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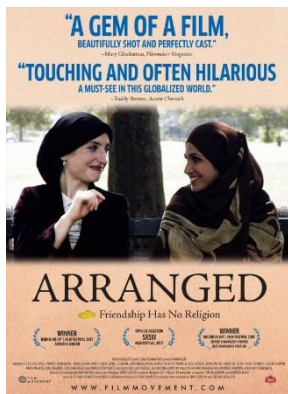
January 24, 2018

Volume 50 Number 2

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.

JUST FLICKS



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).

Souper Bowl Sunday



February 4th 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 4th, 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



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 2nd & 4th Monday by noon for the edition that is mailed out the following Wednesday. Thank you!

Calendar . . .

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"

Tuesday, January 30

5:00 — Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, January 31

5:15 — Choir Practice

Thursday, February 1

9:00 — Volunteers at Good Sam

5:30 — Soul Friendship Meeting

Sunday, February 4

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Souper Bowl Sunday

9:45 — Christian Education

11:00 — One Table Service

followed by the Annual
Congregational Meeting.

12:15 — Deacons' Meeting

Monday, February 5

6:00 — Peacemaking Meeting

6:30 — Mission Meeting

7:00 — Worship & Music Mtg.

Tuesday, February 6

5:00 Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, February 7

5:15 Choir Practice

6:45 Taizé Worship Service

Thursday, February 8

9:30 — Parish Visitors

12:00 — Children & Youth Mtg.

Sunday, February 11

Good Samaritan Inn Sunday

8:45 — NewSong Worship Serv.

9:00 — Volunteers at Good Sam

9:45 — Christian Education

11:00 — Sanctuary Worship Serv.

6:00 — Just Flicks — "Loving"

Monday, February 12

3:30 — Administration Meeting

5:00 — Adult Ministry Meeting

5:00 — Finance Meeting

6:30 — Facilities Meeting

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Marty Grohne has moved to room 119 at Hickory Pt. Christian Village. She welcomes visitors.

Richard Phillips, health issues.



In Memoriam

*Ronald "Ronn" Thorne Allin
August 13, 1930 – January 20, 2018*

*There will be a service on Friday, January 26, at 11:00 a.m.
at First Presbyterian Church*

A luncheon will follow at 12:00 at the church.

*Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust him
to your boundless love and eternal care.*

Congratulations to Sarah Moore Montgomery and to the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church, who baptized, nurtured, and confirmed her. Sarah will be ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament into the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and installed as Associate Pastor of Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church in Brevard, NC on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

First Friends: First Friends meets 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. Refreshments will be provided and a free-will offering will be taken to help cover the cost of refreshments.

Women's Night Out: Women's Night Out meets at Olive Garden on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy some fellowship and a great meal while also nurturing new friendships. The conversation is always lively.

The Lenten Season

Soup Suppers: Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, February 14 from 6:15-7:00 p.m. Several soup options will be available along with bread for the simple meal. The suppers will continue through March 21. Sign-up sheets will be out, or call the office if you plan to attend so we know how much soup and bread to have available. A free-will donation will be taken and any proceeds will go towards the Adult Mission Trip later this year. Anyone wishing to volunteer to prepare soup, set-up, and/or clean-up for these meals should contact Cathy Force – 217-521-7131 or cathyforce@comcast.net.

Ash Wednesday Service: There will be a brief Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 p.m., after the Soup Supper on February 14.

Lenten Book Study: This year the Church has decided to focus its Lenten studies around "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. The discussions will be led by Pastors Bob & Jean and begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to purchase the book (or e-book) which is available on-line. If you don't have access to a computer or are uneasy with ordering on-line, call the church office and we will be glad to assist you in obtaining a copy of the book. The Lenten book study will wrap up on March 21.

Childcare: Childcare is available for newborn through age 12 during these Lenten Events by contacting Kathy Beube in advance at 217-620-7563.

Calendar cont. . . .

Tuesday, February 13

5:00—Tower Ringers

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

8:30 – Tower Notes Folders

10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group

5:00 – Evangelism & Membership

5:15—Choir Practice

6:15 – Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 18

8:45 – NewSong Worship Serv.

9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Serv.

Adult Education

Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

1. Everyday Issues Class is exploring a new curriculum using materials called “**The Wired Word.**” Each week a discussion will take place on a current issues 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

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.



THANK YOU ALL

As many of you know I am retiring as of February 5, 2018. I want to share with you some of my thoughts at this time.

Over the past 9 years I have been fortunate to have been your parish nurse. It has been a very rewarding and special experience for me. Here are some of the reasons why.

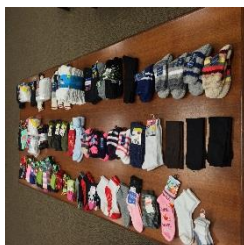
- The congregation, the Session, the pastors, and staff have always been supportive of me and the parish nurse program. This includes such things as: attending programs, offering assistance, giving financial support, making referrals, and sharing in the mission to be a caring church.
- The Health Ministry committee has made it possible to offer many workshops, Sunday morning classes, and projects. I won't forget working with them on the white board and their willingness to be in the Gathering Room for fellowship time. I am indebted to them all.
- I have felt honored to be a small part of people's lives as they go through health problems and transitions. I have many special memories that will stay with me for years to come.
- I value all the friendships I have made over the years as your parish nurse. I will miss sharing an office with Cathy Force and our time together.

It is hard to leave all this, but I will still be a part of First Presbyterian Church. I am just starting a new chapter of my life, with new adventures and plans.

I hope and pray that the Health Ministry/Parish Nurse program will continue. I offer my help to the next parish nurse, if needed. In the meantime, if you see me and have a question for me, don't hesitate to ask.

Again, thank you and remember to take care of yourself – physically, emotionally and spirituality - (I just had to slip that in!).

Phyllis, Parish Nurse



Many thanks to all who donated socks during the Mission Committee's collection drive in December. 124 pairs of socks were distributed to Oasis, God's Shelter of Love, and the Dove Children's Clothing Room. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Dear Friends of Stand Up For Grace,

Stand Up For Grace has been enrolled in a fundraiser at the Kroger stores. For every purchase a Kroger customer makes using their Kroger card, a percentage of the purchase will be given to Stand Up For Grace. There is no cost to Kroger card holder but will help Stand Up For Grace to receive money from Kroger. If you shop at Kroger's and are interested in helping, please follow the following instructions to register your Kroger card for the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

Thank you,
Pixie Fennessey
President of Stand Up For Grace

To register online at krogercommunityrewards.com:

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. * Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number (**14941**) or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

from the  of Pastor Bob

January is one of those interesting spots on the calendar where we find ourselves between things. Christmas and New Years are over. We aren't into the season of Lent yet. It's not even time for the Super Bowl. We are between the times.

Even though we all have wonderful memories of some of the yearly highlights, most of our lives are spent more ordinarily going to work, doing our chores, visiting friends, seeing the doctor, paying bills and just going for a walk. And even though it's tempting to imagine how we might live out our faith in some dramatic moment, most of the time our faith is lived out between the times in our day to day interactions.


Our daughter is now a night security guard at a casino and our son is a cook for McDonalds. It's been a great education for me to hear about all the "drama" that takes place every day in their jobs. It helps to remind me how much of a difference we can make in the world simply by how we act and what we say while doing the most ordinary things. How do we treat the employee in the check-out lane or the server at the restaurant? How do we act while waiting in line, walking in the park or passing a stranger?

Although it's important for us to stay engaged with the major issues that we face as a nation and a community, it's also important for us pay attention to how we spread the love of Jesus in the minor dramas of everyday life. Most of the stories that Jesus told were of these kinds of ordinary moments: A man traveling down the road, a woman getting water, a farmer hiring day-laborers. Jesus tells us that we will encounter him most often in the simplest of occasions: offering food to the hungry, giving comfort to the grieving, practicing hospitality to a stranger.

As we continue making our way between the more famous dates on the calendar, take care to notice where it is that you might see Christ and how your faith might come alive in everything that you do.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with you,
Bob

Fundraising Event: Youth & Children's Ministry has partnered with Culver's in Mt. Zion to hold a fundraising event on Tuesday, February 5 from 4-8 p.m. to raise funds for the Building Fund of Northeast Community Fund. Volunteers from the church will bus the tables and Culver's will donate 10% of the proceeds to NECF. Mark your calendars for some great food for a great cause!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 2018				1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	2 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	4 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 11:00a Souper Bowl Preparation - DR
4 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Souper Bowl Sunday 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a One Table Worship followed by Annual Congregational Meeting-S 12:15p Deacon's Mtg - DR	5 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 6:00p Peacemaking – YA 6:30p Mission – DR 7:00p Worship & Music - L	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:45p Taizé Worship-Chapel	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 12:00p Children's & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC 6:00p Persistent Sisters - DR	9 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 	10 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 10:00a Presbytery Meeting in Effingham 12:00p Stand Up For Grace Board Mtg. - L
11 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:00a Good Sam Sunday 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00p Just Flicks – “Loving” – Dining Room	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 3:30p Administration Mtg - PO 5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg.- L 5:00p Finance Mtg. – GR 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 12:30p Decatur Study Class – Chapel/GR 1:00p Worship Planning – L 4:00p Health Ministry Mtg. - L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:00p Evang/Memb Mtg – L 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:15p Soup Supper – DR 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service – Dining Room	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 5:30p Soul Friendship - AC	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR
18 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 11:30a BC PEO Meeting – DR 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:15p Soup Supper – DR 7:00p Lent Book Study - DR	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Matter of Balance Training-DR 10:30a First Friends – GR 5:30p Women's Night Out – TBD	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR
25 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S 4:00p Festival of Song – 1st Lutheran Church	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke - Chapel	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:15p Soup Supper – DR 7:00p Lent Book Study - DR		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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jill Williams – 1
Debbie Patterson – 4
Nan Williams – 4
Barbara Hostetter – 7
Gail Moore – 8
Holly Oaster – 8
Ryan Holler – 9

Ray Landon – 9
Norm Jensen – 11
Chung-Ha Kim – 11
Jon Locke – 11
Connie Requarth – 12
Craig Mandernach – 14
Abbey Netterville – 14

Donald Wachter – 16
Rob Eytchison – 17
Eric Mason – 18
Kyle Mason – 18
JoAnn Franklin – 19
Brenda Delaney – 22
Susan Grieve – 22

Judy Blankenship – 24
Sierra Falk – 24
Joe Houston – 25
Ava Brown – 26
Mary Ann Grohne – 26
James Phipps – 28
Earline Wisner – 28