

First Presbyterian Church
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First Press

Celebrating Christ and Serving Community

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6/2 - Bert Brantley	6/19 - Linda Runden
6/3 - Norm Holy	6/21 - Ron Walker
6/8- Bob White	6/22 - Judy Dillon
6/11 - John Eckard, Nancy Goss	6/23 - Mary Burch Ratliff, Willis Wade
6/12 - Jean Brown	6/26 - Susan Van Doren, Gerry Morrison
6/13 - Wendi Goodlett	6/27- David Rosen
6/14- Tom Dillon	6/28- Robert Hahn
6/15 - Lou Moir, Jo Ann Main, Chloe Buse	
6/16 - Gene Stern	

A Summer of Listening By Rev. Kelley Jepsen

“Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. So it is (God’s) work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Dear Friends,

At the end of April, 35 Presbyterians met at Pyoca Camp & Retreat Center for a full day of programming around Matthew 25. We represented three congregations – FPC Bloomington, FPC Columbus, and Fair-lawn Presbyterian – a group that is known as the Myrtle Cohort (named after a grant we have received together). We met to listen to one another, to learn from one another, and to discern God’s Spirit as it calls us forward in our work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Over a year ago, our Session voted to become a Matthew 25 congregation, focused on dismantling structural racism. In the past year, we’ve celebrated this decision in worship, held listening/discussion sessions on structural racism, educated ourselves on various racial justice issues, connected with many other churches and attended trainings on community organizing. As you can imagine, there are many facets to racial justice work and it can be overwhelming to find a starting place. But together we have determined the Spirit is nudging us to work within the education sphere, particularly in the K-12 arena.

While the Racial Justice Task Force(RJTF) has taken many tangible steps in moving this effort forward, we know there is still a great deal of work ahead of us. Through the retreat and stirring of the Spirit in our group, we have determined our next step is to listen more closely to a variety of voices – both within our church and our community.

This summer we will embark on our **Summer of Listening Campaign**. Our goal is to meet with 40 individuals to hear their experiences, listen to their stories and dream together on what the education system in Bloomington could be. Our congregation and community truly is blessed with many assets (time, talent and treasure alike) that we believe could be of service to dismantling structural racism found in our public school systems.

I sometimes find myself worried that listening doesn’t feel “active enough” or that it won’t lead to tangible steps forward. But deep down, I know that listening is not only important, it is also powerful. Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer knew that power of listening and considered it to be a cornerstone of true fellowship with one another. In his book *Life Together*, he writes “Christians, especially ministers, so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking.”

As the Racial Justice Task Force embarks on this Summer of Listening, we invite you to listen alongside us. Listen to the Spirit and the many ways She calls us to engage with our community. Listen to your neighbors and their hopes and dreams for Bloomington. And listen to your own heart, as we all seek to bring about a more just and peaceful world.

With great care,
Pastor Kelley

P.S. if you’re interested in talking to a member of the RJTF for our Summer of Listening - let us know!

SESSION MEETING NOTES May 15, 2022

Session Actions:

- Approved the continuation of the work of the Columbarium Task Force and the use of funds donated for the project.
- Approved FPC's recommitment to the Presbyterian Covenant Network and to the More Light Presbyterians. Original commitment was made in 2006.
- Approved a change in Sunday worship time from 11:00 am to 10:00 am beginning May 29, 2022. Worship time will revert to 11:00 am on September 11 with the possibility of a 9:00 am service at that time.
- Provided blanket approval for pastors to serve communion to people in their homes or in nursing homes.
- Approved a motion to have committees meet on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in September. This action does not include task forces.
- Approved a motion that the August meeting of Session will be a hybrid meeting of in person and on Zoom.

Informational Items:

- Mike Riggle reported that the church clean up day went very well and expressed his thanks for all those who assisted the Property Committee.
- Don Hanna reported that the refugee resettlement program is going very well and that FPC will be working with two new refugees. The first family has received food and Opportunity House vouchers from MCUM.
- Rev. Jepsen will be participating in the West Virginia mission trip this year.
- The Racial Justice Task Force is planning to meet with some members of the congregation and certain parties outside the church to learn about and discuss racial justice issues.
- Don Hanna reported that there are on-going discussions about meals for the homeless now that Shalom Center is reducing its services.
- Vacation Bible School will be intergenerational and will meet Wednesday nights in July.
- The Boys and Girls Club will hold a strawberry shortcake festival at Switchyard Park on June 9.
- FPC donated over 400 pounds of food to MCUM during the last food drive.
- FPC contributed about \$3,900 to the One Great Hour of Sharing.
- To date, about \$6,600 has been received toward FPC's per capita commitment of over \$15,000 to the Presbytery. Any shortfall of the per capita must be paid from church funds so please consider donating. It should be noted that Presbytery came to FPC's aid by providing some funding for repairs to the church when we had flooding.

Report of the Treasurer

April 30, 2022

General Fund

Balance on Hand January 1, 2022

\$0.00

Income

Prepaid pledges for 2023

Current pledges and contributions of record

164,459.68

Future pledges and contributions of record

-

Prior pledges

-

Plate Offering

566.00

Building Use Income

610.00

Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers

59,816.29

Bank Interest

4.45

Ledger entries

Total Receipts

56.00

225,512.42

Disbursements

Payroll

(130,071.37)

Non-payroll GF

(57,974.19)

Other GF Checks/Disb (includes fund transfers, non budgeted items)

(29,171.75)

Total Disbursements

(217,217.31)

Balance on Hand April 30, 2022

\$8,295.11

Special Funds, Balance on Hand April 30, 2022

\$100,013.18

Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand April 30, 2022

\$ 85,506.26

Reserve Fund April 30, 2022

\$ 140,487.81

Parking Lot Fund April 30, 2022

\$ 56,713.71

Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,461.51)

\$ (184,015.86)

3.0

Mary C. McClellan

Treasurer

Sunday School Summer Break

We will be taking a break from our Sunday School lessons until the fall.

We invite you to find opportunities for learning and growth within the church all summer long! Especially be sure to mark your calendars for an Intergenerational Vacation Bible School - Wednesday nights in July!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022:
**DISCOVERING
OUR GIFTS**

Word cloud containing: hospitality, leadership, discernment, knowledge, teaching, wisdom, prophecy, faith, exhortation, apostle, evangelism, pastor, miracles, helps, mercy, service, healing, tongues, administration, giving.

MinTools.com

First Presbyterian Church
Wednesdays in July 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
- 1 Corinthians 12:7

Everyone is invited to join us for

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School!

Join us Wednesday nights in July for a meal, singing, learning and activities to help us learn about our individual gifts that together build up the body of Christ.

Coffee Cart!!! June 2022



Special Coffee Cart workers, Sunday, June 5, 2022, with profits going to the West Virginia Mission Trip

FPC Youth going on the West Virginia Mission Trip will again be working at the FPC Coffee Cart on **Sunday, June 5**. The profits will be set aside to help with the costs of the West Virginia Mission Trip.

Please come to Lyman Hall after worship. Visit with the youth and buy Equal Exchange products, or simply place contributions in a donation box **to help support the youth members heading to West Virginia on June 11-17. See you Sunday, June 5!**

For questions or delivery, please contact Debbi Conkle at debbiconkle@gmail.com



Thank you for your generous donations to the recent One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering through which the Presbyterian Church helps those in need throughout the United States and the world. Your contributions through First Presbyterian Church totaled \$3,898.43.

In addition, your contributions to help the people of Ukraine through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance totaled \$6,110.00. Your donations along with those of other Presbyterian congregations makes a difference as we work together to reach out to those in need. *Thank you!*



**American
Red Cross**

“Pat Riggins Red Cross Blood Drive”

Please if you are planning to volunteer you can sign up at the welcome center.

The next Red Cross blood drive at FPC will be on June 23, from 2:00 until 7:00 pm.

“West Virginia Mission Trip”

Please pray for the **FPC crew** headed out to West Virginia from **June 11-17**

Youth:

Ava Schneider
Isabel Schneider
Rebekah Johnson
Leah Johnson
Aidan Johnson
Addie Schmucker
Jonathan Staten
Lucy Staten

Adults:

Michael Williams
Jim Coppedge
Ruth Holman
Jo Ann Main
Kaj Johnson
Cyndi Johnson
Hank Ruff
Hallie Schmucker
David Burkardt
Chris Holmes
Kelley Jepsen

Seashell Reflections

June is a vacation month for many of us with a beach for a popular location. A couple of years ago my husband and I chose Sanibel Island Florida with its peaceful setting.

Walking along the beach on Sanibel Island before breakfast in the morning has to be one of the most relaxing and inspiring experiences in the world. This particular morning my husband and I were on a mission to comb the beach for beautiful and unique shells.



As we walked along the water's edge, I noticed that many of the shells were broken while others were whole and lovely. One thing for sure, no two shells were alike.

Opening the shell collection bag, we chose the best shells and put them in the bag. We threw the broken ones in the Gulf or back on the beach for others to pick up or step on eventually.

The shells were unique, all different. Like them some of us are whole and happy. Others are broken from unhappy, past events or the stress of the present. God, unlike our rejecting some of the shells, rejects none of us. We are fortunate in having such a loving Father who accepts all of us just as we are.



If...? *By Norm Holy and Allan Edmonds*

If only we had the political will, then we would be working together to address the effects of climate change. The consequences of global warming are becoming more intense and accelerating far faster than previously expected. New studies are predicting terrible outcomes of biodiversity loss and mass extinction.

Researchers report that the world's insects are in dramatic decline in both population and diversity due to the combination of climate change and expanding agriculture. In some areas, overall insect populations have dropped nearly in half, threatening the global food chain.

Researchers recently declared that more than 1 in 5 species of reptiles—including iconic animals like chameleons, Komodo dragons and king cobras—are now at risk of extinction as humans continue to take away their habitat for farming, urban development and other industry.

A new report from the United Nations found that more than 70 percent of the Earth's land has already been altered by human activity, primarily because of expanding agriculture. Another study declared that much of the Amazon rainforest is no longer a carbon sink. And yet another study published by the World Resources Institute found that the world is essentially losing 10 soccer fields worth of tropical forest per minute because of development.

We do not have to stand helpless in the midst of this destruction. Yet our Indiana Legislature refuses most opportunities to take action to improve our environment. We must insist that we reduce pollution of our waterways, that we deal with air pollution issues, that we do not accept being among the most polluted of states. At the same time, we are among the states with the least renewable energy. The state should envision its future with far more wind and solar. Our government needs to become aware that its people want and need a healthy environment.

As local songwriter and poet Carrie Newcomer has written, "If not now, tell me when." Listen to her at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bY585-fzSs>

Cut Your Carbon Tip of the Month: Drive efficiently: Combine trips. Accelerate gently. Maintain a steady speed. Anticipate traffic flow. Avoid high speeds. Coast to decelerate.



JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			5 pm 1 Stewardship Cmtte 5:45 pm Outreach Cmtte 6:30 pm Christian Ed	12 pm 2 Prayer Gathering 5 pm PNC Committee	3	4
9 am Choir Practice 5 10 am Worship Service (Communion)	11:30 am 6 Emmaus Group	7:30 pm 7 Deacons Meeting	6 pm 8 Worship Cmtte	7pm 9 Koinonia Circle	10	11
9 am Choir Practice 12 10 am Worship Service 6 pm FPC Session	5:30 pm 13 Racial Justice Task Force	5:30 pm 14 Koinonia Circle (Pitch-in dinner)	15	12 pm 16 Prayer Gathering	17	18
9 am Choir Practice 19 10 am Worship Service	11:30 am 20 Emmaus Group 6 pm Theology in Tap	6pm 21 Membership Cmtte	Are 10 Grocery Bagging & Delivery		24	25
9 am Choir Practice 26 10 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30		