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August 16, 2017

Volume 49 Number 15  
Ann Elder, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor



**Join the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres crowd on Sunday, August 20, 4:00 p.m.**

**Fairview Park Pavilion 1 – Bring a side dish.**



**NOTE ALL NEW CHURCH TIMES IN SEPTEMBER:**

**Sanctuary Choir: Come sing with us!**

**New times:**

Wednesday rehearsals: 5:15-6:30 PM starting August 30th

Sunday rehearsals: 10:30 AM for 11 AM service starting September 10th

New singers welcome; for more information contact Director Claire Taylor at [ce.nicholson1@gmail.com](mailto:ce.nicholson1@gmail.com)

***Taizé Time has changed to 6:45 p.m.  
on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning Sept. 6.***

**NEW WORSHIP TIMES**

8:45 AM NewSong Service

11:00 AM Sanctuary Service

(“One Table” service @ 11:00 AM on 1st Sunday of every month – Sept. 3)

**EDUCATION**

9:45 AM Christian Education for all ages

**FIRST FRIENDS MEET AUGUST 24 at First Pres**

**Our First Friends speaker on Thursday will be Marilyn Stevens, who will show pictures of her trip to Ecuador to meet a child she sponsored for ten years. We will meet this month at 10:30 a.m.**

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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Deadline

Monday  
Sept. 11  
Noon

# Calendar . . .

## Wednesday, August 16

2:00 – String Band at Eagle Ridge, 875 W. McKinley Ave.

## Thursday, August 17

2:00 – String Band at Primrose, 1145 W. Arbor Drive  
4:00 – Administration Meeting  
6:30 – Patio Party @ Sue Grieve residence

## Sunday, August 20

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services  
9:00 – Everyday Issues Class  
10:00 – Called Session Mtg., Library  
4:00 – Church Picnic at Fairview Park, Pavilion 1

## Monday, August 21

1:00 – Women’s Bible Study at Pastor Jean’s for eclipse  
7:00 – Session Meeting

## Thursday, August 24

10:00 – Presbytery Mtg., Greenville, IL  
10:30 – First Friends @1<sup>st</sup> Pres  
5:30 – Women’s Night Out @ Lincoln Lounge – RSVP  
5:30 – Soul Friendship Group

## Friday, August 25

2:00 – String Band at Decatur Rehab, 136 S. Dipper Lane

## Sunday, August 27

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 Worship Services  
9:00 – Everyday Issues Class  
10:00 – Reception for Doug Nicholson  
4:00 – Patio Party at Houston’s

## Tuesday, August 29

1:00 – Worship Planning

## Wednesday, August 30

4:00 – String Band Practice  
5:15 – Choir Practice

## First Sunday, September 3

11:00 – *One Table*

Worship Service (Bring canned goods.)

## Monday, September 4

Labor Day – Office Closed

*First Presbyterian Friends:  
Join us for a Visit to the Campus of  
Kemmerer Village in Assumption*

Saturday, August 26

*Meet us here to follow or carpool at 9:30 a.m.  
Return by noon or 12:30 p.m.*



***We will share in a tour and enjoy an optional lunch in the cafeteria. We will present the school with a Pentecost offering. Bring the family and be better informed and inspired by the wonderful mission and vision that changes the lives of so many.***

***You may sign up by calling the church office or on Sunday in the Gathering Room.***

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Marty Grohne** is in rehab at Hickory Point Christian Village.

**Mike Lowe** is in hospice at Fair Haven Christian Home.

**Naomi Davis** is home from the hospital.

**Nancy Anderson** is home and recovering from surgery.



**Gary Smalley** will be non-weight bearing for 2 more months following his hip reconstruction.

**Nancy McGill**, sister of Jackie Evans – health issues

**All our families and friends** who may be going through a rough period in their lives.

Our sympathy is extended to Carol and Jon Scharfenberg and their family on the death of Jon’s father who died July 30, 2017, in Macomb, IL.

### **THANK YOU**

#### **Celebration Parking Lot Mission Project**

Thanks to the 30+ mission-minded folks who organized, volunteered, and parked in our lot for the Decatur Celebration. With their help and the help of those who chose our lot or simply gave money, First Pres will donate \$2,000.00 to DOVE in a year when their programs needed financial support. What a meaningful mission activity which makes a difference in our community! Watch for more opportunities in the coming months.

### **NEW NUMBER**

**Cheryl Thompson’s cell:** 561-0977

**REMEMBER ONE-CHURCH ONE-SCHOOL?** It is now known as CHURCH SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD, and if are interested in helping at Muffley School on your time schedule, please contact Cathy Force (cathyforce@comcst.net or 521-7131.) School starts this week, and help is always welcomed.

## Calendar cont. . . .

### Monday, September 4

Labor Day – Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 5

5:00 – Tower Ringers  
6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting  
6:45 – Worship & Music Mtg.

### Wednesday, September 6

4:00 – String Band Practice  
5:15 – Choir Practice  
6:45 – Taizé Chapel Service

### Thursday, September 7

9:00-1:00 – Volunteers at Good Samaritan Inn

### Sunday, September 10

8:45 – NewSong Worship  
9:45 – Christian Education  
11:00 – Sanctuary Worship  
12:15 – Deacons Meeting  
6:00 – Just Flicks – Motorcycle Diaries at Central Christian

### Monday, September 11

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

### Tuesday, September 12

1:00 – Worship Planning  
3:00 – Patio Party at Gayle Bruckner's home  
5:00 – Tower Ringers

### Wednesday, September 13

4:00 – String Band Practice  
5:15 – Choir Practice  
6:30 – Evangelism and Membership (NEW TIME)

### Thursday, September 14

9:30 – Parish Visitors Meeting  
12:00 – Children and Youth Ministry Meeting

### Sunday, September 17

8:45 – NewSong Worship  
9:45 – Christian Education  
11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

### Monday, September 18

1:30 – Women's Bible Study

7:00 – Session Meeting

### Tuesday, September 19

5:00 – Tower Ringers



**from the desk** of Pastor Jean

During July, Bob and I had the wonderful opportunity for 2 weeks of vacation in Colorado and 1 week of Continuing Education at Synod School in Storm Lake, Iowa. Synod School is a wonderful weeklong adventure where about 700 Presbyterians gather at Buena Vista College to worship, study and have lots of fun and fellowship. During the week, each person can take up to 4 different classes each day. The classes that I had chosen for the week were: 1) Chronic Pain: How to Live with It; 2) White Privilege and Micro Aggressions: What's the Big Deal; 3) How to be a more Hospitable Church; and finally, 4) LGBTQ Issues and Conversations.

The most difficult class for me was the White Privilege and Micro Aggressions: What's the Big Deal, because I learned how inherent racism is and how much it is a part of our white culture. In this class, I was made aware of the fact of how complicit I am, through my normal assumptions, attitudes, and behaviors, in perpetuating white privilege and racism. At last year's General Assembly of the PC(USA), two women were elected as Co-Moderators of our denomination, one is white, the other is black. They have challenged all Presbyterian Congregations over the next year to read the book *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving. In this book, Ms. Irving shares her sometimes cringeworthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, and she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. I too recommend this book to you, and hope that within this year, Bob and I can lead a churchwide discussion on this book so that we too might gain a better understanding of our own complicity in perpetuating racism in our society. I find that when God troubles the calm waters of my life, I need to learn how to swim in a new way to meet the challenges ahead. I pray that God continues to challenge me on my life's journey so that I might become the one whom God intends me to be.

### EVERYDAY ISSUES IN AUGUST

- August 20 – "If Not for These Wrinkles of Darkness: Rembrandt, Faith, and Art" – Stephen Frech
- August 27 – Beth Bachtold continues with Living the Questions DVD series, *Uppity Women of the Bible*.

### Have You Tried Taizé?

A perfect place to come and find a quiet center where you can just "be" is during a Taizé Service. Join us the first Wednesday evening of every month from 6:45 to 7:30 PM for singing, scripture and silence in our beautiful chapel.

**September 6**  
**October 4**  
**November 1**  
**December 6**

### PATIO PARTIES



Two more patio parties to sign up: **Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 3:00pm** at Primrose with host Gayle Bruckner or **Thursday, Sept. 21, at 5:30 pm** at the Jensen's

Sign up in the Gathering Room.

It's great to be connected!

## Covenant Network of Presbyterians 2017 Conference

The national gathering of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from November 8-10, 2017. "This conference will illuminate and confront the ongoing exclusion encountered by LGBTQ people, people of color and others in the life of church and society. It will name the privilege in our midst and discern what it means for seeking justice and practicing radical hospitality. And it will endeavor to *make manifest Christ's work of reconciliation* among believers, in congregations and councils and in all the world."

See more information about the gathering at [www.covnetpres.org/oursharedhumanity](http://www.covnetpres.org/oursharedhumanity).

First Presbyterian Church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. It would be great if we could send a representative to this gathering in Baltimore. Our representative would be charged with experiencing the gathering and bringing back their thoughts and suggestions as to how First Pres can help make manifest Christ's work of reconciliation. The Peacemaking Committee will pay the \$225 registration fee and add in \$75 to help with expenses for our representative.

Are you interested? If so, please talk to Bob or Jean Wollenberg or Jim Rauff.

### Women's Night Out

Women's night out meets on Thursday, August 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Square Lounge. Please sign-up if you wish to join us!

## ISN'T DECATUR A TREE CITY?

### PEACEMAKING INVITATION



One of the four major themes of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Commitment to Peacemaking is "Making Peace with the Earth." Because I feel this environmental issue is a Christian way to help our community and the world, please join me and many other community environmentalists when we 'fill-the-seats' at the **Decatur City Council chambers on Monday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m.** to simply support the need to protect our environment, thus to fulfill one of the tenets of our Peacemaking Committee.

Here's why we will do this: Over 30 years ago Decatur was named an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City as designated by a sign posted along Franklin Street near the Decatur Public Library. Trees were then and are still deemed to be valuable assets. However, our Decatur City Council members recently voted to allow over 100 valuable, long-lived white oak, red oak, and walnut trees to be logged on property owned by the city. Perhaps they didn't know the real value of these trees. Their vote will allow a logging company to cut beautiful trees and use some of the lumber proceeds to beautify Decatur in a different way. That does not make sense to me. As a former elementary teacher who taught my classes about their 'Tree Friends,' if the council members were my students, my grade book would have shown that they have earned an 'F' for their short-sighted decision. I believe they need to rethink their action for any future city-owned forested areas. That's why several Presbyterians were among a group of concerned citizens who demonstrated at the entrance to the Civic Center on Monday, August 7 to encourage the City Council to form some kind of committee to develop a better plan for administering future natural resource issues. And that's also why I hope many of the Tower Notes readers will join me at the **Civic Center on Monday August 21, at 5:30 p.m.** You do not have to stay for the entire council meeting.

Verlyn Rosenberger

### JUST FLICKS 2017-2018 OPENER

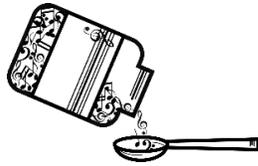
MOTORCYCLE DIARIES ON SEPTEMBER 10, 6:00 P.M.  
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Before he became the icon of Cuban independence, Ernesto "Che" Guevara was an Argentine medical student in 1952 looking for an adventure. He and his friend decided to ride their motorcycles from Buenos Aires to Peru to work in a leper colony. For Che, a young man of affluence, the journey was nothing short of a revelation, as his eyes were opened to the searing poverty most indigenous people lived in. (R)

### OUR MISSION FOR GOOD SAM

Our LAST Sunday for 2017 to provide, prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is Sunday, September 17. Individual pre-packaged treats are needed (Little Debbie, Hostess, cookies, etc.) for 300 people. Please put your donation in the Dining Room kitchen NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15. To help to prepare the meal (9-10:30), e-mail Susan Moore at [susanmoor@gmail.com](mailto:susanmoor@gmail.com) or to help serve (11-1), contact Rob Eytchison at 521-5897. Your support is always appreciated.

## Music as Medicine



In the February 21, 2017 edition of the San Diego Union-Tribune I saw this article about the healing powers of song. This story is about oncologist Dr. Steven Eisenberg and how he brings the power of music to his patients. He writes songs for and about his patients. His patients are co-writers as he learns about what they love, what inspires them, the things they remember and how they were as a child. He lets it marinate for a couple days and then creates a song just for them. He said, "When I sing it for them, their receptors are firing. In many cases, I see a fog lifting. They may be suffering from 'chemo-brain'-- which is very difficult-- but also depression, anxiety and fear. I want to bring love, light and music to cancer patients." He goes on to say, "If we can impact their brain even one or two percent, they will be able to see themselves more clearly and see the love they have in their life. They feel the creative juices running through their veins."

Doug Nicholson, our choir director, has brought the healing powers of music to our church and community in so many ways. He has given us music to make us smile, lift our spirits and touch our hearts. What a wonderful dose of music as medicine he has provided all these many years. Thank you, Doug!

*Phyllis, Parish Nurse*

### OUTDOOR GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 19, 2017  
Noon until Dusk

Crestview Worship Center  
4415 N. water Street  
Information: 412-9476

Hotdogs, popcorn, food, drinks, games, and prizes

### SUNDAY NAME BADGES

Do you have a name badge? We ask that you wear your name badges on Sundays. If you don't have one, please call or e-mail the office – 429-4195, or [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net).



"Feed My Starving Children" is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization that packs and ships meals to children in over 70 countries. On Saturday, September 9, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is hosting a packing event, where volunteers will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags and prepare boxes for shipping.

First Pres is assembling a team to work the 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. shift. If you are interested, please sign up BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 on the table in the Gathering Room hallway or contact Cindy Wene ([cleenee3@aol.com](mailto:cleenee3@aol.com) or 855-1588). Children ages 5 and up are welcome to attend with an adult.

If you are not available for this shift, but would like to participate on your own, St. Paul's has other times to volunteer on both Fri. Sept. 8 and Sat. Sept. 9. You can register at <http://give.fmssc.org/DecaturCommunity> (click on "Volunteer").

More information on the organization is available at [FMSC.org](http://FMSC.org).

### LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH DINNER DOWNTOWN – August 26

First United Methodist, 201 W. North St., needs donations of desserts to feed the hungry for lunch at noon. You can deliver pies (no cream, no nuts), cakes or cookies (no nuts) 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.

### Handicapped Parking on Sundays

Please note that you **do not** have to have a handicapped parking tag to park in the front lot or handicapped spots on Sundays. The signs in the front lot are just a visual reminder to the congregation that we do have people who would benefit from being able to park closer to the doors on Sundays. So, if you are one of these people, please feel free to take advantage of the closer parking.