



## *The Presby Bulletin*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
240 Standish Street Elgin, Illinois 60123-6421  
Member of Blackhawk Presbytery & Synod of Lincoln Trails  
Phone (847) 742-6365 www.fpce.org  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCElgin/>  
Rev. Karen Schlack, Pastor  
Rev. William H. Clark, Pastor Emeritus  
Deborah A. Walters, Director of Music  
Colette McDonough, Office Manager  
Peggy Ognacevic-Engels, Organist

**JANUARY 2018**



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## Word from your Pastor...

### A Gift for Jesus

*“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” -Matthew 2: 2*

The first recorded persons to bring a gift to Jesus were the Wise Men. It has been pointed out that the wise men probably weren't “wise” by our standards, or the standards of Jesus' day. They were pagans from another land. They weren't proper scientists, either. They were astrologers, akin to the folks who read palms and write horoscopes. They knew nothing about religion. But one day they saw a star rising in the east. They went on a 2 year journey to follow a star, believing it would lead them to a king. Most of us today might call them...well, odd. Perhaps even off their rocker. Wise, they may not have been, but they were willing to travel two years just for the opportunity to worship and bring gifts to Jesus.

Peter Marty tells a story about another unlikely person who desperately needed to worship and bring a gift to Jesus. His Kansas City church had a huge life-size crèche on their front lawn. The biggest problem they faced each year was the disappearance of Jesus. Someone absconded with the infant five of his eight years there. Thieves never took an interest in the crib or hay. All they wanted was Jesus.

One morning in December, Peter was making bed-check rounds to see if Jesus was still asleep on the hay. He was, though this time there was a small gift beside him. A handwritten label taped to the wrapping paper read, “Happy Birthday, Jesus.” Should he remove it? Would that be a sacrilege?

Once inside his office, he asked his colleague if he should unwrap the present. An old Shake ‘n Bake pork seasoning box was beneath the red paper. Inside the box were 33 cents and a piece of notebook paper with a note: “Dear Jesus, Happy Brithday. Here's some small change for you to feed someone who is hungry. I give myself to be kind to others as you were kind to other people on earth. Love, Maria.”

Peter knew who Maria was. She lived in a house the church owned for persons living with chronic mental illness. She was a tender soul who topped out at five feet two inches tall, if that. Maria was plagued by a collision of voices telling her what to do and think and feel. But she had a big heart. Her parents gave her the name Maria, a name she lives up to. In her life, she lived up to Mother Mary's generous heart. Maria seemed to know that love was the only thing she had to give away, and that the love she had in her heart came from the Lord.

Peter has kept the box and note and change inside for 25 years. It may have been intended for Jesus, but Peter decided he needed it for himself. Maria's gift reminds him that love is the best thing he has to give away. And the love he has to give was first given to him by the Lord.

What will you give to Jesus this year, this new year? The wise men may not have been wise by worldly standards, and Maria suffered from a serious mental illness. But both had a deep and abiding need to worship and give something to Jesus. What will you give to Jesus this year?

Pastor Karen

P.S. Even those who absconded with the baby Jesus asleep on the hay had the right idea. Jesus is what we want, not a crib or hay or even Mary or Joseph. Sometimes we have to receive Jesus before we can find it in our hearts to give our gift of love to others. Just be sure to bring baby Jesus back every year at Christmas-time so he can be there for someone else who needs him.

## FAMILY CARE

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

Lucas Buckardt Katherine & John Hahn Hal Henrikson Laura Keating

Paige Wiel was baptized on Sunday, December 3, 2017 with happy parents, Tim & Bridget looking on. Welcome Paige and her parents (who became members that day) to First Pres!

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long time congregant, Doug Brewbaker who passed away on December 2, 2017. A memorial service was held here at First Pres on December 10, 2017.

Say a hearty welcome to Anthony Oddo who was welcomed into membership here at First Pres on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. We are glad you are here!

Congratulations!

Kimbra Runyan, daughter of Ken and Luann Runyan, received her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Logan University in Chesterfield, MO on December 16, 2017. Congratulations, Dr. Runyan!

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## 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 JAN 7th:

Jenny & James McManamon; Chloe, Nora, Ryleigh  
Keeley & Justin Nauman; Teagan  
June Nicoll  
Steve & Tamara Nitschneider

### WEEK OF JAN 14th:

Lisa Notarnicola-Engels  
Peggy Ognacevic-Engels  
Anthony Oddo  
Kristy & T. J. Olson; Annelise, Bella

### WEEK OF JAN 21st:

Carol & John Ott  
Joe Ott  
David & Karen Perez; Robby  
Barb Peters

### WEEK OF JAN 28th:

Bob Peterson & Lydia Larrabee  
Bob & Sandy Prouty  
Janet Robinson  
Ken & Luann Runyan; Kimbra



## COMMITTEE NEWS

**CHURCH & SOCIETY****Martin Luther King Food Drive**

See page 7 of this *Presby* for more information about the annual Martin Luther King Food Drive here at church starting in January.

**White Gifts & Elgin Toy Giveaway**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU all very much for your White Gifts this past December. Your generosity is always amazing and we just love your dedication to this worthy mission. We gave 50 gifts to children in the U46 school district along with 50 big smiles!

Also, through your generosity, 90 toys were donated to the Elgin Toy Giveaway at Hemmens. Christmas was made a lot brighter for a number of Elgin families – thank you First Pres!

**Nicaraguan Scholarship Program**

THANK YOU all for your generous donations towards our Nicaraguan Scholarship Program. We sent FNE INTERNATIONAL a total of \$4,400.00 that will cover 1 high school student and 8 college students for the 2017 school year.

**Nicaraguan Lunch Program**

We sent \$750 to the Nicaraguan Lunch Program which was started by Sister Elizabeth. This money will provide fruits and vegetables for the Nicaraguan school children.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank several people who made Advent and Christmas special at our church this year. First, we would like to thank our Teens who participated in the processional at the beginning of worship each Sunday during Advent. Our Intermediate Class contributed by shopping at Meijer for the annual community toy give-away and then delivered those toys to the Community Crisis Center. This class also baked cookies to take to our shut-ins when we went Christmas Caroling. Caroline Burchfield and Sarah Domin, two of our teachers, organized the toy shopping and cookie baking for the Intermediate Class. Thanks to all of our youth who went caroling and who participated in the Christmas Pageant and did such a wonderful job. Lastly, thanks to Debby Walters for organizing the Christmas Pageant and to all of our teachers who helped along the way.

**REMINDER**

Just a reminder that Youth Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

**YOUTH CAREGIVER OF THE MONTH**

Our youth nursery caregiver for the month of January is Quinton Driessen. Quinton is 10 years old and is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Washington School in Elgin. This is Quinton's first year working in our nursery. When I asked him what his favorite subject was in school, he said "Science, because it is really interesting and I do well in it. I have done science projects using clay and floating boats." Thank you Quinton for helping in our nursery.

**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!

**ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS AVAILABLE FOR 2018**

Both envelopes (and calendars) for 2018 are available in the narthex.

Your 2017 **Year End Statement** will soon be available. Please pick yours up and save us spending postage. Thank you!

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**WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS**

Thanks to all who came out Dec 17th, and joined us caroling to a number of shut ins around our area. And thanks to all who made chili and all the sides. It was "YUMMY".

Another word of thanks to all who donated food that was on display during our Thanksgiving Service. The food from that evening went to the Crisis Center Emergency Food Pantry.

**THANK YOU**

*Dear Deacons of First Presbyterian :*

*On behalf of the Board, patients and professionals associated with Greater Elgin Family Care Center, please accept our thanks for your congregation's most generous contribution to Greater Elgin Family Care Center in recognition of our annual #ILGIVE campaign of November 28, 2017. It is through support such as yours that GEFCC continues to be able to offer quality, affordable healthcare to area residents, regardless of their ability to pay.*

*We are grateful for your \$1,043.25 donation and appreciate your support of our mission and patients.*

*Respectfully,  
Robert Tanner, President & CEO*

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*Dear Friends in Christ at First Presbyterian,*

*We celebrate your 125 years of ministry in Elgin this year with you. Thank you for your partnership in ministry over our more than a century of shared time in Elgin, including our joint outdoor worship service this Fall.*

*We are grateful to share this city with you and look forward to the way God will call us faithfully to serve our city and world together.*

*Christ's Peace,*

*Pastor Katie and members of the Highland Avenue Church Board*

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*Thank you for your #ILGives donation of \$1,043.25 this will help pay for 305 lead tests to local underprivileged children.*

*Thanks again,*

*Trish and Cindy*

*Well Child Center, Elgin*

*{Editor's Note: Cindy stopped by with dozens of lovely Christmas cookies that we brought to shut-ins}.*

## THINGS TO KNOW .....

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting has been called for **Sunday, January 28, 2018** immediately follow the morning's worship service for the purpose of receiving the 2017 Annual Report, review of the 2018 Budget, and to approve the 2018 Terms of Call for Pastor Karen Schlack.

To all members of First Presbyterian – your attendance at this meeting is respectfully requested. Non-member friends of our church family are also welcome.

Committee Chairs: Please note the deadline for submitting your report to the church office is **NOON on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please pay attention to this important deadline. Thank you.

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### THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **January 16** at Colonial 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.

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### PADS Dancing Fundraiser!

Come one come all to a fun-filled evening of dancing, games, and prizes all while raising money for PADS Homeless Shelter. Our very own church member, Keeley Nauman, and her team will be dancing at the PADS Winter Harvest for the Homeless Dance this year and they need your support. The dance teams compete against each other to see who can raise the most money for PADS, an organization near and dear to the members of this church. In order to prepare for the big event, her dancing team will be hosting a preview night to help raise even more money for this great organization.

Here are the details:

**What: PADS Preview Dance Night**  
**When: Friday, February 2nd at 6:30-8:00 pm**  
**Where: First Pres. Parlor**

**What to Expect:** Come and watch a team dance...if you like it, give generously to help support PADS, and if you don't like it...give generously because you feel sorry for us! Either way, all money goes to a great cause! There will be treats and snacks to munch, a raffle for small prizes and a BINGO game where you can buy a card to play. All money raised from this night will be donated directly to PADS.

If you cannot make this fun event, please consider donating to our team/PADS on the website by choosing Team #1 from the link below:

[Http://bit.ly/2kyM3wP](http://bit.ly/2kyM3wP)

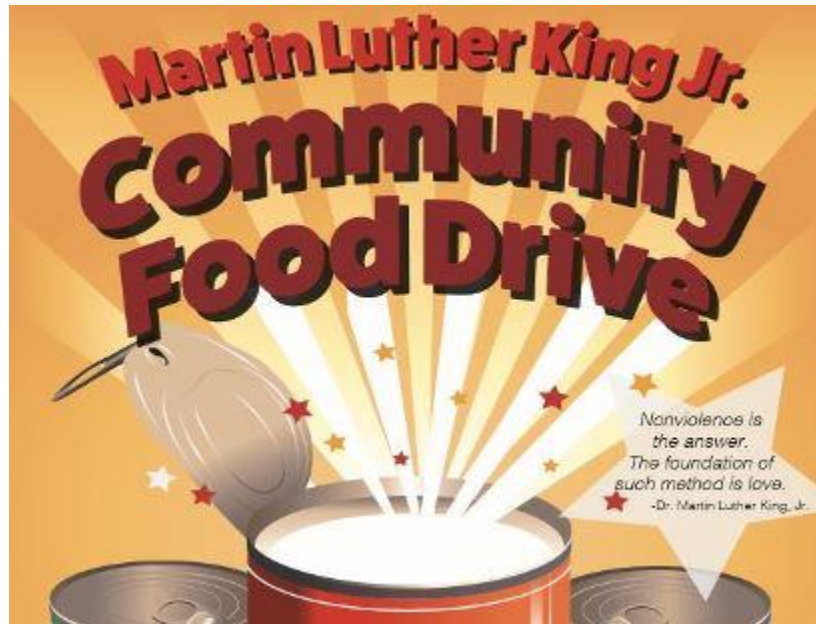
### THANKS TO OUR GREETERS

We would like to express our gratitude to all our faithful Greeters this year! You have made everyone feel welcome with your warm smiles, greetings, and handshakes. Thank you so much to the following: Ron Ahlman, Fran Channon, Betty and Steve Clark, Margie Dewey, Audrey Harman, Doreen Hendricks, Joyce Hopper, Lois McDonough, Barb Peters, Sandra Prouty, Stuart Ryder, Nancy Schueneman, Pam Stack, and Sue Taylor. Let's keep up the good work!

Carol Betts and Loa McLean

### Martin Luther King Jr. Community Food Drive

Our church will once again participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Food Drive. Their goal is to collect 8 tons of non-perishable items for the winter season. You can begin bringing your non-perishable items to church anytime between now and **Sunday, January 14th**. Look for the bins at the back hallway. Also, we will have brown bags with shopping lists available for anyone who would like one. **All drop-offs need to be made by Sunday, January 14th**. Thank you all for your support of this worthy mission.



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Kairos Counseling Center Fund Raiser @ Portillo's

When: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Where: Portillo's Restaurant @ 1020 S. Randall Rd. Elgin

Why: Help raise money for Kairos with each purchase

Just mention it to your order taker and Kairos receives 20% of the proceeds!

Thanks!

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:15 pm Bible Study  NO Chancel Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> COMMUNION 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP MLK FOOD DRIVE	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm CE 6:30 pm W & S 7:00 pm CH & SOC	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2:15 pm Bible Study  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> BAPTISM 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP MLK FOOD DRIVE	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> NOON – LUNCH BUNCH @ Colonial Café in Elgin  7:00 pm SESSION	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>18</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet  ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3:00 pm DEACONS	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Big Skillet	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING THE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 BUDGET, AND TERMS OF CALL FOR THE PASTOR. THANK YOU!</b>		