



Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Semimonthly, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; (217)429-4712 FAX www.firstpresdecatur.org or email: fpdec@comcast.net



May 24, 2017

Volume 49 Number 10

Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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Sunday, June 4

The Sanctuary Choir will host a concert and luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Dining Room. Sign up for box lunches now. The \$5 lunch will be 2 pieces of chicken, potato salad, chips, cookie and a drink. The money will be collected at the concert, but do reserve your meal by Wednesday, May 31, by signing up at the church or call 429-4195, or e-mail fpdec@comcast.net.

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BUDGET POSSE ROUNDUP

Yee-ha!! It's time to round-up next year's budget! The Budget Posse is asking committees to plan for 2018 activities and develop a corresponding budget. Preliminary budget information from each committee is being requested by **June 30th**. The Finance Committee, in turn, intends to utilize this information to provide a proposed 2018 Operating Budget to Session by August 31st. This is the second year for the revamped budget process to help implement the church's mission. The committees' time and effort are greatly appreciated! Please contact any member of the Budget Posse with questions or comments: Carolyn Allin, Nancy Force, Norm Jensen, Judy Kuypers, Trish Spinner, George Wells, or Jean Wollenberg.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you! Trish

Deadline

**Monday
June 12
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.

Calendar . . .

Wednesday, May 24

10:00 – Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:00 – String Band Practice
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

Office closed – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

11:30 – 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

Thursday, June 1

9:00 – Volunteers at Good
Samaritan Inn
2:00 – Grief Support Class
4:00 – Patio Party at
Sandy Peterson's home

Friday, June 2

2:00 – String Band at
McKinley Court

Sunday, June 4 - PENTECOST

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship
Services & Communion
9:00 – Biblical Wisdom Class
11:30 – Choir Pops Lunch

Monday, June 5

5:00 – Facilities Meeting
6:30 – Mission Meeting
7:00 – Worship and Music Mtg.

Wednesday, June 7

4:00 – String Band Practice
5:00 – Adult Ministry Mtg.

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.

For all our loved ones on
Memorial Day.



Esther Grissom had a stroke and
shingles.

Gary Smalley is scheduled for hip
replacement surgery at the end of
June.

Judy Steele's mother Jean Peak is
back at Imboden Creek Living Center.

Pat Watts' friend Steve Jesse
underwent successful brain surgery;
they could remove 98% of the
tumor. He is doing well.

NEWS

Nan Williams' new address
1145 Arbor Dr., #134, Decatur, IL 62526
Same phone number as before - 217-877-7414

THANK YOU



Susan and I are grateful to our First Pres family for the love,
care, and prayers we have received since my sister was taken
ill. She loved the prayer shawl. It is certainly a special ministry
of this church. During all this time, we have felt held up and
cared for. That certainly helped us to care for her. We look
forward to celebrating her life with our family and her friends on May 27th. It
is wonderful to think of her as whole again.

Mac Moore



Although this is very belated, it is nonetheless very sincere. I
want to thank all church friends for your cards, visits, phone
calls, many kindnesses, and especially for your prayers during
my long illness over the winter months of 2016-2017. You will
never know how much these caring expressions meant to me.
My heartfelt thanks to all.

Naomi Davis

Vacation Bible School July 10-14



The First Pres children's team would like to thank you for
your donations!! The bin is in the church library for items
yet to come in. They are needed by June 30.

Thank you!
Kids of First Pres

EVERYDAY ISSUES IN JUNE

June 4 – Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer will finish their 5th session on “Biblical
Wisdom.”

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

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

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

Calendar cont. . . .

Thursday, June 8

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

Saturday, June 10

- 9:00-Noon – Stroke Workshop

Sunday, June 11

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services (Peacemaking Awards at 10:30)
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues Class
- 11:45 – Deacons Meeting
- 7:00 – Patio Party at Doug and Margi Nicholsons' home

Monday, June 12

- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting

Tuesday, June 13

- 1:00 – Worship Planning
- 4:30 – Strategic Advisory Mtg.

Wednesday, June 14

- 3:30 – String Band at Lincolnshire Memory Center
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership Meeting
- 6:30 – Just Flicks Meeting

Thursday, June 15

- 2:00 – Grief Support Class
- 4:00 – Administration Mtg.

Sunday, June 18

- 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services
- 9:00 – Everyday Issues Class

Monday, June 19

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

Tuesday, June 20

- 11:30 – Ecumenical Clergy Group

Wednesday, June 21

- 2:00 – String Band at Eagle Ridge

Thursday, June 22

- 10:30 – First Friends, 1st Presbyterian
- 5:30 – Women's Night Out at Aloha



Pastor Bob

Rain is not very cooperative. It doesn't always work according to our plans or predictions. This may seem perfectly obvious, but in an age in which almost everything is done for our convenience and customization, rain seems stubbornly determined to do what it wants to do, when it wants to do it, wherever it wants to go. I have tried asking the rain to avoid the days on which I want to mow the lawn and some church members think that I have the ability to keep rain away from church picnics. But experience shows how little influence I have over meteorological matters.

I was thinking about all this because we are coming up on the celebration of Pentecost and like rain, the Holy Spirit is often not very cooperative and is determined to do whatever it wants to do despite our preferences and predictions. The Holy Spirit is the aspect of the reality of God which reminds us that God is not a polite butler who is always eager to fulfill our requests. Experience tells us that the Holy Spirit often has an agenda quite different from our own.

Because the church is such a large organization, it's often more convenient for it to run predictably and rationally...or as us Presbyterians often say, "decently and in order." But Pentecost is a yearly reminder that sometimes the Holy Spirit has plans other than the ones we have worked so hard to make.

It does not appear as if the disciples had any intention of doing what they ended up doing when the Holy Spirit appeared on that first Pentecost. Who could have predicted that a bunch of fishermen, a tax collector and other assorted misfits would end up as preachers and leaders of a new church?

It seems, then, we would be wise to hold lightly to our plans and predictions because the Holy Spirit may decide to rain all over them. Although our meetings and preparations are good and necessary, we also need to keep the door open for the Holy Spirit to come rushing in and send us out on some project that we never intended. Meanwhile, I'm going to go out back and mow my lawn before the rain decides to return.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with you,

Bob

PATIO PARTIES



The Patio Parties for Bob and Jean to get better acquainted with members are in full swing and have been fun. The next date to sign up is Sunday, August 6 at 4:00 pm at the Mandernachs. A sign-up sheet is 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, segrieve@hotmail.com; 972-1390.

May 28-June 4 – Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer are team-teaching 3 more classes of "Biblical Wisdom," comparing Proverbs to Ecclesiastics on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., or Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Come to one or all.

DONATIONS COLLECTED. . .

KEMMERER VILLAGE

A portion of the 2017 Pentecost Offering on June 4 will be given to Kemmerer Village. We will be highlighting them soon, and remember to continue voting daily for a therapy horse for them. Visit <https://a.pgtb.me/JJXXDp> or <https://a.pgtb.me/FV29M7> to vote daily (once every 24 hours).

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 Krispy Treats, etc. Please put any donations in the kitchen or kitchen freezer (if it's something that might melt) by NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JUNE 20. Your help is always appreciated.

Thanks!

(New Song mission group and Deacons)



VBS
July 10-14
At

First United Methodist
Church

Families can register on line at <https://vbapro.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!!

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 Stand Up for Grace

It's an Arty Party Fundraiser at the Decatur Area Ars Council on Saturday, May 27 from 11-1 p.m. For an investment of \$30, you will help Stand Up for Grace as you paint this picture on an 11 X 14 canvas. Call and reserve your spot to 201-0764. Snacks are provided and you may bring your own wine. You will have a piece of art and a happy heart knowing you helped our orphans in Africa.



Childhood Maltreatment

Join community leaders from Macon County for an important conversation about our children.

Several area leaders have been discussing the concern that Macon County has the second highest rate of indicated cases of Childhood Maltreatment, Domestic Violence against children, and they have seen this resulting in early childhood deaths in the area. As a community, Dove is hosting a conversation on this important topic and how we can respond. Please come on June 6 at 9am in the Madden Room at the Decatur Public Library.



Stories Within a Story

We heard that our First Pres member Kathy Locke, local family photographer, created a beautiful and moving portrait of the love and warmth between children and caretakers served by Baby Talk. Her February exhibit at the Arts Council celebrated 30 years of Baby Talk impacting families throughout the Decatur area and beyond. The exhibit of black and white photographs highlighted the individual journeys of 12 families using the 12 Baby Talk programs and services. She herself has served on Baby Talk's Board for several years. Baby Talk's mission is to positively impact child development and nurture healthy parent-child relationships during critical early years. Most of their targeted clients are "at risk" families. If you would like to volunteer, call 475-2234. Check out some of Kathy's exhibit at www.napcp.com/blog.php/2017/05/08/stories-within-story-interview-kathy-locke/



COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS:

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, June 3 from 8:00-3:00pm

Location: DeWitt County Highway Department, Clinton (turn right at the John Deere dealer, then right at Revere Road (9900 Revere)

To see what is accepted go to <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/index>

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION

Saturday, June 10, for those who register for appointment. See Event Page of www.MaconGreen.com. For TVs and monitors, you must prepay \$10 for each; other items are free to drop off.

Location: Decatur Civic Center parking lot

HOUSEHOLD PAINT COLLECTION

Wednesday, June 14 from 9:30-1:00pm

Location: 1750 N. 21st Street, Macon Co. Environmental Recycling Center

Only household latex, oil-based paints, stains and varnishes accepted.

425-4505 - First hour is most congested.



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.

CALENDAR NOTES

THURSDAY, MAY 25, FIRST FRIENDS, 10:30 A.M. at FUM

Our speaker will be Jerry Pelz, executive director of the Northeast Community Fund. Both our churches, along with others, support this program that provides food and other services to needy people in the city and county.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, GOOD SAMARITAN INN

Mark your calendar. The first Thursday of each month is when First Presbyterian Church prepares and serves at Good Sam. Hours are:

9-11 a.m. – food preparation

11-1 p.m. – serve

The Inn operates solely on the good hearts of volunteers. If you are free, come to 920 N. Union Street.

Sunday, June 4, Communion Sunday

CANNED AND BOXED GOODS ACCEPTED SUNDAY



First Sunday happens June 4! 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.

MONDAY, JUNE 19, WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, 1:30 P.M.


Fellowship with other women downstairs in the Adult classroom.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT, 5:30 P.M.

Fellowship group meets at the Aloha Restaurant at 3025 N. Kandy Lane, off East Pershing.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, MILDRED WEAVER'S SERVICE

Visitation for Mildred Weaver is at 1:00 p.m. and Memorial service follows at 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>June 2017</h1>	AC – Adult Classroom BR – Bell Room C – Chapel CC – Children's Classroom CR – Choir Room DR – Dining Room FUM – First United Meth. GR – Gathering Room	JH – Junior High Classroom L – Library ME – Medical Equipment Room PO – Pastor's Office S – Sanctuary SH – Senior High Classroom TR – Toddler's Room YA – Youth Area	"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." - Al Bernstein	1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers Prep & Serve at Good Sam 2:00p Grief Support – AC 4:00p Patio Party – Peterson	2 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 2:30p 1 st Pres String Band at McKinley Ct. 500 W. McKinley Ave.	3 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR
4 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Pentecost 8:00a Worship – Chapel 9:00a Everyday Issues – YA 9:15a NewSong – Chapel 10:30a Worship – Sanctuary 11:30p Choir Luncheon	5 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 5:00p Facilities - Library 6:30p Mission – Dining Room 7:00p Worship & Music – L	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 4:00p String Band – DR 5:00p Adult Ministry – Library 6:00p AA Managers Mtg.-JH	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – AC 2:00p Grief Support – AC 6:00p Persistent Sisters-DR	9 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 12:00p Reports for Session are due.	10 7:00a AA Mtg. - DR 9:00a Stroke Workshop – Dining Room
11 8:00a Worship – Chapel 9:00a Everyday Issues – DR 9:15a NewSong – Chapel 10:30a Worship – Sanctuary 10:30a Peacemaking Awards – S 11:45a Deacon's Mtg. – DR 7:00p Patio Party- Nicholson's	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p – TN Articles due!! 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel 5:00p Finance Mtg. – GR 6:00p Peacemaking – YA	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 4:30p Strategic Advisory – AC	14 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 3:30p 1 st Pres String Band – Lincolnshire Memory Center 1215 W. Arbor Ave. 5:00p Evang. & Memb. – AC 6:30p Just Flicks Mtg.	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 2:00p Grief Support – AC 4:00p Administration Mtg. – L	16 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	17 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 
18 8:00a Worship – Chapel 9:00a Everyday Issues – DR 9:15a NewSong – Chapel 10:30a Worship – Sanctuary	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:30p Women's Bible Study- Adult Classroom 7:00p Session Meeting – DR	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30a Ecumenical Clergy Group – UU Church	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 2:00p 1 st Pres String Band – Eagle Ridge – 875 W. McKinley	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – GR 5:30p Women's Night Out at Aloha	23 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	24 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 1:00p Weaver Visitation Gathering Room 2:30p Weaver Service Sanctuary
25 Good Sam Sunday 8:00a Worship – Chapel 9:00a Good Sam Sunday 9:00a Everyday Issues – DR 9:15a NewSong – Chapel 10:30a Worship – Sanctuary	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p – TN Articles due!! 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 4:45p Budget Posse – L	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 4:00p String Band – DR	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 6:30p Patio Party - Wishers	30 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	

June Birthdays



Erin Roberts – 1
Carol Dixon – 2
Steve Campbell – 4
Denise Porter – 4
Camryn Streich – 4
Verlyn Rosenberger – 5
Claire Taylor – 5
Nadine Wimmer – 5

Tom Force – 6
Carolyn Meyer – 6
Noah Gillespie – 7
Lindsey Holler – 8
Linda Wiesner – 10
Tom Black – 12
Carol Houston – 12
Jim Olson – 13

Cindy Wene – 13
Patricia Thom – 14
Cindy Wakeland – 15
George Batson – 19
Sophia Guadagno – 19
Ryleigh Ellis - 20
Judy Steele – 21
Sydney Davis – 23

Jack Locke – 25
Azure Nicole – 25
Laura Allen – 26
Kathi Bondurant – 26
Kate Edwards – 26
Owen Montgomery - 26
Matthew Davidson – 27
Ron Wisher – 28

**Did we forget someone?
Please let us know!**

