

PresbyNews May 2023

FROM PASTOR LydiaGrace

Dear Church Family,

Last week, I called my Dad*. My family had been sheltering in place for fear of breathing in toxic fumes from the plastics fire that terrorized Richmond residents two days after Easter.

“Dad?” I asked, “Do you have any advice for preaching the resurrection when it feels like everything is...going up in flames?”

“Well, that’s what I love about Reformed Theology,” my dad replied. “We’re not surprised by the “not yet” of it all.”

Have you heard that phrase? The “already and not yet?” It’s basically theological shorthand for the faith that life, light, and love ARE stronger than death, darkness, and hate: victory is ours because of Christ’s life, death and resurrection. Even so, our Hallelujahs on Sundays are sometimes accompanied by the sound of sirens. That’s because, while Christ already established the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom has not yet come in its fullness. We live in the time in between. Christ has already shown us how to live as citizens of the Kingdom; we are already adopted into the family of God. But Christ has not yet come again to make *all* things new. We’re still waiting. We’re still praying: “Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” We’re not surprised when it looks like evil is still winning: our resurrection hope comes from trusting we know the one who wins in the end.

Meanwhile, we don’t sit back and wait for good to beat evil in the end. Right now, we live as Christ taught us: we give food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, clothes for the naked, shelter for the homeless, welcome for the stranger, company for the sick, freedom for the captive, and love for all. We point to how things will be by living that way already. Living like this is really hard when our world is on fire, but Jesus Christ has been through the fire. He shows us how, and he goes with us now.

Hallelujah! Amen.

*I have almost two years as an ordained PCUSA pastor; my dad has almost 2 decades.



Happy Birthday to all those with
May Birthdays
Happy Anniversary to all those with
May Anniversaries



"My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and
they follow me."

- John 10:27

DIAPER/HYGINE PRODUCT

collection for Dwyer Community Center, Tuesday, May 9, 11-1 in our church parking lot. Diapers in size 4 are especially requested, but any size appreciated. Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products are also needed. This Diaper Collection project, along with a \$50 check to the Dwyer Community Center from the Deacons Fund will combine to honor Mother's Day.

If you have questions, contact Chris Hilkert, 765-966-4276.

Session Meeting April 18, 2023

No March meeting due to illness.

Pastor LydiaGrace Gray opened the meeting in prayer at 5:30 PM.

Approved the February 21, 2023 session meeting minutes

Clerk's Report -

- Pyoca Camp & Retreat Center is newly established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization.
- Presbytery Executor, Alan Thames is retiring at the end of 2023.
- use of FPC for a Christian concert in late summer or early fall was requested, the proceeds (free will offering or tickets) will benefit addiction recovery and/or veterans. Motion and second to support this event, motion carried.

Pastor's Report (March & April) - LydiaGrace Gray

- Great Holy week experiences
 - Sunday worship services .
 - Many home visits, phone calls and meetings.
 - April 25, 2023 resumes full time
 - Day off will be Wednesday and Saturday - attending the Friday night Bridges for Life dinner.
- motion to accept the pastors report, seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report –

YTD Income: \$50,876; YTD Expenses \$75,837; Loan Balance \$41,779

motion to accept the financial report, second, motion carried.

Mission & Evangelism -

Request the use of FPC for a Christian concert in late summer or early fall, made a motion to support this event, seconded, motion carried

Spiritual Formation -

Youth Sunday will be May 14, 2023. Youth will provide service and also host coffee hour

Cont. on next page

Session Meeting, cont.

Stewardship & Facilities -

- Have Barnhizer check the nursery for mold, if none is present the Girls Scouts, church youth and volunteers will clean and make ready for preschoolers during worship.
- Should see a reduction in the water bill, due to the new heating system efficiency.
- Making repairs on damaged areas.

Continuing to explore ways to improve internet feed in the sanctuary.

Worship & Music -

- Special Music would be welcome whenever available, many thanks to our high school orchestra performers and members during the Lenten season.
 - Holy week services and activities were well planned and received.
- motion to accept the commission reports, second, motion carried.

Other Business

Growth & Economy Committee:

Next meeting - April 29, 2023 at 1 PM in the church parlor.

185 Anniversary Celebration -

A binder was created with pictures and anniversary information. More pictures are planned, when the binder is complete it will be presented to the congregation and stored in the church library. Many thanks for creating this wonderful memory for our church.

Next Session Meeting - May 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Pastor Gray closed the meeting with prayer at 6:35 PM



**CHURCH OFFICE IS
CLOSED ON MONDAY
MAY 29, 2023 FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.**

OPENINGS for the Flower Calendar are available. The calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Parlor hallway. Sign up on your own or call the Church Office, 966.2234, to sign up for the day you want.

2022 PER CAPITA, \$43.16

YOUTH SUNDAY is May 14.

PENTECOST SUNDAY is May 28. Remember to wear red on this date in honor of Jesus!

PLEASE LET US KNOW! If you, or anyone you know, are in the hospital, grieving, or need our prayers, please call the office, 765.966.2234. This church family cares for you and yours!

PASTOR Gray is on vacation May 19-27. Whitney Mays, Director of Hope House, will share the message on May 21.

PASTOR GRAY'S SCHEDULE: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; please call ahead or email [lydi-agrace.espiritu@gmail.com](mailto:lydi-<u>agrace.espiritu@gmail.com</u>) for appointment. Days off: Wednesday & Saturday.



Pentecost

During the calendar year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requests its congregations to undertake four Special Offerings- One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. We simply connect with those who have the least.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Pentecost Sunday is May 28, 2023. Bulletin inserts, envelopes and God's in the World segments will be offered soon.

Please give generously to Pentecost Offering as we nurture the young, our most precious resource; 40% of this offering remains in our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our church and local community.

CHILDREN AT RISK

YOUTH

YOUNG ADULTS

Mission and Evangelism Commission

First Presbyterian Church
100 N 10th St
Richmond IN 47374

Church e-mail: fpcrichmond100@gmail.com

Pastor Gray: lydiagrace.espiritu@gmail.com

Jon Richwine: richwinejon41@gmail.com

Emily Fleenor: emilyaflee@gmail.com

Pastor Gray: (765) 444-7288;
Mon-Thur. 9AM-4PM

Church Phone: (765) 966-2234

Fax: (765) 966-8174


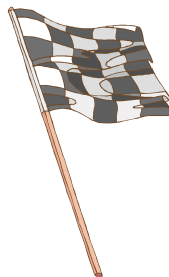
Cable broadcast Sunday, 8 PM

NON-PROFIT ORGN.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 751
RICHMOND IN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GLORIFY & ENJOY GOD
MAKE DISCIPLES
SERVE HUMAN NEED



Church office is open
Monday–Thursday 8 AM–4 PM
Friday 8 AM–12 Noon

Office Closed Monday May 29

