



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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JULY 2018



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Word from your Pastor...

Our Kingdom, or God's?

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." -Matthew 5:5

Competition is a great theme in our world today. Countries compete for power and money. Candidates compete for office. Teams compete for championships. Even children compete. As a child, I was taught that competition brings out the best performance in everyone. As an adult, I have learned otherwise.

Competition leads to rating and ranking of children. "She's an A student" was something I heard about myself...along with the jealousy and contempt that went with it. My sister was forced to follow me in school, three years behind me. She was relentlessly compared to me and I watched her come home from school with her head hanging low. I felt terrible, and she remembers those years to this day.

It is interesting to notice that in the Scriptures, Jesus never encourages us to compete. He was always lifting up the little people and telling the big people they needed to learn humility. He stood for love, faithfulness, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and answering a harsh word with a gentle response.

Such a view of the world looks strangely foreign to us today. We are a people who want heroes. Someone must win. Someone must lose. A poor man hanging on a cross has little chance to bring people out to the theatres. We want to see Luke Skywalker doing battle with the evil empire. Jesus was defeated. We want victory.

Yet Ghandi once said, "Victory attained by violence is tantamount to defeat, for it is momentary." Jesus taught another way of being human. His stories were about small things like mustard seeds. Quiet things like the mystery of growth. Peaceful things like forgiveness and love. Surprising things like a resurrection when all seemed lost.

The ways of Jesus have receded from public view, and the "other kingdom" of competition and winning have rushed in to fill the space. We entertain ourselves with video games where superheroes do battle. Gamers don't only play, they gather to watch others play. Last year, according to *Rolling Stone*, 360 million watched the League of Legends Mid-Season Invitational, an audience three times larger than the Super Bowl.

History offers sobering lessons about societies that worship the virtues of competition. Those societies, or kingdoms, tend to give less attention to the fragile bonds of relationship, vulnerability, trust, compassion and selfless love.

When winning is the goal, the line between good and evil runs between groups, not down the middle of every human heart. Winning and being right divide us into angry, sometimes warring, groups.

The kingdom of God does not look like this. Jesus taught us that we are spiritual creatures. We cannot live by bread, or possessions, or accomplishments, or winning...alone. Such living will leave our souls starved. We must live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. We must live for one another, seeking justice and peace, nurturing the virtues of cooperation and love. Without these virtues Jesus taught as being "the kingdom of God," our hearts will surely dry up and die.

Pastor Karen

FAMILY CARE

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

Laura Keating Gary Leaver Betty Manchester

Prayers of condolence go out to the family of John Hahn who passed away on June 10th. There was a Memorial Service here at First Pres of Elgin on Saturday, June 30th.

Prayers of condolence go out to the family of former long-time congregant, Gene Blair, who passed away on May 21st. A Memorial Service was held in Urbandale, IA on June 7th.

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 JULY 1st:

Bob Mogler
Brian & Jane Mooberry
Nicole & Rory McCarthy; Reegan, Gavin,
Kellan, Kinsey, and Finn
Dave & Colette McDonough

WEEK OF JULY 8th:

Lois McDonough
Loa McLean
Jenny & James McManamon; Chloe, Nora, Ryleigh
Keeley & Justin Nauman; Teagan

WEEK OF JULY 15th:

June Nicoll
Steve & Tammy Nitschneider
Lisa Notarnicola-Engels
Peggy Ognacevic-Engels

WEEK OF JULY 22nd:

Anthony Oddo
Kristy & T. J. Olson; Annelise, Bella
Carol & John Ott
Joe Ott

WEEK OF JULY 29th:

Karen & David Perez; Robby
Barb Peters
Bob Peterson & Lydia Larrabee
Bob & Sandy Prouty

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

SCHOOL KITS

Sales will start soon 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 are hoping to fill 200 bags 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
- 1 large eraser

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

There will be bins in the back hallway for your donations. Thank you for your generosity!

SEWERS, TAKE NOTE!

If you have taken home fabric to make into these School Kits could you please return the completed bags to First Pres by **August 15th**?

Thank you so much!
Flora Breslich

PADS Collection

We will be collecting for PADS, the local homeless shelter here in Elgin through Sunday, July 1st. Please place your items in the bins located in the back hallway of the church. Here is a list of food supplies and personal items they are looking for:

Immediate Needs

- Men & Ladies Flip Flops (adult sizes)
- Vinyl Zippered Pillow Covers

Food and Housekeeping Items

- Coffee
- Cereal
- Toilet Paper
- Peanut Butter
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Plastic Utensils
- Luncheon Plates
- Foam Cereal Bowls
- Kool Aide Packets
- 8oz Foam Coffee Cups
- Large Plastic Garbage Bags (39 and 45 Gallon Size Only Please)
- Liquid and Powder Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Gift Cards in Small Denominations to Meijer, Jewel, Walmart or Kohl's

Hygiene and Clothing Items

- Foot Powder (travel size)
- Insoles for Shoes
- Flip Flops/Shower Shoes
- Men's Work Boots (Sizes 9-12)
- Men's Winter Boots (Sizes 10-13)
- Men's Sneakers (Sizes 10-12)
- Men's Jeans (34-36 Waist Sizes, 32-34 Length)

Thank you so much for your generosity!

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

2nd Quarter Statements

You will find a copy of your second quarter statement on the table in the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings in July. This will enable you to keep your pledge up to date during the Summer. Call the church office if you would like have your copy mailed to you.

Any questions, please check with George Dewey, the Church Treasurer.

Thank you!

Session Members – remember to mark your calendar for the Retreat at the Walters home on Saturday, Aug. 11 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (more details to follow in an email)

There’s no Session meeting in July.

THANK YOU

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the love and support you have given to my family. Between the cards, the emails, the calls, ordering the Team Laura shirts, and all of the prayers, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I am so glad that my girls have the opportunity to grow up in such a loving church. God bless you all.

Laura Keating

THANK YOU

The Henrikson family is very grateful for the support of First Presbyterian, especially during Hal's sojourn after Marcy's death five years ago. He was so brave in carrying on without her, even as he grieved so deeply. You watched out for him, cared for him, visited him, prayed for him, and loved him to the end of his life. The memorial service and reception was full of your gracious hospitality as our family and friends joined you in celebrating Hal's life.

This church was a very important part of his entire adult life, after he and Marcy moved to Elgin for their first teaching jobs in 1956. Ben, Andy and Martha were confirmed in this church, and we have been influenced by it as we searched for church homes as adults.

While our ties to you will not be the same, we will continue to remember you and pray for you.

With love from Ben and Tamara, Andy and Jenny, Martha and Maureen

Dear Pastor Schlack,

Thank you so much for conducting the lovely service for Judy Kaulfuss. It was something that Judy would have loved and enjoyed. Those of us in the congregation felt that way.

It was appropriate that we had healing and closure for the life of our friend. We are grateful to you.

Rachel Campbell

THINGS TO KNOW

This past week was a noisy, joyful, fun place at First Presbyterian! Our annual music camp featured 46 lively and talented children. It was called “It Happened at Camp Willomocky,” and it was the story of a group of campers away from home for the first time and the challenges they faced. The week was full of fun activities, crafts, and of course, music. We sang the songs for our friends at Oakcrest on Friday morning. The performance on Friday night was beautiful! What a wonderful week!

We could never have had such a meaningful experience if not for our fabulous volunteers! Many adults and teens stepped up to give of their time and talents to help us out – we are grateful! It is so gratifying to have our teens (and adults) who attended camp themselves volunteer so that Music Camp can continue.

A great group of campers and a great group of volunteers! THANK YOU!

Debby Walters

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **July 17** at Colonial Café. 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.



Just a reminder for those of you who've ordered tickets to

2018 Annual Kane County Cougars Baseball Outing
Friday, August 10th
Gates open at 5:30 PM
Game starts at 6:30 PM

Tickets (\$5.00 each) will be in the church office prior to the event or at Will Call on game day.

LAST DAY TO ORDER TICKETS & \$5.00 PARKING PASS IS SUNDAY, JULY 22

BLANKET SUNDAY UPDATE

We would like to thank all of you for your generous donations of money to purchase blankets through Church World Service. You have given **\$956** to this cause and those poor and unfortunate souls who receive these blankets thank you also.

This is the last time that we will be involved with this campaign but Church & Society will take it over henceforth.

Thank you again,

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

AN INVITATION FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The time has come to say goodbye
to a woman we all hold dear.
Our sweet Colette is leaving us.
Her days of retirement draw near.
For eight great years she's served First Pres
with kindness and patience as well,
keeping the office running smooth -
We are certain you all could tell!
Now we'd like to honor Colette
after church on July Twenty-Nine.
Please bring a card or heartfelt note,
though your presence alone will be fine!

We hope you will join us immediately following the service
for a special Brunch to celebrate and honor our
church Office Manager, Colette McDonough

REMINDER FROM THE DEACONS

We do not meet formally during the summer, but “the work of the Deacon” continues through these months. Please help us to meet the needs of this congregation and in our local community. These needs do not “go on vacation”. Your past generous use of “Deacon Envelopes” found in the box with your weekly envelopes has helped to make our many outreaches possible. We thank you for your past generosity and ask for your continued support.

July 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION 9:30 am WORSHIP	2	3	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	6	7
8 9:30 am WORSHIP	9	10	11	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	13	14
15 9:30 am WORSHIP	16	17 NOON: Lunch Bunch @ Colonial Café	18	19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	20	21
22 9:30 am WORSHIP	23 NOON: August <i>Presby</i> Deadline	24	25	26 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	27	28
29 9:30 am WORSHIP Celebration Brunch Immediately following	30	31				