the STEEPLE
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September 2016
Issue 68
Volume 9

Finding the Path

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

September 4
8:00 & 10:30 am
The Rev. Robert J. Dyer
Abraham's Path
Genesis 17:1-7
John 8:39-47

September 11
8:00 & 10:30 am
The Rev. Robert J. Dyer
Jacob's Path
Genesis 32:22-32
Matthew 15:21-28

September 18
8:00 & 10:30 am
The Rev. Robert J. Dyer
Joseph's Path
Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 8:18-28

September 25
8:00 & 10:30 am
The Rev. Robert J. Dyer
Our Path
Various Scripture Readings

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Finding the Path

I was walking through a lush forest with my wife several months ago. The greens were vibrant and the humidity felt like a blanket that embraced every tree and plant. Sounds of the forest were intermingled with sounds of small children from nearby families climbing rocks and squealing with glee at new discoveries. We found our own path for portions of the journey. We hopped down from the well-traveled dirt lines to discover what was just out of sight. Water trickled over rocks and into patches of overgrown life. There were places we simply could not go, and there were paths we simply dared not traverse. We were exploring the beauty while acknowledging our limitations. I am sure the 21-year-old version of myself that my wife first met years ago would have been a bit more daring. She seemed satisfied to meander with the new version of me, though.

As we explore the paths of our lives, our ability to navigate the terrain can change over the years. We have aches and pains coupled with experiences that limit what we can do and warn against what we may be tempted to do. Every so often, though, it is good to take a step or two off of the expected path. On unexpected paths we find ourselves looking at the world through eyes determined less by the design of others and more by the design of the Creator. Finding an undisturbed patch of wild flowers can be a breathtaking experience, moving us to divine gratitude. Finding a new way to see our community and its desire for healing and wholeness can also bring our lips to whispered prayers.

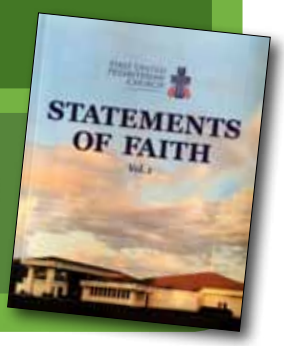
As we seek to be a church of relevance and meaning, through our worship, discipleship, service, and fellowship, we will have opportunities to walk along paths as a church and to encourage individual explorations of faith. We will find ourselves seeing the world with different eyes as we commit to faithfulness together and as individuals. What will we find? Where will our stumbling lead us? Who will need extra help? What great discoveries of God's presence and handiwork will we witness?

I don't know, but I know there is much to find for the soul willing to step off the world's path and into God's Creation. Hope you have a chance to see something new or something in a new way this month.

In Christ, Pastor Rob

Statement of Faith

God gave me a second chance...There is no gift that God can give me that is greater than this.
~ Dan Harres



Family News

Information current as of August 28

In Our Prayers

Bill Burke (The Shrine Apts.)
Jean Canale (Home)
Jenny & Jed Koball (Peru, see page 9)
Irene & Wade Coverdell (Cedarhurst, Shiloh)
Mary Diel (Rosewood)
Sue Hall (Home)
Helen Handley Fabre (St. Paul's Asst. Living)
Bernice Handrich (Chesterfield, Missouri)
Mary Hotta (Home)
Lucile Katty (St. Paul's Apts.)
Bonnie Krause (St. Paul's Apts.)
Adam Landry (Illinois Veterans' Home, Anna, Illinois)
Bill Lawrence (Cedarhurst, Shiloh)
Ted Lawrence (Four Fountains)
Henri Lawrence (Home)
Jeanette McCurdy (Knollwood, Caseyville)
Lane Miller (The Shrine Apts.)
Mary Ellen Pollock (Still Waters Senior Living)
Nancy Reinecker (Home)
Wanda Lee Schmidt (Highland Nursing Home)
Roberta Symonds (Home)
Our efforts to express our faith clearly
Our efforts to grow spiritually
Our efforts to discover & use our spiritual gifts
Our efforts to serve the community
Our efforts to care for one another
Our efforts to reach new believers
People who are depressed and anxious
All world leaders
Our enemies
Our elders
Our deacons
Our trustees

Our Deepest Sympathy

For Bud Elam and family on the death of his wife, **Nellie Elam**, who died on August 1 in Belleville. For Betty Scherrer and family on the death of a cousin, **Jerry Becherer**, who died on August 2 in St. Louis. For Tim Heely, Jeff Heely, Cass Nester and their families on the death of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother, **Barbara Heely**, who died on August 19 in Springfield, Illinois. For Doris Russell on the death of her mother, **Glenda Fay Williams**, who died on August 22 in Swansea.

New Blessings

Quinn Marie Wilson was born on August 18 in St. Louis. Quinn is the daughter of Kasey Wilson and Nina Murphy and the granddaughter of Emily and Ken Wilson. **Maxwell James Stone** was born on August 26 in San Antonio, Texas. Max is the son of Megan and Brandon Stone, the grandson of Linda and Bruce Stone, and the great grandchild of Jennie Stone and Marilyn and Adam Landry.

Baptism

On Sunday, August 21, **Collin Michael Bair** received the Sacrament of Baptism. Collin is the son of Carrie and Johnny Bair and the brother of Maddie.

PHOTO BY JOE FEDAK

Ministering to God's People

September 4

USHERING 8:00 am
Coni Jackson
Mary Pollock
Kathy Schmidt

USHERING 10:30 am
KC Clayton
Gigi & Roger Cox
Adrian Croissant
Ally Dyer
Susy Rybicki

LITURGIST
Shirley Samples

AMBASSADOR
Rosemary Ehrstein

PHONE
Joyce Lied

BUS DRIVER
Larry Scott

COUNTERS
Joe Harnist
Dennis Hubbard

HOSPITALITY
Faith Community

SOUND OPERATOR
Al Kraus

VIDEO OPERATOR
Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS
Carrie Bair
Beth Lind
Dee Mann
Terri O'Saben
Karen & Pete Thompson

September 11

USHERING 8:00 am
Jackie & Dan Bainter
Lou Stark

USHERING 10:30 am
Sharon & Jerry Gaskill
Marian & Jim Morris
Betty Scherrer
Mitch Stark
Karen Thompson
Dean Wallen

LITURGIST
Kristen Link

AMBASSADOR
Norma Jackson

PHONE
Jane Wilkin

BUS DRIVER
Matt Hall

COUNTERS
Joe Harnist
Dennis Hubbard

HOSPITALITY
Lydia Circle

SOUND OPERATOR
Dan Harres

VIDEO OPERATOR
Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS
Amy Abernathy
Julie Dodge
Jean McCann
Bailey Mokriakow
Jessica Mokriakow

September 18

USHERING 8:00 am
Billie & Steve Chaney

USHERING 10:30 am
Babs Hill
Al Kraus
Cyndi & Ed Langen
Shawn Lankford
Larry Scott

LITURGIST
Laddie Daye

AMBASSADOR
Brenda & Roger Doll

PHONE
Pat Daye

BUS DRIVER
Dennis Hubbard

COUNTERS
Bill Beebe
Kevin Meder

HOSPITALITY
Merry Mates

SOUND OPERATOR
Mark Vandiver

VIDEO OPERATOR
Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS
Nancy Kreeb
Leah & Shawn Lankford
Elizabeth Schramm

September 25

USHERING 8:00 am
Kathy & John Harryman
Shirley Thien

USHERING 10:30 am
Alex Abernathy
Amy Abernathy
Grace Farinas
Dan Harres
Elizabeth Kearns
Shirley & Bob Samples

LITURGIST
Sheila Misselhorn

AMBASSADOR
Sharon & Jerry Gaskill

PHONE
Pam Halel
Linda Gurr

BUS DRIVER
Kevin Meder

COUNTERS
Bill Beebe
Kevin Meder

HOSPITALITY
Sports Ministry

SOUND OPERATOR
Dave Epps

VIDEO OPERATOR
Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS
Teresa Branson
Pat Daye
Jan Dorris
Melissa Epps
Stephanie Kraus
Larissa Venhaus

Presbyterian Women

September 2: Gathering
The next PW Gathering will be an informal one on Friday, September 2, at 11:30 am in Eversull Hall. Women are invited to gather for a light lunch served by the PW Coordinating Team. Program books and this year's Bible study will be available. The cost will be $4.

Presbyterian Women's Circles in September
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. These circles are open to all women. The Horizon's Bible study this year is *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Siker.

September 7: Lydia Circle, 7:00 pm in the Conference Room (200)
September 20: Lamplighters Circle, 1:00 pm, Eversull Hall (104)
September 21: Hannah Circle, 11:30 am, Eversull Hall (104)

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

Additional September Dates for PW
September 2: Rummage Sale prep in Gym, 9:00 am
September 3: PW/Helmsmen Rummage Sale, 8:00 am – noon
September 30: PW Coordinating Team Meeting, 9:30 am

Give-a-Meal-a-Month (GAMAM)
Thank you for supporting this program! The menu to the right suggests non-perishable items to buy during September. 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.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH

Menu for September	Additional Items: Dental Care Month
Beef Stew	Toothbrushes
Canned Carrots (no or low salt)	Tooth Paste
Canned Fruit Cocktail (lite or in fruit juice)	Dental Floss
Cornbread Mix (no egg required)	
Powdered Milk	

Monetary donations always welcome.
Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

October 7: Day Out
On Friday, October 7, PW will sponsor a "Tour of Belleville's History" with a tour of the Victoria Home Museum at 10:00 am followed by a tour of the Emma Kunze House. Lunch will follow at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville at 11:30. The small bus will be available. Women will meet at 9:30 am in the Commons. The cost will be $2 for the tour, with lunch on your own. Reservations should be made by Monday, October 3, by calling the church office, 233-0295; by signing up on the sheet at the front desk in the Commons; or through your PW Circle. Please indicate if you will be participating in the tour or just lunch, or both. For information or questions, call Shirley Samples, 624-3340.

Announcements

Grief Support Corner
I Talk About Him

So, I talk about him…

I talk about him, because grief doesn't need to be experienced silently, especially when the silence is fueled by stigma and shame.

I talk about him, because frankly, acknowledging him is more important than the discomfort of acquaintances. As much as I never want to alienate people, he's as familiar to me now as the air that I am breathing.

I talk about him, because it's my prerogative. In a culture of bravely making your own choices, no matter which direction others are going in, this is mine.

I talk about him, because it's one way I process and feel. Feelings demand to be felt, I'm learning, and the stuffing and pushing aside doesn't leave room for the wounds to heal.

I talk about him, not because I'm stuck or because I haven't moved on, but I talk about him because I am his, and he is mine, and no passage of time will ever change that.

I talk about him, not because I'm constantly living in pain. I'm not anymore, but in my world, this is my normal, and I'd rather live honestly and out loud. Joy, love, happiness, and gratefulness are my everyday, but so are death, loss, heartache, and grief.

Even more so…

I talk about him because I'm proud.

I talk about him, because he deserves to be remembered.

I talk about him, because even though he's not physically with me, he's never far from my mind.

I talk about him, because he's part of me, a part that I could never ignore or disown.

I talk about him because I love him still, and I always will. Forever. Nothing will ever change that.
~ Lexi Behrndt (Reprinted with permission)

Potlucks With a Purpose: Donation
At the PWAP gathering on July 26, our "Dining Out Dollars" were designated to be given to Ally Dyer's "Blessing Belleville Banquet" project. The total donations for the evening amounted to $577, which will benefit three local agencies: BEACON, Caritas Family Solutions and Project Compassion. Many thanks to all "potluckers" who participated in this generous gift.

October 30: Reformation Sunday
First United will celebrate its Scottish heritage on October 30, complete with bagpipes and special food. Start planning your outfit for this special day. Wear your family's plaid or even your colorful kilt to honor our Scottish heritage. If your family has a Scottish connection, help us decorate with your Scottish crest. All are invited to participate, but please email Terri O'Saben, tosaben28@gmail.com, so we can plan for your mementoes and crest.

Adult Discipleship

Pastor's Classes (Sundays, 9:15 am, Vista Room, 206)
• September 4: Coffee Chat with Pastor
Come spend an hour asking questions and chatting about whatever the group wants to discuss with the pastor.
• September 11, 18, 25: Peacemaker Academy
This 3-week class will help train participants to be peacemakers. We will discuss the challenges in handling conflict, dealing with difficult people, and how we can experience peace in our lives.

New: Thoughtful Christian Gathering (Conference Room, 200)
This Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. September's 4-week study is called "The Gospel of Matthew." Participants will learn about the structure of this book of the Bible, the original audience, and the major themes the author wished to convey to readers in the way the writer told the story of Jesus' life and ministry. This was not the first Gospel written, even though Matthew appears first in the New Testament, before the book of Mark. To receive class materials in advance, email Stephanie Foltz, sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org.

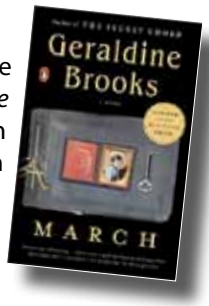
Parent Class (Sundays, 9:15 am, Library, 102)
During September, parents and grandparents are invited to grab a coffee and join a class discussion led by Leah and Shawn Lankford. On September 11, the class will begin discussing the book, *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season,* a study to help you reduce the stress of preparing for Christmas. Think it's too early to be thinking about Christmas? It's not! Talking now will give you time to plan how to make your celebrations more spiritual and less materialistic. You will be given a chance to examine your current practices, define your values, create a fantasy Christmas, and then combine all of your insights into a workable plan way before the holiday season.

Adult Fellowship

September 5: Friends Dine Out
Our dinner group will meet at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, 6565 N. Illinois, Fairview Heights, at 6:00 pm on September 5. For reservations or more information, call Marcia Mellone, 398-9895, or Betty Bucknell, 397-2114.

September 9: Merry Mates
Merry Mates will hold a regular meeting with dinner and program on Friday, September 9, at 6:00 pm, in Eversull Hall (104). The program for the evening is "Know Your Church" with information sharing by Stephanie Foltz and Kaitie Kautz. For more information, contact Vicki McAdams, 405-227-8950.

September 11: Veterans' Life Group
All veterans are invited to attend the first meeting of the Veterans' Life Group on Patriots Day, Sunday, September 11, at 12:00 pm, in the Conference Room (200). For information, contact Shawn Lankford, shawnandleah@yahoo.com, or Ken Stange, kennethstange@mac.com. We look forward to seeing you then!

September 14: Faith in Fiction


March by Geraldine Brooks is the story of the absent father from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. March has gone to serve as a chaplain for the Union cause. But the war tests his faith not only in the Union, which is also capable of barbarism and racism, but in himself. The October book is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will meet at 9:00 am, September 14, in FirstXpression. For information, contact Susy Rybicki, 792-9458.

September 24: Change for Helmsmen Meeting
Helmsmen Mariners will hold their monthly business meeting on September 24, in Eversull Hall (104). This change is to accommodate the Mission Committee's International Mission Festival. We will gather at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:00. Clydea and Dennis Hampel will provide the program and entertainment for the evening. As always, our monthly dinners and meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us and see what the Helmsmen are all about. The Helmsmen "Munch Bunch" also gets together informally every Friday to have dinner at various local restaurants; we welcome anyone to join us. For more information, contact Dee or John Mann, 624-3040. For the Friday "Munch Bunch" dinners, contact Amy Brummitt, 235-4226, or Betty Scherrer, 397-3027.

September 28: Prayer Shawl Ministry
Come and join this wonderfully positive group and experience the joy and blessings that come with gifting our prayer shawls. Want to learn to knit or crochet? We will teach you. Just want to see what we are about? You are very welcome. Many churches are represented, so don't hesitate to invite friends or neighbors. Join us any time after 9:00 am, at the home of Betty McRoberts. Coffee and breakfast yummies will be ready. For information, call Betty, 235-3197.

Quilts for West Virginia

PHOTO BY DIANE R.
A contest called Row X Row asks participants to go to participating quilt shops to get patterns and complete a quilt. Each participant must assemble eight different row patterns into a completed quilt: pieced, quilted, bound and labeled, and be the first to submit the finished quilt to a quilt shop to win twenty-five "fat quarters" (pre-cut pieces of cotton fabric). Most participants can't wait to have them - it means more fabric for their stash. Not First United quilters, Susy Rybicki and Diane Richardson. Both finished quilts and submitted them to two different quilt shops and won the coveted fabric. When they read that a quilt guild member was asking other guild members to make quilts for flood victims in West Virginia who had lost everything, Susy and Diane, with the help of fellow FUPC quilters, used their "fat quarters" to make quilts for the effort. As of August 9, they have turned in eight quilts to the guild! Our quilters are indeed a blessing.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction Update
September will mark the beginning of renovation work around the church. The window systems, to replace the leaky windows around the patio courtyard, will be delivered. Meanwhile, the construction company will put up temporary walls about 2-5 feet in from the windows so that the work can continue without actually exposing the rooms to the elements. This will affect all rooms that overlook the patio (Preschool, some classrooms, Library, Vista Room, and even into Eversull Hall). Details of the renovation schedule are still being determined, but we will need to be flexible with our use of the entire facility. For example, the relocation of the Preschool means that portions of the Music Room will be unavailable. As groups are relocated to adjust to the construction workers' efforts, we may find ourselves shuffling standard room usage and expected activities. Some rooms will be used for storage as things are moved out of renovation areas. If anything is moved to a location that causes an issue for you or your ministry among us, just inform the Church Office and/or Pastor Rob.

Groups expecting to host functions in Eversull Hall in late September through December should start thinking about alternative meeting spaces such as the Gym, Cornell Commons, the youth rooms, Children's Chapel, etc. Some groups have considered going out into the community and meeting in places where they may run into new people. (Eeee-gads! New people?!?! That might lead to spreading the Gospel! Ha Ha!) Others have discussed hosting some events in one another's homes. Pastor Rob and the staff are happy to meet with any group or individual that needs help deciding how to adjust. Please be patient through all of this. We will do our best to accommodate every ministry and every group along the way. We hope to have more schedule details to share in the bulletin and over email in the next few weeks. The schedule still estimates that all work will be completed before the end of 2016.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Rob. He is staying connected with the various aspects of the project and the relocation plans. He is happy to assist you in figuring out how to work around whatever arises. These are exciting times for our church as we prepare to be an even greater blessing to our ministries and our community! What a Season of Increase it has been and will be! ~ Pastor Rob

Ways to Serve and Give

September 3: Fall Rummage Sale
The PW/Helmsmen Rummage sale will be on Saturday, September 3, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Be sure anything you donate is clean, in good condition, and in good working order. We no longer pick up or accept large furniture items or TVs, because these items are not in demand and are too difficult to dispose of after the sale. Please bring all items to the Gym. During regular office hours, the office staff can unlock the Gym doors for you. And don't forget the Jewelry Ladies welcome all contributions of used jewelry. Put items in the basket in the Commons. For more information, contact John Mann, 624-3040, or Mary Jo Mordhorst, 397-4914.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

October 2: Peace & Global Witness Offering
Peace Begins With Us. When we think of conflict, many of us think of places mired in war, a world away. Yet often, some of our greatest opportunities to witness to the Prince of Peace are right outside our doors. When you give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, 25% of your gift stays local, bringing the power of reconciliation and the peace of Christ to your own community; 25% is used by presbyteries and synods; and 50% is allocated to General Assembly ministries. During this Season of Peace, consider the difference your gift can make to challenges like these. Your generous support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering compels change in cultures of violence.

October 15: Annual Golf Tournament
The Clarence Voigt Memorial Golf Tournament, a four-person scramble, will be held on Saturday, October 15, at Clinton Hills Golf Course. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:15 am with the tee-off scheduled for noon. There will be closest-to-the-hole prizes and a skins game. All skill levels are welcome as there will be three flights. We want even the part-time or beginner golfer to attend - the only pressure is to have fun! The registration fee is $100 per person; forms are in the Church Office or for more information, call Don Darnell, 210-5404. Past participants will be mailed a registration form. All proceeds generated from the tournament will be used to benefit the three youth programs, PYC, KIX and TIM.

Wednesday Night Meals
Have you ever wondered what happens on Wednesday Youth night? There is a way to take a peek. Simply pick a Wednesday night to prepare a meal! Shop, prepare at home or church, serve, and clean up. You could also order a pizza! There is a fun kitchen crew to help you along. Hang-out with the fabulous and fun young people of our church! All families, life groups or friends are welcome! Contact Jess Mokriakow, 910-3738 (call or text), or jmokrikaow@gmail.com.

Beacon 5K Run/Walk

PHOTO BY C. THURIG

On a very hot Saturday, July 23, First United had 39 participants on Team FURST to win the participation trophy for the fourth time! The 5th Annual Beacon of Belleville Pathway for Hope 5K Run/Walk and Children's Fun Run was held at Belleville West High School. The day was a total success and enabled us to keep our bodies, minds and souls active in supporting a great cause for the community.

Making a Home for Faith

On three July evenings, parents, grandparents, youth helpers, and children shared meals, heard Bible stories, and sang songs. Then children played games and worked on art projects based on the stories of Jesus and Zacchaeus, Moses in the Bulrushes, and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Week 1, adults focused on children's stages of faith development, faithful practices, and reading Bible stories together. Week 2's discussion was on worshipping and praying together as a family; and Week 3 was family rituals, faith milestones, performing faithful acts of service. Families concluded by putting together School Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

PHOTOS BY JOE FEDAK

Summer Sack Lunches

The Belleville summer sack lunch program ended August 12, after a successful 13 weeks of providing 120 to 140 lunches to school children each Friday. These are some of the wonderful volunteers who devoted their time to prepare the lunches; members of all ages then helped to distribute the lunches. From the Mission Committee: thank you to the volunteers and those in the congregation who donated food and money for this important mission.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE FOLTZ

Children & Youth Life

Children's Chapel
During September, the children will hear God's Word through the stories of The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep, Creation, Noah, and Abram and Sarai. After the time of Sharing Faith with Children during the 10:30 worship service, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to leave with Worship Leaders and Greeters for a special worship time in Children's Chapel. Children will gather in God's name, hear God's Word through stories, respond to God's Word, and then receive their own blessing as they are picked up by their families.

FaithQuest in September
FaithQuest is the Sunday morning Sunday School class for students in grades K-5. During the first three weeks of September, the rotation is called "Spiritual Practices." Students will learn how to do different practices and actions intended to deepen their relationship with God and help them become more Christ-like. The last week of the month, students will begin a 4-week rotation called Creation. Each week, students will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am for a brief opening and then move to different workshop locations.

PYC (Presbyterian Youth Club) News (grades 3-5)
- **Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Regular meetings of PYC, 5:15-7:30 pm; Homework Club will follow until 8:15 for those with older siblings in KIX and TIM.
- **Friday, November 4:** Mark your calendars for the PYC Lock-in.

KIX (Kids in Christ) News (grades 6-8)
- **Wednesday, September 21:** Bring a Friend Night! Invite your friends to KIX for an awesome night of food, games, prizes and learning about the greatest commandment!
- **Wednesday, September 28:** We will be headed to Project Compassion to help with the final renovations and decorating of the new space.

TIM (Teens in Ministry) News (grades 9-12)
- **Wednesday, September 21:** Bring a Friend Night! Invite your friends to TIM for an awesome night of food, games, prizes and learning about the greatest commandment!
- **Wednesday, September 28:** We will be headed to Project Compassion to help with the final renovations and decorating of the new space.

Confirmation 2016-2017
The Christian Education Committee and Youth Ministries are excited to share information about Confirmation 2016-2017. Studies show that parents/caregivers are the number one influence on a young person's faith, and that is why this year families are invited to play a special role in confirmation. Any one in grades 8-12 who has not participated in confirmation in the past has the opportunity to participate. This year, many of the discussions will take place at home, as a family. Twice during the month there will be a video to watch and discussion questions. This is not a time for the adults to be the teacher, or to have all the answers. This is a time to grow, learn, and discover answers cooperatively. Then, once a month on the second Sunday, during the Sunday School hour, confirmands will meet with their mentors to discuss the lessons from the month, hear portions of the mentors' faith stories, and work on their faith statement. These meetings will start in September and end in April. The confirmation students will then go before Session in May, followed by confirmation Sunday on May 21. For more information, contact Kaitie (kkautz@firstunitedpres.org) or Stephanie (sfoltz@firstunitedpres.org).

PHOTO BY ROB DYER

▲ *First United's Ally Dyer organized the Blessing Belleville Banquet, an enjoyable and very successful event that raised over $6,889 to benefit Beacon, Caritas Family Solutions and Project Compassion. Bailey Guinn, also from FUPC, provided live music for the evening. Thank you to these young women for so generously sharing their gifts.*

Caritas/St. John Bosco Fund Raiser
Thanks to those who bought Buddy Clips by Scentsy to support the St. John Bosco Children's Center. The total raised was $200 with $7.50 from every sale donated! Thank you to Linsay Auerbach for leading this fund raiser.

Attendance and Giving

July 2016

Date	Worship Attendance
07.03.16	272
07.10.16	319
07.17.16	244
07.24.16	275
07.31.16	298

Pledges & Contributions as of July 31, 2016	
Pledged	$48,079.00
Unpledged	11,425.80
Loose Offerings	879.58
Schnucks eScrip Cards	61.58
Per Capita	165.00
Capital Campaign Funds	39,384.78
Additional Information:	
Online Giving*	4,887.00

**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.

From the Mission Committee

September 10:
Belleville Helping Belleville

Serve your hometown in just one day! Last year, over 50 FUPC volunteers worked in registration, lunch deliveries, supply coordinators and at various sites. This year we still need all ages and skill sets, ages 12 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by a parent). This sanctioned project should qualify for school volunteer credits. Please consider donating your time and talents to help others in need. Register until Sunday, September 4, in Cornell Commons or online at www.bellevillehelpingbelleville.com. For information contact the Mission Committee, Pastor Rob, or Becca Boyer, BHB 233-5877.

Project Compassion NFP – What a blessing!

Two houses, one on either side of the office on West Main Street, were donated to Project Compassion. All properties are in need of renovations: painting, laying laminate flooring, and general carpentry work. Our Mission folks selected and will fund several of these projects for FUPC volunteers. We need your help on several work dates! This project will also be included in the BHB day on September 10. Look for a signup table in Cornell Commons. For additional information, please contact Chuck Thurig, 277-8493, or Pastor Rob.

September 17: Third Annual International Mission Festival

Come learn about FUPC's overseas mission programs through "Tastes from Around the World." Beginning at 5:30 pm, there will be free delicious food to sample, representing the 12 countries FUPC supports. There will be music, a slide show, and a variety of international crafts for sale. Mark your calendar, plan to attend, and bring a guest! For info, contact Chuck Thurig, 277- 8493; or Faith Community Committee member, Mary Teague, 235-6728.

September 24: Adopt-A-Highway

There will be a highway trash pickup on Saturday September 24. Meet in the Royal Heights Road parking lot at 9:00 am to start our trash pickup along a one-mile stretch of Highway 161. All ages ten and older are invited. Adult supervision for those under age 18 is required. Trash bags, gloves and water will be furnished.

October 23 through 29: Adult Mission Trip

This year's trip to Kemmerer Village in Assumption, Illinois, is about a two-hour drive from our church. KV is close enough that you may come for the day if you cannot stay for the week. All skill levels are welcome. Planned projects are; remove and replace a low-sloped roof on a single story cottage; install about 500 feet of three-rail wooden fence; paint and/or stain fences; power wash siding. The only cost will be for personal expenses. If you are interested, please mark these dates on your calendar and talk to Andy Morgan, 257-1935.

Meet Mission Co-Workers

Jed and Jenny Koball are another of the 13 mission co-worker teams supported by First United. Jed is with Joining Hands Initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program that addresses the root causes of hunger through networks of churches and non-governmental organizations in developing countries. These networks lead the struggle against hunger and poverty at the local level and are joined by Presbyterian Church (USA) presbyteries and congregational partners that address the same concerns on the global level. Jed assists the Peruvian network *Red Uniendo Manos Peru* in tackling issues such as environmental contamination from the mining industry, a growing water crisis, and trade policies that disadvantage many Peruvians. Jed acts as a link between PC(USA) congregations and *Red Uniendo Manos Peru* as it develops strategies to address these daunting problems. Jenny Koball is the Peru site coordinator for the Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, which sends people from ages 19 to 30, to serve in communities of need in the United States and abroad. In addition to service, the YAV experience emphasizes living in an intentional Christian community, spiritual formation, and vocational discernment. YAVs in Peru serve with one of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or churches that form *Red Uniendo Manos Peru*.

▲ *Jenny & Jed Koball*

Jenny grew up in a high jungle town in Peru. She became the caretaker of her family while her mother worked extremely hard to put food on the table. Her father was paralyzed in an accident and was unable to work. Oppressive poverty and terrorism ravaged the Peruvian countryside during her childhood. One day terrorists came looking for children to force into combat. She and her brothers were hiding from them and praying to be kept safe. Her father had told her to never stop praying. "I learned from him that God is our refuge, and I felt safe." Surrounded by hardship and violence, Jenny's call to mission service began to take shape. Jenny finished high school at age 16, moved to Lima and earned a business administration degree to help secure a better future for herself and her family. In Lima, she encountered Presbyterian mission co-workers and discovered the ministry of Joining Hands. With these new relationships, her faith in a just and loving God was further strengthened as was her desire to serve God and neighbors. She then began working as an office administrator for *Red Uniendo Manos Peru* and held that position for nine years.

Jed was nurtured into faith during his formative years in Virginia and Arkansas. His role models included a mother who "had a Bible verse forever on her lips, a gospel hymn in tune for each occasion, and a prayer that never ceased." After college, he became a Young Adult Volunteer in the Philippines, which influenced his spiritual life profoundly. While a YAV, he sought and found his place in the church's collective response to systemic oppression. Inspired by the faith and struggle of his Filipino friends, Jed first sensed a call to long-term mission service with a focus on facilitating prayerful, meaningful, and impactful international church partnerships.

Not long after arriving in Lima, Peru in 2009, Jed met Jenny. They married in October 2010, in the presence of family and friends. Shortly thereafter, Jenny began supporting Jed's work and eventually took the lead role in coordinating the YAV site in Peru. She was officially appointed as a mission co-worker in 2014. You can read more about Jed and Jenny Koball at: http://tinyurl.com/j7lsk2a

Calendar of Events — September 2016

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Equipping Team

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
11:30 am PW Gathering

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
8:00 am Rummage Sale

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Home Centered Communion

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
Church Closed for Labor Day
6:00 pm Friends Dine Out

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:00 pm Woodcarvers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Deacons' Prayer Group
5:15 pm PYC
6:00 pm Grief Support Team
6:00 pm KIX & TIM, Youth Supper
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
7:00 pm Lydia Circle

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
6:00 pm Merry Mates
7:00 pm MaryMarthas

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
8:00 am Belleville Helping Belleville
4:00 pm Sand Dollars Fall Picnic

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Veterans' Group

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
5:00 pm Faith Community
6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers
7:00 pm Preschool Board
7:00 pm Trustees

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Personnel Committee
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:30 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Faith in Fiction
4:30 pm Evangelism Committee
5:15 pm PYC
6:00 pm Membership
6:00 pm KIX & TIM, Youth Supper
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
7:00 pm Deacons

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Preschool Papa John's Pizza Fundraiser

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
5:30 pm International Mission Festival

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
***STEEPLE* DEADLINE**
6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
1:00 am Lamplighters
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee
6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Loaves & Fishes
9:30 am Deacons' Prayer Group
11:30 am Hannah Circle
5:15 pm PYC
5:30 pm Worship Committee
6:00 pm KIX & TIM, Youth Supper
6:30 pm Vision Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Equipping Team (Offsite)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
9:00 am Adopt-A-Highway
5:30 pm Helmsmen

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Youth Ministries

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
5:15 pm PYC
6:00 pm KIX & TIM, Youth Supper
6:30 pm Mission Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

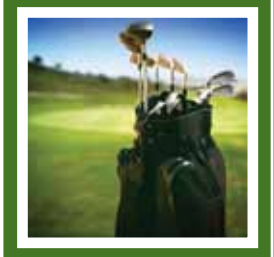
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
9:30 am PWCT Meeting
6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball

October 22: Save the Date
The Church-wide bonfire is just around the corner! Pull out your warm clothes and get ready to enjoy an evening playing flag football and sitting around the fire on Saturday, October 22. Watch for more details.

Per Capita
The Per Capita apportionment for 2016 is $32 for each member. Per Capita is a fundamental way in which nearly 11,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are connected with their Presbytery and participate in the work and governance of the wider church. The receipt of your Per Capita Contribution is encouraged and appreciated.
~ The Stewardship Committee

SAVE THE DATE

October 2
Peace & Global Witness Offering



October 15
Clarence Voigt Memorial Golf Tournament

October 22
Flag Football & Bonfire

October 23-29
Mission Trip to Kemmerer Village, Illinois

October 30
Reformation Sunday

Legacy Have you remembered First United in your will?

KIX Great Escape

PHOTO BY KYLE BECHTOLD

PHOTO BY TORI PETTY

PHOTO BY KAITIE KAUTZ

PHOTO BY KAITIE KAUTZ

PHOTO BY KYLE BECHTOLD

Six KIX youth and two adults spent a week in Green Lake, Wisconsin for The Great Escape Midwest. Their time was made up of extreme games, amazing worship, reflective devotions, a high ropes course, and improving their carpet ball skills, all with the backdrop of a beautiful lake. They even spent one night getting to know one of the band members and her faith story.

Triennium Experience

About forty youth from our presbytery participated in Youth Triennium, an inspiring, week-long leadership conference.

On to College

Thanks to the Prayer Shawl Knitters, our high school graduates can show school spirit with scarves in their collegiate colors!

PHOTO BY KAITIE KAUTZ

THE STEEPLE

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Belleville Helping Belleville
(See page 9)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

International Mission Festival
(See page 9)