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April 26, 2017

Volume 49 Number 8

Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS**

April 30 – Craig Mandernach – Miracles of Exodus

May 2-June 4 – Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer will team-teach 5 sessions of “Biblical Wisdom,” comparing Proverbs to Ecclesiastics on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., and Bill will teach on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

June 11 – Linda Virgil discusses history and status of Mental Health systems.

June 18 –Lori & Brian Shimizu will highlight the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WWII Japanese-American internment.

June 25 – Connie Requarth offers background on Alaskan Churches in early years.

On Saturday May 20 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Dick Virgin is planning a wrap-up session on J. D. Vance’s Hillbilly Elegy book, along with Tracy Sulkin, Political Science Professor at University of Illinois, to focus on what we can do to enhance the lives of the working class in Decatur.

Welcome To  
First Presbyterian Church  
New Service Times will take effect Sunday,  
September 3, 2017.

- 8:45am New Song Contemporary Worship Experience
- 9:45am Children, Youth and Adult education hour
- 11:00am Sanctuary Worship Service



On the first Sunday of each month, we will celebrate communion in a single worship service, “One Table,” at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Fellowship will be at 10:35 a.m.

Deadline

Monday  
May 8  
Noon

Note: Please notice date on lower left banner that your articles are due by noon on the Monday before the Tower Notes are mailed or emailed to you.

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# Calendar . . .

## Wednesday, April 26

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 6:30 – Tenors & Bass Practice
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

## Thursday, April 27

- 10:30 – First Friends, 1<sup>st</sup> Pres
- 5:30 – Women's Night Out  
@ Benny's Grill

## Sunday, April 30

- PRAYER SHAWL BLESSINGS
- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church School
- 10:30 – Children's Church School

## Monday, May 1

- 5:00 – Facilities Meeting
- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting
- 6:30 – Mission Meeting
- 7:00 – Worship & Music Mtg.

## Tuesday, May 2

- 1:00 – Worship Planning
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers

## Wednesday, May 3

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:30 – Nominating Committee
- 6:15 – Taizé Worship
- 6:30 – Tenors & Bass Practice
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

## Thursday, May 4

- 9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam
- 4:30 – Children and Youth

## Communion Sunday, May 7

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church School
- 10:30 – Children's Church School

## Tuesday, May 8

- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 5:00 – Adult Ministry

## Tuesday, May 9

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Marty Grohne** is in rehab at Hickory Point Christian Village.  
**Mike Lowe** is in hospice at Fair Haven Christian Home.  
**Virginia "Gini" Maines** continues rehab at Hickory Point Christian Village.  
**Anna Smith** is in St. Mary's Hospital for rehabilitation.



**Gary Smalley's doctors** are making critical decisions for his treatment plan in his upcoming surgeries. He has had one of his planned surgeries in Chicago and is doing well.  
**Mac Moore's sister Jo Ann** is in hospice care.

## THANK YOU

As of April 25, our donations to the One Great Hour Offering totals \$2293. Thank you for your generosity.

## NEWS

**Donna Washburn's niece Christi Ann Beckmeyer** will be graduating from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. on May 12 with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Christi has spent 20 years of school and almost as many years working on her family's dairy farm to achieve her dream. Dr. Beckmeyer already has a job north of St. Louis in a small town near an Amish community.

## **Gayle Bruckner has a new great-granddaughter -7<sup>th</sup> one!**

Lillian Grace Hale  
Proud parents: Julie & Greg Hale  
Siblings: New sister for Ellie, Kylie and Logan

## New Phone Number

**Carolyn Butler** no longer has a landline. Please use her cell number - 217-521-2607.

## NEW FACILITIES ASSISTANT

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Steve Taylor assumed the position of Facilities Assistant. He has a varied background which brings a lot of knowledge to this position. He will work Monday through Thursday, 8:30 to 2:30 and Sunday morning from 7:00 until 10:00. Say hello when you are in the building.

## JUST FLICKS

The *Good Lie* presents itself on May 14 at Central Christian Church at 6:00pm.

Three "Lost Boys," of the brutal Second Sudanese Civil War linger in a Kenyan refugee camp for thirteen years before winning a lottery for relocation to the United States. The young men find themselves in Kansas, where a sympathetic employment counselor, played by Reese Witherspoon, realizes it will take more than mere assimilation to help these "Lost Boys" rebuild their shattered lives. Rated PG-13, 2014

## PECANS

Pecans are still available for purchase. Contact the church office or Brenda Aymer.

## Calendar cont. . . .

### Wednesday, May 10

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership
- 6:30 – Tenors & Bass Practice
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 11

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors
- 2:00 – Grief Support Class
- 4:00 – Administration Meeting
- 6:00 – Persistent Sisters

### Sunday, May 14

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church School
- 10:30 – Children's Church School
- 2:00 – Piano Recital
- 6:00 – Just Flicks "Good Lie"

### Monday, May 15

- 1:30 – Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

### Tuesday, May 16

- 1:00 – Worship Planning
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers

### Wednesday, May 17

- 2:00 – String Band at Eagle Ridge
- 6:30 – Tenors & Bass Practice
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 18

- 2:00 – Grief Support Class
- 2:00 – String Band at Lincolnshire Memory Center

### Friday, May 19

- 6:00 – James benefit recital

### Saturday, May 20

- 9:30 – Hillbilly Elegy
- Wrap-up Discussion

### Sunday May 21

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues
- 9:00 – Teen Church School
- 10:30 – Children's Church School



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

April 25, 2017

As many of you may have heard, I have made the decision to step down as Director of Music. It was a difficult decision to make because working conditions are so positive. I have quickly become friends with our new pastors. The Sanctuary Choir is as loving and faithful as ever. The other musicians, church staff, and those who volunteer on Sundays are a joy to work with.

But I feel like this is a good time for me to step away from the Music Director job. By resigning now, I hope the church has plenty of time to make a smooth transition.

And since I plan to remain active in the church, I look forward to seeing you all on Sundays.

Sincerely,

Doug Nicholson

### DONATIONS COLLECTED

Stand Up for Grace will be collecting donations for Pixie to take to the orphans at By Grace Orphanage for her summer stay. Items needed are: **toothpaste, toothbrushes, pencils, pens, Ibuprofen, Band-Aids, bandages, antibiotic lotion, and new tee shirts in all sizes.** A tub will be put in the library and items will be collected until May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks so much for your continued support.

### FIRST FRIENDS ON APRIL 27, 2017



Nicole Bateman, Executive Director of the Midwest Inland Port will speak on connecting the Midwest to the East, West and Gulf Coasts of North America. Snacks at 10:00, program at 10:30 in the chapel. COME & BRING A FRIEND.

## May Birthdays



Harriet Sadowski – 2  
Jane Spires – 2  
Leslie Tish – 2  
Clara Ash – 3  
Sarah Montgomery – 4  
Stephen Moore – 4  
Michael Netterville – 4  
Janet Palmer – 5  
Sarah Wakeland – 5  
Judy Locke – 7  
Lori Shimizu – 8  
Christine Foster – 9  
JeanEva Smallwood – 10  
Sally Krigbaum – 11  
Sam Roberts – 13  
Debbie Eckart – 14  
Miles Anderson – 15  
Nina Page – 15  
Betty Ann Davidson – 16  
Connie May – 19  
Ruth Sublett – 21  
David Sadowski – 22  
Annie Locke – 24  
SuEllen Brauer – 27  
Terry Hogg – 28  
Shannon Delaney – 30  
Skip Mathieson – 31

### Prayer Shawl Group

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays

10:00 a.m.

We bless the  
prayer shawls  
this Sunday,  
April 30 in  
Worship!



**Parents, Youth, Young Adults:**

We would like to have the student's name, graduation grade, school, vocation, college, military and plans – all information related to your graduate. – e-mail fpdec@comcast.net by May 31.

**Medical Equipment Correction**

Pat Nevitt recently donated a wheelchair to First Pres. Please sign out when needed. We do have a lift chair that can be signed out.

**IN OUR COMMUNITY . . .**

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
**DINNER DOWNTOWN – May 27**  
First United Methodist, 201 W. North St., needs donations of desserts to feed the hungry for lunch at noon on this Saturday. You can deliver pies (no cream, please), cakes or cookies from 9:30-11:30 to 201 W. North St. They would also like to have serving assistance for *Dinner Downtown* if you are free from 11:30 to 1:00.

**OPUS 24**

*Connected*

**Spring Concert 2017**

Tuesday May 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Central Christian Church  
650 W. William St.

Tickets are available in the First Pres. Office – \$10 Adults, \$5 Students.

**PATIO PARTIES**



Now that Easter is over, we are going to coordinate informal small group meetings for Bob and Jean to get better acquainted with members. We will set up dates that work for the Wollenbergs and then ask for volunteers to have light refreshments and conversation for six or eight people. If you are willing to hold one of these gatherings, please respond to Susan Moore at [Susanmoor@gmail.com](mailto:Susanmoor@gmail.com); 620-0504 or Sue Grieve, [segrive@hotmail.com](mailto:segrive@hotmail.com); 972-1390. Sign-up sheets and notification in Tower Notes will follow as the schedule unfolds. Please take the opportunity to spend some informal time with Bob and Jean.

**Struggling with Grief**



This past Sunday Bob preached about the scars that we carry with us. One of the scars that many of us carry is grief. We have all struggled with grief at various times in our lives, caused by a variety of reasons, i.e. death of a loved one, divorce, loss of job, or disease, just to mention a few. Beginning on

Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Phyllis and I will be co-leading a six-week grief support group. The class time will be 2:00-3:30 p.m. and will run through June 15. We hope to reach out to those in our congregation who feel that they are struggling with grief in their life. We are using a program that was used by my Hospice in Iowa to help families after the loss of their loved one. If you feel that this might be of interest to you, please sign up in the Gathering Room or in the Church Office so we know how many to expect. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Phyllis or me at the office, 429-4195 or by email. Grief is a part of life, a journey that we all take. If you are on this journey at this time, we would like to walk with you, beside you, as a friend and companion. Plan to attend all six classes.

God's peace be with you.  
*Pastor Jean and Parish Nurse Phyllis McPherron*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, TAIZÉ WORSHIP, 6:15 P.M.**

**Spend a quiet 45 minutes in the chapel singing, reading, praying and contemplating.**

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**Canned and Boxed goods accepted in two weeks.**

First Sunday is always the first Sunday of the month! 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.

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.