



OPEN DOOR

Volume XXXIV, No. 3, March 1, 2017

From the Intentional Interim Minister

As March begins with the Lenten season, we are in a time of reflection, and what glorious reflections this congregation has! God is good – all the time God is good! The Pastor Nominating Committee, with reflection and prayer, discerned the calling of the Rev. David Oliver-Holder as pastor here. My time as intentional interim minister will conclude as David begins his tenure here. I am thankful to have had the past two and half, plus years to serve with you. We have done good work together. Now during Lent and afterward, together as congregation and new pastor you will reflect on the vision God has moving forward.



I encourage you to give David time to get settled, learn your names, learn the community, and prepare for the complete move of his family from Bayfield, WI to Urbana in the next few months. There will be a lot packed in his schedule. In the meantime, welcome the family in some ways, and you can start on his David's first Sunday of March 19. Adult Ministries is hosting a reception in place of a seminar that day. As you are able, please bring a fun reflection of this community and what you think David and his family might enjoy. Here are a few tidbits of information:

David and his ordained minister wife, Jean have three children: Susan, a college senior, graduating in May from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, with a major in animation and film; Clara is a freshman at University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, who spent part of her junior year in high school in Germany; and Nathan is a high school junior who is on the ski team, as well as the track team. Jean grew up in Japan where her parents were mission staff. She and David are fond of Asian food, but also like Mexican, Italian, French, and vegetarian foods.

Other foods on David's favorite list include really good coffee, sweets, including ice cream, potato chips, brats and little smokies. David has a great sense of humor, is a book-a-holic, loves movies, enjoys the *N.Y Times*, and is a die hard Packers fan. He has even been known to jump and yell with delight after a game. I know you will enjoy getting to better know David and his family.



After a short break, on April 3 I will begin as Designated Minister of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Champaign. I will most likely see some of you around town, and enjoy saying hello, but will not be a part of church life here. David knows he can call on me for any questions or concerns he may have, but he is your pastor. I am not.

Much joy to you church, and thank you for our time together.

Blessings,
Deborah

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Thank You, Deborah!!

The Rev. Deborah Owen's last day as Intentional Interim Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Urbana will be March 15, 2017. You are invited to show your thanks and appreciation for Deborah's service to our congregation. You can demon-

strate your gratitude in several ways:

1. Pray for her during her time of transition.
2. Write a note or card and give it to the church office by March 10 (or bring it to the potluck)
3. Make a financial contribution by writing a check to the church with the note "Gift for Deborah" and give it to the church office by March 10.
4. Attend the **Farewell Potluck for Deborah on Sunday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m.** A main course will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert if they are able. If you need transportation, please contact the church office.

Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Deborah's ministry!

Malawi Preschool Updates and 2017 Trip Invitation



Construction work is underway in Domasi, and our contractor is providing regular updates on the Jeanes preschool. We're excited to share images we've received. The crew is starting on the walls and expects them to be up in two weeks. This is excellent progress, and we give thanks for God's blessing on this educational initiative and the partnership between First Presbyterian Urbana and Jeanes CCAP.

The Mission Committee is planning a trip to Malawi again this summer, and it's time to collect the names of those interested in joining our 2017 delegation! The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder has indicated his willingness to travel this summer with a possible departure date between June 22 and June 25, and a return date of July 3 (or before). The visit dates are being discussed with the Jeanes leadership and should be finalized soon.



The visit will allow our new pastor to meet our brothers and sisters in Domasi and also give us the opportunity to see the completed preschool building and discuss the overall business plan for the school. A dedication of the preschool building including a memorial to Ellard Malindi and Morris Kessler will be planned. Please prayerfully consider making the trip yourself and contact a Mission Commit-

tee member—ideally before our March 9 meeting—to express your interest. Individual participant costs are estimated in the range of \$350-\$500, with additional generous support provided by the Shelbyville Keilman Trust and our church.



Welcome to Our New Pastor



The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder will begin at First Presbyterian Church of Urbana on Sunday, March 19. Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, there will be the regular coffee time, but held in Fellowship Hall. The adult seminar that day will be a welcome reception for Rev. Oliver-Holder. Please wear your nametag, and plan to introduce yourself several times over the next few weeks and months as David becomes acquainted with the congregation. You are also encouraged to bring a small gift which represents a part of Champaign-Urbana that David and his family should know about. Please see Rev. Owen's article on the cover page.

Reception for Our New Pastor!!

On March 19 after worship we will have **ANOTHER** reception, this time for our new pastor, The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder. This one will have a little different twist. We are asking folks to bring a small gift of some kind that will serve as a **Welcome and May We Introduce You to Champaign-Urbana**, or similarly, to FPCU. Anything that highlights our community or the committee you serve on. It will be fun! This reception is sponsored by Adult Ministries.

Walking with Jesus From the Wellness Committee

For Lent this year, we are going to be walking – just not to Jerusalem. Take time as you walk each day to think about Jesus walking, for that is the way he got to where he was going. As we walk let us think about the people, places and situations Jesus encountered and figure out how we can respond today. For the period between Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday in Lent (March 1 – 5) the Wellness Committee suggests we set the stage for our Lenten walks by concentrating on quieting our minds, relaxing our breathing and being aware of our surroundings and our senses. Then, each week throughout Lent we will consider some of the places Jesus walked; there will be scriptural references and questions to ponder while we walk.



—from the Wellness Committee

March 1 — Ash Wednesday

As you warm up for the themed Lenten walks, quiet your mind, relax your breathing, be aware of your surroundings.

March 5 — First Sunday of Lent

Walking into the wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

After Jesus was baptized he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. He was alone and fasted for forty days and forty nights.

When are you lonely and how does that affect you?

Can you imagine fasting for even one day?

March 12 — Second Sunday of Lent

Walking along the sea and calling the first disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus begins his work along the Galilean Sea, not in the temple. The world of common work, not the world of religious ritual, is where discipleship starts.

What have you been doing when you have felt Jesus' calling?

How can you share the fellowship of Jesus?

How do you best share hospitality with friends and co-workers?

March 19 — Third Sunday of Lent

Walking along the lake and teaching from a boat

Matthew 13:1-52

As Jesus walks along a lake he is followed by a huge crowd, so big that he gets onto a boat and begins to teach by telling parables.

Which is your favorite parable?

Do you have trouble with any particular parable?

Why do you think Jesus used parables?

March 26 — Fourth Sunday of Lent

Walking within the crowds of hungry people

Matthew 14:13b-21

Jesus was “greatly moved” by the crowd that followed him and he began to cure the sick. As it grew late the disciples were worried about what they would eat: Jesus’ response was the story of “The Loaves and Fishes.”

What are the ways you respond to hunger in my life?

What ways do you respond to the hunger of friends? Of others in the community? In the world?

Besides physical hunger for food, what other kind of hunger have you experienced?

April 2 — Fifth Sunday of Lent

Walking toward Jerusalem and then, at Bethpage and the Mount of Olives, continuing by riding a donkey.

Matthew 20:17-19; 21:1-5

Jesus taught his disciples and the crowds as he walked from Jericho to Jerusalem. As he was about to approach the city for the last time, Jesus chose not to walk, but to ride on the back of a donkey.

How do you face trouble?

How can you get through bad times?

April 9 — Sixth Sunday of Lent

Palm Sunday and Passion Week

Matthew 21:6-11

Matthew 26:36-66

Luke 22:7-22

Luke 23:32-45



The tumultuous week is almost more than we can take in.

Do not let me avoid the reality of this week.

What does the ritual of communion mean to you?

Where are you most vulnerable in terms of your faith life?

April 16 — Easter

We walk away from the empty tomb and the empty cross, full of Hallelujahs!

Help me, O God, live my life full of your Spirit, and may I walk in a way that pleases you.



Church Family



In the Church Family

Let us remember in our prayers:

- The Rev. David Oliver-Holder in transition
- Sheila Pelichoff, eye surgery February 22 at Carle
- Cindy Fraser, surgery February 22 at Presence
- Phil Belanger, at Eastview Terrace in Sullivan
- Bill Hall, at Meadowbrook
- Don Murphy, home
- Amanda Pellett
- Jane Green, home
- The Rev. Heidi Weatherford, recovering from surgery

Happy Birthday to Ed Gordon, who will be 97 years old on March 8!!!



Lenten Recital Series

Mark your calendars, because the Lenten Recital Series at FPCU is back! Starting March 10 and running through April 7, a series of recitals will be presented during the Friday lunch hour, 12:10-12:50 p.m., in our sanctuary. Come hear professional musicians and students from the area perform on our church's keyboard instrument collection; recitalists this year will include Linda Buzard (Director of Music at St. John the Divine Episcopal Chapel), Scott Montgomery (Director of Music at Holy Cross Catholic Parish), and Nicholas Liese (undergraduate organ major at UIUC). Free and open to the public.

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Easter Lilies



It's time to order lilies that will beautify our sanctuary this Easter. Please use the order form inserted in this newsletter and return it to the office with your check. If you have questions, please call the church office. The deadline for orders is to be determined.

Introducing Melissa Records

You will soon be seeing a new face in the office. Melissa Records will be our Substitute Office Manager for Tracy Weddle when Tracy has her baby, which could be any time (she is due March 9). Melissa is retired as a librarian at the Champaign Public Library and held a similar substitute position in the office of her home church, St. Peter's United Church of Christ. We are excited to have such a capable substitute for Tracy while she is away. Melissa has had a couple weeks of training and will be back in the office soon. Feel free to stop in and introduce yourself and welcome her.

PYC and GLU Schedule Middle and High School Youth Every Other Sunday, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Youth Center

March 5 - Escape Room

March 26 - Paintball

April 2 - Board Game Night

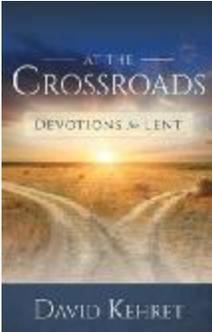


Sunday Assisting Schedule

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Worship Leader	Nancy Hatch	Carl Caldwell	Don Greeley	Barb Mann
Head Usher	Andy Harden	Harold Guither	Jamie Peterson	Jason Harris
Ushers	Linda Brucker Don and Liz Greeley	Gary and Dixie Jackson Jamie Ellis	Ann Ricker Carl & Camille Caldwell	Carl & Nadja Altstetter Pat Jensen
Greeter	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Steward	Cindy Strehlow	Jamie Ellis	TBD	TBD
Coffee Maker	Gary and Dixie Jackson	Carl and Nadja Altstetter	Cindy Strehlow	Jim and Fran Welch
Cup Washer	Ann Ricker	Beth Chato	Cindy Strehlow	Jim and Fran Welch
Communion Table	Communion Preparer: Linda Williams	<i>Flower dedication available</i>	<i>Flower dedication available</i>	Flowers: Linda and Bruce Williams

Lenten Devotionals Available

Pick up your Lenten Devotional in the narthex/lobby or church office. If you would like one and are unable to pick it up, please contact the office and we can mail one to you.



The Worship Committee has selected a Lenten devotional called *At the Crossroads*. Lent is the perfect season to consider the critical crossroads of life—losses, transitions, choices, uncertainties and disappointments—those times when faith and life intersect. These devotions for Lent by Rev. David Kehret, an experienced campus minister, help us to become more keenly aware that our crucified and risen Savior navigated the difficult crossroads of this world for the sake of our salvation, equipping us to navigate the crossroads of our own lives.

For children, we have a Coloring and Activities Book entitled “We Can Learn about Lent”. This book is available in the narthex. This engaging book helps children grow in faith and learn about Lent. Coloring and sticker activities teach children about the meaning of the season, and encourage them to reflect on and emulate Jesus, honor Jesus’ sacrifice, and observe Lent as a family.

Sunday Seminars

10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

March 5

“Musical Traditions of Lent”

Jonathan Young, our Director of Music



This seminar will delve into the musical history and background of Lent, including musical forms, templates, and rubrics; textual commentary and criticism; and an examination of how music has influenced and continues to influence Lenten practices in the Christian community.

March 12

“Addressing Food Insecurity”

Chris Todd

Join us for a discussion of the role of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and local food pantries in addressing food insecurity. Learn more about our own food ministry and the Lenten SNAP challenge opportunity.

Notes from the Session Meeting of February 21, 2017

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Shari Hall.
- Rev. Owen called our attention to an article in the Presbyterian Outlook magazine in 2016, written by Jan Edmiston. The title was “The Perfect Family.” The church mirrors human families in many positive and negative ways.
- Rev. David Oliver-Holder will have his first official day on Sunday, March 19.
- The Session unanimously approved the nomination of Jamie Ellis (Session representative and chair), Don Greeley (Session representative), Ann Ricker (Deacons representative), and at-large members Fran Welch, Don Wendel, Jamie Peterson, John Dimit, Sr., and youth Autumn Ellis to be presented for election as the Nominating Committee at the March 5, 2017, special congregational meeting.
- Each elder shared heartfelt thanks to Deborah for her outstanding leadership of our congregation during this prolonged interim time. Strengths in administration, compassionate ministry, and community outreach were among those mentioned.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Owen.

—Don Greeley, Session Clerk

Special Meeting of the Congregation



The Session has called a brief Special Meeting of the Congregation for **Sunday, March 5, 2017**, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose is to vote on five at-large members for the Nominating Committee. The slate will be presented at that time (and is listed in the article above) and nominations from the floor are allowed. Contact Don Greeley, Clerk of the Session, if you have any questions.

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 First Corinthians.

Our Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update Who We Served in 2016



With the support of members at First Presbyterian-Urbana, Westminster Presbyterian and local LDS congregations we were able to provide much-needed food in 2016 to 118 households (394 people, including 170 children and 34 seniors). This is about the same number of households as in 2015, although the number of visits per household increased slightly from about 3 to 4.

As in previous years, most (46%) came only once. Some shared this was because of a life-changing event such as losing a job or getting divorced. Several individuals mentioned that they were caring for an elderly parent who was in hospice. One needed soft food because her father couldn't swallow well any more.

Another 32% came 2-6 times. We don't know why some of these people came. But many people with limited budgets live on the edge. A medical expense, car repair, or lost work hours means there won't be enough food to last the month. Several in this group are older adults in their 80s who had come every month since the pantry began but started coming less often last year. One of these partners died in November. We greatly miss her presence.

The remaining individuals (22%) came 7-12 times. The majority of these families are older or disabled adults on fixed incomes; multi-generational families with children, adults, and seniors; and people with health issues. One woman mentioned that she retired from a local assisted living place and found that she couldn't make it through the month on her retirement check. Still others come to get the no salt, no sugar items that other pantries don't carry but are essential for those with diabetes and heart problems. Some came to attend our 8-session nutrition class. A few have shared that they are homeless.

Through your generosity we will continue to be able to share food with our neighbors in the coming year. Thanks be to God for continuing to bless this ministry.

Food & More Program Donation Request for March: GRITS



Participate in the SNAP Challenge During Lent



Lent is a period of reflection and preparation within the Christian Church. Some people undertake special study or challenge themselves to gain insight on some aspect of their daily lives through simplification or abstaining from something. The Food & More Program invites you to learn more about the experiences of low-income families in our community by joining the SNAP Challenge (see attached handout for more information). Feed your family for four weeks staying within the food benefit amount provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income families. Reflect on what you learn from this experience each week and, if you would like, share your reflections with others in the church on the bulletin board in the office hallway.

Run/Walk for Clean Water
Illinois Marathon April 20-22, 2017
5K | 10K | Half | Full | Relay | Youth

Opportunity to Contribute to Your Health and Our Waterways

The Ninth Annual Illinois Marathon weekend will take place in Urbana-Champaign April 20-22, 2017. The Earth Care Team of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana has initiated an effort for members of our congregation to raise money for Prairie Rivers Network by participating in their *Run/Walk for Clean Water* fundraiser <https://prairierivers.org/run/>

If you are planning on or considering walking or running in one of the Illinois Marathon events, you are invited to participate with our congregation's earth care initiative. Events include the 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles), half marathon (13.1 miles) and full marathon (26.2 miles).

Benefits include lowest race registration fee, a team tech t-shirt, membership in Prairie Rivers Network and support of a great cause: clean water and healthy rivers.

If you are interested in walking or running as part of our congregation's team, and we hope you are, contact Vickie Nudelman at Prairie Rivers Network before registering at vnudelman@prairierivers.org for details needed to get the lowest registration fee. Once you have registered for an event as part of our congregation team or if you have questions, contact David Bullock at the church office.

Community Events



Thrift Shop News

In January, income at *Twice Is Nice* increased by 14 percent over income in January of 2016.

Mild weather surely accounts for some of this increase, but volunteers at the shop also made a difference, improving its appearance and the availability of items donated for sale. Each shop volunteer deserves our thanks. Already in February they have included those who staff the shop on a weekly basis; Nadja Altstetter, Anna Kate Cline, Harold and Lois Guither, and MaryE Yoemans who on Saturday, February 18, helped Camille Caldwell sort and price new donations; and five U of I students, members of the pre-Med honor society, who worked with Dixie Jackson to complete Consumer Project Safety screening of donations and helped organize the shop's basement storage area. Jamie Ellis delivered a bicycle donated by a church member and stayed to help sort other donations. David Kay and Gary Jackson hauled overstocks to the Salvation Army and USAgain. *Twice Is Nice* continues to thrive only because of these generous and committed volunteers. We invite **YOU** to join them by helping at **our next sorting day, Wednesday, March 1 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Resources and Materials for Lent 2017

. . . may be found on our Church website, on the news page. firstpresurbana.org/home/news/

- Lent 4.5 Christian Simplicity
- Walking with Jesus
- Lenten Practices
- 40 Spiritual Practices for Lent *by GNCC*
- Presbyterianmission.org's Lent Calendar

If you have any other ideas or information please contact Nani Baker, your Media Specialist.



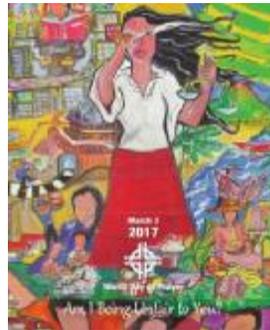
Clocks Spring Forward One Hour Sunday, March 12

Please remember to change your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 12. We want to see you in worship on time.

Racial Taboo Film Showing

Everyone is invited to the next community showing of the film *Racial Taboo* on **Sunday, March 12, 2017; 2:30 p.m. at McKinley Presbyterian Church and Foundation**, 809 S. 5th Street (on Daniel Street between 4th and 5th), Champaign, IL. Doors open - 2:00 p.m.; Film begins - 2:30 p.m.; Discussion - 3:30 p.m.

Church Women United World Day of Prayer Friday, March 3, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Urbana



The morning begins with a fellowship time, followed by a worship service, on the theme "Am I Being Unfair to You?", written by the women of the Philippines. First Pres, Urbana is providing some of the refreshments for the fellowship time. Please see our CWU representative, Beth Chato if you would like to assist.

St. Patrick's Church is located at 708 W. Main St., Urbana, with plenty of parking and an accessible entrance off Busey Av. or Coler St. All women (and men) are welcome. Church Women United is an organization of Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Women worldwide. The local unit has been together for over 90 years.



Presbyterian 101

Question from February: Does every Presbyterian church have a Board (Committee) of Deacons?

Answer: No. A congregation by a majority vote may choose not to utilize the ordered ministry of deacons.

(*note - At First Pres, Urbana we are blessed with a strong group of deacons.)

Faithful Citizen Workshop

Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 pm

Champaign/Urbana location will be posted on line.



Discover how ideas become legislation and legislation become law in the State of Illinois. Learn the when, where and how of making a difference in this process. Faith in Place will give you the resources you need! Through interactive exercises and presentations, this two-hour workshop will identify ways people of faith can engage in the advocacy process consistent with the tenets of their faith. Policy Director Rev. Booker Vance and Central Illinois Outreach Director Rev. Cindy Shepherd will prepare you for citizen advocacy and invite you to join them April 6 as citizen lobbyists converge on the Statehouse for Environmental Lobby Day. To register: www.faithinplace.org/events/ci-faithful-citizen-workshop or on Facebook Event "CI/ Faithful Citizen Workshop"

Church Staff

Interim Pastor – Rev. Deborah Owen
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Office Manager – Tracy Weddle
Substitute Office Manager – Melissa Records
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Sexton – Steve Johnson, sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org

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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 – Skylar Matteson

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 Nancy Hatch and Marianne Mangian for preparing this Open Door for mailing.

Open Door Deadline: For inclusion in the next Open Door, items should be submitted by **Thursday, March 30** to office@firstpresurbana.org. The Open Door will be mailed on **Wednesday, April 5**.

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana

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(217) 367-8357

www.FirstPresUrbana.org

Find Us on Facebook

Church Office Hours

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

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