. In Christ's name,
All: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

#595

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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

Excerpt from "Toccatà"

Theodore Dubois arr. Diane Bish Copyright © 1993 Tarzana Music Company ARR
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May 17, 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,
Amanda, Ellen Heavner, Tom Cooley, Matt & Theresa Family,
Olivia Wernecke Dees, Kerry Waltenbaugh, Glenn Wolfram,
Sara Foreman, Jerrold Fallstrom, Laura Ylander, Pat Woodcock,
Erika Kelley, Meg Phillips, Casey Henderson, Shelly Long,
Michelle, Mathew Clary, Gary Heymen, Erica Moster,
David Marshal, Steve Centola, Jason Mumm, Julie Bond,
Norma Lingenfelter, Rick Bein, PJ Patterson, Sheila S,
Malinda Callaway, Steve Morrison, Ty Ditty, Lexi Boyer,
Kim Leon, Kristin Hargrove, Ryan Habbe, Band Family, Anne,
Aaron Heartt, Carl Erbsen, Michelle Unruh, Connie Hall,
Jodie Trembe, Katie, Tim Taylor Family, Kay Penk-Burrus, Heather.

~ Sympathy ~

Gina Birrittier Family and Friends
Doug Travis Family and Friends