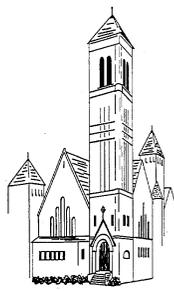


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# Tower Notes

VOLUME 47

June 24, 2015

NUMBER 24

June 28, 2015

8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – Chapel

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m.

Christian Education Hour

9:15 a.m.

NewSong Worship Service – Chapel

10:15 a.m.

Chapel Class – Chapel

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service – Sanctuary

### 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.



## Picnic

Kiwanis Park

### 1<sup>st</sup> PRES CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC

A summer church potluck picnic is planned for Sunday evening, June 28 in Kiwanis Park (on Redwood Avenue between West Main and West Forest— one mile west of Millikin). We'll gather at 5 PM and eat at 6 PM. Pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, iced tea, lemonade and paper products will be provided. Bring lawn chairs and insect repellent. PLEASE sign up, calling the office by Friday, June 26, and indicating if you will bring a salad, veggie or dessert and to give us a number for drinks and set up.  
 THANKS Adult Ministry Team

## SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015 BRAIN PRESENTATION

### "I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE"



That is a comment often heard from people who suffer from tinnitus or ringing in the ears. Our speaker, Jeremy Turner, for the June

27<sup>th</sup> workshop has done a great deal of research on tinnitus. The sound has been described as: a clicking, hissing, whining, buzzing, humming, whistling, ticking, cricket, tree frogs, cicadas, songs, beeping, sizzling, roaring or a pure steady tone. It can be loud or soft, high pitched or low pitched. Subjective (the sound is heard only by the person) tinnitus is the most common form and there are numerous causes. Other forms are objective and pulsatile tinnitus.

Over a lifetime many people experience tinnitus at some time. Want to know more? Come on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11, and get your answers from an expert, Jeremy Turner, PhD, associate professor at Illinois College. Tinnitus will be one of the topics our guest neuroscientist will address along with age-related hearing loss and brain aging.

We will start with coffee and bagels at 9AM. Please sign up in the church office, 429-4195.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



MT. ZION, IL

## WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

170 Debby Drive (off of Rte. 121S)

Thurs., June 25, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

## STOCK THE FREEZER



It's that time of year again! We will be providing the meal at Good Samaritan Inn on July 5. Treats will be needed

for that meal. Donate pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispies Treats, etc. Your pre-wrapped donations may be left in the kitchen. If you prefer to bake, please put any cookie donations in the kitchen freezer by Friday, June 26. You may also bring your donations on Sunday morning, June 28, as we will be bagging cookies in the Library between services. Remember, we are providing dessert for 300 people. Your help is always appreciated! Many thanks from the Deacons and the New Song Mission Group.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

E-mail concerns to:  
amcelder@comcast.net

**Mary Turner** had final cataract surgery on June 22.  
**Lori Jensen** had hip replacement surgery on June 22.

Our sympathy is extended to Virginia Malmberg and family on the death of her husband, Richard Malmberg who died Sunday, June 21, 2015.

Richard & Virginia Malmberg were former members at First Presbyterian from 1999 until they transferred to Carson City, Nevada First Presbyterian in 2009. During his time in Decatur, Richard was our former Executive Presbyter. Dick's memorial service will be Monday, June 29 at 11:a.m. Pacific Time at the Carson City, NV Presbyterian Church.

Memorials may be sent to Virginia at 1139 Drake Way, Carson City, NV 89701 for "The Zephyr Point Conference Center" at Lake Tahoe, NV. Zephyr Point is known as the "Montreat" of the West. If you would like to contribute on behalf of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois to Zephyr Point Conference Center, please send your check made out to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and mail it to 104 Oman Ct, Mattoon, IL 61938, no later than Tuesday, June 30th.

### THANK YOU

*Dear First Pres Parish Visitors,  
Thank you for your kind note and your thoughts and prayers. I'm living in a condo near our daughter and her family in Flossmoor. Dick is in a nursing home in a town near me. I visit him often and talk daily with him on the phone. It's a new life for all of us.  
Carol Ferry*



Christl Smalley's latest great-nephew Hunter Michael Carlson was born June 17, 2015. His 2 1/2 year old brother Jeffery (holding Hunter) is named after Christl's brother. Christl now has 4 great-nieces and 6 great-nephews!

## SUMMER FUN AT FIRST PRES

You are invited to attend three special events this summer. Let's get to know each other better while we enjoy food, fun, and fellowship.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 5:00 – ALL CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC**, Kiwanis Park

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 4:00 – 6:00, TRAVEL TO INDIA.** We all enjoyed Cathy Force's presentation about her daughter's wedding in India during the 9:00 adult education time. She has agreed to share some of her experiences in India following the wedding. Watch for more details in future Tower Notes.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 4:00 – 6:00, OFF TO DUBAI.** John Kay will share his recent experience in Dubai. Both of these events will include supper, songs, and surprises. Keep reading your Tower Notes.



## VERY GOOD

### June 28 SUNDAY GREETERS

#### Before Service

#1 Judy Batson #4 Pam Neeley  
#2 George Batson #5 Bob Bullock  
#3 Carol Fuller

#### Computer Tech

Jackie Evans

#### Web Team

Theresa Boes  
Andy Rauff

#### Sound Tech

Walt Lohmann

#### Media Tech

Jackie Evans

## DINNER AT THE GOOD SAMARITAN INN ON JULY 5



On Sunday, July 5, we will be preparing and serving Sunday dinner to the diners at the Good Samaritan Inn.

How can you help?

You can help assemble the casseroles, prepare fruit, get desserts ready, etc. No experience is needed. We will meet at the Inn at 9:00 a.m. You can also come to the Inn immediately following the 8:00 service. The casseroles will go into the ovens in time for you to attend the 10:30 service.

A big thank you to the 9:15 service attendees for volunteering to serve the meal.

Thanks to everyone for donating sweets, cooking the meat, and volunteering your time. We could not serve these hungry people without your help.

## Dinner Downtown

June 27

In May 350 guests were fed at First United Methodist's Dinner Downtown! When they feed that many, it takes a **lot** of cakes, pies, cookies, and cupcakes. They ran out last month! It also takes a **lot** of volunteers to help in the kitchen, to serve, to just direct people where to go, to greet people, or to do any number of jobs ... some physical and some not so physical. Last month we were short volunteers, and this month, some of our normal volunteers will be gone. Please prayerfully consider helping them out with this important ministry.

If you are willing and able, please come to the church THIS SATURDAY, June 27, by 11 am. If you are bringing a dessert, please have it at the Fellowship Hall by 10 am this Saturday. (Feel free to bring desserts on Friday if that's more convenient.)

If you have any questions regarding the volunteer work for Dinner Downtown, please feel free to call Lana Hoey at: 422-9055.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

June 28, 2015

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. John S. Kay, preaching  
Dianne DeVore, 8:00 a.m. lay leader  
Lindsey Morthland,  
9:15 a.m. service leader  
Jan Devore, 10:30 a.m. lay leader

#### Scripture

Mark 4:25-34  
II Cor. 8:7-9

#### Sermon

“Searching for Excellence”

#### Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are  
in loving memory of Charles Wells, given  
by Lois Wells and Family.

#### June 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

**DATE:**  
**July 12**



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



### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRES STRING BAND PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at

5:00PM in the Choir Room until  
the AC is fixed – All levels  
welcome. Call Doug at 521-1314.

## JUNE SESSION REPORT

On June 15, 2015, six days before the church officers met for a “Mid-Year Officer’s Workshop,” the Session met for its monthly stated meeting. The group heard updates on the work of church committees and received a thorough update on the dedicated work of the treasurer and Finance Committee.

The Session voted to approve a letter to DOVE, Swartz Properties and the Decatur Housing Authority, to clarify the fact that the church has been released from financial responsibility for the Elmwood Apartment Building for some time and is not in a position to provide financial support now. This communication was brought about by changes to the status of the Elmwood Not-For-Profit leadership group earlier this year.

The Pastor Nominating Committee also shared a report, noting that preliminary interviews over Skype or FaceTime could begin in the next few weeks. The Nominating Committee is continuing its work of communication with current church officers and gathering feedback about their current roles and responsibilities as the committee prepares a slate of ruling elders and deacons for the Class of 2018.

The Session approved Dr. Kay’s request for vacation from July 6 to 19 and August 3 to 16. The Session will not meet for a monthly meeting in July, and its next stated meeting is Monday, August 17, at 7 p.m.

## MEN’S and WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



Six wide-awake early birds, Jerry Atkins, George Batson, René Corcoran, Dick Fiala, Ray Landon, and Paul Rosenberger, are the current members of the Men’s Bible Study Group that meets each Thursday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room during the months of March through November. Each meeting begins with some freshly-brewed hot coffee and a tasty treat (donuts, coffeecake, cinnamon rolls, etc.) brought by one of the members. After sharing any noteworthy announcements or current events, the members, using the “Present Word” study books, take turns reading orally sections of that week’s lesson – the first section contains the scripture of the week. Members typically offer comments, ask questions, and share opinions after each section.

Rev. Mike Wakeland was the original organizer of the study back in 2004, calling it RAMBO’s (Reformed Adult Men’s Bible Organization). The group welcomes new members to join them any Thursday morning – no Bible expertise is required, no tests are given, and no attendance is recorded.

Our first Summer Showcase will be featured in the Gathering Room this Sunday, June 28, along with the Women’s Bible Study.

## CHURCH SCHOOL HOUR

June 28, 2015

**9:00 Everyday Issues: Downstairs Youth area – Math, Science and Faith** – On Sunday mornings June 28, July 5 and July 12, mathematician Dr. Jim Rauff, biologist Dr. Norm Jensen and Dr. Bill Keagle will lead a discussion on Math, Science, and Faith at 9 AM in the Youth area. The focus will be on how the questions raised by science and theoretical mathematics relate to our faith and belief systems. Is there a conflict between science and faith? Does a scientific understanding of the universe tell us something about the nature of God? Bring all your questions and doubts and join the discussion!

**10:15 a.m. Chapel Class – Choir Room**

## EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN PETITION



Illinois People's Action (IPA), of which our church is a member, was invited to join the Climate Table, a large coalition of over twenty groups that is trying to pass the

Clean Jobs Bill – HB 2607 & SB 1485. IPA staff/leaders have been to three meetings of the Climate Table in Chicago since May 1st.

The Climate Table is now seeking grass-roots support for the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and you can help this Sunday, June 28, by signing a petition. You will address it to your Illinois senator and Representative. (Be sure you know who they are!)

The Climate Table exists because the U.S. EPA will soon be issuing carbon reduction rules for all power plants. The overall target is a 30% reduction of CO2 by 2030. Implementation is state-by-state with extensive "FLEXIBILITY" allowed, meaning that states can opt for a strong plan or a weak plan.

The Climate Table is promoting the following:

- 1) Major reductions in power use through aggressive efficiency programs.
- 2) A big push for wind and solar power with mandated renewable energy targets.
- 3) Accelerated retirement of coal-fired plants.
- 4) A significant increase in demand-response programs.
- 5) The means to include low-income families, communities, and Environmental Justice communities in the benefits of the state's plan.

Please help the Climate Table get as close to the best possible solution by signing a petition this Sunday, June 28, in the Gathering Room.

Verlyn Rosenberger, Peacemaking Committee Representative

## MAX WILL BENEFIT



Monical's Pizza is pleased to help MAX out in their Community Day program. On Tuesday, June 30, you may visit Monical's in South Shores, on North Prospect Ave., or in Mt. Zion to help fund the MAX program. A percentage of their receipts will be given to MAX. Flyers are required and are available in the church office

## 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
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



### Newsletter Volunteer, Please

We need two more volunteers for the month of **August**. You would

collate a two-page folded newsletter and put address labels on them. The job takes about an hour and a half with a team of three (Betsy Tietz and you!). The day would be Wednesday morning from about 8:30 to 10:00, and we would like to count on you every year. If you want to try it out before you commit, then that is fine too. Thank you for responding. – 429-4195.