

Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Semimonthly, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712 FAX www.firstpresdecatur.org or email: fpdec@comcast.net



March 27, 2016

Volume 48 Number 6
Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

6-WEEK COURSE BEGINNING IN APRIL



“Making Moral Decisions,” begins April 3 at First Presbyterian and First United Methodist churches. Tuition is free for this one-time offer.

T
O
W
E
R
R
O
T
E
S

Dr. Mike Zia, M.D., Miley Palmer, and Bill Keagle will offer three sections of the class, covering the same material— at First Pres on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and Tuesday afternoons at 1:30, and at First United Methodist on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 (except Wednesday, April 27).

The course will cover the Ten Commandments (Exodus and Deuteronomy), Jesus’ commentary on the Ten Commandments in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew), the Apostle Paul’s moral reasoning (Romans 14), and then deal with current moral issues, including medical decisions, such as treatment options and end-of-life issues. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss other moral issues, such as abortion, distribution of wealth, and any others that the groups want to tackle.

Dr. Zia has served on the Medical Ethics Committee at DMH for several years, with the other two leaders already well-known to us regarding the education of our faith.



The **BEST PLACE** to be
SUNDAY MORNING

Hop on over this Sunday for

Easter Breakfast – from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Serving egg casseroles, breads, juice and coffee.

A free-will offering will be accepted.

And **ONE Festive Service of Worship** – at 10:00 a.m.
Using musical elements of all the services

Celebrate Easter with us at First Pres.

NORMAL 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
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Children’s Church School – Lower level
Deadline for the next issue is Monday, April 4 at noon.		

Coming Events . . .

Wednesday, March 23



Prayer Shawl Group

10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Library to knit and converse.



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).

Thursday, March 24



Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.

We are using a study guide, "The Present Word" and applying it to our modern lives. We will meet from 7 to 8 each Thursday morning at the home of Paul Rosenberger. Come share the Bible. Contact Dick Fiala, Paul Rosenberger, George Batson or Ray Landon.

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.



The word Maundy comes from the Latin, *mandare*, "to command." The word refers to Jesus' mandate which came at the close of the Passover meal, what Jesus called a "new commandment," that the disciples should love one another as Jesus had loved them. The word "Tenebrae" means "shadows." This moving service, will mark the days of Holy Week with scripture and music, progressing from triumph to sadness, and from light to darkness. The extinguishing of candles symbolizes the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. They also portray the fading light of the world as Christ was departing from it. Communion will be served by intinction, followed by a first-person monologue, reflecting the pathos of Good Friday. After the final scripture and song, we will depart in silence.

Friday, March 25, Good Friday

Office closes at Noon

Sunday, March 27, Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

One Festive Service, 10:00 a.m.



will be received on Easter Sunday

Your generous gift to One Great Hour helps to fund Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. Through these programs, the church shares God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world, by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, giving food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Looking Forward . . .

Monday, March 28 – Office is Closed

Thursday, March 31

- Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.
Paul Rosenberger's home
- First Friends, 10:00 a.m.
Keith Taylor will speak at First United Methodist on his mission trip to Haiti.
- Women's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.
Meet at Paco's Sol Bistro for fellowship, but RSVP first to First Pres-429-4195.

Sunday, April 3, Communion Sunday

• First Sunday Canned Giving –
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.

• Coffee Sales – Gathering Room
Also, on the first Sunday of the month, the Peacemaking committee will sell olive oil and Equal Exchange coffee, tea and cocoa in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support



- Adult Education class, 9:00 a.m.

Ethics for 6 weeks

Making Moral Decisions

- Teen Church School (7th-12th grades), 9:00 a.m., lower level

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

- Children's Church School, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 5

- Making Moral Decisions, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

- Taizé Worship, 6:15 p.m. chapel
- Making Moral Decisions, 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist

Thursday, April 7

- Volunteers at Good Samaritan Inn, 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m. at the home of Paul Rosenberger

Sunday, April 10

- Deacon's Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- Just Flicks, First Pres, 6:00 p.m., *PROMISED LAND*

The film tells the story of a natural gas company executive (Matt Damon) sent to an economically struggling Pennsylvania town to secure drilling rights for fracturing. He encounters resistance by a science teacher and a mysterious environmentalist who visits the town.

Tuesday, April 12

- Making Moral Decisions, 1:30 p.m., dining room

Wednesday, April 13

- Prayer Shawl group, 10:00 a.m.
- Caregiver's Support, 2:30 p.m.
- Making Moral Decisions at First United Methodist, 7:00 p.m.

MISSION – STAND UP FOR GRACE

† Pixie Fennessey, President of Stand Up for Grace, is raising donations for national exam fees the children must pay very soon to graduate. For each student the cost is \$80 for a total of nearly \$3000. Another challenge is raising money to pay the teachers. Only two teachers get paid \$80 a month and the other 23 only get their meals provided at the orphanage. If you would like to donate to this looming challenge, or to pay the exam fees, they would appreciate your help. Pixie will give presentations about Stand Up For Grace to learn more about them –620-3408.

MISSION – GET OUR CHILDREN OFF THE FLOORS

† **Central Illinois Christians in Mission**, a furniture ministry for the Decatur area, is asking the community to sponsor a bed with bedding and dresser for \$100 to help get children off the floor and give them a dry place to put their clothes. Their address is P.O. Box 343, Mt. Zion, IL 62549, or call Jerry at 433-9810.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Ron and Earline Wisher** are moving to Keystone Assisted Living.
- **Mary Ann Grohne** is doing quite well in her recovery. Cards and calls can be sent to Centennial Pointe Assisted Living, 3440 Hedley Road, #C-7, Springfield, IL 62711. Phone is 217-546-1594.
- **Shirley Moore** had hip replacement surgery March 21 at St. John's Hospital and is doing well.
- **Charlie Platt** is being treated for an inner ear infection that is causing his vertigo.

THANK YOU

◆ **Carol Fuller** and **Dick Ward** have joined **Walt Lohmann**, **George Wells** and **David Williams** to handle the sound system on Sunday mornings. They had training and are ready to begin their task. That brings the team to 5 and a schedule is being set up. *Thanks so much for these volunteers.* Thank you also to all the other people who handle our electronic needs for the church – Web Techs, **Theresa Boes** and **Andy Rauff**; Media Tech, **Jackie Evans**; and Computer Techs **Jackie Evans**, **Norm Jensen**, **Fred Spannaus** and **Andrew Taylor**.

◆ The Mission Committee has received thank-you notes from Good Sam, MAX, the Northeast Community Fund and God's Shelter of Love for donations made by First Pres in 2015. The notes are posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room.

◆ A BIG THANK YOU to the Children/Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Mission, Deacons, Health, and Peacemaking groups for donating food, serving and cleaning up for our Lenten suppers. Our weekly groups of 25-30 people enjoyed great food for thought and delights for their stomachs. It was a wonderful series thanks to so many committed volunteers and leaders!

--Cathy Force, Lay Ministry Coordinator

◆ I want to thank everyone for their cards, concerns, and prayers during my recent illness. Hope to be back soon. Peace, Richard F. Sublett

CORRECTION

Lawton Robert Etchyson was born March 1, 2016.

SPONG PUBLIC LECTURE

Renowned theologian and author, Bishop John Shelby Spong, will speak *on Reclaiming the Bible in a Non-Religious World* on Saturday, April 9, from 9:00-2:00 p.m. at Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation, 747 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL. For questions, contact Rev. Martin Woulfe, 585-9550 or uurevmartin@juno.com. Cost is \$10 each, \$15 at door.

CHURCH NEWS

◆ Fabulous Froggy says:



We're on the Road of Possibility as a church. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. Rejoice with one another and share that which you have been given. Rejoice, rejoice!

◆ The Deacons have set a date for the next **clean-up day**. **April 23rd from 8:30 to 11:30** is the day to mark on your calendar. There are many tasks on the list and we will tackle all we have time for. Another group is being formed to do some much needed painting in the church. Please let any Deacon know if you can help or just show up on the 23rd.



◆ Watch for an announcement to tour a room downstairs that is being repurposed. The downstairs area will be renamed the EDUCATION ZONE instead of the Kids Zone. One of the classrooms is being changed to a room for adults. Comfortable seating and other amenities are being added to make a pleasant place for small groups to meet. Groups such as Serendipity, Caregivers, Bible study groups, etc. are encouraged to look over the room and see if we can do something to make it better for your group. Contact Carolyn Allin, Sue Grieve or Kathy Beube if you have comments.

HEALTH NEWS

Re-Energize Decatur with Clean Energy



Who: Decatur Chapter of Illinois People's Action (IPA)

What: Community Meeting on Climate Justice, Clean Energy, and Green Job Opportunities for Decatur.

When: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Thursday, March 31

Where: Auditorium 001 (basement) of the Leighty Tabor Science Building on the Millikin Campus (north side of campus)




Why: Decatur has the opportunity to grow several hundred clean jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector through the passage of the Clean Jobs Bill. Please come and find out about how we can take care of our earth AND address the need for clean jobs in Decatur. Meet with community leaders and elected officials who are already working on this.

For more information, contact Dawn at Illinois People's Action: (309) 531-4433 or Paul and Verlyn Rosenberger in Decatur at (217) 877-4789.

April Birthdays



- Faye Logan – 1
- John Logan – 1
- Jean Aberle – 3
- Marty Cushman – 3
- Kathy Beube – 5
- Chuck Force – 5
- Chelsea Tish – 5
- Annica Hale – 6
- Chloe Cook – 7
- Christian Washburn – 7
- Maia Cook – 8
- Claire Tanner – 8
- Lily Schloz – 10
- Julia Warfield-Wittig – 10
- Richard Phillips – 11
- Ruth Warfield – 12
- Carol Fuller – 13
- Melissa Ahsley – 15
- Ethan Davis – 15
- Becky Rauff – 15
- Evan Cook – 16
- Susan Moore – 16
- Ralph Czerwinski – 18
- Jessica Gavlin – 19
- Lori Mize – 19
- Tom Evans – 20
- Myung Kim – 20
- Louise Bear – 23
- Cheryl Thompson – 23
- Cindy Black – 24
- Amy Blackburn – 24
- Marsha DeVore – 24
- Steven Brown – 27
- Mary Ward – 27
- Carol Wood – 28
- Lillian Landon – 30
- Rob Roberts – 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">April 2016</h2>		<p style="color: green;">"A gush of bird song, a patter of dew A cloud and a rainbow's warning; Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue An April day in the morning!" - Harriet Prescott Spofford</p>			(7am-AA) 1	(7am-AA) 2
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church – YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church 4:00pm Serendipity – PO</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 4</p> <p>8:30am Money Counters 4:45pm Facilities Mtg. – L 6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg.-GR 6:30pm Mission Mtg. – DR 7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 5</p> <p>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 1:30pm Making Moral Decisions - DR 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 6</p> <p>9:30am Parish Visitors – GR 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 11:00am DARTA Luncheon-DR 12:00pm Children's Ministry 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:15pm Taizé service – Chapel 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR 7:00pm Making Moral Decisions at FUM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 7</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible -Rosenberger 9:00am Volunteers @ Good Sam 2:00pm Health Whiteboard - L</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 8</p> <p>12:00pm Reports for Session are due.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 9</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="color: teal;">"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." - William Shakespeare</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church 11:30am Deacons' Meeting - DR 4:00pm Serendipity – PO 6:00pm Just Flicks – DR <i>The Promised Land</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 11</p> <p>8:30am Money Counters 12:00pm – TN Articles due!! 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C 5:15pm Adult Ministry - L</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 12</p> <p>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 11:30am Worship Planning – L 1:30pm Making Moral Decisions - DR 4:00pm Health Ministries - L 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 13</p> <p>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 5:15pm Evangelism Mtg. – GR 5:30pm Administration Mtg. – L 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR 7:00pm Making Moral Decisions at FUM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 14</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 16</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:00am Teen Church - YA 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Church 4:00pm Serendipity – PO</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 18</p> <p>8:30am Money Counters 7:00pm Session Meeting - GR</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 19</p> <p>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 1:30pm Making Moral Decisions - DR 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 20</p> <p>10:30am Backpack Assembly – L 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR 7:00pm Making Moral Decisions at FUM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 21</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible -Rosenberger</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 22</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 23</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>8:00am Worship – Chapel 9:00am Christian Education 9:15am NewSong – Chapel 10:30am Worship—Sanctuary 10:30am Church School 4:00pm Serendipity – PO</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 25</p> <p>8:30am Money Counters 12:00pm – TN Articles due!! 1:00pm Pink Smoke – C</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 26</p> <p>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA 11:30am Worship Planning – L 1:30pm Making Moral Decisions - DR 5:15pm Tower Ringers - BR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 27</p> <p>8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - C 10:30am Backpack Assembly-L 2:30pm Caregiver's Support – C 5:00pm String Band Practice– DR 5:15pm Church St. Bells – BR 6:30pm Tenor & Bass – CR 7:00pm Choir Practice – CR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 28</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible -Rosenberger 10:30am First Friends- GR 5:30pm Women's Night Out at Aloha</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(7am-AA) 30</p>