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May 11, 2016

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Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

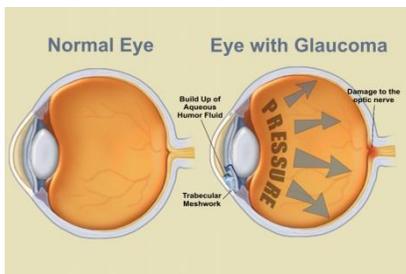


PENTECOST SUNDAY

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sunday, May 15. The offering supports programs for children and youth – 40% of the offering stays in our congregation to support local programs to benefit children and youth at risk. You are encouraged to donate to the Pentecost Offering this Sunday.

“ON THE PATH TO BETTER VISION”

SATURDAY, MAY 21 – 9-11 A.M.



As we get older there are various eye conditions that can threaten our ability to see. But we don't need to just “accept” this. There are treatments available that can control these issues and make a big difference.

To get you started on or to keep you on the path to better vision, the Health Ministry Committee is offering a mini workshop with Dr. Lee, ophthalmologist. He will discuss and take questions about many eye conditions, including macular degeneration, cataracts, eye flashes, detached retina, and glaucoma. He will speak for about 45 minutes and then he will do glaucoma screenings on all those who wish. He is on a mission to stomp out glaucoma!! What a wonderful goal!

We hope you will want to be part of this mission and this opportunity to learn more about your vision. Sign up or call the church office, so we know how many bagels to buy. But even if you missed signing up, we would love for you to come and join us (dining room at First Pres).

Remember, “Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God’s handwriting.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

POP IT UP A NOTCH



The Sanctuary Choir will host a concert and luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday, June 5, in the dining room. A box lunch, including drink, will be \$5.00. You may pay at the luncheon, but we need your reservations by Wednesday, June 1, by contacting the church office at fpdec@comcast.net or 429-4195. Guests are most welcome.

OUR SERVICES	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour – Everyday Issues Class
	9:00 a.m.	Teen Church School – Lower level
	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, May 23 at noon.**

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Coming Events . . .

Wednesday, May 11



Prayer Shawl Group
10:00 a.m.
Meet in the adult classroom 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).

Making Moral Decisions, 6:30 p.m.

This is the last class at First United Methodist with Bill Keagle, Miley Palmer and Mike Zia.

Thursday, May 12



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.

Friday, May 13

String Band, 2:30 p.m.

The band performs a Veterans' Program at Heritage Manor, 1125 Woodland Dr., Mt. Zion.

Saturday, May 14

Pathfinders, Forsyth Park, 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Weaver Road parking lot for a 45-minute walk. Pets and friends are welcome too – weather permitting.

Sunday, May 15, Pentecost Sunday

Ear Exams, Gathering Room

Pat Smallwood will show a video picture of the ear canal. It shows if ear wax is obstructing hearing. It is a simple and fast way to see what is happening in your ear canal.

Fourth Gospel, 9:00 a.m.

For the next three Sundays in the dining room, Tom Griffith will enlighten the class on *the 4th Gospel* by John Shelby Spong. Handouts will be available.

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

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

Looking Forward . . .

Monday, May 16

- **Women's Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.**, adult classroom.

Books are \$8 in the office; read Lesson 2.

Thursday, May 19

- **Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.**, at the home of Paul Rosenberger.
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Saturday, May 21

- **Glaucoma workshop** and other eye issues will be discussed at 9:00 a.m. in the dining room. See page 1 for additional details.
 - **Pathfinders, 10:30 a.m.**, Fletcher Park Join us in Mt. Zion for another stroll. Leashed pets are welcome.
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Sunday, May 22

- **Everyday Issues, 9:00 a.m.** In the second session, Tom Griffith will continue the *4th Gospel* by John Shelby Spong.
 - **Children's Church School, 10:30 a.m.**, LL
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Wednesday, May 25

- Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 a.m.
 - Caregivers Support Group, 2:30 p.m.
 - Pathfinders, 4:00 p.m., 1st Pres parking lot No pets this day; weather permitting
-

First Friends, 10:30 a.m., FUM

First Friends will meet on Thursday, **May 26**, at First United Methodist Church. Our speakers will be Pastors Kent and Kathy King-Nobles.

Pastors Kent and Kathy have been at First United Methodist Church for nine years. As of July 1st this year, they will be co-pastors at First United Methodist Church in Normal, on the campus of Illinois State Normal University. They have been invited to address our First Friends group with their reflections on their time in Decatur and their anticipation of service in Normal. We can also ask about their understanding of how the appointive system works in the United Methodist Church. This should be of interest not only to United Methodists but also our Presbyterian members who are in the midst of a pastoral change.

In a later meeting we hope to have Rev. John Kay, interim pastor at First Presbyterian, be our guest speaker to reflect on the Presbyterian process of receiving a new minister and on his experience being a pastor in Decatur.

First Friends meetings are open to the public, so bring a new friend with you in May.



Women's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.

On **May 26**, we are going to Anna Thai Cuisine. Please call in your reservation so there is enough seating for everyone—429-4195.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Pierce Bruckner** fell and broke two bones in his neck; he will be wearing a neck brace while he heals.
- **Susan Hayes** is at Decatur Memorial Hospital.
- **Sue Ingram** is home from the hospital.
- **James Nevitt** is at Heartland Healthcare.
- **Pat Nevitt** is scheduled for surgery on May 12.
- **Sandy Peterson** is scheduled for surgery on May 19.
- **Phil Smith** is home from the hospital.
- **Marge Wollrab** has moved to McKinley Court, Room 307. Her phone number is 217-718-4929 ext. 328.



In Memoriam

*Alfred J. Blickensderfer
September 3, 1937 – May 6, 2016*

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

*Celebration of Life service is May 11, 11:00 a.m. at
Graceland/Fairlawn (2091 N. Oakland Avenue);
Visitation is at 10:00.*

Our sympathy is extended to Shirley Blickensderfer and family on the death of her husband Al on May 6, 2016.

Our sympathy is also extended to the Winick and Weinstein families on the death of John and Joan's grandson and Sue Weinstein's nephew, Sam Winick of Columbus, Indiana. Sam, 24, died on April 29, 2016, from injuries sustained in a car accident.

THANK YOU

Dear First Pres family,

Thank you for surrounding me with your warmth and love as I recover from my emergency surgery. I am so grateful for the prayers, visits, cards, e-mails, phone calls, flowers, and prayer shawl. Each expression of caring and concern has lifted my spirits. Bless you all!

Becky Rauff

Thank you to all who contributed items for our Haiti trip this year. Our group saw over 600 patients and an additional 100 dental patients! We used lots of medicines and toothpaste and left the extra items for the clinic in Gonaives. We greatly appreciate your generosity as do the people there.

Connie Requarth & Fred Spannaus

Thanks to all the people who volunteered on the recent Church Work Day. Your hard work on these cleaning projects is greatly appreciated.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Please let the church know when you are in the hospital. Names are not always reported to the church and we feel terrible when we lose contact.

NEWS FROM THE MAKEOVER GANG

We are meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 for an hour or so and systematically going through every room of the church to organize, clean and (sometimes) donate or dispose items after checking with staff that items are not needed. If you are responsible for an area, we encourage you to review your materials and mark anything that can be thrown out. Big items may eventually require a dumpster – but we will wait until every room has been reviewed. If you have concerns about a specific item, let us know.

Check out the Pastor's office. Thank you, Dick Ward and Dick Virgin (with emergency runs supplied by Mary Ward), for the wonderful paint job. It looks great. It took them close to two weeks working part time to get it finished. If you can help paint Ann's office, please let us know. Then dates will be set up. We also want to paint a bookcase white to be used in the Library, so we need another volunteer or two for that project.



We would love two gently used wingback chairs to put in the library by the bookshelves. We are in the process of deciding how to arrange the area so that books are easily accessible by subject matter. We have three times as many books as will fit on the shelves, so some sorting will take place and material that doesn't work will be offered to the congregation, then the remainder donated.

New curtains are being made for Ann's office. The kitchen was cleaned, as much as possible, by volunteers a couple of weeks ago. Those present were Margi Nicholson, Kelly Tohill, Connie May, Sue Grieve, Judy Steele and Jean Gift. Plans are being made for the rest of the cleaning to be done by professionals.

Thanks to facilities for their encouragement. We will keep you posted on what is happening next. Join us on any Wednesday when you have a free morning.

Carolyn Allin, Kathy Beube, Sue Grieve

Last Call for Orphan Donations



Pixie Fennessey will be collecting items to take to the children at By Grace Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Items needed are

toothbrushes, band-aids, bandages, antibiotic lotion, bandage tape, new pencils, new pens, coloring crayons, over-the-counter pain medication and new or slightly worn tee shirts from toddler to young adult. The collection box will be in the library until this Sunday, May 15th. If anyone wants to send a letter to one of the kids they sponsor, or write to, please put them in the donation box. Thank you all for your continued support!



STOCK UP FOR GOOD SAM

Our NEXT Sunday to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, June 26. Treats for 300 will be needed for

that meal. We welcome donations of pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. Please put any donations in the kitchen by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 24. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks!

New Song mission group and Deacons

Events for Families

July Vacation Bible School needs your help!! A volunteer workshop "Safe Church" is being held on Sunday, May 15, from 11:30-1:00 at First United Methodist Church. Lunch is provided. RSVP asap to Kathy 620-7563.

Alpaca Fun Family Outing --

First Pres Families with children, newborn to 18 years old, are planning to visit the Jubilee Farm in Clinton with Cyndy Ash on Saturday, May 28th. Picnic lunch is provided. For details,



RSVP to Kathy, 620-7563, or sign up in the Gathering Room. To learn more, go to www.jubileefarm Clinton, IL. We may want to car pool. Rescheduled if bad weather.

Camp Carew: Register for summer camps for children, kindergarten thru 12. Camps begin June 27. Family camp is September 23-25. Contact Kathy Beube at 620-7563.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CHARITY

"All service is worship and all worship is service."

In the book called: *Prophetic Faith: Preparing Your Church to Advocate Social Justice* by Trish Greeves, it speaks of four ways we worship God. Two of the ways are more on the private side, and two are more public.

One of the private ways we worship God is more personal: like prayer, reading the Bible, focusing on our relationship with God and our personal morality. Then there's another way that is also private, but it's communal, such as things we do within the church building, like our worship services, study groups, Church Council, choir practice, and caring for each other.

Then the book talks about two ways we worship God that are more public -- outside the church building:

The first of these public ways that we worship God is that we do **charity** -- we feed the poor and clothe the naked, and we have service and mission projects.

Typically, the church does a very good job of charity work -- we administer programs that feed the poor and clothe the naked, and sometimes we even go out on mission trips, rubbing shoulders with the needy, and giving our help directly. Although charity does not usually change the status quo, these are meaningful ministries and wonderful ways to worship God.

If part of worshipping God is through our service to others, shouldn't we try to help our brothers and sisters by making sure their road is safer?

This would be the second **public way** that we can worship God through service. It's a way that may cause us to ask or challenge authority as to why certain unjust situations exist. Unlike charity, this kind of worship can be uncomfortable, because those with a vested interest in how things are ... may push back.

Unfortunately, when our worship of God leads us to act in a public way, it's not always easy and not always comfortable. Unlike charity, perhaps not everyone approves, and perhaps not everyone praises us when taking a public stand for love and justice; it's probably something that makes many of us very uncomfortable, but it can make our lives more worth living when we step out to the edge and act... in worship of Jesus.

From a Church Devotional Moment

by Sally Thicksten

Joint Task Force on Casino Gambling in Decatur

A coalition of Decatur churches is forming a joint task force of lay people to oppose casino gambling in Decatur. The group will try to limit the number of video gambling sites in town and argue against the establishment of a casino. If you have any interest in being a part of this group, please contact Jim Rauff by leaving a note in the Peacemaking Committee mailbox in the Library, or by sending him an email at islebrazil@gmail.com.