

Session will meet on Monday July 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room.



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By GRACE NEWS

Pixie is in Kenya with the kids from By Grace. New rules from the government concerning orphanages require classrooms to be in a separate building from where the children sleep at night. They will have to rent a building across from By Grace and pay for remodeling of the rooms into classrooms (\$3000), and rent will be \$700 per month. They also require triple decker beds with sheets rather than just mattresses and blankets on the floor.

If you can contribute to help with these present needs it would be most appreciated.

Checks to Stand Up For Grace may be sent to 1528 W. Riverview, Decatur, Illinois 62522, or the website, www.standupforgrace.org, offers online donations. Thank you so much for your support and prayers.

You may also help with funding for Stand Up For Grace by donating rummage sale items to the Annual Charity Rummage Sale. You may drop off your items at 1528 W. Riverview Ave. this week between the hours of 5-8pm.

The Annual Charity Rummage Sale will be held on July 15th and 16th from 8am-2pm at the same location.

Sincerely, Pixie Fennessey, President, Stand Up For Grace

**Join Hearts in Prayer Community Prayer Gathering
July 16, 2016, 12:30 p.m.**

Decatur area residents of any faith or background are invited to come together in prayer for our community and world, drawing upon a common devotion to our Creator.

Hosted by the Decatur Bahá'í community and the participants of the annual Heartland Bahá'í Summer School, this gathering is inspired by teachings that speak of the necessity of the unity of mankind, the elimination of all forms of prejudice, and the essential oneness of religion.

The Prayer Gathering is from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at Millikin University's Richards Treat Center in the lower level conference room.



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

Deadline for the next issue is **Monday, July 25 at noon.**

Coming Events . . .

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, July 13-15

Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Location is at First United Methodist.

Wednesday, July 13



Revelation Class, 1:30 p.m.
Revelation: It's Not the End of the World Wednesday class will continue through August 31. Bring your Bible to compare the various versions.

String Band Practice, 5:00 p.m.

Newcomers of all levels welcome! Meet in the Dining Room on most Wednesdays. Contact Doug Nicholson at 521-1314 or dougnicholson2@gmail.com for more information.

Thursday, July 14



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 Thursday mornings at the home of Paul Rosenberger. Come share the Bible. Call Paul at 877-4789 by the evening before to ensure that the Bible group is meeting.

Friday & Saturday, July 15 & 16

Stand Up For Grace
Annual Charity Rummage Sale,
8a.m. – 2 p.m.

1528 W. Riverview, Decatur

Saturday, July 16

Join Hearts in Prayer, 12:30 p.m.

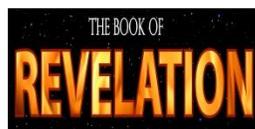
Community Prayer Gathering at Millikin University Richards Treat Center, lower level conference room. See article for more info.



Sunday, July 17

Everyday Issues, 9:00 a.m.

Revelation, It's Not the End of the World, Sunday class will continue every Sunday until August 28 in the dining room. It is a description in symbolic language of how God works in the world in every age. Bring your Bible.



Monday, July 18

Women's Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.

Meet downstairs in the Adult classroom.

Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Meet in the Gathering Room.

Looking Forward . . .

Sundays through August 28

- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining Room
Revelations Class continues.

Sunday, July 24

- **Summer Showcase, between services**
Curious about how First Pres is using social media today? Having trouble finding or 'liking' us? Evangelism and Membership will have information in the Gathering Room between the services.
- **General Assembly News, 11:45 a.m.**
Presentation by John Kay. Location to be determined.

Thursday, July 28

- **First Friends, 10:30 a.m.**
Meet at First United Methodist this month.
- **1st Pres String Band, 2:30 p.m.**
Plays at Eagle Ridge of Decatur, 875 W. McKinley Ave.
- **Women's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.**
We'll meet and eat at Il Forno. RSVP!

Saturday, July 30

- **Dinner Downtown, FUM, 11:30-1:00 p.m.**
Bring pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies from 9:30-11:30 to 201 W. North St. or help serve if you are free from 11:30 to 1:00.



Fundraising Night

July 14, 2016

Eat at Texas Roadhouse and Dove will get 10% of your total food purchase from 3:00-10:00 p.m. Can't beat a good meal and supporting Dove all in the same evening! The necessary flyer is available at www.doveinc.org.

PCUSA General Assembly News

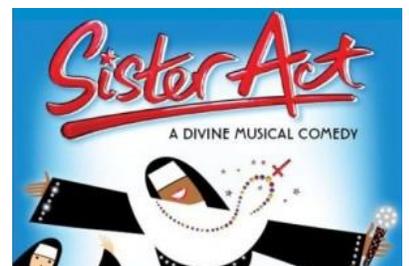
Sunday, July 24 at 11:45 a.m.

John Kay will be sharing more information about his recent trip to Portland, Oregon when he attended the PCUSA General Assembly

Please contact the church to let us know if you plan to attend so that we have appropriate seating.

Sister Act

If anyone is interested in attending the musical *Sister Act* at the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan while it is playing from July 27-August 7, please e-mail Cathy Force at cathyforce@comcast.net.



PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Carol Fuller** continues to recover after surgery.
- **Christl Smalley's brother Gary** was run over by a forklift at work on June 21. He will need several surgeries and remains in critical condition.
- **Carol Williams** has moved to Normal to be closer to her daughter. Her address is 509 N. Adelaide St., Normal, IL 61761. She really can't hear to make a phone call.
- **Marie McNabb, former stated clerk**, is in ICU Decatur Memorial Hospital.
- **Julia Bright** recently fell and has been moved to Fairhaven in room 412. She will eventually move closer to her daughter's home.
- **Carol Derigo** is at Decatur Memorial Hospital, room 5129 and will be moved to hospice care.

THANK YOU

❖ Friends

Your generosity of spirit blesses our clients every day. Thank you for the bag of toiletries.

DOVE

❖ *Dear friends who pray and make shawls, I received mine yesterday and I am most appreciative. I had shoulder surgery in Florida in March and now I will have a knee replacement the end of July. It will be a constant reminder of the wonderful folks at First Pres. Thank you so much.*

Carolyn Butler

❖ *My family and I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support we have been given since my brother Gary's workplace accident. Your continued prayers during his long recovery and for the family are very much appreciated.*

Christl Smalley and Family

thankful
grateful
blessed

❖ *My family and I want to thank the congregation for the cards, the hugs, the prayers, and other expressions of condolence poured out in love, in the recent passing of Lillian. Your support, including that of the choir, and the support of the Deacons in the luncheon they prepared for us, is greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed to be a part of this congregation.*

Ray Landon and Family

❖ *Thank you for your donations for feeding and reaching out to families in need. Your continued support is most appreciated.*

Northeast Community Fund

❖ *Thank you on behalf of our patrons, volunteers, and staff for your generous gift on June 28, 2016. Your support provides the funds to fulfill our mission statement and it is an essential part of our continuing efforts to serve the less fortunate in our community.*

The Good Samaritan Inn

❖ *Thank you for supporting the MAX Program!*

Pastor Shane

NEW ADDRESS

Mary Ann Grohne

Seasons of Pine Creek
3201 Conifer Drive, Apt. 43
Springfield, IL 62711
217-546-1594



MEMBER NEED

Jody Hantel is not able to drive her car at this time and is compiling a list of available DRIVERS FOR HIRE that she can call when needed. If you are interested in being an occasional driver for hire, please call her at 767-2266.

Christl Smalley, our Administrative Assistant, is looking for an inexpensive pick-up truck (less than \$500) in good running condition. Please contact her at 217-454-0130 or christlsmalley@gmail.com.



FIRST FRIENDS AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST JULY 28 at 10:30 a.m.

First Friends, our joint group for retirees at First Presbyterian and First United Methodist, will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 28th. This month we will gather in the basement of First United Methodist Church.

Our speaker will be the newly-appointed pastor of First United Methodist, Mike Fender. He comes to us after serving the past eight years in Jacksonville, IL, where he was a friend of our interim pastor, John Kay. His wife, Beth, is also an ordained minister (she is a deacon, he an elder, which are different offices in Methodism than in the Presbyterian system.) She also is appointed to the staff of First United Methodist and in addition has a full-time appointment on the staff of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, with an office in Springfield.

Come and get acquainted with the Fenders, and learn a bit more about how the United Methodist system supplies pastors to churches. The program is open to the public each month, so bring a friend with you.

Decatur Celebration, August 5-7 Lot Attendants Needed!

The Decatur Celebration is just around the corner and our Youth will again be renting parking spaces to the celebration goers. \$20 passes will allow you to park any time during the celebration and you can also share a pass with a friend or family member. Individual one-time parking will be \$5.

In addition to sales, workers are needed for 2-hour shifts throughout the weekend. To volunteer please contact Kathy Beube at 217-620-7563, or contact the church office via phone or e-mail.



Christmas Basket Needs



How amazing would it be to make your plans now for how you would be able to help out for the DOVE and Northeast Community Fund Christmas Baskets Drive?

About 350 families have been helped each year in the past, with food for a Christmas Dinner and more; toys for children in the family; stockings filled with needed items, and hats and gloves for all. Here is a sampling of a few items we'll need to make our side of the donation! (Watch for details on the food needs for NECF side of the basket in the fall.)

Wish List: Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Dental Floss, Large Ziploc bags, Shampoo & Conditioner, Soap, Deodorant, Batteries (any kind), Small bottles of mouthwash, Hand sanitizer Lotion, Chapstick.

Things for Stocking Stuffers: Small stuffed animals (beanie babies are okay), Color crayons, Coloring books, Activity books for kids, Little containers of Play-Doh, New and unused items only please! (We'll share more about the toys requested later.)

And mark your calendar, plan a morning or afternoon to help sort donations and make baskets, TENTATIVE dates, December 15 – 22, about 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. MORE on that later also!

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.

Community Needs

DOVE Domestic Violence Shelter – 302 S. Union

409 Spray Cleaner and antibacterial wipes
Comet cleanser and Dawn dish soap
Lysol disinfectant spray and multi-purpose cleaners
Brooms and new vacuum cleaners
Paper towels and toilet paper
Juice boxes and snacks for children

DOVE Homeward Bound – 788 E. Clay

Laundry detergent and fabric softener sheets
Multi-purpose cleaners and bleach
Dish soap and sponges
Shampoo, soap and lotion
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Deodorant, shaving razors and shaving cream
Combs and diapers, all sizes
Baby wipes and Ziploc bags, all sizes

Church Facelift Project

There are several things that could be done around the church to freshen things up for a new minister. Some are already in the works. The pastor's office is painted and Ann's will be finished in the next week or so. The library is continuing to get a new look as we struggle to define its main purpose.

A group of volunteers worked on the kitchen and the painting. After working on the kitchen, there were items that were too much for one day. Bids were obtained to deep clean the kitchen (like strip and re wax the floors), clean carpets and paint the library and office area. The bids for just these jobs was close to \$20,000. Unbelievable. While some items on the list will need to be done by professionals, it would be great if volunteers could perform items where they are proficient.

Here is the list of items we would love to see done in the next year or so. There is some money in the facilities budget to do regular maintenance, but if we can get items performed by volunteers, then the money available will go much farther.

- ✓ Clean kitchen (ovens, ceiling fans, wipe down cabinets, strip and refinish floor)
- ✓ Paint the administrative assistant's office
- ✓ Review and organize books in the library
- ✓ Paint the library
- ✓ Paint the outside steps on the Prairie side of the building
- ✓ Paint the concrete floor on the landings of the stairs on the northwest side of the building (where you come in from the parking lot)
- ✓ Shampoo carpets (we would rent several shampoo machines so that 4 or 5 people could work in the Sanctuary (for example)
- ✓ Paint the louvered area outside the office door where the PVC pipes were removed.
- ✓ Trim the trees on the boulevard
- ✓ Wash and check all stained glass windows

Can we accomplish all these items in the next few months? Of course not! Can we make a dent in the list by working together to do some painting and organizing? We think so! Watch for a schedule and task list. Come when you can OR volunteer for a task with a friend or two and let us know when you will handle it. The facilities committee will continue their conscientious care of our aging building with the dollars allotted in the budget.



Carolyn Allin, Kathy Beube, Sue Grieve

Tapas Gatherings

The last Tapas gathering of the '15-'16 season was June 24th at the Bullock's. We had fun on the pontoon boat enjoying the homes, other boaters, and party goers at the Nelson music place. Watch the Tower Notes this fall for information on the '16-'17 season. Questions? Call Judy Batson, 422-8319