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Christl Smalley, Compilation; Rick Koetje, Editor

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**The Peace & Global Witness Offering
Sunday, October 7**



At the One Table service on October 7, we will be accepting the annual **Peace & Global Witness Offering**. The theme this year is “Peace at All Times in All Ways.” The theme is inspired by 2 Thessalonians 3:16 where Paul writes, “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in all ways.”

This special offering of the Presbyterian Church provides us with a specific way to contribute to the hard work of peacemaking. Presbyteries and synods divide 25% of the offering to support their ministries. The General Assembly Mission Council receives 50% of the offering. Your Peacemaking Committee receives 25% of the offering to promote peace in our congregation, our community, and our world. The majority of the Committee’s activities are funded through this offering. The Peace & Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources for us as we join together as active peacemakers – at all times and in all ways.

Your contribution to the Peace & Global Witness Offering will enable your local Peacemaking Committee to continue its activities for another year. It will support visiting speakers, Just Flicks, *Peace Notes*, middle and high school Peacemaker Awards, Fair Trade coffee, and joint projects and gatherings with other churches and other faith communities. It will enable the Peacemaking Committee to continue to lead the church in its membership in a variety of organizations that work for peace at all times and in all ways. These include Illinois People’s Action (social justice and environmental protection), The Covenant Network of Presbyterian (inclusion and reconciliation within the Presbyterian Church), and the Illinois Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention.

One of the tasks that the Committee is charged with is to work for environmental peace. In 2019, our theme will be “Making Peace with Our Planet Home.” We will provide you with opportunities to help take care of this fragile Earth, to inform you about people and groups that are actively working to protect our natural systems, and co-sponsor church-wide programs aimed at bringing peace to our ecosystems in all ways.

Over 30 years ago, First Presbyterian Church chose to be a *peacemaking congregation* and promised to work for peace. The Peacemaking Committee was formed to help First Pres keep that promise. The Peace & Global Witness Offering represents our annual recommitment to that promise. You can give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering by using the designated Peacemaking Offering envelopes in the pews on October 7 or with a designated “peacemaking offering” gift at any time. Please give generously. Thank you.

Jim Rauff, Peacemaking Committee Chair

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. (Remaining 2018 Dates: 10/5, 10/19, 11/9, 11/26 (due to Thanksgiving), and 12/7)

Calendar

Wednesday, September 26

- 8:30 – Tower Notes Folders
- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – History of Israel Class-FUM

Thursday, September 27

- 10:30 – First Friends at FUM
- 5:30 – Women's Night Out Tuscany

Saturday, September 29

- 9:00 – Feed My Starving Children
At St. Paul's Lutheran

Sunday, September 30

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

Monday, October 1

Office Closed

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

Tuesday, October 2

Office Closed

- 1:30 – History of Israel
- 5:00 – Tower Ringers Practice

Wednesday, October 3

Office Closed

- 10:30 – Backpack Assembly
- 4:00 – String Band Practice
- 5:15 – Choir Practice
- 6:30 – History of Israel – FUM
- 6:45 – Taizé Worship Service

Thursday, October 4

Office Closed

- 9:00 – Good Sam Thursday
- 5:30 – Soul Friendship Dinner
at Paco's Sol Bistro

Friday, October 5

Office Closed

- 4:00 – WSOY Food Drive Shift
- 5:00 – WSOY Food Drive Shift

Sunday, October 7

Peace & Global Witness Sunday

World Communion Sunday

- 9:45 – Christian Education

11:00 – One Table Service

12:00 – Called Congregational Meeting

- 12:15 – Deacons' Meeting

Oasis Day Center: Men/Women's travel deodorant, toothpaste, shave cream, razors, tooth brushes, socks, travel snacks.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rehab: Carol Fuller, Tom Hostetler, Mary Lundin, Jackie Evans, Richard Virgin, Christl's mom Valerie Smalley

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, Dwain VanZant, Walt Lohmann's brother Larry Lohmann, Alice Nicholson's sister Esther, Earl Carpunky, Pixie Fennessey

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, Richard Phillips, Norma Stephens, Betty Zeaman

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

Condolences: Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger at the death of Paul's brother Clark on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in Ashville, NC.

Condolences: Former member Nita Dale at the death of her husband Richard Harned, 90, on Wednesday, September 15, 2018

Adult Christian Education: The Everyday Issues class meets in the Dining Room at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. Bill Keagle and Miley Palmer will continue their series on "The History of Israel from Abraham to Jesus" through October 28. This class is also offered First Presbyterian on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. through October 30 and at First Methodist on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. through October 31. The Coffee and Connections class will meet in the Youth Area and will continue to use topics from *The Wired Word*.

First Friends – Thursday, September 27 -10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist: The guest speaker for the September First Friends meeting will be Sergey Bogsa, Director of the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra.

Women's Night Out: On Thursday, September 27 Women's Night Out will meet at Tuscany at 5:30 p.m. for some delicious Italian foods.

17th Annual WSOY Food Drive - Friday, October 5 , Airport Plaza Kroger, Rt. 36 East

First Pres has signed up for the 4-5 p.m. shift AND the 5-6 p.m. shift. We are still looking for volunteers to help move the food around for each shift. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room. If you cannot work a shift, please prayerfully consider an on-site donation of non-perishable goods or a monetary donation.



Called Congregational Meeting: Session as called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 7 in the Sanctuary at the close of the One Table Service for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2021.

Spend Time with Our Children:

Will you spend 5-6 hours per year getting to know those wonderful children that go down to hear Victor on Sunday morning? The Children & Youth Ministry and Administration would like you to help in the child care room four or five times a year from 10:45 to 12:00. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Room. Session employs Kori Morstatter as our Child Care worker in the nursery on Sunday morning and your assistance would be during the 11:00 service. We all want those young people growing up with our congregation, so please share a little time with them.

Dear Presbyterians,

While I was in Kenya this summer I broke my hip and had two surgeries requiring two weeks in the hospital. The hospital would not accept my insurance, so some good friends started a "go fund me" page. This made it possible to pay my bill and leave the hospital. If you cannot pay your bill when leaving the hospital than you have to stay in the hospital until you can pay it. If you get caught leaving you will be arrested. So, the money that people donated not only helped me pay the bill but also stay out of jail. I appreciate this help more than I can express.

Many of you have sent cards, dropped by, called and have been bringing me lunch during the week. I appreciate this so much. It is very nice to have all of you in my life. This church has been a blessing to me. Thank you for your support and prayers. Since my return home I developed an infection (requiring another surgery) and broke my femur – two more surgeries planned for October. So, I am not back to my old self yet but hopefully by November my injuries will be healed. I am very blessed to have all of you in my life.

Thank you,
Pixie Fennessey

To my friends and pastors at First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for the prayer shawl. I love the color and will put it to good use. Also, thanks for the beautiful flowers from the altar. I will be at Christian Village for 3-4 weeks (began Sept. 10) for therapy.

Again, thanks for your prayers and thoughts.
Mary Lundin

Wedding Congratulations:

Congratulations to Jaylyn (Hale) Harris who married Keith Harris on July 21, 2018. Mr. & Mrs. Harris reside at 3725 Sims Ct., Decatur, IL 62526.

Baby Congratulations:

Kieran Crist Requarth was born on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 in Brooklyn NY to proud parents Meehan Crist and Tim Requarth. Proud grandparents are Connie Requarth and Fred Spannaus.

**Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,**

I was thrilled to get the prayer shawl. It's beautiful and my favorite color – blue. This will help remind me that His hands are around me.

Thank you!
Cathy Meadows

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

This additional note is very overdue, but because of my injuries and surgeries I am very behind.

First, thank you all for your donations of pens, pencils, band-aides, toothbrushes, crayons and other needed items given last May for me to take to the children. Also for those of you who gave financial support or helped with parking for Decatur Celebration THANK YOU all.

Second, the children, volunteer teachers, and Salome (director and founder of Stand Up for Grace) also thank you from the bottom of their hearts. Stand Up For Grace is able to help with many things such as food, water, electric, school supplies, and rent by means of your prayers and generosity. I have letters for some of you from the children and will try to mail these to you.

Sincerely,
Pixie Fennessey, President of Stand Up For grace

Address Changes:

Alice Nicholson
1145 Arbor Ct., Apt 234
Decatur, IL 62521
Ph. 217-330-6062

Jim Olson will be in Florida for 4 months and upon his return he will be moving to Minnesota to be near family. At this time, we do not have a forwarding address.

Storage Shed Revamp:

A big thanks to the Dick Ward and Dick Virgin for putting a new coat of stain on our shed. It is really looking great.

from the **KIDESK** of Pastor Bob

A couple weeks ago, Jean and I had to opportunity to attend the Irish Music Festival in Indianapolis. We like these festivals because in a couple of days you get to hear from a dozen groups, many of whom came straight from Ireland. One of the things we enjoy about Irish bands is the way the music is shared by the various members of the group. First, a fiddle might take up the tune, then the whistle, then the banjo and then a drum solo by the traditional Irish bodhran. Every member of the group has something to offer and they all make room for each others' sound.

It's an easy metaphor for the church where each one of us contributes a particular gift or skill. It works best when we all make room for one another and find ways to share the melody.

Of course, it's also a metaphor for the way the world might work if we follow God's lead. How wonderful it would be if instead of talking about some countries who are "superpowers" and others that are "struggling economies" or "third world," we might engage one another as equals in a great global band. Global fellowship happens not when we make one another to be exactly the same, but when we recognize our differences and share the stage with each other.

How might all of us step aside and let someone else take the lead? Who are we silencing by our dominance? When is the right time for us to stop being silent and let our voice be heard?

It seems to me that one of the jobs of the church is to help promote harmony, not only in our singing, but in our living. God charges us with the task of identifying gifts and then using them in a way that brings us all closer together. Let's make some good music not only this Sunday, but in our city and world.

May the Peace of Christ dwell deeply with us all,

Bob

Giving Pamphlet:

The Finance Committee and Session have approved a new pamphlet to help you make decisions as you plan your estate. When making estate decisions, we would like you to remember First Presbyterian Church. There are many ways you can do this. Please take a pamphlet from the Gathering Room or the office and take it with you to your attorney or financial advisor.

Meet our New Parish Nurse:





Last Sunday you may have noticed a new face at the Parish Nurse table in the Gathering Room. The Health Ministry Committee and Session are glad to announce that we have hired Shelli Perry as our new Parish Nurse. Shelli comes to us with experience in working with adult, pediatric, intensive care and geriatric psychiatric patients while working at St. Mary's Hospital. She also has experience in case management nursing with the Macon County Health Department and Memphis Family Shelter-Homeless Shelter for women and children.

We will have a reception to formally introduce and welcome Shelli to our Church on Sunday, October 14th at 10:30 AM in the Gathering Room. Please stop by the Parish Nurse table on Sunday mornings to get to know Shelli and to welcome her as part of our church staff caring for our congregation.

Children's Sunday School

The new Sunday School year is off to a wonderful start! Not only are we learning about our place in this world and what God wants for us, we are enjoying special moments in song with our dear friend, Rose Marie Thompson. We are exploring many instruments while being challenged to learn timing, rhythm, melody, focus, patience, and community. Music is something to appreciate and is meant to be shared. We look forward to seeing you soon.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 2018	1 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 6:00p Peacemaking - YA 6:30p Mission – DR 7:00p Worship & Music -L	2 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 10:00a DARTA Board Mtg-GR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 11:30a Catholic Char. Mtg-YA 1:30p History of Israel - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	3 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band – DR 5:15p Choir Practice - CR 6:00p AA Managers Mtg. – JH 6:30p History of Israel - FUM 6:45p Taizé Service - Chapel	4 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 9:00a Volunteers -Good Sam 5:30p Soul Friendship Dinner at Paco's Sol Bistro	5 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 4:00p WSOY Food Drive at Krogers Rt. 36	6 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
7 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Peacemaking/World Communion Sunday 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a One Table Worship – Sanctuary 12:00p Called Congregational Mtg. - Sanctuary 12:15p Deacons Mtg.– DR	8 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 6:30p Facilities Mtg.- Library	9 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 1:30p History of Israel - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	10 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 History of Israel - FUM	11 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 9:30a Parish Visitors – YA 6:00p Persistent Sisters-DR	12 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 	13 7:00a AA Meeting – DR
14 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 10:30a Reception for Shelli Perry – Gathering Room 11:00a Worship Service – S 6:00p Just Flicks – DR <i>Battle of the Sexes</i>	15 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 1:30p Women's Bible Study-AC 3:30p Administration - PO 5:00p Finance Meeting – GR	16 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a PEO Meeting - DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:30p History of Israel – DR 4:00p Health Ministry - L 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	17 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 5:00p String Band Hoedown at Primrose 5:15p Choir Practice - CR 6:30p History of Israel - FUM	18 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	19 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	20 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 
21 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S	22 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:00a Prayer Shawl - AC 12:00p Tower Notes Articles Due 1:00p Pink Smoke – Chapel 7:00p Session Meeting - DR	23 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:00p Worship Planning – L 1:30p History of Israel - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	24 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 8:30a Tower Notes Folders - L 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 2:00p String Band-Eagle Ridge 5:15p Choir Practice - CR 6:30p History of Israel – FUM	25 7:00a AA Meeting – DR 10:30a First Friends – GR 5:30p Women's Night Out - Fuji	26 7:00a AA Meeting – DR	27 7:00a AA Meeting – DR
28 8:45a NewSong – Chapel 9:45a Christian Education 11:00a Worship Service – S	29 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 	30 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 10:30a Staff Meeting – L 1:30p History of Israel - DR 5:00p Tower Ringers Practice	31 7:00a AA Meeting – DR Office Closed 10:30a Backpack Assembly-ME 4:00p String Band – DR 5:15p Choir Practice – CR 6:30p History of Israel - FUM		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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Jackie Lawton – 1
Alice Nicholson – 1
Jerry Redford – 1
John Oaster – 5
Scott Opelt – 5
Arisa Hale – 6
Sally Mathieson – 8

Lois Wells – 8
Lee Bennett – 9
Alina Hale – 10
Jim Bondurant - 11
Cathy Force – 11
Dan Foster – 11
Rose Marie Thompson - 11

Sue Ingram – 12
Susan Shafter – 12
Pattie Smith-Phillips – 12
Linda Ryherd-Schroeder – 13
Kathy Locke – 15
Edward Paine – 16
Dean Thom – 19

Diane Dunn – 20
Katy Houston-Opelt – 20
Talon Washburn – 20
Angela McIntire – 22
Pat Nevitt – 22
Jon Scharfenberg – 27
Brenda Aymer – 31

Braxton Davidson – 31
Grace Montgomery – 31
Sally Williams – 31

**Did we forget anyone's
birthday?
Please let us know!**