From the Pastors

The Rev. Dr. David Holyan, Pastor
This Is It!

You'll be reading this while I'm out on yet another medical leave. I'm writing it three days before my fifth spinal surgery (9 days before surgery #6). Normally, when I write my articles, I can place myself in a frame of mind that is less distracting than I find myself today. I know I need to get this done but the S/spirit within is craving quiet while my mind sifts through all the surgeries, the pain, the hardware within, the doctors, the nurses, the impact on the church staff, the stress upon Jani, the handicapped parking placard in my car, and the two new spinal stimulators I'm hoping will ease the chronic pain I feel.

As I find myself internally preparing for surgery, I want you to know how much I love what I do and appreciate the contributions of everyone to make First Pres such a wonderful community of people.

My call to ministry occurred when I was an undergrad at Seattle University. The shift from pre-med to theology was a huge transition but I felt at home reading texts, praying, writing, and serving students through campus ministry. As I learned about faith and ministry I just knew my gifts aligned with my deep sense of being called. I felt the same thing when I came to Kirkwood 12 ½ years ago. I remember the moment I first read the Church Information Form while seated in my study in Poulsbo, WA: 'this is it!' my heart exclaimed. I still feel that: 'this is it!'

And then, in the fall of 2015, I felt something else. A strange sense of unbalance as I walked up the aisle to lead church one Sunday. I told my doctor at my annual physical, who referred me to a podiatrist, who referred me to a neurologist, who referred me to a neurosurgeon, who diagnosed a spinal cord lesion in my thoracic spine. Unbalanced steps led to increased levels of pain, neurological weirdness, and lots of titanium. Life threw me the unexpected curveball and I've been swinging and missing ever since. The pain is a constant and the weirdnesses are even weirder. I'm hopeful the stimulators will provide a huge relief from pain and a diminishment in the weirdnesses.

So, as I prepare for yet more surgery at the time of writing this, I want to thank you for the opportunity to share my gifts (and struggles) with you as your pastor. I continue to trust that our Lord companions all of us through life. I still love what I do and feel deeply 'this is it!'. And I am grateful for all of you, and especially the staff, for carrying on so beautifully while I am out on medical leave. The Holy Spirit continues to bless us and the ministry of Jesus we share together. I'm looking forward to returning to what I love and (hopefully) being able to enjoy it with a bit less pain.

Peace,

David

The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

August’s Deacons meeting was filled with good news about donations from our congregation. We heard a report about the response to the request to gather food for hungry students who need meals during the summer. Week after week a large grocery cart of food was delivered to KirkCare in addition to toiletry items and other related personal need products. The church also was a collection site on behalf of the Y for school supplies being for students in Meacham Park. Again your response was very generous.

Most Deacon meetings also include an education piece about a service organization. This time we received an update from Karen Raburn about the work of KWASHA kids, an organization that raises funds for a school in Zambia. Over the last few years we have sent school supplies and bags, sweaters, dresses and other supplies. In addition, three members from our church serve on the Board—MaryAnne Shaw, Delores Guyton and Nancy Magnuson. It was amazing to hear how the school has not only come alive but thrives (See page 10 for more information on the pencil drive).

The Deacons voted to give money to ship another container of supplies in addition to the having a pencil drive. Pencils will be given not only to KWASHA kids but also to those within our school district in order to respond to those in need locally as well as globally.

Thank you for your support of educating youth for the future.

With a grateful heart,
Karen
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

September 1, 2019
Sermon: “Sacrifices Pleasing to God” - The Rev. Dr. Tom Glenn

Our words, our worship, and our church community are all important and meaningful expressions of our faith. But the writer to the Hebrews reminds us of what our call is. It is acts of compassion, deeds of justice, and outreach of love and welcome that finally forms a “sacrifice that is pleasing to God.”

September 8, 2019
Sermon: “The Promise of Presence” - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: Psalm 139 (selected verses) and John 1:43-51

As we read through Psalm 139, we are reminded of a God who knows all. At times, that is anxiety producing when we are aware of what we have done wrong, at other times it is a gift to be reminded that we are known and loved. We are all children of God, yet we are reminded that we are each one intimately known by the God of our whole lives. How does that challenge and also encourage us in our daily living?

September 15, 2019
Sermon: “Finding the Lost Ones” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:1-10

In the two parables about find what is lost, Jesus shows the depth of God's determination to find us and bring us home. When we walk away God does not say, “fine, their choice, so be it.” No, God comes after us, in subtle and surprising ways to lure us back into the wholeness of life promised to us all in Jesus Christ. We will explore God's determination in finding us when we wander off.

September 22, 2019
Sermon: “Serve God, Not Wealth” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan

The parable in the Gospel of Luke (16:1-13) addresses the question of our loyalty: God or money and how we are to handle ourselves. In this difficult parable, Jesus reminds us all to be careful about how we go about our business – the business of life. For the health of our soul, we need to be attentive to the ways of grace rather than the lure of the world. We cannot serve both money and faithfulness, as their goals are at odds with one another.

September 29, 2019
Sermon: “The Upside Down of Faith” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan

In this passage we hear a story of the reversal of faith. A rich man dressed in the finest clothes eating whatever he wants ends up in hell and a poor man who starved and begged ends up in heaven. This story is a warning to us: we need to be mindful of what we do with our riches. It tells us the price of self-indulgence and shows us the reward of a life of serving the needs of the less-fortunate.

From the Director of Music Ministries

September is on the horizon, and with it the exciting start to a new program year. Choirs of all ages reconvene, our Con Spirito Concert Series will soon enter into its 20th anniversary season, and our rhythm resumes as Fall approaches. Although summer is a wonderful season of recreation and rest, our energy and vitality as a congregation is evident in our programming in music, education, youth, and mission.

There is still time to join one of our wonderful choirs – there are groups for all ages, Kindergarten through age 100! A desire to sing with great people and enjoy fellowship and a deeper sense of worship is all that's required. Let me know of your interest and we'll get you a folder. We will highlight expanded music opportunities for our children and youth in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned!

Faithfully yours,
Bill
The Ministry of Music

New members are always welcome in the Ministry of Music. Music plays a vital and visible role in the worship life of our congregation, and we rely on our many volunteers, young and old, to fulfill our mission. Involvement in a choir or musical ensemble requires a commitment of time and talent, but the rewards are endless. Come and be a part of this spiritual, rewarding, fun, and inspiring ministry!

If you have any questions or would like to participate in First Presbyterian's Music Ministry, contact Director of Music Ministries, Bill Stein at 314-965-0326 or at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org. All are welcome in this place!

Chancel Choir: Sings each week at the 11:00 worship service, as well as at Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. The Choir will perform their annual Christmas Concert with full orchestra on December 15, 2019, and also sings a noon concert on Good Friday, April 10th. Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings 7:00-9:00p.m. The first rehearsal will be August 29, 2019.

Chancel Ringers: Our adult handbell ensemble under the direction of Travis Evans, Music Associate, will ring 4 Sundays this year. Ringers spend rehearsal time working on note reading, techniques, encouraging one another, and having fun! Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00p.m. The first rehearsal will be September 11, 2019. To sign up or ask questions, contact Travis at tevans@kirkwoodpres.org.

Carillon Ringers: Our advanced adult handbell ensemble. This bell choir will work on technique, note ringing, and ensemble playing. Those interested in playing with Carillon Ringers need to be able to read music and have some prior experience in bell ringing. Carillon Ringers will rehearse on Monday evenings, 7pm-8:30p.m. beginning Monday, September 9, 2019. To sign up or for more information, contact Travis at tevans@kirkwoodpres.org.

The Praise Team: Provides vocal and instrumental music leadership at the Arise! contemporary worship service. If you are interested in helping the Arise! planning team or volunteering in the sound booth, contact a member of the Praise Team, Brad Gift at brad.gift@att.net or Rebecca Shipley at shipreb@gmail.com.

Church Orchestra: Open to all instrumentalists of any age at any level. Performances in the coming season are scheduled for November 17, 2019, January 19, 2020 and May 24, 2020. There are 3 rehearsals prior to each performance. If you would like to play in the Church Orchestra, please contact Bill Stein in the church office at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org or (314) 965-0326.

Middle School Ringers (grades 6-8): Will ring 4 times this season, including the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. All Middle School students are welcome to join Ringers. We learn notes, rhythms, and ensemble performing during our rehearsal time. Rehearsals are held Wednesday afternoons from 5:30p.m.-6:15p.m. The first rehearsal will be September 11, 2019.

Choristers (grades 3-5) and Cherubs (grades K-2): Open to all children of our congregation. They will sing 5 times this year, including Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and Music Appreciation Sunday. Choristers are led by Bill Stein and Cherubs by Lori Wehrman. These singing choirs rehearse on Wednesday afternoons 4:45p.m.-5:30p.m. Rehearsals begin September 11, 2019. For those interested who cannot attend Wednesday rehearsals, we will hold abbreviated rehearsals on Sunday mornings prior to singing. Please contact Bill Stein at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org for more information or to sign up your child/ren.

Youth Choir (grades 6-12): We are very excited to plant the seeds and begin a Youth Choir this season. If you have a youth in grades 6 through 12 who may be interested in singing, please contact Bill Stein at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org. We will schedule rehearsals on Sundays 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m. three weeks prior to singing. Please spread the word about the great new music opportunity!

The MusikGarten Program: Our church offers music classes for newborns-age 5. You are welcome to bring your baby/child to either class. Parents stay with their child during the class. Fathers, grandparents, and nannies are also welcome. Our classes consist of singing, moving and exploring rhythm instruments. Your child will begin growing socially, emotionally, and physically as well as laying a good foundation for love of music. Music can have profound long term effects that include improved language and math development. Please join us for a fun-filled time as you watch your child grow into a confident, independent and expressive young person. Our classes are free! Musikgarten meets Wednesday mornings at 9:15-9:45 and 10:00-10:30. You may attend either class. To enroll or get answers to your questions, please contact Ellen Hitschler, Musikgarten instructor, directly at 314-822-3057 or ln4CATS@yahoo.com. Classes begin on Wednesday, September 11, 2019.
Children, Youth and Family Ministry

The goal of the Children and Family Ministry at First Presbyterian is to provide opportunities for education, fellowship and support of lifelong faith journeys. We do this by organizing events focused on children, youth and their families throughout the year. Our Youth Ministry focuses on providing a foundation for future faith growth for middle and high school youth. We do this by working to create a place for spiritual development, religious growth and fostering relationship development without fear of judgement or prejudice.

**Family Activity Dates for This Year:**

- **Church Hayride** - *Saturday, October 26th* at 5:15 p.m.
  - Bring a picnic dinner and join us at Queeny Park for a hayride!
- **Game Day** - *Sunday, November 17th*, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
  - We will have a variety of games big and small - and snow cones!
- **Movie Night** - *Sunday January 6th* at 5:15 p.m.
  - $10 per family for pizza dinner and enjoy a movie with us.
- **Leap Day Beading Activity** - *Saturday, February 29th* 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  - Join us to make Prayer and Reflection Beads and for lunch
- **Work Camp Auction** - *Sunday, April 5th*, 5:30 p.m.
  - Fundraiser dinner for Work Camp, entertainment and a dessert auction
- **Church Picnic** - *Sunday, June 7th* Following Worship
  - Pot Luck Picnic at Kirkwood Park!

**Sunday Morning Education:** Sunday School for Preschool through Grade 8 is from 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m. from September through April. We are using the PC(USA) Curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude, which includes age-appropriate stories for each grade level, as well as other activities to enhance the learning experience for all of our children. We work to bulk up our curriculum with movie mornings, kitchen days and service projects!

**Classrooms**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preschool (ages 3 to Pre-K)</th>
<th>Room 130</th>
<th>Middle School - 6th &amp; 7th grade</th>
<th>Room 278</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten to 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Room 228</td>
<td>Confirmation - 8th grade</td>
<td>Room 007</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd to 5th grade</td>
<td>Room 230</td>
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**Confirmation:** Our 8th grade education is done through our confirmation program. Students spend the year learning about church history, polity and mission, as well as what it means to be a member of our church. Students are paired with adult mentors to help their faith development during this year and into the future. We offer a partner class for parents that will focus on some of the same learning, but also some parenting skills as students turn toward high school. The confirmation students will end their year together by presenting the congregation with a Class Creed that will reflect on their beliefs about faith and faithful living as they become full members of the church!

**Senior High Fellowship** meets weekly on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., typically in the Senior High Room (005). SHF is open to all students in grades 9-12 and we are always happy to welcome new faces!

Our focus varies from week to week as we try to balance learning, fellowship and mission work. Each year we also take time away for retreats, lock-ins and other events.

The big highlight of our year occurs each summer with Work Camp, a two week mission experience that takes our students out of town to grow and learn even more. Each summer we go to a different city around the country which makes each trip unique to the students and adult volunteers.

**College Parent Gatherings:** Whether one bird has flown or your nest is suddenly empty, parents of college students are invited to join us during the year for fellowship, care package packing and more! Dates are in the works at the time of publication, but please contact Rob Monroe or Casey Mackenzie (sixmack81@gmail.com) for more information!
**Children in Worship and Nursery:** Children are always welcomed into any of our three distinctly different styles of worship each Sunday - actually, we encourage it! Our Sunday School (see previous page) meets between services to allow families to worship together. In an effort to aid in enhancing the worship experience of children, we provide Children’s Bulletins, pads for doodling, and a Time for Children (11:00 service), and Worship Bags (9:05 service).

We have nursery available for infants through five year old children from the Arise! service through the 11:00 service with paid nursery staff.

**LOGOS**

- **The ONE RULE of LOGOS** -
  Everyone is treated as a Child of God. Everyone matters!

**WHAT is LOGOS?** LOGOS is a ministry where children, youth and adults model Christ to each other in everything they do. We experience God’s love for all people as we learn how to offer God’s love to our neighbors. LOGOS succeeds because families commit to regular participation.

Children and youth are grouped by age for Bible Study, Recreation, and Choir. Dinner finds us intentionally multi-aged, and is themed differently each week. Adults from our participating families are encouraged to participate in leadership roles during the year to make this a truly whole-family event.

Our Middle School Fellowship (6th-8th grades) meets as a part of LOGOS. Their time is spent working on mission activities, learning more in-depth stories from the Bible and generally having a fun time. The students also participate in music through the Middle School Ringers program, just before dinner.

**Why LOGOS?**

Our mid-week ministry allows for a deeper relationship to be built between student peers and between students and adults in our congregation that give of their own time to be here on a weekly basis.

LOGOS meets just about weekly from 4:00-7:00 p.m. starting in Fellowship Hall and ending with a family-style dinner. Dinners often fit into our weekly theme and always include protein, veggies and fruits and dessert!

Our 20th year of LOGOS begins September 11th and ends April 29th.

**Fees are used to pay for meals, supplies for Bible study, recreation and curriculum costs for:**

- **One child:** $140
- **Two children:** $230
- **Three or more children:** $310

If you have a financial need please discuss that with Rob. Arrangements can be made to help your child to participate in this ministry.

For more information contact: Rob Monroe, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org or 314-965-0326
SUNDAY MORNINGS

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS LECTURE SERIES
9:00A.M. in Room 009

September 8-29: Updates on Russia: September 8 and 15th--With the awareness that Russia has returned to the news in new ways, Dr. James Wertsch, Vice Chancellor for International Relations and Professor of International and Area Studies at Washington University, will focus on how Russian cultural identity influences Russia's current political worldview. On September 22 and 29, Charlie Allen will speak about "The Cold War as Experienced by Ordinary Russians and One American."

October 6-27: Rubén Rosario Rodríguez, Professor of Theological Studies and Director of the Mev Puleo Program in Latin American Politics, Theology, and Culture at SLU, will speak on “Religion and Science: Human Uniqueness Reconsidered.” Science and religion are sometimes seen as competing (and contradictory) worldviews. Some traditional Christian doctrines seem to be in conflict with evolutionary perspectives. Is it possible to reconcile our evolutionary descent with the Christian belief in human uniqueness?

November 3-24: Sheldon Enger, a longtime speaker on Judaism and facilitator with Washington University’s Lifelong Learning Program, returns. He will lead an exploration and discussion of the Ten Commandments as seen through Jewish eyes and walking through the scriptures to gain a deeper perspective on the roots and meaning of these important biblical mandates.

December 1 & 8: How climate change will affect our future. Carl Campell, a retired stock and bond analyst, has taken a deep interest in climate change. For the last five years he has written a 5-day-a-week "Carl's Climate Letter", a one-page digest of the day's climate change news and views from sources the world over providing a unique and important resource in examining the climate issues we face.

December 15: Composer/guitarist Dan Rubright will speak on "The Guitar: Metaphor for Life." Dan has performed this piece--using his guitar throughout--most recently at the University of Kansas Business School and before large businesses here in Missouri. He is the leader of two local jazz concert groups and is a guitarist for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Muny.

January 5-12: Member Dr. Ron Evens will speak on "Exploring the St. Louis hospital, clinic and urgent care center complex". Ron has held numerous leadership roles at Washington University Medical Center and is an inspiring and brilliant commentator who knows a great deal about the history of and current issues regarding medicine in St. Louis and beyond.

January 19-26: Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers will speak to us on the topic of “How Did Jesus Become God?: A Study in Earliest Christian Thought”. Examining the recent work of New Testament scholars Larry Hurtado, Bart Ehrman and others on the historical question on how the belief arose that Jesus is divine, at one with God in a unique sense. How did a Jewish monotheist like the apostle Paul, for example, come to believe so quickly that Jesus should be honored with divine titles (as in Philippians 2:5-11)? Dr. Meyers is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Lindenwood university and Parish Associate at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.

Additional speakers in the year to come will include Art Historian, Peggy Carothers, Paul Robinson of Concordia Seminary, and Christopher Saxton about the events after the Civil War, and George Durnell on the composer Randall Thompson.

SPiritual Formation Class - 9:30a.m. in Room 028, September 8

The Spiritual Formation series will focus on deepening the stillness of the heart through prayer, meditation, study and reflection. Tom Edelstein is the convener of the group which will meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:30a.m. in room 028. If you have any questions please contact Tom at tedelstein@att.net or Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

Raising the Challenging/Challenged Child
Sundays 10:00a.m. in room 029, starting Sunday, September 8

In today’s complex world, raising a child is challenging enough, but when you add emotional, physical and mental challenges, the job becomes more complicated. This group is designed for parents as they navigate the challenges of dealing with schools, peers, their larger families, medical professionals and just the day-to-day challenges each unique situation brings. The group will be an opportunity to pool resources and information along with sharing experiences in this faith based, non-judgmental support group. Contact Mike Lages at malages08@gmail.com or Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.
SUNDAY MORNINGS, CONTINUED

FIREPLACE ROOM SERIES 10:00A.M. in ROOM 030

**September 8 and 15th**: The Way We Do the Things We Do: ‘Reformed and Still Reforming’ is a refrain in our tradition. This series will walk through our origins of our denomination from the Reformation and share some of the statements of our tradition today. Dr. Blanchard will lead a discussion about the roots of our Presbyterian tradition and the next week will explore the present day statements by the PC(USA) on a variety of topics. There will be a box at the Welcome Desk for you to put any questions--Karen will try to incorporate the answers as much as possible into her time of sharing.

**September 22 and 29**: Member Ray Lester returns to share additional information on our amazing stained glass windows. The first week will focus on the personalities of the Old Testament and the following week the New Testament. This time he will explore the meanings behind the colors used in the stained glass and the use of flames in the various images. The group will also hear about some of the imagery and symbols in the smaller windows along the east wall of the sanctuary. The class will meet in the Sanctuary.

**October 6**: World Communion. One service at 10am --- No class

**October 13**: Whether you are a senior or someone who is working with your parents or grandparents on financial and legal issues, we all need to know the most current information on the laws as we plan and consider various issues from healthcare to wills and everything in between. Member and lawyer, Mark Easley, with Senior Elder Law and Estate Planning will speak about current laws, issues to be aware of and answer questions you may have.

**November 3**: TBA

**November 10th**: NO CLASS. Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing - Join those of all ages in the Gathering Space at 10:00a.m. to help put together 10,000 meals as we work with Rise Against Hunger packaging up foods to be distributed in places that have been hit by natural disasters or drought.

**November 17th and 24th**: St. Louis has been the confluence not only of rivers, but also of ideas and innovation. Hear about the World's Fair of 1904 that brought people from around the world and put St. Louis on the map. The following Sunday we will hear about the Cortex area in mid-town (the innovation district in Midtown Saint Louis) now a hub for technology, science research and development as well as many of the city's technology startup companies. Carol Shepley, author of "St. Louis: An Illustrated Time Line" and writer of articles for Time, Money and Harper's Bazaar, will examine aspects of both the history and present growth of the City of St. Louis.

*Future events include an Advent event with Lynn Rubright on December 15 and in the new year we will welcome Jani Holyan leading a discussion of the book “The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed”, beginning in late January into February.*

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

**SATURDAY MORNING MEN’S STUDY**

First Pres men of all ages are invited to join us Saturdays at 10:45 a.m. in Room 029. All men are welcome, no matter your knowledge of scripture or where you are in your faith journey. We take turns reading aloud, ask questions, discuss what the Holy Spirit might be saying, and even share in laughter. Call Robert Trottmann at 314-909-6779 with any questions.

**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

This fall we will continue the words of the writer of the Gospel of Luke as he traces the early years of the church and the evangelism of the disciples and the apostle Paul and others. This series will begin on Monday, October 7 at 7:00p.m. in the Fireplace Room and runs through December 9. Copies of a study guide will be available for purchase for $5.00. Please let Karen know if you are interested at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org or by contacting the church office.

**THURSDAY EVENING DINNER & LECTURE SERIES**

5:30PM – Dinner in the Gathering Space – Bible Study in the Chapel

Join Dr. Holyan in the Gathering Space for a wonderful home-cooked meal on Thursday evenings at 5:30p.m. (October 24 thru November 14) followed by Bible Study in the chapel. During the Bible Study we will open ourselves to the lectionary (the texts of the week) and share wisdom and insights with each other. The Bible Study will conclude at 6:52p.m. to allow choristers time to get to choir practice.
Presbyterian Women’s Circles
A denominational organization that promotes mission, service, study, and fellowship.

**Hannah Circle**: Meets at members’ homes ~ 7:00p.m. ~ 4th Wednesday of the month. The first gathering will be on Wednesday, September 27. We will be using the Horizons Bible Study book, "Love Carved in Stone". All are welcome! For more information or to get a ride to the first meeting, contact Susan Hinton at (314) 822-1463 or Susal@charter.net.

**Sarah Circle**: Meets at members’ homes ~ 7:00p.m. ~ 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Fall/Winter book will be “A Life of Being, Having, and Doing Enough”, by Wayne Muller and the Winter/Spring book is “You Are What You Love” by James K.A. Smith. We will meet at the home of Cindy Schnable for our first meeting on September 10. If you are interested in joining us, contact Cindy Wunderlich: cinwun@sbeglobal.net or Connie Reeves: corn49@hotmail.com, co-leaders of the group.

**Esther Circle**: Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00a.m. in the Fireplace Room (lower level) for discussion and then selects a local restaurant for lunch. The first meeting for the season will be September 12, and the book to be discussed will be “Mary, the Mother of Jesus”. For more information, please contact Carlin Scanlan, ccscanlan@swbell.net or (314) 330-7964.

**INTERESTED IN AN EVENING CIRCLE?**: If you are interested in an evening circle for women with young(er) families, an introductory meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:15p.m. to determine regular meeting dates. Contact Karen at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org to express your interest.

**TUESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP, Room 030, 9:00a.m.**
We will gather on Tuesday mornings at 9:00a.m. for a discussion of books on theological and contemporary issues. We will meet on September 10 and 17 to discuss the book, Holy Envy, by writer Barbara Brown Taylor, and discuss her reflections on teaching classes on comparative religions and what she learned from her students and those of other faiths that enrich her own faith. The next session will begin on October 8.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP, Room 029, 9:00a.m.**
October 23-November 13
Join Dr. Holyan at 9:00a.m. on Wednesdays from October 23 through November 13 for a discussion of the book, On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity & Getting Old, by Parker Palmer. Palmer is a favorite author whose books A Hidden Wholeness and Let Your Life Speak (as well as others) are filled with wisdom and real-world faith. The main message of this latest book is that aging is a time to dive deeper into life, as there is less to worry over and lose. This book group will provide a safe and supportive place to consider the 'blessings' of growing older. The book will be available in the office for $14 by October 9th.

**FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUPS, 1:30p.m., Room 030**
We will meet on October 23 to discuss comedian Trevor Noah’s book, Born a Crime, his reflections of being a child of mixed race growing up in South Africa. Books for the coming months can be found on a bookmark at the Welcome Center (NOTE: There is no September meeting).

It's not too late to sign up to have you picture taken for the new Pictorial Directory. The photographers will be here September 3rd through September 7th. To make an appointment, just visit the church website, www.kirkwoodpres.org, and click on the button at the bottom of the home page. This will take you to the online scheduling site. Follow the simple directions and you will be all set. It takes only a few minutes. We do want you to be part of this exciting new endeavor! If you need help using the online scheduling site, contact George Durnell at 314-771-6190 after August 31st.
The Con Spirito Concert Series: Celebrating Our 20th Season

The 2019–2020 season marks Con Spirito's 20th year of concerts and programs. This musical outreach to the congregation and community thrives and succeeds because of you—your presence and financial support. I hope you will each consider a gift to this series as we present a celebratory year of performances.

Our first concert is part of a new 3 performance series titled “French Fridays”. Join us in the Gathering Space on September 27 at 10:30 a.m. for delicious French pastries and coffee. At 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on September 27, a program of French organ and vocal music will be presented in the sanctuary by Leslie Mallory, soprano, Debra Hillabrand, mezzo soprano, and Bill Stein, organ. Future “French Friday” programs will be held on November 22 and February 7. There is no cost to attend but we will accept your free-will offering. Invite your friends and join us!

FROM THE VISITOR/NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian is a big church and it is sometimes difficult to put names and faces together. Please take some time in the Gathering Space for fellowship on Sunday mornings and extend your best First Pres welcome to make everyone "feel at home!"

VISITOR/NEW MEMBER GATHERING: As you meet and become acquainted with visitors in our church, keep in mind our next Visitor/New Member Gatherings. If you know of someone that is interested in joining, please share with them our next Visitor/New Member informational meetings in the Lounge on Sundays, September 15 and 22 at 10:00 a.m. and October 6 at 9:00 a.m. For those interested in joining, new members will be received on October 6 at the combined service at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you to each of you for your continued smiles and warm welcome to our visitors! You are helping to grow our church person at a time!

New Member and Welcome Committee: Brad Gift, Leah Engelhardt, Kristy Mitchell, Al Murray, George Durnell, Karen Blanchard

BRIDGE BREAD SUNDAY, September 8

The Bridge Bread Table will be open for business on August 11. Enjoy sourdough and brioche loaves, cinnamon rolls, mini-cinis, artisan bagels and pan brownies. The money raised helps train and provide transitional housing to the ever-growing population of the homeless in St. Louis. The need is ongoing, and we appreciate any and all help! Of course, donations are also appreciated. Leftovers will be donated to a local nursing home.

PRIME TIMERS

Be sure to sign up for a visit to the McDonnell Planetarium on Friday, September 20 for the "Live Sky Tonight" show at 11:30 a.m. We'll meet on the church lot at 10:45 a.m. to carpool and allow plenty of time for parking. There's a small lot behind the Planetarium off Clayton Avenue plus the larger lots off Oakland Avenue behind the Science Center. If you plan to park at the Planetarium, be sure to enter by way of Forest Park from Hampton Avenue as the east entrances to Clayton Avenue from Euclid and Kingshighway are blocked by construction. Tickets for seniors are $5 each. After the show, we'll convene for lunch at Schlafly’s Bottleworks at 7260 Southwest Avenue in Maplewood. Please sign up at the table in the hallway and get your $5 to Dave or Barb Crowley by Sunday, September 15 so we can get our show tickets and lunch reservations.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The first meeting of the Breakfast Club is Thursday, October 3rd at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room (030). Join us for breakfast ($2 fee) while Bob Rubright shares his latest list of dine-worthy restaurants in the area.

September Meal-A-Month

Spam, Flavored Rice or Noodles, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Toilet Tissue
The Dementia Discussion Group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. They will meet on September 21 at 10:00 a.m. in room 029. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or David Evans at davidevansma@yahoo.com.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

* The family of Peg Atkins who died on July 27, 2019.
* Barb Knipshield and family following the death of her father, Bruce Piper, on July 29, 2019.
* The family of Sally Hunt who died on June 27.
* The family of Twyla Freshwater who died on August 6, 2019.
* Casey Mackenzie and family following the death of her brother who died on August 8, 2019.
* Brenda Steelman and family following the death of her brother on August 16, 2019.

* # 2 Pencil Drive For Kwasha Kids and Kirkwood School District
  Every Child In the World Deserves an Education

   The Deacon's are sponsoring a #2 Pencil drive for school children both near and far for the children of the Kwasha School in Zambia as well as children in the Kirkwood School district.

   The Deacons have had a 6 year relationship with the school in Africa. They now have 412 students and 8 teachers holding two sessions a day for grades 1-7. There is a newly built brick building with classrooms, new desks, a well for water, a building for bath rooms, a large covered pavilion, a meal program providing a meal a day and a two acre vegetable garden with a manager and an assistant. The school is planning to build another brick classroom building and hopes to add classes up to grade 9.

   We are collecting pencils to go overseas because the quality of pencils made here is much better. They will be added to a large crate along with sweaters and sun dresses made by church members.

   If you want to see more about Kwasha Kids go to Kwasha-Kids, Inc. on Facebook.

   "If you want to go fast, go alone! If you want to go far, go together."  - African Proverb

* ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SERVICES

   You are invited to attend a special event! Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services is having their annual fundraising luncheon on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at Algonquin Golf Club in Glendale. For over 100 years, this organization has been sharing God’s unconditional love and giving hope to thousands of helpless children who have been abused, neglected and abandoned. Hear poignant personal testimonials and meet the staff that’s making it possible for desperate children to find their strengths, overcome obstacles and build brighter futures.

   Thursday, October 24, 2019
   Registration - 11:30 a.m.
   Luncheon - Noon to 1:00 p.m.

   The luncheon is free to attend, but seating is limited. RSVP to Debra Paulus at (314) 989.9727 or debra.paulus@pchas.org or to Hanna Evens at hannaevens333@gmail.com

* ROOM AT THE INN GOLF FUNDRAISER

   The 6th Annual Golf tournament for Room at the Inn is your opportunity to help people who really need it simply by playing golf! Join us for 18 holes at Lake Forest Golf and Country Club in Lake St. Louis to help raise money for Room at The Inn, a shelter for homeless women and families in St. Louis County. The tournament will benefit the homeless right here in our own community. Room at the Inn partners with 50+ interfaith congregations to provide emergency shelter for women and families. About half of our clients are children. All need our support during this difficult time in their lives. To help, please sign up for a sponsorship, donate an auction/raffle item or come out & play golf in support of homeless families. For more information please visit our website at www.RoomSTL.org or call 314-209-9181.
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