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February 14, 2016

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Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Service

Understanding World Religions

Ash Wednesday begins our 40-day Lenten Journey. First United Methodist offers two Ash Wednesday services at Noon or 7:00 p.m. We hope you are or were able to attend one of these services.

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 (both at First Presbyterian), and Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. (at First United Methodist). Previous participants are invited to return for further discussions and conversations. Child care is 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 of every week so food can be ordered based on those who plan to attend. Classes and supper are open to the public with meal reservations made in advance.

Just Flicks comes to First Pres

Our Valentine's Day treat is a highly-admired film about love in the First World War. *Testament of Youth* won four major film awards and three nominations from 2014 to 2016.

We are fortunate to have John Poling as discussion leader. A member of the Just Flicks Committee, John is an expert on films. He has a vast range of knowledge about cinema and issues of peace and justice.

The film starts at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 14, at First Presbyterian Church (second floor dining room). Refreshments will be served. For additional information, see the review of the film on page 2.

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
	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 22 at noon.**

Coming Events . . .

Wednesday, February 10



Prayer Shawl Group,
10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Library to knit and converse.

Ash Wednesday Services
Noon and 7:00 p.m.



First United Methodist Church



Caregivers Support Group
2:30 p.m.

You are not alone. There is support for caregivers. Discuss issues and take home tips. (Meet in the chapel on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).

Saturday, February 13



Tapas Social

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. See you there.

Sunday, February 14, 1st Sunday in Lent

Understanding World Religions



9:00 a.m., Dining Room

Deacons Meeting,
11:30 a.m.

Meet in the Gathering Room.



Just Flicks, 6:00 p.m.

Review: Anchored by an extraordinary performance from actress Alicia Vikander, James Kent's *Testament of Youth* bears comparison to many other superbly mounted costume dramas backed by the BBC, but this one has a special distinction: it chronicles the horrors that World War I inflicted on a generation of young English people from a woman's perspective.

- *Godfrey Cheshire, Film Critic*

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.

Tuesday, February 16



Lent Soup Supper,
5:30 p.m.

Understanding World Religions, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17

Understanding World Religions,



6:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Looking Forward . . .

Sunday, February 21,

- Understanding World Religions, 9:00 a.m.
- Teen Church School, 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

Tuesday, February 23

- Lent Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.
 - Understanding World Religions, 7:00 p.m.
-

Wednesday, February 24

- Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 a.m.
 - Caregivers Support Group, 2:30 p.m.
 - Understanding World Religions, 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist
-

Thursday, February 25

- First Friends at First Pres, 10:30 a.m.
"WINTER BIRDING"
On Thursday, February 25, Doug Wolf, Rock Springs Nature Center Manager, will speak about winter birding at various sites of the Macon County Conservation District. He will also present an invitation to visit an outstanding exhibit in the large gallery room at Rock Springs about the 50th anniversary of the Macon County Conservation District. Our Parish Nurse, Phyllis McPherron, will give us some health news. Persons of all ages are always welcome to join in the fun, starting with conversation at 10:30 a.m. There will be a few light snacks to go with some hot coffee.
 - Women's Night Out at Fuji's, 5:30 p.m. - RSVP
-

Sunday, February 28

- Understanding World Religions, 9:00 a.m.

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.

March 3 HAITI TRIP NEEDS



Connie Requarth and Fred Spannaus will be going to Haiti March 3rd. They are collecting children's chewable Tylenol and chewable children's vitamins. They can also use travel size

toothpaste. A basket will be available in the library until February 28th. Thanks!

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Mary Lundin** is no longer at Hickory Point Christian Village for rehab.
- **Ron Wisher** is at McKinley Ct. in room 311 for rehab on his back. He had a fall and surgery.
- **Mary Ann Grohne** is recovering from pneumonia but is still weak and requests no visitors or calls during this time.
- **Mary Turner** is scheduled for surgery February 12 at Springfield Memorial Hospital.
- **Ronn Allin** is doing well after a lung collapsed.

Our sympathy is extended to Don Diller and his family on the death of his wife Sally Diller in Arizona.

In Memoriam

Sally Diller

May 6, 1933 – January 29, 2016

Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust her to your boundless love and eternal care.

THANK YOU

Dear First Pres,

The family of Liz Jones would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this difficult time. We have taken great comfort in all of the cards, stories, and expressions of sympathy.

Sincerely,

The Dale Jones Family

THANK YOU

The Youth and Children's Ministry want to thank you for your gifts on Souper Bowl Caring Sunday. We are pleased to report that \$400 will be given to Good Samaritan Inn in honor of Liz Jones.

CONGRATULATIONS

Miley and Janet Palmer were blessed with a 9th great-grandchild named Isabella from Sadorus, IL.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Hello kids!

My name is Carlsbad, and in February I am coming to live at First Presbyterian Church in the Children's Sunday School Classroom. ☺

I cannot wait to meet you. It's supposed to be a secret, but I am going to have a cameo appearance in the music video you will be producing and starring in during the Sunday School hours in February. I wonder if it will be nominated for an Academy Award? Lights! Camera! Action!

What do you say we meet in the Sanctuary each Sunday in February at the 10:30 a.m. service? After Children's Time, we will leave the adults to their own devices and "hoof" it down to our Sunday School Class.

I took a peek at the February activities ...

February 7 th	We will be talking about stars and suns ... and the Son. There will be stars to paint and costumes to create.
February 14 th	We will have a very important visitor who will tell us about his amazing journey chasing a star! Guess who he met?
February 21 st	We will become life-size game pieces as we try to "Go home another way" to avoid King Herod's men.
February 28 th	We will debut our music video during Children's Time in the sanctuary. Hopefully.

Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain

To request prayer for someone, contact Lori Jensen or Yvonne Lewis or send an email to the church at fpdec@comcast.net and/or lori.jensen1@comcast.net.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DECATUR?

LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA – opportunity for all cancer survivors to participate over a 12-week session in the following: (FREE of charge)

- Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am – 12 noon Receive individualized training and exercise development sessions.
- Engage in social activities.
- Attend educational seminars featuring guest speakers.

For more information - call 217-872-9622 ext. 121 or email livestrong@decaturymcamca.org

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL – meets first Friday of each month, 12:30 – 1:30pm, 5th floor, conference room 561. You are welcome to share your story and journey with others on the path toward coping and healing.

For more information - contact Anita Ricker at 217-464-1074.

If this does not apply for you at this time, please share it with those you know who may benefit from participating in these opportunities. I feel they could be very helpful. I would be interested in hearing of anyone's experience with either of these programs.

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



Check out the Health Ministry's

valentine to the congregation in the Gathering Room. February is Heart Month and we celebrate healthy hearts, happy hearts, and hearts full of love.

***A message from Pixie Fennessey,
President, Stand Up For Grace:***

*I just returned from Kenya less than two weeks ago. It was an amazing trip full of fun, laughter and food! The kitchen has new walls. The roof has been repaired. There is now a covering for the open staircase that leads to the roof. As a result, the water can no longer run through the halls and stairway like a river when it rains! The building is also more secure. A fence has been built around an open space on the roof and an opening at the exterior of the building has been closed, providing safety for the children. We celebrated the holidays with meat, fruit, and other food that is usually not part of their diet. All the children were beautiful, healthy, and well fed. This is **all** due to you! **You** are making a difference in the lives of these children! Thank you so very much for your contributions!*

*Much Love,
Pixie*

INVITING GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- This is the Presbytery's *Ministry and Mission Grants*, for a particular project/program/mission.
- The project must be **sponsored by** a congregation in our presbytery.
- The grant is for **new** projects but will consider an already operating project (e.g. support for individuals going on a mission trip).
- **Entire application must be completed.**
- **Get in touch with the Presbytery Office to have an application** emailed or mailed to you.
- The **grant is seed money** to support the start of or exploration for a project/program/mission. Grant amounts tend to vary from \$500 to \$5000.
- The **deadline** for receiving applications is Wednesday, March 30.
- **Grant monies**, will be *awarded by May 30*, the time period in which the contact person will receive the initial **70% of the award**.
- A *progress report* is **due by November 1**.
- The final **30%** of the grant will be received **by November 30**, only if the progress report has been received.

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.

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