



# PRESBY PRESS

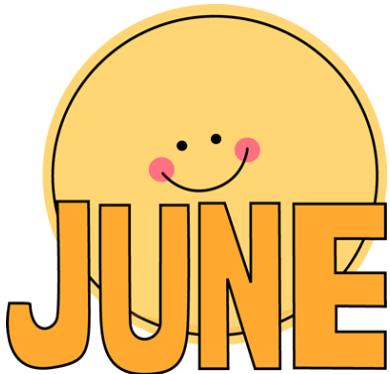
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

114 EAST JEFFERSON STREET † OTTAWA, IL 61350  
(815)433-1045

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 41 NO. 6

JUNE 2017



## OUR MISSION

TO BE THE  
LOVING  
COMMUNITY OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
THAT WILL  
  
WIN  
NEW FOLLOWERS  
OF CHRIST TO  
SAVING FAITH  
  
GROW  
ALL FOLLOWERS  
TO DEEPER FAITH  
  
GO  
INTO THE  
WORLD AND  
DEMONSTRATE  
FAITH

### FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

## *The Miracles of Jesus*

*A Summer Sermon Series*

Dear Friends,

Whew! It has been a few weeks of the whirlwind for me. It began with four days away for rest right after Easter with Debbie, something I've always wanted to do. After a brief return, I went to New York to join the annual gathering of my Presbyterian Pastors' Covenant Group – always a fun, rich time with these dear brothers. A significant highlight of that time was our visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City. It is stunning in its design and a most important, somber place to see and remember that sorrowful day.

From New York, ten of these pastors and I met up with my son, Matthew, and some others I know, to travel for our 15 day pilgrimage in the Holy Land. This was my seventh visit there, and each time I learn more of Jesus and the riches of his word. I had a wonderful time with Matthew and these friends! I returned briefly again to share the joy of worship and the Lord's table with my FPC family on Mothers Day, only to fly out again three days later. This time, as many know, Debbie and I went to share in the milestone moment of our last child, Hannah's, graduation from Whitworth University. It was such a joyous and proud moment for our whole family.

Cont. on pg. 3

### Remember to Pray for One Another!

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b-10a). You are invited to pray intentionally for one another in the First Presbyterian Church family.. Please pick up a name of someone to pray for from the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

## FROM THE SESSION:

Amendments to the Church By-laws have been reviewed and approved by Session at the May 16, 2017 Session Meeting. The last time the By-laws were amended was in 2000.

According to the By-Laws, before the 2017 amended By-laws can be officially approved and adopted a vote of the Congregation is required. A Special Called Congregational Meeting will be held on June 11, 2017 immediately after worship to vote on the new By-laws.

A copy of the Amended By-laws has been sent out in a separate email and will also be available outside of the church office and at the rear of the sanctuary at the Church two weeks prior to the Special Called Meeting.

## CHURCH PICNIC AND COMMUNITY MEAL!

The Church Picnic/Community Meal will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2017 beginning at 12 noon. The picnic will be pot-luck style and Fellowship & Outreach will be serving Fried Chicken.

Please plan to bring a dish to pass on June 19 according to the following breakdown for our Annual Community Meal/Picnic.

A-G Salads  
H-Q Vegetables  
R-Z Desserts

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

In the aftermath of the February 28 tornado, there is an opportunity to serve those in the community who are still trying to sort out their situation. To address those continuing needs, a LaSalle County Long Term Recovery team has been formed. Please consider whether you might be able to serve on this LCLTRT to help figure out how to best bring needed resources together with people's needs, in including grant monies from assistance agencies like PDA-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you would like to serve in some capacity, please contact Pastor John.

### Pastor

*John W. Walker*

jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

### Church Secretary

*Cindy Arjes*

fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

### Treasurer

*Betty Angus*

### Westminster

#### Choir Director

*Lloyd Chapman*

Lloyd@udnet.net

### Organist

*Diane Chapman*

*The Presby Press* is published monthly by

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**Our Elders are  
committed  
to serving.**

**Brian Huebner**  
(Worship)  
433-5477

**Mike Farrell**  
(Worship/Deacon)  
434-2774

**Brian Smithmeyer**  
(Discipleship)  
795-6791

**Lisa Mestelle**  
(Discipleship)  
252-7462

**Brad Angus**  
(Trustee)  
433-2946

**Dan Mestelle**  
(Trustee)  
252-7462

**Dan Duggan**  
(Trustee)  
431-9168

**Jim Keely**  
(Administration)  
433-0868

**Pete Trolinger**  
(Administration)  
795-6791

**Kerry Gerdung**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
434-4123

**Betty Ehret**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
228-2217

**Ron Koestler**  
(Missions)  
343-6088

**Diane Farrell**  
(Clerk of Session)  
434-2774

Cont. from pg. 1

And more exciting news: *Hannah has a good job in her field of study as a graphic artist!* I am so proud! I know that you are too. Thank you for all the well-wishes and cards you have shared with Hannah and us. You all have been so important in her life...and in making this moment a reality. We are so deeply and humbly grateful for all of these blessing, including you

As I returned from the graduation celebrations in Spokane, I came back to learn how well my FPC family did during my absence. My main concerns when I am away from you is always that worship and pastoral care will go well and run smoothly. I am so grateful for the capable leadership that always comes forward from FPC during these times. It's such a mixed blessing – to get to be away for my own needed rest and vacation, pastoral study, personal matters, etc., and know that all is well at FPC in worship and elsewhere because of the people of Christ that you are...AND YET to know that I am missing some really sweet times when the LORD is moving in the midst of our church family. It honors the Lord that so many are willing to step up and fill the pulpit – Jim Keely, Lisa Mestelle, Linda Lindeman, Ron Koestler, and Dave Farrell, among others. Lisa's and Jim's messages while I was gone were powerful proclamations of God's word to you.

Further, the reports I am hearing about Small Group Sunday, organized and led by James Burkey, are inspiring! These moments in the life of our church family remind us over and over again of how faithful God is to lift us up when we are willing to step up, try new things, and exercise the spiritual gifts his Spirit gives us to glorify Jesus and bless others. Thank you for your courage and willingness to step out of the boat and risk trying new things. Your lives are such a rich witness to the grace and truth of Jesus and his gospel. Your faith and your personal walks of discipleship are so real and tender. You bless me, as your pastor. I could not be more proud of you and also very humbled to get to be part of what God is doing here in you. Thank you for all you give to the life of Jesus' ministry here at FPC!

Last, as the title of my pastor's message above says, I want to tell you briefly that I'm looking forward to starting a new summer preaching series on June 11 that focuses on the miracles of Jesus we see in the gospels. What do Jesus' miracles teach us about him, about God and his purposes, about us? I look forward to exploring those and other questions with you as we seek to understand Jesus more together and to follow him as his disciples.

With deep affection for each of you,

Pastor John

P.S. I am so blessed by and thankful to those who worked hard while I was in Israel to completely repaint and re-carpet my study. To all who gave their personal time to move furniture and books, strip wallpaper, repair walls, refinish woodwork, pick tasteful colors of paint and carpet, materials and a new lamp...I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to each of you for the makeover of my study. Lori, Pete, Madie, Laura, Gayle, Larry, Diane, Mike, Dave, Dan, Betsy, James, Donna, Tobias, Matthew...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

# Believe in Uganda

Time is quickly approaching for the departure of Team Two to head to Uganda and participate in a packed agenda of activities! Finalizing last minute details has begun as bags are being filled with clothes, educational tools, supplies for mobile medical clinic, and gifts for families. The excitement of the first time travelers has reached an all time HIGH as we eagerly anticipate what God has for us during our two week mission—June 9th-June 26th!

Prayer is always of utmost importance to ease the tension of the new missionaries!! Milton does a thorough job of paving the way to the success of this mission trip, but prayer is requested for our plans, safety and health, as well as peace of mind!!!

Funds have been gathered and wired to Uganda from a couple major fundraisers—the quilt raffle brought in \$2585 which was wired immediately to complete construction of Amagara Ga’Boona, the medical center. A performance by Katie Belle and the Belle Rangers at Jeremiah Joe Coffee was successful with \$1300 earned to purchase 88 various medicines which will be distributed for free at a mobile medical clinic! But there is one financial need that has not been met.

A new orphanage has been located that our team will visit for the first time! The 31 orphans are lead by a couple out of the goodness of their hearts! However, there is no sustainable project to help them do the work that needs to be done. Many basic needs cannot be met easily because of this deprivation. Milton feels that providing a poultry project would meet this need. The goal is lofty but we are confident that God will provide. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please write your check to FPC Uganda missions! All of these funds will be used to construct the shelter, provide the equipment and feed for first year, and the baby chicks!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!!**

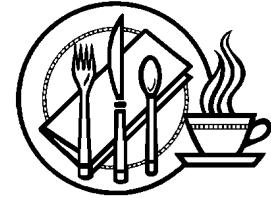
# LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

## Would you be willing to supply a meal for our Jr. High Youth Group (LOL4JC)?

They start each meeting with a meal to begin a time of fellowship before launching into their discussion and game time. Please contact Lori Trolinger (815-795-6791) or Lisa Smithmeyer (815-313-5843) if you would like to commit to preparing a meal for our LOL4JC kids

## Free Community Meals; 3rd Sunday of every month: LOOKING TO FILL

July, September and December 2017. Might God call you to work on the community meal project? On the third Sunday of each month volunteers are needed to do the following: Organize the meal (decide what to make, plan the purchase of food); cook the meal; visit with those eating; clean up. Who can help? Anyone, any age. Are you feeling like you and your friends can be the next ones? Contact Kerry Gerdung (434-4123) or Betty Ehret (228-2217) for more information and to sign up.



## Prayer Shawls: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is still going strong.

Do you know someone who could use a hug from God (who doesn't)? Please call us so that we may provide a Prayer Shawl for you to give that "someone" who needs God's hug.

Jackie Bean 434-3380

## Why not join a small group?

At FPC small groups are important. Why? Because few experiences encourage and build our faith more than small groups. Small groups teach us how to better know, understand and apply God's word in daily life. They also become a place of good friendship and caring. Want to join a small group? It's easy! Just talk to Pastor John or one of the small group contacts listed below:

Mike & Diane Farrell (Sun. PM): 434-2774

Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480

John Walker (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. PM monthly): 433-1045

Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible

Jack & Sandy Finnegan (Thurs. AM): 433-5253

Study (Thurs. PM): 252-7462

Jim Keely/Men (Sat. AM): 433-0868

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

## Handy Food Receipts

Please save your receipts and bring them to church. We can earn 1% of the receipts totals for our church! Boxes will be in Scott Hall and on the table by the church offices.

If you have any questions please contact Gayle Schmitt (815-667-9892).

## Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of May is canned meats. Let's fill the barrels at the entrances to our sanctuary and share our gifts with the less fortunate in our community.



## Sunday Greeters needed:

We need your smiling face to greet newcomers and "oldcomers" at the front door on Sunday mornings. This is a great way to contribute to the life of your church. Contact Chris Keely (433-0868)

## FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY

### LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, June 6 6:00 p.m. at

The Red Dog Grill  
at Heritage Harbor

Please contact:

Carol Woeckel  
815-434-6852

for info & reservations.



### JUNE

Nicole Stevenson	1
Brandon Mansour	1
Madisyn McGrath	3
Donna Burkey	14
Beth Woodyer	15
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Bill Buckingham	26
Max McGrath	26

### JULY

Carol Woeckel	3
Ryan O'Connor	3
Nicholas Angus	4
Randy Ehret, Jr.	4
Mary Ellen West	5
Peggy Harvey	5
Zachary Hoffmann	5
Drake Stuedemann	7
Joy Huebner	8
Dorene Pratt	9
Erica Hoffmann	10
James Keely	19
Gail Dial	19
Cindy Zeilmann	20
Bob Chapman	22
Linda Lindeman	25
Stacey Bragg	25
Ernie Brown	29

### KUM JOIN US

SUNDAY, June 4 at 11:00 a.m.

IN THE LIBRARY

WE WILL MEET AT  
HALFTIME RESTAURANT  
FOLLOWING MEETING

*All are welcome!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday in Summer 9:15 am- Pre-worship Prayer 9:30 am-WORSHIP 10:45 am -Fellowship & Coffee			<i>Every Wed.</i>	<i>Every Thurs.</i>		<i>Every Saturday</i>
				9:30 am Seniors Small Group		7:30 am Men's Small Group
				1.	2.	3.
4. <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> <b>GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY</b> 11am-Kum Join Us	5.	6. 6pm- Ladies' Nite Out	7.	8.	9.	10.
11. <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	12.	13. 7pm- Committee Meetings	14.	15.	16.	17.
18. <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> Noon- Community Picnic/Meal	19.	20. 7pm-Session Meeting	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	

*June*                    2017



**First Presbyterian Church**  
114 East Jefferson Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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### **CHURCH PICNIC/COMMUNITY MEAL IS JUNE 18!**

The Church Picnic/Community Meal will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2017 beginning at 12 noon. The picnic will be potluck style and Fellowship & Outreach will be serving Fried Chicken.

Please plan to bring a dish to pass on June 18 according to the following breakdown for our Annual Community Meal/Picnic.

A-G Salads  
H-Q Vegetables  
R-Z Desserts

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