



The Presby Bulletin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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MAY 2018



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Word from your Pastor...

He Came to Church

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and all who believed were together and shared all things in common. There was not a needy person among them.” -Acts 2:42, 3: 34

The African American man who disarmed a shooter in Nashville last week insists he is not a hero. The gunman fired through the door, grazing his arm, but the door didn’t lock, so the 29-year-old waited for a pause in the shooting and then hit the shooter with the door and wrestled the gun away from him.

Then he attended church on Sunday morning after being released from the hospital. He said he isn’t especially religious. He said he went to church “to get past it.”

Not a hero. Not especially religious. But he went to church. What brings people to church? Obviously, something brought James Shaw to church Sunday morning. Since he isn’t “especially religious,” what might that thing be?

What brings you to church on the mornings you come? What keeps you away on the mornings you don’t? These are very important questions for all of us. Church attendance is dropping in all churches...not just small, main-line ones like ours, but large mega-ones. More than ever before, there needs to be a compelling reason we make that choice to come on Sunday morning. What is that reason for you?

As a minister, you know my answer to that question. But I want to know why Mr. Nash went to church. He “wanted to get past it,” he said. I can only assume that church was a place of safety to him. A place where he could put that horrible experience into the hands of God and a faith community. Something deep inside him must have prompted him. “This is the place you need to be today, the first day after your encounter with a violent experience.”

One does not need to be “religious” to have such an experience. In fact, most people today don’t call themselves religious. Being religious has become something people seem to want to avoid. Religion seems to have taken a turn sometime in the past 50 years. Once upon a time, being religious was expected and a sign of a “good person.” Today, being religious carries other connotations: it might mean being narrow-minded, radical, or even a bit scary.

I believe we folk who many would call “religious” because we choose to go to church, should examine the reasons why we come. Somewhere in the mix of those reasons should be that deep longing for a place where we can open our hearts to God, no matter what might be happening to us. A place where no matter who we are, someone will welcome us as a friend.

I want our church to be the one a person like James Shaw would go to after having such a difficult experience. I bet you do too. I invite you to open our church in your heart to your deepest prayers, that we might be a place a James Shaw could come, no matter what. No matter when.

Pastor Karen

FAMILY CARE

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

Mary Blackwell Laura Keating Gary Leaver Loa McLean

Funeral Services for Hal Henrikson will be held on Saturday, May 5th at FPCE. Visitation will be at 1:00 PM and the Service will follow at 2:00 PM. Our sympathies go out to the Henrikson family.

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 MAY 6th:

Andra & Pete Gerharz; Jaxton
Brian Graham
John & Katherine Hahn
Audrey & Ed Harman

WEEK OF MAY 13th:

Chris & Nancy Hawks
Cindy & Tom Helgerson
Doreen Hendricks
Hal Henrikson's Family

WEEK OF MAY 20th:

Bob Hill & Jill Lundstrom
Bob Hoffman
Mary & Stan Holat
Joyce Hopper

WEEK OF MAY 27th:

Gary & Debby Huffman
Sara Hutchinson
Barbara Juister
Allynn & Dan Kairis



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps our church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of our Pentecost offering will be retained by our church which will go towards our **Summer Music Program** and the remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk
- Pentecost Offering Financials

Our official kick off is Sunday, **May 13th and we will be collecting through June 3rd (when it is dedicated)**. Make checks out to the church and in the memo section write "Pentecost".

Thank you for your support!

**KAIROS RAFFLE
Sunday, May 20, 2018**

The Kairos Counseling Center will be holding its annual raffle on **May 20** in the parlor following worship. As a non-profit organization Kairos depends on fund raisers such as this raffle to continue its mission of providing low cost family and individual counseling. Tickets will be sold for 1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00, 5 for \$15.00 and 10 for \$20.

We thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 13th, will be Youth Sunday in our church. Please join us on Mother's Day as all of our youth lead us in worship. We will also be honoring our teachers, librarians, nursery caregiver and those youth who work in the nursery and usher.

LAST SUNDAY FOR YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last Sunday for Youth Sunday School this year will be May 20th. Our pre-school through high school will be going to the park for fun and snacks during Sunday School. Please mark this date on your calendar and we hope to see all youth, parents and younger brothers and sisters.

GRADUATES

If you are graduating from high school, junior college, college or are getting an advanced degree; please call the church office by May 17th so that we may print your name, school, degree and your plans following graduation.

STRONGHOLD

If you are attending Stronghold this summer, please see Ellen Vogel by June 3rd as the Christian Education Committee is offering scholarships and we need to know of your intentions by that day.

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Nuts for the Parlor – Nuts will be ready for pickup on May 6. Thank you to all who purchased!

May 13 – Youth Sunday – Come to hear inspiration from our youth!

May 20 – Pentecost Sunday
Please bring red flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday! Our church looked so beautiful on Easter that the Worship and Sacraments committee thought we should have a “repeat” - this time with **red flowers**.

When you're buying flowers for your gardens and porches, consider buying a few red ones and lending them to us for Pentecost Sunday. Just bring them in before church that day and take them back home with you. We'll do the decorating!

June 3 – Early worship time for summer begins at 9:30 am.

Don't forget to mark your calendars

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

**June 3, 2018
9:30 AM**

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 **\$179.67** representing the January - March 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

Thank you to all my church friends. First for prayers, then sympathy cards and words of consolation and encouragement in the passing of my last brother. I am the only one left now in my immediate birth family. I was the baby of the family. I came from a family of ten. Three children died in infancy. It is good to know that I am loved by church friends.

Mary Blackwell

THINGS TO KNOW

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on **May 15** 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.

Music Camp 2018

Are you ready? Music Camp 2018 is just around the corner! It will be held June 18 – 22 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Friday night performance will be at 7 pm. This year we will be learning a new musical called “Camp Willomocky”. It is a modern day story of kids going away to camp for the first time and the trials and tribulations that they encounter. It looks to be loads of fun with humorous characters and lots of singing and dancing.

I am hoping we have a record breaking number of children this year, so please encourage your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to join us. We always have a wonderful week, and I truly believe we all learn from each other that week.

Music Camp is a huge endeavor and requires many volunteers to make it successful. If you have time during the week and would like to help one day or all five days, please give me a call. You will come away with a renewed sense of energy and vitality about First Presbyterian!

Debby Walters
847-207-7980

Library News

We have some copies of the book *Fidelity* that Pastor Karen used for her Lenten class, along with the study sheets, available for checkout. These five enjoyable and thought-provoking stories provided a great forum for discussion. Please use the sign-out sheet at the back of the library if you would like one, and place in the Return box when you are finished. We hope you enjoy the book as much as we did!

The librarians,
Loa McLean
Carol Betts

May 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	3 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	4	5 1:00 pm Henrikson Visitation & Memorial Service
6 COMMUNION 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP NUTS FOR THE PARLOR DELIVERY	7 7:00 pm Worship & Sacraments Committee	8	9 2:15 pm Bible Study	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	11	12
13 MOTHER'S DAY & YOUTH SUNDAY 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP	14 5:30 pm Christian Education Committee 7:00 pm Church & Society Committee	15 NOON: Lunch Bunch @ Paul's Restaurant, Elgin 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING	16 2:15 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	17 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	18	19
20 9:15 am YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP 11:30 am KAIROS RAFFLE	21	22 NOON: June Presby Deadline 3:00 pm DEACONS	23 2:15 pm Bible Study	24 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	25	26
27 10:30 am WORSHIP	28 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 2:15 pm Bible Study	31 8:30 am Men's Breakfast		