



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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FEBRUARY 2018



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Word from your Pastor...

Telling Our Story

"Tell me the old, old story, of unseen things above. Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. -Kate Hankey, author of the lyrics of "Tell Me the Old, Old Story."

Kate Hankey served as a missionary in South Africa. In 1866, she had a serious illness and was bedridden for a very long convalescence. During this time, Hankey wrote her poem, *The Old, Old Story*, which later became a hymn. The hymn, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story," was one of my favorites as a child.

As we enter the season of Lent on February 14, (yes, Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day this year), I invite you to reflect on your life story, perhaps even write it down. Lent is a time for reflection. We are all writing our story each day of our lives, but most often we are not mindful of it. So this year, remember how your story began. What events and people in your childhood were important? How did you grow into an adult? What were the first great choices of your life? What have you found is the most important for you to do? Where you are today?

We have one precious possession that cannot be taken from us. It is our story. We get to write it, edit it, change it as we go along, and decide how it ends. Lent is a good time to look at our own, special story. To search for God in it, and to recognize the people in it who have changed our lives.

As a minister, I have the remarkable opportunity to watch you as you write your stories. Stories that are deep and quiet. Stories that are noisy and filled with challenges and blind alleys. Stories of how you have faced each step, each difficulty, each important decision with faith and hope.

As I write this article today, one of our beloved members is writing her story through the difficult challenge of a long and painful illness. She, like Kate Hankey, has found herself in bed, time and time again. She, like Kate Hankey, has written down her story for us to share. Her name is Laura Keating, and here is a sample of the latest chapter of her story:

"It's been a very long time since I've been able to post anything hopeful and upbeat. Treatment after treatment has failed, and my body seems to have become even more of my enemy. Since December, I have been deeply depressed; just trying to focus on symptom management. Some days, I have felt I had lost all hope.

But as I write to you today, my heart is exploding with hope. Last week a new opportunity landed in my lap. I am a candidate for a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT). There have been a few others with my rare diagnosis (AAG) who have been treated with HSCT, and they are no longer on TPN, can eat by mouth, and got their lives back. The even better news is that is that the one place I can receive this treatment is Northwestern in Chicago! If I am able to have the treatment, I will be in the hospital for many weeks.

My body is about to be destroyed and rebuilt, and it is going to be a really long recovery. And while this all happens, my kids are going to be without their mom for long periods of time. So, please pray for them. Thanks for sharing this journey with me. Love to all of you." Laura

Dear Laura, what a privilege it is to watch in wonder as you write your story of courage and faith! I pray your story soaks into all of our hearts with bright hope and faith as we walk with you, every step of the way. Karen

It my greatest privilege to walk with all of you and watch you write your stories. God's blessing to Laura, and to all!

Pastor Karen

FAMILY CARE

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

Arleen Applehoff

Hal Henrikson

Millie Saltee

Laura Keating

Sara Hutchinson

Lois Lindoerfer

Peggy Ognacevic-Engels

Robert Alexander Perez was baptized on January 14th here at First Pres of Elgin. Proud parents are Karen & David Perez. Welcome Robert (AKA Robbie)!

Please welcome Nancy Jo Huske as our newest member at First Pres of Elgin who was received into membership on Sunday, January 21st. Glad to have you with us, Nancy Jo!

Prayers of condolence go out to the family of Ron Barkby whose mother passed away on January 22nd.

Prayers of condolence go out to Lois McDonough whose sister Delores passed away on January 17th.

Prayers of condolence go out to Nancy Schueneman whose uncle, Jack Shales passed away on January 26th.

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 FEB 4th:

Mark & Leann Runyan
Stuart Ryder
Karen & Daniel Schlack
Judy Schmidt

WEEK OF FEB 11th:

Sarah & Mike Sitter
Ryan Sitter
Jackson Sitter
Lisa Stack; Ian

WEEK OF FEB 18th:

Pam & Elwood Stack
Steve & Kristen Stack; Brayden
John Steffan
Roger & Carol Steffan

WEEK OF FEB 25th:

Ron & Shirley Swain
Sue Taylor
Kyle Taylor
Danny Taylor



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

THANK YOU to all our delivery people and those who made donations to the **Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive!** We had three cars full of non-perishable items that we delivered to the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin. Thanks again!

Books for Nicaragua - Once again, we will conduct our annual Books for Nicaragua drive that will be held on **February 4th** and **February 11th**. Please see Sue Leaver in the parlor following worship service on either one of these dates for more information. Cash and checks will be accepted. Thank you for your past support!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

When: Sunday, March 4th
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Where: Church Parlor

Cost: \$6.00 Adults \$5.00 Kids & Seniors

Why: It's all you can eat and the money raised goes towards the Teen Sunday School class Mission trip this Summer.

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2017

7:00 PM

Please join us for this moving service that starts us on our Lenten journey.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all of our youth who were a part of our Sunday School program in 2017. We averaged 36.5 youth and teachers per Sunday for the year, which is an increase of 3 from last year. The offering totals for pre-school through senior high were \$1240.30, down a little from the year before. Thanks to everyone who came and contributed!

YOUTH CAREGIVER AND USHER OF THE MONTH

Our youth nursery caregiver for the month of February is Grace Dongmo. Grace is 15 years old and is a freshman at Hampshire High School. I asked Grace what her favorite subject was in school and she said, "science. I like science because it is easy for me and interesting. I also like being in the school science fair." Joe Ott is one of our ushers on Sunday morning. Joe is 16 years old and is a junior at Einstein Academy in Elgin. Joe said his favorite subject is "science and chemistry. I'm planning to go into physics after high school, so I need science and chemistry to help with that goal." Thanks Grace for helping in our nursery and thanks Joe for ushering!

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

BLACKHAWK PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

The Per Capita assessment for 2018 is **\$36.34** per person. \$24.80 is retained by Blackhawk Presbytery, \$3.81 is forwarded to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and \$7.73 is forwarded to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to support their administrative budgets.

We ask that everyone please pay their share to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Remember that our church pays the full amount based on our current membership, so the more people that pay their share means the less we have to take from our 2018 budget. Thank you!

THANK YOU

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Elgin Members:

Thank you very much for your generous Thanksgiving Offering donation of \$1,446.00 to the Ecker Center for Mental Health.

Our services are made possible, in part, by the generosity of donors. Your donation helps us in fulfilling our mission, and allows us to continue to serve our clients with much needed mental health services and programs. Because no goods or services were received in return for your gift, it is tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

Thank you, again, for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Karen Beyer

CEO

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients of the Community Crisis Center at George Van De Voorde Place thank you for your donation of **\$419.87** representing the September thru December 2017 Loose Coin collections. Your support provides essential services to individuals and families in crisis.

The Crisis Center responds to the needs of those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness and financial crisis. Services include a 24-hour hotline, shelter for 40 women and children, individual and group counseling, financial assistance to prevent homelessness, partner abuse intervention, and advocacy through the legal, medical and social welfare systems. Founded by volunteers in 1975, the Crisis Center has grown to serve more than 6,000 people each year.

The Crisis Center is committed to providing essential services to those in need. We are grateful for the support we receive; it does “bring peace for today” and allows us to “create a vision for tomorrow”. We are indeed fortunate to have individuals, organizations and business partners in working to make a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Peace,
Gretchen Vapnar
Executive Director

THINGS TO KNOW

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **February 20th** at Alexander's Café 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.

Help Support PADS Homeless Shelter with a Fun Night Out!

Come on out to the church parlor on Friday, February 2nd for some Bingo, ice cream and raffle prizes.

You will also get to preview the dance, "Can't Stop the Beat" at this fun event and all funds raised that night go directly to the PADS Homeless Shelter. So if you like the dance, support the team by donating, and if you don't like the dance, donate because you feel sorry for us! Children are most certainly welcome to participate in this fun Preview Night. See you there!

When: Friday, February 2nd 6:30-8:00pm

Where: Church Parlor

What: Dance Performance, Bingo, Ice Cream and Raffle

Why: Help raise funds for a needy cause

STORIES FOR ADVENT

This year, I invite you to join our "Stories for Advent" group on Sunday mornings. We will meet at 9:00-10:00 AM and will be discussing 5 stories by Wendell Berry from his book, *Fidelity*. Each one of these stories is a journey in faith and faithfulness. The first story is titled, "Pray Without Ceasing," and we will talk about that story on February 18 in the parlor.

If you wish to attend, please contact the office and leave your email address. I will email you the first study sheet before our first class. If you want us to order a book for you, please let Colette know. The book can also be found on Amazon for \$14.06. Our group will meet on Sunday mornings Feb. 18-March 18. I look forward to seeing you as we share stories together!

Pastor Karen

WE NEED YOU and YOURS!

As we enter into this new year, I invite you to consider new ways you may be involved in the work and worship in First Presbyterian Church in Elgin. We have two Boards that invite and ordain new members each year: the ruling Board of Elders and the service Board of Deacons. Other volunteer opportunities include:

Activity	Contact Person
• Choir	Deborah Walters
• Sunday Adult and Youth Education	Ellen Vogel/Ron Barkby
• Children's Nursery School	Ellen Vogel
• Mid-Week Bible Study	Rev. Willard "Duly" Dulabaum
• Hosting Coffee Hour	Cathy LeBlanc
• Ushering	Dawn Brill/Dale Betts
• Greeting	Loa McLean & Carol Betts
• Lay Liturgist	Rhonda Anderson
• Sound System	Becky Koester
• Men's Breakfast: Thursday Mornings	Bob Mogler
• Lunch Bunch	Loa McLean & Ellen Vogel
• Library	Loa McLean/Carol Betts
• Flowers for Worship Services	Debby Walters

YOU are a gift to our church. We would like for you to receive the gifts that come from being more involved with our worshipping community. There is something each one of you...young or old...can offer. "For whenever two or more are gathered in His name, there is LOVE." Thank you for your prayers, support and love of our church community here at First Presbyterian Church of Elgin.

Rev. Karen Schlack

Cathy LeBlanc, Chair of Outreach and Membership Committee

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	2 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm PADS DANCE PREVIEW FUNDRAISER	3
4 COMMUNION 9:00 am Book Discussion Group 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP BOOKS FOR NICARAGUA	5	6	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	9	10
11 9:00 am Book Discussion Group 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP BOOKS FOR NICARAGUA	12 5:30 pm CE 6:30 pm W & S 7:00 pm CH & SOC	13 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Blackhawk Presbytery Meeting @ Belvidere	14 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm ASH WEDS. SERVICE	15 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	16	17
18 9:00 am Stories for Lent 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	19	20 NOON – LUNCH BUNCH @ Alexander's Café in Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION	21 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	22 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	23	24
25 9:00 am Stories for Lent 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	26	27 3:00 pm DEACONS	28 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 14 TH AT 7:00 PM – ALWAYS A MOVING WAY TO START OUR LENTEN JOURNEY		