



the STEEPLE

a publication of the First United Presbyterian Church

May 2017
Issue 69
Volume 5

Strive for New Life



First United Presbyterian Church

1303 Royal Heights Road • Belleville, IL 62223
618.233.0295 • www.firstunitedpres.org

We are a Christian church that glorifies God through meaningful worship, active discipleship, faithful service and nurturing fellowship.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 7

8:00 & 10:30 am

Follow

Psalms 23

May 14

8:00 & 10:30 am

Stumble

1 Peter 2:2-10

May 21

Confirmation Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 am

Known

Acts 17:22-31

May 28

Special Music Sunday
"The Glory of Music"

8:00 & 10:30 am

Glorify

John 17:1-11

The Steeple is published
12 times per year by
First United Presbyterian Church,
Belleville, Illinois
Subscription price \$1.00 per year
POSTMASTER:
Send change of address to
The Steeple
1303 Royal Heights Rd,
Belleville, IL 62223

Strive for New Life

Easter has come and gone. Now what?

Each year we celebrate a victory over death and the hope we have through Jesus Christ, but then Easter is over. The candy only lasts so long. The collection of hard-boiled, dyed eggs eventually find their way to a few egg salad sandwiches, perhaps. The Easter worship service was amazing and inspiring, but then we just go back to the regular worship experiences and regular version of life, right? Wrong. We go through this cycle every year to remind everyone of the Good News and to entice everyone to strive for new life. We were made free to strive for the greater life that goes beyond lukewarm faith and half-hearted efforts. We were made free to strive for goodness and grace. We were made free to strive for loving one another better. We were made free to strive for a daily awareness of God's love for us.

If you are looking for a way to strive for something better in your relationship with God, let me suggest a few things.

1) Have you gone through our Equipping Ministry Survey and Guided Feedback Process? Discover your gifts and the opportunities to engage them with God. Start by contacting Elder Mandy Guinn or Director of Equipping Ministries Kaitie Kautz. You can reach both through the Church Office.

2) Jump into this summer's "B-FIT" program which will introduce you to the Bible and help you feel more comfortable with God's Word. For more information, see page 6 later in this newsletter.

3) Call me. Or email. Or text. Reach out to your pastor. I would love to help you navigate whatever struggles you are facing in life and help you connect with the new life that comes after the Easter miracle. Hope one of these ideas will help you!

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

The Journey of Stewardship

The dark shadows of Good Friday have yielded to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the joy of Easter morning. As we remember that Jesus was both fully God and fully human, we are reminded of Jesus' human struggle with His destiny and the grace and divinity of His actions. *O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.* Matthew 26:39 KJV By his sacrifice, Jesus took on the sins of the world. This action conquered death and the separation from God created by our sin. It represented the absolute deference of Jesus to the will of God which made this sacrifice complete - PERFECT.

As we continue our journey through the time of Pentecost, we are called upon to contemplate and recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit as we discern the will God has for each one of us. As we say in the Lord's Prayer - *Thy will be done.*
~ The Stewardship Committee

In Our Prayers

Mary Brown	Annette Grove	Henri & Ted Lawrence	All world leaders	Our efforts to express	Our efforts to reach new
Bill Burke	Sue Hall	Jeanette McCurdy	Our nation's leaders	our faith clearly	believers
Jean Canale	Helen Handley-Fabre	Evelyn Meyer	Our enemies	Our efforts to discover &	Presbyterian Community
Irene Coverdell	Bernice Handrich	Lane Miller	Our elders	use our spiritual gifts	Preschool
Mary Diel	Mary Hotto	Mary Ellen Pollock	Our deacons	Our efforts to serve the	People who are depressed
Sandy & Larry Rockwell,	Lucile Katty	Nancy Reinecker	Our trustees	community	and anxious
Peru (see p. 6)	Bonnie Krause	Wanda Lee Schmidt	Our Church staff	Our efforts to care for	
Marguerite French	Albert Killmeier (Marti	Steve Schmidt	Our Stephen Ministers	one another	
John Green	Gibson's brother)	Isabelle Vogel	Our efforts to grow spiritually		

Our Deepest Sympathy

For Joyce Dyer and Pastor Rob Dyer and family on the death of their aunt and great aunt, **Janet Stankwytych**, who died on April 11 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. For the family and friends of **Bill Lawrence** who died on April 17 in Shiloh. For Dennis and Deborah Forsythe, family, and friends on the death of his father, **Hugh Forsythe** who died on April 17 in Shiloh.

New Blessing

Lucas Michael Thurig was born on March 25 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is the son of Michael and Mallory Thurig and the grandson of Karen and Chuck Thurig.

Ministering to God's People

May 7

USHERING 8:00 am

Coni Jackson
Allen Schmidt
Kathy Schmidt

USHERING 10:30 am

KC Clayton
Gigi & Roger Cox
Adrian Croissant
Ally Dyer
Austin Dyer (Jr. Usher)
Will Gagen
Susy Rybicki
Zack Tambala (Jr. Usher)

LITURGIST

Keely Giles

AMBASSADOR

Rosemary Ehrstein

PHONE

Mary Teague

BUS DRIVER

Kevin Meder

COUNTERS

John Dorris

John Heslop

HOSPITALITY

Faith Community

SOUND OPERATOR

Al Kraus

VIDEO OPERATOR

Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Jan Dorris

Keely & Mike Giles

Terri Vandiver

May 14

USHERING 8:00 am

Jackie & Dan Bainter
Lou Stark

USHERING 10:30 am

Brenda Doll
Sharon & Jerry Gaskill
Delaney Giles (Jr. Usher)
Gabby Mokriakow (Jr. Usher)
Marian & Jim Morris

Dee Palmer

Betty Scherrer

Dean Wallen

ACOLYTES

Carson Dyer

Colin Wiltsie

LITURGIST

Danny Halel

AMBASSADOR

Babs Hill

PHONE

Jane Wilkin

BUS DRIVER

Matt Hall

COUNTERS

John Dorris

John Heslop

HOSPITALITY

Potlucks with a Purpose

SOUND OPERATOR

Dan Harres

VIDEO OPERATOR

Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Amy Abernathy

Carrie Bair

Melissa Epps

May 21

USHERING 8:00 am

Donna Bock
Billie & Steve Chaney

USHERING 10:30 am

Heaven Beckett (Jr. Usher)
Babs Hill
Elizabeth Kearns
Al Kraus
Cyndi & Ed Langen
Amber Lankford (Jr. Usher)

Shawn Lankford

Bruce Reeder

Larry Scott

ACOLYTE

Faith Beckett

LITURGIST

Shirley Samples

AMBASSADOR

Brenda & Roger Doll

PHONE

Pat Daye

BUS DRIVER

Dennis Hubbard

COUNTERS

John Dorris

John Heslop

HOSPITALITY

Christian Education

SOUND OPERATOR

Mark Vandiver

VIDEO OPERATOR

Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Pat Daye

Karen & Pete Thompson

Diane Winland

May 28

USHERING 8:00 am

Terri & Dan O'Saben

USHERING 10:30 am

Amy Abernathy
Nathan Dyer (Jr. Usher)
Dan Harres
Grace Farinas
Dee & John Mann
Shirley & Bob Samples

ACOLYTES

Joy Hunter

LITURGIST

Joe Fedak

AMBASSADOR

Sharon & Jerry Gaskill

PHONE

Linda Gurr

Pam Halel

BUS DRIVER

Roger Cox

COUNTERS

John Dorris

John Heslop

HOSPITALITY

Helmsmen

SOUND OPERATOR

Dave Epps

VIDEO OPERATOR

Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Seon Choo Kim

Natalie Maley-Bill

Abby Smith

Caroline Smith

Presbyterian Women



May Gathering

The next PW Gathering will be Friday, May 5, at 11:30 am. The program, "All Around the Garden," will be presented by Jackie Bainter. The Coordinating Team will host the luncheon, and the cost is \$4. Reservations are due by May 1 to circle leaders or can be made by calling the Church Office, 233-0295. At this meeting, officers will be installed and the Collection and Dedication of Cents-Ability will be held. (See article below.)

Installation of PW New Officers on May 5

At the March Gathering, new officers were elected for the next term, May 2017 – May 2018. They are Moderator, Shirley Samples; Vice Moderator, Susy Rybicki; Secretary, Donna Nicholas; Treasurer, Linda Hangsleben; Search Committee, Rosemary Ehrstein (2018), Marlene Marty (2019), Joy Baltz (2020); Together-in-Service, Ellen Hall and Marsha Head; Program Chair, Susy Rybicki; Spiritual Life Chair, Pat Hargrove; and Literature Chair, Donna Nicholas.

Cents-Ability 2016 Report from Together-in-Service

In 2016, Cents-ability collected \$233.77 for food, formula and medicines for Metro East infants, children, and mothers. Please continue to use the baby food jars at your meals at church and home. Thank you for helping others.

Presbyterian Women's Circles in May

A circle is a small group of women who meet monthly. In each circle, faith is nurtured and growth takes place through worship, Bible study, fellowship and outreach. There are three circles which meet at different times and days.

May 3: Lydia Circle, 7:00 pm, Conference Room (200)

May 16: Lamplighters, 1:00 pm, Cornell Commons

May 17: Hannah Circle, 11:30 am, Eversull Hall

For information, contact Moderator, Mary Jo Mordhorst, 397-4914.

Donations from PW Funds

At a recent Gathering, Presbyterian Women voted to donate \$2,900

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH

Menu for May

Family-Size Can of Soup
Box of Whole Grain Crackers
Canned Green Beans
(no or low salt)
Canned Mixed Fruit
(lite or in fruit juice)
Powdered Milk

Additional Items:

Personal Hygiene Month

Shampoo
Conditioner
Soap
Deodorant

*Monetary donations always welcome.
Sponsored by Presbyterian Women*

in 2017 from 2016 funds raised. The donations included:

Local Church: Presbyterian Community Preschool, \$300; Abbey Croissant-Eden Seminary Student, \$200

Local Community: Bethany Place, \$100; Call for Help, \$150; Church Women United, \$50; Belleville Community Interfaith Food Pantry, \$300; Kindercottage, \$200; St. John's Bosco Center, \$250; SWIC Soup Program, \$350; Violence Prevention Center, \$250

Worldwide: Farmington Children's Center, \$150; Marion Medical Missions in Africa (\$400/one well and \$200/scholarships for girls)

PWCT Meeting – Note Change of Date

The PW Evaluation and Goal Setting Meeting for the Coordinating Team will now be on Saturday, June 10, at 9:30 am, in Eversull Hall. (Original date was May 26.) Current and new Coordinating Team members are asked to attend. For more information, contact Mary Jo Mordhorst, 397-4914, or Shirley Samples, 624-3340.

Give-a-Meal-a-Month (GAMAM)

Thank you for supporting this program! The menu above suggests non-perishable items to buy during May. All items collected are taken to the Catholic Urban Program Food Bank which ministers to families in the Metro East. Fill up a yellow GAMAM bag or fill your own bag and bring the items to the church. Monetary gifts are also welcome; make checks payable to First United Presbyterian with the memo to PW GAMAM.

Announcements

May 7: Recognition of 50-Year Members & Centenarians

During the 10:30 service, our church family will recognize Marilyn Wiltsie as a 50-Year Member of our congregation; Marilyn joined First United in 1967. A cake reception will follow in Cornell Commons. Our church family is also blessed to have two Centenarians: Bernice Handrich, 103 years (09/26/1913) and Carolyn Jackson, 106 years (09/08/10). Congratulations, ladies!

Library Lines

The Library Committee has been hard at work filling the Library book shelves in the newly renovated area on the lower level. It is still a work in progress. Our new system for borrowing books will be the honor system. There is no checkout; just return books to the return baskets provided, so others may enjoy them. There are all new children's books on the book truck in Cornell Commons; Presbyterian and family publications are on the magazine shelves. We are back, helping meet your reading needs.

Graduate Information Needed

First United would like to recognize the accomplishments of all graduates (high school, 2-year and 4-year college, post-high school training program, or post-college). The details needed are the student's name, parents' names, school, degree, any awards and future plans. Please provide contact information in case there are questions. The deadline is Sunday, June 4. Email the information to sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org, or bring it to the Church Office.

Preschool Registration Continues

Classes are filling up for the 2017-2018 school year! If you have family or friends interested in enrolling their children in the Presbyterian Community Preschool, please encourage them not to wait. They can call the Preschool, 233-4809, to schedule a Meet and Greet and learn more about the MWF class for 3 year olds and the TTh class for 4 year olds. A \$35 registration fee per family is due at registration. Tuition will be \$150 per month.

Adult Discipleship

Basic Prayer and Bible Reading Classes with Pastor Rob Dyer
(Sundays, 9:15 am, Vista Room, 206)

• **May 7 & 14: "Help, I don't know how to pray!"**

How do you communicate? Cell phone? Facebook? Texting? Snapchat? Despite all the advances in human communication, our mode of communicating with the Divine is still called prayer! Prayer is something we experience every time we go to worship, but it is often something we do not do in our personal lives unless we are taught. The purpose of these two sessions is to help clarify what prayer is, the different types of prayer, and to encourage you to enjoy prayer as a part of your daily life.

• **May 21 & 28: "Reading and Actually Understanding the Bible"**

What are some steps to reading the Bible? What does a passage tell you about God and yourself in relation to God? What is going on in this section of the Bible? Come learn tools and tips to use in reading and understanding the Bible.

Adulting (Sundays, 9:15 am, Library, Leah & Shawn Lankford)

This group of adults meets in the newly refurbished Library! Leah and Shawn Lankford are facilitating discussion of the book, *The Year without a Purchase: One Family's Quest to Stop Shopping and Start Connecting*, by Scott Dannemiller. The author and his wife are former PCUSA missionaries who served in Guatemala. This book examines modern America's spending habits.

Thoughtful Christian Gathering (Sundays, 9:15 am, Conference Room, 200)

"Parables: Stories for Life in God's World"

Using Kerygma curriculum, Roger Doll and Rosemary Ehrstein will team teach this study. "Jesus was the master of the parable! Deceptively simple, these timeless stories were used by Jesus to bring new life to old ways." Participants will discover God's truth for today's dilemmas by studying multiple parables.

Adult Fellowship

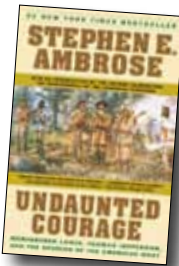
Sand Dollars

May 2: Help with the Woodcarvers' Banquet.

May 5: Regular meeting at 6:30 pm.

May 10: Faith in Fiction

We will discuss *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose in May and June. For May we will read the first 19 chapters. Ambrose follows the Lewis and Clark Expedition from Thomas Jefferson's hope of finding a waterway to the Pacific to Lewis's lonely demise at the Natchez Trace. Ambrose shows us the American West as Lewis saw it - wild, awesome, and pristinely beautiful. We will meet at 9:00 am, on May 10, in the Youth Room (121). For more information, contact Susy Rybicki, 792-9458.



May 12: Merry Mates

Merry Mates will gather on Friday, May 12, at 6:00 pm, in Eversull Hall for a potluck gathering. The speaker for the evening's program will be Bruce Reeder talking about Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. For more information, contact Bob McCammon, 616-6973, or Linda Hangsleben, 407-5844 or lkhang13@yahoo.com.

May 13: Helmsmen

As the Helmsmen Mariners move into the summer outing mode, we look forward to dinner and a play at the Looking Glass Theatre on Saturday, May 13. Join us for a night of Christian fellowship, dinner and a theatrical performance. As always, our outings are open to anyone to see what the Helmsmen are about. Don't forget our "Friday Night Munch Bunch" meets informally every Friday for dinner at local restaurants. All are welcome to join us then, too. For meeting information, contact John or Dee Mann, 624-3040. For "Munch Bunch" dinners, contact Amy Brummitt, 235-4226, or Betty Scherrer, 397-5137.

Veterans' Life Group

Quilts of Honor: This program will honor our First United veterans with approximately 45 total quilts being presented later this

year. If you wish to assist with this project, please contact Diane Richardson, 717-756-9133. She could certainly use the extra support.

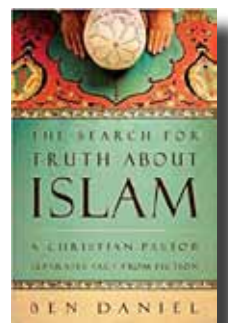
May 11 and May 13: Fellowship Breakfasts. Due to the success of our Fellowship Breakfasts, starting in May we will meet twice a month, on the second Thursday and the second Saturday of each month. The Thursday breakfast will continue to be at Denny's in Belleville, on May 11, at 7:30 am. The Saturday breakfast will be at Denny's in O'Fallon, on May 13, at 7:30 am. All church members are welcome. We hope to see you there!

May 21: The next formal Veterans' meeting will be on Sunday, May 21, at 12 noon in the Conference Room (200).

May 27: First Annual Memorial Day BBQ. A BBQ lunch for all church members will be served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served free to families who have lost a veteran loved one. Tickets will not be sold but donations can be made at the door. There will be a Table of Honor for families to present pictures of their veteran loved ones. Please mark your calendars and look for more to follow. ~ Ken Stange and Shawn Lankford

June 6: Book Discussion Hosted by Christian Education Committee

"Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer," and come join us on four Tuesdays in June as we read and discuss, *The Search for Truth about Islam: A Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction*. The author is Ben Daniel, a Presbyterian minister, author and blogger. Come explore with us as we, as Christians, attempt to better understand Islam. We will meet at 9:15 am in the Library beginning June 6 for an hour of fellowship as we enjoy a light breakfast of pastries and fruit and discuss this timely topic. Contact Connie Darnell, 397-3826, for more information and/or to sign up. She will also provide details on how to purchase the book, including ordering it through DCE Stephanie Foltz.



Bible Fitness

B-Fit: Bible Fitness Program

Are you ready to get fit, Bible fit? During the nine weeks of June and July, we will work our way through a fitness plan to help us all get to know our Bible. By the end of these two months, we will know 40 different stories and scripture passages and have an overall grasp of our Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.



There are three ways you can participate

- 1) Show up to worship each Sunday at either 8:00 or 10:30 am. (And if you are away, the sermons will be posted online.) Each week, Pastor Rob will cover a different section of the Bible.
- 2) Show up to worship and do the weekly readings, Monday-Friday, with two days to catch up on the readings or take off.
- 3) Show up to worship, do the weekly readings, and come to Pastor Rob's Sunday School class at 9:15 in our newly renovated Eversull Hall. There will be more in-depth discussion of the weekly readings.

The complete reading fitness schedule will be available by mid-May. We will share the weekly readings in Sunday bulletins, on Facebook, and in the e-Weekly. We hope you will join in this program and B-Fit this summer!

Mission Committee

Meet Our Mission Co-Workers

Sandy and Larry Rockwell first recognized their need for a Savior in their twenties. While preparing for ministry at Columbia International University, God began to plant a seed in their hearts for missions. God continued to work in their hearts the reality of the gospel as Larry worked in the marketplace and Sandy served in the home.



Provisionally, God took them through various trials and opportunities which, instead of making them feel strengthened and more adequate to serve, helped them understand how God's grace operated in their weakness. As a result of these experiences, they felt constrained to go and share the love of God with those who had never heard the gospel.

After pursuing short term mission trips to Ecuador and Peru, God called them to serve with Mission to the World among the indigenous people group called the Quechua in the Andes Mountains of Peru. In the mountain city of Huaraz, Larry trains and mentors the Quechua as God raises up men from among them to faithfully teach their own people in the isolated mountain villages of the Huaylas and Conchucos regions. Larry and Sandy have served since 2003.

~ Article courtesy of mtw.org

Preschool Spaghetti Dinner

The Preschool children shared songs and finger plays before all enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner. The Board thanks FUPC members for supporting the Preschool!



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Sand Dollar Bunny Breakfast

Families and friends enjoyed a fun morning together with a variety of activities including a continental breakfast, pictures with Mrs. Bunny, face painting, Harvey the Juggler, door prizes and an Easter egg hunt!

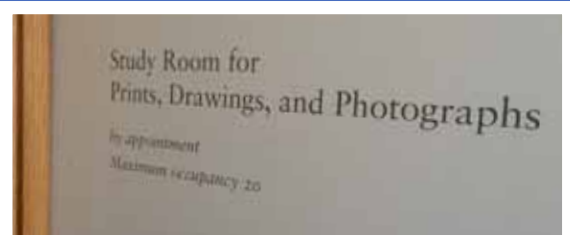


PHOTOS BY JOE FEDAK AND SAMMYLANE WIRTH



St. Louis Art Museum Trip

Dede Farquhar led a tour, *Imaging the Way to the Cross*, during Holy Week. Included was a special viewing of 15th-17th century engravings and etchings.



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Children & Youth Life

Children's Chapel

During May worship times, the children will hear the stories of The Good Shepherd & the Wolf, The Good Shepherd & the Lord's Supper, Jesus Commissions the Disciples, and Ascension. Children's Chapel is a special place of worship where children walk more slowly and talk more softly because someone might be talking to God. After the time of Sharing Faith with Children during the 10:30 worship service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade are invited to leave with Worship Leaders and Greeters for a special worship time.

FaithQuest in May

FaithQuest is the Sunday morning Sunday School class for students in grades K-5. The May rotations will be Psalms: Songbook of the Bible and Ascension. Each week, students will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am and then move to different workshop locations.

Summer Program for Families: Faithful Family Celebrations

The Christian Education Committee invites families to mark their calendars for the Wednesdays of July 12, 19, and 26 for a program for family spiritual development called "Tell Me a Story - Making God's Story Our Story."

What story are our family celebrations and holidays telling? How do we use them to mark and celebrate God's presence in our lives? Together we will explore how family rituals and traditions support and strengthen our faith life and what ways your family can intentionally tell God's story through celebrations.

Focused on families with children birth through grade 5, each evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm. After the meal, there will be activities for the children while adults hear about and share ideas for family celebrations and the church's story (such as Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost). Then there will be interactive, hands-on activities for families. The evening will conclude by 8:00 pm.

PYC (Presbyterian Youth Club) News (grades 3-5)

Wednesday, May 3: PYC will begin at the regular time (5:15). At 6:30, families are invited to join us in the Chapel as we thank volunteers and recognize the 5th graders who will move up to KIX in August. Homework Club will follow until 8:15 for those with older siblings in KIX and TIM.

Wednesday, May 10: PYC End of the Year Party PYC will meet at FUPC but at a different time, 5:45-7:45.

KIX (Kids in Christ) News (grades 6-8)

Wednesday, May 3: Final Great Escape Payment due!

Wednesday, May 10: KIX End of the Year Party. Join us at Bel-Air Bowl from 6:00-8:00 pm as we celebrate the end of another great KIX school year! We will meet there (talk to Kaitie if transportation is an issue). Cost is \$10.

TIM (Teens in Ministry) News (grades 9-12)

Wednesday, May 3: Final Mission Trip Payment due!

Wednesday, May 10: TIM End of the Year Party. We will finish out a fantastic year of TIM by playing laser tag and eating pizza at The Edge from 6:00-8:00pm. We will meet there (talk to Kaitie if transportation is an issue). Cost is \$10.

May 3: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

PYC, KIX, and TIM youth are invited to the Youth Ministries



▲ During worship on March 26, parents gave their kindergartners the greatest gift, their own copy of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Program. Join the Youth Ministries Committee in saying "Thank You" to everyone who has made this year's youth program a success. PYC, KIX and TIM will still begin at their usual times. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm in Eversull Hall, and the program will follow from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Chapel. We hope all the youth will help us celebrate this amazing year and our awesome volunteers. ~ Youth Ministries Committee

A Big Thank You

The 2016-2017 youth year is coming to a close. This year would not have been possible without the help of the following people:

Youth Sponsors: PYC - Stephanie Foltz, Nancy Kreeb; KIX - Natalie Bill, Mike Giles, John Guinn, Andy Link; TIM - Brenda Fedak, Joe Fedak, Angie Sheridan, Chris Sheridan, Will Weeks

Sunday School Teachers: Kari Bechtold, Kyle Bechtold, Anne Dulski, Mandy Guinn, Kevin Meder, Dan O'Saben, Sue Perez, Susy Rybicki, Will Weeks

Bus Drivers: Roger Cox, Dennis Hubbard, Kevin Meder, Jim Nicholas

Wednesday Dinner Coordinator: Jessica Mokriakow

Major Events Coordinators: Natalie Bill, Don Darnell, Brenda Fedak, Laura Hall, Dennis Hubbard, Nancy Lonsdale, and Diane McHugh (PYC)

Attendance and Giving

March 2017

Date	Worship Attendance	Pledges & Contributions as of March 31, 2017	
03.05.17	309	Pledged	\$33,739.00
03.12.17	254	Unpledged	9,583.50
03.19.17	286	Loose Offerings	661.18
03.26.17	294	Per Capita	739.00
		Schnucks eScrip Cards	58.18
		Capital Campaign Funds	14,462.12
Additional Information:			
		Online Giving*	7,207.00

*The Online Giving amount is not a separate income, but is incorporated in the other income categories.

If you have questions, please contact the Budget Committee Elder, Joe Fedak, 233-1213.

Ways to Serve and Give

Pentecost Offering: Investing in our Greatest Resource

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost, June 4. However, you can help to sustain the important Presbyterian Church(USA) ministries and programs supported by the Pentecost Offering by making a gift at any time throughout the year. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Our congregation will retain 40% of the Pentecost offering to be used in the local area. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and Children at Risk. The 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) launched a church-wide initiative calling on Presbyterians to work with partners in the U.S. and worldwide to improve the quality of education for 1 million children by 2020. This initiative builds on our strong Reformed heritage and Presbyterian history of both educational mission and advocacy, as well as support for access to public education. On the national level, this initiative will center around two major foci:

- **Strengthening early childhood education**
- **Reducing the dropout rate of adolescents**

Join us as we identify and share best practices and resources for local educational mission; support public education policy at the national, state, and local levels; train and equip new leaders for child advocacy; and connect with others in our common call to walk alongside our children as they live into their identities as children of God.

There are special Pentecost envelopes in the pew racks or you can use a Pew Envelope and write in *Pentecost*. Please give as you can. Thank you. ~ *The Worship Committee*

May 13: Adopt-A-Highway

Our first trash pickup of the season will be on Saturday, May 13. Meet in the Royal Heights Road parking lot at 9:00 am to pick up trash along an approximate one-mile stretch of Highway 161, from Frank Scott Parkway to 17th Street. All ages ten and older are welcome. Adult supervision for those under age 18 is required. Trash bags and water will be furnished. This is an excellent way for high school students to earn service hours. For information, contact Andy Morgan, 257-1935 or ajm6116@att.net.

May 14: Quilt Raffle Drawing

First United Quilters made a beautiful quilt which the Christian Education Committee is raffling off to benefit the Professional Church Vocations Fund. We are blessed as a church family to have such a talented and generous group of quilters willing to support this wonderful ministry. The most recent member of our congregation to hear God's call and benefit from this fund is Abbey Croissant. Abbey was able to offset some of her seminary education costs as well as purchase needed textbooks.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Called "The Bible Block Quilt," each square represents a different Bible passage or hymn. There are only 250 chances offered at \$5

per chance. Donations are also welcome! Look for the table set up on Sundays in the Commons, and take a chance to own this beautiful quilt while supporting those from our congregation called to enter a professional church vocation. The drawing will be on Sunday, May 14.

May 20: Project Compassion Day

First United will help Rachel and Project Compassion pack and deliver items for the homeless on both sides of the river on Saturday, May 20. Those helping from our church are Danny Bainter, Tom Cahoon, Jerry Gaskill, Kim and Dennis Hubbard, Mike Moore, Bruce Reeder and Bob Samples. Although there are only two more delivery dates in 2017, the collection of items is ongoing. Thank you for your continued support of this important effort.

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program

For the third year, we are answering the call to "feed the hungry" by providing nutritious lunches for children at risk of hunger in our community. Beginning Friday, June 2 through August 11, we will deliver 200 lunches every Friday to eight delivery sites located close to public schools.

How can you help?

- **Pack lunches in Eversull Hall** any Thursday evening at 6:00 pm, from June 1 through August 10.
- **Donate items:** 100% juice boxes, cookies (no nuts), individual bags of chips, plastic sandwich bags, and paper napkins; cash donations are also welcome.
- **Deliver lunches to children.** Contact Abby Smith, Joyce and Dwight Lied, Norma Mason, or Nancy Kreeb.

For information, contact Nancy Kreeb, kreebnja@hotmail.com.

June 12-16: Quilt Camp 2017

Hello from the First United Quilters! Our week-long Quilt Camp will be on June 12-16, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in Eversull Hall (Room 104). Beginners are always welcome! There will be a morning or afternoon session, but you are also welcome to stay all day. We will offer two patterns, one easy and one a little more challenging (see attached photos). *Sea Glass* is the more challenging one for those who have been making quilts for a year or more. *Tiny Bits* is for those who haven't sewn before or who want to make a less challenging quilt. The list of supplies will be available when you sign up. The list will have what you need for the class, as well as fabric requirements and cutting instructions needed prior to the class. Anyone interested should contact Diane Richardson, 717-756-9133, or any quilter. Hope to see you there!



Sea Glass



Tiny Bits

Announcements

Calendar of Events

May 2017

MONDAY, MAY 1

6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
7:00 pm Preschool Board

TUESDAY, MAY 2

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chimes
5:00 pm Woodcarvers' Banquet
5:30 pm Evangelism Committee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Deacons' Prayer Group
1:00 pm Personnel Committee
5:15 pm PYC
6:00 pm Youth Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
7:00 pm Lydia Circle

THURSDAY, MAY 4

10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
12:00 pm Faith Community Committee
6:00 pm United Bells
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Equipping Team

FRIDAY, MAY 5

11:30 am PW Gathering
6:30 pm Sand Dollars

SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:00 am Merry Mates Plant Pick Up

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Recognition of 50 Year Members

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 8

6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers
7:00 pm Trustees

TUESDAY, MAY 9

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chimes
6:30 pm Confirmation Class at Session
6:30 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Faith in Fiction
10:00 am Library Committee
5:45 pm PYC
6:00 pm KIX & TIM End of Year Parties
6:30 pm Membership Committee
7:00 pm Deacons

THURSDAY, MAY 11

7:30 am Veterans' Group Breakfast (Belleville Denny's)
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse
5:00 pm Youth Ministries Committee
6:00 pm United Bells
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 12

6:00 pm Merry Mates
7:00 pm MaryMarthas

SATURDAY, MAY 13

7:30 am Veterans' Breakfast (Denny's, O'Fallon)
6:00 pm Helmsmen to Dinner and Play

SUNDAY, MAY 14

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 15

Steeple Deadline
6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers

TUESDAY, MAY 16

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Lamplighters
3:00 pm Prime Chimes
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee
6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Loaves & Fishes
9:30 am Deacons' Prayer Group
11:30 am Hannah Circle
5:30 pm Worship Committee
6:30 pm Vision Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 18

10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse
6:00 pm NO United Bells
7:00 pm NO Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 19

Preschool Papa John's Pizza Fundraiser

SATURDAY, MAY 20

9:00 am Compassion Day - Deliver Items to Homeless

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Confirmation Sunday

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Veterans' Group

MONDAY, MAY 22

6:00 pm Woodcarvers

TUESDAY, MAY 23

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chimes
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:00 pm Adult Education Team
6:00 pm College Welcome Back Event (Pavilion and Softball Field)
6:30 pm Mission Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 25

10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
6:00 pm United Bells
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 26

SATURDAY, MAY 27

11:00 am Veterans' Group BBQ

SUNDAY, MAY 28

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 29

Church Closed for Holiday

TUESDAY, MAY 30

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chimes

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

8:30 am Men's Bible Study

SAVE THE DATE

June 12-16
Quilt Camp

June 18
Churchman of the Year

June 25-30
TIM Mission Trip

July 10-15
KIX Great Escape

July 12, 19, 26
Faithful Family Celebrations

From the Church Office

If you spent the winter elsewhere, please let the church office know when you have returned to our area. Also, for our database to serve us well, we appreciate notice of any change of address, email, or phone numbers.

Do You Have a Schnucks eScrip Community Card?

Want to shop for groceries and support First United? Pick up an eScrip Community Card the next time you are at Schnucks. Register your card by phone or online, choosing First United as the institution to receive the donation. Once activated, show your card each time and Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of purchase amounts.



May 6: Merry Mates' Plant Sale Pickup

Thank you for supporting the Merry Mates' plant sale! Plants will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 am until noon in the Gym. Call or text Karen Caldwell, 402-2101, if you need more information.

May 24: Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Chix with Stix" has welcomed several new members! Twenty ladies enjoyed great fellowship last month. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am. Beautiful shawls are available for gifting for any reason, happy or difficult, at the Church Office. For information, call Betty McRoberts, 235-3197. Please join us!

Legacy Please include First United in your estate plans.

PYC Mystery Day – No April Fool's Joke!

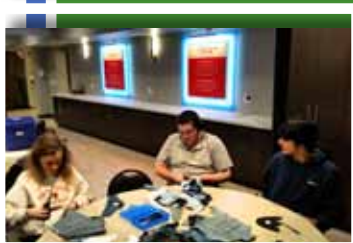
April 1 was a great day for a PYC Mystery Day trip! The first stop was the Missouri Botanical Garden for the opening of the Children's Garden. Activities included making bird feeders, potting plants, and posing for photos. Some enjoyed breakfast, others lunch, at the City Diner on South Grand. Then it was on to the Science Center for the IMAX Theater's "Dream Big" and the MathAlive! Exhibit. Next was the Great American Human Foosball where PYCers did all the work. Last stop was a favorite, concretes at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard!



PHOTOS BY JOE FEDAK AND STEPHANIE FOLTZ

TIMS Sole Hope

In March, the TIM youth worked on a service project making shoes out of jeans for Sole Hope. Sole Hope teaches people in Uganda to sew shoes from the cut out jean pieces in order to prevent jiggers on children's feet.



PHOTOS BY JOE FEDAK

KIX to Food Pantry

The KIX youth delivered the Souperbowl of Caring donations to the Belleville Interfaith Food Pantry, stocked shelves and learned about all the ways it serves our community.



PHOTOS BY ANDY LINK



**FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN**

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JOIN PASTOR ROB ON SUNDAYS IN MAY



**Basic Prayer
and
Bible Reading Classes**

9:15 am

Vista Room (206)

(See page 4 inside)