

## Session Highlights

In addition to receiving the monthly reports of the treasurer, standing committees, and program staff at its stated meeting on July 18, 2016, Session

- authorized the facilities committee to remove a non-functional brick flue that has come apart and is causing a roof leak, at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00.
- affirmed the baptism of Ryleigh Lynn Ellis, daughter of Chrissy Ellis, granddaughter of Stu and Cindy Ellis, by The Reverend Dr. Miley Palmer.
- concurred with the recommendation of the Interim Pastor Review Committee that The Reverend Dr. John Kay's present contract be extended through October 15, 2016 with Dr. Kay's last Sunday to be October 2, 2016 with pay for accrued vacation time through October 15, 2016.
- approved vacation days for Dr. John Kay on August 13 and 14, 2016 to officiate at the wedding of a niece, and September 20 – 25, 2016 to attend the wedding of a nephew.
- asked the Administration Committee to negotiate any necessary additional pastoral services needed between the end of Dr. Kay's service and the arrival of the next pastor with The Reverend Dr. Bill Keagle, The Reverend Dr. Miley Palmer, or others as required on a month-to-month basis, beginning October 3, 2016.
- learned that the Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work of actively seeking a new pastor by screening and interviewing applicants, and meeting with promising candidates face to face.

## Strategic Advisory Committee

At the annual officer's planning meeting in January, an idea re-surfaced for the creation of a new type of committee designed to do long-range thinking. After much reflection, it was decided to create a Strategic Advisory Committee, comprised of seven members, to begin the process. Here is a portion of the committee description:

"The Strategic Advisory Committee for First Presbyterian Church is a committee endorsed by the Session for the purpose of reviewing current church activities and goals, investigating new opportunities or trends relevant to First Presbyterian Church, and proposing initiatives or programs that will further the mission of First Presbyterian Church over the next three to ten years."

Composed of: Carol Fuller, Sally Krigbaum, Jackie Lawton, David Michl (Chair), Sandy Peterson, Jerry Redford and John Weakly, the committee is meeting monthly. John Kay and Mike Zia, Chair of the Administrative Committee, meet with the committee.

The group has been asked by Session to undertake a review of our current Sunday morning schedule, giving attention the variety of services, educational offerings and fellowship opportunities. To gather input, the committee has begun to invite members of various committees to offer observations and suggestions. Having invited members of the Worship & Music Committee to share their thoughts, the group hopes to hear from other leaders on a monthly basis. While the topic is not new, the idea is to determine whether our present structure is the most meaningful for current and new members.

As this conversation continues, we will keep the congregation informed about progress and additional forums for sharing and reflection.

|          |            |  |
|----------|------------|--|
| 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, August 8 at noon.**



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# Coming Events . . .

## Wednesday, July 27



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](mailto:dougnicholson2@gmail.com) for more information.

## Thursday, July 28



### 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.



### FIRST FRIENDS AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST 10:30 a.m.

On Thursday, First Friends will meet at First United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m. Newly appointed pastor Mike Fender will be the speaker. Mike served the last eight years in Jacksonville, IL. His wife, Beth, is also an ordained minister with a full-time appointment on the staff of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

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.



### 1st PRES STRING BAND 2:30 p.m.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band will perform at Eagle Ridge of Decatur, 875 W. McKinley Ave.

### WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT, 5:30 p.m.

RSVP to 429-4195, and we'll have a chair ready for you at Il Forno Restaurant, 1423 E. Mound Road.



## Saturday, July 30, FUM

### Dinner Downtown, 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.

# Looking Forward . . .

## Sunday, July 31

- **Summer Showcase**, between services Stop by the Parish Visitors display and fill out a card to be sent to a church friend.
- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining Room Revelations Class continues until August 28.

## Wednesday, August 3

- **Revelations Class**, 1:30 p.m., Dining Room
- **String Band practice**, 5:00 p.m., Dining Room

## Thursday, August 4

- **Men's Bible Study**, 7:00 a.m., Paul Rosenberger's home. Call first, 877-4789.
- **Volunteers at Good Sam**
- **String Band practice**, 5:00 p.m., Dining Room

## August 5-7 is Decatur Celebration

### 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.

## Sunday, August 7, Communion Sunday

- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining Room Revelations Class continues.
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band** will provide the music for the 10:30 service.

## Wednesday, August 10

- **Revelations Class**, 1:30 p.m., Dining Room
- **String Band practice**, 5:00 p.m., Dining Room

## Sunday, August 20

- **Interfaith Potluck Picnic**

We will picnic with our Islamic friends at Forsyth Park at 2:00 p.m. They will provide the meat and we ask you to bring a side dish. Mark this date!

## STOCK THE "FREEZER"

Our LAST Sunday for 2016 to prepare and serve the meal for 300 people at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. 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, SEPTEMBER 16**. Your support is always appreciated.

Thanks! The Deacons and NewSong Mission Group

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Christl Smalley's brother Gary** continues improving and may soon be moved out of ICU at St. John's in Springfield.
- **Carol Williams** has now moved to an independent living facility. (see new addresses)
- **Julia Bright** is in room 412 at Fairhaven.
- **Carolyn Butler** is scheduled for a right knee replacement on July 27.
- **Carol Derigo** died Wednesday, July 13. There was a graveside service on Saturday, July 16. Our sympathy is extended to her daughter Kim and her family.

*In Memoriam*

*Carol Sue Derigo  
September 11, 1948 - July 13, 2016*

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

Our sympathy is also extended to Dwain VanZant on the death of his sister, Glenda Sikes, who died Monday, July 18, in Springfield.

Our sympathy is also extended to the McNabb family on the death of Ada Marie Volentine McNabb, former stated clerk, who died Friday, July 22.

## THANK YOU

- ❖ *Friends*  
*I was so touched by all the love and well wishes for my 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a great church family I have; and what a beautiful card made by Donna Washburn and signed by so many! I thank you all from my heart.*  
*Naomi Davis*
- ❖ **DRIVERS FOR HIRE**  
*Thank you for replying to my request for Drivers for Hire. The response was more than adequate.*  
*Jody Hantel*
- ❖ *I wish to thank Dick Virgin, Susan Grieve, Jim May and my wife Mary for helping with the painting of John's and Ann's offices.*  
*Dick Ward*
- ❖ *I want to thank everyone at First Pres for the wonderful prayer shawl you sent to me. It was a blessing to receive it.*  
*Susie Carter Gartner, Pauline's daughter*
- ❖ *I am humbled by the opportunity to speak to groups with a heart for God's mission in our lives. The Sunday school class at First Pres is just such a group. Thank you for letting me share ways you can partner with Dove for His Glory. I look forward to many years together. In His service,*  
*Christine Gregory. Dove Executive Director*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Ms. **Everly Reed Mandernach** was born July 19, 2016. She is the first child of Brandon and Laura Mandernach and the 4th granddaughter of Jan & Craig Mandernach.

Jim Lycan is proud to announce the birth of his great granddaughter, **Marci Lycan**, born on Sunday, July 24, 2016 in Jupiter, FL at 5:20 p.m. weighing 6 lbs , 9 oz. This is the first child for his grandson Hector and wife Melissa. Marci and Melissa are both doing fine. Hector is somewhat shaken by the event.

## NEW ADDRESS

**Shirley Moore**  
1212 Fairhaven Ct.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
Same phone: 217-422-2565

**Carol Williams**  
801 Gregory St., Apt. 144  
Normal, IL 61761

## Comments from my little boy

Today (July 7, 2016) as I listened to NPR on the way home, Bryson laughed saying, "black skin, huh? ...nobody has black skin



mama". I said, "you have beautiful black skin baby boy, well it's not really black but people call it black just like they call me white but I'm not really white". Then he said, "I'm going to turn lighter and lighter till I'm like you mama". My heart broke; he heard how two black men were gunned down. He doesn't want to be black. This cannot continue. God help the person who makes him feel inferior or hurts him because his skin is brown.

Cyndy Ash

## Payday Loan Action - You can help

Every year, payday lenders rake in more than \$10 billion in fees by trapping an estimated 12 million people in a crippling cycle of debt. Maybe you or someone you know has been caught in this cycle. We want the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to write strong rules on these loans so that people aren't caught in a never-ending cycle of debt.

**Please take two minutes to fill out a comment card in the Gathering Room at church this Sunday, July 31, demanding justice from the CFPB.**

Illinois People's Action — your faith-based organization — will submit these comments on your behalf.

First Presbyterian IPA Representatives  
Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger




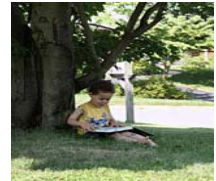




STOP THE PAYDAY LOAN DEBT TRAP



# August Birthdays



- Merrill Dees – 2
- Jerry Atkins – 3
- Drew Davis – 3
- Scott Davidson – 4
- Judson DeVore – 5
- Caroline Tanner – 5
- Jim May – 6
- Sarah Yepsen – 7
- James Nevitt – 8
- Liz Schwab – 8
- Melissa Grohne – 9
- Olivia Bachtold – 11
- Marguerite Curtis – 11
- Carol Ferry – 12
- Matthew Ward – 12
- Jim Davison – 13
- Al Hagymasy – 13
- Leland Shafter – 13
- Sally Shumate – 13
- Melanie Anderson – 15
- Matt Ingram – 15
- Melissa Schulz – 15
- Debbie VanZant – 15
- Nita Dale Harned – 17
- Megan Smith – 17
- Meg Edwards – 18
- Betty Q. Smith – 18
- Angela Crowe - 20
- Betty Monroe – 23
- Carolyn Allin – 24
- Linda Bullock – 24
- Earl Carpunky – 24
- David Holmlund – 24
- David Williams – 24
- Cindy Ellis – 27
- Bob Dunn – 29
- Festus Paul – 29
- Charles Platt – 29
- Fred Spannaus – 29
- Jacob Blackburn – 30
- Ruth Holler – 30
- Walt Lohmann – 30
- Graham Schulz – 30
- Betsy Tietz – 30

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <h2>August 2016</h2>  | (7am-AA) 1<br>8:30am Money Counters<br><br>5:00pm Facilities Mtg. – L<br>6:00pm Peacemaking Mtg.-GR<br>6:30pm Mission Mtg. – DR<br>7:00pm Worship Mtg. – L | (7am-AA) 2<br>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA<br><br> | (7am-AA) 3<br>9:30am Parish Visitors – GR<br><br>12:00pm Children's Ministry – AC<br>1:30pm Revelation Class - DR<br><br>4:30pm Youth Ministry - AC<br>5:00pm String Band Practice– DR     | (7am-AA) 4<br>7:00am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00am Volunteers @ Good Sam   | (7am-AA) 5<br><br>12:00pm Reports for Session are due.<br><br>5-8pm Decatur Celebration Parking  | (7am-AA) 6<br>8am-8pm Decatur Celebration Parking<br><br><div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."</b><br/>- Warren Buffett</p> </div> |
| 7<br><b>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b><br>8:00am Worship – Chapel<br>9:00am Christian Education<br>9:15am NewSong – Chapel<br>10:30am Worship—Sanctuary<br>12-8pm Decatur Celebration Parking | (7am-AA) 8<br>8:30am Money Counters<br><br><b>12:00pm – TN Articles due!!</b><br>1:00pm Pink Smoke – C<br><br>5:15pm Adult Ministry – L                    | (7am-AA) 9<br>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA<br>11:30am Worship Planning – L<br><br>5:30pm Finance Comm.– GR                            | (7am-AA) 10<br>8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L<br><br>1:30pm Revelation Class - DR<br><br>5:00pm Evang/Membership – GR<br>5:00pm String Band Practice– DR<br>5:30pm Administration Mtg. – L | (7am-AA) 11<br>7:00am Men's Bible Study<br><br><br>6:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band at Oxford House                | (7am-AA) 12<br><br><br>2:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band at The Heritage – Mt. Zion   | (7am-AA) 13<br><br>   |
| 14<br>8:00am Worship – Chapel<br>9:00am Christian Education - DR<br>9:15am NewSong – Chapel<br>10:30am Worship—Sanctuary<br>11:45am Deacons Meeting - DR  | (7am-AA) 15<br>8:30am Money Counters<br><br>1:30pm Women's Bible Study - Adult Classroom<br><br>7:00pm Session Meeting - GR                                | (7am-AA) 16<br>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA<br><br>4:00pm Health Ministry - L   | (7am-AA) 17<br>1:30pm Revelation Class - DR<br><br>5:00pm String Band Practice– DR   | (7am-AA) 18<br>7:00am Men's Bible Study<br>10:00 Presbytery Mtg. - Danville<br><br>                                       | (7am-AA) 19<br><br><div style="background-color: #FFDAB9; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>"What dreadful hot weather we have! It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance."</b><br/>- Jane Austen</p> </div>  | (7am-AA) 20<br>2:00pm – Interfaith Potluck Picnic – Forsyth Park   |
| 21<br>8:00am Worship – Chapel<br>9:00am Christian Education - DR<br>9:15am NewSong – Chapel<br>10:30am Worship—Sanctuary  | (7am-AA) 22<br>8:30am Money Counters<br><br><b>12:00pm – TN Articles due!!</b><br>1:00pm Pink Smoke – C  | (7am-AA) 23<br>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA<br><br>2:30pm Worship Planning – L  | (7am-AA) 24<br>8:30am Tower Notes Folders – L<br><br>1:30pm Revelation Class - DR<br><br>5:00pm String Band Practice– DR   | (7am-AA) 25<br>7:00am Men's Bible Study<br>10:30am First Friends - GR<br>11:30am Charter for Compassion - DR<br>2:30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band at Eagle Ridge<br>5:30pm Women's Night Out – Taproot | (7am-AA) 26<br><br><br>3:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres String Band at Imboden Gardens   | (7am-AA) 27<br><br>   |
| 28<br>8:00am Worship – Chapel<br>9:00am Christian Education - DR<br>9:15am NewSong – Chapel<br>10:30am Worship—Sanctuary  | (7am-AA) 29<br>8:30am Money Counters<br><br>                            | (7am-AA) 30<br>10:30am Staff Meeting – YA   | (7am-AA) 31<br>1:30pm Revelation Class - DR<br><br>5:00pm String Band Practice– DR   | AC - Adult Classroom<br>C – Chapel<br>CCR – Children's Classroom<br>DR – Dining Room<br>FUM – First United Methodist Ch.<br>GR – Gathering Room<br>L – Library<br>S – Sanctuary<br>YA – Youth Area           | <p><b>"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs."</b><br/>- Henry David Thoreau</p> |  |