

**July 2019**



# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

## *You Are Invited*

You are invited to a “Service for Wholeness” in First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 6 PM Sunday evening, July 14.

A “Service for Wholeness” is a quiet worship service where we share words of scripture, song, and prayer focused on spiritual and physical wholeness.

The service is designed for people who are grieving, hurting, or in prayer for others who grieve and are hurting. Some come to these services to pray for a friend and to be in prayer for the world. Some come because the world worries them. Others come with burdens and personal pain.

People are welcome to sit quietly through the service and participate in the singing and praying as they wish. Some will come forward for brief one-on-one prayer with one of the pastors or elders, an anointing of oil, and a prayer.

Scripture strongly affirms ministries of spiritual healing. The root of the word healing in New Testament Greek, *sozo*, is the same as that of salvation and wholeness. Christian healing is about wholeness--- what the Hebrews knew as *shalom*. Sickness is not limited to physical illness. Our past experiences of hurt, our sometimes tangled emotions, and our inability to forgive or be forgiven, all make us less than whole and in need of healing. Spiritual healing is God’s work of offering balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

## **Fourth Annual Picnic**

**Interfaith Alliance  
of Champaign County**

**Sunday, July 28**

**4 PM Crystal Lake Park**

**Come join your friends and neighbors from various faith communities across C-U as we gather for an afternoon of food, fun, and conversation.**

**The event is free and appropriate for the entire family, and is potluck-style.**

# Congregational Life

## Face to Face



Mary Jane Kelley

**“Fellowship and team work are an important part of our faith.”**

### What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

Well, I guess I would say **Nancy and Dave Whitford**. They are long time friends. They encouraged me to come. Paul and I grew up Catholic. Paul and our son and his family are members of Holy Cross. I found a small Presbyterian church in Virginia which I loved. It was very hard to leave it. I searched the internet and talked to people and wanted to stay with Presbyterians. I visited here and I am delighted to be a member here.

### What has been the highlight of your church experience?

I am very new here but so far I would say the very welcoming and friendly people and the encouragement of **Pastor Matt**.

### Tell me about your family? Your work?

OK. I graduated from college with a major in English and then a masters in English and then a PhD in education. I taught high school for ten years and the rest of my career was in medical education usually working as a curriculum specialist. I was

at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign and then at East Tennessee State and finally at the University of Virginia. Now I am retired and back in Champaign. Paul and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year. We have a son, John, in Champaign and a daughter, Claire, in Virginia. We have four grandchildren. John encouraged us to move closer to him. We arrived in the snow storm in January.

### What do you do in your free time?

I love to read, golf and stroll at Allerton Park. I was very busy in my last church and I am now discerning carefully what things I am called to do here.

### What are your favorite Bible characters?

Probably Mary Magdalene. She faithfully followed Jesus and then was there through the crucifixion and the resurrection.

### What advice would you give on how the church can best be the church?

Fellowship and team work are an important part of our faith. I can meditate and do yoga alone but I think most of us need to be together to mature in our Christian faith.

## Nurturing

### Membership, Fellowship, Hospitality

BY GARY PETERSON, CHAIR  
AMER\_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM

#### Fellowship

Many thanks to those who attended, helped and brought tasty food to the International Taste of First Pres. The music, stories and song were enjoyed by all. We hope to see you at next year's Taste.

Also, please mark on your calendar to attend Sholem Fest which will occur on August 11th. It will be a fun evening of picnic food, games and having the Sholem Aquatic Center pool to ourselves for a couple of hours. It will be a SPLASH!!!!

#### Hospitality

Our church will reach out to the community again this year by having a booth at the Taste of C-U in Westside Park. The dates are Friday, August 16, and Saturday, August 17. Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center in the coming weeks. Please consider signing up for a shift for this popular community event. It will be a BLAST!!!!

#### Membership

A big thanks to those that picked up your church pictorial directory in June. If you haven't received your copy, please contact the church office. We again want to thank those that took the time to have photos taken and to those that helped in any way make the directory possible. The big advantage to this book is that it will be much easier to update in the future. Invite someone to church and hopefully they will be in the next edition.

**If you have not picked up your Church Directory, stop by the church office to pick up your copy.**

**Office hours are 8:30 AM - 5 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:30 AM - 12 noon on Fridays.**

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF CYF

mindy@firstpres.church

LIZZ PIPPIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

LIZZ@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### Sunday School Notes

Vacation Bible School was June 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 1-3:30 PM. Our theme was *Neighbors Near and Far*. We learned that Jesus said we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves, that our neighbors should be all inclusive, that God invites everyone to his banquet, and we should show our love by caring for one another and attending to those who have need.

We focused on four countries to whom we have ties through mission and partnerships; Cuba, Indonesia, Malawi and Pakistan. Special guests with ties to these countries came to speak with us. Special thanks to our guests **Mati Stone, Bethany Sudiby, and Veda Gill**. The 30 children really enjoyed their travel adventures!

Thank you to all of you who volunteered to make this experience possible:

**Matt and Rachel Matthews, Rob and Karin Vermillion, Nancy Pippin, Lizz Pippin, Blaise Zamana, Ann and Bill Stout, Gary Peterson, Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann, Leslie Thomas, Betty Hollister, Lori Schaap, Mary Gritten, Ann Webbink, Susan Silver, Laura Walsten, Cathy Schowengerdt, Diane Mortensen, Sabrina Hwu, Eric Corbin, Jim Berger, Sean Miller, Naomi Rempe, Noni Ledford, Judy Nicolette, Nancy Brombaugh, Clemmie Ackermann, Destin Lembelembe, Bob Kirby, John Muirhead, Kurt Ruthmendorfer, Rittchell**

**Yau**, and two young men from DREAM-**Steven Thompson and Zhymeis Wise**.

### Employment Opportunity

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is seeking two part-time child care workers to serve in the nursery and toddler rooms for Sunday mornings to begin in August. All applicants must be legally eligible to work in the United States, fill out an application for employment, and supply the names and contact information of two references. Potential employees must consent to a background check.

Applications are due by July 21. Inquiries can be made to **Mindy Watts-Ellis** at [mindy@firstpres.church](mailto:mindy@firstpres.church).

### Youth Group

Summer is in full swing! Last month our high schoolers gathered at Crystal Lake Pool for an evening of relaxation and swimming. It was fun to fellowship together in a different setting.

This upcoming month the Middle School students will have an opportunity to fellowship together at the pool as well.

On August 4, we invite our graduating seniors to join us for an evening send off. We will share in a meal together and pray as they prepare to go off to college. Some will be staying close by and others going farther away. We want them to know that they will always have a home here at First Pres.

Later in August, the high schoolers will also be helping First Pres Urbana in preparing for their annual garage sale for the community as well as enjoying Taste of C-U.

It's finally here! It's Triennium month. July 16-20 our students are off to Purdue

University for this unique experience. Join us in praying for them while they are away. Join us on July 14 for their commissioning and again on July 21 as they share in worship some of their experiences from the week.

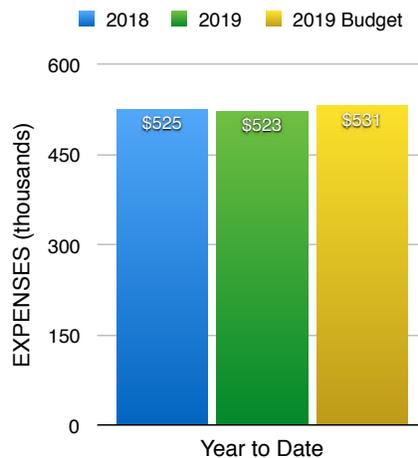
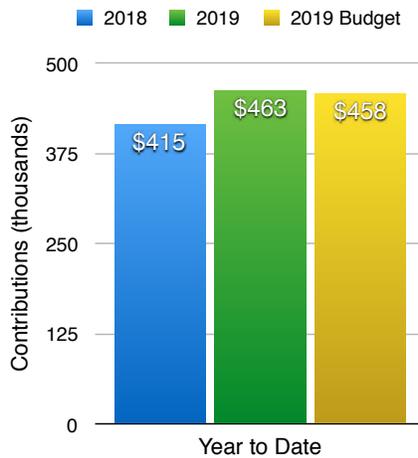
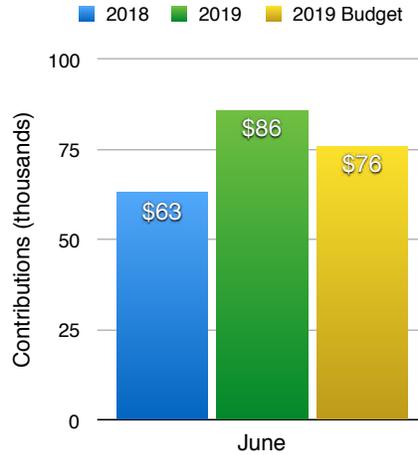
# Finance

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE  
MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

### Contributions

Contributions in June were \$23K more than in 2018 and \$10K above the budget at \$86K. The Year to Date total is above last year by \$48K and above the budgeted amount by \$5K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. Including all revenue sources, at 50% through the year, we have received 56% of the expected 2019 revenue.



### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$8K below the budget at \$523K and \$2K below 2018. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$53K which is \$33K more than at the end of June in 2018. This figure includes \$32K less in prepaid pledges than in 2018. At 50% through the year we have experienced 49.2% of the expected 2019 expenses.

## Need a Charge

We have a phone/tablet charger available in Westminster Hall, along the north wall. There are connectors for various phone types (Lightning, Micro USB, and USB-C). Feel free to charge your phone while sharing with each other in fellowship time before or after worship, or while in a meeting.





**Do you feel hopeless?  
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23**

**Do you feel lonely?  
... Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. Hebrews 13:5**

**Are you fearful?  
...The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. Hebrews 13:6**

**Are you grateful?  
I will lie down and sleep in peace for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8**

### Thank You for Your Expressions of Sympathy

*Dear Church Family and Staff,*

*There are no words to adequately thank you for the support you have given me and our family during this very difficult time of loss!*

*The many cards and notes you sent were such a comfort to us. Your kind expressions of sympathy were deeply appreciated.*

*Our loss is overwhelming, and yet knowing that Don is in the arms of Jesus is so very very comforting! It sustains us! To God be the glory!*

*Summer Blessings to all of you,*

*Sue Fischer and Family*

### *Jays & Concerns*

#### *Congratulations to...*

- **Jeanette and Ben Pyne** on the birth of their son, Judah William Pyne, on June 13, 2019. Jeanette is our ESL Coordinator.

#### *Prayers for...*

- **Lizz and Nancy Pippin** who are helping with Vacation Bible School at our sister congregation in Havana, Cuba July 15-23;
- Our **Youth Group and leaders** heading to the PCUSA Triennium Youth Conference at Purdue

#### *We express our sympathy to the family and friends of...*

- **Charlotte Bash** who died June 21, 2019. Mrs. Bash has been a member of the church since December 1952.

# Mission Updates

## Mission News

BY RACHEL MATTHEWS, INTERIM MISSION

COORDINATOR

RACHEL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

We recently had a wonderful few days with **Veda Gill** who was visiting with us from the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan. She was here to be a part of First Presbyterian's VBS "Near and Far" and stayed for a few days to visit with sponsors of students and the World Mission Committee.

The sponsors had a Monday afternoon tea during which we wrote letters of encouragement to students at Sangla Hill. Veda was able to speak intimately to us about life in Pakistan as a student, a teacher and as a Christian.

We are so grateful for any chance to speak with Veda about ways to support the Sangla Hill School and our sisters and brothers in Pakistan. We have been invited to increase our scholarships to the Sangla Hill students.

**Sallie Hutton** and **Rachel Matthews** have a notebook of girls who need sponsors. \$1 a day will support a day student for a year, \$2 a day will support a boarding student for a year. The boarding students are all Christian and we have quite a few of them. The more we can support students, the more funds will be available for the school curriculum and teachers.

## ESL Program Update

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL COORDINATOR

JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### Summer Session

The First Pres ESL Program is much more relaxed in the summer. Due to public schools also being in summer session, many of our students need to stay home to care for their children. We average about 15 to 20 students a day for summer attendance.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, we had a guest speaker, **Taylor Bauer**, from *Visit Champaign County*, come and talk about what they do and all the events that occur in Champaign County during the summer. Many of the students and tutors were very interested in what he had to say. Part of the First Pres ESL Program's role is to provide resources to the students including community events in which they can enjoy Champaign and Urbana as well as practice their English.



On June 26<sup>th</sup>, **Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann** hosted the annual ESL Summer Picnic at their house. Traditional American picnic food was served like hot dogs and hamburgers, and lawn games were provided for entertainment. Students were encouraged to bring their families, so around 60 people attended the picnic! The students and I are grateful to the

Schoeffmanns for serving us in such a Christ-like way with their hospitality.



### The Blue Class

The Blue class is our highest level: many students have a high intermediate to advanced level of English. The students in this level often have many questions for the teachers and the conversations they have are very engaging. In this level, many of the students want to get jobs, volunteer, or go back to school. It is very diverse class with students from all ages and countries. In this particular picture we have students from China, Taiwan, Colombia, Brazil, Russia, Vietnam, and Belarus. Russ Hanegan is the tutor, and he began tutoring with the First Pres ESL Program in Fall 2018. We're always looking for wonderful new tutors like Russ, who have a heart for immigrants and international visitors.

### Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for wisdom on whether or not to continue the Wednesday night class in the Fall.
- Pray for more tutors who can teach at night.

## A Great Earth Care Partnership

### First Presbyterian Champaign and Faith in Place

BY REV. CINDY SHEPHERD, OUTREACH DIRECTOR  
FAITH IN PLACE

Your great Environmental Stewardship Committee has been encouraging First Presbyterian Church of Champaign to take the best possible care of God's gift of the Earth. To do that, they've reached out to partner with Faith in Place, an Illinois nonprofit that works with faith communities of diverse religious traditions to build healthier, more just communities.

As a friend of First Presbyterian and the Central Illinois Outreach Director for Faith in Place, let me tell you a little about how Faith in Place has partnered with FPCC. You can find out more about Faith in Place at [www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org).

One of the first things we did together was an energy audit. Faith in Place offers houses of worship a free Energy Audit, which can point to ways to reduce both the church's bills and its contribution to climate change. We found lots of opportunities to capture energy savings!

As **Barbara Fuller-Curry** told us later: *Our church is one of the oldest buildings in downtown Champaign and the energy audit made possible by Faith in Place was invaluable for future planning. We cannot thank Faith in Place enough for being such a blessing as we are undergoing major renovation of our buildings at this time. The energy audit will insure our changes will be environmentally friendly.*

More recently, we partnered on the Story Garden project, which was so artfully carried out by **Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann** and the Green Team. This project

has grown (as we hoped it would) into a more extensive plan to use native plants and pollinator friendly gardens in other areas around the church. These are beautiful and educational areas, where people, young and old, can get to know wild Monarchs and other fascinating species that share our common home.

Faith in Place also works closely with other environmental organizations to organize and send a delegation of faithful citizens to the Illinois state capitol in Springfield to advocate for policies which will protect our Earth. At least a half dozen members of First Presbyterian, and your two pastors, participated in Advocacy Day, meeting with their legislators and speaking from a faith perspective about the importance of protecting our common land, water, and air for future generations.

Working with Green Teams, such as First Presbyterian's Environmental Stewardship Committee is a real joy. They are featured here on the website: <https://www.faithinplace.org/faith-partners/first-presbyterian-church-champaign>

I hope you will take a look!

## Presbyterian Legends in the Pursuit of Peace and Justice

### William Henry Sheppard

**March 8, 1865-November 25, 1927**

Presbyterian pastor **William Henry Sheppard** was among the first missionaries to Africa serving in The Congo Free State from 1890 to 1910. Sheppard, an African American from south west Virginia befriended the native Kuba people. When news of the atrocities of Belgian King Leopold reached the United States and Europe, Sheppard used his position in the

Presbyterian Church to share his experiences thus becoming a respected civil rights activist. Sheppard returned to the United States after twenty years to pastor Grace Presbyterian Church in Louisville.



**Rev. William Sheppard with wife Lucy Gantt and two older children neither of whom survived childhood.**

### Read More

William Sheppard-*Congo's African American Livingstone*, William E. Phipps, Geneva Press, 2003

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Henry\\_Sheppard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Sheppard)

<https://www.notablebiographies.com/supp/Supplement-Mi-So/Sheppard-William.html>

<https://jsr.fsu.edu/Volume9/Turner.htm>



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CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

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Change Service Requested



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[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

**Sunday:**

8 AM Contemplative Service

9 AM Traditional Service

10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education

11:15 AM Contemporary Service

**Saturday:**

6 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering

(French-English Service) Centennial Hall

**Pastors:**

Matt Matthews ..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213

Eric Corbin.....Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

**Staff:**

George Almasi.....Facility Assistant

Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Manager, Ext. 237

Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211

Robert Ferrer..... Audio-visual Technician

Marcia Franks .....Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210

Joe Grant .....Director of Music

Rachel Matthews.....Interim Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219

Blaise Pascal .....CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216

Ann Petry ..... Accounting, Ext. 224

Lizz Pippin.....CYF Associate Director, Ext. 216

Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235

Richard Rossi..... Church Musician

Mindy Watts-Ellis .. Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by  
[@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church). For example, [eric@firstpres.church](mailto:eric@firstpres.church).

**The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month's edition. Send submissions to [marcia@firstpres.church](mailto:marcia@firstpres.church).**