



**Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:**

*Alive!*

Volume 50, Version 11

July & August 2018

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**Special points of interest:**

- Adult Crafts July 7th and August 4th 10am—2 pm
- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than August 26th
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection July 22nd and August 26th
- Fifth Sunday Celebration July 29th
- Session Mtg July 10th and August 14th

## Session Notes

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS---JUNE 12 MEETING

There are two trees on the church property that need to be removed due to unhealthy conditions that could cause injury with falling limbs.

Motion was made and approved that all counting of offering on Sundays needs to be done on premises. This will involve at least two unrelated people. These measures were approved to bring our church into more appropriate accounting practice and into approved Presbytery guidelines.

Motion was made and approved to award Clara Thetford a \$500 gift for graduation. The balance of the Cecil Plumb Fund will be donated to Lunch Learn and Play for the benefit of children in the community.

Our fire extinguishers are being recharged and/or replaced to keep them current. We are looking for room darkening shades or blinds for the Chapel to be used for movie and DVD presentations. Reorganization of the Chapel closet should be completed very soon.

Goals to be accomplished over the summer include:

Carpet cleaning in the sanctuary, cleaning windows, perhaps getting a dumpster to clean out storage areas, completing the directory, and in general improving storage within the building, and cleaning throughout the building.

Marie Bell

Submitted by Marie Bell  
Clerk of Session

# Scriptures

## July Scripture Readings

The Scripture readings you will hear July will come from the following readings:

July 1st	2 Samuel 1:1,17-27; Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
July 8th	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark6:1-13
July 15th	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 22nd	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 29th	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

## BIBLE STUDY

**Bible Study** ... will return on July 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30 am, for 2 weeks. All visitors are welcome to join great company, coffee and learnings. Some say, a difference to last the week! A summer break follows taking us to late August/September. Blessings and peace.

## JUNE FINANCIAL UPDATE

JUNE 2018

Revenue: \$2,816.28

Expenses: \$5,963.72

DEFICIT: \$3,147.44

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue: \$32,033.21

Expenses:\$38,647.46

DEFICIT: \$6,614.25

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please get the information for any and all of the exciting activities that will occur in the month of September to Holly Keys (holly.keys@aol.com or call 854-3975 before 8 pm or drop something in her box in the business office at the church (just let her know its there)) by Sunday, August 26th, sharp!!!!

Thank you!!!

## A Note From The Pastor

### *First Step in Revival: Cleaning Up*

A dumpster? Why, pastor? What mess? Don't you know that one person's trash is another's treasure?

A dumpster. That was my request of Session, because as I looked around our wonderful church, all I could see was the need to tidy up. Papers here and there. Tissues left behind in the pews. An array of orphaned trinkets placed on benches. I looked around with eyes of someone new and wondered what people might think if they saw what I saw.

Churches are notorious for collecting "things." We are not a unique case. I remember being astonished years ago when the pastor of the Baptist church I was working at invited me to join her on her cleaning rampage one summer. It was then we discovered several closets long forgotten that, when opened, junk tumbled out. While we didn't speak out loud as we worked, by the way we both gingerly picked through the stuff, you could tell we were praying we wouldn't find any skeletons of critters.

While churches are a catch all for things we don't know what to do with, we forget how our facilities look tells a lot about who we are. And so, I requested a dumpster so that we could be brutal in getting rid of all that is cluttering our beautiful church.

You are probably thinking that there are more important things to do this summer to revive the church. What about Vacation Bible School? What about trying to start a youth group? What about...yes, what about these things? While they are priorities and sorely missed, what we need to tackle right now is what I see as a spiritual exercise — cleaning up.

Two pastor friends of agree with my crusade to clean up. Both have led/are leading large churches. They weren't large when they first arrived. The congregations were struggling. And yet, both of my friends (who are in different parts of the country and don't know one another), decided that the first step in revitalization was a phone call to secure a dumpster. As one friend said, "It was a way of emotionally clearing out all that was blocking the congregation from growth. It was an act of showing those that came in they cared about the ministry God entrusted them to."

Both friends continue the cleaning crusade every year, securing a dumpster as a holy act of physically and emotionally making room for the new thing God wants to do among the congregation.

And so, if there isn't enough energy or enough hands to organize a Vacation Bible School this year, I pray there are enough hands to pick up a piece of paper from the pew and throw it out. I, personally, will be tackling the pastor's office. I envision this room to be more than a pastor's office. Once cleared out, I see this room being a small meeting/meditation room. After all, pastors don't need offices these days. Our office is out in the community.

So, church of First United, our first step in revitalization (after PRAYING) is to clean up our building. And was we clean and pick up, do it prayerfully. For this isn't about throwing away junk. It's about creating a wider, more welcoming sacred space for the Spirit to breathe new life into us.

Yes, step one in church growth is, surprise, surprise, getting a dumpster. Who would have thought?

I will keep you posted when the dumpster arrives. And if anyone wants to help me, especially with the transformation of the pastor's office into a mediation/prayer/meeting space, let me know.

As always, onward!

In this together,  
*Pastor Donna*

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### July Birthday's

3rd Dean Hanks  
6th Helen Simmons  
7th Jim Briglin  
Mary VanDeWater  
11th Jean Skellie  
14th Donna Holmes  
16th Chris Barrett  
17th Austin Keys  
25th Bob Preble  
26th Christopher Barrett

### July Anniversaries

3rd Jum & Kay Tomasi  
26th Tom & Diane Jilek

### August Birthday's

1st Holden Keys Chris Preble  
Evelyn Braymer  
3rd Neal Rea  
6th Todd keys  
16th Irlene Mears Holly Keys  
Elliot Armstrong  
18th Marie Bell  
20th Charlie Perry Norma Skellie  
21st Alberta Murn  
22nd Amy Thetford  
24th Madison Barrett

### August Anniversaries

6th Jay & Kim Skellie  
7th Neal & Carol Rea  
8th Bob & Chris Preble  
26th Jim & Pat Briglin

If you would like a birthday or anniversary published in the Alive!, Please contact the church office at 854-9471 or holly.keys@aol.com.

## Prayer Requests

If you need a prayer or wish to place someone on the prayer list, please complete this form, or one found in the Narthex, and give it to an usher or deacon.

Name of Prayer recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause for joy or concern: \_\_\_\_\_

You name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10am	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	Wash Cty Band Session 7pm	INDEPENDENCE DAY	Line Dancing 9:30am		Adult Crafts 10-2
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10am Worship & Music 11:30am	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	Wash Cty Band	Bible Study 8:30 am	Line Dancing 9:30am		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10 am 4 Cents a Meal Collec- tion	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	Wash Cty Band	Bible Study 8:30 am	Line Dancing 9:30am		
29	30	31				
Worship 10am Fifth Sunday Celebra- tion	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	Wash Cty Band				

## Scriptures

### August Scripture Readings

The Scripture readings you will hear August will come from the following readings:

August 5th	2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 12th	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130:1-8 Ephesians 4:25—5:2; John 6:24-35
August 19th	1 Kings 2:10-12, 2:3-14; Psalm 111:1-10 Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 26th	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84:1-12 Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

## Pastor's Schedule

**Pastor Donna's Schedule ...** To better serve the congregation, please note the days and times Pastor Donna dedicates to First United. She is also editor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s magazine and is currently moderating the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Poultney, Vermont. She is with First United 16 hours a week and, as per Albany's Committee on Ministry, she preaches two-three Sundays a month with us. The other Sundays she is preaching at various churches in Albany Presbytery. She will be preaching in Louisville, Kentucky, July 22 and in Bergenfield, New Jersey, July 29.

Her email is [pastordonna1@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonna1@gmail.com). Her phone number is 518-232-6295. Unless it is an emergency, she will respond within 24 hours. For pastoral care, please contact the Deacons and/or the Rev. Dr. David Simmons.

### Pastor's Schedule

**Sundays—7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (sermon prep, preaching, pastoral visits)**

**Mondays—8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (sermon prep, bulletin, calls, emails, prayer and planning)**

**Tuesdays—3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (office/community time, scheduled meetings, Presbytery work)**

**Saturdays—8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (sermon prep)**

# August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Worship 10am	6 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	7 Wash Cty Band	8	9 Line Dancing 9:30am	10 Line Dancing 9:30am	11 Adult Crafts 10-2
12 Worship 10am	13 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	14 Wash Cty Band Session 7pm	15	16 Line Dancing 9:30am	17 Line Dancing 9:30am	18
19 Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30am	20 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	21 Wash Cty Band	22	23 Line Dancing 9:30am	24	25
26 Worship 10am 4 Cents a Meal Collec- tion ALIVE Deadline	27 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	28 Wash Cty Band	29	30 Line Dancing 9:30am	31	



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518/854-9471

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Phone # 802-394-2602  
E-mail: pastordonna1@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Marie Bell  
Phone # 518-677-3020  
E-mail: tmbellz@aol.com

**At First United Presbyterian Church:**

We believe that God calls everyone to serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ!

Join us on Sunday's for worship, music, and fellowship!

Service begins at 10 AM

"This Newsletter is made possible through our giving to  
First United Presbyterian Church"

## **Service Schedule for July & August 2018**

### Sunday, July 1st

Reader: Neal Rea

Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell  
Neal Rea

### Sunday, July 8th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Diane Jilek  
Nancy Rountree

### Sunday, July 15th

Reader: Marie Bell

Coffee Time: Dave & Irlene Mears  
Kim Skellie

### Sunday, July 22nd

Reader: Nancy Bardwell

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

### Sunday, July 29th

Fifth Sunday Celebration

### Sunday, August 5th

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Alberta Murn Sylvia Graham

### Sunday, August 12th

Reader: Sylvia Graham

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne Marie Bell

### Sunday, August 19th

Reader: Jane Keys

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

### Sunday, August 26th

Reader: Kim Skellie

Coffee Time: Dolores Phaneuf  
Jean & Norma Skellie