

First Presbyterian Church

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2017

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/02 Brian Beckman
06/06 Mary Mobarak
06/08 Barb Overholt
06/09 Connie Ross
06/11 Sheri Hill

06/17 Pat Hughes
06/17 Nancy Smith

06/28 Betty Russell
06/28 Cory Canas

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/04 Richard & Judy Holtam
06/09 Don & Mary Lou Gaffey

06/10 Chuck & Julie Hage
06/11 David & Sue Coers
06/12 David & Sarah Bingaman

06/15 Bill & Janet Ferger
06/18 Harold & Rose Wendler
06/19 LeRoy & Joyce Kreger

06/25 Robert & DeeAnn Wendt

The Belltower

A Monthly Publication of
First Presbyterian Church
Dixon, IL 61021



Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
(James 5: 13-15 NRSV)

Earlier this spring, when Lorri was first confronted with the possibility that her cancer had returned, she asked whether I could invite the elders of the church to gather to pray for her as James instructs us to in James 5:14. Given that this was a perfectly biblical thing to do, we agreed that we would do this the next time the session was meeting. Other events intervened. Our vacation after Easter led to canceling the April session meeting, and then at the beginning of May Lorri was hospitalized and diagnosed with the further spread of her cancer to her brain.

Just that week during committee meetings, I shared Lorri's desire with the Finance/Personnel Committee, and while Lorri was in the hospital at the Mayo Clinic the session members came together here in Dixon, on Friday, May 5, to pray for her.

As I had a chance to speak with the session afterward, we agreed that this is something we are willing to do for anyone who requests it. If at any time you would like the elders of the church to pray for you—please do not hesitate to ask! We will make arrangements to come to you—or to meet you at the church—as soon as feasible.

Also, please remember that as your pastor am I am always very concerned to provide support and care in times of need. However, many times I don't hear about needs, or sometimes I only learn of them second- or third-hand. So please call, or have a family member or friend call. (In urgent situations please call my personal number 815-677-2801 any time of day or night.)

To use an analogy, in our Presbyterian practice of home communion ordinarily one or more elders or other members of the church accompany that pastor on those visits. We do that to recognize in a symbolic—or sacramental—way that it is the whole community of faith coming to our side. The same is true when we ask the elders of the church to pray for us. It is an act of the entire congregation—making visible and tangible the faith and love of the body of Christ.

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

It seems as if the past several months have been a very difficult time not only for my family, but for many within our church family. Let us continue to walk with each other, support each other, and lift each other up the Lord.

In Christ's love,
David



Remember Newsletter information to be turned into the office by the 15th of each month.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

As followers of Jesus Christ, we will, by our intentional actions, seek a deeper relationship with God, listen for the Spirit's call to mission in our community, and prayerfully lead others to know the joy of God's love, and to realize God's purpose for life's journey.

Serving UP Summer Lunch Program – New to Dixon this Summer!

Lee County United Way, in partnership with a number of community organizations, is starting a summer lunch program in Dixon. The Serving UP Summer Lunch Program will offer free lunch at two locations -- Vaile Park on Custer Avenue and Wooden Wonderland on Washington Ave..

Lunch will be served MWF from 12PM to 1PM and is open to ALL kids 18 and under. The sack lunches are provided by Lifescapes Community Service and follow the nutritional guidelines of the USDA. Kids MUST eat their lunch at the park. They will provide different activities and games throughout the summer. No need to sign up or register.

Volunteers will be needed throughout the summer. To volunteer, email your name, cell phone number and days of the week (MWF) that work best of you to servingupsummer@gmail.com. The time commitment is 11:15A.M. to 1:30P.M. You can help one day or up to three days!



Keegan Clark, grandson of Faye and Gordon Nicklaus, will graduate from Davenport Central High School on June 4. He is an honor student, member of the Honor Society and on the varsity soccer team. He will be attending Iowa State University, winning the MVP scholarship that awards tuition for all four years.

Philip Salstrom III graduated May 6 from the University of Illinois Medical School in Rockford. He will be at Johnson City, TN. for a four year residency in obstetrics and gynecology at East Tennessee State University. Philip is the son of Philip and Susan Salstrom of Oregon and grandson of Fred Bantrup and the late Vivian Bantrup.

Madeline Kay Fink, daughter of Lisa and Loren Wolf and granddaughter of Priscilla and the late Vernon Brickley, graduated May 20 from Chadwick-Milledgeville High School. She was President of her Senior Class. She will be attending Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and will be majoring in psychology. Her goal is to be a school counselor.

Connor Matthew Sherman was confirmed at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rockford. Connor is the son of Derek and Vicki Sherman, grandson of Bill and Janet Ferger. He attends Eisenhower Middle School, where he is active on the track team. Connor also plays Upward basketball. He enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing video games. Connor hopes to one day become an anesthesiologist. He finds the book of Judges to be interesting, and finds meaning in Jesus' final moments.

Special Music . . .

We need to start putting together the summer calendar for special music. If you are interested in providing a musical selection during the summer, or know of friends/relatives who may be willing to join us on a Sunday morning, please contact Kathleen Schaefer at lkschaefer@grics.net or 815-440-7163.

Kathleen Schaefer

Fund Raiser

There is a fund raiser planned for the Dixon Community Garden at Dixon Culver's June 6 from 5-7 p.m. Plan an evening out for dinner and help support the Dixon Community Garden.

Thank you!

Thank You . . .

Thank you to Rev. Spaulding and my church family for the prayers, visits, cards, and thoughtfulness shown to Evelyn and me after my recent surgery.

Bob Thomas

Prayer Guide—May/June 2017 – Lorri Spaulding

Hi all, I wanted to thank you for all your prayers, hugs, cards, notes (on Facebook, etc.) and for those helping us with rides. David and I could not have done these weeks without you and especially with God walking with us and you. Please know you are always in our prayers!!!! God tends to give me ideas at strange times, like 3 in the morning. I felt we all need to have some of those prayer guides David used to write again to continue to direct us, so hopefully, this will help. This is a reminder to me too!! I know most of you know it, but we all need it again and again!

Ask for forgiveness for sin--- Read parts of Romans 3 and 6

We are all selfish- We all want our way, not God's. We don't trust, we don't care about other, we let our impatience get in the way of others. We treat others not as the creation of God, with respect and care! We need to say we're sorry for our sins to God and others. We need to appreciate someone. People need love, value, and time for what keeps them together. We need to ask help from others! We all have garbage (anxiety, anger, insecurity) we are carrying along and inflicting on others!! Get help with some of it! Be patient! I know some people drive you crazy! They are still God's creation! We also tend to turn God into an object to be kept at a distance.

Yes we all need certain things to 'tick'- Introverts need quiet time, extroverts need time with others. Remember what makes you be happy might not make another person happy. (Think of the other and what Jesus would want!)

Our families (spouse, child, grandchildren, extended family! Our church (Take a bulletin list or go through the church directory.) Take time to pray for these people intentionally.

Our neighbors and friends- Write their names down!! Try and intentionally get to know a neighbor- one who is lonely. I don't always remember names, so sometimes I write down things like "the white house on the corner. " Yes, this takes your time- I know most of you are busy (jobs, kids, etc.). "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing well. At the right time we will harvest a good crop, if we don't give up or quit." (*Message Bible* Galatians 6: 9-12) We need the power of God's Holy Spirit to help to do this. We are sinful. Ask for it!!

Don't forget our missionary trip from June 6th-13th to the Yucatan Peninsula. Pray for safety, health, growth and care for the adults and kids. Pray for community and an attitude of service!! That God's will be done with this trip.

Pray against evil- The violent, those who are rich and powerful and don't care for people, ISIL, Hamas, Boka Haram, rogue governments, drug gangs, corrupt people. The list could on and on.

I think I'll stop there, but go back to sin- everyday! (Our society is not more or less sinful than we are/were. The amount of wars, genocides, people we hurt every day, etc. attests to that through the centuries.) But we need to seriously deal with our sin in the church!

Notes from the Session – May 2017

The session met for its regular monthly meeting on May 16, 2017. (There was no April meeting due to Rev. Spaulding's vacation.)

After opening worship, which included a reading from John 14:27-31, and extended time of sharing and praying for the joys and concerns of the church, the session discussed chapter 6 of *Becoming a Blessed Church*, by N. Graham Standish.

It was noted that session had approved, by email, a request from Sheri Hill for her family to use the Social Hall on May 7 for a bridal shower. It was also noted that the Rev. James Olsen, a retired minister of the American Baptist Church, officiated at the Lord's Supper on May 7 at the pastor's invitation due to his unexpected absence.

Highlights from committee reports:

- *Worship* – The last Sunday for choir before their summer break will be May 28. The AV system computer upgrades are being done.
- *Buildings and Grounds* – A new window air conditioner was purchased and installed in the secretary's office. Committee members are investigating a roof leak in the narthex entrance. The committee is looking into changes to our trash pickup arrangements. The committee is making plans to construct steps leading from the area by the storage shed near the parking lot to the lower lots. Church members would supply the labor.
- *Christian Education* – The Sunday School year will end on May 7. Ben Drezen's graduation from DHS will be recognized on May 28. Traveling Day Camp is already full!
- *Finance and Personnel* – The treasurer is carefully monitoring income and expenses. The current picture is a bit complicated due to the fact that there is currently money received for the mission trip in the bank account.
- *Innerness* – the committee shared information about people they are visiting and praying for.
- *Mission and Witness* – The committee provided updates on the summer mission trip. The session discussed reconsidering our policy of promoting and receiving all four PC (USA) special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking & Global Witness, Christmas Joy). After some consideration the consensus was to continue with all four, but to perhaps place more emphasis on some than others.

Priscilla Brickley reported on the April meeting of Blackhawk Presbytery. She offered some observations on the contemporary worship service during the meeting. Re-structuring plans for the presbytery have been approved. The next meeting is June 13 at Willow Creek church, Caledonia.

Pastor Spaulding:

- thanked the session for their support and prayers during Lorri's hospitalization, and for coming together to pray for her. It was agreed that the session is willing to do this for any member of the church family who requests it. (Please see the Pastor's Note for more.)
- requested that the minutes show that May 4-9 were family medical leave.
- shared that due to the changes in Lorri's health he will not be traveling with the mission team to Mexico in June; he expressed his confidence in the adults accompanying our youth members and noted that Rev. Mike Selburg from Morrison will be on the trip and has led several trips to the Yucatan Peninsula Mission.