



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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OCTOBER 2017

House of Hope



Past, Present and Future

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	Things to Know	Pg. 6 - 8
Prayer Families	Pg. 3	October Calendar	Pg. 9

Word from your Pastor...

Years of Change and Struggle: First Presbyterian Church 1980- 1997

“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” -Romans 8: 26

The 1980ties were a time when the mission of First Presbyterian was on full display. The Elgin Co-Operative Ministries was founded. An alliance was formed with Father David at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church. Father David preached at First Presbyterian while Bill preached at St. Joseph’s. Churches in Elgin got together to start a fall and winter emergency shelter program, a program that later became PADS. A Peace Pole was placed in front of the church. Members of First Presbyterian participated yearly in the CROP walk. And the church began our relationship with Sister Joan in Nicaragua.

Rev. Clark made two trips to Nicaragua during the years of great unrest there. On his second trip, he experienced the unrest up close. He slept near the war zone. Rats crawled into his sleeping bag at night. When he returned home, he began to have panic attacks. Plans made earlier to bring in an associate pastor were completed in 1992. Joellen Hosler became the church’s associate pastor. In 1993, Bill’s condition was diagnosed as Parkinson’s disease.

Joellen had just completed Seminary when she received a call to First Presbyterian. She was attending the Center of Religion and Psychotherapy in Chicago. Joellen stayed as Associate Pastor during the years Bill’s health declined. Their partnership strengthened First Presbyterian during those difficult years.

During those years, First Presbyterian supported its beloved leaders in good times and in bad. Joellen provided wisdom and a healing presence. Together the church and its leaders embodied words of Paul in 2 Corinthians when he described his tormenting thorn in the flesh, “Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’”

When I heard your story of those years after I came to serve you as your pastor, I was in awe. The depth of your courage, the breadth of your mercy, and the commitment you had to your leaders, was a living example of the grace of God made perfect in weakness. The commitment of this congregation to the poor and broken people of the world deepened through the years you journeyed with Bill through his experience of broken-ness. The witness of those years still stand today as an example of the love and grace of Christ, reflected in your lives.

So today, when I stand before you to preach, and consider the history of the people I face each Sunday; I realize that I sit on the shoulders of all who have become before me. Not just those who served as your leaders, but the grace and faith that has been in the people of this place. Because you never gave up on your leaders, your mission, and your God; First Presbyterian still stands as a beacon of peace and hope in this place called Elgin.

Pastor Karen

FAMILY CARE

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

John & Katherine Hahn

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 OCTOBER 1st:

Doug Brewbaker
Dawn & Keith Brill
Jim & Melissa Buckardt; Zach, Madisyn, Alexis
Kurt & Judi Buckardt; Lucas, Emma, Brock

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8th:

Russ & Pam Buckardt
Caroline & Karl Burchfield
Fran & Harry Channon
Betty R. Clark

WEEK OF OCTOBER 15th

Rosalyn Davenport
George & Margie Dewey
Robbie & Scott Doll; Kierstin
Justin Doll

WEEK OF OCTOBER 22nd:

Sarah Domin
Charles & Philomene Dongmo
Grace, Michelle & Divin Dongmo
Duly & Pauline Dulabaum

WEEK OF OCTOBER 29th:

Roger & Jacque Eads
Andra & Pete Gerharz; Jaxton
John & Katherine Hahn
Audrey & Ed Harman

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

School Kits Update

Thank you ALL for the school supplies! **We have REACHED our supply goal for this year!** We appreciate everyone's support. At the end of the month, our Jr and Sr High classes will be compiling the school bags together and getting them ready to be delivered to Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin for shipment.

Nicaraguan Scholarship Kick Off & Visit with Michael Cipoletti

Michael Cipoletti with Friends of New England (<https://fneinternational.org/>) will be visiting our church on **Sunday, October 1st**. Join us for a special one-on-one time at 9:15 am in the Parlor with Michael and then stay for worship service as we kick off the Nicaraguan Scholarship program. For several years, our church has supported the Nicaraguan Scholarship program through FNE by providing financial assistance to deserving students in rural Nicaragua who would otherwise not have this opportunity to attend school. Stay tuned as we share more information about this worthy cause.



Volunteers for Food for Greater Elgin

We are looking for more volunteers to help at Food for Greater Elgin (<http://www.foodforgreaterelgin.org/>) on Thursday evenings. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Russ Buckardt.

CHURCH & SOCIETY (cont.)



CROP Walk and Bake Sale

The annual Elgin CROP Walk and Bake Sale will be **Sunday, October 15th**. We will be looking for walkers and bakers. Please see Ron Ahlman or the church office if you wish to sign up to be a walker. Also, if you are interested in providing bake goods for the Bake Sale, see the sign-up sheet in the back hallway.

Thank you received by Sue Leaver from Monica who is the coordinator of the school lunch program that we help to fund in Nicaragua:

Dear Sue,

Your donation for the school lunch program was divided between two schools. One is in Los Cocos located outside of Granada. The second is in El Pastoreo, a rural school in Estel. I will email you some photos.

Thank you so much for your generosity and all those at First Presbyterian Church. Your good hearts and kind support have brighten many faces here in Nicaragua.

*Blessings and All Good,
Monica*

P.S. The foods we were able to supply to the schools include eggs, milk, chicken soup, spaghetti, crackers, cacao, oatmeal and Pinol.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BIBLE SUNDAY

Congratulations to: Madisyn Buckardt, Divin Dongmo, Mackenzie Leaver, Gavin Meyer, Annelise Olson, and Julian Rios; who received their Bibles during worship on September 24th.

NURSERY

The Christian Education Committee would like to remind everyone that our nursery is available during our Sunday morning worship for infants through kindergarten age. Infants through 2 years of age may come to the nursery beginning at 10:20 A.M. We would ask that parents with children 3 years old through kindergarten take those children to the worship service first and then accompany them to the nursery following the Children's Moment or appropriate time in our service. Brandi Courtney is our adult nursery caregiver and our 5th graders through high school youth assist her. We hope this arrangement is convenient for everyone and we thank you for your cooperation.

YOUTH CAREGIVERS OF THE MONTH

Our youth nursery caregivers for the month of October are Michelle Dongmo and Logan Leaver. Michelle is 11 years old and is in the 6th grade at Hampshire Middle School, in Hampshire. Michelle said that her favorite subject in school is reading. "I like to read and I am a good reader. I enjoy reading fiction and I am currently reading, 'Beacon Street Girls.'" Logan is also 11 years old and is in the 6th grade at Creekside Elementary School in Elgin. Logan's favorite subject is Science. He said, "it is fun and I like to figure out how things work. Last year in school, we built a catapult and launched pumpkins." Thanks Michelle and Logan for your help in our nursery.

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

A big thank you goes out to all the people involved in our outdoor worship service combining our congregation with the Church of the Brethren. What a wonderful morning! We want to thank our musicians – Dave McDonough, Joe Ott, Shawn Leaver, and Debby Walters. Thank you to the people who helped out with communion, meal setup, and all the myriad details involved in making this event so meaningful! We hope to make it an annual event with Church of the Brethren.

Upcoming Events for Worship and Sacraments

World Wide Communion Sunday – October 1

125th Celebration/500th Anniversary of The Reformation – October 29 (see page 8)

Nuts for the Parlor – Fall Campaign (dates to be announced)

All Saints Day – November 5 (see more information on page 6)

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

Third quarter statements will be available in October to provide your status with your 2017 giving. If you have fallen behind in your financial support, please catch up if you are able.

Fall Stewardship campaign: The Interpretation and Stewardship committee has been working on its plans for receiving your estimated giving amount for 2018. We will be starting our drive towards the end of October. We are blessed with faithful and generous members who financially support the work of this congregation. We thank you. God is grateful.

We look forward to again having your participation and support so a balanced and growing budget can be established for 2018.

THINGS TO KNOW

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **October 17** at Rubio's Restaurant 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY

We will celebrate All Saints Day on **Sunday, November 5th**. If you choose to remember a loved one on that day, you will be given a long-stemmed rose as you enter the sanctuary.

After the sermon,

all the names of the persons who are being remembered will be called out by the liturgist, and a bell tolled in their name. When their name is called, you, as the person who is remembering them, will bring your rose forward and put it in a vase on the communion table. After the service, that rose will be returned to you to take home.

If you wish to remember a person who has passed (within the past two years) on All Saints Day, please call or email the office and give your name, the name of the person you are remembering (with correct spelling) and their relationship to you. Those names will then be placed in the bulletin.

Let's take time to remember and enjoy our gift of "the communion of the saints". It is one of our very special gifts of God.

**Last day to order a rose is Monday,
October 30th.**

Mission Reflections from the Senior High Class

Where did you go?

Grace, Samantha and Brenda: We were based at 4th Presbyterian Church. We were sent to a homeless shelter, a book store, cradles to crayons, and to nursing homes. Joe: I have volunteered for several months at Food for Greater Elgin.

What impressed you the most?

Joe: The sheer volume of families we served and how much we could give each family. Families walked away with loaded shopping carts of food. Samantha: We could make sandwiches for homeless people to eat later that night. Grace: The summer mission trip was an amazing experience. Even though it was only for a week, I think we made an impact on society. The thing that impressed me the most was the night truck that gave food and hygiene care to people in need in the late evening. People were also given shots.

What did you especially enjoy?

Samantha: Being able to connect with people we were helping. They all had stories to tell. Grace: I enjoyed most working at the homeless shelter. We made food, cleaned beds, fixed tables and cleaned the cafeteria. Joe: It is one thing to donate money to charity, but it's an entirely different experience to give help to someone in person. I think having this unique, rewarding experience has been my favorite thing so far.

What is something you will never forget?

Grace: I will never forget how the homeless shelter residents can't depend on the other residents. They must work hard and pay attention to themselves to keep their balance in the shelter. Samantha: Seeing how many people are helped by all the organizations in the city. These organizations help people every day. I just enjoyed seeing people going around and helping. Joe: I have been on both sides of the food pantry. Several years ago, my dad was unemployed for 18 months. My family ended up having to go to a local food pantry for much of that time, so I know what it feels like to rely on a food pantry for some of your food. I feel these experiences have helped me appreciate the world of all the volunteers in the pantry do, since I know how much it is needed.

Why should other people go on a mission project?

Samantha: It opens you up to new experiences, and it's an opportunity for you to explore and have an adventure in different communities. Mission trips are fun, and they also get you out into the real world, away from the comforts of your house and your technology. Grace: Other people should go on a mission trip to get a taste of other peoples' lives who don't have the opportunities we have. Joe: Volunteering at a food pantry has been my way of giving back. Volunteering helps to make sure these programs can keep helping those in need.

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

October 2017						
◀ September						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am Michael Cipoletti in Parlor 10:30 am WORSHIP	2 4:30 pm Personnel Committee 7:00 pm W & S Committee	3	4 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	5 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	6	7
8 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	9 5:30 pm CE	10	11 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	13	14
15 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP CROP WALK & BAKE SALE	16 7:00 pm CH & SOC	17 NOON – LUNCH BUNCH @ Rubio's in Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION	18 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	20	21
22 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	23 NOON – November Presby deadline	24 3:00 pm DEACONS MEETING	25 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	26 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	27	28
29 125 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 9:00 am BOOK GROUP 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOLLOWING!	30	31	COME CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BEING A HOUSE OF WORSHIP (AND OF HOPE) SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:30 am RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING			