



# “THE STARTER”

September 2022

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## New Office Hours

The kids are all back in school and so must I. Beginning the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>, my office will be back to fall hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9-3pm and Thursday 12-3pm.



## The Resignation of Rev. Brian Beck

In early July, the Pastoral Relations Committee met with Pastor Beck. Some concerns were voiced and were met by the Pastor with a negative response.

Later in July, the Executive Board met with Pastor Beck asking that he In early July, the Pastoral Relations take time off to be able to address his family needs at home. Then when returning, there would be several requests that we hoped would build a better relationship with our congregation. Again this was met with a negative response.

After another meeting with Pastor, he reflected on the future of his ministry at First Congregational Church and decided we were not a good fit and he could serve the Lord better elsewhere.

Pastor Beck and his parents have been accorded the use of the parsonage through October to plan their future ministry. He will also be compensated through October.

First Congregational Church prays that God will lead him and bless his future. We also pray God will continue to bless our church.



## Bowling

Christian Ed. Board is sponsoring bowling at Illinois Valley Superbowl on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Sign Up PLEASE!!



## Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882 provides a day of rest for working Americans showing their importance to the country's well-being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the garden to till it and keep it (Genesis 2:15). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest on the Sabbath and use it for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation.

Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers – all fits to God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.



The Chancel Choir will start rehearsing on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All who love to sing for the Lord are welcome to join us. Come join the comradery, wear a pretty red robe and get your signing bonus!



9:00am – Adult Sunday School Class meets in the lounge

9:00am – Jr. Sr. Class meets in Dawn's Classroom

10:30am – Children's Church meets after the children's message in worship service



## Monthly Diners

The monthly diners will be meeting here in Morgan Hall for a potluck on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Please Sign-Up!!



*In a world where you can be anything, be kind.*



Food Pantry/Pads

We are making it easier to support PADS and both area food pantries. They have more buying power with dollars than actual donated items. So we will be removing the collection baskets in the narthex and you can donate using the two boxes on the table. Any dollars put in the Food Pantry box will be evenly divided between Illinois Valley Food Pantry and Hall Township Food Pantry.



Lost and Found

My lost and found is growing. I now have 3 pairs of glasses and 1 camera looking for their home.



Hallelujah House

Christian Ed will be holding a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 3 – 5pm. We will be having Bible stories and games. It's only treats no tricks. There will be a signup coming soon. We will need readers and game monitors. We will also ask for donations of candy treats and especially cakes for an old fashion cake walk.



Woman's Groups

Beginning August 22, 2022 at 10:00am "Habakkuk" Bible Study in the lounge.  
Beginning Sept. 2, 2022 at 10:00am discussion group in the lounge.



We will be celebrating a NEW school year with special treats at the Adult Sunday School Class, Children's Church kids and the Jr. Sr. class on September 11, 2022.



Fellowship

For anyone wishing to visit after worship service, there will be coffee and lemonade made available. All that is asked is you rinse out the coffee urns and pitchers after use.



Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Marilyn Cobb, Rita Tieman, Dawn's parents & Dawn Tieman, Rick and Deb Taylor, Rob and Cyndee Dickson, Bernie Dahl's daughter in law Angie.

\*\*Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:  
Carol Edgcomb Don Walker  
Jane McClintock  
Lillian Mini Daryl & Lin Stuhr

- \*\* Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows
- \*\* Pray for Jews for Jesus
- \*\* Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply
- \*\* Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic
- \*\* Pray for Cup of Cold Water Ministries
- \*\* Pray for Transport for Christ
- \*\* Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless



*Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people.*

*Fred Rogers*



*Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended, not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. LOVE intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in the darkness for the light that is YOU.*

*L.R. Knost*



Words to Live By

*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

*People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*



The Knots Prayer

*Dear God,  
Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind. Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart. Release me from the could nots, would nots, and should nots that obstruct my life. And most of all, Lord, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.*



*My memory is not as good as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as good as it used to be.*



*Can you match the chapter and verse?*

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ten Commandments    | a. Matthew 6:9-15  |
| 2. Birth of Jesus      | b. Luke 15: 11-32  |
| 3. Lord's Prayer       | c. 1Corinthians 13 |
| 4. Sermon on the Mount | d. Exodus 20       |
| 5. Great Commandments  | e. Matthew 7:12    |
| 6. Prodigal Son        | f. Luke 10: 30-37  |
| 7. Good Samaritan      | g. Luke 2: 8-14    |
| 8. Golden Rule         | h. Matt 22: 23-40  |
| 9. 'Love Chapter       | i. John 3:16       |
| 10. Gospel Condensed   | j. Matthew 5,6,7   |



My Church

*My church is composed of people like me. WE make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to make causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship if I bring them.*

*My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith and a church with a noble spirit if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.*



*The power of a fully lived life or a truly learned mind is not a power to be sought or contrived.*

*It comes as we let go of what we possess and find ourselves possessed by a truth greater than our own.*

*Parker Palmer*



*Worry looks around  
Sorry looks back  
Faith looks up*



