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**November 14, 2018**

**Volume 50 Number 21**

**Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor**

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**from the desk of Pastor Jean**

Well it's done, the election cycle is over for this year. I figure we have just about one year before things really begin to get ugly for the 2020 Presidential! I don't know about you, but I feel battered and bruised with all the insults, negative ads, fighting between the parties and in-fighting within the parties themselves. Often things seem so bad that I am tempted not to read, listen to or download anything that has to do with politics or the news because I just become a bundle of anxiety! But I also know that burying my head in the sand, ignoring what is going on around me, is not the solution either. The trick is finding a healthy way of being engaged in the world without letting it overwhelm you. So here are some things that I am going to try over the next couple of months to help myself become more balanced and healthier, physically, mentally and emotionally.

- Remind myself daily of the good things that are happening around me in all areas of my life; in my family, my work, my church, and community.
- When something devastating happens (wild fires, tornados, earthquakes or gun violence) try and take one small step to help alleviate the problem – realizing that I cannot fix it by myself – but only through the many small steps of many people. Even though my actions may seem small or inconsequential, I can try and remember that they are part of a larger response.
- Take time for myself to do things that I enjoy, but also find activities that connect me to the wider world.
- And, finally, exercise and eat right! (How is it that the most basic and seemingly easiest of tasks, are often the most difficult?)

May God's peace be with each of you in these next 2 months as the holidays approach, family come and go, and God's world continues to unfold and open to us new challenges.

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

# Calendar

**Thursday, November 15**

**Office Closed**

5:30 – Women's Night Out – LSB

**Saturday, November 17**

1:00 – Choir Practice

**Sunday, November 18**

**8:45 – NewSong Worship**

9:45 – Christian Education

**11:00 – Sanctuary Worship**

**Monday, November 19**

1:30 – Women's Bible Study

5:15 – Choir Practice

7:00 – Session Meeting

**Tuesday, November 20**

1:30 – History of Israel Class

5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

**Thursday, November 22**

## Thanksgiving Day

**Office Closed**

**Friday, November 23**

**Office Closed**

**Sunday, November 25**

8:00 – African Craft Sale

**8:45 – NewSong Worship**

9:45 – Christian Education

**11:00 – Sanctuary Worship**

4:00 – Hanging of the Greens

**Monday, November 26**

10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group

**Tuesday, November 27**

1:30 – History of Israel Class

4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting

5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

**Wednesday, November 28**

8:30 – *Tower Notes* Folders

10:30 – Backpack Assembly

4:00 – Bells on Wheels Practice

5:15 – Choir Practice

6:30 – History of Israel – FUM

**Thursday, November 29**

5:30 – Bells on Wheels at DMH

**Saturday, December 1**

9:30 – Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – One Table Service and Christmas Program

**Monday, December 3**

6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting

6:30 – Mission Meeting

7:00 – Worship & Music Meeting

**Tuesday, December 4**

1:30 – History of Israel Class

5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Rehab:** Carol Fuller, Mary Lundin

**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, Christ's friends Brenda & Debbie, Dwain VanZant, Walt Lohmann's brother Larry Lohmann, Alice Nicholson's sister Esther, Earl Carpunky, Pixie Fennessey, Lori Shimizu, Angela McIntire

**On-going Care:** Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe

**Elder Care Facilities:** Louise Bear, Brenda Aymer's father Larry Boyer, 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 be going through difficult times in their lives

**Condolences:** The family of William "Bill" Hoppe who died on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at the age of 94.

## Corrections & Notes to the 2018 Church Directory:

**George & Judy Batson** no longer use their land line. Please use their cell number.

**Joan Brown** has now moved to 154 Prophet Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906 but still has her same cell phone number of 217-329-2360.

Apologies to **Anne Hostetler** as I misspelled her last name in the last *Tower Notes*. Anne's phone number is 217-422-7587.

**Carol & Joe Houston** have a new phone number – 217-330-7330.

**Jon & Kathy Locke** say it is best to use Kathy's Cell – 217-620-7851 to reach them.

**Faye Logan** is spending the winter at her Florida address – 3703 39<sup>th</sup> St. W, Bradenton, FL 34205-1073. At the end of the winter season she will be moving to Texas with her son. We will miss you Faye! Please send us your TX address!

**Cathy Meadows'** correct phone number is 217-433-7536.

**Kate Pyle** has moved to 1971 Bardstown Rd. #7, Louisville, KY 40205 where she has accepted a position as a pediatric hospice chaplain at Hosparus Health. Congratulations and good luck to Kate.

**Sue Weinstein** has a new e-mail – sue.weinstein.54@gmail.com. Please do not use her old Hotmail address.

## Thank you!

Dear First Presbyterian Congregation,

Thank you very much for my reception! Everything was so nice. All of you have been so warm and welcoming to me. I am honored to be your Parish Nurse. I hope my relationships with you will grow and that you'll feel comfortable in coming to me with your health concerns. Thank you again!

Shelli, Parish RN

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the graduation card! God Bless!

Dalton Guadagno

**Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project:** The "Boots on the Ground" mission team meets on Sunday, November 18 at 3 p.m. at the old Sears store at the Hickory Point Mall to help assemble food boxes for the Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project. We'll also grab a bite to eat afterward.

### **The Pecans are coming!!**

The pecans should be here this week. The 16 oz New Crop Mammoth Pecan Halves are **\$12.00 a bag**, and the 12 oz Chocolate Covered Pecans are **\$10.00 a bag**.

All profits will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help with Hurricane and Typhoon Relief. Reserve yours in the Gathering Room as roughly half of what we ordered is already spoken for!

### **Advent Candle Lighters/Readers**

It's time already to schedule our annual Advent wreath candle lighters / readers for our worship services. The following dates are available: Sunday, December 2 (One Table Service and Choir Music Program), both services on December 9, December 16, December 23 and Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve at 7 PM. Candles are usually lit by individuals, families or a group of friends. The Pastors will send the script to volunteers the week prior to the worship service. These lay readers provide a meaningful part of our Advent worship preparation for Christmas. Please check your calendars and sign up in the Gathering Room or contact Cathy ([cathyforce@comcast.net](mailto:cathyforce@comcast.net) or 521-7131)

### **Monthly/Weekly Boxed Pledge Envelope:**

For those who prefer the boxed sets of weekly or monthly giving envelopes, new boxes for 2019 are available in the Gathering Room.

### **Christmas Poinsettias:**

Gold-foiled red poinsettias are available to order for \$12 each, in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Call 429-4195 or e-mail [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net).



**"Helping Hands at Home":** Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 650 N. Wyckles Rd. Julie McClarey and Friends will perform a **FREE** piano concert to support the services of the Salvation Army. This year's concert is in memory of Former Decatur Mayor, Mike "Tuna" McElroy. Enjoy a special evening with Julie McClarey, the Undefeated National Ragtime Piano Player and former Artist and Music Director aboard Showboat *Branson Belle*. Julie will be performing with special friends Zach Garrett, Anita Gifford, Doug Nicholson, Michael Scherer, Pastor Ted Smith, Rick Strine, and Christopher Weisenborn. Special ensemble pieces will be performed on three grand pianos! A Free-Will offering will be taken to support The Salvation Army. If you cannot attend, donation may be mailed to the Salvation Army at 229 W. Main St., Decatur, 62523. Donations are tax deductible and stay local.

**OPUS 24 "PAX PACEM PEACE":** The OPUS Fall Concert 2018 is Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Tickets are available in the First Pres office. Adults \$10, Students \$5.

**Hanging of the Greens:** Mark your calendars! Volunteers are needed for Hanging of the Greens for Advent on Sunday, November 25 at 4:00 pm. A light supper will be shared after we are finished. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room. Many hands make light work! For more information, contact Susan Moore at [susanmoor@gmail.com](mailto:susanmoor@gmail.com).

### **The Good Neighbor Box Needs Your Help!**

This mission of the church provides neighbors and passersby with books, warm gloves, scarves, hats, socks, bottled water, food items, hand warmers, and more. It is frequented by children and adults alike. You may add an item to the outdoor box or place it in the supply bin in the church library. The Good Neighbor Mission Box is located on the ramp side of the church near the steps and is monitored by the Children & Youth Committee. All donated items are appreciated.



**Intergenerational time with children is so important!** During the Children's Sunday School hour at 9:45 we would like to encourage the intermingling of various generations of the congregation and the sharing of knowledge and/or talents. If you have a talent or special knowledge on a subject that you would be willing to share with the children call Kathy Beube at 620-7563. Some examples would be cooking, building, nature, drawing, poetry, painting, singing, etc.

**Stand Up For Grace Stocking Tree:** The Stand Up For Grace "Stocking Tree" is in the Gathering Room during November. Your \$10 donation to sponsor a child will help to provide special food for their winter holidays. You receive a picture of your child and may send a letter and continue to correspond with your child if you wish. Someone will be near the Stocking Tree to assist you.

**African Crafts Sale:** On Sunday, November 25 Pixie and friends will be holding an African Crafts Sale in the Gathering Room from 8-noon. All proceeds will go to benefit the children at the By Grace Orphanage.

**Card/Calendar Collection Season:** From now until December 2, the Deacons are collecting NEW 2019 Calendars, NEW Christmas Cards, NEW All Occasion Cards, USED Card FRONTS and misc. Notepads. The collection bins are on the Collection Shelves in the Library.

### **The History of Israel from Abraham to Jesus:**

The History of Abraham classes have been extended through November. Classes meet every Sunday morning at 9:45 and every Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 in the Dining Room, and every Wednesday evening at 6:30 at FUM.

### **Biblical Prophecies concerning the Messiah:**

On the 4 Sundays during lent, beginning December 2, Bill Keagle will be leading a class on the Biblical Prophecies concerning the Messiah at 9:45 a.m. in the Dining Room. The class will also be offered by Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer on the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Tuesday afternoons in December (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>) at 1:30 p.m. in the Dining Room.

### *Parents of Young Children*



On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 11-3:00 p.m. the Children's Ministry team will hold a Pizza and Christmas Movie afternoon for children ages 1-12. It will be held in the downstairs youth area. There will be teachers to help with activities. This will give parents time to shop or just enjoy some time together. Please RSVP by December 6<sup>th</sup> so that we can plan appropriately. Kathy Beube 620-7563.

### **Supplies for the children at By Grace, Kenya:**

While Pixie will not be able to make her Christmas trip to Kenya this year, she is still collecting the following supplies to send for the children: NEW Pens, Pencils, Toothbrushes, and Band-aids. Thank you for your generosity!

Children are such a blessing!



Wanna be a part of a team that enjoys the beautiful children of First Pres?

Please contact Kathy Beube at 620-7563 or april558@comcast.net or Pastor Jean at 420-0466 or twopastors@hotmail.com.

**Mobile Directory:** The mobile directory has been downloaded to our website and soon members will receive an e-mail with the password to access it. You will be able to access this directory from your phone to look up addresses and phone numbers of other members. Watch for your e-mail!

### **Stand Up For Grace Update Letter**

October 24, 2018

Dear Friends of Stand Up For Grace and the Children of By Grace,

Happy fall season to all of you. I hope most of you received my newsletter about my summer with the kids. They all were then and continue to be doing well. On the other hand, I have had four surgeries on my left hip that I broke in Kenya from a fall. Since returning to my home in Decatur, Illinois, I also broke my femur. Some of you knew all about this and sent your concerns. Thank You.

Since I have been home I frequently hear from Salome and others from By Grace. The eighth graders and seniors will be taking their national exams in November. This exam determines whether the eighth graders move on to high school or not and if the seniors graduate. I certainly hope they all do well. Many of the 2017 high school graduates have gotten scholarships or sponsors so they can continue their education. Many of the college students at By Grace take public transportation to their school but stay and eat most meals at By Grace. While I was there this summer about twenty new children came to live at By Grace. Some were abandoned by their parents, some were placed there by the government because the centers in which they were living were closed down, or due to parents being arrested for abuse or sent to jail for other reasons. The water bills have also increased due to the city replacing water lines. This replacement of the waterlines caused a lot of leakage that resulted in a shortage of water which then makes the water that is available go up in price. Food prices have also increased due to droughts in nearby countries that produce a great deal of maize to Kenya.

Stand Up For Grace has thus been sending By Grace more money due the increased water cost and the need for additional food for its growing population. We do not have even enough money to buy all the necessary basics, food, water and rent, for November. Therefore, if at all possible, please consider making an early donation to Stand Up For Grace so the many children at By Grace will continue to have enough food, water and shelter. If you cannot make a donation now, please consider doing a fundraiser or telling others about Stand Up For Grace. Please keep the children at By Grace in your prayers. I really thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, and donations.

NOTE: Stand Up For Grace was started nine years ago and it has continued to help the children at By Grace thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,  
Pixie Fennessey, President, Stand Up For Grace  
217-620-3408; [www.standupforgrace.org](http://www.standupforgrace.org)