



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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APRIL 2018



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Word from your Pastor...

My Lord and My God!

“Then he said to Thomas, put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt; but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God!” -John 20: 27-28

The resurrection comes to us slowly after Easter morning. That is why the season of Eastertide lasts a full 50 days, longer than the 40 days in the season of Lent.

The resurrection comes to us slowly. With images. Listen to Easter’s images fall on our eyes and ears:

The door was *locked*, because the disciples were afraid. Jesus *came*...through that locked door. *Stood* among them. *Breathed* on them. *Spoke* to them. “Peace be with you.” Familiar words. *Showed* them his hands and his side. His wounds. Wounds were the marks of his humanity. His identity.

Then Jesus said again, “Peace be with you.” *Repeated* those words. In case they didn’t sink in the first time. *Gave* them the Holy Spirit, the breath of life. The breath God breathed into Adam in the creation story. Life. New life. Resurrection life.

But Thomas wasn’t there. He hadn’t seen. He hadn’t heard. To Thomas, the story was beyond belief. So, Jesus *came again*. Just for Thomas. He *invited* Thomas to *put* his finger in his hand. *Thrust* his hand into his side. Then Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!”

Details are what sear a story into our minds and hearts. We have been hearing stories of school shootings tumbling one upon another since I have been your pastor. And before that. But how many of us know the locations...all of them? The number who were killed? Which year? What happened next?

These past few weeks, we have been peering at the details of one story. The story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Looking, and looking again. Leaving classrooms for 17 minutes. Marching in scores of cities and Washington. In Washington, crowds listened to a survivor of the shooting this past weekend. Emma Gonzalez. She traced out the details.

First, the names. All 17 names. Stories of her fellow students who died. Carmen would never complain to me about piano practice. Aaron would never call Kyra “Miss Sunshine.” Alex would never walk into school with his brother Ryan.

Then, the numbers. 17 people killed. 15 wounded. 17 minutes...the length of time students walk out of classrooms in protest and memory. Six minutes and 20 seconds. The length of time the shooter was shooting. The length of time it took for him to kill 17 and injure 15. Then Gonzales paused for 6 minutes and 20 seconds. Paused in silence. Only silence.

Details. Details help us embrace a story. To believe. To change. Doors were locked. “Peace be with you.” “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Breathed on them. Invited Thomas to place his finger in his hand, thrust his hand into his side. Then the confession, “My Lord and my God!”

I have waited for over 9 years to hear the words, “My Lord and My God!” be spoken after a violent school shooting. This time, this year, children have led the way. We are beginning to believe. To see light and hope. God raised Jesus from the dead. But like us, the disciples had to learn to believe. They had to learn to say, “My Lord and My God!” Let us move with our children into a new future of life and hope. Let us move again into resurrection life.

FAMILY CARE

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

Hal Henrikson

Laura Keating

Jeannette Miller

Three children from the Rios family (Brianna, Joshua, and Zachary) were baptized on March 4th here at First Pres of Elgin. Proud parents are Erica & Tony Rios. Welcome to ALL of you!

Prayers of condolence go out to the family of Lois Lindoerfer who passed away on March 9, 2018. Services were held here at First Pres on March 17, 2018. May she rest in peace.

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 APRIL 3rd:

Margery & Richard Bennett
Dale & Carol Betts
Royce & Mary Blackwell
Rev. Karen Blatt

WEEK OF APRIL 10th:

Flora Breslich
Dawn & Keith Brill
Jim & Melissa Buckardt; Madisyn, Alexis
Kurt & Judi Buckardt; Lucas, Emma, Brock

WEEK OF APRIL 17th:

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

WEEK OF APRIL 24th:

Steve & Betty Clark
Rosalyn Davenport
George & Margie Dewey
Robbie & Scott Doll; Justin, Kierstin

WEEK OF APRIL 30th:

Sarah Domin
Charles & Philomene Dongmo; Grace, Michelle, Divin
Rev. Willard (Duly) & Pauline Dulabaum
Roger & Jacque Eads



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

One Great Hour of Sharing

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Donations help the following programs:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People

Special envelopes are found in your donation box or in the pew pads. Please give generously. Thank you! Dedication Sunday is April 15th.

Bread for the World Letter Writing Day - Sunday, April 29th following worship in the Parlor. This is an opportunity to write a personalized letter to Congress about anti-hunger legislation and policies. You can write your own unique letter or we will have templates available to access if needed. We look forward to seeing many members on April 29th.

Books For Nicaragua Update

The C & S Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous response to this year’s Books For Nicaragua mission project. The congregation gave **\$1,416**, and we were able to send a total of 531 children’s books in Spanish and 17 CD’s to Nicaragua. Of that total, 302 books and 9 CD’s went to the Chacreseca Library, and 229 books and 8 CD’s went to Monica to distribute to the schools. This is a special and unique mission which is only done by 1st Presbyterian. The children of Nicaragua also thank you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EASTER SUNDAY

We would like to invite all youth, pre-school through senior high, younger brothers and sisters, friends, relatives and parents to join us for our annual Easter celebration on April 1st. At 9:15 a.m., we are asking all youth to report to their Sunday School Classes and about 9:50 a.m., we will have our annual Christian Easter Egg Hunt—hopefully on the front lawn of the church. We hope to see everyone on April 1st.

YOUTH CAREGIVERS OF THE MONTH

The youth caregiver for the month of April is Garrett Leaver. Garrett is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade a Kimball Middle School in Elgin. He said that his favorite subject in school is, “speech and debate. It is a fun class and we cover a variety of topics such as gun violence.” Thanks Garrett for your help in our nursery.

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

Per Capita Reminder

If you are able, please contribute for each church member in your household so we can meet our goal of all those on the membership role paying their Per Capita. Per Capita for 2018 is \$36.34 for each member. Thank you.

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Nuts for the Parlor

Once again, the Worship and & Sacraments committee will be selling “Nuts for the Parlor”. The sale of the nuts will be in the parlor on **April 15 and 22**. Delivery will be on **May 6** – just in time for Mother’s Day! Please consider purchasing some of the delicious items. The proceeds are used for sprucing up our church – not only the parlor, but other badly needed improvements as well.

Easter – April 1

Please join us for the Easter celebration service. Bring flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, March 31 from 10 – 11 am or on Easter morning.

Sunday, April 8

Please come to hear our children singing and celebrating our Easter faith.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

PAINTING AND SUCH

It's time to repaint our Sanctuary!! Starting April 4th, and continuing for up to 10 days, the Sanctuary will be repainted. That means we will have to possibly sit in different seats, as the painters will move their scaffolds around to renew our ceiling and walls.

Also, new ceiling fans will be installed, along with other improvements. We ask for your patience..... And thank you!

Hopefully, you’ve noticed the new carpeting in our front entranceway and the new handicapped lift will be operational soon.

REMINDER FROM THE DEACONS

We APPRECIATE your past support of the work of the Deacons. The mission of the Deacons is to be involved with the pastor in the shepherding of individuals and families within the life of this Community of Faith. If called upon the Deacons will respond to emergency needs of persons outside this Community of Faith. During difficult “economic times” these needs continue to be great.

Your use of the “Deacon Envelopes” (found in your envelope box) will give the Deacons the opportunity to continue and even expand their missions. Thank you for your generosity!

ANOTHER REMINDER.....

Please remember that the coins that are in the bottom of your purse or pocket add up and help provide transportation for clients of the Crisis Center. Give as generously as you can when the Offering basket is passed.

Thank You!

THINGS TO KNOW

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **April 17** 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.

**Heads Up
Please Mark Your Calendars!**

Music Camp 2018

We have set the dates for this year’s music camp for June 18th – 22nd. All children who have completed grades Kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to attend this fun week. A performance will be held on Friday night at 7 pm. Please invite friends, neighbors, grandchildren, etc. to enjoy this special experience.

**ELGIN DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION WALK
Saturday, April 21, 2018
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

First Presbyterian Church of Elgin will be one of the “stops” on this neighborhood “walk”. Tell your friends to stop by and take a look at this wonderful, historical building.

Looking for Adventure?

Way back in October, 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. We are hoping to get a group of interested folks to head down to Nicaragua this Summer and put their words into action.

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. The potential date for departure would be around July 15th, 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. Please let the church office know of your interest as we would like to firm this up with Michael Cipoletti soon. Thanks!

April 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 9:00 am Stories For Lent 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	2	3	4	2:15 pm Bible Study	8:30 am Men's Breakfast	7
8 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	5:30 pm CE 7:00 pm CH & SOC	10 BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY MTG @ Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva	2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8:30 am Men's Breakfast	13	14
15 OGH'S DEDICATION 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP NUTS FOR THE PARLOR	16	NOON – LUNCH BUNCH @ Sweet Berry Café, South Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION	2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8:30 am Men's Breakfast	20	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Elgin Neighborhood Association Walk – FPCE
9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP NUTS FOR THE PARLOR	23 NOON: May Presby Deadline	24 3:00 pm DEACONS	2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8:30 am Men's Breakfast	27	28
9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	30	JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST @ 10:30 AM				
THE LORD IS RISEN! LET US REJOICE!						