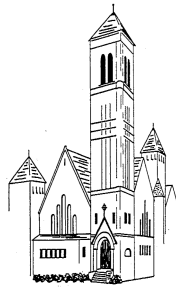


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Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

February 18, 2015

NUMBER 8

February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY	6:15 p.m.	Taizé Service – Chapel
February 22, 2015	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
1st SUNDAY OF LENT	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

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.

Miley Palmer will lead a weekly book study at 7 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 24 to Mar. 31. He 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 25 supper in the Gathering Room** or call the church office (429-4195) by this Friday, Feb. 20th 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. Be a part of this Lenten group which combines Christian Education with thoughtful discussion, delicious food and great fellowship. Lent is for everyone.



Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.



February 18th, 6:15 PM

Start your Lenten Journey with First Presbyterian Church. Join us between 5:30-6:30 PM in the dining room for a prepared soup and sandwich supper followed by a meaningful prayer service at 6:15 PM. The chapel service will conclude with an opportunity to receive ashes.

At 7:00 PM return to the dining room to hear Bill Keagle discuss "Understanding World Religions".



Introducing Frugal Froggie and his Finance

Committee friends: Dan Austin, Dianne DeVore, Bob Dunn, John Kay, Jan Mandernach, Frits Pronk, Phil Smith, Trish Spinner, and Elmer Turner.

Our goal...with your help...is to have a financially healthy church.

Please watch for future updates in Tower Notes.

HAITI MEDICAL MISSION

Connie Requarth, Phyllis McPherron and Fred Spannaus leave for Haiti on February 28th. They are collecting **multivitamins, children's Tylenol (tablets) and Tums**. We have a box in the library labeled "Supplies for Haiti." Thank you so much for all your help and support.

E-mail concerns to:
amcelder@comcast.net

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Charlie Davidson is at St. Mary's, room 612. They are doing tests on him.

James Nevitt is at Decatur Memorial Hospital in room 4146.

Bill Grieve is at Hickory Point Christian Village for rehab, room 208.

Please pray also for the **Families of the 21 Egyptian Christians** beheaded by ISIS terrorists, and for an end to this evil.

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, contact Judy Batson, 422-8319 or e-mail batsongj@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

February 22, 2014

9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent –Dr. Bill Keagle will lead the first Lenten class with a discussion on ‘Understanding World Religions’. Bill taught this topic in his religion classes at Millikin.

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 “Clothed and Ready” – Ephesians 6:10-20.

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



VERY GOOD

February 22 SUNDAY GREETERS

Before Service

#1 Volunteer

#4 Volunteer

#2 Volunteer

#5 Bob Bullock

#3 Volunteer

Computer Tech

Jackie Evans

Coffee & Fellowship

Judy Steele

Web Team

Theresa Boes

Media Tech

Jackie Evans

Andy Rauff

January Church School Teacher

Carol Fuller

Easter Lilies



Lilies are available for purchase in honor or in memory of your loved ones during the Lenten season. Lilies are \$12.75 each. Call 429-4195, sign up on the church office clipboard or e-mail fpdec@comcast.net with your remembrance information.

SECOND CHANCE FOR PRESBYTERIANS TODAY MAGAZINE SPECIAL OFFER!

We have received an extension on the special offer of a **FREE 1-year subscription to *Presbyterians Today* magazine for new subscribers.** If you have not already taken advantage of this great deal, please submit your name, mailing address and e-mail (if applicable) to the church office **by noon on Friday, February 27.**

“*Presbyterians Today* is the award-winning, general interest magazine of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Published 10 times a year, it explores practical issues of faith and life, tells stories of Presbyterians who are living their faith and covers a wide range of church news and activities. *Presbyterians Today* features easy-to-understand articles about what Presbyterians believe, Bible study and devotional helps, and provocative commentary on the church’s role in society.”

(from presbyterianmission.org)

For more info on the magazine, check out <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/>.

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 (front, center). Also featured is the Millikin Women’s Choir directed by Beth Holmes.



WORSHIP SERVICES

February 22, 2015

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. Miley Palmer, preaching

Dianne DeVore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

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

Beth Bachtold, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

Sermon

"God Never Gives Up"

Scripture

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15l

Peter 3:16b-19

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of Rick Lavelly, Betsy Elder, Wendy Elder, and Kim Orgeron, given by Marty Cushman.

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.

FEBRUARY IS ALL ABOUT



We just celebrated Valentine's Day and this month is National Heart Month, so there is a lot of focus on our heart, both the loving heart and the healthy heart. I wish you all lots of love, but now it is time to think about helping our heart stay healthy. I know you have probably heard some of this before, but I think it bears repeating. These are the things **you** can do for your heart.

- Stay active, exercise
- Control your weight
- Stop smoking
- Manage cholesterol
- Control blood pressure, take medicine, if needed
- Eat healthy, low sodium
- Manage stress
- Alcohol in moderation
- Take steps to prevent diabetes

Some of these areas are easier to accomplish than others, but no one can do them for you. Family, friends, doctors, and nurses can encourage and make suggestions, but in the end it is up to you. Study after study has proven all these things decrease your risk of heart disease. If I could put them in a pill, I would be a rich person. But until then, it is up to all of us to give our heart a little love to show our appreciation for all it does for us.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

Our blood donor day will be on April 6 in the afternoon from 12:30 to 4:30 when most people will be available. Watch for more information as the First Presbyterian blood drive nears!

Health Ministry Team

Session Highlights of February 16 meeting

The Session met on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7 p.m. The usual business was conducted, and the highlights of committee work were reviewed. It was noted that the newly formed Finance committee recently met for its first meeting.

An omnibus motion with eight recommendations was approved with no discussion.

On behalf of the Evangelism & Membership committee, Cindy Wene noted that a free subscription to *Presbyterians Today* is available to new subscribers for a limited time.

Susan Moore was elected to represent the church at the March 5 Regional Presbytery meeting in Decatur.

The Session will meet again on Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return"

Genesis 3:19



In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation, a

time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Palms waved at the previous year's Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. It is a day of mourning for our sins and the sins of all humanity before God. We ask the Lord to remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die. Though we are dust, we are baptized dust, bound in death and life to Christ, and that makes all the difference.

Not all Christian churches observe Ash Wednesday or Lent. They are mostly observed by the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations, and also by Roman Catholics. Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Orthodox Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday (called Clean or Green Monday) and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent; however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

Christianity.about.com

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 6:30-8:00pm – free, but reservations required, 217-428-6603.

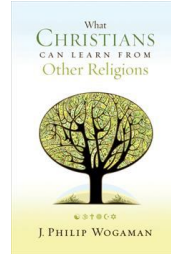
2/22 – *Lectures to my Students*

by Charles Spurgeon

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

What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions - Book Review (by J. Philip Wogaman)

CLASS BOOK IS \$7.50



Examining other religions provides Christians the opportunity to more deeply understand their own beliefs. Learning about other religions is not the same as learning from other religions, which can have great value to Christians who wish to strengthen their faith. In this book's ten easy-to-read chapters, Wogaman shows readers what Christians can learn from different religions, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and even from atheism. From these religions Christians can achieve insight into love, sin, ritual, the importance of myth to convey truth, the foundational roots of Christianity, the dark side of Christian history, and many other important ways to see and interpret the world and to understand God. The book concludes with a chapter on what other religions can learn from Christianity.

Interested in the class and are Tuesday nights at 7:00 open for you? We still have books available – Call 429-4195 or e-mail fpdec@comcast.net to sign up for Miley's first class on Tuesday, February 24th!



WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT Fuji

At North Walmart Center

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

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
Sue Weinstein	454-7819
Joan Winick	428-5437