



Tower Notes (USPS 634720) is published Semimonthly, by First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tower Notes, 204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur IL 62523 (217)429-4195; [www.firstpresdecatur.org](http://www.firstpresdecatur.org); email: [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net); or follow us on Facebook

Called  
Congregational  
Meeting  
Sunday, May 6  
At the close of  
the One Table  
Service

April 25, 2018

Volume 50 Number 8

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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From the  of Pastor Bob

In between Synod meetings in Indianapolis I spent some time at the museum of art. I was especially struck by an Edward Hopper painting called, "Hotel Lobby." It depicts three people in a hotel lobby. Even though they are a few feet from each other it's obvious that the three are isolated from each other. They occupy the same space but are detached from each other. The sign next to the painting says that this was a common theme for Hopper. He often depicted loneliness and isolation in the city.

What occurred to me is that Hopper painted this in 1943...before computers, cell phones and other electronic devices that we usually blame for isolating us from each other. Clearly Hopper is noticing something deeper that has been around us humans for a long time.

The Bible, on the other hand, is a work of creativity that is positively brimming with connections. Every page is full of people connecting with one another, even when some of those connections aren't helpful. Scripture reminds us that our faith is more about the connections we make with one another than with the details of our beliefs. It's more about how we engage one another in meaningful ways than how well we articulate our doctrine.

In new member classes and officer training we always say that Presbyterians have a "connectional" form of government. This simply means that we don't practice our faith in isolation. We do it with others. And we don't belong to isolated churches. We are connected to one another in meaningful and practical ways. I was in Indianapolis because, as a pastor, my concerns necessarily go wider than just one church. We're all connected.

As we continue listening to God's guidance for how we might be faithful in the future, it's always helpful to look for new ways to connect ourselves to other Christians and with everyone who Christ calls our "neighbors." What new connections can we make tomorrow?

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with us all,

Bob



**Directory Pictures:** Picture days are this Wednesday through Saturday, April 25-28, 2018

**Remember** you can bring a non-perishable food item to your appointment for the local food pantry and you will receive a \$5-off coupon toward any portrait purchases. You may 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.

**Tower Notes article due dates:** Articles submission dates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday by noon for the edition that is mailed out the following Wednesday. Thank you!

# Calendar . . .

## Wednesday, April 25

- 1:00 – Lifetouch Directory Photos
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Reformation Class at FUM

## Thursday, April 26

- 10:30 – First Friends Meeting
- 1:00 – Lifetouch Directory Photos
- 6:00 – Women's Night Out/Bistro537

## Friday, April 27

- 1:00 – Lifetouch Directory Photos

## Saturday, April 28

- 9:30 – Lifetouch Directory Photos

## Sunday, April 29

- 8:30 – African Craft Sale for SUFG
- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education Classes
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship

## Monday, April 30

- 10:15 – Planning Meeting for  
Presbytery Meeting here in May

## Tuesday, May 1

- 1:30 – Reformation Class
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

## Wednesday, May 2

- 2:00 – Red Cross Blood Drive
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Reformation Class at FUM
- 6:45 – Taizé Worship Service

## Thursday, May 3

- 9:00 – Volunteer Day at Good Sam
- 5:30 – Soul Friendship Class

## Sunday, May 6

- 9:45 – Christian Education Classes
- 11:00 – One Table Worship Service
- 12:15 – Deacons' Meeting

## Monday, May 7

- 6:00 – Peacemaking Meeting
- 6:30 – Mission Meeting
- 7:00 – Worship & Music Meeting

## Tuesday, May 8

- 1:30 – Reformation Class
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice
- 6:30 – Mission Trip Meeting

## Wednesday, May 9

- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:00 – Evangelism & Membership
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Reformation Class at FUM

## Thursday, May 10

- 9:30 – Parish Visitor Meeting
- 12:00 – Children & Youth Meeting

## Sunday, May 13

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education Classes
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship
- 6:30 Just Flicks - *Lion*

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Hospice:** Naomi Davis

**Rehab:** Marty Grohne

**Health Issues:** Susan Hayes, Lori Shimizu's cousin Brian MacKay, Oaster's friend Theresa Miller, Peggy Madden's husband Richard Phillips, in-laws of the Ward's son Matthew: Lisa Carpenter and Katy Boreson, Carolyn Allin's friend Pastor Jim Neumann

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

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

**Deaths:** The Marshall family on the death of David Marshall on Tuesday, April 17, 2018



*In Memoriam*

*David H. Marshall*  
*March 12, 1933 – April 17, 2018*

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

**Update your Church Directory Information:** Even if you are not having a picture taken for the new directory, please take a moment to verify that we have the most current information for you. Copies of the latest phone list are on the rack just outside the kitchenette in the Gathering Room.

**First Pres T-Shirts:** Shirts are 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). (Adult sizes only.) Orders with payment must be received by Sunday, April 29!

### **Greeters needed every Sunday**

"...and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35  
Won't you consider following God's call to practice your faith by being a greeter? Sign up at the gathering room table.

### **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. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Room soon. If you are willing and interested in helping, please contact Susan Moore (susanmoor@gmail.com or 620-0504) or Margi Nicholson (marginic1@gmail.com or 433-0891).

### **Called Congregational Meeting**

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 6 at the close of the One Table service for the purpose of electing one Deacon to the unexpired vacancy in the Class of 2020.

### **African Crafts Sale**

There will be a sale of handmade African Items on Sunday (April 29<sup>th</sup>) in the gathering room from 8:30 to 12:30. All proceeds will be used to buy food and water for the children living at By Grace Orphanage Nairobi, Kenya.

## Calendar cont. . . .

### Monday, May 14

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

### Tuesday, May 15

- 1:30 – Reformation Class
- 4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

### Wednesday, May 16

- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – Reformation Class at FUM

### Thursday, May 17

- 8:00 – Presbytery Meeting All Day

### Sunday, May 20

- 8:45 – NewSong Worship
- 9:45 – Christian Education Classes
- 11:00 – Sanctuary Worship
- 12:00 – Choir Box Lunch Day

### Monday, May 21

- 1:30 – Women’s Bible Study
- 7:00 – Session Meeting

### Tuesday, May 22

- 1:30 – Reformation Class
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

### Wednesday, May 23

- 4:00 – String Band Practice

### Thursday, May 24

- 10:30 First Friends at FUM
- 5:30 Women’s Night Out at the Beach House

### Sunday, May 27

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

### Monday, May 28

- Office Closed – Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 29

- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

### Wednesday, May 30

- 4:00 – String Band Practice

### Oasis Day Center Collection Box:

Items requested for **April** are band-aids, razors, and shaving cream. Items requested for **May** are dish soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please place these items in the large Oasis collection box.

**Coins Found:** Some coins were found in a pew during the April 22 service. Call the office to identify them!



### Blood Drive May 2

First Pres will be holding a Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 2 from 2-6 p.m. in the Dining Room. To schedule an appointment, please contact Jackie Lawton at 217-521-1482. Please bring a Photo ID or your blood donor card, or two forms of ID.



### High School and College Graduate Information:

First Presbyterian Church would like to recognize 2017-18 high school and college graduates. Please e-mail Kathy Beube (april558@comcast.net) with your student’s information so we can celebrate their accomplishments at the school year’s end. Please include further education or job plans if you have them.

### First Friends

On Thursday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m. we will welcome a longtime friend, Stu Ellis, who has edited an Agricultural Newsletter, ‘CornBelt Update,’ for 18 years, who writes a weekly column in the *Herald & Review*, who appears regularly on WCIA-TV, and who is about to receive an auspicious award presented by a leading agricultural organization. He will give us a ‘worrisome’ report about U.S. Agriculture’s anticipated bad effects from the Trump Administration’s trigger to potentially cause an impending trade war because so much of our U.S. exports, particularly to China, are Ag-related – soybeans, pork, & beef.

### Women’s Night Out

Women’s Night Out will meet at Richland Community College’s Bistro 537 on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. Note the time change to 6 p.m.!

### Men’s Coffee Time

An informal group of men from our church has met 3 times at Panera, Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. The group plans to continue and invites others to join. One of the main goals of the group is providing a platform to discuss and share perspectives on subjects important to the group. Participants have been sharing articles or topics that interest them. For more information call, text, or email Doug Nicholson (doug Nicholson2@gmail.com or 521-1314).

**Elevator Greeter Needed!** Health Ministry is looking for a volunteer to greet and assist people at the elevator door on the 3rd Sunday of the month, from 10:30-11:00. An alternate volunteer to fill-in when a regular can’t be there would also be great! Let someone from Health Ministry know if you can help.






**Save the date!** The Sanctuary Choir will host a boxed lunch and sing-a-long on after the service on May 20th to celebrate the end of the choir season. More details coming soon!

### By Grace Orphanage

Stand Up For Grace will be collecting the following items for the children at By Grace Orphanage: tooth paste, tooth brushes, pencils, crayons, hair bands, anti-biotic lotion, band-aids and aspirin/Ibuprofen. There will be a collection box in the library from April 29-May 13. Pixie will be taking these items to Kenya when she leaves for her summer visit. Thanks for your continued support.

### OPUS 24 Spring Concert 2018 – Music from the Heart & Soul

The OPUS 24 Spring Concert 2018 is Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church. A limited number of tickets are available in the Church Office or you may purchase them from any OPUS member, or at the door. (\$10/Adults; \$5/Students)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																											
<h1>May 2018</h1>	1 "The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." - Edwin Way Teale	2 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a DARTA Board Mtg-GR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:30p Reformation Class - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	3 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 2:00p Blood Drive-DR 4:00p String Band - DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:30p Reformation Class-FUM <b>6:45p Taizé Worship-Chapel</b>	4 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam  5:30p Soul Friendship – AC	5 7:00a AA Mtg. – DR 	6 <b>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b> 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) <b>11:00a One Table Worship with Called Congregational Meeting at close of service – Sanctuary</b> 12:15P Decons' Meeting - DR	7 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:00a Catholic Charities - C  6:00p Peacemaking – YA 6:30p Mission Meeting - DR 7:00p Worship & Music – L	8 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 6:30p Mission Trip Mtg. – DR	9 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME  4:00p String Band - DR 5:00p Evang/Memb Mtg – L 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:30p Reformation Class-FUM	10 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 12:00p Children's & Youth Ministry Meeting - AC  6:00p Persistent Sisters - DR	11 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR  12:00p SUFG Board Meeting - L	13 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b> 6:00p Just Flicks – <i>Lion</i> - DR	14 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl – AC 11:30a Cath Char Board Mtg -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 Meeting - GR 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30a Ecumenical Clergy-DR 1:30p Reformation Class-DR 4:00p Health Ministry - L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME  5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:30p Reformation Class-FUM	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:00a – 5:00p – Presbytery Meeting – Entire Building	18 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	20 <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Christian Education (Reformation Class – DR) <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b> 12:00p Choir Box Lunch - DR	21 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:30p Women's Bible Study-AC 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	22 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	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band - DR 6:30p Reformation Class-FUM	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – FUM  5:30p Women's Night Out – Beach House	25 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	27 <b>8:45a NewSong – Chapel</b> 9:45a Christian Education <b>11:00a Worship Service – S</b>	28 7:00a AA Meeting – DR <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 5:00p Tower Ringers – BR	30 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 4:00p String Band - DR	31 7:00a AA Meeting – 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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



Harriet Sadowski – 2  
Jane Spires – 2  
Leslie Tish – 2  
Clara Ash – 3  
Sarah Montgomery – 4  
Stephen Moore – 4

Sarah Wakeland – 5  
Judy Locke – 7  
Lori Shimizu – 8  
Chris Foster – 9  
JeanEva Smallwood – 10  
Sally Krigbaum – 11

Sam Roberts – 13  
Debbie Eckart – 14  
Miles Anderson – 15  
Nina Page – 15  
Betty Ann Davidson – 16  
Connie May – 19

Ruth Sublett – 21  
David Sadowski – 22  
Annie Locke – 24  
SuEllen Brauer – 27  
Terry Hogg – 28  
Shannon Delaney – 30

Skip Mathieson – 31

**Did we forget someone?  
Please let us know!**