

First Presbyterian Church  
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# First Press

*Celebrating Christ and Serving Community*

July 2022 Volume 64, No.7

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7/1 - Don Hanna	7/16 - Gregory Darling
7/2 - Ed McClellan	7/18 - Jack Peterman, Larry Brown
7/2- Mikaela Coppedge	7/20 - Kent Honeycutt
7/6 - Norman Dean	7/22 - Donald Hollinger, Sue Dukeman
7/7 - Leandra Drummy	7/23 - Beth Haeberle, Jakob Chickedantz
7/9 - Miles Main	7/24 - Glen Darling
7/12 - Kathy Norris	7/30 - Tom Gettinger, Nate Nickel
7/14- Heidi Darling, Eleanor Baude - Phillips	

## A Fond Farewell

The past 20 months has flown by quickly (at least for me!). When I arrived in November of 2020, we were in the midst of the worst part of the pandemic and all church worship and programming had been moved online. There was a “drive-by” welcome in the church parking lot for Gail and me shortly after our arrival and my introduction to members and friends of the congregation in the first few months was, for the most part, online: (Zoom meetings too numerous to count!).

It was with great relief that we slowly began to return to in-person worship and some church activities in the late Spring of 2021 and it was gratifying to see the resilience of the congregation as traditional programming was re-started and volunteers stepped up as we all tried to figure out “how to do church” with masking and social distancing. The “rhythms” of congregational life began to slowly return to something that loosely resembled “pre-pandemic” experience and there was a renewed sense of hope as old friends got re-acquainted with each other and some new people joined the congregation.

Despite all of this, the “interim” work I came to do was also accomplished.

A Mission Study was completed (albeit with more challenges than usual due to the pandemic), a Senior Pastor Nominating Committee was elected, and a successful candidate search has (almost!) been completed. So, things are now set for the next chapter in FPC’s congregational life as I take my leave.

One of the hardest parts of interim ministry (for me) is that just when I am starting to feel like I know and understand a congregation ... it is time to leave. But, in a sense, that is as it should be because my role is very specific and narrowly defined: to prepare congregations to the best of my ability to do effective ministry in the 21st century in the communities in which they are situated *now*.

And every congregation, regardless of size or resources, have their own unique set of opportunities and challenges. For example, I very much appreciate FPC’s commitment to invest the resources needed to do traditional church worship really well. I also appreciate its commitment to mission in the community and world; specifically it has been very heart-warming to see the enthusiasm and dedication of so many to help resettle refugees from Afghanistan and Syria. Moreover, the congregations willingness to take on the racial justice component of the PCUSA’s Matthew 25 initiative has been very encouraging to see.

FPC is a congregation that has a lot going for it and I look forward to following your progress in the coming years. It has been my pleasure and privilege to walk along-side with you for this brief period of time.

Yours sincerely,

Scott

## SESSION MEETING NOTES June 12, 2022

### Session Actions:

- Approved the renewal of FPC's contract as Transitional Associate Pastor with Rev. Kelley Jepsen for one year to July 16, 2023.

### Informational Items:

- The Racial Justice Task Force will do its Summer of Listening program in July and August. The task force will be meeting with members of the congregation and community members to help it understand and focus on racial justice issues.
- The Outreach Committee reported that roof repairs have been completed at our sister church in Posoltega. The repairs were funded by FPC through a special donation received for that purpose. It is hoped that conditions will be favorable for a mission trip in 2023.
- The Membership Committee reported that it needs greeters for Sunday mornings. Please contact Julie Strycker if you are interested in serving.
- The Worship Committee is discussing the potential return of the nine o'clock service in the fall.
- Session will not meet in July.

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

hospitallity leadership discernment knowledge teaching wisdom  
administration tongues healing evangelism apostle prophecy faith  
giving miracles helps  
service mercy exhortation  
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.

## FPC Families

### **How Do We Send Our Kids Back to School? Addressing Fears and Anxiety around Gun Violence at School, A social worker-led Workshop for Parents.'**

Sunday, July 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Hybrid: in-person at the Unitarian Universalist Church and on Zoom

Many of our families will be sending their children to elementary, middle and high school in the beginning of August. What will this feel and look like?

Kadie Booth, a social worker from Centerstone, will be offering some insights on how to look for signs of anxiety, stress and depression in yourself and your child and offering some suggestions on creating routines and using language that is reassuring and calming. There will be breakout sessions both on zoom and in person for discussion. This is for parents only.

Zoom link and more information will be sent out to families later in July by Pastor Kelley. Please note, this workshop is organized by the Multi-faith Alliance for Children & Families.

## West Virginia Mission Trip Update

On June 11 we loaded up 18 people (8 youth 10 adults) and headed to Summersville, WV.

This was our first WV mission trip in 2 years due to the pandemic. We arrived on Saturday late afternoon and got set up.

Since we were there on Sunday we took our day off and took a steam train up the mountain.

Monday we got up and went to our work sites. There we worked at two trailers in the same trailer park.

One group replaced the entrance stairs, replaced plumbing for the second bathroom that had been cut out at some point. The other group added on to the existing front porch stairs a wheel chair ramp.

Plus replaced a portion of the trailer floor that was soft.

It was a good week of good work, good food and laughter.

New skills were learned by everyone. Plus we came home with all our fingers and toes attached.



## FPC Item Exchange

We would like to update our Loan Closet offerings.

Please review the listing and contact Karin at [kcoopers@comcast.net](mailto:kcoopers@comcast.net) with any deletions or additions, whether they will be donated to the closet or can be borrowed by contacting you (include either phone or email).

We appreciate your attention to this.

CONVALESCENT ITEMS	CONTACT	BABY/TODDLER ITEMS	CONTACT
Canes	Holy (2) , Darling (5) Dunning (2), Moir (1) Coopersmith (1) Borrower's Closet (4)	Bassinet	Schechter (1)
Walkers	Allen (1) , Darling (4) Dunning (2) Coopersmith (1) Borrower's Closet (6)	Booster Seat for Car	Darling (2)
Crutches	Avenson (short) (1)	High Chair	Watts (1)
Raised Toilet Seat	Holy (1) Coopersmith (1)	Booster Seat for Table	Watts (1)
Toilet Assist Arms	Schechter (1)	Pack and Play	Darling (1) Brown (1)
Commode	Allen (1) Darling (1)	Stroller	Adams (1) Schechter (1)
Shower Seat	Holy (1) Darling (2) Dunning (1) Schechter (1) Coopersmith (1) Borrower's Closet (2)		
Bath Tub Grab Bar	Holy (1) Darling (1)		
Bed Rails	Miller (1)		
Lumbar Belt	Darling (1) Borrower's Closet (1)		
Grip and Grab	Borrower's Closet (1)		

## God Bless America

This story, a true one, goes back a way. Yet the message is the same.

The day was rainy and gloomy, and I had wrapped our four-month-old daughter Kathie in a blanket. With much anticipation we were awaiting the arrival of the then president, Jimmy Carter.

Upon his entrance to the park, he begins greeting people and shaking their hands. He came to me and lovingly looked at the baby and said, "God bless you." I acknowledged his greeting and said, "Thank you, Mr. President."



With the birthday of our country in view we need to remember those leading our country and certainly, those serving in the armed forces, who at one time have been injured, held prisoner, or lost their lives for our country. We should keep in mind that although our president is leading our country Christ is the ultimate leader.

Let's all take time in our busy lives to remember those leading our country and for our greatest leader, Jesus Christ and the many who made this possible.

We need to remember how fortunate we are to live in a country where we have freedom to gather as a body and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the many who made this possible.

## Technology and Climate Change

*By Norm Holy and Allan Edmonds*

The challenges of climate change require an all-hands-on-deck approach. A full transition to renewable energy requires among many things, vastly improved electricity storage to allow electric vehicles to go further between charges and to supply power to the grid when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

Scientists around the world are working on these problems.

Batteries for vehicles are now made using lithium-ion technology. Advances in solid-state batteries—in which electrons flow through a solid material instead of a liquid or gel—will lead to electric vehicles that can go much farther on a charge and battery-storage systems that can hold more energy while taking up less space. Recent announcements indicate these new batteries may become available sooner than previously thought.

First, Solid Power, a Colorado-based company developing solid-state batteries for companies like Ford and BMW, has completed a pilot production line that can make 300 battery cells per week. So the technology is now moving from the lab to the factory.

Second, University of Houston researchers have developed a glasslike material that is highly effective as an electrolyte—the part of a battery that electrons pass through during cycles of charging and discharging—for use in a sodium-sulfur battery for energy storage. The research is notable because this is a solid-state battery, and because it shows the promise of sodium-sulfur batteries as an alternative to lithium-ion batteries for long-duration energy storage and use of more easily obtained, non-toxic, raw materials.

Cut Your Carbon Tip of the Month: Save water. Use low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators. Take shorter showers. Minimize lawn watering. Remember that using less water uses less energy to pump and purify it, too.

# JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service (Communion)	<b>11:30 am</b> Emmaus Group  Independence Day	<b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Ed  <b>7:30 pm</b> Deacons Meeting	<b>5 pm</b> Stewardship Cmtte <b>5:30 pm</b> VBS	<b>12 pm</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>5 pm</b> PNC Committee	8	9
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service <b>3pm</b> Yoth Gathering <b>6 pm</b> FPC Session	<b>5:30 pm</b> Racial Justice Task Force	12	<b>5:30 pm</b> VBS	14	15	16
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service	<b>11:30 am</b> Emmaus Group <b>6 pm</b> Theology in Tap	<b>6pm</b> Membership Cmtte	<b>5:30 pm</b> VBS	<b>12 pm</b> Prayer Gathering	22	23
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service	25	26	<b>5:30 pm</b> VBS	28	29	30
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service						
<b>9 am</b> Choir Practice <b>10 am</b> Worship Service						