



OPEN DOOR

Volume XXXXIII, No. 11 November 16, 2016

From the Intentional Interim Minister

As we draw near to Thanksgiving and then to Advent, the community of Champaign-Urbana is as active as ever. On Sunday, November 20 at 3:30 p.m. I invite and strongly encourage you to attend the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on the U. of I campus. As non-white, non Christian students on the campus have recently been attacked it is important to advocate as people of faith and stand together to be thankful for a diverse nation. We have much for which to be thankful, and one area of thankfulness is our mutual respect and care for one another. For this community service, please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.



Dave Mies, Lowell Hill, Ralph and Caroline Trimble at Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build

It has been an honor for our congregation to share in two other interfaith projects locally. One has been the Habitat for Humanity building of two new houses in Urbana. Both have been framed and roofed, and interior work will continue in the spring. The other project is the sponsoring of a refugee family.



Rev. Deborah Owen and Guilherme Caixeta (student from Brazil) at Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build

The family of a mother with four sons is from the Congo. The family lived for 20 years in a refugee camp on the Congo-Rwanda border. They are getting acquainted with neighbors, and discovering various religious backgrounds, as they are Seventh Day Adventist – Reform Movement.



Advent

On November 27 the Advent season begins for Christians. Here at First Presbyterian we will share in the traditions of the Advent Wreath with its candles symbolic of Hope – Peace – Joy – and Love. On Christmas Eve the Christ candle will be lighted. Each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve will include special music at the 9:30 worship service.

For Christmas day, a Sunday this year, we have the joy of combining with our sister congregation, the Korean Presbyterian Church for a joint time of worship at 11:00 a.m. – one service only. I am so pleased that our congregations can share this beautiful worship time together.

I hope you will make every effort possible to be present in worship, and to invite family and friends to participate with you.

Blessings,
Deborah

Inside this issue:

Special Features	2
Advent Events	3
Church Family	4
Church News	5
Church Library	6
In the Community	7
November Calendar	<i>insert</i>

Special points of interest:

✓ <i>Hanging of the Greens, and Holiday Reception</i>	2
✓ <i>Alternative Christmas Gifts Sale</i>	3
✓ <i>Sunday Seminars</i>	5
✓ <i>Community Thanksgiving</i>	7

Rev. Deborah Owen
Cordially invites
the Congregation and Friends
to a

Holiday Reception
Sunday, November 27, 2016
In between worship services
In the
Fellowship Hall
Of
First Presbyterian Church
(there will be no adult seminar that day)



Welcome New Member



On Sunday, November 13, we welcomed into membership Nicole Mathew. Nicole is a grad student in architecture at the University of Illinois and she transferred from the church of North India. Welcome, Nicole!!

Looking for Advent Candle Lighters

Have you seen someone lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath and thought, "I could do that?" Here is your opportunity. The Worship Committee would like persons to do a small reading and light the communion table candles and the Advent wreath candles for the Sundays of December 4, 11, 18, and then Christmas Eve. In the past it has been one person or a couple or a family or a group of friends.



Please call the church office 367-8357 or see Rev. Owen if you would be willing to share in this worship ministry for one of the Sundays in December for the 9:30 and/or 11:30 a.m. service, or for 7:00 p.m. Saturday Christmas Eve service.

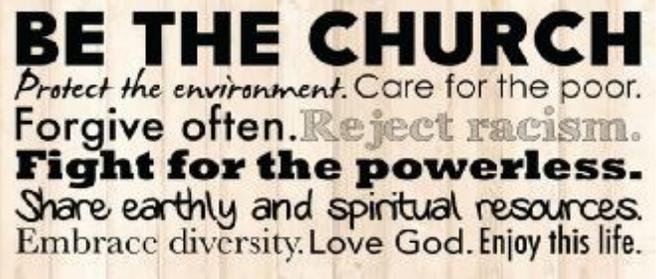


Advent Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesday night, December 7, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel. Seek respite from the craziness of the holiday season. In the stillness, we will welcome peace and quiet as we come together to strengthen our hope.

Brother John says, *it's a time to rest in God, to let the words listened to and sung penetrate one's being.*

Food & More Program Donation Request for November: tuna and chicken helper



Be the Church

November 6 was our Commitment Sunday. Thank you to each of you who already turned in your Estimate of Giving for 2017. So far we have received a total of \$311,602 in estimates of giving for 2017. Our goal is \$463,246. If you haven't already submitted it, please **bring or mail** your Estimate of Giving card to church or submit your Estimate of Giving via **phone: 367-8357 or email: Rachel@firstpresurbana.org.**



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help with the hanging of the greens on **Sunday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m.** as we prepare the sanctuary for the Advent season. Tasks range from putting candles into plastic candleholders for Christmas Eve, to helping untangle greenery, to climbing ladders

while assembling the Christmas tree. In other words, we need lots of help from people of all ages! Some work will include being on a ladder, but many tasks will be on ground level! Cocoa, tea and treats will be provided afterwards. Questions: Alison Champion, abc@illinois.edu or 355-3624. If conditions are icy or dangerous that evening, we will reschedule for the same time the next day, with an email reminder on November 21.

Advent Events

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday 11:30 a.m. Chapel Services
Each Sunday through December 18



Sunday, November 20, 6:00 p.m.
Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday of Advent
Holiday Reception in between the two worship services

Thursday, December 1 – World AIDS Day
Chapel open for prayer



Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent
Communion; Brass Quartet for 9:30 service
Alternative Christmas Gift Sale



Wednesday, December 7 – Taizé Worship
in Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent
Alternative Christmas Gift Sale

Wednesday, December 14, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Christmas Luncheon with Carol Sing
put on by the Deacons

SATURDAY, December 17, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Caroling and Cookie Sharing



organized by the
Fellowship Committee
RSVP is appreciated (but
not essential)



Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children and Youth Service for 9:30 and 11:30

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 p.m. – Blues/Jazz Service
sponsored by the Wellness Committee



Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 a.m. – Christmas!
One combined service with Korean Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 1 – Epiphany Sunday
Communion with One service only at 11:00 a.m.

Alternative Christmas Gift Sale!

The Mission Committee will present the Alternative Gift Sale again this year. This is a great way to get a gift for the person who seems to have everything. Purchase items to benefit our sister church in Domasi, Malawi in honor of your loved ones. Options include several



options to support preschool, primary, and secondary education, shallow wells, tuition for a college student and many more. You will receive a photo card to send to your loved one notifying them of the gift. These are gifts that give twice—so please plan to drop by the Alternative Gift table in the narthex on **Sundays, December 4 and 11.**

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 14, 11:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall



The luncheon will begin with entertainment provided by children from the Cooperative Nursery. Following lunch, Case Sprenkle will lead a carol sing-along from the piano. The Deacons will provide the meal. Everyone is welcome! Let

us know if you are coming by signing up on the sheet in the Friendship Pads, or by notifying the office.



Blues/Jazz Service

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 p.m.



This season of the year, with short sunlight days, can be a time not of joy, but depression. Perhaps it is also the first time to celebrate without a loved one. Perhaps it is simply a time of loneliness. Maybe you just like jazz. On Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. the Wellness Committee will present our third annual "Blues" Jazz Worship service in the sanctuary. The 40 minute service will include live jazz music, scripture, anointing, candle lighting, prayer, and a time of sharing. There will be a reception with light refreshments following the service.

Church Family



In the Church Family

Let us remember in our prayers:

- In Our Prayers*
- Phyllis Mast, home from Carle
 - Camille Caldwell, home from Carle
 - Bruce Williams, home from Carle
 - John Weiss, Carle 6246, Jamie Peterson's father
 - Lorraine Glasa, home after surgery
 - Mindy Watts-Ellis' brother and father
 - Amanda Pellett
 - Phil Belanger, now at Amber Glen

Happy Birthday, Deborah!! The Rev. Deborah Owen has a milestone birthday this Thursday, November 17!! Happy Birthday, Deborah!!

A Note from the Dowds: Please keep Jim Dowd and his family in your prayers. Jim is at home in hospice care, in Michigan. The Rev. Jim Dowd was pastor of FPCU 1973-1989. Their address is 30835 Jones Dr, Dowagiac MI 49047. (It is also listed on page 20 in the church directory.)

We share love and sympathy with Laura Mast on the death of her mother Beverly Casey on September 19. Private services were held at a later date.

We share love and sympathy with Lois Guither and family following the death of her son John Downey on November 5, 2016. A funeral service was held on November 10 in Aledo, Illinois.

With sadness we share the news that the Rev. Dale Robb, honorably retired in our Presbytery, passed away on October 24. A service was held Saturday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Champaign First Presbyterian Church.

We share love and sympathy with Katrina Good and family following the death of her brother Pete Good on October 21, 2016. A service was held in Fisher on Monday, October 31 at Noon at the East Bend Mennonite Church.



It's a Boy!! Sunny and Nonye Kamalu joyfully announce the arrival of their son Somtochukwu Ejiogu born on November 7. Mom and baby are doing very well. Nonye was a member of our church while she finished her doctorate. The Kamalu family now resides in New York.

November Prayer for Children

We pray for children in foster care, awaiting adoption.

Sunday Assisting Schedule

	November 20	November 27	December 4	December 11
Lay Leader	Ed Scharlau	Dixie Jackson	Beth Chato	TBD
Head Usher	John Dimit	Harold Guither	Jason Harris	Jason Harris
Ushers	Ann Ricker Kwame and Sandra Darfour-Oduro	Lois Guither Ed Scharlau Carol Scharlau	David Sherwood Julie Sherwood Jamie Ellis	Bob Resek Lois Resek Linda Brucker
Greeter	Shari Hall	Shari Hall	Dixie Jackson	Dixie Jackson
Steward	Pat Jensen	Steve Hall	David Bullock	Eric Peterson
Coffee Maker(s)	Gary and Dixie Jackson	Marilyn Querry	Jason Harris	Julie Sherwood
Cup Washer(s)	Nancy and Don Uchtmann	Lauren Smith	Jason Harris	Julie Sherwood
Communion Table	Flowers: Cornucopia	<i>Open date for flowers</i>	Communion Preparer: Linda Williams	Crèche

Acolytes: Isaac Ellis will be the acolyte for November 20; then the Acolytes will take a break during Advent.

Mixes



Mix orders will be available for pick-up in the narthex after worship this Sunday, November 20. Checks may be made out to FPCU with "PYC mixes" on the memo line. A limited number of extras are available.

Thank you so much for your support of the 2017 Youth trip through this fundraiser.

Staff Transitions

Several staff transitions have taken place over the last several weeks, and several more are forthcoming. Rev. Dr. Stu Smith has resigned, as of November 5 as Director of Congregation Care and Education. The Twice Is Nice Thrift Shop has hired two part time coordinators: MaryE Yeomans and Logan Honegger. December 4 will be the last day for Maggie Murray, one of our nursery attendants as she prepares for student teaching next semester. Lastly, as Tracy Weddle, Office Administrator anticipates the birth of their second daughter in March, we will have temporary staff in the office during her maternity leave. We are grateful for Pat Bohlen who has filled in at the office recently when staff have been away.

Church Office



The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 23 through Friday, November 25 so the staff may enjoy the holiday. **Happy Thanksgiving!!** Rev. Owen is available by cell phone (217-714-1210) in case of emergency.

Tracy Weddle will be printing November 27 bulletins on Monday, November 21. Rachel Gladden will be off work November 22. Thanks to Pat Bohlen for covering the office that day.

BIG Thank You!

Thank you friends for the lovely surprise birthday recognition on Sunday, November 13 for my November 17 day. The singing and reception and cards were so appreciated. Thank you to Session for the birthday song. Thank you also to the staff for the November 16 luncheon and delicious cake. I am very blessed!



—Rev. Deborah Owen

Poinsettias



It is time to order Poinsettias for the Christmas display in our sanctuary. This year we will have new Christmas greens for our traditional Hanging of the Greens, and, as a result, our poinsettias this year will be white with gold foil. Order forms are enclosed in this newsletter. Please submit your form to the church office with your payment. If you have questions, contact the church office. The deadline for orders is December 4.

Sunday Seminars 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

"The Bahá'í Faith and Progressive Revelation"
Amy Felty, Sunday, November 20

Amy writes, "I am a retired public school teacher and administrator. I've been a Bahá'í since 1968, have released three children to adulthood, have eight grandchildren, and am married to Michael Felty who is also a Bahá'í. We live in Champaign, Illinois. Over the past 40 years, our family has lived in Illinois, Massachusetts, Georgia, South Carolina, Bolivia, and Taiwan. Our fascinating physical world is exciting to explore, as is the inner world of mind, heart, and soul."

"Prescription Painkiller Epidemic"

Ed King, Sunday, December 4

Ed King is a counselor at the Prairie Center in Urbana, Illinois, as well as our church's AV Technician Coordinator. Ed received his bachelor's in General Ministry and Masters in Counseling from Lincoln Christian University.



Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 8:15 a.m. in Meeting Room B (Jonathan's office) which is next to the church office on the main floor. We are currently studying the book of Colossians.



New in the Church Library

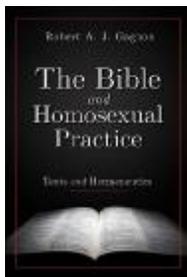
Human Sexuality and the Church

Bolz-Weber, Nadia. *Accidental saints: finding God in all the wrong people*. 2015.

ALERT: This book contains occasional profanity. That being said, within the covers you will also find a very clear, traditional Lutheran theology. The author found herself to be called to be pastor to a largely LGBTQ congregation, which is now the House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado. This church finds as much meaning in time-honored rituals and litanies as in "spirituality." These snapshots of the life of this pastor and her flock are studded with well-etched wisdom, such as, "it has been my experience that what makes us the saints of God is not our ability to be saintly but rather God's ability to work through sinners."

Gagnon, Robert A. *The Bible and homosexual practice*. 2001.

This theology professor gives a thorough analysis of relevant texts, finding that "the Bible unequivocally defines same-sex intercourse as sin" and that there are "no valid hermeneutical* arguments ... for overriding the Bible's authority on this matter." In the Introduction, Gagnon relates some of his personal history, including his friendships with homosexuals. He comments on the tenor of the argument in today's society, and what he sees as the urgency of acting with intellectual integrity. He insists that the problem is not homosexual orientation, but homosexual practice. His hope is "of ultimately promoting the greater health of the church and of the homosexuals to whom the church is called to minister."

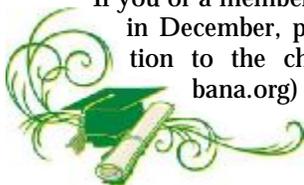


*hermeneutics: interpretation of the Bible

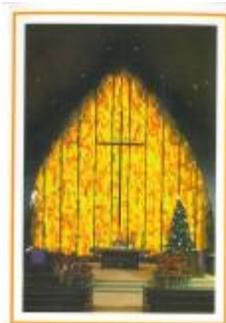
- Ann Ricker

Calling December Graduates

If you or a member of your family will be graduating in December, please send in name and information to the church office (office@firstpresurbana.org) as soon as possible so the proper recognition can take place.



Christmas Cards



In 2005 our Mission Committee collaborated with Frank Middleton to produce a card featuring a professional photograph of our sanctuary beautifully decorated for Christmas. These cards are available in the office for \$5 for a package of 10. All receipts will fund our local and global mission efforts. The cost of the cards was donated by Frank Middleton at the time of production.

Finals Care Packs to Students

The deacons need to have all college addresses by November 27 in order to send/give finals care packs to students. Please email (office@firstpresurbana.org) or bring to the church office.



Christmas Offering 2016 – Now's the Time to Help

We will be receiving our annual Christmas offering throughout the month of December. This very important offering supports our local mission and also our Benevolence Fund for 2017. There is more need than ever this year since Illinois State funding continues to be impacted by our state budget difficulties; meanwhile, our social agencies need your help! Offerings may be placed in the weekly offering (Please mark "Christmas offering" on your checks), dropped during the week at the church office, or made on our church website. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need.

CoYA and Spring Break

Alternative multi-generational spring break mission trip to Mississippi: March 19-26, 2017.

John Dewey Receives Award

On October 15, John Dewey received a Lifetime Achievement award from his local chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild. The chapter celebrated with lunch at Bibbs Country Restaurant in Urbana.

Community Thanksgiving Service Come Celebrate, Give Thanks and Give Back!



All of us, all ages are invited to a Community Wide Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts, U of I campus. Noah I. Brown will lead music during the program and we will conclude with the singing of Diana Ross' "Reach

Out and Touch Somebody's Hand." Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. The service is sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County and various donors, including our church.

After the program, the Mo' Betta Ensemble II, a jazz group, will play a brief set at Stage 5 in the Krannert foyer.

Our Fun and Fellowship Committee and CoYA (Community of Young Adults) invite and encourage all to join them at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 20 (see above article). Following the service we will go out to a nearby coffee shop.

Let's Go to the Movies!

Fun & Fellowship Committee invites the congregation and friends to see the movie *Loving* at the Art Theater in Champaign on **Saturday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m.** We will meet in the lobby at 4:45, and walk over to Cafe Kopi for snacks and discussion afterwards. You'll need about \$8 for admission. If cost is a barrier, just contact the church office—we want to include everyone! Call or email Karen Mortensen (karen.pinney.mortensen@gmail.com) if you need a ride. COYA will pay for all young adults for the movie and snacks.



About the film: From acclaimed writer/director Jeff Nichols (*Mud*), *Loving* celebrates the real-life courage and commitment of an interracial couple, Richard and Mildred Loving (portrayed by Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga), who married and then spent the next nine years fighting for the right to live as a family in their hometown. Their civil rights case, *Loving v. Virginia*, went all the way to the Supreme Court. (2016, Joel Edgerton, US, 123 min, PG-13, DCP, CC) It has received great reviews!

Blood Drive

Community Blood Services will hold a blood drive in conjunction with the Community Thanksgiving Service. The blood drive will be **Sunday, November 20, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Krannert Center Lobby** (500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana). To donate call (217) 367-2202 or sign up online at www.bloodcenterimpact.org using group sponsor code 71017.

Handel's "Messiah" Concert

Come with family and friends for a sing-along concert of Handel's "Messiah" on **Sunday, November 27, 4:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Champaign at Savoy** (1602 S. Prospect Ave., Savoy), held by the Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana. Join BACH music director Chester Alwes, organist Scott Montgomery, and soloists in the Christmas portion of this festive work. Audience members are invited to raise their voices as the chorus in this annual event to joyously begin the holiday season. Bring your own score or borrow one at the door. Free will donation.



World AIDS Day

The Presbyterian Church USA notes December 1 as Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness, along with World AIDS Day. The church continues to combat misinformation and lack of education in the battle to eradicate AIDS. This is most prominent on the African continent. Please keep the PCUSA in your prayers as the ministry to those living with AIDS continues, and the work of education to eliminate AIDS increases. **Our chapel will be open for prayer on December 1 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**



Presbyterian 101

Question from October: Why is Rev. John Witherspoon important historically to American Presbyterians?

Answer: He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, along with 13 other Presbyterians)

New Question: Who is known as the "Father of Presbyterianism?"

Look for the answer in the December Open Door

Church Staff

Interim Pastor – Rev. Deborah Owen
deowen@FirstPresUrbana.org

Financial Administrator – Rachel Gladden
rachel@FirstPresUrbana.org

Office Manager – Tracy Weddle
office@FirstPresUrbana.org

Sexton – Steve Johnson, sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org

Director of Music / Organist – Jonathan Young
jyoung@FirstPresUrbana.org

Media Support Specialist: Nani Baker
nbaker@firstpresurbana.org

Children's Choir & Junior Handbell Choir Director –
Jennifer Immke, jenykate14@hotmail.com

Guitarist – Chris Beyt

High School Youth Fellowship Leader – Brian Summers

Toddler/Preschool Caregiver – Madhu Pradhan

Nursery Caregiver – Maggie Murray

AV Technician Coordinator – Ed King

Tenor Section Leader: Alphie Kiu

OUR KEY MESSAGES

Welcome to our church family!

God is doing *exciting* things here!

Choose a path: **Have an impact & feed your soul!**

Thanks to Michèle Miller and Shirley J. Walker for preparing this Open Door for mailing.

Open Door Deadline: For inclusion in the next Open Door, items should be submitted by **Thursday, December 1** to office@firstpresurbana.org. The Open Door will be mailed on **Wednesday, December 7**.

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana

602 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801

(217) 367-8357

www.FirstPresUrbana.org

Find Us on Facebook

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Address Service Requested

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602 West Green Street
Urbana IL 61801