



## *The Presby Bulletin*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
240 Standish Street Elgin, Illinois 60123-6421  
Member of Blackhawk Presbytery & Synod of Lincoln Trails  
Phone (847) 742-6365 Fax (847) 742-2692

[www.fpce.org](http://www.fpce.org)

Rev. Karen Schlack, Pastor  
Rev. William H. Clark, Pastor Emeritus  
Deborah A. Walters, Director of Music  
Colette McDonough, Office Manager  
Peggy Ognacevic-Engels, Organist

**AUGUST 2017**



**First Presbyterian Church of Elgin - 125 Years**

### Table of Contents

A Word from your Pastor	Pg. 2	Committee News	Pg. 4 & 5
Family Care	Pg. 3	Thank Yous	Pg. 5
Prayer Families	Pg. 3	Things To Know	Pg. 6

## Word from your Pastor...

### House of Hope: 1853-1886

*Behold! The dwelling place of God is with humankind! God will dwell with them, they will be God's people!*  
—Revelation 21: 3, read as the Scripture lesson on Sunday, November 20, 1892 for the dedication of House of Hope.

The Presbyterian Church founded in 1853 seems to have struggled along until 1861, when there ceased to be further records of it. The Civil War had broken out and Presbyterians were divided between north and south. During this time, one denomination declared a position of complete opposition to slavery. The Reformed Presbyterian Church supported the underground railway stations near Elgin. This church, also called the “Covenanters,” included the names of Kirkpatrick, Christie, Long, Shannon, McDonald, Fraser and Rosborough. It is thought that the church founded in 1853 passed most of its life and members to this Reformed congregation.

In 1867, the Reformed church decided to unite with the Presbytery of Chicago. This decision gave the Reformed Church the aid and backing of the Presbytery, which supplied strong pastoral leadership. That church became a vigorous force in the community of Elgin.

In July of 1872, a beautiful new church building at Chicago and Villa was dedicated. But in December of that same year, the church was destroyed by fire. There was no insurance on the building, and the property had to be sold to pay (in part) for the debt. For a time the congregation met in a small chapel near the former church. But few pastors were available and the debt was heavy. The congregation never recovered from the blow, and in 1886 even that small bit of property was sold, and the congregation declined.

Dr. Zimmer, pastor of this congregation before Bill Clark, says in his memoir, “It is a mistaken notion that Presbyterians made three false starts before a permanent church was organized. Rather, like an underground stream, Presbyterianism broke through to the surface several times before it finally emerged in a steady flow of life. There was a continuous stream all the while.”

God sustains us, especially during dark and difficult times. The faithful are described in the Psalms as “trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season. Their leaves do not wither, in all that they do, they prosper.”

Indeed, God's kingdom is often hiding underneath a blanket of sorrow, suffering, trials and tribulations. But the seed of the kingdom is there, continually being fed by God's spirit. Faithful people rest deeply in the soil of God's goodness, through good seasons and bad. Our ancestors walked by faith, not by sight. Perhaps, that is why they came to name this place of worship “House of Hope.”

Pastor Karen

## FAMILY CARE

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who face health issues:

Rhonda Anderson

Lucas Buckardt

Laura Keating

---

## PRAYER FAMILIES

As Presbyterians we certainly believe in the power of prayer, not only during times of trouble or joy, but every day! Here are the names of church families to include in your daily prayers for the following weeks:

### WEEK OF AUGUST 6th:

June Nicoll  
Steve & Tammy Nitschneider  
Lisa Notarnicola-Engels  
Peggy Ognacevic-Engels

### WEEK OF AUGUST 13th:

Kristy & T.J. Olson; Annelise, Bella  
Carol & John Ott  
Joe Ott  
David & Karen Perez; Robbie

### WEEK OF AUGUST 20th:

Barb Peters  
Bob Peterson & Lydia Larrabee; Robin  
Bob & Sandy Prouty  
Janet Robinson

### WEEK OF AUGUST 27th:

Ken & Luann Runyan  
Kimbra Runyan  
Mark & Leann Runyan  
Stuart Ryder

COMMITTEE NEWS

**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

**SCHOOL KITS**

Sales have started for school supplies! This is a wonderful time to purchase your donations for our annual drive to supply school kits to needy children. We will be collecting donations until we reach our goal. We have over 200 bags to fill with supplies. Are we up to the challenge?

Items needed for the kits are:

- Scissors with rounded blunt ends
- 3-spiral notebooks, 70 count
- 12 inch (30 centimeter) ruler
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- Hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 large eraser

Box of 24 crayons (only that size and not washable)

Along with the supplies, we would also like to construct 200 fabric bags. Flora Breslich has already constructed 85 bags (**THANK YOU!**) so that leaves us with **115 more bags to make**. *Can you sew? Can you help us out? Then we need YOU!*



Flora has graciously volunteered to pre-cut 15-20 additional bags for those who can sew. Plus, she has a lot of extra fabric. If you are willing to help us make our goal, please contact Flora or Cathy LeBlanc for more information. During the month of August, Flora will have a table set up where you can pick up extra fabric, sewing instructions and pre-cut kits. Thank you!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION

All youth Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and there will be more announcements in the September Presby. We will however, have a pre-registration on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in the parlor following our worship service. If you are in church either of those two days, please stop in the parlor and sign the safe church registration forms. It will expedite registration on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

**INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP**

**WHEELCHAIR LIFT CAMPAIGN**

Last month the I & S and Building & Grounds committees announced the start of a campaign to raise funds needed to replace our current wheelchair lift. The current lift is over 28 years old and is showing its age. The manufacturer no longer supports this unit and the fear is that a day will come when we will not be able to get replacement parts if something should fail. The cost of a new lift is approximately \$21,000 and it would be more compact and offer more features than our current lift.

We currently have \$11,069 committed to this campaign thanks to money that will be used from the Marge McDonough, Mary Lee Koester, Sally Hoffman, Billy Mangum and Floyd Vogel Memorial Funds and generous donations from our congregation. Our hope is to replace the lift in January of 2018 and that is why we are asking for your HELP. We thank all those who have contributed and ask those who have not done so yet to consider making a donation to this important cause to support our many elderly or handicapped members and visitors who need this assistance. Envelopes were included with your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter statements and please write "Wheelchair Lift Campaign" in the memo line of your check. God Bless.

**WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS**

**FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP**

Summer is here and we are looking for folks who are willing to bring flowers to grace our sanctuary on Sundays and/or treats following worship for Fellowship Time.

If you feel you can help with either (or both) of these items please sign up on the appropriate Sign Up sheets on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

Thank you!

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Just as a heads up, mark your September calendar to make sure to attend our annual Outdoor Worship on **Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 10:30 AM.**

A couple of things are NEW – we will be sharing this Service with the congregation of Church of the Brethren AND since we will be larger in number than usual, we will be using a different venue – Wing Park in Elgin.

Plan on attending and bringing a dish to pass and a chair to sit upon.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Session Members – remember to mark your calendar for the Retreat at Ron Barkby’s home on Saturday, Aug. 12 9:00 am – 1:30 pm (more details to follow in an email)**

**THANK YOU**

*Dear Members of First Pres of Elgin,*

*I want to thank all of you for your cards, calls, prayers and concern while I battle my current infection.*

*I continue with antibiotics (both IV & oral) and hope to lick this thing yet!*

*Thanks again,  
Rhonda Anderson*

\*\*\*\*\*

**COUGARS GAME**

A big thank you goes out to Sarah Domin for obtaining the tickets for members of First Pres to attend the Cougars Game on Faith Night on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

A good time was had by all who attended!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE LUNCH BUNCH**

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **August 15** at Alexander’s Café in Elgin.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back hallway so that we know how many people will be coming.

If you have questions, please ask Loa McLean or Ellen Vogel.

**THINGS TO KNOW .....**

**House of Hope**



**Past, Present and Future**

**First Presbyterian Church of Elgin - 125 Years**

**SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017**

**WORSHIP 10:30 AM**

**CELEBRATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

August 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	4	5
6 COMMUNION  9:30 am WORSHIP	7  5:30 pm CE 7:00 pm W & S Committee	8	9	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	11	12 9:00 am – 1:30 pm SESSION RETREAT @ Ron Barkby's home
13 9:30 am WORSHIP	14  7:00 pm CH & SOC	15  NOON: Lunch Bunch @ Alexander's Caf�, Elgin	16	17 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	18	19
20 9:30 am WORSHIP Sunday School Pre-Registration	21	22	23	24 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	25	26
27 9:30 am WORSHIP Sunday School Pre-Registration	28 NOON: September Presby Deadline	29 9:00 am 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee	30	31 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet		