

August 2017



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Pastor's Pen

BY ERIC CORBIN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
(eric@firstpres.church)

August is upon us! This month offers several opportunities to represent our church in the community, beginning with this past Sunday's Interfaith Potluck Picnic. What a joy it was to gather with over 200 people of a variety of faiths in our community! The Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County seeks to build bridges of friendship and this event was a great step in that direction.

Next Sunday is Sholem Fest, an opportunity to gather for fellowship, food, and fun, with the chance to swim, if you would like. August 18 and 19, we'll be participating in Taste of C-U, aiming to get the word out about the wonderful opportunities for worship and ministry here. That same weekend, we'll have visitors in our church for a Historic Church Tour. On the 27th, we have the opportunity to attend the SAFE House Gospel Jazz Fest to support the vital ministry of the men's and women's SAFE Houses. So many great events this month – and some of them need your help, so please check details in this month's newsletter.

Our prayers are with **Pastor Chuck and Betty Carlson**, as they spend the month away from us, preparing for their retirement life in Montana. Meanwhile, the ministries of the church continue, and need your support. We hope to see you involved in the events in the life of the church. Remember to check the online calendar at firstpres.church/calendar to keep up with what's going on.

Meanwhile, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." – Pastor Eric



Please join us Sunday, August 13, 2017 for

Sholem Fest

6:30 PM Picnic at Centennial Park

8 PM Swimming at Sholem Pool

All are welcome Sunday, August 13 for a potluck supper at 6:30 at the Centennial Park Pavilion. Fried chicken, hot dogs, water, and table service provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The Water Park is open at 8 for our private use.

Not a swimmer, no worries, come for the music.

A Taste of our Church

BY GARY PETERSON, OUTREACH CHAIR
(amer_swede@yahoo.com)

Taste of Champaign is being held in West Side Park Friday and Saturday August 18 & 19. Our church will have a table in the park this year. We will be passing out information about our church, our missions and inviting guests to experience our different styles of worship.

We still need volunteers. Any posters reflecting life at First Presbyterian are welcome. Signup sheet is located at the Welcome Center or email; **Gary Peterson** at amer_swede@yahoo.com.

Historic Church Tour

Join the Champaign County History Museum for a 1 ½ hour long tour of the three beautiful downtown churches. Tours will depart from a booth in West Side Park at the Popcorn Wagon during the Taste of Champaign on Saturday August 18. First seen will be the Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church then on to First United Methodist Church and ending at our First Presbyterian Church.

What information can you share? Contact **Linda Peterson** lindakpete@gmail.com to share your knowledge.

Buy your tickets at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-churches-of-downtown-champaign-1100am-tour-tickets-36598120965>

Retirement Celebration for the Carlsons

A celebration of appreciation will be held Sunday, October 15 at City View located on the top floor of the Illinois Terminal Amtrak train station and CU Bus Station. All are invited to a catered lunch at 11:30 following the **one church service at 10 AM**.

If you would like to donate toward a retirement gift for the Carlsons, please make your check out to the church with a memo for retirement or mark an envelope as retirement.

Music at First Church

BY JOE GRANT, MUSIC DIRECTOR
(joegrant@illinois.edu)

While the Sanctuary Choir, Upper Room Ringers and Children’s Choir are on August hiatus, planning is actively underway for the fall and several special events. Following **Allegra Martin’s** departure, we have recruited candidates for the Children’s Choir director position and interviews will take place shortly so that our new director will be in place at the beginning of September. Plans also are under way for the musical portions of the combined service on October 15 to honor Chuck’s last Sunday. Likewise, special music will be part of our celebration of the 150th Anniversary of our church building. These include a combined service and a concert.

Our fall rehearsal schedule will resume on Wednesday, September 6 with the Upper Room Ringers at 6 PM and Choir at 7.

Please give consideration to becoming an active part of these groups. You don’t have to be a pro, just someone that loves making music for the Lord! We’ll teach you the rest. Come and join us.

*Dale and Ginny Tutje
would like to invite you to join them
Saturday, August 19, 2017
in Westminster Hall
between 2 and 4 PM
to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary and
Dale’s 90th birthday.
RSVP to the church office 217.356.7238 or
info@firstpres.church*

A Glimpse Into Our Past

By 1854 the church began building on the same two lots where the present church building stands. It was a frame building, costing \$1,700. It was erected on wooden posts with exposed floor joists due to drainage issues from the creek in West Side Park, which at that time was swamp land.

Prayer Corner



Pray for Us

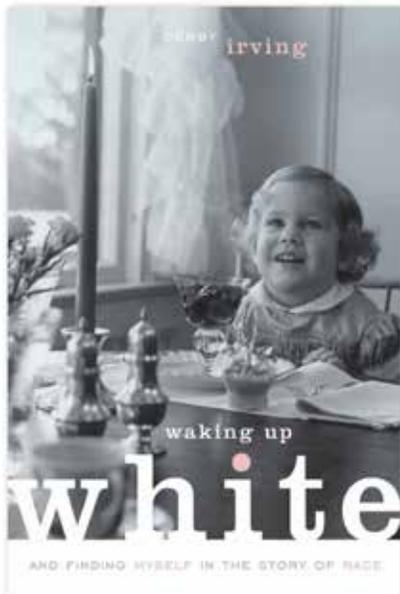
For whom are we being asked to pray when we read "Brothers (sisters) pray for us." I Thessalonians 5:25? It is for the apostle Paul plus Silas and Timothy, showing their need for the prayer support of other believers. Today ministers are earthen vessels God uses to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and preach the word of God. They face criticism from those against Christianity plus conflicts within the church. Their days are often long as they minister to the needs of people.

Let us remember to daily pray for the faith, peace and health of our ministers and for the people needed to help them.

WAKING UP WHITE

6 WEEK DISCUSSION

PC USA INVITES YOU TO READ ALONG



SEP 6 – OCT 11

Wednesday Nights

7-8:30pm

Mae Chapin Parlor



Debby Irving
a racial justice educator and writer, who works

with other white people to transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action.

Jays & Concerns

Congratulations to...

- **Merveille and Tresor Mbaya** on the birth of a son, Adonai Mbaya, July 21, 2017.
- **Timothee Pukuta and Jolina Tambwe** whose marriage was blessed by the Rev. Chuck Carlson on Saturday, July 22, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to...

- the family and friends of **Kathy Villegas** who died Monday, August 7, 2017. Arrangements are pending.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Sunday School Update

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF CYF
(mindy@firstpres.church)

SonSpark Labs VBS was a great success! We had a total of 33 kids registered to attend over the five weeks of July. We learned that God’s plan was to make us, to be with us, for us to know him, to save us, and to love us forever. We had fun along the way with science experiments, games, crafts, and great snacks!

So many of you came forward to make this program possible, and I give thanks to God for your time and talents. Our VBS volunteers were:

Jim Berger, Pat Phillips, Pat Metcalf, Kathy Schoeffmann, Laura Miller, Lizz Pippin, Jan Wittler, Destin Lemblembe, Linda Sanquist, Steve Gritten, Sabrina Hwu, Liz Miley, Mary Lou Bauer, Sarah Laufenberg, Henry Laufenberg, Sam Laufenberg, Ellie Laufenberg, Kristi Carlson, Erika Motley, Alle Pope, Melissa Leichter, Mimi Nygren, Sandy Carr, Mary Gritten, Grace Rispoli, Ginny Waaler, Naomi Rempe, Betty Hollister, Jeannie Snoeyink, Gloria Read, Leland Andrews, Ginger Kirby, Mamiley Masweka, Sue Fischer, Cathy Schowengerdt, Jane Seiler, Cathy Daily, Mati Stone, and Thethe Makes Kidimbu.

We will have a blessing of backpacks for the children on August 13 in worship. Be sure to have your child bring their school backpack to church for a special prayer and blessing as they return to school.

Later that same day, all are invited to attend the picnic and pool party at Sholem. We hope to see you there!

There will be no Sunday School in the month of August. Sunday School will resume on September 10. Youth are to attend worship with their parents.

VBS “Sparks” A Lot of Enthusiasm!



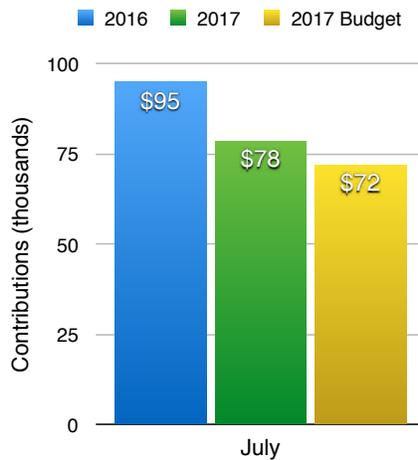
Our Church

Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, FINANCE CHAIR
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

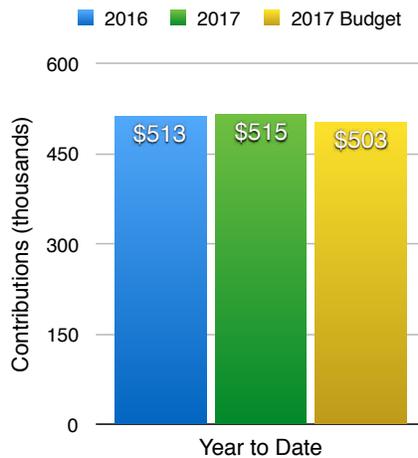
Contributions

Contributions in July were \$17K less than 2016 but \$6K above the budget at \$78K. The Year to Date total continues positive in 2017. This exceeded last year by \$2K and the budgeted amount by \$12K. The increase in this year's contributions continue to offset the decrease in prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the pledge year) for 2017 compared to 2016. These pre-paid pledges are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions.



Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$17K below budget at \$568K and \$36K below 2016. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$60K which is \$37K more than at this time in 2016. This figure includes a \$29K transfer from other funds that was not made last year.

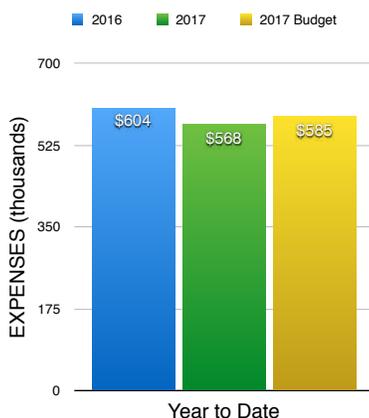


Thank You ESL at FPCC A Special Lunch



The students and tutors received a wonderful gift in July—one of the ESL students, Maria, prepared a lasagna lunch as a way of showing her love for all the ESL students and teachers.

Maria is from Brazil and is here working as a nanny for a couple of university professors. She brings much joy and laughter to our program. She is also a fantastic chef! She made the pasta and sauce from scratch. The food and touching words made everyone feel very special.



An outdoor teak bench has been added to the northwest side of the church near the handicap parking/entry. The bench is given in memory of Don Livingston and John Murray.

Our Community

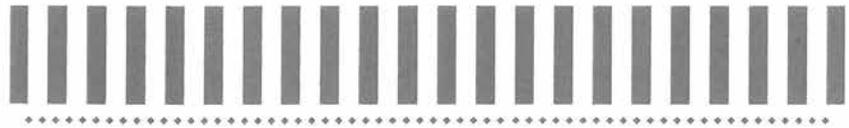
Conversation Partner

BY BOB KIRBY
(rwk3213@gmail.com)

Do you have an hour a week to give? If you are a native English speaker and you like sharing stories with people then you might enjoy becoming a Conversation Partner. There is a long list of foreign born people who would love to have an hour a week to practice their English conversation with you. Some of them are from our own congregation. Some basic training and support in your work as a partner is provided but you will work directly with your learner to set times and the public places where you will meet.

This program is coordinated by The Community Adult English Language Collaboration. It is modeled after the Project Read Program offered for many years at Parkland College and it is endorsed by CU-FAIR, ECIRMAC and University YMCA Welcome Center and many faith organizations in our community.

Contact **Bob Kirby** at rwk3213@gmail.com or 217-621-5915 for more information.



Portillo's for GOOD

FUNDRAISERS

Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

AUSTIN'S PLACE EMERGENCY SHELTER

August 10th, 2017
5pm - 8pm

at the Portillo's located at:
2306 N. Prospect Ave.
Champaign, IL 61822

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us to serve up a better tomorrow, visit portillos.com/good



Gospel Jazz Fest August 27

SAFE House benefit

*in memory of
Willie Summerville*

3-7 PM

Hessel Park



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

Pastors:

Chuck Carlson..... Interim Head Pastor, Ext. 213
Eric Corbin..... Covenant Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

P: 217.356.7238

F: 217.356.7242

E: info@firstpres.church

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Staff:

Kristi Corbin Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219
Ritchie Drennen Facility Maintenance
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211
Robert Ferrer Audio-visual Technician
Marcia Franks Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210
Joe Grant Director of Music
Debra Miller..... ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235
Blaise Pascal ... Asst Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext 216
Chris Penny Facilities Manager, Ext. 237
Ann Petry Accounting, Ext. 224
Andrea Pope..... Contemporary Worship Director, Ext. 215
Richard Rossi Church Musician
Mindy Watts-Ellis .. Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

Sunday:

8 and 9 AM Traditional Worship
9 AM Children and Youth Education
10:30 AM The Gathering (Contemporary Worship)
10:30 AM High School Youth Education

Saturday:

6 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering
(French-English Service) Centennial Hall

The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month's publication. Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.