



JUNE 2019

FIRST FOCUS NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

FAREWELL EDITION

A Note From Pastor Larry

Dear Friends, it's super to be back after a sabbatical of four months. I'm grateful for the time, some wonderful trips, studying, and learning. Our church leadership, staff, session, deacons, and our members responded beautifully during these months, especially as Caitlin, Pastor Matt, Isaac, and Levi Wilcox received tremendous support and prayers. Matt's leadership has been outstanding through it all and I am thankful for him and for all who have stepped up. For progress made, all support and encouragement given, and the ongoing work of the church, may God be praised.

On Sunday, June 2, I will give a presentation after worship about my trip to Eastern Europe, in the Great Hall. Everyone is invited. On Sunday, June 9, there will be a very brief congregational meeting during worship to vote for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian church and myself. A retirement celebration will follow in the Great Hall. I will be on the job through the rest of that week, until June 15.

It is truly a privilege to serve this wonderful congregation. Although it is sad for the Gaylords to bid farewell, it is necessary and expected. Leslie, Dahlia, and I will be remaining in our current house in Normal. Thus we will be in the community, and so it is even more important for me to observe boundaries. Here are Presbytery-suggested words for retiring pastors to share with their congregations, which I wholeheartedly endorse and will adhere to:

"One temptation churches have when a pastor leaves is to ask that pastor to come back for significant events - weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. Our denomination has a very clear ethics policy that everyone serving a church is expected to abide by. Included in this is the understanding that I will not be coming back to do weddings, funerals, baptisms. This is because when former pastors return for these significant events, they hinder the ability of the current pastor to effectively be the pastor of the congregation." It is also expected that a former or retiring pastor will participate in a different congregation after departing, and will not in any way interfere with their former church. I completely affirm that my family and I will follow these ethical imperatives. Thank you again for your kindness. And thank you for being the compassionate, committed church that you are. May the Lord richly bless you in all the days and years ahead. -With Love, Larry

Congratulations Graduates

Kyle Byrd will be attending Indiana State University and majoring in Architectural Engineering Technology.

Emily McAllister will be attending St. Louis University and Majoring in Health Sciences.

Claire Meyer will be attending Illinois State University studying Marketing.

Megan Florence will be attending Southeast Missouri State University majoring in Animal Science with an emphasis on Pre Vet.



HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES CARE & SHARE NEEDS

Powdered Laundry Detergent

Paper Towels

Napkins

Ziploc Sandwich Bags

Chapstick

Umbrellas

Spill-Proof Children's Cups

Pocket Calendars

New Bibles

Food Items: Proteins

**Thank you for your donations!
Items can be placed in either
shopping cart at either entrance
of the church. Thank you!**

KNIT-CROCHET MINISTRY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Knit-Crochet Ministry will continue to meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month during summer worship hours. Our meeting time will be 8:45-9:45am in the Chapel (downstairs). Feel free to join us anytime during that hour. Please remember that prayer shawls are available for your use during worship, if you want to go sleeveless and find yourself a little chilly! Also, we have prayer shawls, baby afghans, and full size afghans available for you to give to someone who you believe would benefit from having the items we make and bless.

JUNE 9TH

Save The Date

LARRY'S RETIREMENT
CELEBRATION



GREEN CORNER NEWS: AREA GREEN EVENTS

We invite you to participate in area "green" events. This month we share an invitation to learn more about solar energy and YOU. Grow Solar Bloomington-Normal is back! Offered by the Ecology Action Center and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, this program enables residents and business owners to secure significant discounts when installing solar. Start by attending a Solar Power Hour. This free session teaches you the basics of solar, financial implications for your property, and how Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0 works. Upcoming free information sessions are:

- 6/2/19 Sunday 3pm - Bloomington Public Library (Community Room) - 205 E. Olive
- 6/4/19 Tuesday 6pm - Children's Discovery Museum - 101 E Beaufort St, Normal
- 6/10/19 Monday 6:30pm - Bloomington Public Library (Community Room) - 205 E. Olive
- 6/18/19 Tuesday 6:30pm - Green Top Grocery - 921 E. Washington, Bloomington
- 6/26/19 Wednesday 6:30pm - YWCA of McLean County - 1201 N Hershey Rd, Bloomington

For the e-newsletter: <https://www.growsolar.org/solar-bloomington-normal/>

JUNE 5 | WACKY WEDNESDAY

We'll meet 6-8pm. K-5th grade kiddos, please get dropped-off at the Hershey Road entrance, nearest the church garage. We'll plan to be outside for activities, but if weather does not permit us to do that, we'll move to Lower Fellowship Hall.

JUNE 16 | VBS REGISTRATION DEADLINE

There is still time to register for VBS! Register at firstpresnormal.org under the "Resources" tab. VBS is July 28-August 1, 5:30-8pm. Please contact Ann Lamkey with any questions.

JUNE 16 | CAMP SUNDAY

On this special Sunday, our kids will be sharing what they learned at CAMP, June 10-14, at East Bay in Hudson, IL. Please join us in support of our children! God is doing mighty things! **Also, please be sure to order your CAMP shirt. Order details will be coming to your inbox soon!**

MEET THE DEACONS

Each month we'll introduce you to another few Deacons. If you don't see your name on any flock lists, please let Diane Brent know at cdianebrent@gmail.com. Deacons focus on helping members of our church family who are in need, by providing sympathy, support, and service.



DEBBIE BROWN (MEMBER FOR 8 YEARS)

I attend the first service, and you may see my beautiful granddaughter, Eva, with me on some Sundays. I've lived most of my life in Bloomington, married to my wonderful and understanding husband, Kevin! We have two children and two beautiful grandchildren. We also have two Shih Tzu's that we spoil rotten! I've worked at Illinois State University for 26 years, where I enjoy assisting students and their families. I love to travel and experience different cultures. To say that I am an avid knitter is an understatement! Knitting has taken me on many adventures – the last one to the Shetland Islands, where I honed my lace knitting skills. My life has taken me down many roads, and God has been with me on each journey. Whether it was my military service to various jobs that helped guide me to ISU, to being a doting grandmother, God guides me every step of the way.

PROVERBS FLOCK: Dave & Betsy Blanks; Tom & Shelly Bruning; Wally Crouch; Tom & Beth Dulee; Judy Ehlers; Phil Enge; Dave and Kay Franz; Bryan & JoAnn Freeman; Sam & Beulah Hensey; Ken & Carol Kashian; Jason & Heidi Lichauer; Steve & Nancy Lot; Dick & Charlene Marley; NK & Tricia Martin and boys; Elizabeth Sorenson; Mary Kay Stimpert; Garrett Lindsay; John & Faith Ten Haken; John & Nancy Wolter.



IRENE DENBESTEN (MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS)

I've lived most of my life in Bloomington, although I call Sycamore, IL, my hometown. I retired from teaching 14 years ago, where I taught 6th graders as well as children with special needs. During retirement, Bible Study Fellowship has become integral in growing my faith. Also, I have taken over my husband's desk at "Denbesten Properties," which I co-manage with my daughter, Cathy. Most days are scheduled around after-school care for two granddaughters in Bloomington, keeping up with my teacher friends, sewing, and squeezing in a visit to my daughter, Carol, her husband, and a granddaughter and grandson in Belleville, IL.

HEBREW FLOCK: Carol Baker, Faye & Bill Bartley, Nathan & Rachel Carpenter, Dave & Becky Cobert, Vicki Enno, Brent & Mary Evenson, Leslie & Larry Gaylord, Nancy & Ron Guthoff, Katie & Scott Henderson, Teresa & Wensley Herbert, Becky & Rob Mentzer, Don & Margaret Merritt, Shirley & Sam Redd, Sheila Smith, Sandra Stowers, Kimberley Toulon, E' Lane Tufts, Steve and Rose Yahnig.



ROGER & JOYCE REINMANN (MEMBERS FOR 10 YEARS)

We lived in Streator for 40 years, raised our two children there, and were members of Park Presbyterian Church. Roger was a banker, and I was a learning disabilities teacher in the elementary schools, and we owned and managed rental properties as well. Our son and grandson now live in Arizona. Our daughter and her family live here in Bloomington, and since retiring to Normal, we are blessed to be close to them and share in the lives of their two sons. Both of us are graduates of ISU, where we met, and we are now enjoying the benefits of living in a college community.

JAMES FLOCK: Barbara & James Bouas, Diane & David Brent, Joan Chapman, Bonnie Coffey, Louise Crumpler, Jennifer & Scott Elder, Amy & Chris Ellington, Edie & Dick Erzen, Jennifer & Ken Florence, Joan Frazier, Jane & John Han, Debbie and Joe Hanchett, David & Lori Kennedy, Michelle Pate, Fred & LaVon Schultz, Marian & Dave Schulz, Linda Speers, Vicki & Dave Terrinoni, Jane VanSchelt, Karen Zappa.



SUMMER SOLSTICE LABYRINTH WALK

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 6:30-8:30PM
Both our indoor & outdoor labyrinths will be available

June 2019 Birthdays

Joni Painter	1	Carrie Ewan	8	Hyla Henderson	14	Linda Sabick	24
Gary Satchwell	1	Guy Williams	8	Bruce Patterson	14	Drew Johnston	24
Jamie Pott	1	Tyler Frankowiak	9	Nicholas Florence	14	Melissa Wallis	24
John Han	2	Tyler Blanks	9	Dee Hunt	15	Tyler Swearingen	24
Diane Brent	2	Edie Erzen	9	Forrest Harris	17	Morgan Brant	26
Roger Garrett	2	Rob Rice	9	Elizabeth Sorenson	17	Joan Steinburg	26
Olivia Florence	3	Jeff Bathe	10	Vi Gilmore	18	Kathy Harms	26
Karly Benckendorf	3	Teegan Hobbs	11	Laken Kruger	18	Cooper Flitz	28
Jack Porter	4	Andrew Woodward	11	Tim Cobert	20	Dalton Kruger	29
Emma Litwiller	4	Isaac Wilcox	11	Emily McAllister	21	Stan Heitz	30
Lucy Lannin	4	Lincoln Lannin	11	Barbara Miller	21	Tara Kruger	30
Karen Zappa	7	Frank Miles	12	Kyle Pish	23		
Laurie Larsen	7	Youngson Williams	12	Gabrielle Schwalm	23		

If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly birthday list, please contact Anne Lunt, Administrative Assistant, at alunt@firstpresnormal.org, or call the office at (309) 452-4459.

