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March 28, 2018

Volume 50 Number 6

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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“Love the stranger, because you were once strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Deuteronomy 10:19

God constantly tells the Israelites of their obligation to love others by reminding them of the times when they were the strangers in need of the compassion of others. Sometimes it’s by remembering the past that we realize how we should carry on in the present day.

I’ve often had to utilize this practice as a parent because I inevitably forget the foibles of my own youth as I prepare to judge my own children for theirs. How often do we do this almost unconsciously to strangers as we silently judge them for things that, if we only knew the truth of the matter, might not seem all that different from our own experiences?

The challenge is when we’re among people whose lives have been very different from our own. This has been my experience as we’ve traveled through Lent reading and studying the book “Waking Up White.” The book, and our consequent discussions, opened my eyes to a whole host of experiences that many African-Americans have had but which have been almost invisible to me.

One aspect of compassion is the process of opening our eyes to experiences very different from our own so that we are better equipped to show hospitality and love. If we’re only familiar with the lived experiences of ourselves and people very much like ourselves, then it’s difficult to be sensitive to and responsive to the needs of people which the Bible often describes as the “stranger” or our “neighbor.”

This month we observe another birthday of the late Presbyterian pastor, Fred Rogers. And I am inspired once again by the ability he had to welcome every stranger as a beloved neighbor. Perhaps he was able to do this because he opened his eyes to a great diversity of people and cared deeply about their own life experiences.

May we never grow tired of exploring the great unknown territory of the strangers that we run into every day. And in so doing, may we learn to love the stranger as God intends us to do.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply in us all,

Bob

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, March 28

4:00 – String Band Practice

5:15 – Choir Practice

Thursday, March 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 – Office Closed

Sunday, April 1

EASTER SUNDAY

One Great Hour of Sharing

9:30 – Easter Breakfast

11:00 – Easter One Table Service

Monday, April 2

Office Closed

6:30 – Mission Meeting

Tuesday, April 3

5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

6:30 – Mission Trip Meeting

Wednesday, April 4

4:00 – String Band Practice

5:15 – Choir Practice

6:45 – Taizé Worship Service

Thursday, April 5

9:00 – Volunteers at Good Sam

5:30 – Soul Friendship

Sunday, April 8

8:45 – NewSong Worship

9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service

6:00 – Just Flicks – *I, Daniel Blake*

Monday, April 9

10:00 – Prayer Shawl Group

5:00 – Adult Ministry Meeting

5:00 – Finance Meeting

6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting

6:30 – Facilities Meeting

7:00 – Worship & Music Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, April 11

4:00 – String Band Practice

5:15 – Choir Practice

6:30 – Evangelism & Membership

Thursday, April 12

9:30 – Parish Visitors Meeting

12:00 – Children & Youth Ministry

Sunday, April 15

8:45 – NewSong Worship

9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Health Issues: Donna Washburn's sister Crystal Garcia, Susan Hayes, Lori Shimizu's cousin Brian MacKay, Oaster's friend Theresa Miller, Peggy Madden's husband Richard Phillips

On-going Care: Oaster's friend Lucan Farmer, Sublett's niece Jackie Sanders, Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe

Rehab: Marty Grohne

Elder Care Facilities: Louise Bear, Julia Bright, Linda May's mother Nellie Brookhouzen, Pauline Carter, Bill Grieve, Gib & Gini Maines, David Marshall, Judy Steele's mother Jean Peak, Norma Stephens

Hospice: Naomi Davis

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Paul opens his letter to the church at Philippi with the words, "I thank my God every time I remember you." I, too, give thanks to God when I think of First Presbyterian Church. I am grateful that First Presbyterian Church was the church of my childhood and the church I called home for so many years.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported me for so many years. For the foundation of faith that began as a child in Sunday School to the promises made at my Baptism to the financial and prayerful support you gave me during Seminary and everything in between, I give thanks.

As I begin to serve in my first ordained and installed Pastorate, I will always look back at the examples of leadership that were instilled in me at First Presbyterian Church. I am grateful for all the Saints of the church who nurtured me, loved me, and continue to pray for me and my family.

Thank you for the beautiful gift of the Home Communion Set. It will be a reminder of my first church home whenever I use it to share the sacrament with others.

With Deep Gratitude,
Sarah Grace (Moore) Montgomery

Thanks so very much for everyone's help with Lent soup suppers! Hope I didn't miss anybody who donated soup, set up, served or cleaned up. Everyone chipping in makes work more enjoyable. Great conversations and new friendships happen in the kitchen and around the table. Aren't we blessed to have so many Happy Helpers at First Pres?

Cathy Force- Lay Ministry Coordinator

Parish Nurse Position: The Administration Committee is extending our search for our next Parish Nurse to the community. If you know of someone who might be a great Parish Nurse for our congregation, please encourage them to apply. Ask them to contact the church office, and we'll send them a Position Description and an application form.



New address:

Don Diller
3212 N. Miller Rd., Apt. 302
Scottsdale AZ 85251-6989

Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday: A service with a foot washing scenario will be held at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Easter Sunday: A light breakfast is being served beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Dining Room. All Christian Education classes will be canceled. The One Table service will be held in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. Donations of coffee cakes, muffins, rolls, and fruit are appreciated!

One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter Sunday, April 1: One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday will benefit three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Thank you for your support of this life-changing offering.

To see an interactive map of OGHS recipients around the world and learn more about the programs that your gift supports, go to <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>.

NECF Urgent Call for Donations: On March 22, a fire damaged the Greenwood Manor Apartment building just blocks from our church. There was fire, smoke and water damage. Red Cross is providing shelter and assistance for almost 100 people. Northeast Community Center posted an urgent need for bedding, towels, dishes, and more. If you have any items or wish to purchase items for these families to be distributed by Northeast, drop them off at 825 N. Water St, Mon-Fri from 8:00-4:30. Thank you for helping people in our neighborhood!

Oasis Day Center Collection Box: A larger collection box has placed in the Library for the Oasis Day Center for weekly deliveries to Oasis. Items requested for April are band-aids, razors, and shaving cream. The Deacons thank you in advance for your contributions.

Collection Note: Campbells is no longer redeeming their soup labels. Please only place Box Tops for Education in the collection basket located in the library.

First Pres T-Shirts: Our Evangelism/Membership group designed a First Presbyterian Church t-shirt for all members and especially for any mission groups and volunteers. (Good Sam, Ferncliff June Mission trip, Decatur Celebration parking lot, etc.) Shirts will be available in Royal Blue, Turquoise, and Dark Purple with a white 'open front doors and red heart' logo. The 'Uni-Sex' short sleeve shirts are priced at **\$9.00** (S, M, L, XL) & **\$12.00** (2XL, 3XL). Long sleeve shirts will be **\$12.00** (S, M, L, XL) & **\$15.00** (2XL, 3XL). Orders will be taken after Easter and the shirts will be delivered in May.



Directory Pictures: You may click the link on our website (firstpresdecalur.org) to schedule a date and time for your pictures, or someone from Evangelism & Membership will be in the Gathering Room

at 10:30 and after the 11:00 service on Sundays to help you choose a date and time. Picture Days at the church will be April 25-27 from 1-8 p.m. and April 28 from 9:30-4 p.m.

If your family brings a non-perishable food item to your appointment for a local food pantry, you will receive a \$5-off coupon toward any portrait purchases. Also notice the little card in your bag which invites family and friends to be photographed and receive a free portrait, but will not be placed in our directory.

NOTE: If you are out of town during these scheduled dates, you may call 1-866-756-0281 to see when Lifetouch has another photography session at a nearby location. Also, ask for the 20% Military Service & First Responder discount and the 20% Senior (60+) discount when ordering your portraits. ID is required for these two discounts.

***The Protestant Reformation Continued, Part III:
Where Do We Go From Here?***

Revs. Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer will co-teach this class which will be offered Sunday mornings at 9:45 and Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 at First Pres and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 at First United Methodist Church. The classes will continue for 7 weeks from April 8 through May 23.

This class will focus on POSITIVE developments taking place to overcome the corruptions of Christianity we see all around us, and dealing with the real issues and real questions people have today: What can I believe and what should I be doing with my life (Faith in Action). This will include our conceptions of God and Jesus in the light of science and our knowledge of the Universe(s) and current biblical scholarship.



Just Flicks “I, Daniel Blake”

Our April 8 offering is an incredible film that never made it out of the larger markets into the local movie theaters in our area. The film is “I, Daniel Blake,” a British indie production from 2016. If you wonder who Daniel Blake is, read this about the man and the motion picture (from the film’s website):

Winner of the Palme d’Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, the latest from legendary director Ken Loach is a gripping, human tale about the impact one man can make. Gruff but goodhearted, Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) is a man out of time: a widowed woodworker who’s never owned a computer, he lives according to his own common sense moral code. But after a heart attack leaves him unable to work and the state welfare system fails him, the stubbornly self-reliant Daniel must stand up and fight for his dignity, leading a one-man crusade for compassion that will transform the lives of a struggling single mother (Hayley Squires) and her two children. Graced with humor and heart, “I, Daniel Blake” is a moving, much-needed reminder of the power of empathy from one of the world’s greatest living filmmakers.

Critic Ann Hornaday of the *Washington Post* writes that this film “brims with spirit, sympathy and candor as it tackles the catastrophic displacement brought on by economic and technological change.” Colin Covert up north at the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* raves, “This is a simple story about a hot topic. It’s wonderfully told, full of deep compassion, scalding rage and surprising humor. It’s not to be missed.”

We’ll be back at Central Christian Church for this one. Karen Baird will lead our discussion. The show starts shortly after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 8. Refreshments will be on the table at 6:00.

Volunteers Needed in May

First Pres is hosting the Presbytery meeting on Thursday, May 17 with at least 100 people gathering here. Volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Room soon. If you are willing and interested in helping, please contact Susan Moore (620-0504 or susanmoor@gmail.com) or Margi Nicholson (433-0891 or marginic1@gmail.com)

Adult Mission Trip in June: There are still openings available for the Adult Mission Trip to Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock, AR. The trip is from June 3-8 and the cost is \$150 per volunteer and scholarships are available. Please see Pastor Jean if you have any questions! Sign-up in the Gathering Room.

First Pres Blood Drive: Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 2! First Pres will be holding a Blood Drive from 2-6 PM. More information coming soon!

MAX Facts:

Macon County Assistant eXchange

Located at 201 W North in the First United Methodist Church since 1986

Open Monday through Thursday 1-3pm

Ph: [217-423-7349](tel:217-423-7349) Email: shartman@doveinc.org

- ❖ In fiscal 2017, Max helped 1239 families with \$98,641.48 in financial assistance
- ❖ Max monies are all donations based from churches/ foundations
- ❖ Max verifies needs through application process and has 7 active volunteers
- ❖ No cash given out/vouchers for every need – Dove handles all accounting







Max helps with: as funds allow

- ✓ Water bills
- ✓ Prescriptions (no pain meds)
- ✓ Glasses and exam
- ✓ Power bills (must be on)
- ✓ Dental extractions
- ✓ Clothing vouchers/Furniture vouchers
- ✓ Discount Bus pass vouchers
- ✓ Emergency one-night hotel stays with referral from Homeward Bound
- ✓ State IDs
- ✓ Gas cards for out of town Doctor’s appointments (typically takes two weeks to get a gas card.)



April 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Easter Sunday 9:30a Light Easter Breakfast – Dining Room 11:00a One Table Worship – Sanctuary	7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed Easter Holiday	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30a DARTA Lunch - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR 6:30p Mission Trip Mtg.	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band - DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 7:15p Taizé Worship-Chapel	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	7:00a AA Mtg. – DR	7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 
8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00p Just Flicks – “I, Daniel Blake” – CCC	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 5:00p Adult Ministry Mtg.– L 6:00p Peacemaking – YA 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library 7:00p Worship & Music – GR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 1:30p Reformation Class – DR 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band - DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:30p Evang/Memb Mtg – L 6:30p Reformation Class–FUM	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 12:00p Children's & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC 6:00p Persistent Sisters - DR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) 11:00a Worship Service – S	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 3:30p Administration Mtg - PO 5:00p Finance Meeting - GR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 4:00p Health Ministry - L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band - DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) 11:00a Worship Service – S	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Catholic Charities – C 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 1:00p Directory Photos - GR 4:00p String Band - DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – DR 1:00p Directory Photos - GR 6:00p Women's Night Out – RCC Bistro 537	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:00p Directory Photos – Gathering Room	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Directory Photos – Gathering Room
8:00a African Craft Sale – GR to benefit Stand Up for Grace 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) 11:00a Worship Service – S	7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Presbytery Meeting Planning – 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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Faye Logan – 1
 Cathy Meadows – 2
 Jean Aberle – 3
 Marty Cushman – 3
 Becky Gauble – 3
 Kathy Beube – 5
 Chuck Force – 5

Annicah Hale – 6
 Chloe Cook – 7
 Christian Washburn – 7
 Maia Cook – 8
 Claire Tanner – 8
 Lily Schloz – 10
 Julia Warfield-Wittig – 10

Richard Phillips – 11
 Ruth Warfield – 12
 Carol Fuller – 13
 Melissa Ashley – 15
 Ethan Davis – 15
 Becky Rauff – 15
 Evan Cook – 16

Susan Moore – 16
 Ralph Czerwinski – 18
 Jessica Gavlin – 19
 Tom Evans – 20
 Myung Kim – 20
 Tim Pyles – 20
 Louise Bear – 23

Cheryl Thompson – 23
 Cindy Black – 24
 Amy Blackburn – 24
 Marsha DeVore – 24
 Steven Brown – 27
 Mary Ward – 27
 Carol Wod – 28