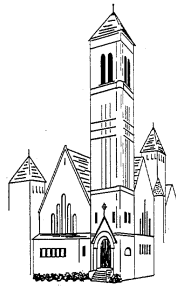


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# Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

March 11, 2015

NUMBER 11

March 15, 2015  
 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 a.m. Worship Service – Chapel  
 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**

**Lenten Season Suppers & Classes=  
great fellowship and learning**

THANKS to Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger, Pam Neeley, Rob Eytchison (Adult Ministry), Sue Weinstein and Brenda Aymer for all their help during last week's soup supper. Also our continued thanks to Carolyn Allin and her daughter, Kelly Tohill, for their consistently delicious desserts.

Please consider adding a church activity on YOUR Wednesday calendar this Lent. There's always room for more participants in the suppers, class or choir. Weekly Wednesday night Soup Suppers are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the dining room, prior to the class or choir. Several committees provide a variety of soups to go with sandwiches and desserts. **Please sign up for the March 18 supper in the Gathering Room** or call the church office (429-4195) by this Friday, March 13, so food can be ordered (\$5 person/\$15 family). At 7 p.m., Bill Keagle leads *Understanding World Religions*. If you can't attend his Wednesday class, he does it again on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Classes and meals are open to the public with meal reservations made a week in advance.

On Tuesdays, the *Tuesdays with Miley* class continues from 7-8 p.m., using the book "What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions". Class discussions and questions during the week, including the 9 a.m. Sunday morning class, have been informative and thought provoking. Lent is for everyone and a great time to learn more about the world around us. Please join us.

**ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT**



The Worldwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be June 18-21 in Minneapolis, Minn. If you would like a registration book, contact Phyllis Warnick, 226-4209, or [warnickfarm@gmail.com](mailto:warnickfarm@gmail.com).

The gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to get together for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, sessions with inspiring speakers, uplifting music and worship. Everything takes place under one roof at the Hyatt Regency. Over 20 countries participate. It is quite an experience if you are interested and would like to see Minneapolis and take in some of the fun spots Minneapolis has to offer.



**If you are not able to attend church services on Sunday, our church office will have bulletins available for you.**

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS:**

E-mail concerns to:  
amcelder@comcast.net

**Bob Bullock** is home recovering from carotid artery surgery.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dan and Ann Austin at the death of Ann's mother, Lillie Evelyn Fisher, age 94. She died March 3, 2015, in Monticello, IL.

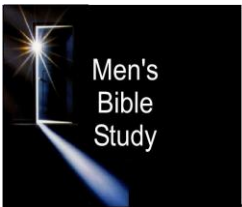
Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Jerry and Barbara Redford on the death of Barbara's younger sister, Marysue Wilson, who died Wednesday March 4, 2015. Services will be held in Delphos, OH on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Susan (Nicholas) Phipps and Nicholas Phipps' baby boy is named James Conrad, born February 28, 2015.

**Katie Eytchison** is director of Theatre 7's *Glass Menagerie* playing last weekend and this weekend at Richland Community College's Shilling Auditorium. Dates are March 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.; and March 15 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are between \$10 and \$15.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**



All men are invited to gather on Thursday, **March 12** from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room to begin their study of the Book of Revelation. The hot coffee

is always ready at 7:00 and we take turns bringing some tasty donuts or coffeecake. Come join George, Dick, Paul, Ray & René.

**CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR**

**March 15, 2014**

**9:00 Everyday Issues during Advent** –Dr. Bill Keagle will lead the fourth 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 I: THE PLEDGE OF GOD'S PRESENCE will focus on "The Spirit of Truth" – John 16:4b-15.

**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**

**March 15 SUNDAY GREETERS**

**Before Service**

- #1 Kathy Thornton
- #2 Nadine Wimmer
- #3 Jim May
- #4 Connie May
- #5 Pat Smallwood

**Computer Tech**

Jackie Evans

**Web Team**

Theresa Boes

Andy Rauff

**March Church School Teacher**

Cindy Wene

**Coffee & Fellowship**

Christl-St. Patrick's Day

**Media Tech**

Jackie Evans



**WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT**

**DOHERTY'S PUB & PINS**

**RSVP – Thursday, March 26, 2015, 5:30pm**

**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](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net) with your remembrance information.

**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 the film held at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur (3773 N. MacArthur Road, Decatur, IL). 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.

**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.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

March 15, 2015

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

Rev. John Kay, preaching

Mac Moore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader

Terry Hogg and Pam Neeley, 9:15 a.m.

service leaders

Dan Austin, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

### Sermon

"Another World"

### Scripture

John 3:14-21

### Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of Ed Steele and Mona Steele Alverson, given by Judy Steele and family.

### March Ushers

Jon Scharfenberg and Bob Dunn,

Co-captains

Pierce Bruckner

Joli Cirks-sub

Diane and Bob Dunn

Eric Nevitt-sub

Bruce Mason

Carol and Jon Scharfenberg

Peter and Pattie Smith-Phillips

### Worship Aids

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



### AVAILABLE FLOWER DATES:

## March 22 & 29

Purchase Sunday flowers in memory of your loved ones- 429-4195 or [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net).

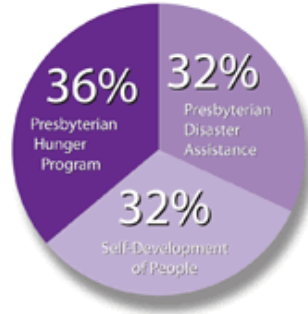
## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



"Labor of Love" Prayer Shawl ministry will meet

on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 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. See you March 11.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OFFERING ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015



Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide food and water, and relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Your gifts for the One Great Hour offering on April 5 will support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge and start new lives. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

### SOME OF LAST YEAR'S OUTCOMES:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: 40 countries and 24 states received help for natural and human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program: 154,731 people who were living in extreme poverty now have increased food security and livelihoods through international development work.

Self-Development of People: 4,619 children and parents received improved educational opportunities.

Please give generously on Easter Sunday.

## NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS

# Call Today!

It is easy, it is quick. You can schedule online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or you may call the church office (Christl), 429-4195, to schedule your appointment to donate blood on **April 6 between 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.** The Red Cross will be here. They are in great need of blood donations. When appointments are made in advance, it takes about 1 hour to save lives.

If you are 17 years old or older, weigh more than 110 lbs., and are in generally good health, you may be eligible. You are never too old to donate blood. Check the American Red Cross website if you have further questions about donating.

The Health Ministry Committee will be there to greet you with a smile and offer you cookies and treats when you are done.

The Red Cross is asking for a minimum of 21 donors. We want to exceed that goal. We all probably have experienced the need for blood, either for ourselves or friends and family. We know how important this is. Please sign up to donate, invite friends and family to join us on April 6, and spread the word. Posters and flyers are available at the church office.

Thank you, Phyllis



## STRING BAND PERFORMANCES

Wednesday, March 11, 10:00-11:00 A.M.  
McKinley Ct. Care Centre,  
500 West McKinley Avenue, Decatur

Thursday, March 12, 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
Oxford House Apartments  
2700 North Monroe Street, Decatur

Monday, March 16, 2:30-3:30 P.M.  
Victorian Woods, 3910 W Main St, Decatur

Wednesday, March 18, 12:00-1:00 P.M.  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 3850 Lourdes Drive

Wednesday, March 25, 5:00-6:00 P.M.  
First Presbyterian Lenten Soup Supper  
Church Dining Room

Wednesday, April 22, 4:30- 5:30 P.M.  
Reserve at Lakeview, 1035 S. Main Street, Decatur

Wednesday, May 13, 10:00-11:00 A.M.  
McKinley Ct. Care Centre  
500 West McKinley Avenue, Decatur, IL

# Lent



OPPORTUNITY

The first day of SPRING is Friday, March 20! It's time to think about giving during Lent, spring cleaning and donating your unused clothing and clothing of your children to various clothing rooms in Decatur. One of these worthy organizations is Dove's Children's Clothing Room located inside Prairie Avenue Christian Church at 2201 E. Prairie Ave.

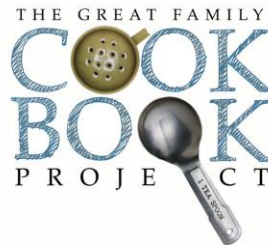
Donations of clothing, hats, gloves, coats and blankets for little ones may be given. Dove's Clothing room is staffed by volunteers, and if you want to give your time, even one day a month, call Sandy Harmison at 428-6616 for additional information.

## Christian Classics Lecture Series

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

On March 22, Pastor and Millikin University Professor Dr. Timothy Kovalcik presents a historical, theological, and contemporary lecture and discussion at 6:30-8:00pm – free, but reservations required, 428-6603. Lecture will be *Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer.

## Dove Cookbook for Sale



Do you always want to find a new recipe? Please consider purchasing a family cookbook from the Merold family and friends that will

support Dove's Domestic Violence program. John Merold's life was ended in 2001 at age 25 as a result of domestic violence. His family is taking a stand against domestic violence in remembrance of John. If you are interested in the cookbook and supporting Dove's Domestic Violence program, call Terri Ducy at 428-6616. Cost is \$15 and checks should be made out to Marsha Merold. It is their 2<sup>nd</sup> cookbook published.

## 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](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net) and/or [lori.jensen1@comcast.net](mailto: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 |

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Do you prefer **FLOWERS**, or...

Rock Springs is looking for a few volunteers to help with their flower beds. Call Charlie or Sandy at the RSVP office at 428-6616.

**VEGETABLES?**

Digg (Decatur is Growing Gardeners) is looking for helpers for general clean-up of gardens on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Hours will be 9:00-noon.

Meet at the side door of Good Samaritan Inn. Please RSVP a week early to 428-6616.