

# June 2018



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

### Revisiting the Sunday Morning Schedule

BY MATT MATTHEWS SENIOR PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF  
(matt@firstpres.church)

Dear Friends:

Before I arrived, your Session promised the congregation to revisit the Sunday morning schedule in January 2018. We have prayerfully been working on the schedule, as promised. **Pat Metcalf, Karin Vermillion, John Muirhead, and Judi Geistlinger** were appointed to lead the Session's discussions. That ad hoc committee met beginning in February, and they have led the Session through conversations in April and May. The Session will vote on a proposed schedule change (it's really a tweak) at its June stated meeting.

At the request of our Children, Youth, and Families Committee, and with the full blessing of our Worship Committee, the Session is contemplating a tweaked schedule that will include roughly one hour of the Sunday morning schedule dedicated to church-wide Christian education. The worship times do not change, with the exception of The Gathering being nudged from 11:00 to 11:15 (or 11:10).

This new schedule will prevail upon our dedicated Transportation Team to get folk to church in time to check in for the 9:00 Traditional Service, then drive folk home after Church School ends at 11:05. **John Muirhead** assures me that the demands on the Transportation Team with the proposed new schedule will be roughly the same as the old. In the case of any Sunday schedule, thanks be to God for this dedicated team.

Both CYF and Worship teams will create dedicated space for our children to sit together at the 9:00 Traditional Worship Service. This will allow parents, if they wish, to worship without their children in the pew next to them. "Pew Buddies," teachers, 'adoptive grandparents,' and other adult friends will be secured to sit with our children who attend whose parents choose to sit elsewhere or who attend without parents. Worship bags will be treasure troves of learning for our youngest friends.

### Proposed New Schedule to be presented to Session at its June meeting

#### 8:00 – 8:45 Contemplative Worship

8:00 – 8:55 Transportation team runs buses

8:45 – 8:55 Bus riders without supervision check in.

#### 9:00 – 10:00 Traditional Worship

10:00 – 10:10 Fellowship in Westminster Hall  
Children go straight to classes.  
Those adults not participating in Education, may stay longer.

#### 10:15 – 11:05 Sunday School

11:05 – Noon Transportation team runs busses.

#### 11:15 – 12:15 Contemporary Worship

Please pray for your Session as they contemplate our life together on Sunday mornings. As impossible as it is, they want to make everybody happy. So, share with them your thoughts, but thank them for their work and pray for them.

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Our Worship Committee will work on ways to include children in all aspects of worship as appropriate. On Pentecost, you may have noticed a teenager collecting the offering. Occasionally, you'll notice an exuberant child singing with the adult choir. Children and grandchildren often assist 'their adults' in doing the hallowed chores of greeting guests, picking up friendship registers, and ringing the church bell. With more children in worship, more children will be participating. The "family of God" will be less divided at 9:00 under the new schedule. With the current schedule, our children are present for only 10-minutes and the full experience of worship is something they don't get to have.

**Karin Vermillion**, on behalf of the ad hoc schedule team, lifted up some key concerns and goals addressed by the proposed schedule change thusly:

**Children, Youth, and Families**

- Allows for a full hour of Sunday School for all ages
- Allows for deeper spiritual enrichment through universal, multigenerational participation in worship
- Creates a unique opportunity to make connections between people of different cultures, through formation of pew partner relationships
- Prepares children for "adult" participation in church life
- Frees volunteers who wish to teach Sunday School AND attend 9:00 worship, helping us to uphold our baptismal vows

**Worship**

- Maintains all three established Sunday services
- Encourages increased participation in 9:00 liturgy

**Music**

- Exposes children to the Church's rich musical tradition
- Simplified transportation schedule and full class-time hour could allow flexibility for scheduling children's

choir, including separating choir by age group (TBD)

**Facilities**

- Maintains current ease of set up
- Allows for possibility of future combining of 8:00 & 9:00 services, which would make bad weather mornings easier

**Adult Spiritual Formation**

- Extension of "hour" between services adds to adult education time
- Maintains option to attend adult education class and either traditional or contemporary worship

**Transportation**

- Simplifies schedule – all children will arrive at 8:55, and be dismissed at 11:05
- Maintains drivers' ability to attend 9:00 worship and adult education or volunteer with children
- Promotes formation of cross-cultural relationships leading to increased attendance at both Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services

Please pray for your Session as they contemplate our life together on Sunday mornings. As impossible as it is, they want to make everybody happy. So, share with them your thoughts, but thank them for their work and pray for them.

My experience of Sundays is that these days do not breathe Sabbath rest. Instead, they are absolutely jammed. So many of our people are practically jogging from one thing to the next. Our staggered-start Sunday school program divides us and appears untenable, exhausting, and unsustainable. The proposed schedule, while not perfect, is doable. Allowing children to fully participate in Traditional Worship—which the current schedule does not allow—electrifies me.

May the God of all time and space continue to bless and guide us as we strive to be good stewards of God's holy time.

PEACE,  
Matt Matthews

**From Copper Creek Church...**

*First Presbyterian Church  
c/o Staff and Session*

*Dear Friends:*

*It is with great pleasure and much gratitude that we celebrate with you regarding the installation of Rev. Matthews as your new Senior Pastor. We give thanks to God for leading you in a process that has resulted in the call that seems like a perfect match!*

*We want you to know that we have been praying for all of you on a consistent basis throughout your process. All along, it has been our hope and our prayer that God would bring forth a candidate who would be able to sustain the rich tradition of mission and ministry that has marked the life of First Presbyterian Church. Our deepest desire for all of you, and our ongoing prayer for you is that Rev. Matthews would bring an enthusiasm and energy that helps the congregation build on its long history of wonderful ministry and that launches the church into a new season of growth, impact and vitality.*

*We thank God for all of you, in particular for the impact you have had on us. We think of you all with heartfelt gratitude. And, in the spirit of Psalm 133:1 (How good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity), we hope that the days and years ahead will mark an ever increasing sense of love and unity between our congregations.*

*Please pass along our welcome to Rev. Matthews, our appreciation to the congregation, and our admiration to Eric Stickels and the PNC for a job well done!*

*With warmest regards on behalf of our entire congregation.*

*The Session of Copper Creek Church*

## Outreach

BY BETH CHANDLER, OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
(beth@firstpres.church)

### First Pres Live

Did you know you can catch our worship service even if you're out of town or unable to attend church? Each week a video of our 9 AM service is available on our website at [firstpres.live](http://firstpres.live) and on our church Facebook page.

You can also hear the previous week's sermon on WDWS 1400-AM radio on Sundays at 10 AM. Let us know if the WDWS service is of value to you or your loved ones as we evaluate our expenses for 2019. Please email [beth@firstpres.church](mailto:beth@firstpres.church) with thoughts or questions.

### Summer Fun

The Outreach Committee encourages you to join us for some of the fun events happening at and around First Pres this summer:

- *International Taste of First Pres*, June 24, 4 to 6 PM, Centennial Hall  
Bring a dish representing your ethnic heritage and sample other dishes made by church family and friends. Enjoy music and dancing from around the world. Bring a friend to this fun, family event.
- *Game Night*, June 26, 5:30 to 8 PM in the Café  
Join us for board games, card games, and popcorn. This family-friendly event is hosted by **Brandi and Jason Lowe**. Childcare is available upon request for infants to pre-K. If you require childcare, please RSVP [beth@firstpres.church](mailto:beth@firstpres.church) by June 19.
- *First Pres in the Park*, July 7, 10 AM-NOON, West Side Park  
Join us for a fun morning in the park. We'll get to know our neighbors

and help them learn about many of the exciting things happening at First Pres, including music, children and family ministries, missions, and more.

### Turquoise Table

Join us at our new turquoise picnic table this summer! Across the country, neighbors are getting to know each other at turquoise tables like the one located on the church lawn. Started by Kristin Schell in Austin, TX, the Turquoise Table has become a symbol of hospitality and connection with friends and neighbors.

We invite you to have a seat at our Turquoise Table and get to know one another.

A special thanks to **Bill Gamble** for creating our table!

## Using the Power

**Matt and Rachel Matthews** invite you to attend with them *The Better Angels Conference/Using the Power of Community to Change the World*, October 8-11, at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC.

When we look at the intersection of today's headlines and God's concern we see topics like racism, #metoo, immigration, and violence. In each of these discussions, the common thread is power. It's the same when we look at the topics of spirited discussion in our churches, like the budget, mission, stewardship, and recruitment of leaders. And yet power is something we rarely talk about, analyze, or organize around, even though we're dealing with it, using it, or finding ourselves without it, all the time.

Better Angels invites you to enter the discussion of power where you find it most relevant, by choosing one of several areas of concentration including gender and

power in church settings, race, and toxic charity. See the following link for more info. <http://www.montreat.org/betterangels/>

## Make a Joyful Noise!

Make a joyful noise to the LORD! Your Session is purchasing new hymnals and needs your help. *Glory to God* is the new Presbyterian hymnal published in 2013 that includes 853 hymns, psalms and spiritual songs as well as numerous worship resources. The hymnal was researched and compiled by PCUSA over a four-year period and contains many of the hymns from our current hymnal, some from past Presbyterian hymnals, and new music from contemporary and international sources.

To make this possible we are counting on you to purchase a hymnal (or several) in memory of, or to honor a loved one. Bookplates will be available that will be printed with the name of your loved ones and affixed to the inside cover of the hymnals that you purchase.

The order forms will be available at the back of the church, in the office and online at [firstpres.church/newhymnal](http://firstpres.church/newhymnal). Deadline for ordering will be July 1. The cost of each hymnal is only \$20.

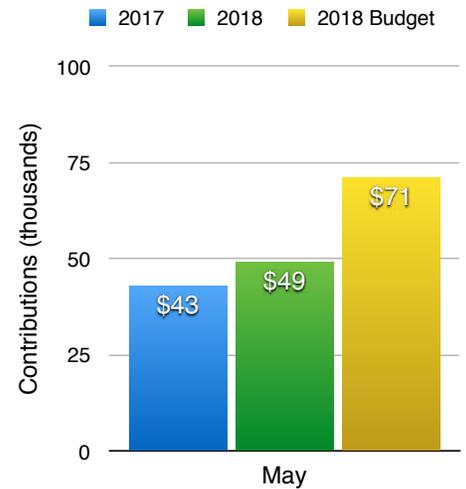
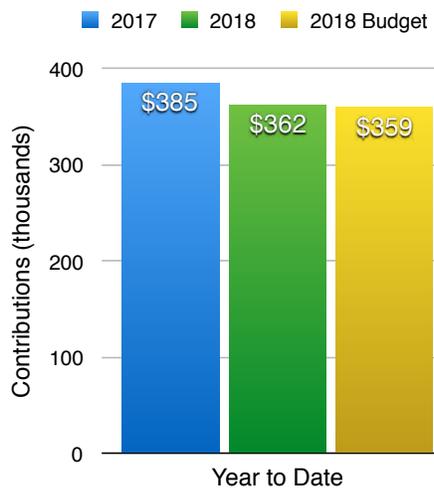
Kemmerer Village requests curtains and valances for the staff building Mission Possible is remodeling. The plan is to make them in C-U. If you wish to help, please contact Judy Gamble... 217-384-0461 and leave a message.

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, FINANCE CHAIR  
(mschoeffmann@mchsi.com)

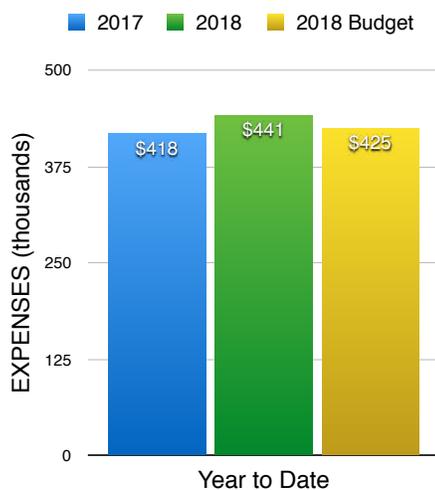
### Contributions

Contributions in May were \$6K more than in 2017 but \$22K below the budget at \$49K. The Year to Date total is below last year by \$23K but is above the budgeted amount by \$3K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions.



### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$16K above budget at \$441K and above 2017 by \$23K. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$52K which is \$23K less than at the end of May in 2017. This figure includes \$48K more in prepaid pledges than in 2017.



## Benevolence Fund

Our congregation is both financially blessed and financially diverse where many brothers and sisters face short term financial emergencies beyond their capacity.

Our Benevolence Fund is supported by individual gifts from members of the congregation. It is an emergency fund to help with rent, utilities, food and medicine when other assistance is not available. Applications are reviewed by a committee of three members appointed by our pastors. In general, a family must have a significant relationship with our congregation and can receive help only once a year for no more that \$500. Vendors are paid directly on behalf of recipients.

You can help maintain the fund with a donation to our Church with a memo: "benevolence fund". Should you have emergency needs you may talk to a pastor. Applications are available at [www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church) under "resources/forms". All requests are confidential.

*Content adapted from Benevolence Fund Policy which is available in its entirety from the office.*



## Pray for Peace

With so much conflict between nations today, we need a starting point when we pray for peace. The Bible gives us one in Psalm 122 where we read, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." (verse 6) Jerusalem is important for Christians, Jews and Muslims who all have holy sites in the city. Some of the families have lived there for many generations. The situation is very complex and volatile.

We need to pray that those who want to live in peace will prevail over those who support hostility.

# COVENANT

BIBLE STUDY

Spiritual Formation team is piloting a summer study held on Wednesday evenings. The study is Covenant Bible study, an in-depth group Bible study in which people read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better. Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. We invite you to join in it.

June 6 we will gather for an informational meeting: 5:45 for dinner (RSVP to **Claudia Kirby** [claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.a.kirby@gmail.com)), 6:30 will be an informational meeting about the study.

June 13 we begin our 8 week session, concluding August 8. (Same schedule as our informational meeting: dinner at 5:45, study at 6:30 concluding about 8 PM.)

Materials cost \$30. Also recommend to have the Common English Study bible (cost \$25-\$61 available online or via order with **Judi Geistlinger**: [judgeistlinger@outlook.com](mailto:judgeistlinger@outlook.com) or 217-493-5462) Scholarships are available.

## *Jays & Concern*

*We extend our sympathies to...*

- The family and friends of **Ray Bashore** who died May 24, 2018;

*Congratulations to...*

- **Chancelline Mutombo and Gaitan Mwanza Monga** on the birth of a daughter, Galiana;
- **Patrick Manzambi Makiese and Narcizo Maneza Nekaka** on the birth of daughter, Angel Makiese;
- **Mark Hancock and Laetitia Mamuene** on the birth of a son, Yoshua.

**The next scheduled Adopt-A-Highway is Saturday, July 21, 2018. We will gather between 8:00 & 8:15 outside the Education Building. You may want to bring gloves and smaller plastic bags than the City provides.**

# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR OF CYF  
(mindy@firstpres.church)

### Go and Serve

Thank you for making this faith filled experience possible for these young people! Our group will be staying at Ferncliff Camp near Little Rock, AR. They will volunteer at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance warehouse, the Arkansas Foodbank warehouse, the Little Rock Compassion Center, and the Stewpot. They will also have the chance to tour Heifer International and visit Little Rock Central High School to learn about desegregation in our country.

You are encouraged to pray for the students and chaperones while they are on the Go and Serve trip experience June 3-8. The adult chaperones are **Sabrina Hwu, Elizabeth Pippin, and Matt Mathews.**

The youth participants are **Audrey Pascal, Destin Lembelembe, Emilio Kabakele, Miriam Bokamo, Oceanne Mnyampara, Samantha Musasa, Syntiche Ngonde, and Princess Lutete.**

### Sunday School Notes

In May, the elementary classes studied 'Peter and Cornelius.' The preschool studied Bible stories that celebrated that God made all kinds of friends. The Middle School class explored many questions, 'Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?' Our High School students discussed the topic of bullying. The end of the Sunday School academic year was May 20 with a special celebration of Pentecost.

Members of the confirmation class were received by the congregation on May 13. A special thank you to **Mary Gritten, Patty Farthing, and Kathy Schoeffmann** for organizing a reception for them in

Westminster Hall immediately following worship that day. Please welcome our newest members **Sam Laufenberg, Henry Laufenberg, Richard Miller, Ian Evensen, Hannah Stickels, and Katie Young** to the church and invite them to serve with you in the ministry of the church.

Thank you to **Greg Cozad, Peter Yau, Wen-mei Hwu, Debra Miller, Nicole Miller, Rob Vermilion, and Patty Farthing** for serving as mentors to our confirmands this year. I hope you will continue to stay in touch with your mentees and be a mutual support to one another in the years ahead.

CYF would like to thank all of the volunteers that made the Sunday morning program for children and youth possible this academic year. Please stop by the church office for a special treat to thank you for your service if you missed our volunteer recognition in worship on May 27.

### Youth Group

The youth had a great time bowling on May 29 for some fun fellowship. The Schoeffmanns have invited the youth to a picnic and disc golf at their house in Mahomet on June 30 from 4-7:30 PM.

### Children's Mission

Our children decorated 20 canvas bags. Five were given to our sister church in Cuba and 15 were created for Salt and Light. These 15 bags will be distributed soon to the congregation. Salt and Light would like to encourage our members to shop in their full service grocery store to help support the services they provide to the community. Show your support by shopping there and taking your reusable canvas bag decorated by our children to transport your groceries home.

### Vacation Bible School

Come one, come all to Hero Central this July! Vacation Bible School will be held

July 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 1:30-4:30 PM. We will be collaborating with the First United Methodist Church to offer this series of action-packed afternoons in which children will learn that real heroes have heart, wisdom, hope, and power that comes from the Holy Spirit!

Registration begins June 3. Children ages 4 in preschool through children who have just completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encour-



aged to attend. A \$10 donation per child is requested at the time of registration. Members of the congregation are welcome to sponsor one or more children to attend VBS by donating to the church and writing VBS in the memo line.

You can register by going to <https://hc.cokesburyvbs.com/PresFUMC> or by filling out a paper registration form available Sundays in June in Westminster Hall and placing it in the CYF mailbox of the church office.

No VBS is complete without volunteers! We have agreed to supply one volunteer for each station through our church to partner with volunteers from the First United Methodist church. We need one person for each of the following; Bible storyteller, Science station, Recreation (Games) station, Preschool/Kindergarten leader, Snack helper. Please contact **Mindy** at [mindy@firstpres.church](mailto:mindy@firstpres.church) to volunteer!

# Missions

## Two Opportunities to Immerse in Culture

### All American Cookout

Join us Sunday, June 10, at 5 PM in Centennial Hall for an All American Cookout. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and beverage will be provided.

We will welcome **Pastor Daniel** from our sister church in Cuba and a leader of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. We will hear a brief presentation on current Cuban realities. Pastor Daniel will also lead our Sunday morning *Feasting on the Word* Bible Study and participate with our pastors in Sunday worship.

### International Taste of First Pres

We will host an International Dinner/ Potluck Style on Sunday, June 24, from 4-6 PM in Centennial Hall. Please bring a cultural or ancestral dish to share.

Fellowship, adult and youth activities are planned.

The **Rev. Dr. Ary Fernández Albán** will be our guest on Sunday, June 24. Pastor Fernández is the Moderator of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba. He teaches at the seminary in Matanzas and is pastor of the Central Presbyterian-Reformed Church there. Both Ary and his wife, Beidy, grew up in our sister church of Luyanó.

Pastor Fernández will preach at our Sunday worship services. He is in the US to participate in the PC-USA 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis where a new mutual mission agreement will be introduced for vote.



Pastor Daniel Izquierdo will visit our congregation June 7-11



Rev. Dr. Ary Fernández Albán will be our guest Sunday, June 24.

## Pentecost Sunday At Our Church in Luyanó

Our delegation to Cuba addressed congregants with thanks for friendship and hospitality. Mindy presented a banner from our children to the Cuban children and we sang a benediction to the Cuban congregation.

Thanks to the generosity of First Champaign and other Cuba Partners we were able to take meaningful gifts to our sister congregation.



Claudia Kirby, Pat Metcalf, Eric Corbin, Betty Stelmazewski, Sue Tomlin, Jean Murray, Beth Geistlinger, Bob Kirby and Mindy Watts-Ellis. Not pictured is photographer Judi Geistlinger.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

**Pastors:**

Matt Matthews ..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213  
Eric Corbin..... Covenant Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

**Staff:**

Beth Chandler .....Outreach Coordinator  
Kristi Corbin ..... Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219  
Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Maintenance  
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211  
Robert Ferrer..... Audio-visual Technician  
Marcia Franks .....Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210  
Joe Grant .....Director of Music  
Blaise Pascal ...Asst Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext 216  
Chris Penny ..... Facilities Manager, Ext. 237  
Ann Petry ..... Accounting, Ext. 224  
Andrea Pope..... Contemporary Worship Director, Ext 215  
Jeanette Pyne.....ESL Coordinator, Ext 235  
Mindy Watts-Ellis ..Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses are the person’s first name followed by @firstpres.church. For example, eric@firstpres.church.

**The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline is the last Monday of the month for the following month’s edition. Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.**

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**Sunday:**

- 8 AM Contemplative Service
- 9 AM Traditional Service
- 9:15 AM Children’s Sunday School
- 10:10 AM Adult Education & High School Class
- 11 AM Contemporary Service

**Saturday:**

- 6 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering  
(French-English Service) Centennial Hall