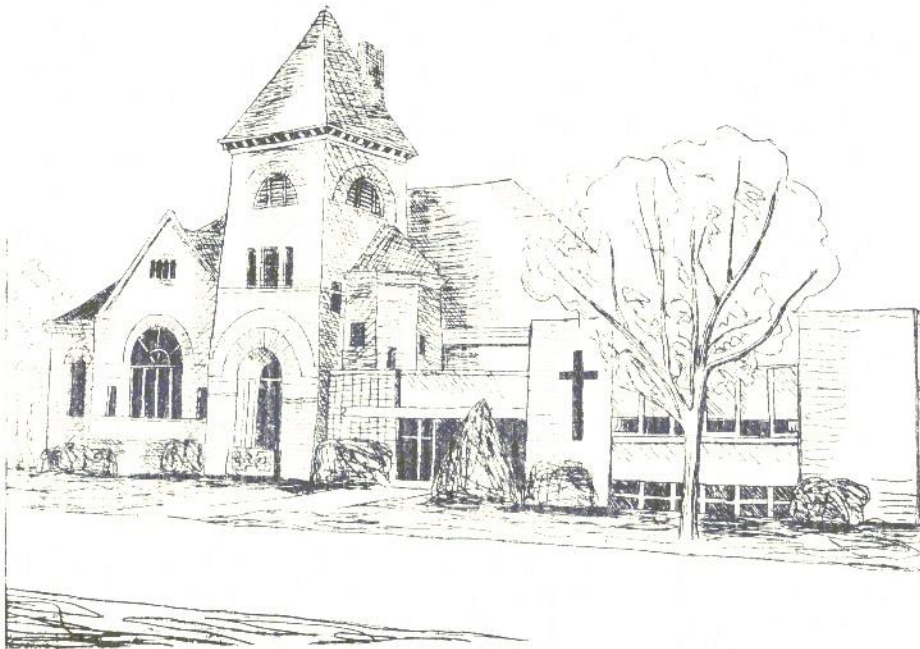




The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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JUNE 2017



First Presbyterian Church Elgin, Illinois Drawing by Mike Clark

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Word from your Pastor...

House of Hope

"We know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us." -Romans 5: 3-5

Romans was one of the last letters Paul wrote. Rome was under the reign of Nero when Paul wrote this letter. Persecution was happening everywhere. Romans has been described as Paul's "last will and testament," words written to Jews and Gentiles he would never meet. Even in these, the worst of times, Paul describes a hope that "does not disappoint."

This year, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary. When our church was established, it was called "House of Hope." In the minutes of Session meetings that go back to the Civil War, there is no mention of why we were called "House of Hope." But House of Hope we are.

This year, as we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, I invite you to ask yourself, "How can our church be a House of Hope to those who are desperate for hope?" I also invite you to reflect on your own experiences and remember a time when this church gave you hope when you needed it the most.

Of all the many promises God has given us, the promise of hope feels like the one we most need today. I am writing this article on the day after a suicide bomber killed over 20 people in Manchester, England. It is agonizing to be aware of the suffering in our world. It is difficult to see an end to it, or know what to do about it. Helplessness is a poison that robs us of hope. We must be diligent about fighting that helplessness whenever we encounter it.

One way to stand courageously in the breach of this world of ours is to remember the saints that have come before us. The people who were the first elders of our congregation lived in the shadow of the Civil War, a war that tore Presbyterians into north and south. So many had died right on our own soil.

Yet, our ancestors in the farm country west of town had a vision to start a new church. People were moving to Elgin. There was a promise of work in the Watch Factory. After its founding, this church survived a fire, two World Wars, and a split in the 1960ties. Strong leaders like Bill Clark guided us, but the real strength of the House of Hope was its members. Members who were not afraid to share their hope, their faith, and their love with all God's people.

Our hope rests in the power and glory of God. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus. And the lives of persons who lifted us up on their shoulders and helped us understand that the God of heaven and earth will not rest until all people are rescued from the prison of helplessness and despair.

Near the end of her life, I would often talk to Marge on the phone. After I asked her how she was, she would tell me she greeted each day with the words, "This is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." She not only greeted each day with those words, she repeated them throughout the day when the darkness threatened to close in.

When I look out at the faces in our pews each Sunday morning, I can feel the hope we share, just by coming together to worship. Worship is a radical statement about who we are. We do not worship anything in this world. We worship God, who made this world. That same God has loved us so much, we are called children of God. What we have is precious. We must share this precious gift, a gift our world is crying out for.

FAMILY CARE

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

Michelle Brill Laura Keating Ralph Maguire

Finnian Shea McCarthy was born on April 22nd weighing in at 5 pounds 10 ounces and healthy even though born five weeks early. Proud parents are Nicole & Rory McCarthy and grandparents Rhonda and Wade Anderson.

Quinn Livingston was born on April 19th weighing in at 6 pounds 9 ounces and 19 1/2" inches long. Proud parents are Sharon Brill Livingston & Kent Livingston and grandparents are Dawn & Keith Brill, great-grandfather is Ron Ahlman.

Prayers of condolence go out to the Wilson Family on the recent passing of Sue Wilson. A Memorial Service was held here at First Presbyterian on May 26, 2017.

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 JUNE 4th:

Lois Lindoerfer
Ralph & Carolyn Maguire
Betty Manchester
Anne Marblestone

WEEK OF JUNE 11th:

Pam Merrill
David & Jeannette Miller
Shirley Minster
Bob Mogler

WEEK OF JUNE 18th:

Brian & Jane Mooberry
Nicole & Rory McCarthy; Reegan,
Gavin, Kellan, Kinsey, Finnian
Dave & Colette McDonough

WEEK OF JUNE 25th:

Lois McDonough
Loa McLean
Jenny & James McManamon; Chloe, Nora, Ryleigh
Keeley & Justin Nauman; Teagan

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Bread For the World Letters

We want to thank all of you (adults AND children) who wrote thoughtful letters to your Senators and Representatives about the urgency of maintaining food subsidy programs.

There were a total of 56 letters written and we thank you for taking the time to do so.

RECAP ON OGHs OFFERING

We are VERY pleased to announce that the totals are in for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and we thank you for your generosity: **\$5,595.98** (including the youth donation). Wow!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH SUNDAY

A special thank you to all of our youth, teachers and Pastor Karen who made Youth Sunday and Mother’s Day a very special and meaningful day at our church.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thanks to all of our youth who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing. This year 29 banks were received totaling \$318.74. This is the largest total that we have received from our youth in 20 years. You made a difference!

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

Wheelchair Lift Campaign

The I & S and Building & Grounds committee would like to announce 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 **\$7549.00** committed to this campaign thanks to money that will be used from the Marge McDonough, Mary Lee Koester, Sally Hoffman, and Billy Mangum Memorial Funds. We are also applying for a **\$1000.00** grant from Blackhawk Presbytery. Our hope is to replace the lift in January of 2018 and that is why we are asking for your HELP. If you can contribute to this important need it would be a blessing to the Church and especially for our many elderly or handicapped members and visitors who need this assistance. Envelopes will be provided in the pews, and please write “Wheelchair Lift Campaign” in the memo line of your check.

Thank you!
I & S Committee

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

June 4 – **Summer Worship begins at 9:30 am.**
Mark your calendars and don't be late!

June 19-23 – **Summer Music Camp!** Lots of
energy and fun – come and take a peek anytime!

June 23 – **7 pm – Music Camp performance** of
“A Technicolor Promise”. Please come and enjoy!

MUSIC CAMP NEEDS

Have you been cleaning out your garage or
children's rooms? Do you have any of the
following items we could use at Music Camp this
year? We always have a short “recess” after lunch
and the children could use some items to play with.
If you have anything to donate, please bring it to the
church in the next week or so. We would also love
donations of lemonade mix, popsicles, or freeze
pops! Thank you!

Suggested donations:

Wiffle balls and bats, hoola hoops, jump ropes,
bean bag games, Twister games, jenga games,
bowling set, board games like Candyland, Chutes
and Ladders, etc.

**Note to parents: Please return the registration
forms for music camp ASAP.**

THANK YOU

BLANKET SUNDAY

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Presbyterian Women want to thank all of you
who donated to our Blanket Sunday Offering. Our
total check that we sent to Church World Service
was **\$813.00 which will provide over 80 blankets**
for victims of disasters in the U. S. and around the
world. Our congregation is great and we want to say
“God Bless You” to all of you.

Dear Nancy,

*I am writing to extend my thanks to you and the
Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of
Elgin for your very generous donation of \$700 to be
used for the purchase of gift cards for the emergency
needs of the seniors we serve.*

*Last year over 28,000 clients were served by our
Agency, many of low income. Your gift cards will go
to help many Elgin seniors who are unable to help
themselves.*

*Thank you, again, for your support of Senior
Services. We really appreciate it and so do our
clients!*

Sincerely,

*Bette Schoenholtz
Senior Services Associates
Elgin*

THINGS TO KNOW

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **June 20** at the Grumpy Goat Restaurant. 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.

Don't forget to mark your calendars

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

June 4, 2017

9:30 AM

Music Camp

June 19 – 23, 2017

Are you ready? Music Camp 2017 is just around the corner! This year we will be learning a musical called “A Technicolor Promise”. It is the story of Noah and the ark, of course. It looks to be loads of fun with animals, a rainbow, an ark and lots of singing and dancing. I am hoping we have a record breaking number of children this year, so please encourage your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to join us. We always have a wonderful week, and I truly believe we all learn from each other that week.

Registration forms are available in the office or I can email them to you. Please try to have them back to me ASAP as we are planning supplies, costumes, etc.

Music Camp is a huge endeavor and requires many volunteers to make it successful. If you have time during the week and would like to help one day or all five days, please give me a call. You will come away with a renewed sense of energy and vitality about First Presbyterian!

Debby Walters

847-207-7980

Annual Kane County Cougars Baseball Outing

Wednesday, July 12th

Gates open at 5:30 PM

Game starts at 6:30 PM

Tickets are \$5 each for reserved seats and will be available in the church office prior to the event or at Will Call on game day. Sign-up sheet will be on the back bulletin board – tickets must be ordered by Sunday, June 18th

Join us for a fun night out enjoying fellowship and America's favorite pastime!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Andrew Witek earned his Master of Architecture from Judson University. He is off to Europe and then will be interviewing for a job upon his return.
Congrats and Good Luck Andrew!!!

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP

Summer is almost here and we are looking for folks who are willing to bring flowers to grace our sanctuary on Sundays and/or treats (purchased ones are just fine) 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!

Red Flowers for Pentecost

Come celebrate Pentecost on **June 4th**. The liturgical color for that special day is **red**. Would you be willing to bring a **red** flower or two to church on that day to remind us all of the importance of Pentecost in the church year?

Just bring them that morning before worship. They don't have to be planted in any special container. And please pick them up immediately after worship to take home and plant. Let's fill our church with **red** flowers!

P.S. This is also the last Sunday we will be collecting for the **Pentecost Offering**. Envelopes are available in the pew pads or just write "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line of your check. Thanks!

Mark Your Calendar...Habitat for Humanity Work Day

On **Saturday, August 5**, First Presbyterian Church of Elgin will be doing a work day on new construction here in Elgin for Habitat for Humanity. Details of the project are still pending. We will share more details with everyone as we get closer to the work day. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Cathy LeBlanc at cmleblanc75@yahoo.com [cmleblanc75@yahoo.com]

June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	2	3
4 COMMUNION 9:30 am WORSHIP	5 7:00 pm W & S Committee	6	7	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	9	10
11 9:30 am WORSHIP	12 5:30 pm CE 7:00 pm CH & SOC	13 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Presbytery Meeting @ Willow Creek Presbyterian Church	14	15 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY 9:30 am WORSHIP	19 9:00 am – 2:00 pm MUSIC CAMP	20 9:00 am – 2:00 pm MUSIC CAMP NOON: Lunch Bunch @ Grumpy Goat, Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION	21 9:00 am – 2:00 pm MUSIC CAMP	22 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet 9:00 am – 2:00 pm MUSIC CAMP	23 9:00 am – 2:00 pm MUSIC CAMP 7:00 PM TECHNICOLOR PROMISE SHOW	24
25 9:30 am WORSHIP	26 NOON: July Presby Deadline	27 3:00 pm DEACONS	28	29 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	30	Notes: