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May 10, 2017

Volume 49 Number 9

Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor



Engage, Learn, Transform

Two Workshops

➤ **HILLBILLY HIGH-Q**

The appearance of JD Vance in Decatur last month led to a lot of interest in his bestselling book, **Hillbilly Elegy**. To allow those interested in his material, an opportunity to share thoughts and raise questions, HILLBILLY HIGH-Q, a discussion group, will be held on Saturday morning, May 20 at First Presbyterian Church. The gathering will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 in the dining room of the church and all are welcome. Dick Virgin, First Presbyterian member, will moderate the discussion and Dr. Tracy Sulkin of the Political Science Department at U of I will be on hand as a resource person for the gathering. We will examine the economic, social, and political aspects of Vance's premises of the working class and how they relate to Decatur and Macon County. It is suggested that you arrive at 9:15 as we will be gathering data from attendees about issues from the book. This data will be used for our discussion. Participants providing their email address on the morning of the 20th will get copies of information generated at the gathering. We hope to see you there.

➤ **TIA'S, STROKE, REHABILITATION, ANTICOAGULANTS – WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?**

The Health Ministry Committee is offering a workshop on June 10th from 9-11:30 AM to find some answers to this question. We will have speakers from DMH to give us information on these topics. This includes: **Patty Barding** – Coordinator of Stroke Care - will discuss stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment and TIA'S.

Jeff Brown – Physical Therapist - will speak on what all is involved in stroke rehabilitation.

Brandon Barringer – pharmacist - will cover anticoagulants, which are used to prevent strokes in various situations.

I imagine we all know someone who has had a stroke. It can be a very confusing time.

Please join us on Saturday morning, June 10th. This information will help you better manage the various aspects of stroke care for your friends and family. It could even save your life.

Of course, we will have bagels, fruit and coffee as we share this time together.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Room and church office.

Any questions? Ask your parish nurse.... Phyllis

Deadline

Monday
May 22
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, 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

- African Craft Sale
- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Biblical Wisdom Class
- 9:00 – Teen Church School
- 10:30 – Children's Church School
- 2:00 – Rose Marie Thompson's Piano Recital
- 4:00 – Kendall Eisenhauer Recital
- 6:00 – Just Flicks "Good Lie" @CCC

Monday, May 15

- 1:30 – Women's Bible Study
- 5:30 – Nominating Committee
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

- 1:00 – Worship Planning
- 1:30 – Biblical Wisdom Class
- 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

- 10:00 – Patio Party at Jim and Connie May's home
- 2:00 – Grief Support Class
- 2:00 – String Band at Lincolnshire Place

Friday, May 19

- 6:00 – James Family Benefit-Piano Recital

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.
Esther Grissom had a stroke and shingles.



Matt Davidson had hip surgery on April 26 at DMH.
Gary Smalley is doing well and is scheduled for hip replacement surgery at the end of June.
Judy Steele's mother Jean Peak is at St. Mary's. She fell and broke her hip.
Mac Moore's sister Jo Ann died April 27, 2017. Our sympathy is extended to Mac and his family.

NEWS

Ardell Christiansen Hawley will be celebrating her 90th birthday May 14 at her church. Then on Memorial Day weekend her entire family of 5 daughters will be at the YMCA of the Rockies at Estes Park in Colorado. You may send Ardell cards and wishes to 1369 Taft Place #3, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Janet (Hoppe) Hiser contacted us to let us know her mother, **Iris Hoppe**, died January 6, 2017 at the age of 94. Her dad, **William "Bill" Hoppe**, is 93 and doing well. Should anyone want to send a card, his address is 421 Van Thomas Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615. Our sympathy is extended to Bill, Janet and their family.

THANK YOU

For **National Teachers' Day**, some First Pres volunteers took treats to teachers at our One Church-One School at Muffley.

The **Lenten offering** collected at the Soup suppers totaled \$780 and was sent to the Synod of Living Waters of the PCUSA, to support clean water.

NEW ADDRESS

As of May 8th, Joan Winick's new address will be 1232 Fairhaven Ct., Decatur, 62521



JUST FLICKS

The *Good Lie* shows 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

Calendar cont. . . .

Saturday, May 20

9:30 – Hillbilly Elegy
Wrap-up Discussion

Sunday May 21

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship
Services-Senior Graduation
9:00 – Biblical Wisdom Class
9:00 – Teen Church School
10:30 – Children’s Church
School
4:00 – Ashley Page
Graduation Party

Tuesday, May 22

5:30 – Nominating Committee

Tuesday, May 23

1:00 – Worship Planning
1:30 – Biblical Wisdom Class
5:00 – Tower Ringers

Wednesday, May 24

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 25

10:30 – First Friends @FUM
2:00 – Grief Support Class
5:30 – Women’s Night Out @
Crawfords in Maroa

Sunday, May 28

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship
Services
9:00 – Biblical Wisdom Class
9:00 – Teen Church School
10:30 – Children’s Church
School

Monday, May 29

Closed – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

1:00 – Worship Planning
1:30 – Biblical Wisdom Class
2:00 – String Band @ Primrose
5:00 – Tower Ringers

Wednesday, May 31

6:30 – Tenors & Bass Practice
7:00 – Choir Practice

DONATIONS COLLECTED. . .

Stand Up for Grace is 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.** Items will be collected in the library until this coming Sunday, May 14th. Thank you.

SWEET TREATS FOR GOOD SAM

Our NEXT Sunday to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, June 25. 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 or kitchen freezer (if it’s something that might melt) by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 23. Your help is always appreciated.

Thanks!

(New Song mission group and Deacons)



VBS is July 10-14

At

First United Methodist Church

The First Pres children’s team is collecting items for craft and play. We have a donation display in the gathering room. Items can be placed in the bins in the church library any time before July 1.

You may also help by spreading the word about this community event with friends, family, and on social media. Families can register on line at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/415eab> or call 620-7563. Vacation Bible School shares the love of God with children ages 3-12.

Thank you for your support!!

June Choir Luncheon Coming Soon!

🎵 Please mark your calendars for this year’s presentation and lunch on Sunday, June 4th. A quick lunch will be served in the dining room following the 10:30 service. Musical numbers will be performed by the choir, bell choir, and other musicians.

“It’s June”, so come celebrate with our church talent! Reservations will be on sale soon. Watch Tower Notes or the website for details.

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

Prayer Shawl Group

2nd and 4th
Wednesdays

10:00 a.m.

AFRICAN CRAFTS Sunday, May 14

Between services,
Browse for unique
and hand crafted
goodies

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.

Help Kemmerer Village win a horse!

The voting is now!!! Help Kemmerer Village win an amazing Gypsy Vanner Therapy horse! Please Vote and share! Gypsy Gift Voting has begun! Visit <https://a.pgtb.me/JJXXDp> or <https://a.pgtb.me/FV29M7> to vote daily (once every 24 hours).

The Mission of Kemmerer Village is to help minister to children and families who face stress and turmoil in their lives. Kemmerer Village carries out this mission through its direct services to individual families; and by assisting individuals to advocate for the needs and rights of children and families in their community. At Kemmerer Village, they are dedicated to serve the very special children entrusted to their care.

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.



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. Sooner is better.

PATIO PARTIES



The PNC committee is coordinating informal small group meetings for Bob and Jean to get better acquainted with members. Three dates are now open to join: **June 1** at 4:00pm at Sandy Peterson's home; **June 11** at 7:00pm, hosted by Doug and Margi Nicholson; or **June 29** at 6:30pm, hosted by Ron and Earline Wisher and Betty Q. Smith. Sign-up sheets are in the church hallway or you may call the office at 429-4195 to add your name. If you are willing to host a future gathering, please respond to Susan Moore at Susanmoor@gmail.com; 620-0504 or Sue Grieve, segrive@hotmail.com; 972-1390.

Please take the opportunity to spend some informal time with Bob and Jean. Fellowship is the Word!

Struggling with 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 this Thursday, May 11th, 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 now, we would like to walk with you, beside you, as a friend and companion. Plan to attend all six classes. If you are interested in joining a future class, we will take down your name.

God's peace be with you.

Pastor Jean and Parish Nurse Phyllis McPherron