



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; email: [fpdec@comcast.net](mailto:fpdec@comcast.net); or follow us on Facebook

May 16, 2018

Volume 50 Number 9

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

**T  
O  
W  
E  
R  
  
N  
O  
T  
E  
S**

From the **KADESK** of Pastor Bob

I'm continually thankful to have a job in which I get to be with people as they deal with so many of life's most profound moments: birth, death, marriage, parenting, work, retirement... as well as all the mundane moments of life: cleaning, shopping, paying bills, going to the doctor. There aren't many organizations outside of the church that guide people through this dizzying array of life events.

A couple weeks ago, Jean preached a sermon from the Gospel of John in which she pointed out John's constant use of the word "abide" as in, "Abide in me as I abide in you" (John 15:4). It seems to me that God is in the business of abiding with us and the church is in the business of abiding in God and in one another. To abide just means to "dwell" with.... To abide in one another's "abode!" The church is involved in all the many aspects of our lives because God intends us to abide with each other....to become deeply connected with one another in ways that are mutually supportive and energizing.

One night during a youth group meeting at a previous church, we asked the youth to tell us about a time when they should have gotten in trouble, but they didn't. One youth told us about the time she drove the family car out of the garage without permission and without a driver's license. She hit the side of the garage and knew she was in deep trouble. But she covered over the blemish on the side of the garage with typewriter "white-out" fluid and, much to our amazement, never got caught.

What I love about that story is not only how hilarious it is. Not only how typical it is for all of us to do something stupid and then be too embarrassed and humiliated to tell anyone. But how great it is that the church became the place where she felt she could share her mistake and be sure that we wouldn't condemn or betray her. Dare I say, on that night, she abided with us and we abided with her. We dwelled with each other in our common humanity and found forgiveness and acceptance.

What a great privilege it is to be in the church...to be a part of a group of people who are determined to abide with one another and in trivial and profound ways, abide with the rest of the world in all its triumphs and failures.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with us all,  
Bob

**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, 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

## Wednesday, May 23

4:00 – String Band Practice  
6:30 – Reformation Class at FUM

## Thursday, May 24

10:30 First Friends at FUM  
5:30 Women’s Night Out  
at Doherty’s

## Sunday, May 27

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

## Monday, May 28

Office Closed – Memorial Day

## Wednesday, May 30

4:00 – String Band Practice



## 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.

**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.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Rehab:** Marty Grohne

**Health Issues:** Naomi Davis, Susan Hayes, Lori Shimizu’s cousin Brian MacKay, 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, 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:** Fred Spannaus at the death of his mother, Olive Wise Spannaus, 102, who died peacefully on Thursday, May 10, 2018 in Seattle.

Ruth & Richard Sublett at the death of their niece Jackie Sanders Thursday, May 10, 2018 in O’Fallon, IL

**Correction:** David Marshall’s birth date was listed incorrectly in the last issue of Tower Notes. David was born on March 12, 1933.

**Choir Box Lunch Sing-Along!** We hope to see everybody on Sunday in the Dining Room after the 11:00 service for this fun event. **If you have not yet signed up for a \$6 box lunch please call or e-mail the church ASAP** so that we can add your order! Payment will be taken at the meal on Sunday.

**Church T-Shirts:** A big thank you from Evangelism & Membership to everyone involved in T-shirt project. We exceeded our expectations with 90+ T-shirts being ordered. T-shirts will be available for distribution soon.

**Directory Photos:** Most, if not all of you have received the photos you ordered through Lifetouch. The free 8x10 photos for those who did not place an order were mailed to the church. You may pick them up in the Gathering Room on Sunday or at the church office. Directory data is now being updated, proofed and finalized with distribution of the new directory expected in July. Your participation was especially appreciated by the Evangelism & Membership team.

**Oasis Day Center Collection Box:** Items requested for **May** are dish soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please place these items in the large Oasis collection box.

**First Friends:** This month First Friends meets at First United Methodist Church on Thursday, May 24 at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Jim Getz, Decatur Chief of Police who will be speaking about safety for seniors and at the churches.

**Women’s Night Out:** Women’s night out on May 24 meets at 5:30 at Doherty’s. Please join us for lively conversation and great food.

## Men’s Coffee Time

An informal group of men from the church meets at Panera, Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. providing a platform to discuss and share perspectives on subjects important to the group. Participants share articles or topics that interest them. For more information contact Doug (521-1314 or dougnicholson2@gmail.com).



The church nursery is up to new safety standards and has a brand-new look! **Thank you** to Craig Mandernach for giving of your time! The new crib is beautiful!

**Thankful for  
First Presbyterian Church**

In March, a fire, as well as flooding ruined many of the homes in the Greenwood Manor Apartments. Waiting for a new space to be available was no easy task. But two weeks ago, we moved into a new apartment on a different floor. With your donations and monetary gifts, we had the means to replenish the items we lost. We also bought some new furniture and clothes. My family and I are so blessed to have your care and support. Thank you so much!!  
*Sincerely, Brandy, Kenya, and Jaden*



Church Nursery Staff Brandy Whitney and son Jaden

**PENTECOST SUNDAY:** Next Sunday, May 20, is Pentecost Sunday. Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood. Your offering will be divided as follows:

**40%** stays with this congregation. This year Children & Youth Ministry has elected to use our 40% to make an impact on the lives of young people in their communities by providing summer fellowship meals with neighborhoods in the area.

**25%** supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. Our own Brett Eisenhauer is a YAV.

**25%** supports Ministries with Youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God’s word.

**10%** is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

*If we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you for your generosity!*

**A Conversation on Childhood Maltreatment 2018:**

In 2017, the Decatur and Macon County Community came together to talk about the alarming rate of indicated cases of childhood maltreatment in our county. Over the past year groups have met and researched options for improving. This meeting will share that research and issue a call to action to move on the recommendations. Join us. Together we can make a difference. We will meet on May 24 at 10 AM in the Madden Room at the Decatur Public Library. On behalf of Dove, will you please disseminate this information to the leaders in your faith groups that should attend?

Kindest Regards,  
Christine Gregory  
Executive Director

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Decatur Islamic Center Interfaith Dinner

*Understanding Ramadan:*

Fasting – *Shared traditions of sacrifice and worship*

Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM

Richland Community College Schilling Center

*“O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous”*

RSVP by May 25

Questions? Call: (217)201-7284 or (217)872-5943

IFTAAR (Breaking of fast) at 8:18 PM \*Dinner will be provided\*

**Sweet Treats for Good Sam:** Our NEXT Sunday to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, June 24. Treats for 300 will be needed for that meal. We welcome donations of pre-wrapped treats such as Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Oatmeal Pies, Rice Krispie Treats, etc. Please put any donations in the kitchen or kitchen freezer (if it's something that might melt) by NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 18. Your help is always appreciated.

**Volunteers for Jubilee Farms deliveries:** Cyndy Ash is in need of volunteers to help deliver produce from Jubilee Farms to Decatur on Saturdays, June through September. Volunteers would pick up produce at the farm in Clinton, take it to the Decatur Universalist Unitarian Church for pick-up by shareholders from 9-10 a.m., then return the containers to the farm. Cyndy says the work is easy, just hard for her to do since she has to wrangle four small children.

For more information, or to volunteer for a Saturday, please contact Cyndy through Facebook (Jubilee Farms United Church of Christ), or text/call 217-621-4068, or email [cashswimming@gmail.com](mailto:cashswimming@gmail.com)

**Volunteers Needed for Old King's Orchard Community Center Safety Program:** OKOCC is looking for volunteers for their upcoming summer safety program. The four-week summer safety program is for youth in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> grade and will be from 11-3 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday each week beginning June 5 and ending June 28. The focus this year is on literacy and safety. The children will be participating in the DPL Summer Reading Program, and learning about bicycle safety, fire safety, water safety, gun/drug safety, train safety, etc.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Reading to and with the children;
- Distribution of lunches, which requires training by the Park District
- Help with transportation for field trips (Transportation of the children in the OKO van requires a J license, but you can use your personal vehicle to transport the staff.)
- Prepare materials for the activities
- Interact with children/teacher helper.

To volunteer please contact Megan Meyrick ([megyn80@hotmail.com](mailto:megyn80@hotmail.com) or 217-454-7591), Alida Graham ([alidagraham@gmail.com](mailto:alidagraham@gmail.com) or 217-622-4652), or Old King's Orchard at 428-2782.