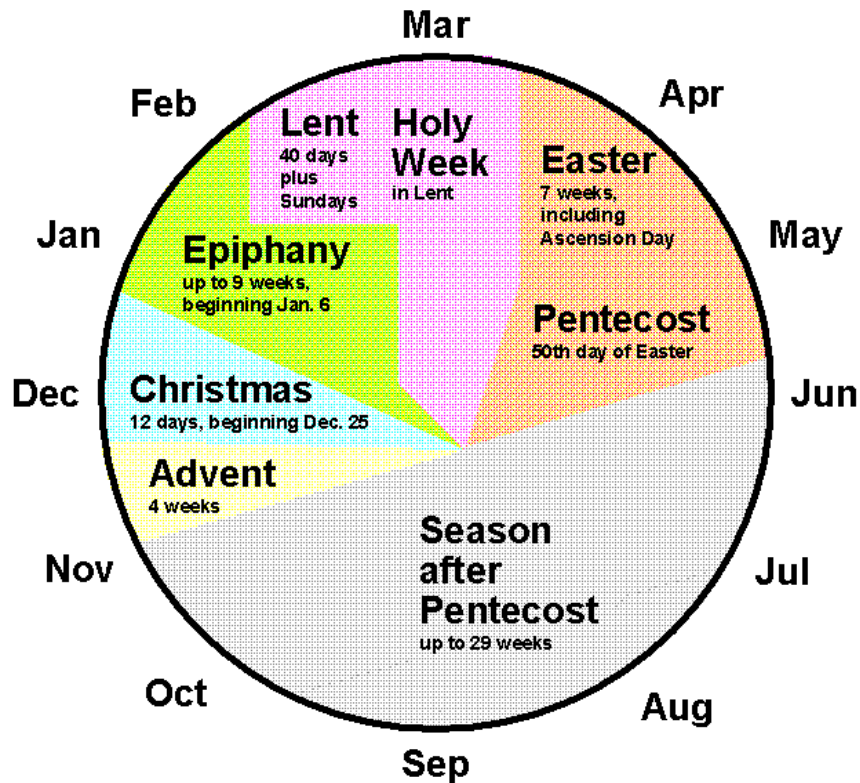


The Beacon
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Anna, Illinois
August 16, 2017



From the Pastor:

The calendar of feasts and fasts connected to important events in the life of Christ and His church is centuries old. It developed over time in the first four hundred years after Jesus' lifetime, and has seen some additions since. At First EPC, we observe those elements of the calendar with the oldest pedigree, as well as one other day peculiar to Protestants.

We all know about Christmas and Easter. The latter, the day of Christ's resurrection, is the earliest feast day celebrated in the church, along with Pentecost, the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples, fifty days after the resurrection. The celebration of His birthday came later, in the late third century, and is focused on the incarnation, the coming to the world of God in human flesh. (By the way, the old saw about Christmas being a way for Christians to steal the celebration of the winter solstice away from Roman pagans isn't true – the pagan holiday actually came *after* the Christian one, so they stole it from us!)

Just as Pentecost is connected to Easter as historical events, Christmas is connected to Epiphany. The latter celebrates the coming of the Persian wise men to worship the Jewish Messiah, and is also known by the technical name, "Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles," signifying the first occasion in which non-Jews came to the Christ. These four days—Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, and Epiphany—form the anchors of the church year, around which everything is built.

In addition to these four days, other important days include:

- Transfiguration Sunday: obviously focused on the transfiguration of Christ (Matt. 17:1-9), this is observed the Sunday before the beginning of Lent.
- Ash Wednesday: one of the few holy days not connected directly with an event in the life of Christ or the church, this is simply the first day of Lent.

•Palm/Passion Sunday: the Sunday before Easter is known by both names. As Palm Sunday, it recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As Passion Sunday, it is the first day of Holy Week, and is a day to look ahead to the events of Christ's trial, suffering, and death on the cross.

•Maundy Thursday: observed during Holy Week, it recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper, as well as Christ's betrayal at the hands of Judas Iscariot.

•Good Friday: as observed during Holy Week, on this day we remember the crucifixion of our Lord for the sins of His people.

•Ascension Day: takes place forty days after Easter, and recalls Jesus being taken up into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. Most churches today don't observe this day on a Thursday, when it would have taken place, but on the last Sunday before Pentecost.

•Trinity Sunday: the Sunday after Pentecost, this day was set aside by the church sometime during the first thousand years as a celebration of the reality of God as subsisting in three Persons.

•Reformation Sunday: this is observed on the October Sunday closest to the 31st, and recalls the posting of Martin Luther's 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517, marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. This year is the 500th anniversary of that event.

•All Saints Day: takes place on November 1 or the first Sunday after Reformation Sunday. The word "saint" refers to all Christians, so this is essentially a celebration of the church, and God's work in creating the fellowship of believers.

•Christ the King Sunday: is observed the last Sunday before the start of Advent, and focuses on the kingship of Christ and the coming Kingdom of God.

Next time: the seasons of the church year.



Sunday's Worship Service

Note: The sermons are a multi-part series through the Epistle to the Ephesians that will extend into the fall. The focus of the series will be the work of God in and through the church.

Ephesians 4: 1-6

Sermon title: "Walking in Oneness"

Pastor David Fischler

Counters: Karen Hubbs & Donna Bible

Greeters: Doc Meller's Men's S.S. Class

Nursery Helper SS: _____ Worship: _____

Sunday's Report

S.S. – 72 Morning Worship - 120

General Fund \$4114.25 Building Fund \$1150.00

Bethany Village Requests for August

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Bread, Cheerios



Prayers and Praise this week:

Shari VanderSluis, Adam Taylor in the death of his grandmother, Loel Verble in the death of his brother Don, Janet Boyd's father, Jim Hadley's mother, Katie Horne, The Gould's parents, Harry Warren, Jon Pengress, Bill & Vicky Miller.

Each week we remember to pray especially for some of our church family listed alphabetically:

HICKAM, Jesse & Carolyn
HICKAM, Norman
HILEMAN, Duane & Linda
HILEMAN, Josh & Tiffany (Drake, Leigha, Isaac, Rosie)



Happy Birthday!

22 Janice Johnson,
22 John Haase
23 Taryn Vandersluis
26 Bill Abernathy

Happy Anniversary!

20th – Marlin & Terri Burd

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the prison Bible ministry. We ordered 22 more this week, which should last us to the end of September. Kent Young

SORROW

Pain, suffering, and sorrow is so common in life we have a common word to describe it – **GRIEF**. When we experience a tragic loss it takes part of us with it, leaving us in shock, and searching for our new identity in the wreckage. Have you suffered a tragic loss? The Grief Recovery group applies God's Word to our broken hearts, and allows the Great Physician to bring healing to our souls. Do you want to be healed? Tell Him at the next session starting on **Tuesday, August 22nd**, at 6pm to 8pm, in the home of Kent & Melinda Young. It will run for 12 consecutive Tuesdays at the same time. It is free, contact Kent at 614-2974, or Melinda at 614-2428.

Pastor David would like the entire congregation to know that he is available whenever he is needed. His office hours, when anyone is welcome to simply drop in, are 9 am to 12 noon Monday through Thursday, but he is always available in the afternoon by appointment as well. (Appointments are needed because afternoons are his time for visitation and getting out in the community. He is happy to either come by your house or meet you at the church.) His day off is Friday, but he is available that day to deal with emergencies.

To contact the pastor, you can call the office at (618) 833-5225, or if he is not there you can call him at home (618-614-7214) or on his cell (618-944-2892). You can also reach him by email at david@firststepc.org.

This Week at FEPC

Thursdays – 6:00pm The Street Ministry at M. St. Ctr.

Sunday – 8:45 Sunday School for all ages

- 10:00 Worship Service

- 4pm Men's Prayer Group

- **5pm Worship Service at the Fair**

- 6pm Youth Disciple Group

Mon. Aug. 21st - Office Closed because of Eclipse

Weds. Aug. 23rd – 5:30pm Choir Practice Resumes

Choir Practice will resume at 5:30 on Weds., August 23rd



Everyone is welcome to join us! We will begin working on Christmas Music! (Note: You do not have to be able to read music – just enjoy singing! We have CD's for you to learn your part.

Please Note:

Pastor David will be starting a Sunday School class in September that is open to everyone who is not currently involved in an adult class. The subject matter for September and October will focus on the teaching of and continuing importance of the Protestant Reformation to us as Reformed Christians. Beginning in November, he will be teaching from a book of the Bible to be chosen by the class. See next week's Beacon for the specific start date and location for this class.

The Voice of the Martyrs Conference in October

On Saturday, October 7, the international organization Voice of the Martyrs will be having a one-day conference in Carbondale on the persecuted church. Meeting at Lakeland Baptist Church from 9 am until 4 pm, this will be an opportunity both to hear from persecuted Christians and to find out how we can help. If you would like further information, or to register for this free conference, you can do so at <https://www.vomadvance.com/>. More information about this event will be in the Beacon in weeks to come.



Maryanne Fischler will be hosting a series of paper-crafting workshops with the goal of eventually starting a card-making ministry. The first workshop will be Weds, Aug.23 from 10:00 to 2:00 with lunch provided at the Fischler house. There is no cost or previous experience required, just willing hands and a heart for others. If you are interested in participating, please contact Maryanne (618-614-7214) so that there will be food and materials ready for you. Space is limited, but there will be enough workshops so that everyone who wants to participate will be included.