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Dear Church Family,

It's been more than 100 days since I became your designated pastor. (Maybe the fact that I know that means I put too much stock in bench marks and that I do too much listening to NPR). Regardless, before I even began, my pastor mentor advised me to get myself a box. Get a box to pack full of memories from days when it was a special blessing to be a pastor. If someone sends a card or writes an email, if something encouraging occurs, keep a memory of it, she said. Store the cards. Print out the emails. Make a note of the good things. Then, on the inevitable days when it will be hard to be a pastor, revisit the box.

After only 100 days, I already have quite the collection, and it's already helped me through a few hard days. I'm so thankful to so many of you for your kindness.

Several summers ago, I read a book by a social scientist who, through her work, demonstrated how human brains hold on to negative memories far easier than they hold on to positive memories. If you think about it, that makes sense. Potently preserved bad memories might prevent humans from repetition of the same dangerous experience; maybe, more often than not, it used to be a matter of life and death. Perhaps, in the past, negativity helped our species survive, but, at this point, it's not helping us thrive. Our brain's tendency to emphasize the negative skews our perception of reality. It's so sad that we are naturally more likely to really remember being flipped off by an angry driver on the way to church than we are to truly treasure all the smiles and waves, hugs and handshakes we are blessed by after we arrive on Sunday morning.

We must remember that, as people who know the best good news of the gospel, for us, the good news is *always* greater than the bad news. We are adopted into the family of God! We are destined to spend eternity with our loving parent who created us and will never let us go! This news is so good!

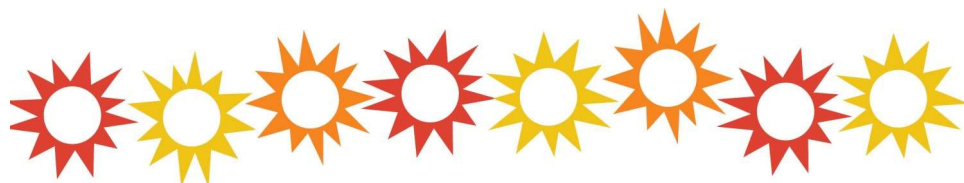
Indeed, the apostle Paul encourages believers in his letter to the Thessalonians that we are called to "give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

In light of all this, I am a pastor pack rat in the making. I am keeping all the joy and hope and gratitude that has come my way these past 100+ days as your pastor. I encourage you to join me in being intentional about gratitude. Make it a habit. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. August is the perfect month to slow down and take a tally of all the good. Seek out the sunshine on your skin, the sweet and sour sensation of fresh lemonade, and the long hazy days. It all calls out to be fully appreciated – savored – enjoyed. Let every little good thing remind you of the greatest good thing: we belong to God. I love that our mission statement as a church family includes the invitation to "Glorify and enjoy God." Indeed, God is glorified in our enjoyment! That is especially true when our joy is not easily forgotten, and we marry our joy with gratitude directed to the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

Oh give thanks unto the LORD, for God is good! God's love endures forever.

In Christ,

Pastor LydiaGrace



# GriefShare

Because of COVID, the area GriefShare program has not been held for nearly two years.

We are thrilled to share that this worthwhile program will begin again on Thursday, August 19. The thirteen-week session will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at First English Lutheran Church located at 2727 East Main in Richmond. At the conclusion of the 13-week sessions, there will be one time Surviving the Holidays program held at the same time and in the same location. Neither childcare nor transportation will be provided.

Grief is a painful process, and we understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families. This is a program where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again.

We will be following CDC guidelines and you are more than welcome to wear a mask if you feel more comfortable.

Pre-registration is encouraged, and you may do so by contacting:

Emily Fleenor – First Presbyterian Church at 765/966-2234 or [emilyflee@gmail.com](mailto:emilyflee@gmail.com)

Facilitators for this program include:

Bill Carter – [wdcarter70@hotmail.com](mailto:wdcarter70@hotmail.com)

Bette Davenport – [bdavenpo@indiana.edu](mailto:bdavenpo@indiana.edu)

Elaine Goodwin – [Elaine-goodwin@comcast.net](mailto:Elaine-goodwin@comcast.net)

Becky Harper – [bechar8@icloud.com](mailto:bechar8@icloud.com)

Alice Flora – [jaflora4897@embarqmail.com](mailto:jaflora4897@embarqmail.com)

Debbie Tipton – [katydid1013icloud.com](mailto:katydid1013icloud.com)

Blessings,

Your GriefShare Team



## Thank You

*Thank  
You!*



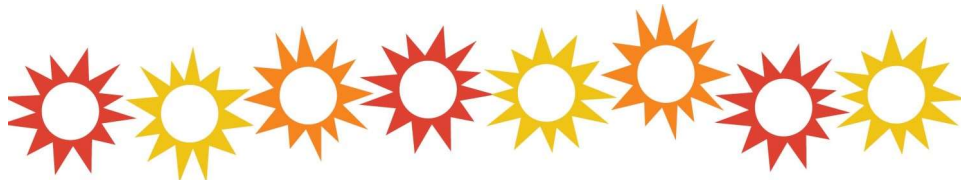
My thanks to Pastor Lydi-aGrace and the congregation for visits, prayers, calls, cards, and lovely roses during my recent hospital stays. Special thanks to Mary Ann Walton for delivery of delicious pot roast dinner and Linda Straw for strawberry bread.

Gloria Goens



Sweet Sounds of Starr Valley Musicians is an assortment of talented friends in the east central Indiana area who enjoy sharing their love of music with instruments such as Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer, Hammered Dulcimer, Ukulele, Guitar, Mandolin, Auto-harp, Harmonica, Whistles, Bass and various percussion instruments.

Dick Miller is a member of the group; they will play here at First Presbyterian during worship Sunday, August 29.



# Here & There

**Food Pantry Sunday** is the first Sunday of each month. *August item of the month: granola bars, breakfast bars, etc.*

**Genesis Sunday** is the second Sunday of each month.

**Hope House Sunday** is the third Sunday each month.

*Monetary donations to any of these organizations should be made out to and sent directly to the organization.*

**VOSH** (Volunteer Optometric Svc to Humanity) ~ used eyeglasses for people overseas who can't afford them; donation box is across from church office.

**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.

**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!

**Sympathy** is extended to the family and friends of The Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters who died July 9, 2021. Tom retired as pastor of First Presbyterian of Stirling, New Jersey on January 31, 2021. Tom was born in Richmond in Sept. of 1955; parents Sue & Richard Peters.

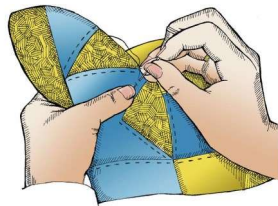


## August Lectors

- 1 – Kathleen Anderson
- 8 – Bill Harmon
- 15 – Pat Murrah
- 22 – Damon Anderson
- 29 – Rachel Black



## “Quilters”



On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM and 15<sup>th</sup> 2 PM (rain date Sept. 21) the Preble County Players of Eaton, Ohio will be presenting the musical “Quilters”. This is a 1986 production based on a book titled “The Quilters—Women and Domestic Art”. First Presbyterian has always had a fondness for the art of quilting and an appreciation for the contributions of women who excel in domestic art. This will be a celebration of the hard work, sacrifice and love pioneer women had for their families, communities, and our nation. Steve Stoller is directing the orchestra, and Margie Stoller is on stage. Please contact either of them for tickets, they are \$10.00 each and the production will be held at the Garber Nature Center, 9691 OH-503 North, Lewisburg, Ohio. (Margie.stoller@gmail.com; 765-966-5722)

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**100 N 10th St**  
**Richmond IN 47374**

**Phone:** (765) 966-2234

**Fax:** (765) 966-8174



**Pastor LydiaGrace E-mail:** lydi-  
agrace.espiritu@gmail.com

**Church E-Mail:** fpcrichmond100@gmail.com

**Jon Richwine:** richwinejon41@gmail.com

**Emily Fleenor:** emilyaflee@gmail.com

**Website:** firstpresrichmond@squarespace.com

**Sunday Services:** 10:30 AM Traditional worship

**Cable broadcast** on WCTV Channel 21, 8 PM on Sunday

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**RETURN SERVICE  
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Church Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday 8 AM—4 PM  
Friday 8 AM—12 noon

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