

**Presbyterian Times
September, 2016**

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

On Sunday October 2 our congregation, along with many others, will collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering. According to the Presbyterian Mission Agency website, the offering “enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.”

We do not collect the offering, however, without moving through the Season of Peace which begins on Communion Sunday, September 4 and ends on World Communion Sunday, October 2. We begin and end at the table of Christ, remembering his words of blessing upon the peacemakers. During this season we will offer prayers for peace and reflect on ways in which we can advocate for and engage in peacemaking.

To help us on our way, you may use the 2016 Daily Reflections for the Season of Peace. This devotional guide reflects the themes of the Peace and Global Witness Offering: The Table of Peace, The Table of Justice, The Table of Reconciliation, and The Table of Transformation. Please use this guide for your personal reflections as we move together through this Season of Peace.

Shalom,

Pastor Lou Ellen

Happiness is knowing there is a God ... and being on speaking terms with him. –
Guide posts

How Well Do You Know Our Congregation?

Bob and Carlene May

Bob and Carlene May and #1 son, Mike came back home to Champaign, Illinois from Newport, Rhode Island after Bob's four year stint in the U.S. Navy. Five years later, after Bob was graduated from University of Illinois, they along with #2 son, Tim and #3 son, Pat embarked on a nearly 30 year career with the U.S. Forest Service. During their travels they became Minnesotans (twice), Hoosiers, and Missourians (since 1973). To learn how Carlene and Bob first met, ask them.

Sunday school News

Larry Roberts

Sunday school has been available during the summer months ... and the Christian Education is preparing for the fall months. We encourage participation of children and adults.

The summer adult Session on **World Religions** has just concluded.

The fall adult Session will be on the **Reformation** ... to include interesting information and discussion on the time periods, individuals involved, and causations. Larry Roberts will facilitate about ten major Reformation topics and events as our church and Protestant churches everywhere prepare for Reformation Sunday on October 30, 2016. The reformation class began **August 28th in the Journey Room**. Hope to see you there.

Presbyterians Cook

Carol Jessop

Since gardens are probably producing more than you can use or give away you might be in the market for a new recipe. This is *Carol Bennett's* recipe for Cucumber Soup. It is a cold soup and wonderful for lunch on a hot day and so easy to prepare.

Carol Bennett's Cucumber Soup

(Makes 2 servings)

1 medium cucumber, peeled and seeded and cut into 1" pieces
1 cup chicken broth
1 cup sour cream or plain yogurt
1 Tablespoon vinegar
Dash of garlic powder (to taste)

Place ingredients in blender and process until almost smooth. Serve chilled. You may garnish with chives or dill weed. May double or triple this recipe.

If you have a "Seasonal" recipe and would like to share it, please get it to me and I will see that it gets in "Presbyterians Cook". --- Carol Jessop

Library
Carol Jessop

Have you been in our library lately? We have a small, but very good library. The library has an excellent selection of books on history, theology, biblical helps and resources. There is also a great selection of both non-fiction and fiction and what I call "light" fiction. For you grandparents there are some good books for children that you might want to check out when the grandchildren are visiting. Drop in and give it a look.

FAITH is what gets you started. HOPE is what keeps you going. LOVE is what brings you to the end. –Mother Angelica-Franciscan Nun-



Rachel Allison, Preschool Director

We're baaaaaack! I'm sure you've heard us...or seen us...or smelled us! ☺

On the first day of school this year I went to help in the beginner's class. Two kiddos were sobbing for their mamas and so I was attempting to help soothe. In the middle of the chaos this teeny, tiny little guy was just walking around the room smiling, a HUGE, BRIGHT SMILE at EVERYTHING, despite the crying and confusion, despite the fact that his mom just dropped him off with strangers for the first time, he was genuinely JOYFUL to be at preschool! That's exactly how I feel! It may be crazy around here but I'm happy to be here!

We have 70 students enrolled so far and 12 staff members! By my math that's 82 people who need your prayers this year so please keep us in yours!

We are just getting in to the swing of things but we will start going at full tilt come September! The Rolla Fire Department is coming to visit us; the ice cream truck is coming back. We will have music with Mary Kwantes, Chapel with Pastor Lou Ellen, picture day(s), the Book Fair, and PE at The Centre next month! Whew! Makes me tired just thinking about it but it's sure to be FUN!

Left to Right (top): Donna Bradshaw, Kyla Gavura, Amanda Baker, Kathy Bennett, Donna Schmickle, Linda Gehrlein, Angela Isaac, Amber Paul

Left to Right (bottom): Rana Ragan, Rachel Allison, Shay Sturgeon, Melissa Field



How Well Do You Know Our Congregation

Did you know that Christine and Ardel Rueff started attending church here when they were dating? They were married in the church on May 31, 1969.

PW RUMMAGE SALE

Cheryl Koederitz

The PW Rummage Sale will be on October 1. As you prepare for fall and find donations, we will accept them on Thursday (12:00 – 6:00) or Friday (8:00-12:00) before the Saturday sale. If you have large items, please contact Cheryl Koederitz (364-2672) to arrange transportation. No clothing or TVs please. The sale will run from 7:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Common Call Campus Ministry

Jonathan Kimball

With the start of the academic year at Missouri S&T, we have revived Common Call Campus Ministry. This is a joint ministry of our congregation, Hope Lutheran (ELCA), and Christ Episcopal. Because of its proximity to campus, meetings are held at Christ Episcopal. We meet on alternate Sundays at 5 pm (although we may adjust the time—still basically at dinnertime, though). We held our first meeting on August 28. Common Call is a registered student organization (RSO) on campus. The advisor is Dr. Stuart Baur from Hope Lutheran. From Christ Episcopal comes Beth Pross.

Our plan for this semester, and possibly all year, is to study non-Biblical texts. The RSO president, Peter Hobson, will be leading the study. At our first meeting, we read through the Didache. A typical meeting starts with a meal, then transitions to studying some topic, concluding in about an hour so that students can get back to their studies.

So first, I would say to all college-age individuals (or even close!), you are welcome to attend the meetings. Obviously, only students can officially join the RSO, but the meetings themselves are fairly open.

Secondly, one of our responsibilities as a congregation is to provide the meal. Figure on 5-10 people eating. We are doing a rotation among the three sponsoring congregations, so for this semester, Presbyterians are responsible for October 9 and probably December 4. If you would like to help, talk to Jonathan Kimball.

Finally, we are trying to support each other's campus ministries. In particular, Christ Episcopal has a meal planned on September 18, 5-7 pm. They have asked for about three individuals to help out. The meal consists of pasta dishes and desserts. I believe that the main course is well covered, but they could use additional sides or desserts, as well as help in the actual serving of the meal. If you would like to help, again talk to Jonathan Kimball.

Worship & Music

Jonathan Kimball

As the school year resumes, so we enter a new time in our worship & music activities. First and foremost, chancel choir and bell choir are resuming. Our first practice is August 31, and we will join the service on September 11. Practices are on Wednesday nights, with bells at 6 and choir at 7. I have often said that we have the best choir director in town—and probably for miles around. One of Jeff's special skills is getting the most out of whoever shows up.

America on the whole has regrettably lost its singing culture. There are many culprits, but perhaps the most significant factor is the broad access to high-quality music. It seems counterintuitive: the more and better music we listen to, the less we sing or play ourselves. We have become accustomed to hearing "perfect" voices on the radio—perhaps made perfect by studio tricks, certainly by multiple takes. That is an unachievable standard for all but the very most talented among us. The next notch down is a soloist's voice. We have been blessed with music offerings from several members of our church community this summer. I was not one of them, not with my voice anyway. I recognize that I do not have a soloist's voice. And yet, I feel quite comfortable in the choir. There, the little imperfections in everyone's voices blend together and all that is left is the beautiful harmony that the composer intended.

The same happens, or should happen, at the congregational level. You may think that nobody wants to hear your voice, but what that really means is that you don't meet the standard that you hear on the radio, or that you don't have a soloist's voice. Neither is

necessary for good congregational singing. Maybe you can't follow the melody line perfectly; maybe you can't reach the very high or very low notes in the tune. That just doesn't matter. I often can't reach the high notes, either, but I do my best and trust that others will. We all blend together and just as God weaves our many talents together in the church's ministries, the music weaves together the best that we all have to give.

I am hopeful that using the screen will help some, too. On the one hand, we have not been projecting the music, so some people feel that lack. On the other hand, sight-reading is often less productive than just listening, really listening, to the accompaniment and the voices around you. The benefit of reading from the screen is that your head is up, so your voice projects. (My apologies for the technical failure on August 28. I rely on Google Drive, which is wonderful when it works—but it didn't. I know what I need to do differently, though!)

My thanks again to all those who's hard work make our worship services flow smoothly. Peace be with you!

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

School is back in Session and autumn is just around the corner. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Activities and committees, bells, and choir will be returning to full swing this month. Watch the bulletins, newsletters and posts for upcoming activities.



We want to extend wishes to the following folks with birthdays in September. Tammy Bennett, Dena Phelps, Cody Moon, Jean Moran-Day, David Drewniak, Pauline Taggart, Lou Ellen Hartley, Delanie Winchester, Bill Cottingham, JoAnn Anderson, David Winch, Illa Bell, Karen Hudson, Ashlyn Lewis, Leslie Skelton, Matthew Skelton and Lauren Postlewaite.

We do not have any anniversary celebrations this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2 – First Friday Night Out at Mandarin Garden at 6 pm
September 5 – Office and preschool closed for Labor Day
September 11 – Choir returns during worship

September 11 – Grandparents Day
September 12 – 13 Preschool pictures
September 12 – 15 Preschool Book Fair
September 15 – *Happy Birthday* Pastor Lou Ellen
September 16 – School closed, FH floors stripped and waxed
September 18 – Church Picnic 12 – 2 pm Veteran’s Memorial Park
September 22 – First day of autumn
September 26 – October 2 Pastor Lou Ellen on vacation
October 1 – Presbyterian Women’s Fall Rummage Sale