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November 28, 2018

Volume 50 Number 22

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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First Presbyterian Volunteers In Action



Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project: On Sunday, November 18, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church helped to pack boxes of food and necessities for the Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project. Volunteers met at the old Sears store at the Hickory Point Mall, and our group chose two sections and with other volunteers, placed 21 items in each of 160 boxes. Amid the chaos that ensued, our volunteers cheerfully filled and closed each box and escorted them to the pallets where they were stacked and waiting for various local agencies to collect and distribute to needy families right here in our community.

Left to right are Dick & Mary Ward, Cindy Wene, Pastor Jean, Susan Grieve, Amy Hillmer, Chelsea Schneringer, Becky Rauff, Sandy Peterson, and Tom and Nancy Force {photo credits: Cathy Force}.



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. Next Tower Note article due date 12/7/2018 – last issue for 2018.

Calendar

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

Office Closed

- 5:30 – Bells on Wheels at DMH

Saturday, December 1

- 9:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, December 2

1st Sunday of Advent

- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – One Table Service & Choir Christmas Music 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

Wednesday, December 5

- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:45 – Taizé Worship Service

Thursday, December 6

Office Closed

- 9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam
- 5:30 – Soul Friendship Meeting

Sunday, December 9

2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship Service
- 9:45 – Christian Education
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service
- 6:00 – Just Flicks
“Room to Breathe”

Monday, December 10

- 10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group
- 3:30 – Administration Meeting
- 5:00 – Finance Meeting
- 5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting
- 6:30 – Facilities Meeting

Tuesday, December 11

- 1:30 – Biblical Prophecies Class
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, December 12

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership Meeting
- 5:15 – Choir Practice

Thursday, December 13

Office Closed

- 9:30 – Parish Visitors

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rehab: 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; Christl’s friends Brenda & Debbie; 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

Corrections & Notes to the 2018 Church Directory:

Frits & Amy Pronk – Ph. 423-1026 **Betty Zeaman** – Ph. 433-1049

The Pecans are here! 16 oz New Crop Mammoth Pecan Halves are **\$12.00 a bag**, and 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. Pick your pecans up in the Gathering Room on Sundays or call the church office.

Advent Candle Lighters/Readers Needed: During Advent wreath candle lighters / readers are need for our worship services. The following dates are still available: Both services on December 9 and the 11 a.m. services on December 16 and December 23. 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 or 521-7131)



Christmas Poinsettias: Gold-foiled red poinsettias are available to order for \$12 each, in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Sign-up in the Gathering Room or call the office (217-429-4195).

Biblical Prophecies concerning the Messiah:

On the 4 Sundays during Advent, 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 first three Tuesday afternoons in December (4th, 11th, and 18th) at 1:30 p.m. in the Adult Classroom.

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 miscellaneous notepads. The collection bins are on the Collection Shelves in the Library.

Open House/Holiday Bazaar: Come visit Joli Cirks & Glynda Hagymasy for a Home Holiday Bazaar on **Saturday, December 8 from 11-4 p.m.** at 14 North Court Dr. There will be crafts, refreshments, and fellowship!!! Get shopping done for your loved ones too! Invite your friends and let's enjoy the holiday!



Help us fill the Giving Tree!

The tree in the Gathering Room has now become the Giving Tree. The Prayer Shawl Ministry encourages everyone to knit, crochet, or purchase **hats, scarves, and mittens** to fill the tree. These items will then be given to children at DOVE and Muffley School.

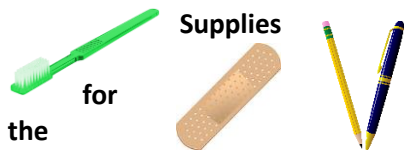
Stand Up For Grace Stocking Tree:

While the Stocking Tree has been repurposed, you may still adopt a child. To donate, contact Pixie Fennessey at 217-620-3408.



Letters for Stand Up For Grace:

Dear Church Members, Thank you so much for your response to Sponsor A Stocking. Some of you wanted to send letters to the children which is fine. but since I cannot travel the letters will be going over with someone else. Due to this the **letters need to be in regular letter size envelopes** not legal-size envelopes, so my friend can have room in his luggage. Thank you, Pixie



for the children at **By Grace Orphanage, 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. Please bring in your items by Sunday, December 16. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Choir Christmas Music Program: On Sunday, December 2, join us for the One Table Worship Service at 11 a.m. and enjoy the annual Choir Christmas Music Program featuring *Appalachian Winter* by Joseph Martin. Celebrating the legacy of early American carols and hymnody, this cantata combines traditional choral and orchestral sounds with folk elements creating a blend that is fresh and uplifting.



First Sunday Communion and Food Donations: As we do on the first Sunday of every month, First Presbyterian Church celebrates **the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. All who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are welcomed and encouraged to partake of this holy meal. When we celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month, the congregation is also invited to bring non-perishable foods to the worship area. These food offerings are given to the **Northeast Community Fund**.

Taizé Contemplative Worship Service: Take a break from the bustle of the holidays with chanted songs, prayers, readings, and meditative silence at our Taizé Worship Service on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:45 p.m.

Parent's Day Out: On Saturday, December 8th, 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 6th so that we can plan appropriately. Kathy Beube 620-7563.

Children are such a blessing!






Want to be part of a team that enjoys the beautiful children of First Pres? Please contact Kathy Beube at april558@comcast.net or 620-7563 or Pastor Jean at twopastors@hotmail.com or 420-0466.



Tapas Night: George and Judy Batson will be hosting a Tapas Night on Saturday, December 15 at 6 p.m. They will provide beverages and all you need to bring is an appetizer type dish to share, a warm, friendly persona, and your appetite. Plenty of seats are available. Sign up in the Gathering Room or call the church office.



Just Flicks presents "Room to Breathe": Mindfulness is not new. Buddhist teachings on the value of it in alleviating suffering and achieving enlightenment go back centuries. But in the last several decades, Mindfulness has been experiencing a renaissance particularly to its benefits in conjunction with breathing exercises and yoga. On Sunday, December 9, Just Flicks presents "Room to Breathe", a documentary about Mindfulness, yoga and other tools that promote Peace in Schools. The film will begin at 6 p.m. in the Dining Room and refreshments will be provided.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		<h1>December 2018</h1>					
						1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Choir Practice-S	
2 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 1st Sunday of Advent 9:45a Christian Education Biblical Prophecies – DR Wired Word – YA Children's – Children's Classrm 11:00a One Table Worship and Christmas Program – Sanctuary	3 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 6:00p Peacemaking – YA 6:30p Missing Meeting - DR 7:00p Worship & Music -L 	4 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 1:00p Cath. Chair. Mtg. – YA 1:30p Biblical Prophecies - AC 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	5 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 12:00a DARTA Tea - GR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:45p Taizé Service - Chapel	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	8 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	
9 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education Biblical Prophecies – DR Wired Word – YA Children's – Children's Classrm 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00p Just Flicks <i>Room to Breathe</i> – DR	10 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl - AC 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 3:30p Administration - PO 5:00p Finance Meeting – GR 5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg. – L 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	11 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:30p Biblical Prophecies - AC 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice 5:00p CONO X-mas Party-DR	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:00p Evang. & Member – L 5:15p Choir Practice - CR	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 6:00p Persistent Sisters-DR	14 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	
16 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education Biblical Prophecies – DR Wired Word – YA Children's – Children's Classrm 11:00a Worship Service – S 3:00p Piano Recital – S/GR	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:30p Women's Bible Study-AC 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	18 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 1:30p Biblical Prophecies - AC 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 6:30p Music Dept. X-mas Party at Sudduth's	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	
23 4th Sunday of Advent 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education Biblical Prophecies – DR Wired Word – YA Children's – Children's Classrm 11:00a Worship Service – S	24 Christmas Eve Office Closes at Noon 7:00p Lessons & Carols Candlelighting Service – S 	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 Christmas Holiday Office Closed 	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	
30 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S	31 7:00a AA Meeting – DR New Year's Eve			AC – Adult Classroom BR – Bell Room C – Chapel CC – Children's Classroom CCC – Central Christian Ch. 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	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paul Rosenberger – 1
Carole Tobias – 1
Jim Kelly – 2
Linda May – 3

Sandy Peterson – 3
Emily Locke – 4
Brandon Mandernach – 4
Jean Gift – 5
Norma Stephens – 5
Jaye Bales – 4

Karen Ragee – 6
Jan Mandernach – 7
Joan Winick – 8
Frits Pronk – 9
Carol Sudduth – 9
Jan Devore – 10

Mike Zia – 11
Joli Cirks – 13
Theresa Boes – 16
Julia Bright – 16
Barbara Paine - 16
Judy Batson – 17

Lori Jensen – 18
Katie Crowe – 19
Sophie Crowe – 19
Dianne DeVore – 19
Ashley Page – 21
Jim Rauff – 21

Trish Spinner – 21
Carolyn Butler – 23
Kathryn Franklin – 23
Cora Wilkerson-Donnelly – 26
Carol Williams – 25
Marty Grohne – 27

Elmer Turner – 27
Dwain VanZant – 27
Katie Eytchison – 28
Stephen Davis – 30
Bracken Wimmer – 30
Pauline Carter – 31