

THE P.L.A.N.

P.
Presbyterian
L.
Life
A.
Action
N.
Newsletter

December
2017



Church Office
hours:
Tuesday,
Wednesday,
Thursday
8am—1:00pm

Dear friends,

This time of year is heavy on tradition and traditions. Most of our families have traditions, and with traditions, expectations. The families we come from have traditions and expectations, and the families we have gone to have traditions and expectations. Church families are no different.

As we gather, especially at Advent and Christmas, and again at Lent and Easter, we expect certain things. We expect to have chili before we hang the greens and prepare and decorate the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Those traditions are contagious, just ask the kids. They know what's **supposed** to happen.

So what happens to people who don't know what's supposed to happen or what's going to happen or who are new to the story? The first time we hear a story is different. We don't know what's supposed to happen, or what is going to happen. That can be disconcerting. It can also be wonderful.

I have a hard time remembering when it was that certain things became wonderfully comforting in their routine and ritual fashion. I do know that I love stuffing. Mom and Dad did too, and turkey is mainly a stuffing delivery device in our house. I love the lights being dimmed, the candles slowly being lit throughout the sanctuary as we sing 'Silent Night.' I long to hear the story contained in Luke 2.

And every year we do those things. Stuffing, Silent Night, "In the days of Caesar Augustus..." And every year, I hear the comfort in those routines and rituals. Yet these stories aren't about comfort, let alone my, or our, comfort. They're about the glory of God. They're about God changing things.

In the coming of Christ, God changes so many things. God changes the way sin is dealt with. God changes the way that we interface with God. God changes the whole story. If that's what God does in Advent and Christmas, I think perhaps we should be ready for our ways of celebrating those days to change. After all, for someone, perhaps the person next to us in the pews, this is the first time they're hearing the story, or believing the story, and that changes everything as well.

This season, as we journey, towards the birth of Christ, we also journey hoping to be as excited as we were the first time, and to remember when we didn't know how the story goes. Before it was one of our favorites, we had to hear it the first time. Don't just remember what we did last year, remember what God is doing. Happy Advent, and, eventually, Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

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In Our Prayers

Pray for those serving in the armed forces:

- ✠ Army:
Doug Carlile
Sean Richey
- ✠ Coast Guard:
Charles Fosse
- ✠ Marines:
Austin Reach
Kaleb Selock
Jacob Selock

If you have a service member that you would like to add to this prayer list, please contact your Deacon or the church office.

Pray for these Missions:

- Campus ministries
- Marion Medical Mission
- Camp Carew
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospitality House
- Marion Ministerial Alliance
- Embangweni Hospital in Malawi
- Wlm. County Child Advocacy Center
- Hospice of So. Illinois
- Lighthouse Shelter
- YAV
- Lithuania College
- Edinburrugh Seminary

Pray for our collegians:

- Danielle Markland
- Emily Wallace
- Gus Martini
- Lanita Ames

Pray for our missionaries:

- Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
- Sabrina Evans
- John Van Dyk
- Tom & Jocelyn Logan

Pastor's Address:

Rev. Wade Halva and Rev. Laurie Fields daughters: Madeline and Catherine Fields Halva

1713 Redbud Marion, IL 62959
email: wade@fields-halva.org
laurie@fields-halva.org

Wade Cell: (618) 751-1410

Pray for these concerns of members and friends of our church family:

Betty Ridgley, Cathy DeYoung, back injury, Cindy Burroughs, Claire Kreutzer, Fran Giles, Georgia Ruhe, Jeanette & Ron Bowman, John & Jean Johnson, Larry Van Meter, Marlene Sheruda, Pam & Roger Hendricks, Peggy Wiley, Ray Presley & Mary Lindley, Ruth Blackburn, Shirley Mitchell, Susan Harbison, Vivian Crofts, Gene Stiman, Deanna Myers, Eugene Chmielewski all those with cancer, the hungry, homeless, those in shelters, protection from natures wrath, hurricane recovery, those who are ill or in pain, those who are traveling, AIDS & HIV families, homebound or hospitalized, caregivers, the unemployed, the poor, our General Assembly PC (USA), Compassion Children, Co-moderators of PC (USA), disaster recovery, our nation and leaders, our military, our world, POW's, peace around the world, Session, our church, end to wars, Puerto Rico, California, Las Vegas, Zambia, Egypt, Syria, refugee situation around the world.

Someone remembers, Someone cares

Your name is whispered in someone's prayers

-Author unknown

Praise and Thanksgiving: Amy Kucharik released from doctor care for 1 year, Dan Whitfield our Pastor Emeritus, Yvonne Whitfield our Parish Nurse Emeritus

Condolences: family and friends of Kayla Richardson,

Please remember these members & friends
with your prayers, cards and calls:

Georgia Ruhe

3203 Zeller Ave. Apt C
Marion, IL 62959
997-7933

Roger & Pam Hendricks

445 Park Lane
Herrin, IL 62948
942-5863

Peggy Wiley

505 Rushing Drive, #46
Carterville, IL 62918
997-0948

Betty Ridgley

400 E. Reichert Drive #B
Marion, IL 62959
998-8893



Fran Giles

Manor Court
Carbondale, IL 62901
457-2892

Shirley Mitchell

3293 Zeller Ave. Apt B
Marion, IL 62959
993-0091

NEW ADDRESS for :

Jim and Kathy DeYoung
1831 E. Prairie Winds Circle
Urbana, IL 61803

Jim and Kathy have been an active, loving members of our church family. They will surely be missed. Maybe they can come visit us from time to time or if we are traveling north we can give them a call or a visit.

NEW ADDRESS for :

Emily Wallace
Knox College Campus Box 1728
2 East South Street
Galesburg, IL 61401





Here we are at the end of another year. At the end of December I will have fulfilled my term as an acting Ruling Elder. Not sure yet if I will be active for another two years or not. I have enjoyed the last two years and will stay active within the Church.

Sometimes I don't think I have made much of an impact as a Ruling Elder, or as the Chairman of the Christian Education Committee, but I have been busy. The Session has had some tough issues to deal with over the last two years and some opportunities to study ideas for new Church programs and activities and the Christian Education program continues to function. Hopefully each of us on the Session has grown and that the Session can stay responsive to the needs of the Church and this congregation and that all members are interested in some part of Christian Education.



SHARKs has had to make some modifications to its routines with some changes in leadership and with the kids growing up but remains a strong program. We still encourage all members to come and share with the kids.

Our Sunday School program has stayed steady. We have had some substitute teachers become a little more active and seen some changes in some curriculum.

The Pastor's Book Study has continued strong and have taken a slightly different turn for a while with some inward look at self growth and sharing spiritually.



I have added the use of a smart TV in one classroom and it has been an aid in the leading of the class discussion and is becoming helpful for the work of committees and meetings. Plans are to add a couple more smart TV's in other classrooms.

I have played a lead in updating the Churches Policy and Procedure Manual that is a work in progress. I have assumed some responsibilities for the Church website and work with Wade and the Web Community Presence Committee to make it an interactive and informative site. We are reviewing some ideas to expand the functionality of the site.



I thank the congregation for their faith in me and supporting me in the work of the Church.

Tim Van Roekel, Elder for Christian Education

by Jean Johnson, Clerk of Session

The Session met Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Moderator, Rev. Wade Halva, opened the meeting with prayer. Elders present were Tom Kucharik, Tim VanRoekel, Wendy Evans, Jean Johnson and Marna Ames. Elder Gayla Martini was excused. Dan Selock was also present. The printed agenda was approved.

Deacons had no report at this time.

The **minutes of the October 10 Session Meeting** were approved as written. The **minutes of the October 30, 2017 Called Session Meeting** to prepare the 2018 budget were also approved as written.

Elder Dan Selock presented paint samples for Session consideration for painting the church. This project has previously been approved by Session. Color similar to present color was chosen and Dan said he would proceed with the project.

Dan also reported that he had attended Clerks' Meeting in Effingham on Sunday, November 30. Our records were approved. Session expressed appreciation to Dan for making this trip to represent our church.

Elder Tim VanRoekel and the Moderator led review of The Policy and Procedure Manual from Section A21.00 to Section A 70.00. Each section was discussed. Further review will be in forthcoming Session Meetings until Manual is ready for final printing.

Notes to Financial Statements was presented by Treasurer, Jean Johnson
As of November 2, 2017

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Total income shown in statements | \$27,402.79* |
| Less our monthly expenses | <u>12,591.50</u> |
| Total income for period | \$14,811.29 |

* This income was comprised of funds from \$18,000.00 from Elinor King Estate, \$7,662.00 from regular offering and fund raising and \$1,003.00 of designated giving.

Our Balance sheet for October 31, 2017 shows: Total Liabilities & Equity to be \$234,198.77.
Total Liabilities & Equity is our net worth in all our accounts.

Elder assigned to assist with **Pastoral Care** in December and January is Elder Jean Johnson.

Pastor's Report for October 2017

Activities Report

- Attended MMA book group
- Attended Ministerial Alliance meeting (10/4)
- Many pastoral calls and visits
- Continued work with SHARKS
- Attended Lectionary group
- Continued Study on Spiritual Autobiographies
- Advent to Transfiguration Worship Planning

(continued on page 8)



For Information

I have been in conversation with Faith in Place about the new programs in Illinois for solar power. New legislation that went into effect this summer provides for significant incentives for not-for-profits, community solar, and projects related to low income communities. There is a bunch of information to gather and to figure out, but there seem to be some very good options available to us. There are lots of details involved, and information we haven't yet gathered together, so there is work yet to be done. Hopefully this makes sense to do, financially, with regards to stewardship, and with regards to our vision as a congregation.

This year we're going to again have a worship book for Advent. It is being put together right now, and will hopefully be useful to us again in worship this season. As we head into November and December, I'll be taking the week of Thanksgiving off, but will be here to lead worship on those Sundays. I'll also be taking off the week after Christmas. **This report was given for informational purpose and no Session action was necessary.**

Christian Education Report given by Elder Tim Van Roekel. He reported that there is a need for additional leaders with the SHARKS program. Anyone interested should contact Tim. **This report was given for informational purpose and no Session action was necessary.**

Properties Committee given by Elder Tom Kucharik. He reported that in addition to the painting of the building, the committee is working getting new estimates on outside drainage and the need for new heating units in Secretary office and mail room. Newer and more efficient bulbs have been installed throughout the building. Work has been done on the ice makers but still need additional work. **This report was given for informational purpose and no Session action was necessary.**

Stewardship/Mission committee report was given by Elder Wendy Evans. She reported that Andrea Wallace has progressed on designing pew cards to help congregants become more familiar with the missions the church supports.

The Mission Committee requested that the 2017 budget amount of \$5,000 be given to Marion Medical Mission, Groenewold Van Dyks at Lithuania Christian College, Marion Ministerial Alliance, Habitat for Humanity, Bethany Village, Lighthouse Shelter, Camp Carew, and Faith In Place. **After discussion, Session approved this motion.**

Spiritual Life Committee report was given by Elder Marna Ames. She reported that the Fellowship is working well. Also she reported that Prayer Garden is much improved after the work day. **This report was given for informational purposes and no action was necessary.**

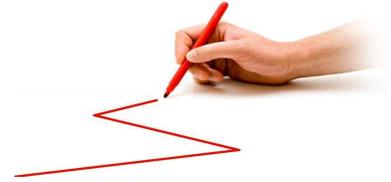
New Business

Session set Sunday, December 10, 2017 for Congregational meeting to elect 2018 officers and present Pastor's Term of Call for 2018. This meeting will follow the morning worship service.

Meeting closed with prayer by Moderator at 7:52 p.m. Next stated session meeting will be Tuesday December 12, 2017.

Social Justice Team

What Does “Redlining” Mean?



This article is an educational offering from the Social Justice Team. It is our purpose to highlight many facets of what social injustice may look like.

“Redlining” is a term coined in the 1960s by sociologist John McKnight to describe the practice of fencing off residential areas where banks would typically avoid investment based on community demographics. The area most frequently discriminated against were the black neighborhoods. Although racial discrimination and segregation in America existed before, the specific practice of “redlining” began with the National Housing Act of 1934, which established the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The policies in this Act led to the withholding of loans and mortgage capital in inner city minority areas. These neighborhoods (usually called the Red Zones) were labeled as the most risky for mortgage support which naturally led to further decline and property devaluation for these minority neighborhoods. Residents in these neighborhoods were denied not only banking and insurance services but also health care services and retail businesses. A study done by an Atlanta investigative journalist in the 1980s revealed that banks would often lend to lower-income whites but not to middle or upper income blacks.

How are we combatting Redlining today? The Fair Housing Act (also known as the Civil Rights Act of 1968) was passed to protect minority individuals from the discriminatory practices of financial institutions and agents. It is now unlawful to refuse to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. There are opportunities to make discrimination complaints when violations occur. However enforcement of these laws continues to be problematic. The most recent US Census shows that there has actually been an increase of ethnic and racial minorities living in concentrated, high-poverty areas than in the 1970s. An example of this is the practice of realtors choosing to place public housing in crowded minority neighborhoods rather than in neighborhoods with a white majority. Consider the recent plight of our Cairo black neighbors living in the housing projects there.

Please consider as well how our neighborhoods in small town rural Southern Illinois are still mostly segregated. Ask yourselves why that may be. Prayerfully consider what we as individuals can do and how God may be leading us.

Submitted by: Susie Selock, Social Justice Team



Reminders



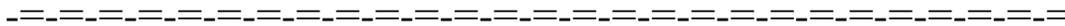
KROGER CARDS

The Kroger Community rewards program is in effect and there is no need to sign up yearly anymore.

If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, you can get one at the service desk at any Kroger store.

Once you are signed up you can check the bottom of your Kroger receipt to see if your purchase amount is benefitting this church. If that is not listed, you may need to sign up online at Kroger.com.

In September of 2017 we received a check from Kroger for \$162.89.



Email addresses for the church and Pastor Halva:

office@marionpresbyterian.org

lee@marionpresbyterian.org

Wade@marionpresbyterian.org

or

pastor@marionpresbyterian.org

Annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Celebration

You are invited!

Where: Kokopelli Golf Club

When: 11:30am Tuesday December 19

The Annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Celebration will be on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at Kokopell Golf Club. (The dining room is completely handicap accessible!) All women of the church and their guests are invited to join us for lunch at 11:30. Lunch will be by menu choice and the cost ranges between \$6 - \$9. We can car pool from the church at 11:00. We will make arrangements to pick up anyone needing a ride. Please call or text me to make reservation at 889-5720. We do need a number for the Club to prepare for us.

As in years past, please demonstrate your grateful heart by bringing a donation of non-perishable food items for Marion Ministerial Alliance's Soup kitchen.

God bless us all!
Jean Johnson



Fri 1: Our opportunity to work in the **MMA Soup Kitchen**. Please volunteer if you are able.

Thu 7: 6:00pm ADK (retired teachers group) will hold their meeting.

Tue 26: Lighthouse Shelter meal. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up. Food preparation begins at 3:30. The sign up sheet is on the “service” board in the fellowship hall.

SUNDAYS AND DURING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

3: The Worship Committee meets during the fellowship hour.

17: Christmas Cantata performed by our choir, led by Granger Odum.
There will be a blood pressure screening sponsored by the Health Ministry during the fellowship hour.

24: The 10:30 am regular worship service and the 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will both celebrate Communion.

31: New Years Eve. 5th Sunday Music Service.

MEETINGS THROUGH THE WEEK

Tue 12: Deacons meeting. 6:00pm Session meeting.

Sat 16: 8:00am Presbyterian Men meet at IHOP.

Mon 18: 5:00pm Health Ministry meeting.
6:30pm Cancer Support group meeting.

Tue 19: 11:30 am The Annual Presbyterian Women Christmas Celebration will this year be held at the Kokopelli Golf Club. The dining room is completely handicap accessible! All women of the church and their guests are invited to join for the lunch. Lunch will be by menu choice and the cost ranges between \$6 -\$9. We can carpool from the church at 11am. We will make arrangements to pick up anyone needing a ride. Please call or text Jean Johnson to make reservations (headcount) at 889-5720.

Thu 21: 6:00pm Social Justice group meeting.

WEEKLY CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays: 11:00am Tuesday Prayer Group meets at the church.

Wednesdays: 10:00am Book Study. 4:00pm S.H.A.R.K.s 6:00pm Choir.

Thursdays 3:30pm Tai Chi.

Christmas Poinsettia



It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias in memory of or in the honor of your family, loved ones, or friends. Please complete the order form on or before December 17th. The Poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary on December 25th, after which they may be donated or taken by the purchaser after the worship service. The cost is \$9.50. Please make your checks payable to the church and give your check and order form to Landa Stettler (997-6727) or the church office (993-3640).

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Number of Plants Ordered at \$9.50 each _____

TOTAL _____

Donate to shut-ins I will pick up

In Memory of

In Honor of



Birthdays: 8th Ralph Thompson, 9th Ron Bowman, 14th Ryan Martini
15th Lance Kreutzer, 20th Shawna Donovan Vaughn, 22nd Rick
Flanagan, 26th Ron Campbell

Anniversary: 5th Ralph & Lee Thompson

December 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 Soup Kitchen | 2 |
| 3 Worship Committee | 4 | 5 11am Prayer Group | 6 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6pm Choir | 7 3:30 Tai Chi 6pm ADK | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 11am Prayer Group 10am Deacons 6pm Session | 13 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6pm Choir | 14 3:30 Tai Chi | 15 | 16 8am Presbyterian Men meet at IHOP |
| 17 Cantata Blood Pressure check | 18 5pm Health Ministry 6:30pm Cancer Support Group | 19 11:30am Prayer Group Xmas Lunch @ Kokopelli PLAN deadline | 20 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6pm Choir | 21 3:30 Tai Chi 6pm Social Justice | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Communion at 10:30 Service and 7:00pm Xmas Candlelight Service  | 25 | 26 11am Prayer Group Lighthouse Shelter Meal | 27 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6pm Choir | 28 3:30 Tai Chi | 29 | 30 |
| 31 New Years Eve 5th Sunday Music | | | | | | |



First Presbyterian Church

A Century to Celebrate . . . A Future to Fulfill



1200 South Carbon Street • Marion, Illinois 62959 • (618) 993-3640 • office@marionpresbyterian.org

Online: www.marionpresbyterian.org

Sunday School: 9:00am

Worship Service: 10:30am