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Session meets  
Monday,  
September 19

September 14, 2016

Volume 48 Number 17  
Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

**PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH OUR FRIENDS**  
**FROM THE ISLAMIC CENTER**



After a busy summer, it is time to get together again with our friends on:

Date – Saturday September 24 at 2 pm

Place – Fairview Park – Large Pavilion

Food – Members of First Presbyterian are to bring side dishes without meat, chips, and desserts (no jello, due to dietary restrictions). The people from the Islamic Community will provide all the meat. Drinks and table service will be provided.

We also have plans to work together at the WSOY Food Drive on October 7. We are requesting that we start off with everyone bringing one can or box of food to the picnic for the food drive.

We hope you can join us. There will be a sign-up in the Gathering Room.

Any questions - call the church office or Phyllis McPherron (217-412-8838).

Southeastern Illinois Presbytery  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S**  
**Fall 2016 Gathering**

Saturday, September 24, 2016  
First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon, IL

Mail or email reservations to:  
Presbyterian Women  
First Presbyterian Church  
2424 Broadway, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Phone 618-242-3410  
Email: [www.firstpresmtv.com](http://www.firstpresmtv.com)  
RSVP by Monday, September 19



*For those of you who are old enough, do you remember that war poster of Uncle Sam saying "I WANT YOU!"?*

*The Nominating Committee is now meeting to find elders and deacons for those who have finished their term. We need church members who are willing to serve the church needs so we remain a vibrant congregation.*

*Please contact Debbie VanZant or Dick Ward if you are one of those willing to serve.*

<b>SERVICES</b>	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education Hour – Everyday Issues Class
	9:00 a.m.	Teen Church School
	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, September 26 at noon.**



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## Coming Events . . .

### Wednesday, September 14



Corinthians class,  
1:30 p.m. here and  
6:30 p.m. at FUM  
Miley Palmer and Bill Keagle will  
discuss the Corinthian letters  
through November 20,  
concerning a church facing transition and turmoil.  
Invite a friend and bring your Bible.

#### Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Adult classroom to knit and converse.



#### 1st Pres String Band 2:30 p.m.

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

#### Caregivers' Support Group 2:30 p.m.

Meet in the Adult Classroom for information.

### Thursday, September 15



#### Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m. (Also Sept. 22, 29)

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 group is meeting.

### Friday, September 16



#### 1st Pres String Band 2:30 p.m.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band will perform at  
Primrose, 1145 Arbor Drive.

### Saturday, September 17

#### Jubilee Farms Family Outing 6-8:30 p.m.

Young families or Grandparents with families are  
invited to travel to Clinton to Jubilee Farms, run by  
Cyndy Ash, for a bonfire and wiener roast on  
September 17 from 6-8:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to  
carpool should RSVP to Kathy Beube at 620-7563 and  
meet at the church at 5:30 that evening.

### Sunday, September 18

Serving at Good Sam, 9:00 a.m.  
Please bring your wrapped treats before Sunday.

Corinthians Class, 9:00 a.m., Dining Rm.

Teen Church School, 9:00 a.m., Adult Classrm.

Junior High and High schoolers will meet in the  
Education Center every other Sunday, and will  
be taught by Craig Mandernach.

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

## Looking Forward . . .

### Wednesday, September 21

- **Corinthians**, 1:30 p.m., Dining Room
- **String Band Practice**, 5:00 p.m., Dining Room
- **Corinthians**, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist

### Thursday, September 22

- **Men's Bible Study**, 7:00 a.m., Dining Room  
Come share the Bible at the home of Paul  
Rosenberger. Call Paul at 877-4789 by the evening  
before to ensure that the group is meeting.
- **First Friends**, 10:30 a.m., FUM
- **Women's Night Out**, 5:30 p.m., RSVP!  
Call 429-4195 so we have a seat ready for you at  
The Beach House Restaurant.

### Saturday, September 24

- **Dinner Downtown at FUM**  
Bring pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies  
from 9:30-11:30 to 201 W. North St., or help serve.
- **Interfaith Potluck Picnic**, 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Meet us out at the large pavilion in Fairview Park  
for a grand day of food and fellowship. Bring a  
boxed or canned item for the WSOY food drive.

### Sunday, September 25

- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining Room  
The Corinthians Class is offered by Bill Keagle and  
Miley Palmer.
- **One Worship Service**, 10:30 a.m.  
Welcome clergy co-candidates for position of Pastor.
- **Church School** for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under  
begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- **Called Congregational Meeting** at the close of  
worship for the purpose of voting on the unanimous  
recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee  
to extend a call to the clergy couple to become the  
next pastors of First Presbyterian Church.

### Wednesday, September 28

- **Prayer Shawl Group**, 10:00 a.m., Adult  
Classroom
- **Corinthians Study**, 1:30 p.m., Dining Room
- **Caregivers' Support**, 2:30 p.m., Adult  
Classroom
- **String Band Practice**, 5:00 p.m., Dining Room
- **Corinthians Study**, 6:30 p.m., Dining Room

### Thursday, September 29

- **Men's Bible Study**, 7:00 a.m., Dining Room  
Come share the Bible at the home of Paul  
Rosenberger. Call Paul at 877-4789 by the evening  
before to ensure that the group is meeting.

### World Communion Sunday, October 2

- **Everyday Issues**, 9:00 a.m., Dining Room  
The Corinthians Class is offered by Bill Keagle and  
Miley Palmer.
- **Teen Church School**, 9:00 a.m. Adult Classroom
- **Church School** for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under  
begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- **One Worship Service**, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary,  
and John Kay's reception in Dining Room following  
worship.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Christl Smalley's brother Gary**
- **Pat Nevitt**
- **John Logan** is at Decatur Memorial Hospital, room 4148.
- **Joan Brown** is scheduled for gallbladder surgery on Friday, September 16.

## THANK YOU

❖ *Dear First Pres. and the Prayer Shawl Group,*

*Thank you so very much for the beautiful shawl. It makes me smile every time I wear it. And a special thanks for helping me through a tough time with your kindness. I will never forget it.*

*With Love, Kim Derigo*

❖ *Thanks for continuing to send me Tower Notes. It sounds as if you've been a busy church. Even after four years, I miss you.*

*Margaret Reschetz*

❖ Thanks to all who signed a card to register a comment about the immoral predatory payday and title-lending establishments that prey on citizens when they have a desperate need for a short-term cash loan. We have copied and submitted these comments onto a website: (<http://stop payday predators.org/ipa/>) that goes to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) that is in the process of writing proposals for a revision of rules governing Payday and Title Loan businesses. To date our Illinois People's Action (IPA) Chapter has gathered 166 cards from First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, and the Decatur Audubon Society Board. We have just learned that the deadline for more comment submissions has been moved to October 1, 2016. So, you or someone you know who shares these concerns may send more comments using the website above.

Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger  
IPA Representatives

## To Our Volunteers ♥

Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission and ministry of this church. For all your time, effort, hard work, and prayers, please accept the thanks and appreciation of this church, its leaders and staff. You have truly been a blessing to this congregation!



**2016 CHOIR PICNIC IS A GEM**

## CHOIR Dates and Rehearsals

- Sunday, Oct. 2, 10:30 am-** One service followed by reception for John Kay's last Sunday.
- Sunday, Nov. 6, 3 pm-** Combined choir with combined rehearsal; Evensong service at 4pm.
- Wednesday, Nov. 23-** no rehearsal
- Saturday, Dec. 3, 9-11 am-** Special rehearsal for Christmas Program
- Saturday, Dec. 10, 1-3 pm-** Special rehearsal for Christmas Program
- Saturday, Dec. 17, 9 am-noon-** Final rehearsal for Christmas program
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:30 am-** Annual Choir Christmas program
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 pm-** Christmas Eve service (one service only)
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am-** One Sunday service for Christmas morning

## 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*

## WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE DOING



With a few gallons of paint, some donated furniture and several hours of volunteer time – rooms are looking good. The

pastor's office and Ann's office have been painted and refreshed. The library is being organized. A room downstairs has been repurposed for adult groups and another will be used for the back pack ministry. Adult-sized toilets will replace the child-sized ones in the bathrooms downstairs in the next few weeks...

In the library, check out the DONATION CENTER. We now have one place for you to bring anything that is donated.

- First Sunday food items
  - Stand up for Grace* donations
  - Things needed for Dove, such as toiletries
  - Campbell soups labels – sent quarterly to Kemmerer Village
  - Eyeglasses – sent to third-world countries
  - Used printer ink cartridges – redeemed by our office staff when getting supplies at Staples
  - Greeting cards used by many different groups in our church, nursing homes, etc.
  - Packaged cookies and treats for Good Samaritan Inn
  - Used cell phones
- Check out the area and see if there is something you could donate to help others.



## FAMILY CAMP AT CAREW

Summer is about over and the best time of the year is yet to come. Fall at Camp Carew is the best! Family Camp is held from 5 p.m., Friday, September 23 until after worship on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if you and your family could come join them. They have a fantastic time. It only costs a mere \$125.00 per family. Where else can you go for that price and have meals, lodging and family fun?

If you are interested, please call the Presbytery office at 423-1396 and get yourself registered! They would love to have a full house this year.

## WHAT MOTHER NATURE CAN DO FOR YOU!!!

Now the hot days of summer are gone, it is time to get outside again. Research has shown that everyday interaction with green and blue places is good for your mental health. The effects of nature on mental health show that it is especially beneficial for seniors. Among 2,424 adults, ages 74 and older, who were regularly exposed to green spaces and gardens, reduced their risk of mental disorders, such as depression, by 40%. So make a date with nature - a morning walk, sitting in the park or stopping to watch the sailboats on Lake Decatur. You will be glad you did. (Source: *UCLA Healthy Years*).

Phyllis, Parish Nurse

## FLU SHOTS

It is the season for prevention of the flu. We will have a flu shot clinic at the church on Thursday, October 6, in the Gathering Room from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Questions? Call Phyllis McPherron (412-8838) or the church office (429-4195).

You're Invited  
To  
A Farewell Reception



In Honor of  
Rev. John Kay

Sunday, October 2, 2016, Dining Room

Following the 10:30 Service



## OH, THE PLACES WE GO...

Being together for over five years now, the talented 1st Pres String Band has developed history. They first banded together in 2010 under Doug Nicholson's idea of offering lessons and his time to members and friends on Monday evenings. The first announcement was in Tower Notes:

*Starting September 27, 2010*

*Guitar Jam, Mondays at 5:15-6:00 p.m.*

*Bring your own guitars to the chapel; other strings will also be welcomed (Bass, banjo, mandolin, etc.). Doug will lead a 45-minute session of "pickin and strummin". Our goal will be to share knowledge, learn a few chords and have some fun. All levels are welcome because we will be starting with the basics.*

A few months later, he referred to the group as a bluegrass jam, and then they officially took the name: *1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band.*

This group now practices in the church on Wednesdays most of the year and they perform at First Pres in worship and at luncheons when requested, and Doug also takes their group out on the road. They have performed at numerous senior living facilities, Farmers' Markets, neighborhood groups, church groups and organizations such as Golden K, Salvation Army, Civil War Memorial Service, and Macon Resources.

They are enjoyed by all and asked often to come back again for another performance. Thanks, Doug, for your unassuming idea that has taken you and your band this far.

## JACK NORTH MUSIC

A complete inventory with multiple copies was made of all Jack North's music. Many of those numbers had 45-60 copies. We would like to offer these to those who remember and would like a copy. Extra copies will be displayed in the Gathering Room. Please help yourself through September 18.



By Jack North  
Published by  
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