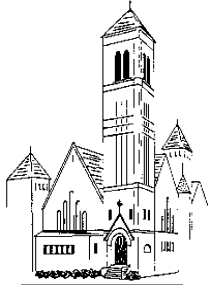


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January 27, 2016

Volume 48 Number 2

Ann Elder, Compilation; Sue Grieve, Design and Layout; Rick Koetje, Editor



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2016 Tuesday Lenten Class and Soup Suppers
Understanding World Religions

Rev. Dr. Bill Keagle and Rev. Miley Palmer will lead a 6-week class discussion on **Understanding World Religions** during Lent, beginning February 7th, 9th and 17th. This class will cover the same material three different times: Sunday morning at 9:00 am, Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian, and Wednesday evening at First United Methodist at 6:30 pm. Previous participants are invited to return for further discussions and conversations. Child care will be available, if requested in advance.

Lent soup suppers will begin **Tuesday**, February 9th from 5:30-6:30 pm for six weeks at First Pres. A soup and sandwich meal (\$5 per person or \$15 per family) will be offered in the dining room before each 7 pm World Religion class. Please call the church office (429-4195) or sign up in the Gathering room by Monday, February 1, for the first meal. Remember to sign up every week so food can be ordered. Classes and supper are open to the public with meal reservations made in advance.



Caring about Caregivers
Everyday Issues class – Sunday, January 31, 9:00 am

Most of us realize that care giving is not an easy task whether it is in our home or across the miles. Our church and the Health Ministry group have reached out to caregivers in many ways. To help us as individuals and a congregation know how we might be more helpful, the Health Ministry committee has invited Dr. Beverly Matthews, a clinical psychologist, to speak at the 9AM Sunday morning class on January 31st. She works with families facing long-term care and is involved in community organizations that serve the over-65 population.

Our hope is that those who are present or past caregivers, parish visitors, deacons, mission committee members, friends of someone who is a caregiver, have family members who may soon need more care, and all who are interested will come. And please bring your questions and concerns.

Editor's Note: Our communications at church are designed to offer information in distinct and specific formats. *Tower Notes* will give advanced notice about key events, the Friday email will provide current information regarding the upcoming Sunday service / volunteers, and the bulletin along with announcements from the pulpit will showcase the most up-to-date news we need at that time. In other words, it is not our intention to publish the same information in all of the communications we provide in order to better streamline our news. – RK

SERVICES	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour – Everyday Issues Class and Teen Class
	9:15 a.m.	NewSong Worship Service – Chapel
	10:15 a.m.	Chapel Class – Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Church School – Lower level

Deadline for the next issue is **Monday, February 8 at noon.**

Coming Events . . .

First Friends

Thursday, January 28, 10:30 a.m.

Program will be on scams and held at First United Methodist. Refreshments served.

Women's Night Out

Thursday, January 28, 5:30 p.m.

Olive Garden at 5:30 pm

Feed the Hungry

Saturday, January 30, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

First United Methodist, 201 W. North St., needs donations of desserts to feed the hungry for lunch at noon on January 30. Deliver pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies from 9:30-11:30. They also need serving assistance for Dinner Downtown from 11:30 to 1:00 pm.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31, at the close of the 10:30 worship service

Tapas Sign-ups

Sunday, January 31, Gathering Room

Join us on February 13 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of fun and fellowship at Jody Hantel's home. Bring your favorite appetizer to share. Sign up in the Gathering room on the Tapas Board or call Judy Batson, 422-8319. See you there?

57 Varieties of Christianity

Tuesday, February 2, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday's class meets at First Pres. and Wednesday's final class meets at First United Methodist Church.

Making Family Connections

Wednesday, February 3, Noon

You are invited to a lunch meeting sponsored by Children's Ministry at the home of Jane Spires at 2255 Franzy Drive. Please RSVP to Jane by February 1 to 428-7300 or email ejaspires@aol.com.

Taizé Worship

Wednesday, February 3, 6:15 p.m.

Good Sam - Stock the Freezer

Sunday, February 7, We Serve

Our first Sunday to serve at the Good Samaritan Inn in 2016 is February 7. Please donate pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies,

Rice Krispie Treats, etc. Place in dining room by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks.

New Song Mission Group and Deacons



JAZZ SUNDAY

Sunday, February 7, 9:15 and 10:30 a.m. services

Before we enter the season of Lent, it has been decided to offer a Jazz Sunday on February 7. Each service will reflect this theme, and special musical guests will be a part of the 9:15 and 10:30 services. Plan to come to this event and bring your friends.



TEEN Church School

Sunday, February 7, 9:00 a.m.

Teens meet bi-weekly in the lower level to set the agenda and select the topics. All teens from 7th through 12th grade are invited. Contact Mac Moore at 855-3259, or moore.mw@gmail.com



Souper Bowl 2016

Sunday, February 7, following each service

The Children & Youth will be collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 7, following each service in the Gathering Room. We will be donating the collection this year to The Good Samaritan Inn in memory of Liz Jones. The Souper Bowl of Caring is the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. This unique, youth-led movement of caring is transforming the nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving. If you would like to learn more about this effort, please go to www.souperbowl.org. Thank you in advance for your support of our children and youth through this effort.

Learn to be a Sound Tech



Brenda Aymer has indicated she will leave her job as sound technician effective the first of March to spend more weekend time with her grandchildren. She has been such a dependable, knowledgeable person in

this position, that we think it may take three or four people to replace her! Doug has knowledge of the equipment and I am sure Brenda will help us make the transition, so challenge yourself and learn something new. If we can get a team together, this would not be an every Sunday commitment. If you have an interest, please contact Doug Nicholson, Sue Grieve or Fred Spannaus.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



At its stated meeting on January 18, in addition to receiving the monthly reports of the treasurer, standing committees, and program staff, Session noted the following items:

- Welcomed Bill Keagle as moderator in the absence of John Kay.
- Established a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service to be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2016 with communion by intinction.
- Elected Jean Gift as a Presbytery Commissioner for 2016.
- Learned that the Deacons are looking for a flower coordinator and for someone to recruit and coordinate volunteers for Good Samaritan Inn.
- Heard Miley Palmer praise the excellent, hardworking staff of the First Presbyterian Church.
- Took notice of all of the changes instituted by Elmer Turner and the Finance Committee regarding fiscal practices of the church.
- Discussed the ideas of the Administration Committee to create a Strategic Planning Team for First Pres.
- Learned of the sale of the church van to Camp Wilson Foursquare Church.
- Understood that Lenten suppers and activities will be held on Tuesday nights this year, rather than Wednesdays.

PRAYER CONCERNS

James Nevitt

Carol Ferry has moved to an Assisted Living Facility, Brookdale Olympia Fields. She is 5 minutes from her daughter and likes it there, but she misses her Decatur friends! Her address is:

Carol Ferry
3633 Breakers Dr., Apt. 250
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

Dick Ferry broke his hip the week before Christmas. He is doing well in rehabilitation, but his heart and lungs are having trouble.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of former member, **Bernadine (Bernie) Murfin**, who died January 8, 2016, at her home in Greenville, SC, at the age of 97.

Pauline Hesemann, former member living with her daughter in Indiana, is 100 years old. You may send her cards:

c/o Cindy Hesemann O'Day
5655 Chase St.
Merrillville, IN 46410

THANK YOU

Clean-up Saturday on January 16th was a huge success. A baker's dozen plus one or two made short work of the items on the list. People checked items on the list and quickly moved to take care of that area. Those items included: cleaning the gathering room kitchen, wiping down all the doors on the main floor, cleaning the pews in the sanctuary, the elevator, and

venetian blinds. The paint was touched up on the downstairs refrigerator, and the front of the bar in the downstairs kitchen was painted. Thank you to Sandy Peterson, Stephanie Pyles, Susan Moore, Norm Jensen, Tom Force, Dianne Devore, Bev Ritter, Connie May, Kelly Tohill, Jean Gift, Charlie Platt, Carol Sudduth, Sue Grieve, and Cathy Force. Look for another clean-up date in the spring, maybe before Easter.

Kudos to Ann and Christl. I have been working more often with these ladies as part of the personnel committee. They always impress me with their knowledge and professionalism. Please give them a special thank-you for their dedication.

Sue Grieve, *personnel*

CONGRATULATIONS

Katie and Jon White had a baby girl Margo, born January 25, 2016. Her sister is Bea, age 3, and her proud grandparents are Denise and Walt Lohmann.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD SAMARITAN INN February 4, 2015

Mark your calendar. The first Thursday of each month is when First Presbyterian Church prepares and serves at Good Sam. Hours are from 9:00-1:00 p.m. The Inn operates solely on the good hearts of volunteers. If you are free, come to 920 N. Union Street.

CANNED AND BOXED GOODS ACCEPTED SUNDAY



First Sunday happens February 7! Share your blessings with the needy as you bring your food donations to all services for Northeast Community Fund. You may also bring food or monetary donations on Monday morning.

EQUAL EXCHANGE/FAIR TRADE SALES

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PCUSA) is a faith partner with Equal Exchange in supporting the Small Farmer Fund. Here at First Pres. our Peacemaking Committee helps us participate in that, by ordering Fellowship Blend coffee for general use in the church and by selling Equal Exchange products. Currently, we have Palestinian small farmers' organic extra virgin olive oil selling for \$12/bottle. We also have Bright Day Brew (regular, medium roast) coffee for \$6/12oz. bag and Hazelnut Crème Decaf coffee for \$7.50/12 oz. bag. We also have a limited number of Cozy Cup Decaf bags on sale for \$5 each. These items are sold in the Gathering Room on the first Sunday of each month (February 7), but are available anytime.

CHILDCARE DURING LENT

We will care for children from infancy through age 12 from 6:00 to 8:00pm on **Tuesdays during Lent**. If interested, call Kathy Beube at 620-7563.

We send over 200 Tower Notes and will always mail to those who wish it. However, we would like to encourage you to try getting them by email. If you would like to try this, please let the church office know.





Also, remember to check our website for current happenings and photos!

February Birthdays!



- Jill Williams – 1
- Jeannie Rade – 3
- Marge Wollrab – 3
- Debbie Patterson – 4
- Nan Williams – 4
- Esther Grissom – 7
- Barbara Hostetler – 7
- Gail Moore – 8
- Holly Oaster – 8
- Ryan Holler – 9
- Ray Landon – 9
- Norm Jensen – 11
- Chung-Ha Kim – 11
- Jon Locke – 11
- Connie Requarth – 12
- Kelly Tohill – 13
- Craig Mandernach – 14
- Abbey Nettekville – 14
- Dick Ferry – 15
- Donald Wachter – 16
- Rob Eytchison – 17
- Eric Mason – 18
- Kyle Mason – 18
- JoAnn Franklin – 19
- Brenda Delaney – 22
- Susan Grieve – 22
- Dan Austin – 24
- Judy Blankenship – 24
- Sierra Falk – 24
- Mary Ann Grohne – 26
- James Phipps – 28
- Earline Wisher – 28

**Did we forget someone?
Please let us know!
Call or e-mail the office!**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 2016	(7am-AA) 1 8:30am Money Counters 4:45pm Facilities Mtg. – L 6:00pm Teen-Anon – YA 6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg. – GR 7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L	(7am-AA) 2 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 1:30pm 57 Varieties - GR  Happy Groundhog Day! 5:15pm Tower Ringers – BR	(7am-AA) 3 9:30am Parish Visitors – GR 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 12:00pm Children's Min – Spires 1:00pm Health Min-whiteboard-L 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm Taizé service - Chapel 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 6:30pm 57 Varieties at FUM 7:00pm Choir Practice–CR	(7am-AA) 4 9:00am Volunteers @ Good Sam	(7am-AA) 5 12:00pm Reports for Session are due.	(7am-AA) 6 
7 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Transfiguration of the Lord Souper Bowl of Caring 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Good Sam Sunday 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church – YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 8 8:30am Money Counters 10:30am BC PEO – DR 12:00pm CC Fundraising – YA 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:15pm Adult Ministry - L 6:00pm Teen-Anon – YA	(7am-AA) 9 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 11:30am Worship Planning – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers – BR 5:30pm Lent Soup Supper-DR 6:30pm Finance Meeting - L 7:00pm Understanding World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 10 Ash Wednesday 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly - L Noon Ash Wed. Service –FUM 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 5:30pm Administration Mtg. – L 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR 7:00pm Ash Wed. Serv.– FUM	(7am-AA) 11 5:15pm Evangelism & Membership meeting – L	(7am-AA) 12	(7am-AA) 13
1st Sunday in Lent 14 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 11:30am Deacons' Meeting - DR 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00pm Just Flicks – DR <i>Testament of Youth</i>	(7am-AA) 15 8:30am Money Counters 6:00pm Teen-Anon – YA 7:00pm Session Meeting - GR	(7am-AA) 16 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 4:00pm Health Ministries - L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR 5:30pm Lent Soup Supper-DR 7:00pm Understanding World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 17 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm Understanding World Religions - FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 18	(7am-AA) 19	(7am-AA) 20
2nd Sunday in Lent 21 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church – YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 22 8:30am Money Counters 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 6:00pm Teen-Anon – YA	(7am-AA) 23 10:30am Staff Meeting – L 11:30am Worship Planning – L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR 5:30pm Lent Soup Supper-DR 7:00pm Understanding World Religions - DR	(7am-AA) 24 8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm Understanding World Religions - FUM 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR	(7am-AA) 25 10:30am First Friends - GR 5:30pm Women's Night Out at Fuji Japanese Steak House	(7am-AA) 26	(7am-AA) 27
3rd Sunday in Lent 28 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:15am Chapel Class 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO	(7am-AA) 29 8:30am Money Counters 6:00pm Teen-Anon – YA		"February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." <i>- Shirley Jackson, Raising Demons</i>			BR – Bell Room C – Chapel CR - Choir Room DR – Dining Room GR – Gathering Room L – Library PO – Pastor's Office S – Sanctuary YA – Youth Area - Basement