

The Presby Bulletin
A Publication of
First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
240 Standish St. Elgin, IL 60123



The Presby Bulletin

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AUGUST 2018



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Word from your Pastor...

Hope Does Not Disappoint

"knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us. -Romans 5

What can we do? That is perhaps the most repeated question I hear every day. I hear that question in our church, in our world, in the news, in almost every conversation. We are living in dark times, filled with suffering and uncertainty. Times that divide us. Times of fear.

While fear might look like something that unites us...like the days immediately following 9-11...ultimately fear can become a noose around our necks, first silencing, and finally suffocating us. Fear is the great enemy. It feeds on our hopes and dreams, making itself bigger and bigger and leaving us empty. It shuts our mouths. Stops us at every turn. When I was a chaplain, I was taught that in the face of tragedy, people will often ask questions like, "How could God allow this to happen?" We were taught not to chase after an answer to that question. Instead, we were to recognize that this thing that looked like a question was really a protest. The person in front of us was anguished and angry and afraid.

As your pastor, I stand in the rubble along with you, gazing at daily scenes that broadcast the question, "How could God allow this to happen?" These words are not new. In the Biblical world, these words are called a lament.

The Bible is full of lament. Two thirds of the psalms are lament psalms. The faithful person complains long and hard at God, "Where are you? Why do my enemies prevail over me? Don't you care? Aren't you going to do something?" But those psalms all have a surprising ending. The psalm that begins with "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? ends with the words, "I will sing to the Lord, because God has dealt bountifully with me." What happened?

Something called "hope" gained sway. Paul was in prison when he wrote the words in the Scripture, "and hope does not disappoint." His ministry had been stopped. His life would soon be taken from him. But his hope endured. And it still endures, for we still have his words.

There are days when all we want to do is point fingers at our enemies and punish them. Take sides. Simplify the challenges before us with a short "to-do" list. But there is no list of enemies to assail. The very people we sometimes experience as an enemy are the very people we need to help us get through these difficult times. Blame is a distraction, the fruit of fear.

What shall we do? We don't need to do everything. But we must do what God calls our hearts to do. We all must seize each moment in our own little corner of the world and do that one thing no one else can do. We must ask God to show us that moment. Effective action comes from love. Our love, and God's. It is unstoppable, and it is enough. Our guidelines are three: "seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God."

No matter what...don't let anyone or anything steal your hope away from you. Nurture your gratitude every day. End your lament psalms with thanksgiving. Thankfulness and hope are the key to peace. The key to reconciliation. "Always be ready to give an accounting for the hope that is within you."

Pastor Karen

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Summer Worship Schedule at 9:30 am will continue until Sunday, September 9th. During Pastor Karen's time off on August 19 and 26, we are pleased to announce that our guest pastor will be Dr. Paris Donehoo, recently retired pastor of First Congregational Church in Elgin.



Our annual outdoor worship service will be held at Wing Park again this year on Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 am. We will be joining with the congregation of Church of the Brethren again for a wonderful outdoor worship experience. Please come! Bring a dish to pass, your table service, and a folding chair. The two ministers will be leading the service again this year with folks from both churches providing music.

The Worship & Sacraments committee is asking for volunteers to help with ushering. Individuals, couples, families – all are welcome to volunteer! Please see Dawn Brill, Debby Walters, or call the church office to offer your help.

THANK YOU

The board directors, staff and clients from the community Crisis Center would like to thank First Presbyterian Church of Elgin for their generous donation of \$124.33 for the months of May and June.

COUGARS GAME

**Friday, August 10th
Gates Open: 5:30 PM
Game Begins: 6:30 PM**

If you have pre-ordered tickets for the game and a Parking Pass they are available for pick up in the Church Office starting Sunday, August 5th

A big thank you goes out to Sarah Stoner for obtaining the tickets for members of First Pres to attend Faith Night with the Cougars.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **August 21** at Paul'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.

FAMILY CARE

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

Laura Keating Gary Leaver

Millie Saltee’s memorial service will be September 8, 2018 at 2 pm in the sanctuary with a reception afterward in the parlor.

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 5th:

Janet Robinson
Ken & Luann Runyan
Stuart Ryder
Rev. Karen & Daniel Schlack

WEEK OF AUGUST 12th:

Judy Schmidt
Art & Nancy Schueneman
Sarah & Mike Sitter
Lisa Stack & Ian Pawlak

WEEK OF AUGUST 19th:

Pamala & Elwood Stack
Steve Stack
John Steffan
Roger & Carol Steffan

WEEK OF AUGUST 26th:

Ronald & Shirley Swain
Sue Taylor; Kyle & Danny Taylor
Merlin Tsayem
Gabriel & Sylvianne Tsida

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

A thank you goes out to Flora Breslich for suppling fabric and coordinating sewers for the school bags.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION**

All youth Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, September 16th. There will be more announcements in the September Presby.

We will have a pre-registration on Sunday, August 19th and 26th in the parlor following our worship service. If you are in church either of those days, please stop in the parlor after the service and sign the safe church registration forms (teachers too). It will expedite registration on September 16th. Thank you!

Things to Know.....

Nicaragua Mission Trip Update

We would like to inform the congregation that the mission trip to Nicaragua that was scheduled to take place from July 18th thru July 25th has been cancelled. Roger and Jacque Eads, Cindy Helgerson, Ken Runyan, George Dewey, and Dave McDonough were scheduled to spend the week helping build a house in conjunction with Michael Cipoletti and FNE International. Protests about a change to Social Security that began in late April have evolved into a full-scale battle for democracy, and the crackdown by the government has led to 286 deaths and brought the country to a standstill. If anyone desires more information on the situation just Google “News from Nicaragua”.

In light of all this, the group decided it was not wise to make the trip at this time. Church funds in the amount of \$2600.00 were donated to FNE to help them build a house, even if we could not be there. This money came from a \$2000.00 grant from Blackhawk Presbytery and \$600.00 from the Runyan Memorial Bequest. Individuals from the group also donated a portion of their trip costs to FNE as they struggle to maintain their operations. Michael Cipoletti will be visiting our congregation later this year to provide us with an update on the situation. We ask that everyone please keep the Nicaraguan people in their prayers and pray that they will arrive at a peaceful solution to the conflict that has torn their country apart.

Welcome to Our New Office Manager

We would like to welcome our new office manager Kim Martin to First Presbyterian church. She is coming to our office with a strong background in church management and media. She will hold the same office hours as Colette has and looks forward to meeting everyone. Please stop by and say hello!

August 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	3	4
5 COMMUNION 9:30 am WORSHIP	6 Worship & Sacraments Committee @ 7 pm in the parlor	7	8	9 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	10 Cougars Game gates open @ 5:30 pm	11 SESSION RETREAT 9 am – 2 pm @ the Walter's
12 9:30 am WORSHIP	13 Church & Society @ 5:30 pm in the conference room	14	15	16 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	17	18
19 9:30 am WORSHIP	20	21 NOON: Lunch Bunch @ Paul's Restaurant	22 NOON: September <i>Presby</i> Deadline	23 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	24	25
26 9:30 am WORSHIP	27	28	29	30 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	31	