



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

August 15, 2018

Volume 50 Number 15

Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

## May Peace Prevail On Earth

Some of you may have noticed that we have updated our Peace Pole in the church parking lot and the Peace candle in the Chapel. The parking lot Peace Pole has been adorned with new rainbow-colored signs that read "May Peace Prevail On The Earth". The signs are in four different languages, English, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew. Our church custodian, Steve, repainted the pole itself to give it a fresh new look. In the Chapel, you will find that we have added new signs to the base of the candle stand. The message is the same as the outside pole and in the same 4 languages, but these are printed with black lettering on a plain white background. Thank you to the Peacemaking Committee for purchasing these signs! Given the tensions and unease that we have in our world today, it is good to be reminded that indeed we all need to strive for peace, especially in the times of great turmoil.



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**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 Dates: 8/24, 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/9, 11/26 (due to Thanksgiving), and 12/7)

# Calendar

## Wednesday, August 15

8:30 – Tower Notes Folders

4:00 – String Band Practice

## Sunday, August 19

8:45 – NewSong Worship Service

9:45 – Adult Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service

5:00 – Church Picnic at Fairview Park, East side of Pavilion 1

## Monday, August 20

1:30 – Women's Bible Study

7:00 – Session Meeting

## Tuesday, August 21

4:00 – Health Ministry Meeting

## Wednesday, August 22

4:00 – String Band Practice

## Thursday, August 23

10:30 – First Friends

5:30 – Women's Night Out at Crawford's in Mt. Zion

## Friday, August 24

2:15 – 1<sup>st</sup> Pres String Band plays at McKinley Court

## Saturday, August 25

Boots on the Ground Mission Day

## Sunday, August 26

8:45 – NewSong Worship Service

9:45 – Adult Christian Education

11:00 – Sanctuary Worship Service

## Monday, August 27

12:00 – Tower Notes articles due

## Wednesday, August 29

8:30 – Tower Notes Folders

4:00 – String Band Practice

5:15 – Choir Practice

## Choir Practice

Choir practice

resumes on

Wednesday, August 29 at 5:15

p.m. in the Choir Room. New

members are welcomed and

encouraged to join with us!

## First Friends

First Friends will meet on

Thursday, August 23 at 10:30

a.m. in the Gathering Room.

## Women's Night Out

Women's Night Out meets at

Crawford's Pizza in Mt. Zion on

Thursday, August 23 at 5:30

p.m.



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Rehab:** Pixie Fennessey

**Health Issues:** 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, Naomi Davis, Christl's friend Debbie, Dwain VanZant, Paul's brother Clark Rosenberger, Walt's brother Larry Lohmann, Alice Nicholson's sister Esther, Earl Carpunky

**On-going Care:** Chris Foster's brother Bill Wolfe, Brenda Aymer's father Larry Boyer

**Elder Care Facilities:** Louise Bear, 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, Norma Stephens, Betty Zeaman

**General:** All of our loved ones who may be going through difficult times in their lives.

**Condolences:** Dick and Mary Ward at the death of Dick's brother John Ward on Sunday, August 5, 2018 in Ann Arbor, MI. Dick and Mary were able to have a good visit with him a few weeks before his death.

**Congratulations** to Julie Force and her husband Nikhil on the birth of their twins on Friday, July 20, 2018. **Anand Charles** was born at 1:04 a.m. and his sister **Asha Louise** followed at 1:09 a.m. Cathy and Chuck Force are the proud first-time grandparents. (Note: Anand means Happiness, and Asha means Hope in Hindi.)

**Congratulations** to Meris and Derek Longmeier on the birth of their daughter **Leela Lane Longmeier** on August 13, 2018. Leela weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21.5" long. Proud grandparents are Craig and Jan Mandernach.

## Thank You!

Dear church family,

Thank you for your concern, prayers, cards, visits, and friendly faces while Dwain has been recovering from shoulder replacement surgery, complicated by infection and histoplasmosis. He may have to have one additional surgery, but his health has improved so much that other options are being considered. We are grateful for the excellent care he is receiving from the local medical community, for our supportive pastors, and for our caring congregation. Thank you.

*Dwain and Debbie VanZant*



First Presbyterian Church,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks. We had a wonderful mission trip and being able to stay at First Presbyterian Church provided the foundation for our experience. Your hospitality was wonderful. Your warm and welcoming spirit was a blessing. Everyone we met from the church was friendly, welcoming and helpful.

Again, thank you for allowing our group to stay at the church. Your hospitality is truly a blessing to us.

Yours in the service of Christ,  
The Reverend Timothy A. White  
Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ  
Quincy, Illinois

## New Addresses/Corrections

### Tim & Stephanie Pyles

868 Haynes Dr.  
Decatur, IL 62521

### Betty Zeaman

Villas of Holly Brook  
2201 W. Main St. #19  
Shelbyville, IL 62565

### Luke & Emily Zinda

5730 Great Northern Blvd. Apt. E1  
North Olmsted, OH 44070

### Oasis Day Center Collection Box:

Oasis is currently in need of deodorant, denture cleaner, and denture adhesive. Underwear, socks, razors, and shave cream for both men and women are also items that are always needed. The donation bin is in the Library Donation Center. The Deacons and Oasis thank you for your donations.



**Volunteers needed.** If you can help, please notify Christl in the church office (429-4195).

Tower Notes – Bi-monthly volunteers put address labels and sort *Tower Notes* for mailing. This job takes about an hour twice a month. Volunteers help for a month, two or three times a year.

Gardening – Barbara Keagle has overseen the gardening volunteers for several years. Our church grounds have looked great because of these volunteers. The overseer of this coordinates pruning, planting, and watering of the pots. The group reviews the landscaping and recommends changes and updates to facilities.

## from the desk of Pastor Jean



This month's Presbyterian Women's Bible study is focusing on the theme *God Is With Us When We're Powerless*. The Bible story accompanying this theme is 2 Chronicles 20:1-30, where we find King Jehoshaphat facing down the combined armies of several neighboring kingdoms advancing on Israel. He knows that Israel will not be able to do battle against these armies and be victorious. Jehoshaphat strongly senses that impending doom and disaster that is about to befall Israel once again.

Now, while most of us on a daily basis do not face the wrath of several armies amassed against us, we do face situations in which we feel utterly powerless, anxious and overwhelmed. We receive news of a terminal illness either for ourselves, a friend or loved one; we learn that we are about to be terminated from our job; we watch helplessly as an environmental disaster (earthquake, fire, flood or hurricane) wreaks havoc in a community nearby. And we, like Jehoshaphat, are not quite sure how we should handle these times of powerlessness. We are not quite sure what our next step should be when it seems like there will be no good outcome or solution to the situation.

When Jehoshaphat hears of the impending assault on Israel, Chronicles tells us: *"He was afraid; Jehoshaphat set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all towns of Judah they came to seek the LORD."* King Jehoshaphat then offers up a long prayer to God which begins with the re-telling of God's faithfulness and promise to Israel and ends with these words; ***"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*** In the end, the amassed armies turn on one another, destroying each other and sparing Israel any harm or destruction.

Jehoshaphat, instead of relying on his own strength and self-sufficiency, turned everything over to the God of Israel. He led the Israelites in fasting and prayer and put the outcome in God's hands alone. This story reminds us that when we are powerless, God is still strong. May we have the courage, like Jehoshaphat to say in our times of uncertainty and powerlessness, "I do not know what to do Lord, but my eyes are on you."

### First Pres Church Picnic

Don't forget the church picnic on Sunday at 5 PM at Fairview Park Pavilion #1. BBQ sandwiches, drinks, and place settings will be provided. Invite some friends to meet your church family. **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR FIRST PPRES T-SHIRTS!**



### Sweet Treats for Good Sam

Our LAST Sunday in 2018 to prepare and serve the meal at Good Samaritan Inn is SUNDAY, September 16. 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, SEPTEMBER 10.** Your help is always appreciated.

### Forgotten Cookware/Storage Containers

For the next two Sundays (Aug. 19 & 26) a table will be set up in the Gathering Room and contain miscellaneous cookware and storage containers that have been left at the church. After August 26, any remaining items will be donated to a local not-for-profit. If you know you have a dish/container here but cannot come in to claim it, please call the church office at 429-4195.

### Do Something Great Awards

[From the *Decatur Herald and Review*, Thursday, August 9, 2018]

#### Event honors charitable giving

Members of Decatur Legacy on Wednesday recognized donors and professional advisers who represent the organization's spirit through wills and estate plans.

Decatur Legacy is affiliated with nonprofit groups in the community as well as financial advisers, accountants and attorneys. The focus of the group is to raise awareness about legacy gifts, which are used in wills for charitable giving.

The annual **Do Something Great Awards** luncheon on Wednesday celebrated the following award winners:

- Doug and Peg Schmalz, nominated by Decatur Memorial Foundation
- **Peggy Madden, nominated by Decatur Area Arts Council**
- Dr. Ed and Anne Elliott, nominated by Decatur Family YMCA
- Norma Augustine (posthumously) nominated by Millikin University
- The John Ullrich Foundation, nominated by Millikin University
- T.S. and Juanita Ballance, (posthumously) nominated by Millikin University

### Elmwood Splash & Play Summer Cool-off



The children and youth committee would like to invite you to an "Meet Your Neighbors" event. We have invited the Elmwood residents to share in fellowship, water play for kids, badminton and ring toss, and more. We will serve food and refreshments. RSVP by Sunday, August 19 to Kathy Beube at 620-7563 or email [april558@comcast.net](mailto:april558@comcast.net) or sign up in the Gathering Room.

**Wednesday, August 22**

**5:00 to 6:30**

**Prairie St. church parking lot**

\*If it is raining, we will hold the gathering in the lower level youth area.

### First Pres Open Hearts T Shirts 2<sup>nd</sup> Order

Our Evangelism/Membership group designed a First Presbyterian Church t-shirt for all members and especially for any mission groups and volunteers. (Good Sam, Feed My Children, WSOY Food Drive, Judy Mason Thanksgiving Basket Project, etc.)

The shirts are printed in 3 colors: Royal Blue, Turquoise, and Dark Purple with a white 'open front doors and red heart' logo. Individual order forms are available on the Sign-up table in the Gathering Room. Paid orders will be taken on Sundays Aug. 19 & 26. **The order deadline is Sept.1.**

The 'Uni-Sex' short sleeve shirts are priced at **\$9.00** for S, M, L, XL and **\$12.00** for 2XL, 3XL. Long sleeve shirts will be **\$12.00** for S, M, L, XL and **\$15.00** for 2XL, 3XL. Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church so one order can be sent in to Star Silkscreen, a local business. Shirts will be ready for distribution in mid-September.

### Just Flicks 2018/19 Season:

We have a great season ahead for Just Flicks. This series, featuring films with social justice themes, is co-sponsored by the Peace & Justice Task Force of Central Christian Church and the Peacemaking Committee of First Presbyterian Church. The 2018-2019 season is our 14<sup>th</sup> year. We hope you will be in the audience again this year.

Here's our lineup:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Film Title</u>	<u>Church</u>
Sept. 9, 2018	"How Green Was My Valley"	Central Christian
Oct. 4, 2018	"Battle of the Sexes"	First Presbyterian
Nov. 11, 2018	"The Post"	Central Christian
Dec. 9, 2018	"Room to Breathe"	First Presbyterian
Jan. 13, 2019	"13 <sup>th</sup> "	Central Christian
Jan. 27, 2018	"Mully"	First Presbyterian
Feb. 10, 2019	"Won't You Be My Neighbor"	Central Christian
Mar. 10, 2019	"The Untold Story"	First Presbyterian
April 14, 2019	"I Am"	Central Christian
May 12, 2019	"The Big Sick"	First Presbyterian

Just Flicks Brochures with a short synopsis of each film are available at both churches.

## Forced from Home

Doctors Without Borders is bringing their free interactive tour of the global refugee crisis to Chicago. Visitors are led by experienced Doctors Without Borders aid workers through a 10,000 square-foot space designed to convey the challenges facing a person forced to flee. You will experience a virtual reality and 360-degree video, interact with material gathered from refugee camps, see rescue missions and emergency medical projects around the world. The tour has been on the west coast and is scheduled to be in other cities as it moves east. It will be in Chicago Sept 23–30 at the Richard J. Daley Center. It takes about an hour.

Several members of the Peacemaking Committee are planning to go and would like anyone else interested to join us. We are considering taking the train up to Chicago, going on the tour and returning to Decatur the same day. A tentative date of September 26 has been discussed. Potentially we would take Amtrack from Bloomington to Chicago and have lunch somewhere downtown and then attend the 4-8 p.m. tour.

My daughter-in-law, Jessica, works for Doctors Without Borders and recommended this powerful experience to me. More information is available on the website [forcedfromhome.com](http://forcedfromhome.com). Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to join us. My phone # is 217-412-8838 or email [pkmcpherron@gmail.com](mailto:pkmcpherron@gmail.com).

I cannot imagine what it would be like to have to leave my home and all I know behind. This is an opportunity to increase my understanding and awareness of all that refugees face in their struggle to find safety and peace. I hope you can join us.

Phyllis McPherron

## TAIZÉ

**Wed., Sept. 5, 6:45 p.m.**

Need some respite in the middle of your busy life?

Come to Taize' for:

Quiet Time, Reflection, Contemplation,  
Peaceful Music, Prayer

Join us in the Chapel for all of that and more  
on the first Wednesday of each month

September-May, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for fall:

Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5

Bring friends!

Sandy Peterson, Jane Spires,  
Rose Marie Thompson, Terry Hogg

## Good Neighbor Mission Box

On Thursday, August 9, the Good Neighbor Mission Box was installed next to the ramp steps on the Prairie St. side of the church. After the installation the mission box was blessed by Pastor Jean.



Using part of the Pentecost Offering, Children & Youth Team purchased the box.

After modifications, a bright and welcoming design was painted onto it by volunteers. We would like to thank everyone involved in this endeavor. A slideshow of the project has been posted to the church's Facebook account.

The Children & Youth Ministry will over-see the mission box for the next year, adding children's and adult books and also season-appropriate items that may be useful to passers-by, such as hats, gloves, socks, etc.



The congregation is encouraged to bring/add items to the mission box at any time. You may place your items directly into the Mission Box or put them in the donation bin located in the donation area in the Library. Please feel free to take items out of the box also.

We hope this Neighborhood Ministry will be a blessing to all.

Children and Youth Team

## In their prayers:

The following message was received via the church's e-mail on Monday, August 13.

**Your Presbytery Staff prayed  
for your church today!**



The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

Bill McLean      Cindy Bean      Wade Meranda  
Dan Kingery      Brenda Garry      Marsha Mower

## Boots On The Ground Local Mission Opportunities

After our Mission Trip this summer to Arkansas, many of the participants thought it would be good if we did some local mission projects in our own area. **We are in luck!** Two different local mission activities have arisen that we have the opportunity in which to participate. Please look for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Room to add your name to one or both of these mission project.

### 1) Painting the Basement of the Elmwood Apartments:

On Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> we need a group of volunteers to help paint the basement hallway of the Elmwood Apartments. We are working with



Homeward Bound and Dove to coordinate this activity. We will most likely start around 9:00 AM that morning. If you are interested in working on this project please let Pastor Jean or Cindy Wene know, or sign up in the Gathering Room.

### 2) Feed My Starving Children

On Saturday -September 29<sup>th</sup>, Feed My Starving Children will once again be hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church here in Decatur. In the past few years we have been able to get a team together of about a dozen people to help put together the meal packets to be sent to children who lack food in our world. Last year we were lucky enough to be in the group setting time in which their millionth meal was packed! Let's work to help end hunger and starvation by putting together another team to pack meals to go to children and families who need them in order to survive. If you are interested in working on this project please let Pastor Jean or Cindy Wene know, or sign up in the Gathering Room.



## Presbyterian's Today Renewals!

Just a few more weeks left to subscribe or renew your subscriptions to **Presbyterians Today**

Presbyterians  
Today

magazine. Due to our group ordering numbers you may **SUBSCRIBE, or RENEW** your subscription for only **\$9.95 a year**, which is a 50% discount from the normal subscription price. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room. Make checks payable to First Pres. The order will be placed at the end of August.

Cathy Force enjoys this resource and comments "*Presbyterians Today* is a magazine that offers many short articles keeping me in touch with churches around the world. Whether it's a section on 'What Presbyterians Believe' (discussing current or confusing topics), 'Justice for God's World' (bringing up peace topics), or 'Exploring Our Differences' (which helps me understand other opinions), every article gives me food for thought.

I especially enjoy lists like '7 Faith-building ideas' or 'Creative ways congregations are doing more to feed the hungry' or charts like 'Famous Presbyterians'. What I don't like but really need are the articles that stick with me and make me wonder "Is that something to try at First Pres?" It's easy to sit back and think our church or community has all the answers or can't find any answer but this magazine offers fresh new ideas to ponder and discuss. And *Presbyterians Today* helps me realize how busy and productive our denomination really is in our world."

Subscribe today and find out what reasons will keep you reading!

## Hearing Support

The Decatur Breakfast SERTOMA (SErvice TO MAnkind) is dedicated to seeing that community members who have hearing issues, but do not have funds to have those needs addressed, can get help with their hearing issues. We are able to test, diagnose, and equip persons with pocket talkers, hearing aids, and other hearing support technologies as needed. If you or someone you know would like to request possible help from the Decatur Breakfast Sertoma, please email your request to [sertomahelps@gmail.com](mailto:sertomahelps@gmail.com) or call 860-861-3136. If no one answers, please leave a message so we can return your call. All requests are kept confidential.