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October 10, 2018

Volume 50 Number 19

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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from the  of Pastor Jean



I must admit that this past month has been very difficult. I have been deeply affected by the harsh and bitter rhetoric of our nation’s politics, and the unsettling reality of the Refugee crises around the world. I find myself pondering and worrying about the state of the world that we live in today, and too often I feel that I have no clear vision or idea of what to do to alleviate either of these situations: the nastiness with which we attack those who do not agree with us, and the upheaval of millions of people with no place to call home. I keep asking myself, how can I move from a feeling of hopelessness to hopefulness, uselessness to usefulness?

I know that I cannot sit around and watch as everything unfolds around me and not respond in some manner. So, this is my plan. I have decided that I need to become a more positive presence in this place and time, and strive to live out the words of the Prophet Micah when he writes: ***God has told you O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).***

Justice....Kindness....Humility

Indeed, these are the words that I need to hear. I know that I need to work for justice for all, but I need to do so through kindness – rather than with a battering ram, with humility rather than hubris. It might seem useless, or hopeless and inadequate in these times. But I believe this is the only path forward that might bring hopeful and helpful dialogue, and a world where we see every person as a gift rather than as a threat or burden. I have seen how harsh words and fear of the other have worn us down and torn us apart. Let us now use words of kindness and reason to build up what has been given to us by God.

NEW Tower Notes article due dates: Tower Notes are mailed out on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month (except the 4th Wed. in December). Please submit any articles by noon on Friday prior to the mailing date. (Remaining 2018 article due dates: 10/19, 11/9, 11/26 (due to Thanksgiving), and 12/7)

Calendar

Wednesday, October 10

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Evangelism & Membership
- 6:30 – History of Israel Class-FUM

Thursday, October 11

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors

Sunday, October 14

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship Service**
- 9:45 – Christian Education Hour
- 10:30 – Welcome Reception for Parish Nurse Shelli Perry
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service**
- 6:00 – Just Flicks -
Battle of the Sexes

Monday, October 15

- 1:30 Women's Bible Study
- 3:30 – Administration Meeting
- 5:00 – Finance Meeting

Tuesday, October 16

- 1:30 – History of Israel
- 4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, October 17

- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 5:00 – 1st Pres String Band –
Hoedown at Primerose
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – History of Israel – FUM

Sunday, October 21

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship**
- 9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

Monday, October 22

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 23

- 1:30 – History of Israel
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, October 24

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 2:00 – 1st Pres String Band –
Eagle Ridge
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – History of Israel - FUM

Thursday, October 25

- 10:30 – First Friends
- 5:30 – Women's Night Out –
Fuji Japanese Steak House

Sunday, October 28

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rehab: Carol Fuller, Tom Hostetler, Mary Lundin, Christl's mom Valerie Smalley

Health Issues: Susan Hayes, Lori Shimizu's cousin Brian MacKay, Peggy Madden's husband Richard Phillips, sister-in-laws of the Ward's son Matthew: Lisa Carpenter and Katy Boreson, Naomi Davis, Christl's friends Brenda & Debbie, Dwain VanZant, Walt Lohmann's brother Larry Lohmann, Alice Nicholson's sister Esther, Earl Carpunky, Pixie Fennessey, Lori Shimizu, Angela

On-going Care: Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe, Brenda Aymer's father Larry Boyer

Elder Care Facilities: Louise Bear, Julia Bright, Linda May's mother Nellie Brookhouzen, Pauline Carter, Verlyn Rosenberger's brother Elvon Fulton, Bill Grieve, Marty Grohne, Gib & Gini Maines, Judy Steele's mother Jean Peak, Richard Phillips, Norma Stephens, Betty Zeaman

General: All of our loved ones who may be going through difficult times in their lives.

Condolences: Bob and Diane Dunn and family at the death of Diane's mother, Nanette "Nan" Williams on Tuesday, September 25, 2018.



In Memoriam

Nanette "Nan" Williams

February 4, 1930 – September 25, 2018

Uphold us now, O Lord, as we entrust her to your

Meet our New Parish Nurse: Health Ministry is holding a Welcome Reception to formally introduce and welcome Shelli to our Church on Sunday, October 14th at 10:30 AM in the Gathering Room. Please stop by the Parish Nurse table on Sunday mornings to get to know Shelli and to welcome her as part of our church staff caring for our congregation.

Backpack Assembly Volunteer Needed: A few years back the First Pres Mission Committee and Kiwanis joined efforts to provide weekend food for Muffley pupils in need. The Kiwanians buy the food and store it at 1st Pres. Mission Committee members set up the food on the loading table most Wednesday during the school year, so the Kiwanis can load the back packs and deliver them. This year we are providing backpacks for 12 children. We need one more volunteer to "set the table" on the 3rd OR 4th Wed. of every month. This takes 30-45 minutes before 10:30 am. Please e-mail Judy Batson at batsongj@sbcglobal.net

Spend time with our precious children: Will you spend **5-6 hours per year** getting to know those wonderful children that go down to hear Victor on Sunday morning? The Children & Youth Ministry and Administration would like you to help in the child care room four or five times a year from 10:45 to 12:00. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Room. Session employs Kori Morstatter as our Child Care worker in the nursery on Sunday morning and your assistance would be during the 11:00 service. We all want those young people growing up with our congregation, so please share a little time with them.

Oasis Day Center: Oasis is in urgent need of men's and women's socks! Thank you!

Halloween Costumes Wanted:

The Decatur Police Department is collecting new and gently used Halloween costumes as part of an effort to make sure that all children can enjoy the holiday. Costumes from size toddler through youth size large will be accepted through Oct. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday at the police department at 707 W. South Side Drive. Financial donations may be given through the Project AVA website, project-ava.org



The church will not be holding a flu shot clinic this year, but it is important for everyone to get a flu shot. There are many choices of where to get your shot. Three that come to mind are your doctor, the health clinic, or your pharmacy.

Please consider using a Walgreen pharmacy as they have the "Get a shot – Give a shot" program in which they help provide lifesaving vaccinations to children in developing countries. Visit their website for more info.

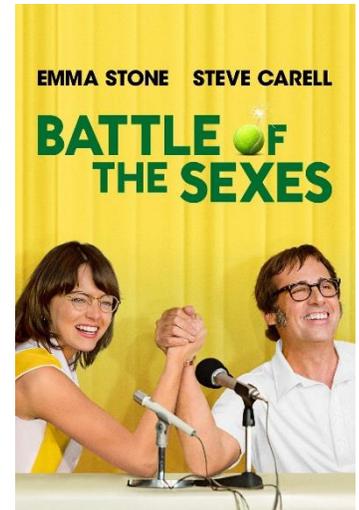
Giving Pamphlet:

The Finance Committee and Session have approved a new pamphlet to help you make decisions as you plan your estate. When making estate decisions, we would like you to remember First Presbyterian Church. There are many ways you can do this. Please take a pamphlet from the Gathering Room or the office and take it with you to your attorney or financial advisor.

Just Flicks – "Battle of the Sexes" – Sunday, Oct. 14 at 6 PM at First Pres: The Just Flicks film series offers an entertaining and provocative film, "Battle of the Sexes," on Sunday, October 14. John Poling will lead us in a lively discussion.

Based on the famous 1973 exhibition tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, the film uses the sports backdrop to explore issues of gender and sex – expectations, identities, and stereotypes. Variety had this to say when the film was released last year:

For those who prefer flesh-and-blood super heroes to the comic-book variety, "Battle of the Sexes" offers a real-life wonder woman saga with the power to educate and inspire, focusing on the drama that went down both on-court and off when Wimbledon triple-winner Bobby Riggs challenged ladies tennis world champion Billie Jean King to a boys-against-girls exhibition match. The outcome is widely known, but the backstory proves boisterously entertaining — and incredibly well-suited to the current climate, as King was both fighting for her gender and exploring her sexuality in 1973, when the widely publicized face-off happened.



"Battle of the Sexes" features top-notch performances by Emma Stone as King and Steve Carell as Riggs. It was directed by Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton.

The show is at First Presbyterian Church, with refreshments served at 6:00 pm.

Medical Equipment Inventory – October 2018: The following pieces of medical equipment are available for your use. Please don't hesitate to contact myself, Shelli Perry, Parish Nurse, or the office if you have a need and would like to check out any of the pieces that we have in inventory. Please take advantage of the supply that we are blessed with if a need arises!

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| Walkers (7) | Walkers with Seat (2) |
| Wheelchairs (2) | Crutches (6 pr., 2 singles) |
| 4-Pronged Canes (3) | Geri Chair (1) |
| Grabber (1) | Bath Chair with Back Support (2) |
| Bath Stool (1) | Raised Toilet Seat with Arms (1) |
| Boot Air Cast (1) | Electric Knee Scooter (2) |
| Arm Splint (1) | Assorted Grippers and Elastic Knee Supports (5) |

The medical equipment is stored in a room in the basement close to the elevator. I would be happy to assist you with getting the equipment in a car, or if necessary I could deliver the equipment to a residence. When borrowing a piece of equipment, please sign it out on the Sign Out Sheet that is on a clipboard in the room.

If you have medical equipment to donate, please contact myself or the office before bringing it to the church as space is limited. I will update the inventory list monthly.

Shelli Perry, Parish Nurse – (217) 412-99477

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

DOVE Annual Candlelighting Ceremony, in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

New Vision Church, 550 N. Van Dyke St., Decatur

DOVE Shelter Needs: The following items are needed at our local DOVE shelters: new strollers, new pack 'n plays, gas gift cards, Walmart, Kroger, and Aldi gift cards, African American hair products, journals, art supplies, alarm clocks, box fans, new towels and washcloths, new pillows, paper towels, toilet paper, hair dryers, new potty chairs, potty chair rings, and natural bristle and nylon bristle hair brushes. These items may be dropped off at the DOVE Office at 302 S. Union St. here in Decatur between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Thank you for supporting DOVE.

27th Annual Coats for Kids! Oct. 17 – Nov. 30: Dove will be collecting good used and new coats for families in need through November 30th. The participating cleaners will make sure the coats are clean and fresh and ready for the clothing rooms to distribute. You may drop off your donations at any of the following locations: Classic Cleaners, Pride Cleaners & Launderers, Waite's Dry Cleaners and Launderers, Decatur Public Library, Decatur Township Offices, Good Samaritan Inn, GT Church, Illiopolis Christian Church, Krogers, Land of Lincoln Credit Union, Longcreek Township, Regions Banks, Richland Community College, Soy Capital Bank & Trust, St. Teresa High School, and Texas Roadhouse.

Got to www.doveinc.org to read their monthly newsletter DoveTales, and to find other ways to support this great organization.

Boots on the Ground – “Feed My Starving Children”: On September 29 our Boots on the Ground local mission group volunteered to help make “mobile packs” at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church for “Feed My Starving Children”. One meal bag consists of six servings and there are 36 bags packed in each box. The morning 9-11 am shift packed 166 boxes. That’s 35,856 servings, enough to feed about 100 children a meal a day for a whole year! THANKS to our team for helping with the “Feed My Starving Children” community event again this year!



MEALS ON WHEELS
MACON COUNTY

Meals on Wheels is a program through Catholic Charities of Decatur. It is a community service program which relies on dedicated volunteers for the delivery of a hot noon meal to the elderly homebound or disabled persons, enabling them to remain in their own homes. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. They are picked up at the Decatur Memorial Hospital, along with a detailed route description. Routes take about an hour and deliver to 18-24 people.

How is this program set up? First Presbyterian Church is responsible for volunteers to deliver meals three weeks a year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are asking for volunteers now to cover October 29-November 1. Approximately 40 volunteers are needed from our church. Usually two volunteers deliver each route. Ask your spouse, a fellow church member, a co-worker, or your children to accompany you.

But I am too busy, and somebody else will do it. Have you seen the price of gas? Each route takes about an hour to complete and most are less than 18 miles in length. You may be the only friendly face and caring voice the recipient will see or hear all day. We may provide the only nutritious meal they have all day.



Sounds great! How do I sign up? Contact Susie Marshall at 422-0824

First Friends – Haiti Medical Mission Trip: On October 25, First Friends will meet in the Gathering Room at 10:30 a.m. Our guest speaker, Karen Schneller will entertain and educate us with stories and pictures of a recent Medical Mission trip to Haiti. Karen is the Executive Director of the Decatur Memorial Foundation and works closely with member Dianne DeVore who is the Donor Relations Coordinator.

Women’s Night Out – Fuji Japanese Steak House: Sign up in the Gathering Room to reserve a seat if you wish to join Women’s Night Out at Fuji on October 25 at 5:30 p.m.