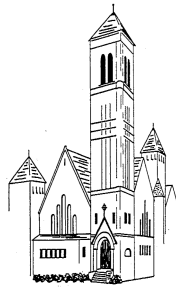


Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Weekly, except week of Christmas, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712 FAX www.firstpresdecatur.org or email: fpdec@comcast.net



Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

February 11, 2015

NUMBER 7

February 15, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour
	9:15 a.m.	NewSong Worship Service – Chapel
	10:15 a.m.	Chapel Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary; Children's Church School – LL
February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY	6:15 p.m.	Taizé Service – Chapel

First Presbyterian Vision and Mission Statements

VISION: As faithful followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to be an open, caring, compassionate congregation, and to bring about positive changes in our community and world.

MISSION: We celebrate, explore, and demonstrate our Christian faith in loving service.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 1) Continue to be an active community-oriented congregation; 2) Develop a passion for discipleship and advocacy; 3) Celebrate unity of purpose with diversity in action.



LENTEN CLASSES & SOUP SUPPERS

FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH THE END OF MARCH

This year's Lenten season will focus on world religions which should help us better understand people, cultures and other faith communities. Classes will be offered from Ash Wednesday till Wednesday of Holy Week at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings; 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings; and 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Bill Keagle will offer a 6-week discussion class "Understanding World Religions", beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. The same class will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., beginning Feb. 22. Watch Tower Notes for more details.

Miley Palmer will lead a weekly book study at 7 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 24 to Mar. 31. We will use the book "What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions" by J. Philip Wogaman. A well-known author of more than 20 books, mostly on social ethics, he is a retired professor of Christian Ethics and Past President of the Interfaith Alliance. In the latter post, he spent much time with world leaders of other religions, and so comes to this book with an unusual openness to the lessons various faiths can offer us. The book is available from our church office for \$7.50.

Weekly Wednesday night Soup Suppers will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the dining room beginning Ash Wednesday prior to the class or choir. Several committees will again provide a variety of soups to go with sandwiches and desserts. **Please sign up for the February 18 supper in the Gathering Room** or call the church office (429-4195) by this Friday, Feb. 13th so food can be ordered. (\$5 person/\$15 family). Classes and meals are open to the public with meal reservations made a week in advance. Mark your calendars now to be a part of this Lenten group which combines Christian Education with thoughtful discussion, delicious food and great fellowship.

HAITI MEDICAL MISSION

Connie Requarth, Phyllis McPherron and Fred Spannaus are going to Haiti on February 28th. This is through IAMM (International Assist Medical Mission) which Connie and Phyllis have gone with 2 times in the past. We are collecting items which are always needed. They are: **multivitamins, children's Tylenol (tablets) and Tums**. We will have a box in the library labeled "Supplies for Haiti." Thank you so much for all your help and support.

An International Connection



Last October, Dr. Kay and several of our members attended an address by former President Jimmy Carter at Illinois College. In

cooperation with the former Congressman Paul Findley and Dubai businessman, Khalaf Al Habtoor, the college initiated a program called "Pathways to Peace." The program involves select faculty and students who have agreed to study issues and explore possible approaches to addressing the roadblocks to peace in the Middle East. They will visit the Holy Land later in the Spring and report to Dr. Al Habtoor directly.

Since October, Dr. Al Habtoor has invited John to visit him at his home in Dubai. John looks forward to continuing personal conversations and welcomes the opportunity to assess the progress of the "Pathways to Peace" with its sponsor. He also looks forward to sharing the plans for Interfaith learning which will be a hallmark of our upcoming Lenten Series.

He will be leaving on February 16 and return to Chicago on the 23rd. He will be back in the office on the afternoon of Wednesday the 25th. Fair warning! Stories (and maybe photos) to follow...

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Charlie Davidson

Rob Roberts moved to Heritage Health in Mt. Zion, room 303.

Charlie Davidson was moved out of Fairhavens and into Eastview Terrace - room 31 (100 Eastview Place, Sullivan, IL 61951 - Phone 728-7367).

Bill Grieve was moved to Hickory Point Christian Village for rehab and is in room 208.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Leo Pondelick has moved to Minnesota with his daughter. Correspondence may be sent to:

Leo Pondelick

c/o Lisa Olson

4195 40th St. W

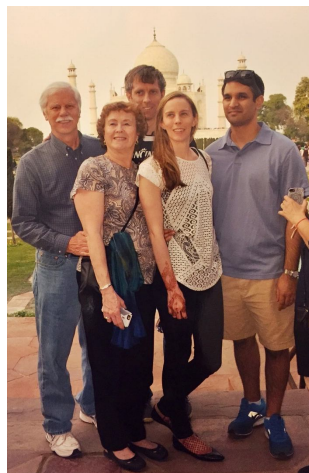
Webster, MN 55088-2417

Lisa's phone number is (952) 652-2247

Ryan Holler's new cell phone number is (217) 791-0179.

Lindsey Morthland's cell number is (217) 791-4199.

Constance French has decided to join her son's church in Moline, IL. We will miss you, Connie.



Cathy Force and family are in India for their daughter Julie's wedding. In the background is the famed Taj Mahal.

We pray for their safe return.

THANK YOU

Thank you for caring and sharing! Your contribution to Stand Up for Grace to provide food, clean water and basic necessities for African orphans is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. SUFG

THANK YOU...We have the 25 signatures to support a blood drive here at First Presbyterian Church. We tentatively are looking at an April date in the afternoon when most people are available. Watch for more information as the First Presbyterian blood drive planned for April nears!

Health Ministry Team



VERY GOOD

February 15 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

#1 Volunteer

#4 Volunteer

#2 Volunteer

#5 Pat Smallwood

#3 Volunteer

Computer Tech

Fred Spannaus

Coffee & Fellowship

Liz Jones - Deacons

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Carol Fuller

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

February 15, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent – Guest speaker, James Walters, Executive Director of Dove, Inc., will talk about their valuable ministries in Decatur.

9:00 Present Word Bible Study: Main floor Pastor's study – Ray Landon leads the weekly Bible study. Unit III: STEWARDSHIP FOR LIFE will focus on "Serving the Least" – Matthew 25:31-46.

9:00 Youth Class: LL Youth Room – Junior- and Senior-high class is led by Chris Lawton.

10:15 a.m. Chapel Conversation Class – This is a discussion group about the day's scriptures and sermon in the chapel. Cindy Wene is discussion leader.

10:30 a.m. Children's Church School: Lower Level

Old friends – New friends



TAPAS HOURS is a great way to relax and enjoy getting to know your church family. As a guest you bring a Tapas (hors d'oeuvre) of your choice and sample the choices of others. As a host you open your home and provide beverages and seating for 6 to 10 guests. Sign up as a guest once a month and choose a weekend of one month when you might be able to host. The colorful sign-up board is waiting in the Gathering Room with Feb., March, and April posted-later May and maybe June will appear. More info-Judy Batson, 422-8319 or e-mail batsongj@sbcglobal.net

Christian Classics Lecture Series Sundays in February & March

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3rd Floor,
1360 W. Main St.

Pastor and Millikin University Professor Dr. Timothy Kovalcik presents a monthly historical, theological, and contemporary lecture and discussion at 6:30-8pm – free; reservations required, 217-428-6603.

2/22 – *Lectures to my Students*

by Charles Spurgeon

3/22 – *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer

Concert Series

Saturday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.

Central Christian Church
650 W. WILLIAM ST.

Enjoy an evening listening to the Cantamus Women's Choir from Iowa State University; it is one of four major choral ensembles at Iowa State. The women are selected by audition and range in year from freshmen to graduate students. Director is Kathleen Rodde.



WORSHIP SERVICES

February 15, 2015

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Jerry Redford, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Richard Sublett, 9:15 a.m. service leader

Margie Bennett, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"The Eyes of Love"

Scripture

Mark 9:2-9

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are given by Dick and Doris Fiala in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on February 12, 2015.

February Ushers

Myung Kim, captain

Dan Austin

Bob Bullock

Joli Cirks

Carol Ferry-sub

Jim May

Eric Nevitt-sub

Charlie Platt-sub

Pat Smallwood

David Williams

Mike Zia-sub

Worship Aids

Children's bulletins, large-print Bibles, and hearing amplifiers are available for use during worship. Ask any usher.



AVAILABLE FLOWER

DATE:

March 1

Purchase Sunday flowers in memory of your loved ones- 429-4195 or fpdec@comcast.net.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



"Labor of Love" Prayer Shawl ministry will meet

on the 2nd Wednesday from 10:00-11:30 A.M. (or whenever you need to leave). We begin with a devotion, updates on members/concerns and chit-chat as we knit or crochet. Drop in anytime February 25th.

WHAT IF YOU WERE FORBIDDEN TO LEARN?



EDUCATION UNDER FIRE

expel them on trumped up charges. Baha'is responded by creating an "underground university" which is called Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE). This is primarily an online education system.

Periodically homes are raided to find and arrest anyone involved in BIHE. Currently there are, if this number is correct, 13 Baha'is in prison for teaching.

The website www.educationisnotacrime.me gives information about this and has a trailer for the film **To Light a Candle**. The Baha'i Community of Decatur, along with the Office of Inclusion and Student Engagement at Millikin University, will be showing this film on **Saturday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m. in Pilling Chapel.**

2015 Environmental Film Series

The 8th season of contemporary environmental documentaries -- featuring some of the best flicks for thinking, discussing, dreaming and imagining! A discussion follows each film held at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur (3773 N. MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL)

Each screening will begin at 7:00 PM. Limited seating is available.

Free admission, donations accepted – fresh theatre-style popcorn and healthy drinks available for purchase.

FEB 28TH: HOW I BECAME AN ELEPHANT (2012, 82 MIN.)

Follow a wide-eyed, fourteen year-old girl from suburban California on her quest to save the world's largest land mammal; a quest that takes her halfway across the globe and face-to-face with the gentle giants she aims to save. This elephant documentary, with its exotic and sometimes disturbing imagery, is inspiring folks around the globe.

MAR 14TH: COWSPIRACY (2014, 85 MIN.)

A groundbreaking, feature-length environmental documentary following filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today, and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it – well-researched, illustrated, and entertaining.

MAR 28TH: GMO OMG (2013, 90 MIN.)

Director and concerned father Jeremy Seifert is in search of answers. How do GMOs (genetically modified organisms) affect our children, the health of our planet, and our freedom of choice? And perhaps the ultimate question, which Seifert tests himself: Is it even possible to reject the food system currently in place, or have we lost something we can't gain back? These and other questions take Seifert on a journey from his family's table to Haiti, Paris, Norway, and the lobby of biotech giant Monsanto.

APR 11TH: HEART OF SKY, HEART OF EARTH (2013, 98 MIN.)

Accompany six young Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas through their daily and ceremonial life. They put forth a wholly indigenous Mayan perspective in their own words, without narration. Their cosmology, in which all life is sacred and interconnected, presents a deeply compelling alternative to the prevailing worldview. As giant corporations go to the ends of the earth to extract all resources, these Maya reveal their determination to resist the destruction of their culture and environment.

*Add a Lenten Discipline
to grow your faith*



Instead of or in addition to fasting during Lent, you might add a spiritual exercise or discipline to your life. You might choose to join Miley's book study or Bill Keagle's discussion class. Or you may want to participate in some act of kindness, such as feeding people at Good Samaritan Inn. Adding something to do everyday needs to be realistic in your life's schedule. The following are some suggestions: Set aside some time of quiet to read a Lenten devotional or read a chapter of a gospel each day. No matter what you do during this Lenten season, God will draw you closer to Him, and prepare you for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter. May God's love be with you!



***WOMEN'S
NIGHT OUT
Fuji***

At North Walmart Center

RSVP – Thursday, February 26, 2015, 5:30pm

Expired Military Coupon Program

Dove collects expired manufactured coupons and ships them overseas to military families. The families can use them overseas up to six months past the expiration date. Monetary donations are needed for postage as one box costs \$15.90 to ship and contains approximately 20,000 coupons, which is a lot of savings for our families struggling overseas. You may continue to help support them by donating the cost of one box.

Checks for postage can be mailed to

Dove, Inc. – RSVP

302 S. Union

Decatur, IL 62522

Add "postage" on the memo line

OR

You may donate online at www.doveinc.org

and put "coupon postage" on the note box.

Coupons can be dropped off at 302 S. Union or 800 E. Clay.

First Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain

To request prayer for someone, call any one person on the prayer chain. Contact Lori Jensen or Yvonne Lewis for further questions or information. An alternative to making a phone call is to send an email to the church at fpdec@comcast.net and/or lori.jensen1@comcast.net.

Your prayer chain people who pray for you are compassionate and caring. We do have a request for those who call in petitions for prayers: Please update Yvonne Lewis or Lori Jensen following your initial request within two weeks, so we can all pray specifically and intelligently.

Joan Brown	877-0880
Gayle Bruckner	877-4116
Marty Cushman	433-0526
Carol Ferry	422-0964
Jean Gift	428-1698
Lori Jensen	429-3400
Yvonne Lewis	423-8727
Susan Marshall	422-0824
Verlyn Rosenberger	877-4789
Harriet Sadowski	428-5607
Jane Spires	520-1884
Joan Winick	428-5437



Please remember our members, friends, and relatives in retirement communities and assisted living facilities:

Breeze Park Senior Care Center in St.

Charles, Missouri: Ray Reschetz

Fair Havens Christian Home: Charles Davidson

The Glenwood: Mary Elizabeth Platt, Rob Roberts

Heartland: John Winick

Hickory Point Christian Village: Louise Bear, Esther Grissom, Dick Ferry

Imboden Creek Living Center: Norma Stephens, Jean Peak

Primrose Retirement Community: Julia Bright, Festus Paul

Tanglewood Village: Ruth Smith

The Willows of Hamburg in Lexington, Kentucky: Joanne Sly

Wesley Willows in Rockford, Illinois: Maxine Mussulman

Dove's Children's Clothing Room

Dove's Clothing Room hours are Monday through Thursday from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. There are still plenty of coats for kids – just stop in and request one. Do you know of someone in need, please contact Dove at 428-6616 and ask for Sandy Harmison.

In addition, volunteers are needed to help in the clothing room located inside of the Prairie Avenue Christian Church at 2201 E. Prairie Ave.