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Office Closed  
Monday  
January 15  
  
Session meets  
Saturday  
January 20  
during the  
Officer Retreat

January 10, 2018

Volume 50 Number 1  
Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

2018 New Office Hours: 8:30-12:30 and 1:30-5:00 Monday-Friday, EXCEPT for the office being closed after 12:30 on Thursdays.

Welcome, New Members!

On Sunday, December 17, 2017 we welcomed six new members to First Pres:

**Lynda Alexander** joined First Pres. by transfer of letter from a local church. She has already participated in several church events with her friends, John and Jane Oaster. She lives at 3210 E. Vining, Decatur, IL 62521. Ph. 217-412-9665

**Corey Anderson** is currently a behavioral teaching assistant with the Macon-Piatt County Special Education District. He joined by letter of transfer from a church in Connecticut and attends First Pres with Pixie Fennessey. Corey is interested in worship and mission and enjoys woodturning as a hobby. He lives at 1528 W. Riverview Avenue, Decatur, IL 62522. Ph. 860-368-1146 Email: [corey.anderson.07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corey.anderson.07@sbcglobal.net)



L-R: Emily Zinda, Luke Zinda, Lynda Alexander, Jeanne Helm, Cathy Meadows, and Corey Anderson

**Jeanne Helm** transferred from Argenta Presbyterian Church. She is an artist who is also an Early Childhood Professor at Richland. Jeanne and her husband, Ron, live at 7542 Kirby, Oreana, IL 62554. Email: [jhelmwatercolor2@gmail.com](mailto:jhelmwatercolor2@gmail.com) Ph. 217-468-2314

**Cathy Meadows** comes by letter of transfer from a local church. Cathy is interested in mission activities through caring for others and small groups such as Women's Bible Study. She lives at 448 Crestline Drive, Decatur, IL 62526. Email: [cathy.anne.meadows@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.anne.meadows@gmail.com) Ph. 217-433-7536 or 217-875-0959

**Emily & Luke Zinda** moved here from Winston-Salem NC. Luke is an engineer at CAT and Emily works from home as a consultant for a company in Milwaukee. They came to First Pres because they were looking for a Presbyterian congregation that encourages diversity and is involved in social justice issues.

Treats for Good Sam

Our FIRST Sunday for 2018 to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**. Treats for 300 are needed for this meal. Pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. are needed. Please put any donations in the kitchen by **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**. Your help is always appreciated. Thanks! (NewSong Mission Group and Deacons)

**Tower Notes article due dates:** Articles submission dates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday by noon for the edition that is mailed out the following Wednesday. Thank you!

## Wednesday, January 10

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Evangelism & Membership Meeting

## Thursday, January 11

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

## Sunday, January 14

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship
- 6:00 – Just Flicks, *Beasts of the Southern Wild* at Central Christian

## Monday, January 15

**MLK DAY - Office is Closed**

- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 6:30 – Facilities Meeting

## Tuesday, January 16

- 1:00 – Worship Planning
- 4:00 – Health Ministry Mtg.
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers

## Wednesday, January 17

- 5:15 – Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 18

- 5:30 – Soul Friendship Class

## Saturday, January 20

- 9:30 – Officers' Retreat and Session Meeting

## Sunday, January 21

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

## Tuesday, January 23

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers

## Wednesday, January 24

- 5:15 – Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 25

- 10:30 – First Friends at FUM

## Sunday, January 28

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship
- 6:00 – Just Flicks "Arranged"

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Marty Grohne** is in Room 118, Hickory Pt. Christian Village. Visitors welcomed.  
**Richard Phillips**, health issues.  
**Naomi Davis** has returned home.  
**Gayle Bruckner** is now back home at her Primrose address.

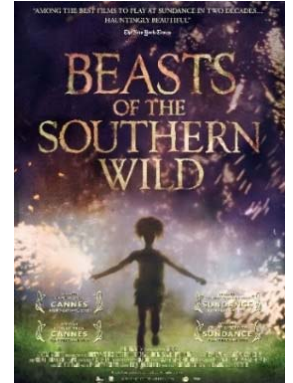
## JUST FLICKS – JANUARY IS DOUBLE-FEATURE MONTH!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 650 W. WILLIAM STREET**

### *BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD*

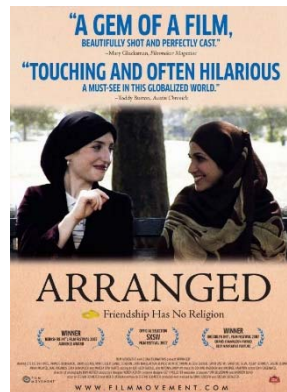
In a forgotten but defiant bayou community cut off from the rest of the world by a sprawling levee, a six-year-old girl exists on the brink of orphanhood. Buoyed by her childish optimism and extraordinary imagination, she believes that the natural world is in balance with the universe until a fierce storm changes her reality. Desperate to repair the structure of her world in order to save her ailing father and sinking home, this tiny hero must learn to survive unstoppable catastrophes of epic proportions. – PG-13, 2012



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – DINING ROOM**

### *ARRANGED*



This fascinating 2007 film "centers on two young women — one an Orthodox Jew, the other a devout Muslim — who meet and become friends as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn that they share much in common, not least of which is that they are both going through arranged marriages." (That's quoted from Wikipedia – the source of all arguable knowledge).

### **Greater Decatur Chorale Winter Concert**

The Greater Decatur Chorale Winter Concert will be held at the Schilling Auditorium on the RCC campus in January. The Chorale will be performing the Great American Songbook with many standards of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin and other noted American composers. Performances will be held Friday, January 12 and Saturday January 13 at 7:30 and Sunday January 14 at 2:00 PM. With our relocation, performances will be concert only and not dinner/theater.

Tickets are reserved seats and can be purchased at the Park District Admin office at [620 East Riverside](http://www.decalur-parks.org/the-arts/), online at <http://www.decalur-parks.org/the-arts/> or by calling [422-5911](tel:422-5911) during business hours 8 – 5 pm Monday – Friday. We will have tickets available one hour prior to show time at Schilling Auditorium January 12 – 14. Tickets in advance are \$10 each and will be \$12 at the door the day of the performance.

**Tuesday, January 30**

5:00—Tower Ringers

**Wednesday, January 31**

5:15—Choir Practice

**Adult Education**

**Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.**

1. Everyday Issues Class will be exploring a new curriculum when they begin using materials called **“The Wired Word.”** Each week a discussion will take place on a current issues topic. This topic will have been researched by Wired Word Staff and materials provided to our group conveners weekly. Some of these materials can also be shared via email with class participants to provide background for our discussions. Materials will also include Scriptural references to help us examine our faith as it relates to the topic. Several First Pres members have agreed to convene our discussions and see that all positions, opinions and voices are heard.

Note: The Wired Word will continue until further notice with occasional breaks for specific topics as they arise.

2. Every Sunday, Pastor Bob leads his class called **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** in the lower level of the church. This class is intended to reach out to some of our younger adults who want to engage in some lively conversation covering a wide range of topics. There is lots of coffee and perhaps a few donuts! Anyone is welcome to come.

**PASTORS’ OFFICE DAYS**

Bob – Tues., Wed. and Friday

Jean – Mon., Tues. and Thursday

**ANNUAL OFFICERS’ RETREAT:** The Annual Officers’ Retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, January 20 from 9:30-1:30 p.m. in the Dining Room Lunch will be provided and the January Session Meeting will be conducted during the retreat.

**First Friends:** First Friends will kick off the 2018 season on Thursday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Millikin Professor Ngozi Onuora will speak about the Racism Taboo movement here in Decatur. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend or two or three. Refreshments will be provided and a free-will offering will be taken to help cover the cost of refreshments.

First Friends meets on the fourth Thursday of the month January through October and alternates locations between First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church.

**Women’s Night Out:** All women are invited to join the Women’s Night Out group. You need not be a member to attend. We will begin the 2018 season with dinner at Olive Garden on Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy some fellowship and a great meal while also nurturing new friendships. The conversation is always lively.

Women’s Night Out meets every fourth Thursday of the month from January through October and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in Nov. We take a break during the busy Christmas season. We visit a different restaurant every month and are always open to suggestions as to which new establishment to try next.

**GIVELIFY online and mobile app.** There is a new way to financially support First Pres. An online or mobile app called **GIVELIFY** is available for your regular pledge or special purposes. Open the **GIVELIFY** app and search for First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, IL. You are required to set up an account, enter a credit or debit card and then fill in your financial gift. This can be used for a one-time gift or set up as a repeating transaction. Check it out at [www.givelify.com](http://www.givelify.com).

Pecans: Pecans are still available. 16 oz New Crop Mammoth Halves are \$11/bag. 12oz Chocolate Covered Pecans are \$9/bag and make great gifts.

**Souper Bowl Sunday**



February 4<sup>th</sup> is a day when millions of dollars are spent to enjoy the Super Bowl experience. It is also a day that we can choose to turn our thoughts and dollars towards those without a bowl of soup to eat. The number of people in the United States that live in food insecure households would fill over 500 NFL stadiums Hunger effects people of all ages. According to study by *Hunger In America*, 42% must choose between food and utilities and 32% between food and medicine.

Won’t you help us to fill the pot as we give to the Building Fund for Northeast Community Center? On February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be available before and after the One Table Service to collect your gifts for this worthy cause. We may even share a sample of soup to further warm your soul.

Children and Youth of First Presbyterian Church



### **Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet**

We have one ticket (\$35) available for anyone who would like to join the Pastors and members of the Peacemaking Committee at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration Luncheon this Saturday, January 13, at the Decatur Club. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Contact the office if interested.

### **Retirement Reception for Ann Elder**



On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> a reception was held for long time Financial Assistant Ann Elder, honoring her wish to retire after 26 years of service and ministry to our Congregation. Ann's sweet smile, compassionate heart and gentle spirit will be missed by all. Those of us who have had the privilege to work with Ann know how dependable, capable and reliable she has been over these 2 ½ decades of service. If we were to write an advertising slogan for Ann's work with us, it would have to be "Service with a Smile!" Thank you Ann for your generous spirit, substantial time and hard work done with us here at First Presbyterian Church. We pray that God's deepest blessing be upon you and Mike as you begin this new chapter in your lives. As the Bible says in Matthew 25:21 *Well done good and faithful servant.* Indeed we have been blessed by your service with us.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNERS TO BEGIN AGAIN IN FEBRUARY**

Join us, beginning February 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday for our annual Lenten Soup Suppers and discussions. Every Wednesday evening from February 14<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup> we will gather together for a lite supper of soup and bread, and then have a discussion afterwards centered on the book *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving. Dinner will begin at **6:15 PM** in the Dining Room (this way the choir can join us when they are finished at 6:30 PM), and will be followed by a discussion at 7:00 PM around the tables focused on issues raised in Debby Irving's book. We hope to see you here and have you participate in this Lenten tradition.

### **LENTEN BOOK STUDY BEGINNING FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

Some have called "Waking Up White" one of the most important books on race in recent memory. Last year, the Reverends Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of our denomination, urged all Presbyterians to read it as a part of their "One Church, One Book" project which aims to get Presbyterians reading and discussing "Waking Up White," by Debby Irving.







In the book, the author tells her own story about stumbling into troubling and even shocking revelations about racial inequities after what she describes as "a blissfully sheltered, upper-middle-class suburban childhood." She grew up believing herself to be a good person and even tried to use her career to help people of color. But the book describes her gradual discovery of her own "white privilege," which led to the realization that good intentions alone cannot overcome centuries of racial injustice.

One of our moderators, Rev. Anderson, says the reticence of white Presbyterians to talk about race is "very frustrating" to people in the black church. And so, she and her co-moderator, have been encouraging Presbyterian churches across the country to use the book as a way of discussing our own experiences with the racial issues that continue to divide our country.

Bob and Jean along with the church Session, have decided to make this book the focus of our Lenten study this year. Each Wednesday of Lent we will share a simple soup supper in the church dining room and then gather around tables for conversations.

This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. On that evening, our meal will be followed by a brief Ash Wednesday worship service. Our first book discussion will begin the next Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Before that time, everyone in the church is encouraged to purchase an electronic or paperback edition of the book which is available on Amazon.com or other online booksellers. Families can decide for themselves how many copies they wish to purchase. If you don't have access to a computer or are uneasy with ordering online, call the church office and we will be glad to assist you in obtaining a copy of the book before the beginning of Lent.

Our church has a long history of encouraging dialogue with our African American brothers and sisters. We hope that this Lenten Study will continue and strengthen that part of our church's witness and ministry.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>January 2018</b>	1 <b>New Year's Day Office Closed</b> <b>Happy New Year 2018</b>	2 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR 7:00p Worship & Music - L	3 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:45p Taizé Worship-Chapel	4 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	5 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	6 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 
7 <b>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b> 9:45a Christian Education 10:30a Retirement Reception for Ann - GR <b>11:00a One Table Worship-S</b> 12:00p Hiding of the Greens 12:15p Deacon's Mtg - YA	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p Cath Chair Brd Mtg-YA 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel 5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg.- L 6:00p Peacemaking - YA	9 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR 6:30p Adult Mission Trip Planning Meeting - DR	10 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:30p Evang/Memb Mtg – L	11 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 6:00p Persistent Sisters - DR	12 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 	13 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 12:00p MLK Jr Banquet at Decatur Club
14 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00p Just Flicks – “Beasts of The Southern Wild” at CCC	15 <b>MLK Jr Birthday Observed Office Closed</b> 5:00p Finance Mtg. – GR 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30p Ecumen. Clergy Mtg 11:30p BC PEO Mtg - DR 1:00p Worship Planning – L 4:00p Health Ministry - L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR	18 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 2:00p Administration - PO 5:30p Soul Friendship - AC	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Officer's Retreat with Session Meeting – Dining Room
21 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR	25 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – FUM 5:30p Women's Night Out – Olive Garden	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
28 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00P Just Flicks – “Arranged” – Dining Room	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	30 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	31 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR		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 Room L – Library ME – Medical Equip. Rm PO – Pastor's Office S – Sanctuary SH – Senior High Room TR – Toddler's Room YA – Youth Area

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Lonnie Blankenship – 3  
Chuck Boes – 4  
Cheryl Falk – 4  
Dalton Guadagno – 4  
Lily Brown – 7  
Jurg Padrutt – 7  
Brian Blackburn – 8

Ethan Law – 8  
Virginia Maines – 9  
Tim Montgomery – 9  
Robert Bullock – 11  
Carlton Washburn – 11  
Jody Hantel – 12  
Jayne Marquis – 14

John Washburn – 14  
Jeanne Helm – 16  
Andy Rauff – 16  
Katherine Arnold – 17  
Alex Bales – 17  
Denise Lohmann – 17  
Kathy Thornton – 17

Lindsey Castleman-Zia – 18  
Kyle Nicholson – 19  
Simon Nicholson – 19  
Barbara Redford – 19  
Katie Lohmann White – 19  
Patrick Smallwood – 20  
Margie Bennett – 21

Grace Smith-Phillips – 21  
Dick Fiala – 22  
Peggy Madden – 24  
Diane Rushing – 24  
Margo White – 25  
Greg Crowe – 26  
Addysyn Hale – 26