

# *Good News Newsletter*

*First Presbyterian Church of Decatur*

*April 2016*

## *Pastor's Pen:*

I've been toying with an idea for the past few years of celebrating a non-traditional holiday within the church year. The quasi-holiday goes by many names – Holy Humor Sunday, Laughter Sunday, or Bright Sunday – and it is observed for a singular purpose, to joyfully celebrate God's gift love. So let's try it out this Sunday, the first Sunday after celebrating and proclaiming, Christ is Risen!

The history of the celebration is somewhat unclear, but it is known that early Orthodox churches would gather on the Monday after Easter to tell stories, jokes, and anecdotes as a way to continue the joyful celebration of the Resurrection and put away the somberness of Lent. Still to this day, Christians in Slavic regions gather for folk dancing and feasting in the churchyard. We may recognize this "Easter Monday" celebration as Dyngus Day! However the celebration is named, they are all rooted in what the Latins called 'Risus Paschalis' – "the Easter Laughter" that follows the big joke that God pulled on Satan in God's defeat of sin and death.

A quote I turn to every Easter comes from theologian Jurgen Moltmann who said, in brief, "Easter Sunday begins the laughter of the redeemed and the dance of the liberated." A key word here is 'begins'. The joy of Easter Sunday does not end with the Easter benediction. Living into the resurrection life in part is to live into the joy of Easter throughout the year. The laughter that Moltmann names and the laughter that we can share in on Holy Humor Sunday (or any Sunday for that matter) is not a laughter born out of cruelty towards another. Rather it is a laughter born out of utter joy in God's love; a love that is so great it raised Jesus from the dead and a love that is so wonderful we can't help but laugh and smile.

Blessings to you this Easter season!

*Rev. Will*

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*Deacon of the Month \*\*\*\*\* Judy Kish 423-5731*

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## *Worship Volunteers*

### **April 3rd**

**Greeter/Usher** Jack, Elaine & Roxanne  
**Liturgist** Amy Druskovich  
**Acolyte** Jackson Sikkema  
**Nursery** Keith & Lauren

### **April 10th**

**Norris, Eleanor & Gloria Vliek**  
**Leonda Shroyer**  
**Colby Spangler**  
**Matt & Lisa**

### **April 17th**

**Greeter/Usher** Don & Karolyn & Eileen  
**Liturgist** Blaine Rex  
**Acolyte** MiKayla Dierickx  
**Nursery** Jon & Lori Baushke

### **April 24th**

**Joe, Tina and Bob Carbough**  
**Mark Johnson**  
**Davis Klimczak**  
**Lori Jerue & Laurie Southworth**

## *Schedule for the Month of April*

*(Please put these dates on your home Calendar)*

*10 a.m. Service Every Sunday*

*9 a.m. Sunday School Every Sunday*

*5:45 p.m. Bible Study Every Monday Evening*

**APRIL** 4th 7 p.m. Session Meets  
12th 7 p.m. Presbyterian Women Meet  
15th 4 p.m. SOUP SUPPER , WE HOST  
23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30a.m. MDOT Trash Pick-up (M-51)  
24th FELLOWSHIP AFTER SERVICE

Hosted by: *Jan Roeder, Gloria Vliek, Amy Druskovich & Connie Johnson*

**Church Office Closed – April 12-14**

Please note that the church office will be closed April 12-14. Patsy will be of town, and Rev. Will is representing the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at the Board of Pensions of the PC(USA) Regional Gathering in Philadelphia.

## *April Birthdays and Anniversaries*

3rd Bob & Connie Johnson Anniv.

14th Bradley Newell

5th David Vliek

16th Stan & Donna Klimczak, Anniv.

Ava Allen

17th Tom & Connie McIntyre, Anniv.

7th Dorothy Kusmack

26th Pat Cabbage

8th Gloria Houtman

11th Hilary Newell



Pop-up Choir.....PLEASE!!! Watch for it.....anyone is welcome...it's fun!!!!

 **SOUP SUPPER COMING UP....April 15, 2016** 

LORI JERUE WILL BE POSTING THE CHART FOR SIGNING UP....Good to have you back, Lori!!!!

*Thank You* 

Dear Church Family: We send sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of concern and compassion after the sudden death of Josie Congdon---beloved wife, mother, grandmother. A loaf of fresh baked bread left on the doorstep, still warm-from-the-oven pie, and various homemade soups fed our bodies when we didn't even realize we were hungry those first few days. Your many cards and notes of sympathy brought comfort during the first difficult weeks without her. And your prayers lifted our spirits when we were too sad to pray for ourselves. Our special thanks to Pastor Will for his visits and calls to share our grief and plan the memorial service. And gratitude also to Jan Roeder and Presbyterian Women for the delicious luncheon so graciously served afterwards. Gifts given in Josie's memory will be used to further the PW purpose of nurturing faith, supporting mission, and working for justice and peace. Thank you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ.



*Maxine (Mackie) Baushke*

Sadly we lost another beloved member of our congregation. Maxine died March 18th at her home. The funeral was held Tuesday the 22nd of March. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, and especially her significant other, Frank Brunacci.



## *Presbyterian Women*

Devotions and Hostesses are Gloria Houtman and Mary Fosdick. Please join us at 7 p.m....the second Tuesday of the Month April 12th.



*Crop Walk Goal is to Raise \$20K+*

The 34th Eastern Van Buren CROP Hunger Walk will be held SUNDAY, April 24th, at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 1 p.m. with the walk getting underway at 2 p.m.



## Highlights of March Session Minutes

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### **Report of Treasurer**

- Mark Johnson presented the treasurer's report in place of Fred Reeder, who was excused from attending the meeting.
  - YTD Income is 17.5% less than last year's.
  - YTD Expenses are 10% greater than last year's.
- Income for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is generally the lowest of the year, so this decline is not unusual.
  - The increase in expenses is largely attributed to the payment for brick work on the church during December 2015 and January 2016.
- A motion was moved to approve the monthly treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Pastor's Report** - A motion was moved to approve Rev. Christians' request to attend the Festival of Homiletics on May 12<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>). The motion was seconded and approved. A motion was moved to approve Rev. Christians' request to attend the Board of Pensions meeting in Philadelphia April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded and approved.

FPC Decatur has been asked to participate in the Michigan Energy Office Benchmark Grant through Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. Participation simply requires compiling energy use through

gas/electric bills over the past couple of years. In return for participation, should Michigan renew grant funding for environmentally friendly building upgrades, FPC Decatur would be eligible.

FPC Decatur has received the 3<sup>rd</sup> year renewal as an Earth Care Congregation in the PC(USA).

### **Endowment Committee**

- The balance in the fund is in excess of \$57,000.00.
- The next step is to develop a protocol for project selections.

### **Building and Grounds Committee**

- There is a question regarding the mortar work performed on the church late last year. The question will be posed to Lutz Masonry.
- There is a crack in the ceiling/interior wall joint in the master bedroom at the manse.
- It may be prudent to perform an energy audit to assess efficiency.
- A motion was moved to replace the kitchen sink at the manse. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Worship and Music Committee**

- Pulpit coverage will be supplied for May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

- A discussion regarding the top 10 predictions about future church growth occurred between the Session members. The discussion was based on an article written by Carey Nieuwhof. Continued thoughts will proceed during a social event to be planned at a future date.

The next Session Meeting will occur at the church on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. A motion was moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported and approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:40 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mark Johnson

Clerk of Session