



June 2023

PresbyNews

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

This might sound strange coming from a young pastor in her third year of ordained ministry, but...I've been thinking a lot about retirement.

People retire at different times for different reasons. One retiree frequently jokes on Sunday mornings that you are busier after retiring than you are before. Indeed, most people spend the majority of their lives working hard so they can support themselves and the people they love. No one can quite communicate what to expect when it's time to leave your day job and try resting for a change. Many retired people end up missing the rhythm, predictability, and satisfaction of a job with a schedule and paycheck. In fact, they miss it so much they go right back to work in one way or another. (And, if they can't, they wish they could.) Why?

I used to think it's because we're creatures of habit. But, recently, I've come to see it may go deeper than that. One long-retired member recently shared with me that they feel worthless. They feel like their life is pointless because they don't "do" anything anymore. They used to be bustling with activity: a reliable employee, a faithful caretaker, and an involved community member. Now, old age and a tired body has brought them to a standstill, and they feel like their life is not worth anything.

Beloved, that conversation has made it clear to me: we put far too much of our self-worth in our work. We have bought into the lie that in order to be important we have to be making money, or at least making a difference. I wish I could look every single one of you in the eye, as I did for that anonymous member of our community, and tell you: You are worthy of love and respect even if you do absolutely nothing. Why? Because you are a child of God. God sees you as infinitely precious not because you bring home a paycheck, but because you belong to God.

What if this summer we all practice resting in the assurance of our belovedness? What if we put away our busy schedules for long enough to experience that rest is holy. Let's learn now, not later, that we are just as worthy when we are just being us as we are when we are doing everything on our to-do list.

With so much mercy and love,
Pastor LydiaGrace

"The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" – Rom. 8:16

Shoeboxes for kids



Operation Christmas Child—Shoe Boxes (Sanitarian's Purse)

On June 3, Jon Richwine and Sylvia Black attended the regional meeting of Operation Christmas Child in Muncie. The meeting featured telling and sharing of resources for the shoeboxes, stories of the reception of shoeboxes by children, updates on news and sharing of ideas filling shoeboxes. To the surprise of Jon & Sylvia First Presbyterian Richmond was presented with an award for 25 years of continuous service in filling the shoeboxes! We were one of only three churches honored for this long participation. The framed award is in the parlor for all to see.

Many thanks to all of you have faithfully continued to bring items, physically put the items in the boxes and donated monetarily for the mailing of the shoeboxes.

God has used all of us here at First Presbyterian for this wonderful "God's Work in the World"

The list for items needed for our 2023 shoeboxes will be out soon—our 2023 goal is 105 boxes!

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to those with June



Session Meeting Minutes - May 16, 2023

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

Growth Economy The committee reported that this could/would be a lengthy discussion and asked session members to meet on a separate date to not prolong tonight's meeting. Meeting minutes were distributed for later discussion. It was decided that we would meet on Sunday, July 9, 2023, after worship for lunch and discussion.

Review and Approval of Minutes motion to approve the session minutes for April 18, 2023, seconded, motion carried.

Clerk's Report & Correspondence: Jewel Rogers passed away on May 13, 2013.

Pastor's Report: Another very busy month: Back to full time status - work schedule - Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (including the Bridges for Life dinner) days off Wednesday and Saturday.

Financial Report: April Income: \$30,696; April Expenses: \$17,596

YTD Income: \$81,673; YTD Expenses: \$93,433; Loan balance after April Payment \$41,458.88

Commission Reports:

Mission and Evangelism: After meeting with Starr School, it was decided to set aside our partnering with them until fall when it would be a better time to begin activities.

No specific date has been set for hosting a Christian Concert featuring guitarist, Eric Horner. Special Offering-May 28 Dates for GWITW. Our special offerings for May/June are Pentecost Offering. The youth will give a God's Work in the World report on Youth Sunday, May 14. An elder will give a report on May 21st. *Review M & E goals:* Develop a relationship with Starr School. Donate our remaining funds from the Peace-Making Offering to Communities in Schools. Investigate the best way to address the family needs of our community. Work alongside other commissions and the Deacons to further our social activities. *Other:* Educate people viewing our website as to what we offer to fellowship with us. Adding more information about our commissions and other activities would promote a presence on the website.

Spiritual Formation: Dayton Dragons Baseball Game, June 9th - All 20 tickets are sold. Participants will be leaving FPC at 5 pm. Transportation provided. **Summer Neighborhood VBS** - Saturday, June 24th in the afternoon finishing on Sunday, June 25th in the morning with "Brunch for Lunch" to follow. Invite First Christian, neighborhood youth and Bridges for Life. **Nursery update**, carpet will be cleaned, and the youth will help clean the room and toys. **PYOCA** - 2 of our youth are registered to attend the week of June 18, **Youth Sunday is scheduled for May 14, 2023.** **Confirmation class** is scheduled to begin in early fall, Jon will coordinate with Pastor for a start date. 2 members have volunteered to help with the class. **Water/cool treat Wednesday's will begin June 7th at 1 PM (weather permitting).** **Grief Share** - going very well - larger than normal attendance. Youth Director will attend a **Samaritan's Purse** meeting June 3rd in Muncie.

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Stewardship & Facilities: Boardroom electrical issues have been taken care of. Met with Steam Boiler Inspector on 5/10/23 to inspect new system and discuss what is required to shut down old system. Agreement signed for Spring and Fall servicing of heating/cooling system. Painting/repairing the wall in the Parlor has begun. Will work on removal of Ivy removal at manse. *Miscellaneous Issues:* Still need Audit of 2021/2022 Books. Still working on New rate with Comcast and better WIFI connection. Outlets in Fellowship Hall Kitchen are all working, one has been tagged out appears we are overloading the outlets. Identify location for AED cabinet in the Parlor. Have agreed to allow the building of a nest box for the Peregrine Falcon on edge of roof, Contacted by Dept of Natural Resources

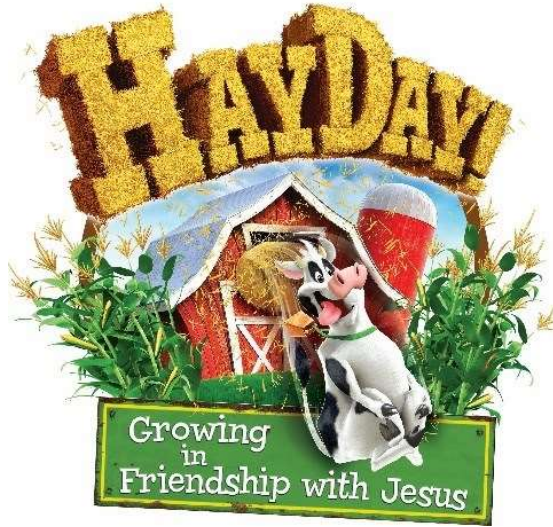
Worship & Facilities: Special Music for the summer being planned. Pentecost Sunday is May 28, 2023. Banners will be hanging. Review standing communion - shortened prayers during communion will help. Members are welcome to stand in body or spirit. May 28, 2023, service will focus on Pentecost with an acknowledgement of Memorial Day during the "Prayer of the People". Pastor resumed full time status on April 26, 2023. Other - Whitney Mays will fill pulpit supply on May 21, 2023.

Motion made to accept the commission reports, seconded, carried.

Other Business: Next Meeting - June 20, 2023, 5:30 PM

Debbie Tipton reported that since there is no longer a Fellowship Commission, that Fellowship activities/Events revert back to the Deacons if they are interested. Pastor will speak to them.





One Day VBS
Saturday, June 24, 2023
2:30-5:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church
100 North 10th, 966-2234

Bible Adventures, Projects-with-a-Purpose,
Hog Wild Games, Moo-sic, and ice cream!
Youth will share music during Worship, June 25

Youth pre-school -5th grade

Here & There

DONATIONS – when making donations to outside organizations, Backpack Blessings, Food Pantry, Genesis, Hope House, etc. *please make monetary and checks payable to that organization (not to the church).*

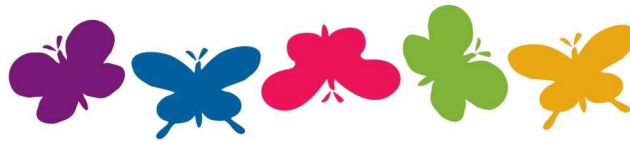
Please let us know! If you, or anyone you know, are in the hospital, grieving, or need our prayers, please call the office, 765.966.2234. This church family cares for you and yours!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING & PENTECOST

2023 total collected \$2,171.84, Pentecost to date: \$600.00 - Mission & Evangelism Commission thanks you for your contributions!

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.

SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Jewell Rogers who died May 13



DID YOU KNOW? About ORDINARY TIME?

Ordinary Time is the church weeks named in number order.

There are 2 sections- the short one is from Christmas to Lent, the longer one is from Pentecost to Advent. It is the time when the Church is supposed to be doing church business. The color for Ordinary Time is GREEN- It represents the anticipation and hope in the resurrection

Now you know



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Cable broadcast on WCTV Channel 21, 8 PM on Sunday

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