



OPEN DOOR

Volume XLV, No. 1, January 10, 2018

From the Pastor

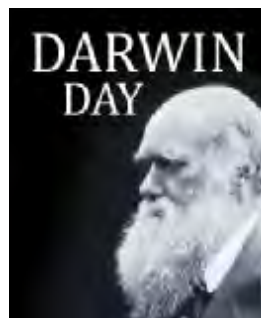
You likely saw the news awhile back about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) being given a list of forbidden words by the new administration, words that were not to be used as the CDC prepared for its next round of budgeting. These are the words: vulnerable, entitlement, diversity, transgender, fetus, evidence-based, and science-based. Why would the Trump administration want to impose such a list of banned words? Advocates and defenders of science across the country stated that the answer was all too clear. This was “a deliberate attempt to undermine and place limits on the research that should inform decision making.” To resist the imposition of such limits and to stand in solidarity with scientists, we marched last year across the country on Earth Day, April 22.



Such expressions of solidarity are not new for Christians. Back in 2004, a biology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Dr. Michael Zimmerman, enlisted the help of clergy across Wisconsin to stand against the efforts of the school district of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, to undermine the teaching of evolution. He called that initial effort The Clergy Letter Project, and I am so glad I was one of the original endorsers. Because that initial effort proved successful as the school board retracted its proposed anti-evolution policy, Dr. Zimmerman took The Clergy Letter Project nationwide. To date, there are now more than 14,000 clergy endorsers, and at the most recent Presbyterian General Assembly in 2016 in Portland, Oregon, the GA acted to make the PCUSA an official endorser.

For far too long, fundamentalists have asserted that science and religion are mutually exclusive ways of understanding the world, and this has, by design, created confusion and dissension, especially with respect to the teaching of evolution in public schools. Opinion surveys regularly indicate that as many as 48% of Americans do not accept the settled science of evolution, a cornerstone of modern biology. Imagine if that many of us said we rejected the settled science on gravitational theory, or the settled science of plate tectonics.

Dr. Zimmerman’s brilliant idea was to organize a way to get the word out that many, many “clergy from most denominations have tremendous respect for evolutionary theory and have embraced it as a core component of human knowledge, fully harmonious with religious faith.” One way we have sought to do this is by way of the celebration of Evolution Sunday (or Darwin Day) on the Sunday each year closest to the birthday of Charles Darwin, February 12. This year, we will be celebrating Evolution Sunday on February 11, as a part of the litur-



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gical observance of the Transfiguration, the last Sunday of ordinary time before Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. The theme this year, given our ongoing national conversation about race, is Our Common Humanity. We will explore how there is no biological basis for notions about racial differences. We really are, all of us, human beings, and none of us are in any way superior to anyone else. We are all kin, in the deepest senses of that beautiful word.



So, plan now to be here on Sunday, February 11, as we give thanks to God for all of the ways we can understand the world. Join us as we do our part to counter confusion and divisiveness, to elevate the conversation around the relationship between science and religion, and to maintain our solidarity with the scientists in our community in their struggle against bureaucratic and ideological obstruction.

— *Pastor David*

Souper Bowl of Caring

PYC (Senior High Youth) encourage you to support this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." More than 20 years ago, this simple prayer inspired the initiation of a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Since that time, young people from across the country have generated over \$128 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities. **On Sunday, February 4, PYC youth will collect \$\$'s in soup pots after the worship service;** all proceeds will be given to local food programs. This will be PYC's 19th year of participation; in the last 18 years PYC has collected almost \$4,500! Thanks for your continuing support of this effort.



January Fun & Fellowship Events

RSVP to the church office in advance, so that we can plan for numbers (reserve enough tables, provide enough pizza, etc.) Your friends are always warmly welcome for all events.

Out to Lunch

**Sunday, January 14,
12:30 p.m.**

Let's go out to lunch!! Meet at the Wheelhouse Restaurant in St. Joseph. Check out their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjowheelhouse/>

If cost is an obstacle to your participation, please let the church office know.



Game Night

Sunday, January 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



Come and enjoy some friendly competition playing your favorite games. Pizza and beverages will be provided. You are invit-

ed to bring card games, board games, etc. and a snack to share. This event is for all ages!



Upcoming PYC (Youth) Events

Monday, January 15: We will do a service project this day. There is no school because of the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 28: We will join in the all church Game Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (see the announcement above).

—Robert Foelske, Youth Coordinator

Upcoming Seminars

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall



January 14

“Understanding Stroke”

Erin Eddy

Join us this Sunday for the seminar entitled, “Understanding Stroke”. Erin Eddy, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCRN, CCRN-K, will tell us about stroke statistics and the impact on society and the economy. She will explain what a stroke is, who is at risk of a stroke and lifestyle changes you can make to lower your risk. Erin will also tell us how to recognize the signs of a stroke and how stroke victims are treated. Walk away with increased knowledge of strokes and how to prevent them.

January 21

“Organ Donation”

Lola Lewis



January 28

“Funeral
Prearrangements”

Shelly Dugan from
Renner-Wikoff Chapel

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation

This meeting will be **Sunday, January 28** after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. This meeting includes the annual review of church financial matters, the report of the Membership Rolls for 2016 and other appropriate business matters. The meeting materials will be available Sunday, January 21.



Adult Bible Study



Sundays at **8:15 a.m.** in Meeting Room B which is next to the church office on the main floor. We are currently studying the book of Second Peter.

Sign Up to Give Chancel Flowers The 2018 Flower Chart Is Up!!!

The flowers that grace the communion table on non-communion Sundays are donated by church members, with a note of dedication published in the bulletin (in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary, etc.).



New this year: from Easter (April 1) through Pentecost (May 20) we will have communion each Sunday. If you wish to give flowers one of those Sundays (or another communion Sunday), your bouquet will be placed on the cabinet in front of the lectern for the service.

Here is a review of the sign-up process for providing flowers. At the Window of Opportunity board found in the office hallway next to the Parish Nurse office, identify the Flower Calendar and then sign your name on the date of your choice. Notice the box filled with pink forms below the Flower Calendar. Take one, fill in the blanks, then place the form and possibly payment in the box labeled “Chancel Flower Forms” on the counter in the church office. The cost for bouquets is \$50. Bouquets may be taken for your own use after the service or donated to shut-ins. Here are the new options on the form:

- ❑ **I will contact Sarah at Fleurish Flower Shop, 217.607.0015, to request my preference in flower selection and type of arrangement.**
- ❑ **I prefer the Chancel Guild place my order; no flower selection preference.**
- ❑ **I will make other arrangements; no payment to church.** (Such as bringing a bouquet of flowers from your garden or ordering from a different florist).

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or contact Alison Champion at abc@illinois.edu or 493-6025.

Church Family



In the Church Family

Let us remember in our prayers:

- Jane Green (home)
- Wanda Giddings

New Address: On January 10, Don and Berta Wendel moved to Clark-Lindsey Village. Their new address is:

Congratulations to Cameron and Ali Cornell who were married December 16 in our church sanctuary!! Cameron is the grandson of Iris Marcum.

Notes from Iris Marcum

Iris Marcum and Cameron and Ali Cornell express their gratitude to Lauren Smith and Don and Liz Greeley for going the extra mile preparing the reception dinner for Cameron and Ali's wedding on December 16. Thanks to Lauren for serving as wedding hostess and Don for serving as AV technician for the wedding!!

Iris Marcum thanks the congregation for prayers for her healing. She is doing well.

Please pray for her sister Viola Sears who is at Centralia Hospital with pneumonia after having hip surgery.

2017 Year-end Report on First Pres. College Undergraduate Students

Here is the annual update on our amazing post-high school young people. We are proud of them all.

Name	Year in School	Comments
Cecilia Abbamonte	Freshman	Civil Engineering – University of Illinois – She really likes calculus.
Katie Badger	Junior	Communications Sciences and Disorders major with Music and Spanish minors at ISU – planning to enter the Speech Pathology field – sings in the Concert Choir – an Academic Peer Advisor – small group leader for Intervarsity – camp counselor for CU Special Recreation
Henry Goldsmith	Sophomore	Global and Public Health – Cornell University
Emma Hall	Senior	Environmental Geology at Beloit College. Her senior thesis title is: “A hydrogeologic Analysis of Lodi Marsh Springs in Dane County, Wisconsin.” She also plays cello gigs.
Joe Hankel	Senior	Materials Engineering and Physics at Iowa State – He has applied to the Peace Corps.
John Harden	Freshman	Theater Arts at Knox College
Clara Holder	Sophomore	Food Science and Nutrition – University of Minnesota – considering the Peace Corps after graduation
Ellen Mortensen	Junior	Math and Actuarial Science at UCLA
Matt Peterson	Senior	Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois
Derek Peterson	Freshman	Architecture at the University of Illinois
Will Smith	Junior	Informatics major – Business minor at Indiana University
Ezra Winter-Nelson	Senior	Molecular and Cellular Biology at University of Illinois – minor in Computation Science
Tim Winter-Nelson	Sophomore	Considering a Religious Studies major at Carleton College

Volunteer Thanks

Communion Candlesticks

You may not know that the large candlesticks on the communion table are actually oil candles with replaceable wicks. For many years, Don Hunt has checked nearly every Sunday to ensure that the oil is refilled and the wicks are in good shape. He retired with honor from this duty in December, and Chancel Guild would like to say many thanks!!

Sanctuary Decorating

Thanks to John and Marilyn Dewey; Marty and Katie Lampman; Karen and Andrew Mortensen; Jamie, Isaac, and Autumn Ellis; David Oliver-Holder and Nathan Holder; Chris Todd; Cindy Strehlow; Sandy Nieman; Linda Williams; Robert Foelske; Liz and Don Greeley; Eliza Champion and friend Lili Tiouririne; Brett, Alison, and James Champion for helping to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Thanks to Shari Hall for the setup of the crèche (Nativity set). Thanks to Marty Lampman for organizing the poinsettias this year and to Tracy Weddle for organizing order forms and dedications.



Fellowship Hall Renovation

The Fellowship Hall renovation is near completion. Do stop by and take a look if you haven't see it yet. The room looked very festive for the Christmas Dinner and the acoustics were greatly improved!

Many, many thanks to Nancy Uchtmann, who has been advocating for the renovation for many years and worked tirelessly to bring the project to closure. We also greatly appreciate the hard work of many others who helped with planning the project; cleaning, repairing and painting the walls; and putting up the acoustic panels: Barbara Wright, Susan and Darryl Silver, Don Uchtmann, Jason Harris, Jon Todd, and Steve Johnson.

Thrift Shop Sorting Days

We got a lot of work done on the December 16 *Twice Is Nice* sorting day thanks to volunteers Harold Guither and Camille Caldwell and shop employees MaryE Yoemans and Melissa Records. Clothes were sorted and put away, merchandise was tidied, the last of the Christmas decoration items were displayed, toys were priced, some choice gift items were placed on display and Kim Fraser hauled book overstocks.



Despite the bitter cold, faithful volunteers Jung Cho, Camille Caldwell, Carl Caldwell, Ginny Waaler, Cindy Strehlow, Gary Jackson, Dixie Jackson, David Kay, and Sandy Neiman have kept *Twice Is Nice* open on its regular schedule, serving customers many of whom have come to purchase warm clothing and blankets. In addition Camille Caldwell, Karen Fitzgerald, Dixie Jackson, Susan Silver, Linda Larson, and MaryE Yoeman spent Wednesday afternoon, January 3 sorting recent donations, storing Christmas inventory, and arranging new displays throughout the shop. Heartfelt thanks to each of these volunteers for enabling the shop to serve our clients on these cold days.

Mark your calendars for our next sorting day on **Saturday, January 20** from **9:00 a.m. to noon**. Thank you.



Giving Tree Thanks

Twelve beautifully wrapped and tagged gifts were delivered the week before Christmas to the Champaign County Nursing Home. Residents opened their gifts together at a party on Friday, December 22. Thank you, everyone, for your support and participation!

**Food & More Program
Donation Request
for January:
Beef stew**



Serving Schedule

Sunday Assisting Schedule

	WORSHIP LEADER	USHERS HEAD USHER	STEWARD	FLOWERS/ COMMUNION	COFFEE/ CUPS	GREETERS
January 14	Nancy Hatch	ANDY HARDEN Ann Burger Bob Burger Cindy Strehlow	Wayne Badger	Flower Dedication Available	Coffee TBD Cups: Nancy Uchtmann	Dave & Julie Sherwood Nancy Uchtmann
January 21	Bob Burger	HAROLD GUITHER Barb Schleicher Dixie Jackson Gary Jackson	David Bullock	Flower Dedication Available	TBD	Nancy Uchtmann
January 28	David Kay	JASON HARRIS Darryl Silver Susan Silver Linda Williams	Nancy Uchtmann	Flower Dedication Available	TBD	TBD
February 4	TBD	JOHN DIMIT Nancy Hatch Bill Hatch Liz Greeley	TBD	Communion	TBD	TBD

Open Door Volunteers Needed During Winter Months



We are in need of a few more volunteers to help prepare the Open Door for mailing—folding the newsletters, adding labels and seals, and occasionally adding inserts first. Two volunteers work together and it takes about an hour. During these winter months we could use a couple new volunteers, even to help

one time. If you'd like to sign up for February 7 or March 14 at noon and/or join the list to be asked throughout the year, please contact the church office or sign up on the sheet on the Window of Opportunity. (The start time is flexible, just ask.) Thanks to Shirley J. Walker for faithfully coordinating volunteers and often helping herself!

Ushers

We are starting to sign up congregation members to usher in 2018. I have sent an email to everyone who is on the usher volunteer list and/or have volunteered in the last few months. So...if you did not receive an email but would like to usher, please contact me. Thanks! Linda Brucker (lindabassani@comcast.net).

Short Stakes for a Tall Cause Saturday, February 10

Buy a ticket, eat pancakes, and help support **Boy Scout Troop 6** at Applebee's Restaurant, 1201 N. Dunlap Avenue, Savoy on **Saturday, February 10 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.** Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$5/person. See Isaac Ellis, Joseph Santic, or another Troop 6 scout or scouter to buy your ticket.



One of our caroling groups, December 10, 2017

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff – Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder
david@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 – Lindsey Bruner Woodcock
lindsey.bruner@gmail.com

Organist – Ted Turner, tat3@illinois.edu

Media Support Specialist – Nani Baker
nbaker@firstpresurbana.org

Youth Coordinator – Robert Foelske

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

AV Technician Coordinator – Cedar King

Tenor Section Leader – Andrew Turner

Soprano Section Leader – Molly Abrams

Nursery Caregivers – Skylar Matteson, Autumn Ellis

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 Shirley J. Walker and Lois Guither for preparing this Open Door for mailing.

Open Door Deadline: For inclusion in the next Open Door, items should be submitted by **Thursday, February 1, 2018** to office@firstpresurbana.org. The Open Door will be mailed on **Wednesday, February 7, 2018**.

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.