



The Presby Bulletin

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NOVEMBER 2017



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Word from your Pastor...

Remembering Our Saints

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” -Philippians 1:3

Thomas Merton Prayer: “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

I have uttered this Thomas Merton prayer many times these past couple of years. I have said that prayer for myself, and for many of you who have lost loved ones, faced very difficult health issues, and watched so many of our dear saints die.

I invite you to say this prayer yourself as we approach All Saint’s Day. This prayer is full of gems that are worth lingering over. The first: “God, I have no idea where I am going.” When our lives are rolling along on a fairly smooth road, such a thought would never occur to us. But when bumps come along, or a detour appears out of nowhere, we wonder, “Where am I going?”

The second: “I cannot know for certain where it will end.” Many of us endure hardships few people are aware of. On those days when troubles start to close in, we wonder, “Where will it end?”

The third: “I do not really know myself.” Most of the time, we believe we know ourselves. But sometimes; thoughts, feelings or fears seem to come out of the blue. We ask, “Who am I?”

The fourth: “I know you will lead me on the right road though I may know nothing about it.” Those words are words of faith. On some days, we are able to speak them. On others, not so much.

The fifth: “For you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” We know this, but we don’t always feel this. We must remind ourselves that God is faithful. Remember.

Last week, as I was having a down day, I revisited a practice I began as a child. I wrote down things I was thankful for. Here are a few of the blessings I counted: our beautiful 125th anniversary banners, being able to walk this year for the CROP walk, the mission trip to 4th Presbyterian, friends I have heard from who live far away, Mary B. who walked 2.2 miles in the CROP walk with a walker, new faces in the sanctuary, over \$6000 given for disaster relief in September, my loving husband, my sister-in-law’s recovery from cancer, our dog Nomad’s life that goes on 6 months after vet said he was a death’s door. I am sure there is more. That is why I keep a list.

Our journey in faith is far from easy. On the dark days, I count my blessings, remind myself that God is faithful, and always travel with a friend. The connections we have to God and to one another are literally life-giving.

We will remember some of those connections on November 5th, All Saints Day. I hope you will share that day with us. You will be blessed.

Pastor Karen

FAMILY CARE

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

Lucas Buckardt
Hal Henrikson

Lois Lindoerfer
Laura Keating

Prayers of condolence go out to Lisa Notarnicola-Engels and her family with the recent passing of her mother, Ann Engels. A memorial service was held on October 14th.

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 NOVEMBER 5th:

Chris & Nancy Hawks
Cindy & Tom Helgerson
Doreen Hendricks
Hal Henrikson

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12th:

Bob Hill & Jill Lundstrom
Bob Hoffman
Stan & Mary Holat
Joyce Hopper

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19th

Gary & Debby Huffman
Ryan Huffman
Sarah Huffman-Kropski
Sara Hutchinson

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26th:

Barbara Juister
Allynn & Dan Kairis
Judy Kaulfuss
Laura & Pat Keating; Madison, Cali

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

NICARAGUAN SCHOLARSHIPS

We were able to hear Michael Cipoletti speak recently about his story of his involvement in helping the needy communities in Nicaragua.

First Pres has been very generous in giving funding for scholarships for High school and College aged students in the past and will continue to do so this Fall.

A High School scholarship is \$250 and a College scholarship is \$500. Please give as generously as you are able. Our goal is \$3,500 by November 19th and so far we only have \$1,137.50.

Thank you!

WHITE GIFTS FOR U-46

We will once again be participating in the White Gifts project in coordination with other local churches which benefited low-income/homeless children in School District U-46. We will be receiving **50 names** around mid November.

Please stay tuned for more information as to when we will begin distributing the name tags with details. Thank you for your continued support!

Looking for volunteer opportunities?

Then consider helping out at Food for Greater Elgin. We are always looking for volunteers to help every month or as fill ins. Please contact Russ Buckardt with any questions or inquiries. Thank you for your consideration and a BIG thank you to all those who have continued to volunteer every month for this very worthy organization. We are very proud of your dedication and support!

CHURCH & SOCIETY

MANY THANK YOUS!

Presbyterian Disaster Relief - Total collected **\$6,150.00!** WOW! These donations will go to support relief efforts from Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

Peace & Global Witness Offering - Total collected **\$1,230.00**, \$258 of which will go to Community Crisis Center here in Elgin.

Crop Walk Bake Sale - Total collected **\$271** and final tally from our walkers is still pending. Final updated numbers will be provided next month. Thank you Audrey Leaver for hosting this event! We appreciate it very much!

School Kits - Thank you for all donated items and to all those who helped with sewing these bags (a BIG thank you to Flora Breslich for spearheading this project)! 200 bags have been compiled by the Senior High Class.



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<https://www.facebook.com/FPCElgin/>

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

NUTS FOR THE PARLOR

Thanks to all of you who have purchased nuts and candy from Terri Lynn in conjunction with our fund raising campaign for the parlor. You may still make purchases (most especially for your holiday baking needs) on Sunday, November 5th.

These items will be ready for pickup on Sunday, Nov. 19th.

Please pay for them at that time – thank you!

**Thanksgiving Food Drive
Sunday Nov. 12 – Sunday Nov. 19**

Please bring items to donate to the Crisis Center. They are in need of non-perishable food, diapers, baby food, and personal care items. These will be on display in the sanctuary. Thank you!

**Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service
Wednesday November 22, 2017
7:30 PM**

More information on this event is found on Page 6 of this *Presby*.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NURSERY

The Christian Education Committee has decided to have a nursery for infants through kindergarten age for our worship service on Thanksgiving Eve. Our adult Nursery Caregiver, Brandi Courtney, will be in the nursery.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (cont.)

YOUTH CAREGIVERS OF THE MONTH

Our youth nursery caregivers for the month of November are Chloe Potter and Brenda Tsida. Chloe is 11 years old and is in the 5th grade at Hillcrest Elementary School in Elgin. This is Chloe’s first year working in our nursery. When I asked her what her favorite subject was in school, she said, “Reading. I like reading because it makes me learn harder words.” Brenda is 16 years old and is a junior at Burlington Central High School in Burlington. Brenda said that her favorite subject in school is, “Math. I like algebra a lot and it is interesting.” Thank you Chloe and Brenda for helping in our nursery.

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

MOVE THAT PONY EXPRESS SADDLEBAG FORWARD!

Sunday Oct.22 the stewardship campaign for your estimate of giving for 2018 was started. A "rider" (another church member) will contact you to set up a time when they can bring a saddlebag over to you.

Please respond to their call so we can keep the saddlebags moving. The process is simple. Take the envelope with your name on it out of pouch "1", complete the card -put back in your envelope-seal it and put the envelope in the other pouch. Then call the person next on the list so you can bring the saddlebag to them. If you cannot participate in moving the saddlebag please still talk to the person who calls you so we can move forward and not be in "limbo" waiting to have contact with you. When you pass the saddlebag on, give your trail boss a call so they can know who has the saddlebag. The "trail boss" is listed at the top of the list on the bag. The letter you received from Pastor Karen has more information.

We are grateful for the generous giving of this congregation. We thank you. God bless you.
YAHOO, RIDE THAT PONY !

THINGS TO KNOW

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to turn your clocks back on **Sunday, November 5th**
as Daylight Saving Time ends.

Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service
Wednesday November 22, 2017
7:30 PM
(There will be Nursery coverage that evening)

This is a don't miss event here at First Presbyterian! If you have never attended our Thanksgiving Eve Service, you have surely missed out on one of the most meaningful and celebratory events of our church year. Each year two of our members relate what Thanksgiving means to them. With the beautiful Thanksgiving music, the inspiring words from Pastor Karen, and the display of the food items for those in need, it makes for a warm and gratifying time to spend together as our church "family". This is a family event to be sure, mark your calendars!

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **November 21st** at Sweet Berry Café in South 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.

Pausing for Advent

This year, we will have an Advent class that begins on **December 3 at 9:15 AM in the parlor**, and continues for the 4 Sundays of Advent. We have purchased the book, *While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent*, by Mary Lou Redding which is available to you in the office. The book also functions as a work-book. You may contribute \$5.00 for the book if you wish. Our class will include lighting of the Advent candles. I realize that many of you are unable to attend an Advent class on Sunday morning. For those of you who are "on the go" and need something that you can look at on your phone, I recommend *Pauses for Advent* by Trevor Hudson. You can purchase an electronic version of this daily devotional on Amazon. I also have a couple of copies available in the office.

This year, I am going to include this daily devotional as part of my Advent practice. I find a short reading at the beginning of the day reminds me of the season, and the words continue with me through the day. Let us pause and wait for the birth of our new-born king again this year!

Pastor Karen

Looking for Adventure?

On Sunday, October 1st, Michael Cipoletti did a presentation before church and spoke during our "Minute for Mission" regarding his ongoing mission work in Nicaragua with FNE International, and the significant ways that First Presbyterian has supported mission work in Nicaragua for many, many years. Afterwards, a group of us went to lunch with Michael and laid the groundwork for a Mission trip to Nicaragua by a group from First Presbyterian. We have discussed this in the past but due to a variety of reasons a trip never materialized.

The trip would be approximately a week in duration and include a mix of working at and touring some of the significant projects FNE is involved with. Potential dates for departure would be July 7th or July 14th, 2018. We currently have about 6 people very interested in doing this, and would like to hear from anyone else that may be interested. A starting place to get more information would be to visit the FNE website at <https://fneinternational.org/> or talk to Ken Runyan, who has been on a couple of trips previously. No firm commitments are need at this time but if you are interested and want to learn more please contact the Church office.

Souper Celebration Sunday

As a wrap up to our Pony Express Stewardship Campaign and desire to express our thanks to the generous, supportive congregation at First Presbyterian, the I&S committee invites everyone to join us on **Sunday, November 19** when we will have a Celebration meal of soup and bread after worship. A children's meal will also be provided.

In conjunction with this we ask that everyone **please bring a can of soup for the Thanksgiving food drive**. We hope everyone will take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to sit down and literally break bread with your family and friends as we celebrate all the gifts that God has provided to us.

WONDERFUL TIME HAD BY ALL!

Many thanks to the 125th Anniversary Committee (Pastor Karen, Debby Walters, Ron Barkby, Debby Huffman, Russell Buckardt, Audrey Harman, and Colette McDonough) for all their efforts in putting together a great celebration of 125 years for First Pres, Elgin. Kudos also go to Becky Koester and Dale Betts for getting things spruced up around the church. We could never have pulled this off without the help of our Deacons, both in setting up, and clean up (special thanks to Nancy Schueneman for her artistic talents on the table displays).

Here's to another 125 years of justice seeking and walking humbly with our God!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	2 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	3	4
5 ALL SAINTS DAY COMMUNION 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 7:00 pm W & S	7	8 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	10	11
12 McCARTHY BAPTISM 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP FOOD DRIVE	13 5:30 pm CE 7:00 pm CH & SOC	14 9:00 am – 3:00 pm PRESBYTERY MTG. AT STRONGHOLD	15 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	17	18
19 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP 11:30 am STONE SOUP WHITE GIFTS & FOOD DRIVE	20	21 NOON – LUNCH BUNCH @ Sweet Berry Café South Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION	22 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30 pm THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE	23 THANKSGIVING DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
26 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	27 NOON – December Presby deadline	28 3:00 pm DEACONS MEETING	29 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	30 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNION SERVICE WEDS. NOV. 22 @ 7:30 PM	