

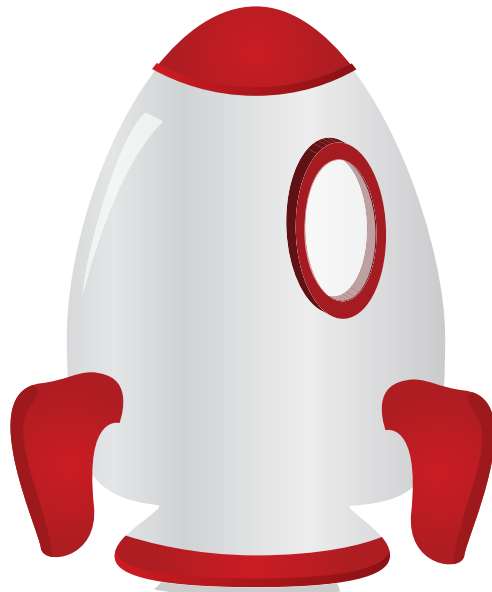


the STEEPLE

a publication of the First United Presbyterian Church

February 2017
Issue 69
Volume 2

LAUNCHING LOVE



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

February 5

Needs Among Us Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 am

For the Good of All

Galatians 6:1-10

February 12

8:00 & 10:30 am

Patient

1 Corinthians 13

February 19

8:00 & 10:30 am

As Yourself

Matthew 22:36-40

February 26

8:00 & 10:30 am

Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

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

Launching Love

In a recent sermon, I made a quick comment to transition into the next portion of my message. In that transition, I suggested that love is simple. To tell you the truth, I hadn't planned to make that point. I'm pretty sure I was just making an impromptu transition between what I thought were the main points of my sermon that day. It seems, though, that the Holy Spirit had other plans because that came out of my mouth and several people remarked about it in the greeting line after worship. It stuck with people because it didn't fit.

Love is not simple. It is a simple concept, but the launching of love into our lives and the lives of others is as complex as the launching of a rocket into space. It can take a great deal of preparation and planning. Sometimes we can fire off a spontaneous act of love and caring, but really sustaining a steadfast love for one another is complicated. In 2017, we will launch Vision 2020 (see detailed article on page 6 of this *Steeple* issue). This vision includes a series of goals, one for each year. In 2017, we hope to help all of our church members face whatever challenges arise, whether physical or spiritual. This is no small task of love. It will involve a great deal of planning and work. In some ways, the commitment to really help one another should be simple, but it isn't.

How do we respond to needs? How will we handle large financial needs? How will we handle situations when the need requested may not be the best way to help someone's overall situation? It is going to get messy. It is going to challenge our patience and our generosity. It is a major operation of love. And love is not simple.

Pray for God to guide us in love. Pray for God to lead you in love.
**In Christ's love,
Pastor Rob**

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, January 15, Kimberly Richey was received by Reinstatement and Kelley Richey by Reaffirmation of Faith. Janet Jensen was received by Letter of Transfer and Robert Jensen, Honorably Retired Minister.



▲ Kelley & Kimberly Richey



▲ Robert & Janet Jensen

In Our Prayers

Bill Burke	Mary Hotto	Kent Peak	Our enemies	Our efforts to express	Our efforts to reach new
Jean Canale	Lucile Katty	Mary Ellen Pollock	Our elders	our faith clearly	believers
Irene Coverdell	Bonnie Krause	Nancy Reinecker	Our deacons	Our efforts to discover & use	People who are depressed and
Mary Diel	Bill Lawrence	Wanda Lee Schmidt	Our trustees	our spiritual gifts	anxious
Marguerite French	Henri & Ted	Steve Schmidt	Our Church staff	Our efforts to serve the	Presbyterian Community
Annette Grove	Lawrence	Roberta Symonds	Our Stephen Ministers	community	Preschool
Sue Hall	Jeanette McCurdy	Isabelle Vogel	Our efforts to grow	Our efforts to care for one	
Helen Handley Fabre	Evelyn Meyer	All world leaders	spiritually	another	
Bernice Handrich	Lane Miller	Our nation's leaders			

Our Deepest Sympathy

For Marily Landry, on the death of her brother, Elton Monken, who died on December 22 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. For the family and friends of **Margaret Hastings** who died on January 6 in Ft. Myers, Florida. For Terri and Mark Vandiver on the death of Terri's mother, **Shirley Ball**, who died on January 7 in Belleville. For the family and friends of **Carol Hackmann** who died on January 16 in New York.

New Blessing

Riley Kyung-Ah Jackson was born on January 19 in Long Beach, California. She is the daughter of Stacy and Eric Jackson and the granddaughter of Seon Choo and Duk Kim.

Ministering to God's People

February 5

USHERING 8:00 am

Coni Jackson
Kathy & Alan 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

Danny Halel

AMBASSADOR

Rosemary Ehrstein

PHONE

Mary Teague

BUS DRIVER

Kevin Meder

COUNTERS

Roger Cox
Kevin Meder

HOSPITALITY

Safety Team

SOUND OPERATOR

Al Kraus

VIDEO OPERATOR

Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Claudia Brinkley
Natalie Maley-Bill
Abby Smith
Caroline Smith

February 12

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
Betty Scherrer
Mitch Stark
Dean Wallen

ACOLYTES

Carson Dyer

Colin Wiltsie

LITURGIST

Keely Giles

AMBASSADOR

Babs Hill

PHONE

Jane Wilkin

BUS DRIVER

Matt Hall

COUNTERS

Roger Cox
Kevin Meder

HOSPITALITY

Potlucks with a Purpose

SOUND OPERATOR

Dan Harres

VIDEO OPERATOR

Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Claudia Brinkley
Jane Bynum
Seon Choo Kim
Jessica Mokriakow

February 19

USHERING 8:00 am

Donna Bock
Billie & Steve Chaney
USHERING 10:30 am
Heaven Beckett (Jr. Usher)
Babs Hill

Al Kraus

Cyndi & Ed Langen

Amber Lankford (Jr. Usher)

Shawn Lankford

Larry Scott

ACOLYTE

Faith Beckett

LITURGIST

Shirley Samples

AMBASSADOR

Brenda & Roger Doll

PHONE

Pat Daye

BUS DRIVER

Dennis Hubbard

COUNTERS

Al Kraus

Andy Link

HOSPITALITY

Faith Community

SOUND OPERATOR

Mark Vandiver

VIDEO OPERATOR

Alex Tambala

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Claudia Brinkley
Cathy Jensen
Leah & Shawn Lankford
Terri O'Saben

February 26

USHERING 8:00 am

Volunteers needed

USHERING 10:30 am

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

ACOLYTES

Joy Hunter

Marissa Kearns

LITURGIST

Joe Fedak

AMBASSADOR

Sharon & Jerry Gaskill

PHONE

Pam Halel

Linda Gurr

BUS DRIVER

Roger Cox

COUNTERS

Al Kraus

Andy Link

HOSPITALITY

Christian Education

SOUND OPERATOR

Dave Epps

VIDEO OPERATOR

Rich Stehnach

CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS

Jane Alberter
Gigi Cox
Nancy Kreeb
Elizabeth Schramm

Presbyterian Women



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

Thank you for supporting this program! The menu to the right suggests non-perishable items to buy during February. 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.

February Gathering

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet for lunch on Friday, February 3, at 11:30 am in the Vista Room. After lunch there will be a short business meeting and the Collection and Dedication of the Birthday Offering. Then attendees will be visited by Betsy Ross, portrayed by Barbara McKay. Representatives from each circle will host, and the lunch cost will be \$4. Reservations should be made by Monday, January 30, by calling the church office, 233-0295, or by signing up through your PW Circle.

Presbyterian Women's Circles in February

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.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH

Menu for February

Canned Tuna
(water packed)
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Green Vegetable
(no or low salt)
Canned Fruit
(lite or in fruit juice)
Powdered Milk

Additional Items:

Baby Care Month

Diapers
Diaper Wipes
Formula
(with iron)

*Monetary donations always welcome.
Sponsored by Presbyterian Women*

February 1: Lydia Circle, 7:00 pm, Conference Room (200)

February 15: Hannah Circle, 11:30 am, Conference Room (200)

February 21: Lamplighters, 1:00 pm, Cornell Commons

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

Additional Upcoming Dates for PW

- **February 24:** Coordinating Team meeting, 9:30 am
- **March 12:** Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
- **March 18:** Rummage Sale (See the article on page 9.)

Announcements

Healthy Grieving

If you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, you are facing many deep emotions. It may be difficult to untangle them all. Here are some basic suggestions to face grief from a healthy outlook. Understand that each circumstance is different, and each person will approach grief from a unique and personal perspective. Even with this in mind, we think you will find these suggestions helpful.

- Acknowledge and understand your own grief.
- Allow your grief to be recognized by others.
- Feel free to grieve in your own unique way.
- Tell your story to others (the honest account of your loss).
- Learn life's lessons through your loss (becoming more humane, compassionate).
- Commit to the journey, long or short, that leads back to the point where you can live with optimism and hope.
- Share the comfort you have received with others in need.

Trust God and cling to Him. Bring all of your questions and feelings honestly to Him. Grief recovery is not simply feeling better. It is the ability to find joy in life again. It is to treasure the memory of loved ones, to miss them, and to live better because of the time in your life that you spent with them. Grief is not an enemy or a sign of weakness. It is a sign of being human. It is the cost of loving someone. It is inevitable that during such a loss we would be deeply impacted, shocked, or wounded by it. Grief is the manner



or process in which we work through this loss. There is a goal in the grieving process. The emotions are seeking to reorganize themselves to cope with the loss and to establish healthy relationships once again.

January Session Notes

- Dawn Sitton was elected Clerk of Session.
- Amy Abernathy was elected Church Treasurer.

February 25: Project Compassion Day

First United will help Project Compassion pack and deliver items for the homeless on both sides of the river on February 25. 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 three other delivery dates in 2017, the collection of items is ongoing. Thank you for your continued support of this important effort.

Stewardship – The Gift of Appreciation

A wise Rabbi once said: "I do not ask to see the reason for it all; I only ask to share the wonder of it all." (*The Ragamuffin Gospel*). As stewards of God's creation, we are not only charged with the obligation to preserve, protect and advance the glory of God, but to appreciate, enjoy and share the blessings bestowed upon us, the wonders of the universe and the joys of family, fellowship and community. May our church not only continue to feed the hungry, but share our joys and our spiritual journey by encouraging and nurturing all those we meet.

~ The Stewardship Committee

Adult Discipleship

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

• **February 5, 12: Great Themes of the Bible, led by Roger Doll and Danny Halel**

This study suggests there are major themes in the Bible which tell us about God and God's role in our lives. Week one's focus will be that God loves us and at the center of the creation is a heart of compassion. The second week will be that our minds are repeatedly too small to fathom the enormity of God's mind and heart. Each session will use Old and New Testament texts and stories.

• **February 19 and 26: Abraham, led by Rick Hargrove**

Three religious traditions look to Abraham as the "father of faith" in one sense or another: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the New Testament, both James and Paul consider Abraham an important model to Christianity. Since Abraham is such an important figure, this class will examine more closely Abraham as a model of faith. This two-week study will review what is known about Abraham from the Bible and examine the relationship Abraham had with God. Participants will also receive some clues about how that relationship can inform their lives of faith today.

Pastor's Classes (Sundays, 9:15 am, Vista Room, 206)

Pastor Rob Dyer will lead these three sessions. For the class on February 19, Mandy Gwinn of the Equipping Team will join in the leadership.

• **February 5: FUPC 101 – What We Believe**

Great class for new people looking to learn more about our church. Also great for long-time members looking for a refresher! This is the first in a three-week series. This week we will chat about what we believe about God, church, faith, etc. Explore what Presbyterian Christians believe and the basic faith teachings of our church.

• **February 12: FUPC 101 – Our Church's Mission**

Another great class for new people exploring or long-time members getting better connected. This is the second in a three-week series. This week we will explain the particular goals and mission of our church as we are seeking to glorify God through our church's worship and activities.

• **February 19: FUPC 101 – How to Get Connected**

New to the church or just looking to get better connected with the church? This week we will give you an overview of all the wonderful ministries of our church and then show you how we help each other get connected to activities, ministries and meaningful experiences within our church.

Adulting (Sundays, 9:15 am, Chapel)

February's classes will continue to focus on the book, *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family*, with Amy Shreve leading the discussion. Join this group of adults each week as they share where God is in their lives and seek to figure out how God is calling them to live, act, and be.

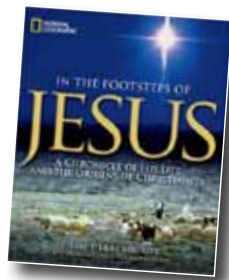
Adult Fellowship

February 3: Sand Dollars

The Sand Dollars will meet on February 3, at 6:30 pm in Cornell commons. For information, contact Karen Cassano, kcassano2@aol.com.

February 8: Faith in Fiction

We continue our study of the Holy Lands by discussing the book *In the Footsteps of Jesus* by Jean-Pierre Isbouts. This beautiful book describes the life and times of Jesus as well as the history of his world. The author uses forensic research, archeology, geography and cultural history, including maps, photos and art to reconstruct the everyday life of Jesus. We will meet at 9:00 am on February 8, in the Youth Room (121). Contact Susy Rybicki if you need information, 792-9458.



February 10: Merry Mates

Merry Mates will gather on Friday, February 10, at 6:00 pm, in Cornell Commons for a potluck gathering. For more information, contact Bob McCammon, 616-6973, or Linda Hangsleben, 407-5844 or lkhang13@yahoo.com.

February 18: Helmsmen

The next meeting will be on February 18, at 6:00 pm. Come and join us for a night of Christian fellowship and a potluck dinner in Cornell Commons. The program will be on Adult Immunizations,

given by Marsha Wild. As always our monthly dinners are open to anyone who would like to see what the Helmsmen are all about. All are also welcome to join us for the "Munch Bunch" that gets together informally every Friday to have dinner at various local restaurants. All are also welcome to join us for these. For meeting information, contact John or Dee Mann, 624-3040. For the Friday "Munch Bunch" dinners, contact Amy Brummitt, 235-4226, or Betty Scherrer, 397-3027.

February 22: Prayer Shawl Ministry

The month of Valentines! Come give Prayer Shawl Ministry a try. Share God's love in creating and gifting prayer shawls. Don't knit or crochet? We will teach you and provide the supplies. Come Wednesday, February 22 at 9:00 am to Betty McRoberts' house. For questions or directions, call 235-3197.

Flower Calendar Info

The Chapel flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Royal Heights hall. The Sanctuary calendar is on the bulletin board opposite the Music Room. Flowers can be a memorial or in celebration of an event. Please fill out the card next to the flower calendars, include what is to be printed in the bulletin, and return to the Church Office. Artiste de Fleur handles the orders. Sanctuary flowers are \$25 for each vase. Chapel flowers are \$17.50 for each vase. For a special request, contact the florist directly, 394-7500. Or you may order from any florist; just let LuAnn Orlet know. You may pick up the flowers after the 10:30 worship service. LuAnn's email address is lorlet@firstunitedpres.org.

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VISION 2020

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP • ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP
FAITHFUL SERVICE • NURTURING FELLOWSHIP

As our first, very successful, three-year Vision drew to a close, many of our Elders, Deacons, Trustees, staff, and lay persons, attended the August 2016 FUPC Visioning Summit. Our purpose was to discern what God revealed to us during that three-year period and to try to understand what He wants us to do next. Knowing our God is an awesome and powerful God, and that there is no limit to what we can achieve in His name, we felt He was calling us to set bigger, some might even say, impossible, goals. So, we did. Each of the four major goals we developed are centered on one of the four pillars of the FUPC Mission Statement: Meaningful Worship, Active Discipleship, Faithful Service, and Nurturing Fellowship. Since we will devote one full year to each goal, we are calling it *Vision2020*.

Just imagine an FUPC where –

- Every member of our church is confident that the church will help them through whatever physical and spiritual challenges they face.
- Every church member can confidently speak and/or write about their relationship with God, and each church member has shared the Gospel with someone else by bringing them to church or personally witnessing their faith to another person.
- We ensure every person in the Belleville area has access to some major need (such as food, shelter, or access to a drug treatment center) seven days a week and at least 75% of the average worship attendance participates in this endeavor.
- We provide worship opportunities that engage every learning style, every sense, and every emotional style.

We're still developing the milestones to achieve these goals and you will hear much more in the coming weeks and months. Because the goals are beyond big, every Elder, Deacon, and Trustee is committed to do their part to make them happen. But we need more; we need the support and commitment of every member of our congregation and we're confident we can count on you for that support.

Annual Christmas Dinner

The FUPC 7th Annual Christmas Dinner was another success! There was fine food, trivia games and gifts for the winners.

A special couple, Dennis and Clydea Hampel, performed magic tricks that delighted everyone. Twenty-nine people became family for each other, celebrating Christ's birthday.

Christmas Eve Services

Through Word and song we were reminded of the hope, love, joy and peace the gift of Jesus' birth brings to all. Pastor Claus visited with children, and the light of Christ was shared.



PHOTO BY LARISSA VENHAUS



PHOTO BY CONOR BALTZ



PHOTOS BY LINDA HANGSLEBEN

Renovations Update

The renovations are almost complete! We expect a mid-February completion with perhaps only some furniture details to finish up. Our delays due to moisture control and water drainage issues have been frustrating but we are fortunate that the renovations have caused us to investigate and address these issues instead of passing them off to later years.

We look forward to an Opening Celebration for the space and a series of gatherings with our local community mission partners. When you see the area, be sure to let us know what you think of the expanded countertop! (That's an inside joke from the January 22 sermon.)



Children & Youth Life

Children's Chapel

During February worship times, the children will hear the stories of Follow Me, Jesus and the Paralytic, Jesus Calls the Twelve Disciples, and Jesus and the Storm. 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 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 February

FaithQuest is the Sunday morning Sunday School class for students in grades K-5. The February rotations will focus on two parables which Jesus told: The Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Each week, students will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am and then move to different workshop locations.

Save the Date: Bible Discovery for Kindergartners

Mark the Sundays of March 12 and 19 on your calendars for the 2017 Bible Discovery class for kindergartners and their parents or grandparents. During these classes offered at 9:15 am, students will learn how to use their own copies of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Bibles will be presented on March 26 during the 10:30 worship service. For more information now, contact Director of Christian Education Stephanie Foltz.

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

- **Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, and 22:** 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.
- **April 1:** PYC Mystery Day Save this date for a fun-filled day of fellowship and mystery around the greater St. Louis area.

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

- **February 5:** Souper Bowl of Caring. Watch the weekly church bulletins for specific information about this annual event.
- **Saturday, February 11-Sunday, February 12:** KIX Extreme STL Getaway. We will be staying at the AMEN house in St Louis for a night of fun and learning. Be on the lookout for more information!
- **Wednesday, February 22:** Your next Great Escape payment of \$75 is due. Haven't signed up for this amazing week of worship and extreme games? No problem, you can still sign up! Scholarships are available, talk to Kaitie for more information.
- **Saturday February 25:** Save the date for Youth Ministries Trivia Night!

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

- **Wednesday, February 22:** Your next mission trip payment of \$150 is due.
- **Saturday February 25:** Save the date for Youth Ministries Trivia Night!
- **Friday, March 10-Saturday, March 11:** TIM Lock-in

Save the date! Parent Seminar

On Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 pm, Brian Kuhn, Director of

Youth and Families at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, will be leading us in a parent seminar on the adolescent brain, part 2. Brian also has a master's in counseling, works with Ministry Architects as a consultant, and has currently been working with Soul Shop on a curriculum about suicide.



PHOTO BY KAITIE KAUTZ

February 25: Youth Ministries' Night

The Sixth Annual Youth Ministries' Trivia Night will be on Saturday, February 25. Come join us for good fun, fellowship, and a great cause! The cost is \$10 per person with eight people at a table. Doors open at 6:30 pm; trivia starts at 7:00 pm. There are many ways you can support Youth Ministries through this event. For sponsorship information, please contact Laura Hall, 781-2187; for information about the silent auction, call Brenda Fedak, 558-7086. Check out the table in Cornell Commons to sign up! For more information and reservations call Laura Hall, 781-2187, or the Church Office, 233-0295.

Attendance and Giving

December 2016

Date	Worship Attendance	Pledges & Contributions as of December 31, 2016	
12.04.16	310	Pledged	\$57,370.52
12.11.16	308	Unpledged	16,859.00
12.18.16	256	Loose Offerings	1,205.51
12.24.16	471	Per Capita	169.00
12.25.16	100	Schnucks eScrip Cards	44.41
		Christmas Offering	7,592.00
		Special Offering: Joy	1,599.00
		Capital Campaign Funds	47,913.21
Additional Information:			
		Online Giving*	7,664.00

*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.

Presbyterian Community Preschool Corner



PHOTO BY JOELLE AHRENS

Thank You!

The Preschool Board and staff appreciate the congregation's continued flexibility with the temporary relocation of classrooms during the renovation. We also are thankful for your support of various Preschool fundraisers. The Preschool received \$252.40 from the recycling of cell phones and used printer cartridges. (During renovation, collection of these items continues with the recycling container relocated adjacent to the 161 Chapel entrance.) The Dine and Shop Day at Eckert's in December raised \$73.28. (Look for another Eckert's Dine and Shop Day in the Spring!)

March 6: Preschool Registration Begins

On Monday, March 6, registration will begin for the 2017-2018 school year. Preschool Board members will be in Cornell Commons from 9:00 am until noon to accept registration packets. There will be a MWF class for 3 year olds and a TTh class for 4 year olds. A \$35

registration fee per family is due at registration. Tuition will be \$150 per month, and a onetime \$20 fee for classroom supplies will be due August 1. Families can call the Preschool, 233-4809, and schedule a Meet and Greet to learn more. Please share this information with any family or friends who might be interested in enrolling their children.

March 24: Spaghetti Dinner

Mark your calendars for the annual Preschool Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 24. We will once again offer good food, a silent auction and a fun evening out for your family and friends. More information on how to purchase tickets and support the Preschool will be in the March *Steeple* and Sunday bulletins.

Check us out!

We have a Facebook page! Please visit our Presbyterian Community Preschool page and like us. Visit often to learn what is happening in the classrooms.



PHOTO BY NANCY HODGE

Ways to Serve and Give

Stewardship – The Wellness Of Community

There is an African greeting which is in the form of a question about the health of the community: "How are the children?" The wellness of a community generally focuses on physical health however, the wellness of a community has many attributes: physical health, emotional health, mental health, social health, intellectual health, financial health, environmental health and spiritual health. A litmus test for community wellness is how do our children embrace others while demonstrating love, hope and grace.

Each year Racial Harmony has a community "Gathering" whose sole purpose is to recognize the positive contribution of the youth in the community. Over thirty students are nominated by their schools for having demonstrated courage, leadership, peacemaking and, most importantly, empathy for their fellow students and others in the community.

On Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 pm, First United Presbyterian Church will host the 2017 Gathering for Racial Harmony. We are blessed and encouraged by students being recognized as agents of peace. Racial Harmony would like to express its sincere gratitude to Pastor Rob Dyer and the congregation of First United Presbyterian Church for hosting this event. ~ Robert E. Wells, Jr., Ambassador – Racial Harmony

February 26: Racial Harmony Gathering

A group of about 400 people will be at First United on Sunday,

February 26, at 3:00 pm to honor students who are receiving the Racial Harmony Youth Character Awards. FUPC will provide greeters, ushers and assistance directing traffic in the parking lot. If you can help that day, please sign up at the front desk of the Church Office. Let's give our guests a warm First United welcome!

March 18: Rummage Sale

It's time again to think about reducing, recycling and repurposing household items. The PW/Helmsmen Rummage Sale will be March 18. Consider cleaning out closets, garages and storage areas for unused items in good and working condition. Please no TVs or large furniture. Starting on March 2, items may be brought to the Gym and placed behind the dividers. We accept most anything two people can carry! Pick-up of small loads will be available: call Jean or Andy Morgan, 257-1935, or Dee or John Mann, 624-3040. If you are moving or going away before then, we may be able to store items for you.

Faith Community Committee

Thank you very much to the many groups who have signed up to host Sunday coffee hour in 2017. There are, however, a few dates in the near future that still need a hospitality team: **March 12, 19, and April 9**. Please check to see if any one or more of these dates might be an opportunity for your group to share gifts of hospitality with our church family. The signup board is located in Cornell Commons. For more information, contact Martha Dexheimer, 624-3391, or Martha Timbala, 314-496-1957.

Calendar of Events

February 2017

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

11:30 am PW Gathering
6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball
6:30 pm Sand Dollars

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

KIX Souper Bowl of Caring

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm College & Young Adult
12:30 pm Grief Support Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
7:00 pm Church Volleyball

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chime
5:30 pm Evangelism Committee
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:00 pm Woodcarvers

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Faith in Fiction
2:00 pm Personnel Committee
5:15 pm PYC
6:00 pm KIX & TIM Youth Supper
6:30 pm Membership Committee
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
7:00 pm Deacons

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse
6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball
6:00 pm Merry Mates
7:00 pm MaryMarthas

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Presbytery Meeting
3:00 pm KIX STL Getaway Departs

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:30 pm Grief Support Group
3:00 pm KIX STL Getaway Returns

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

STEEPLE Deadline

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chime
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:30 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Preschool Papa John's Pizza Fundraiser

6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:00 pm Helmsmen

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Youth Ministries Committee
12:30 pm Grief Support Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Church Closed for Holiday

6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers
7:00 pm Church Volleyball

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
1:00 pm Lamplighters
3:00 pm Prime Chime
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:00 pm Stewardship Comm.
6:30 pm Christian Education Committee

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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 Wednesday Night Live
6:30 pm Mission Committee
7:00 pm Parent Seminar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00 am Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences
10:00 am Prayer Quilters
10:30 am Parish Nurse Available
12:00 pm Faith Community
6:00 pm United Bells
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:00 am Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences
9:30 am PWCT Meeting
6:00 pm Illinois Heat Volleyball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:00 am Compassion Day (Deliver Items to Homeless)
6:30 pm Trivia Night

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Confirmation Class
10:30 am Worship
12:30 pm Grief Support Group
3:00 pm Racial Harmony Gathering

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

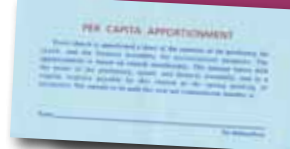
6:00 pm Metro East Chorale
6:00 pm Woodcarvers
7:00 pm Church Volleyball

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:30 am Quilters
9:30 am Staff Meeting
3:00 pm Prime Chime
6:00 pm St. John Bosco Center Gym Time
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry

Legacy For Valentine's Day remember First United in your will.

Per Capita
The Per Capita apportionment for 2017 will be **\$31.**



No Longer Have a Landline?

Our records may have some outdated phone numbers. Please contact the Church Office to let us know if you now use only a cell phone and no longer have a land line. Thank you!
~ The Church Office

SAVE THE DATE

March 1
Ash Wednesday

March 6
Preschool
Registration Begins

March 10-11
TIM Lock-in

March 12
Daylight Savings
Time Begins

March 18
Rummage Sale

March 24
Preschool
Spaghetti Dinner

April 1
PYC Mystery Day

April 9
Palm Sunday

2016 Annual Statements of Giving

The 2016 Annual Statements of Giving were mailed on January 12, 2017. If you have not received a statement for donations you made in 2016, or if corrections to your statement are needed, please contact the Church Office. We appreciate your help in maintaining accurate financial records for the Church. ~ Pat Olson, Financial Secretary, polson@firstunitedpres.org

Ordination and Installation Sunday - January 8

2019 Elders



Roger Cox
Vision



Tom Hall
Mission



Kevin Meder
*Youth
Ministries*



Jim Nicholas
Personnel



Angie Sheridan
Evangelism

2019 Elders



Martha Tambala
Faith Community

2017 Deacons



Rosemary Ehrstein

2019 Deacons



Janice Dorris



Anne Dulski



Sharon Gaskill

2019 Deacons



Dennis Hubbard



Jean McCann



Caryn Meder



Betty Scherrer

2019 Trustees



Kari Bechtold



Doug Bridges



Samuel Mintah



**Charles
Swartwout**

Class of 2017 Nominating Committee:

Daniel Giles
Andy Link
Diane Richardson
Mary Teague

Ushers, Class of 2017

Jackie Bainter
Billie Chaney
Steve Chaney
KC Clayton
Gigi Cox
Roger Cox
Adrian Croissant
Jerry Gaskill
Dan Harres
Elizabeth Kearns
Al Kraus
Bob Samples
Shirley Samples
Betty Scherrer

Ushers, Class of 2018

Amy Abernathy
Dan Bainter
Ally Dyer
Sharon Gaskill
Cindy Langen
Ed Langen
Shawn Lankford
Kathy Schmidt
Mitch Stark
Dean Wallen

Ushers, Class of 2019

Donna Bock
Brenda Doll
Will Gagen
Babs Hill
Coni Jackson
Dee Mann
John Mann
Jim Morris
Marian Morris
Bruce Reeder
Susy Rybicki
Allen Schmidt
Larry Scott
Lou Stark

2017 Usher Coordinator

Amy Abernathy



**FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN**

THE STEEPLE

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Belleville, IL

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Stephanie Foltz

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Director of Equipping Ministries
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Kaitie Kautz

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Andy Jensen

Organist/Accompanist
Dennis Bergin

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Maintenance Supervisor
Jim Hoffman

Custodian
Herschel Bey

Sunday Childcare
Sue Hall, Supervisor
Joslynn Brooks, Provider

Parish Nurse
ajlied1@aol.com
Joyce Lied, RN

The Steeple
Articles and Suggestions
TheSteeple@firstunitedpres.org



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 1

7:00 pm

**Westminster
Presbyterian Church**