

# November 2019



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN



### When Did You Last Climb a Tree?

Friends,

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we streamed forward with our pledge cards in hand for next year. On those cards we wrote down the amount of money we thought we could commit to next year's expenses. I also preached a sermon that asked you the bad question, "When did you last climb a tree," and intimated the better question, "When is the next time you're going to climb a tree." (<http://firstpres.church/tree>) A tree top view, figuratively speaking, helps us see the wider picture. In this issue, **Tom Ulen's** Visioning Report is meant to be a snapshot of what some of us see and where many of us aspire to go. It's a vision worth taking a careful look at.

PEACE to you all.

Matt Matthews  
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### The Visioning Project

BY TOM & JULIA ULEN

THOMAS.ULEN@GMAIL.COM; JULIAULEN@GMAIL.COM

Late last year Pastor Matt asked us to undertake a visioning project. We met several times with Pastor Matt to determine such details of the project as when he would like the results, what questions he would like us to explore, and so on. Basically, Pastor Matt wanted us to find out the congregation's vision for where the Church should be in five years (2025). During the Summer and early Fall, we arranged to talk with various groups within the Church and with numerous individuals. We gave an initial, preliminary report to Session at its September, 2019, meeting and a final to Session at its October meeting.

Our principal means of canvassing the congregation was to conduct face-to-face interviews. We began by explaining our goal and methods. Then we asked, "Where would you like First Presbyterian Church Champaign to be in five years?" And then a discussion ensued.

Those interviews – conducted in homes, coffee shops, Mae Chapin Parlor, and elsewhere – were not a march through a standard set of questions. Rather, we let the discussion go where the interviewees wanted to go. Several of the interviewees came to our meeting with a thoughtful written document describing their vision. Several sent us follow-up observations. We took copious notes. In the end we talked with three groups and approximately 30 individuals.

We distinguished our inquiry from one in which we might have asked for our interviewee's best guess about what the Church would look like in five years if present trends continued or what they thought the current deficiencies of the Church are. We asked interviewees to think aspirationally, to focus on what they hoped and wanted the Church to look like in five years. We sometimes said that the point was not to be realistic or pragmatic so much as it was to dream. Nonetheless, we sometimes invited our interlocutors to think about how we might get from where they now believe the Church to be to their vision for five years hence. And many gave us some marvelous ideas. We very quickly realized two things: (1) each face-to-face interview took more time than we had expected – on average, 30 – 60 minutes per interview, and (2) we began to hear the same things from the many people with whom we talked. That is, there seemed to be a widespread consensus about where the Church ought to be in five years. Those we talked with were

eager to talk, took the matter very seriously, gave us thoughtful ideas, and generously devoted much greater amounts of their time than we had asked for or expected. We concluded that people love this Church and are very eager to see it prosper.

We discovered three general results from our interviews. First, almost everyone stressed that in five years they would like to see more members – especially more families and young people. As one person put it, “Most of the problems that we have can be lessened, if not eliminated, by simply increasing our numbers.” We want to stress that the implication of this finding, with which almost everyone with whom we talked agreed, is that everyone would like to see people of different ages and circumstances, and particularly young families and children.

Second, nearly everyone stressed the centrality and importance of the Sunday services to the well-being of the Church. Many said that they want the services to feed them with Biblical teachings that will help them to get through their week, to grow in their spirituality, and to reinforce their personal and family’s faiths.

Happily, almost everyone we talked to – regardless of the service that they regularly attend or whether they follow the services in person or on-line or on radio – felt that they are getting spiritual nurturing from the services and that they feel that the sermonizing is doing a better job in feeding the congregation than it ever has.

Related to these thoughts on the importance of the services, many people stressed the importance of prayer, of teaching about prayer, praying together, and praying intentionally.

Third, many – but a smaller number than for the previous two points – suggested that they would like a greater emphasis on local mission work and that it be hands-on, collaborative work with others from the church. However, in light of the large

number of older congregants, whose abilities to get out to work are limited, they pointed out that we may need to have more people donating money rather than their time and talents.

Our report to the Session included many comments from our interviews that elaborate on these three central findings and provide much food for thought about the Church’s future. These comments are worth looking at in full, but we can only give a few of them here.

Several people suggested collaborating with other churches in our downtown area or other Presbyterian churches in Champaign-Urbana to expand our youth club; have a revived day-care center; and stage joint events such as an Advent walk or a progressive Christmas dinner or a joint local mission project. Others suggested re-emphasizing our connection with the University community through, for example, a “surrogate family” program, in which we serve as a church family for students at the University who are away from home. With our re-designed kitchen and Centennial Hall, we might have a free dinner for college students periodically. With regard to our worship services, several people suggested setting a goal of having 25 percent of our worshippers participating in Adult Education programs. Others stressed the importance of reinvigorating our small groups as a means of better nurturing our faith journeys. Several called for strengthening the Gathering, our contemporary service, by, for example, periodically combining the traditional and contemporary services into a “blended” service.

Many, if not most, of our interviewees wanted the Church to focus its mission work more on the local community. Some, for instance, suggested that they would like our Church “to be known in the community as the place that does community mission.”

Under the “Miscellaneous” heading, there were some fascinating suggestions. One of the most fascinating was that we devote

efforts and resources to improving both external and internal communication. Externally, one person said that “we can’t remain the best kept secret in town. We have to communicate what we are and do much better than we are currently doing.” This person also pointed out that we need a communications director.

“Currently, we are in silos. Go see this person for the web, that person for press releases, some other person for help with social media, and yet another for community ads. We need an overall strategy, rather than independent organizations.” With regard to internal communication, we found that there is a lot of misunderstanding and confusion about matters within the Church. Many of our interviewees felt that the Church was not as transparent as it should be about important matters, such as its budget and the use of the proceeds from the sale of land to Copper Creek. (It turns out that much of the information that several interviewees claimed not to know about had, in fact, been disseminated.) Others suggested that we think about having a Church blog and podcasts.

We found particularly compelling the suggestion that the Church have a Communications Director to coordinate, supervise, and improve both the external and internal communications of the Church.

We thoroughly enjoyed undertaking this project and were deeply impressed with the interviewees’ love for the Church and with the broad range of ideas that our interviewees suggested for the implementation of a five-year vision.

*(Please see attachment for a full copy of The Visioning Project.)*

## Employee Highlights

BY BILL MARBLE, CO-CHAIR HUMAN RESOURCES  
MRBILL1205@GMAIL.COM

We, the Human Relations team at First Presbyterian attempt on a regular basis to keep our congregation informed about our wonderful staff who keep our church and its buildings running. In order for you to get to know them a little better, we will publish a short bio of a different staff member each month.

This month we are featuring **George Almasi** and **Marcia Franks**. If you would like to get to know them stop by the office and say hi.

George Almasi  
Facility Assistant

**George Almasi** is our newest full-time custodian, he has been with us for just about one year.

His primary duties include cleaning and maintenance of the church building and the education building. George is usually visible on Sunday mornings. If you see him, stop by and introduce yourself and say hi.

George has one sister and five brothers. His favorite hobbies are reading and fashion for men. Also going to amusement parks.

His favorite dessert is cheese cake with strawberries on top. (*Sounds good to me.*) Favorite music is jazz, rock, R&B. Favorite movie...any space movie.

He says he is a very private person, although he likes to meet new people.

So if you see George out and about, stop him and chat a while.

Marcia Franks  
Administrative Assistant

**Marcia Franks** is our Administrative Assistant who has been with our church for over 30 years. She coordinates office duties, oversees the calendar and space requests, weekly bulletin, newsletter, and works with staff to keep events and programs running smoothly. Those are just a few of her duties. There are many more things Marcia does that I am sure she doesn't like to brag about.

She has two daughters and five grandchildren, who probably keep her pretty busy on her days off. Oh, yes, she also has a dog, Georgee. You have probably seen her in the office once in a while. When Marcia does have time off, she likes refinishing antique furniture, and anything creative. She also loves the beaches in Michigan.

Her favorite desserts is anything chocolate, except ice cream. (*I wonder why she doesn't like chocolate ice cream.*) Presently, her favorite movie is "The Greatest Showman" (*I don't think I know that one.*) Anyway, Marcia dressed up for Halloween as the bearded lady from the movie.

Marcia also likes to tell people she is no longer a Christian. Her maiden name is Christian.

## Revised Office Hours

BY ANN STOUT, CO-CHAIR HUMAN RESOURCES  
MRSAS2003@GMAIL.COM

Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> the church office will close at noon on Fridays. The rationale for this decision is that Friday afternoon is a very quiet time in the office and most of the weekly responsibilities are taken care of. All employees will work their normal number of hours each week and will have completed their responsibilities by noon on Friday. In addition, provisions have been made for contacting a pastor in case of emergency. If you need to contact a pastor on Friday afternoons, just call the church office and follow the directions to call the number provided for a pastoral emergency. The message will be forwarded to one of the employees and they will advise a pastor to return your call.

This system is on a trial basis and will be re-evaluated by your Human Relations Team in February.

# Congregational Life

## Nurture

### Membership, Hospitality & Fellowship

BY GARY PETERSON, CHAIR  
AMER\_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM

#### Hospitality

If you enjoy coffee or tea between services, would you consider helping make and doing setup for a month or a week sometime in the future? The Environmental Committee takes care of the cleanup each Sunday. Several ways that you can sign up. Make a note on the friendship pad, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact **Tom Gilmore** at [gilmoretom9@gmail.com](mailto:gilmoretom9@gmail.com)

#### Fellowship

Reminder....For those that signed up to host a 7,8 or 9 dinner, November is the last month to finish out this year. If you are new and would like to meet other people in the congregation, we would be happy to get you the information to be able to join one of the groups. Contact **Gary Peterson** at [amer\\_swede@yahoo.com](mailto:amer_swede@yahoo.com). It's a great way to meet others that you may not worship with.

#### Membership

Do you know why you sign the friendship pads? Is it just so volunteers can collect, tear out the pages and date for the next service?

Friendship pads assist in gathering information and detecting trends. If you think it's not important to sign in, think again.

Your Membership Team is busy recording your attendance, not just to see who is here but moreover to detect who is missing. Attendance pads also give you the opportunity to make comments and sign up for special functions.

Each month the Membership Team meets to analyze attendance. If we don't know why members are missing, we contact them. We are a vital asset to the pastors and liaisons with congregational care.

The team also contacts any first-time visitors either by phone, email or postal mail. We have often invited visitors to join us for lunch or coffee. The information we gather is passed on to the pastors who then make personal contacts.

The Membership Team also assist with any new member inquiry class.

The Membership Team and pastors also rely on you to make note of the people around you. You can be our second set of eyes. If you note someone is missing and you don't know why, let us know. If you are concerned about someone, let us know. We are all in this together.

I want to thank everyone who assists the team. Take note of those dear souls who are there every Sunday dealing with the friendship pads. Give them a big hug. Please pray that the team gets volunteers to send notes, take turns working with the pads on Sundays and seeking to serve on a committee that meets once a month.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to [membership@firstpres.church](mailto:membership@firstpres.church).

## Outreach

BY BOB KIRBY, OUTREACH  
RWK3213@GMAIL.COM

#### Invitation and Welcome

Invitation is "to request the presence or participation of someone in a kindly, courteous, or complimentary way."

Welcome is "to meet, accept, or receive a person in an especially friendly, manner."

Our Outreach Committee (**Eric Stickels**) is looking for ways we can be inviting while our Nurturing Committee (**Gary Peterson**) is focused on being welcoming.

Both committees value your ideas. You are welcome in these groups.

Who can you invite this week to join you in worship, a small group or a mission activity? Who will you welcome this Sunday morning who you have not met before?

## Fall Adult Ed

BY BETTY HOLLISTER, CHAIR SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
B.HOLL@MCHSI.COM

As our Ten Commandments class is winding down, we are gearing up for Advent. Join us in the Parlor on Sundays, November 10 and 17, for a Bible Study led by **Pastor Matt** focusing on the nativity scripture in Luke.

Be on the look-out for some Pre-Advent Prayer Walk stations, too. The first two will focus on "waiting" and "seeing."

A special adult education treat will be offered by **Joe Grant**. As a preview for music Sunday, December 15, Joe will introduce the *Vivaldi Magnificat* with a bit of historical context. He will play some excerpts from the work and discuss the text a bit. So, join us in the Parlor Sunday, November 24, for the exciting preview.

Our Advent Study Book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia Campbell will be for sale November 10 and 17 in Westminster. Get your copy for \$10 and then join us in the Parlor in December for the Sunday morning group discussions led by **Judi Geistlinger**.



# Children, Youth & Family

## Children, Youth & Family Update

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

### Trunk or Treat Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated candy, manned the welcome table and game stations, brought soup and other food, and brought their trunks around with imaginative themes for the children to enjoy.

We had a steady stream of kids from the community attend. We had about 200 kids this year. This year we had a bouncy house that about 80 kids enjoyed throughout the event. We were also given a generous donation of balloons by Miss Barton of The Wonderful World of Balloons.

We had many stay and enjoy our hospitality with hot soup, cider and hot cocoa in Centennial Hall. It warmed my heart to see so many new faces welcomed into our church by friendly familiar ones.

Here are the many people who helped make this event possible: **Michelle and Matthew Hutchens, Bob and Claudia Kirby, Judi Geistlinger, Rachel Matthews, Karin Vermillion, The Laufenberg family, Rachel Rose, Julie, Emily, Allison and Tim Young, Naomi Rempe, The Corbin family, Brandi, Jason, and Heather Lowe, Judy Nicolette, Ann Webbink, Joanne Walther, Julie and Don Shult, Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Cathy Schowengerdt, Trena Thomas, Leslie Thomas, Jim Berger, Al and Norma Strange, Betty Hollister, Laura Walston, Sue Fischer, Clemmie Ackermann, Nancy Brombaugh, Peter Yau, Noni Ledford, Liz Miley, Mary Lou and Dave Bauer, Leland Andrews, Joyce Wittler, Lisa Ainsworth, Amy Born, and Sabrina and Wen-mei Hwu.**

And for anyone else I missed THANK YOU!!!!

### Sunday School

October featured the units 'God provides food' and 'I trust God when it rains.' for our preschool and Kindergarten class. The elementary kids studied the call of the prophet Samuel and the book of Ruth, the Middle school class explored the questions "Why does the Bible contradict itself sometimes?," "Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament?," "Why are there so many versions of the Bible?," and "Can it be proven that God exists?," The confirmation class studied the early church through the reformation, the sovereignty of God, and sin and human nature. The high school studied Genesis, Exodus, and the law of God and the book of Judges.

November will bring the unit "I listen to God." For the preschool and Kindergarten class. The elementary kids will study the story of Esther. The Middle school will explore the questions "Is God male?," "How can God be three-in-one?," and "Does God still create stuff today?," The confirmation class will have a retreat on November 3rd and study the concept of Jesus as Lord. The high school will be studying Ruth, Kings, the Babylon captivity and the prophets.

### Youth Group

LIZZ PIPPIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
LIZZ@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

October was a fun month for the youth group. The middle schoolers started their Salt and Light series and decorated a trunk for Trunk-or-Treat. In November, we will wrap up our study and meet on November 17 only.

The high school youth group started their series on community which we will be wrapping up this month when we meet on November 10 and 24.

The youth group would like to thank the **Thursday Morning women's bible**

**study and Nancy Pippin** for our delicious dinners this past month. One of the highlights of youth group is the fellowship we have as we gather around one big table and share a meal together. We joke and talk about what is coming up that week or what happened the week before. I have gotten to hear about homecoming dances and plans for who will be wearing what.

I am looking forward to November as we continue to grow as a group.

## Do You Have an Interest in Helping Youth Succeed?

DREAAM is looking for math, science and English tutors week-days between 10-12 noon. The students are enrolled in the DREAAM Day Reporting Center and need help with high school courses.

Scheduling is flexible and based on your availability. Contact [volunteer@dreameam.org](mailto:volunteer@dreameam.org) for more information.



**Genesis 50:20**

**You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, saving the lives of many.**

**Reflect on times that were difficult and thank God for answering your prayer in ways you couldn't have imagined.**

*Jays & Concerns*

*Get in the Spirit of Christmas*

**The Spirit of Christmas featuring the EIU Choral Ensembles and the premiere of the Camerata Sinfonietta under the direction of Richard Robert Rossi and Juliane Sharp will be presented Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston, IL.**

**Our Sanctuary Choir accompanied by orchestra will present the Vivaldi Magnificat on Sunday, December 15, at the 9 AM service.**

*We express our sympathy to the family and friends of...*

- **Robert Tuchel** who died October 9, 2019.
- **Nancy Dankle** on the recent death of her father.



# Mission Updates

## Mission News

BY RACHEL MATTHEWS,

TEMPORARY MISSION COORDINATOR

RACHEL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

### Thank You!

The Rug Event that we hosted in October was a powerful witness not only for what has been done for families in small villages in Pakistan and around the world and will do in the future as the money raised is re-invested into communities but also locally.

Ten Thousand Villages ran the event while our church provided the space and a few volunteers who served as greeters and heavy lifters.

I want to thank all the people that came and visited with people who walked in off the street to buy rugs. They were received with hospitality while in our building.

Thank you for being gracious to the staff and volunteers from Ten Thousand Villages. Thank you if you were a greeter, a mover, or a pray-er or anything else.

Ten Thousand Villages sold 20 rugs along with other handmade crafts. They exceeded their expected goal. The amount is not as important as the number of families who were given a livable wage **WHILE THEY WERE WEAVING THE RUGS**. Through the proceeds of this sale Bunyard Rugs, Ten Thousand Villages and First Presbyterian Church gave these same communities an opportunity to **WEAVE MORE RUGS** at a livable wage. Communities are able to develop artisan skills to be passed from one generation to another.

One floor size rug takes ½ a year to weave and will provide a livable wage not just to the weaver but about 15 other people who are part of the process of making the rug. Almost 300 people were directly impacted by this sale. In addition, think of their families who were affected as well as entire villages. **AND**, it impacted our local community.

Those of us who were at the sale were able to talk to people of other faith traditions, support our local downtown economy, support the self-development of our own community and even feed “a friend without an address” who walked into the event in need of some care.

Our community was given an opportunity to come inside our walls for a non-threatening moment, drink some coffee and laugh together. Someone I spoke with during the weekend was awed at how expensive the rugs were. I replied, “Yes, isn’t it humbling what a real livable wage is compared to prices we are so used to from our department stores?” Plus, these rugs used no child labor and many were made with natural dyes and will last up to 90 years.

Thank you. The educational value of this weekend was priceless.

### Angel Tree

Advent begins December 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving! A tradition here at First Presbyterian Church is the Angel Tree in Westminster Hall. The Angel Tree 2019 will focus on items from the wish lists of the local agencies that Community Mission Deacons support.

These local agencies are:

- Caanan Safe House
- Restoration Urban Ministry
- Crisis Nursery
- Canteen Run
- CU @ Home
- Courage Connection
- DREAAM
- empty tomb
- Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry
- The Refugee Center
- Faith in Action
- Salt and Light

Giving through the Angel Tree will be a tangible way to help children and families served by our local community agencies. Each ornament on the tree represents an

item on the wish list of a local agency we support. You may take as many ornaments as you wish!

Please note that there are duplicated items on the Tree because some agencies have asked for multiples of the same thing. After you have purchased the item(s), please bring it/them to the church. Please leave items unwrapped, with the ornament taped to them to serve as a label. Then, place the gifts near the agency’s name on the table next to the Angel Tree. This will help make deliveries more efficient and accurate.

Angel Tree donations of wish list items will be accepted through Sunday, December 15. The items you donated will be delivered to the agencies the following week, in time for Christmas.

Check donations are also a great choice. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate during worship or sent to the office. Just write “First Presbyterian Church of Champaign” as the payee of the check and then make sure to write the agency’s name in the memo line.

Ann, our wonderful bookkeeper, will then send a check for the entire amount donated to that agency by congregants as an extra donation to the agency from the church.

Thank you for your generosity!

## Green Team Update

BY CLEMMIE ACKERMANN,

MEMBER ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

CLEMMIE1814@YAHOO.COM

**REUSE**, Recycle, Reduce and Refuse

### My Grandmother – the Queen of Green

I’m embarrassed and really, really sorry that I laughed at my grandmother. She



saved every sliver of soap and put them in a jar with a little water to use when she did the laundry. She walked to the grocery store pulling her cart, she wore her clothes until they were totally worn and then she cut the buttons off before she cut up the clothes to use them as rags. She was the “reuse it” queen and I didn’t appreciate what she did.

Today, we live in a throwaway society. All the waste we produce is expensive for us and for the environment. Making a new product requires a lot of materials and energy. Reusing something is one of the more effective ways we can all save natural resources, save money and protect the environment. Here’s where you can start.

**Ditch the Disposables**

By now, you’re a role model and carrying and using your own shopping bags and reusable water bottles. Keep up the good work! Other steps you can take are switching to cloth napkins, keeping washable place settings at work and taking your own “to-go” containers when you order take-out.

**Repair**

Consider repairing cars, shoes, clothes, furniture and electronics. Repairing something may not be as much fun, but is usually less expensive than buying something new - even if you have to get an expert cobbler, tailor or computer technician involved.

**Shop the Secondhand Market**

It doesn’t matter if you use Craigslist, go to garage sales, estate sales or thrift shops, you’re saving money, helping others make some money, keeping used items out of the landfill and saving the resources needed to manufacture new items.

Recycling has its place but reusing an item is stopping waste dead in its tracks. We’ll move on to recycling in next month’s article but until then, **BEHAVE LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER!** The world will be grateful.

Faithfully Yours,  
Environmental Services Committee

To ask a question, offer a comment or volunteer, please contact **Kathy Schoeffmann** (kschoeffmann@icloud.com)

**ESL Program Update**

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL COORDINATOR  
JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

**Fun in Fall**

In my mind, there is nothing more “fall” than apples. To give the students an



educational cultural experience, we took a field trip to Curtis Apple Orchard. On October 30, we went to the orchard and took their educational tour. We learned about honeybees and how integral they are to the apple orchard. We also saw where they make apple cider. The tour ended with the Curtis restaurant providing an apple, a cup of apple cider, and an apple cider donut to each of the tutors and students who attended the tour. This apple-infused field trip was appreciated by all the students and tutors who attended.

On October 31, we had our annual



Halloween party along with a costume contest. I was excited to see that more people participated in the costume contest with more extravagant and well-designed costumes. There were prizes for the best costumes, which the students and tutors voted for. We played bingo with candy corn and had a Halloween trivia quiz. Did you know that the world’s largest pumpkin weighed 2,069 lbs? If you did, you just might have won a prize for getting the question correct.

**Prayer Requests**

We are going to add a new morning class at the end of this semester. If you are interested in learning more about how to be a volunteer tutor and positively impact a student’s life, contact **Jeanette Pyne**, the ESL Coordinator, jeanette@firstpres.church.

**Knowing Our Neighbors**

*Leviticus 19:34*

“We are all Americans of the New World, and our most dangerous enemies are



not each other, but the great wall of ignorance between us.”-Juan González, Harvest of Empire

Migration from Central America has been the subject of political interest in recent years. About 13,000 Latino people live in Champaign County. Why do they leave their families and their homes to come here?



*Harvest of Empire-The Untold Story of Latinos in America*, is a ninety minute documentary, explaining why our Latino neighbors have been forced to migrate. This is a fascinating look at the outcome of US policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

You are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors as we gather with our downtown friends at New Covenant Fellowship, 124 West White St. to watch this film on Monday, November 18, at 7:00 PM.

This film is intended for adults. It contains images of death and war and troubling stories of torture.

### Street Walk

A *Matthew 25:44-45* Action Reflection Spiritual Growth Experience

Who are our neighbors without addresses? We will walk downtown to meet them and greet them. Join us at Café Kopi at 11 AM on Saturday, November 9. We will hear a bit about our homeless neighbors and pray for them. Then we will hit the streets in small groups to meet people we may not have met before. We will return to Café Kopi in less than an hour to share our experience and pray for the individuals we met.

Can't walk far? No problem, you may rest at the Café while others walk or do a shorter walk.

## Transportation Ministry

Have an empty seat when you drive to worship?

Could you share with someone who needs a ride? Join our Transportation Ministry by adding your name to the list of people willing to give a ride from time to time.

We respect your decision to say "no" any time you are unable but when you say "yes" you are serving God and helping the

team. Drivers bring children and adults for 9 AM worship and return them home at 11 and 11:30. We have one way drivers and two way drivers. We contact our list of saints every week by email or text for a "yes" or "no".

Contact **John Muirhead** to join this ministry.

## Presbyterian Women

BY MARY LOU BAUER, MODERATOR  
MARYLOU100@SBCGLOBAL.NET

In September all women of First Pres received a letter inviting each to participate in **Presbyterian Women** (PW) in a variety of ways. Thanks to you all who responded with time, interest, and money – you are a blessing.

Please know that your participation and donations are welcome at all times throughout the year, as our activities go throughout the year as well.

Please call **Mary Lou** (217.355.1824) if you have any questions regarding PW.

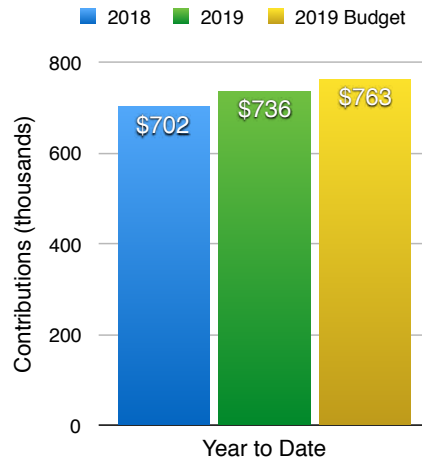
# Finance

## Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE  
 MSCHOEFFMANN@MCHSI.COM

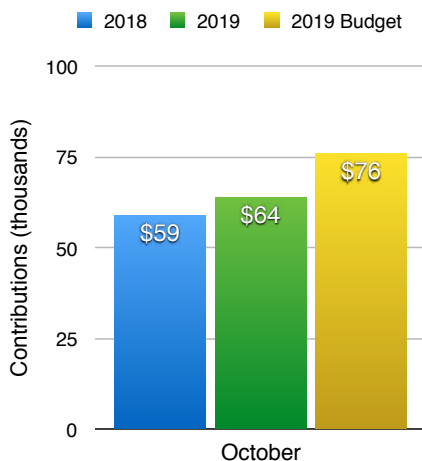
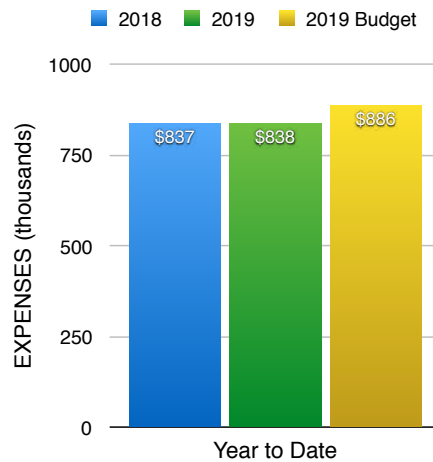
### Contributions

Contributions in October were \$5K more than in 2018 but \$12K below the budget at \$64K. The Year to Date total is above last year by \$34K but below the budgeted amount by \$27K. 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. Including all revenue sources, at 83.3% through the year, we have received 81.4% of the expected 2019 revenue.



### Expenses

Year to Date expenses are \$48K below the budget at \$838K but \$1K above 2018. Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$0.3K which is \$16K better than at the end of October in 2018. This figure includes \$32K less in prepaid pledges than in 2018. At 83.3% through the year we have experienced 78.9% of the expected 2019 expenses.





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

**P:** 217.356.7238

**F:** 217.356.7242

**E:** info@firstpres.church

www.firstpres.church

**Sunday:**

9 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education

11:15 AM Worship

**Pastors:**

Matt Matthews..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext 213

Eric Corbin..... Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

**Staff:**

George Almasi ..... Facility Assistant

Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Manager, Ext. 237

Patty Farthing.....Receptionist, Ext. 211

Robert Ferrer .....Audio-visual Technician

Marcia Franks ..... Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210

Joe Grant..... Director of Music

Rachel Matthews ..... Temporary Missions Coordinator, Ext. 219

Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216

Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224

Lizz Pippin ..... CYF Associate Director, Ext. 216

Jeanette Pyne..... ESL Coordinator, Ext. 235

Richard Rossi ..... Church Musician

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.

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