



# OPEN DOOR

Volume XXXIV, No. 4, April 5, 2017

## From the Pastor

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. The Gospels make clear that he "preached good news to the poor and release to the captives." One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and I hope you have been reading about just a few of these individuals in the bulletin inserts. These stories will help us to see the face of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry.

If you haven't already, I invite you to visit the One Great Hour of Sharing website ([www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs)) to find out more information on how your support of OGHS helps people all over the world. Then offer prayers for the projects and people who serve and are served. We will be dedicating our overall support of OGHS on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, during morning worship. If you have not already made your contribution, we invite you to bring it then, and include it in the offering.



While we trust our OGHS programs to respond to the needs of our poorest and hungriest neighbors, those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. Like last year, those of you who have taken on the SNAP Challenge certainly will have a much more nuanced appreciation for the needs we seek to address through the offering. So I hope that you'll join us on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, and that you'll join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Easter Joy,  
*Pastor David*

## Holy Week Schedule (more detail on page 3)

April 9—9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday worship

April 13—6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday meal

April 14—7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday service at Bethel AME Church

April 16 — 6:30 a.m. Sunrise service at Meadowbrook Park

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary service

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## Welcome to Our New Pastor!

The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder began at First Presbyterian Church of Urbana on Sunday, March 19. Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, there was a Welcome Reception in Fellowship Hall. The adult seminar that day was a welcome reception for Rev. Oliver-

## Thank You, from Deborah!!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ. There are not enough languages with words of thanks to express my deep gratitude for your various cards, gifts, monetary donations, potluck meal with delicious photo cake and fun party games, and all your kind words as I completed the intentional interim at First Pres, Urbana. It is has been a joyful and fulfilling two and a half, plus years to serve with you. I am grateful for congregational members and friends, committees and chair people, Deacons and Elders, Session, and staff for this time of shared ministry. May you always know of my love which stays with you as I now move to my next venture in Champaign at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. It will be a delight to be with David in our weekly ecumenical lectionary study, and I know you are blessed as he has begun as your called and (soon to be) installed pastor. Blessings always, Deborah Owen. (see photos on page 6)



## Church Office Closed Friday, April 14

The church office will be closed on Friday, April 14 for Good Friday.

## 11:30 a.m. Chapel Services Conclude Sunday, April 9

This abbreviated, half hour worship service will meet Sunday, **April 9**. Thereafter, we urge you to participate in our 9:30 am worship service in the sanctuary amongst a welcoming community of faithful believers seeking spiritual direction through prayer, inspiring music, and thought-provoking sermons. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shari Hall, Chair of Worship, at [shari.hall@comcast.net](mailto:shari.hall@comcast.net).

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

**April 9**

### “My Faith Journey”

**The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder**

**April 23, 30 & May 7**

### “Caring for Creation” Seminar Series on Pollinator and Wildflowers



— Organized by the EarthCare Team.

Being charged with caring for Creation can seem daunting, but in fact some simple decisions we make can impact Creation in a positive way. Protecting the pollinators

that ensure the health of our nation’s food supply is an example. This seminar series will outline steps YOU can take to care for Creation by protecting pollinators.

**Seminar 1 - Sunday, April 23:** Background to the pollinator crisis and how you can intervene, presented by Lesley Deem, Ph.D., Director of the Pollinatorium at the University of Illinois.

Insect pollinated fruits and vegetables provide most of the vitamins and minerals we need, diversifying our diet beyond meat and wind-pollinated grains. Approximately one in three mouthfuls of our food and drink require the presence of a pollinator. Yet pollinators, and particularly bees, are disappearing. Dr. Deem will explain the reasons for their decline and outline simple alterations to the ways each of us cares for our own little piece of Creation – the landscape around our homes – to help stem their decline.

**Seminar 2 - Sunday, April 30:** John Marlin, retired U of I professor and Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences researcher and research affiliate at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, will discuss native plants in the home landscape, describing how to select those that will help provide a healthy environment for pollinators. He will focus on varieties of native flowers that grow best in our urban landscapes and steps we can take to ensure that they thrive. With a power-point enhanced presentation he will help us consider how to begin planning our 2017 garden using plants and practicing environmental stewardship to improve the welfare of pollinators.

(continued on page 4)

# Lenten Season

## Walking with Jesus From the Wellness Committee

For Lent this year, we have been 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. 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

### 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*



### Maundy Thursday Meal



A light supper will be held on Thursday, **April 13 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to help with the dinner should contact the church office.

### Easter Sunrise Service

**April 16, 6:30 a.m.**, at the Garden Pavilion, Meadowbrook Park, Urbana, off of Race Street.



## Ecumenical Good Friday Service Friday, April 14 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Bethel AME Church, Champaign

The community Good Friday service of the Seven Last Words will be held at Bethel AME Church, corner of Fourth and Park Streets, Champaign on **April 14 at 7 p.m.** Participants from local churches will briefly present meditations based on scripture. Rev. Larry Lewis is the host pastor for the event. There is parking on the lot on the east side of the building, as well as on the street.

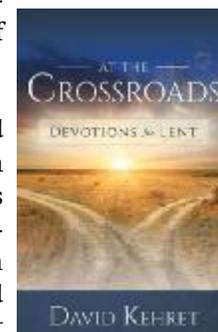


### Lenten Devotionals Available

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



### Resources and Materials for Lent 2017

- ... may be found on our Church website, on the news page. [firstpresurbana.org/home/news/](http://firstpresurbana.org/home/news/)
- Lent 4.5 Christian Simplicity
  - Walking with Jesus
  - Lenten Practices
  - 40 Spiritual Practices for Lent *by GNCC*
  - [Presbyterianmission.org](http://Presbyterianmission.org)'s Lent Calendar

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

# Church Family



## In the Church Family

Let us remember in our prayers:

- Cindy Fraser, home
- Mindy Watts-Ellis' father, home
- Bill Hall, at Meadowbrook
- Don Murphy, home
- The Rev. Heidi Weatherford, recovering from surgery
- The Rev. Laura Aull Johnston, recovering from surgery.

With sadness we share the news that Phil Belanger passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2017. The family will have a private service. Please keep Betty and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

With sadness we share the news that Susan Oliver, Jean Oliver-Holder's mother, passed away. Please keep, Jean, David and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Congratulations** to our Office Manager Tracy Weddle and husband Joshua! They are the proud parents of Aurora Lynn, born March 11 at 7:37 a.m., 7 lbs. and 10 oz., 21 inches. Vivienne is happy big sister. They are now home and doing fine.



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

- April 23 – Potential Lock-In
- May 7— Walk to Cocomero
- May 21— End of the Year Barbeque



## Sunday Seminars

(continued from page 2)

Each attendee of the **Sunday, April 30** seminar will receive a coupon redeemable for one free prairie plant from *Grand Prairie Friends'* sale at Lincoln Square in Urbana on Saturday, May 13.

### Seminar 3 - Sunday, May 7:

Maggie Dougherty-Roberts, Champaign County Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and member of the Board of the Robeson Meadows subdivision, will describe her 8-year long effort to convert Robeson Meadows into a pollinator friendly landscape. With a power-point enhanced presentation, she will show how she first developed a "monarch way station," and then, with Fellow Master Gardner Dr. Japhia Jayasingh-Ramkum, began planting "pockets" of beneficial plants in the subdivision. She will provide tips on helping neighbors understand and value areas enhanced with pollinator-friendly native plants and steps for overcoming roadblocks that prevent neighborhoods from developing healthy pollinator environments.



## Sunday Assisting Schedule

	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Karen Mortensen	Laurie Gorham	Autumn Ellis	Jason Harris
<b>Head Usher</b>	Harold Guither	Jason Harris	Don Wendel	John Dimit
<b>Ushers</b>	Eva Steger, Brett, James & Eliza Champion	Joan & Jim Sheppard, Rob Gorham	Susan & Darryl Silver, Donna Barkley	Cecilia & Eliza Ab-bamonte, Autumn Ellis
<b>Greeter</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Steward</b>	Lauren Smith	Sandy Nieman	Pat Jensen	Pat Jensen
<b>Coffee Maker</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Cup Washer</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Communion Table</b>	<i>Flower dedication available</i>	Communion	<i>Flower dedication available</i>	<i>Flower dedication available</i>

## Notes from the March 21, 2017

### Session Meeting



### Spring Church Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 8, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

The FPCU Spring Work Day will be **Saturday, April 8, 8:00 a.m. to Noon**. Please volunteer an hour or two to rake leaves, pick up branches and trash, trim bushes, clean windows, and do other jobs that will improve the appearance of the church. Bring landscaping and gardening tools: rake, hand pruner, lopper, weeder. Members of the Korean Church and Boy Scout Troop 6 will come work alongside our church members. Come enjoy the fresh air, a little healthy work, coffee and donuts, and of course some good fellowship. Contact Eric Peterson, 722-3609, for more information.

### Spring Wildflower Walk Sunday, April 9, 2:00 p.m. Allerton Park



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Join Earth Care team members Gary and Dixie Jackson on **Sunday, April 9** for a walk along **Allerton Park's Schroth Trail**, viewing early spring blooms and migrating birds. Meet at the trailhead at **2:00 p.m.** We'll hike about 1.5 miles over an easy route to the Sangamon River and wildflower areas, through some of Allerton's oldest woodland, and along a restored prairie.

Allow 30 minutes to reach the trailhead parking lot. Take Monticello Road (South of the U of I airport) to Monticello. Continue west through Monticello, past its main square and the Brown Bag restaurant, turn left, then turn right to Marion Street. Follow it over railroad tracks and then left onto Allerton Road. Follow the road SW, passing the golf course, then open fields. Continue to the large brick columns on the right (west) side of the road, that mark the entrance to Allerton Park. Enter the park and find the parking lot for the Schroth Trail, located on the left side of the road **about one-half mile past the entrance** and **BEFORE** the bridge over the Sangamon. Note that this is NOT the area by the Allerton Mansion! Please let the Jacksons know if you plan to join us [by calling the church office](#) to RSVP.

- There were introductions all around for the first Session meeting with Rev. Oliver-Holder.
- The Session reviewed the Presbytery Dissociation Document which defines the separation ethics (healthy boundaries) that are to be observed by Rev. Deborah Owen and the congregation for the next year.
- There was an extensive report by Steve Hall on the recent Presbytery meeting. The overture concerning open Communion which was initiated by our congregation and passed by the General Assembly last summer was approved. Presbytery finances are problematic.
- Our finances are in good order
- An additional \$3000 was approved for construction on the preschool building at Jeannes Church in Malawi
- Rev. Oliver-Holder will have specific suggestions on a Long Range Planning process which will involve the congregation at the April Session meeting.
- Rev. Oliver-Holder will generally be in the office Monday through Thursday mornings and in and out those afternoons.
- More participants are desired for the late June Malawi trip.
- There was some discussion of where our church is regarding educating ourselves on LGBTQ issues and appropriate responses to the community. Rev. Oliver-Holder offered to bring some specific suggestions to the Session at its April meeting regarding possible next steps, which would include the congregation.

—Don Greeley, Session Clerk

### 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

## Youth Critically Important to our Food Ministry!

By Chris Todd

One of the things I love about First Pres is our intergenerational focus. Youth and adults work side by side in ministry. This is certainly the case with our food pantry! Another characteristic of youth involvement in our food is that it is ecumenical, interfaith and community-wide—involving the efforts of youth not only from First Pres, but also Westminster Presbyterian, several LDS congregations and students from high schools in both Champaign and Urbana.



- In February, 2016 Gina Huss, a member of Westminster Presbyterian and student at Centennial High provided leadership to a student marketing team that developed and implemented a marketing plan to raise canned goods for our food pantry. The students delivered over 400 cans of food for our pantry! This food came at a critical time because we were experiencing an increase in requests for food.
- This spring, our own Cecilia Abbamonte developed a volunteer opportunity at the food pantry for members of the Urbana High School Honor Society to help with setup during March and April. Two students helped set up for the March food pantry (during spring break!!) and four more will be involved in the April.
- FPCU and LDS youth worked together on several projects that supported not only our own food pantry but other community food pantries as well:
- In October, FPCU and LDS youth packed hygiene kits for families who are setting up new households and request help with household items through our food pantry.
- In November, youth from both congregations helped pack rice and beans which were donated to local food pantries.
- This summer, FPCU youth will provide much needed help with food pantry set up and distribution. The help of our youth this summer is especially appreciated since many people travel and we struggle to find enough volunteers. The youth also will be learning more about food insecurity in our community and educating the congregation about this important issue.

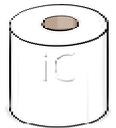
Many thanks to Gina, Cecilia and all the youth from FPCU, Westminster and the Champaign LDS wards for their leadership, inspiration, and hard work as we

## 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.

## Food & More Program Donation Request for April: TOILET PAPER



## Deborah's Farewell Reception, Sunday, March 12



## Community Events



### 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](mailto: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 ques-

### Interfaith Habitat for Humanity Project

Needs volunteers for the following dates: **April 14 & 21**. Hours are **8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**, but people can work fewer hours as time and conditions allow. Help is also needed with the noon meal on these dates: **April 14 & 21**. The work site is at 1212 W. Hill St, Urbana, IL.

More detail is available from Kim Gollings, 819-5111, [outreach@cuhabitat.org](mailto:outreach@cuhabitat.org)



### Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women Saturday, April 29 Pana, IL

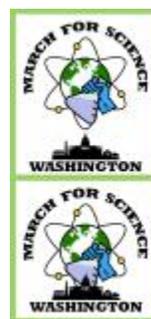
Will be held on **Saturday, April 29** at United in Faith Church in Pana, IL. The Rev. Janice West will talk about a Peacemaking Program trip to Israel and Palestine and a Malawi Marion Medical Mission trip. Contact Susa Gajewski at 618-242-7038. See the posting on the Church bulletin board for more information.



### Scholarships Available from McKinley Foundation Applications due Friday, April 28

McKinley Foundation has several scholarships available for students. Applications are due on **Friday, April 28**. Go to <https://mckinley-foundation.org/scholarship/> for more information. Students can also take a live tour of **Presby Hall** on **Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Same hours on the weekend, but call ahead. Virtual tours are available any time at <http://presbyhall.com/gallery.html>

### March for Science April 22, 2017 Washington, D.C.



While it may seem odd that folks would want to march for science, the need to do so is apparent as scientists, and science itself, are being undermined and even attacked. Some from our congregation plan to participate in the national **March for Science** in Washington, DC, on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Fortunately, there will be local marches all around the country, including in Champaign-Urbana. Plan to gather before **5:00 p.m.** in front of the **Orpheum Children's Science Museum**, and join those who will be marching in support of scientists and the communities in which they work, and to remind everyone that science is best done for the benefit of us all, and to advocate for public policies that are grounded in sound science rather than narrow ideology. Find out more at <http://www.marchforsciencecu.com/>

## **Church Staff**

Interim Pastor – Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder  
[david@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:david@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Financial Administrator – Rachel Gladden  
[rachel@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:rachel@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Office Manager – Tracy Weddle  
Substitute Office Manager – Melissa Records  
[office@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:office@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Sexton – Steve Johnson, [sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:sjohnson@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Director of Music / Organist – Jonathan Young  
[jyoung@FirstPresUrbana.org](mailto:jyoung@FirstPresUrbana.org)

Media Support Specialist – Nani Baker  
[nbaker@firstpresurbana.org](mailto:nbaker@firstpresurbana.org)

Children’s Choir & Junior Handbell Choir Director –  
Jennifer Immke, [jenykate14@hotmail.com](mailto: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 – Alphonse 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 Carl and Nadja Altstetter for preparing this Open Door for mailing.

**Open Door Deadline:** For inclusion in the next Open Door, items should be submitted by **Thursday, April 27** to [office@firstpresurbana.org](mailto:office@firstpresurbana.org). The Open Door will be mailed on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017**.

### **First Presbyterian Church of Urbana**

**602 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801**

**(217) 367-8357**

**[www.FirstPresUrbana.org](http://www.FirstPresUrbana.org)**

**Find Us on Facebook**

### **Church Office Hours**

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

Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church  
602 West Green Street  
Urbana IL 61801