

Dear Church Family,

So much is happening in our church family, and I'm so proud of all of you!

When we gathered for our Lunch.Learn.Listen at the end of August, we made it clear to the congregation that we would need to make some cuts and we would need to start some creative new projects so that we can keep our doors open and spread of the gospel of Christ in our community. So many people have stepped up to the plate! I've seen the church choir sing an anthem accompanied by a budding acoustic guitarist – an outpouring from a spiritual experience at summer camp. I've seen the speaking slot for God's Work in the World during service fill up again and again from sending a member on her mission trip in 2024, to raising funds for the Peace and Global Witness Offering, to starting a partnership with a kindergarten class in need at Starr School. I've seen the Personnel Committee hard at work crafting the new terms of call for a part-time pastor that the congregation will approve going into 2024 – their efforts and your willing spirit will save the church family thousands of dollars in staffing costs. I've seen the Stewardship and Facilities commission diligently contacting contractors and applying for grants to manage the lead abatement project in the manse. I've attended a seminar alongside other FPC church family members on an early Saturday morning so that we could learn, together, how to make the secular case for our historic sacred space. We were told by the President of Partners for Sacred Places that the statement we crafted at the end of the seminar produced a mic drop kind of moment.

“Come to First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Indiana, and experience the love of God in a space that feels like the dome of the sky, where the cross of Christ – central and lifted high – inspires joy in the congregation. Joy that leads to outreach in our city every Friday night at a free community meal. Joy that leads to fascinating and freeing conversations about faith. Joy that glorifies God with the swell of the pipe organ, with compassionate preaching from the pulpit, and with a community that knows and remembers your name.”

We have so much love to give, beloved, and this pastor's letter doesn't even scratch the surface. Life can be hard sometimes, and it can be scary. But I truly believe it when I say Jesus Christ is with us all the way. There is so much hope to be had. I want you to hold onto it alongside me in this moment.

With love,

Pastor LydiaGrace



Session Meeting September 19, 2023 - 5:30 PM

Rev. LydiaGrace QE Gray opened the meeting with prayer

Review and Approval of Minutes

- August 15 (regular) & September 5 Emergency) 2023 meeting minutes, approve/motion carried.

Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- Notification of deaths of longtime friends of the congregation, Thelma Goris (08/27/2023) and Dick Arthur (08/0/2023).
- Presbytery, Ministry Engagement and Support acknowledged and thanks FPC for donations. \$500 E862353 McGilvary college - Thailand and \$800 E864351 Pakistan.
- Please fill out pink expense vouchers for all requested payments.

motion approved/carried to accept the Clerk's report

Pastor's Report – Rev. LydiaGrace QE Gray

4 sermons, 21 meetings, 10 calls, 16 cards, New Dollars New Partners Module Attended 9/16, 3 Lunch, Learn, Listen Presentations, 2 Serving Pastor at Bridges for Life, 2 Hope House Bible Study Classes; Motion/accepted pastor's report

Adding to the formal record: church-wide email sent to inform congregation

Dear Church Family,

Last Sunday we sang the hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find, May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this, May Jesus Christ be praised! I hold onto this verse as I write this email.

On Friday, August 25th, my family evacuated the church manse on 101 North 10th Street. We had recently received the results of an inspection done by the Wayne County Health Department that told us there are unsafe levels of lead in the house. Lead exposure is extremely hazardous, especially for little children. We're heartbroken about leaving our home in Richmond: we loved getting to know our neighbors, walking to the library, enjoying the

Farmer's Market every Saturday morning, seeing and hearing the peregrine falcon family overhead, and, more than anything else, having our lives intertwined with the life of the church family since we were literally right across the street. But, the safety of our babies comes before all the comforts and convenience of closeness. By Monday, August 28th, we were sleeping in our new apartment. Praise God, we were able to find new living accommodations on such short notice. We wish we could've found something affordable and available in Richmond, but we've had to relocate to New Castle instead. I've been able to take some time off this week to

manage the move, but I'll still see you Sunday. Moving forward, the session of FPC Richmond will be holding an emergency meeting in order to make adjustments to the pastor compensation package, and the Stewardship and Facilities Commission has already met to

begin the discernment journey regarding the long process of lead abatement in the manse. More details will be forth coming. Until then, please keep me, my family, and our church family in your prayers. There's an extra verse of "When Morning Gilds the Skies" that's not printed in our blue hymnal. It goes like this:

Cont. on next page

The night becomes as day when from the heart we say:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:

May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Hold onto hope and joy and gratitude, beloved. Even in the midst of so much turmoil, God is with us.

Glory be to God.

With determination and love,

Pastor LydiaGrace

Financial Report:

Income: YTD \$124,650.97; Expenses YTD: \$183,215.04

Motion/accepted financial report

Business: - Commission Reports

Mission & Evangelism (M&E)

- God's Work in the World - Peace and Global Witness - September 17 and October 1
- Christmas Joy Baskets - delivery date is December 19th - 5 families each from Starr, Vaile, Crestdale, Dennis and Test,
- The 25% for the Peace & Global Witness special offering that stays with our congregation will go to the Wayne County Sheriff Department for a Bullying and Drug Education Program.
- Starr School partnership with SPIF - FPC will adopt a class at Starr, more information to follow.

Spiritual Formation (SPIF)

- Trunk or Treat on October 31st from 5-7 PM.
- investigating mission opportunities for youth.
- Nursery is open with volunteers. Contact a SPIF member if interested in helping from 10:30-11:45 on Sunday mornings. If usage remains consistent we will ask the personnel committee to look into hiring someone to begin in 2024.
- Samaritan Purse donations needed
- Looking into Sunday morning Bible Study/SS classes

Confirmation classes begin on September 24t

Stewardship & Facilities (SF)

- Lead abatement issues at the Manse are being discussed, contractors are being sought for remediation bids.
- Will complete paperwork for Healthy Homes Resource.
- RPL removed vines around electrical wires at the Manse.
- Will renew CD at Merrill Lynch for 6 months, rate 5.4%

cont. on next page

- Still need an audit of 2021 & 2022 books.
- Table a request to use funds from account 8040-01 Youth Activities, Restricted Fund as needed to support the church.

Worship & Music (W&M)

- Worldwide Communion Sunday will be observed on October 1, 2023, Special service with emphasis on the world-wide nature of the church. Flags from all nations will hang in the parlor and there will be samples of ethnic foods to sample.
- At. Andrew's day observance on November 12th

Motion/accepted to approve the commission reports,

Personnel Committee has been working on a compensation package for the Pastor that reflects the move from the Manse. motion to request that the ¾ time Pastor terms of call package be forwarded to COM for approval, carried with 9 for and 1 against the proposal.

Meeting adjourned with prayer

Next Session meeting, October 17, 5:30 PM



Starr School Partnership

The Spiritual Formation and Mission and Evangelism commissions are working together to adopt a first grade class at Starr Elementary. The teacher will be going on maternity leave in December and the students will have to adjust to a new teacher. Talking with the principal, it was decided that First Presbyterian Church could support the teacher, the substitute and the children by adopting the class and helping throughout the year by assisting with classroom parties, reading with students or simply just being present at various times to help the students see familiar faces. Part of our mission at First Presbyterian includes "TO SERVE HUMAN NEED" and this is certainly a good way for us to reach out to the school within our community. If you can help, even just one or two times throughout the year, there is also a sign up sheet in the parlor. No teaching experience is necessary, just a serving heart that is willing to help our neighborhood school.

Back in the '50's

Richmond Jazz Orchestra benefit for Riley Hospital for Children, Saturday, October 21, 6:30-10 PM., Kuhlman Center, Richmond, Steve Stoller, Director. More information on flyer outside education wing entrance.

Tickets:

765-935-2306

richmondkiwanis.com/riley_benefit

Phillips Drug locations



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

To all those
celebrating in October!



October is "Pastor Appreciation" Month

We are blessed here at First Presbyterian to have The Reverend LydiaGrace Quine-Espiritu Gray as our pastor. What a joy to have her share messages with us in the pulpit, fellowship with us in the life of our congregation, visit shut-ins and those who are sick, share insights and guidance and share her wonderful family with us! Take time this month to appreciate and celebrate her with a card, note, smile, etc. LydiaGrace works tirelessly to share God's love and word with our congregation, and with our community.

Dear God, continue to bless LydiaGrace with your wisdom and strength. Lead her higher, closer to you, so she may also lead us. We thank you for blessings on her and within our church and for the many faithful pastors and leaders who have been a part of our congregation. Amen.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for your generous donations toward our goal of 110 boxes this year!

items still needed: pens, socks, toys, band aids, dental floss, toothbrushes, hand towels, markers, combs, rulers, scissors, lip balm, scotch tape.





Here & There



DONATIONS – when making donations to outside organizations, *please make checks payable to that organization (not to the church).*

ST ANDREW’S DAY is 10:30 AM. Wear your plaid and celebrate our Scottish heritage!

DAYLIGHT Savings Time ends November 5—remember to set clocks back 1 hour!

WITH COLDER WEATHER coming, consider bringing a jacket or sweater when you come to church ~ everyone’s “thermostat” varies!

WCTV times: 7 PM Sundays

SYMPATHY is extended to Jerry & Barbara Easley on the recent death of Barbara’s brother, Boyd Cargill.

THANK YOU from Flo Arthur for the prayers, cards and many expressions of sympathy on the death of her husband, Dick Arthur



TRUNK OR TREAT, in our church parking lot October 31, 5-7 PM. Donations of candy welcome!

KATHLEEN ANDERSON has graciously volunteered to lead a group of “choir singers” the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, meeting 10-10:25 in the boardroom. All welcome to join! October dates: 8 & 15.

CONGRATULATIONS to Steve & Margie Stoller on the birth of their newest grandchild, Christopher Jin Stoller. Born Monday, September 11 at 7:02 PM; parents are Brian & Audrey Jing Jin Stoller.

SYMPATHY is extended to the Stanley family on the death of John Stanley, September 20, 2023.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Began Sept. 24, 11:30-1:30, (lunch included); meets every other Sunday.

Contact Jon Richwine if you can provide lunch.

BOOK CLUB

7 PM Church Parlor

October 9 - “Snowflower and The Secret Fan,” Lisa See.

November 13 - “Lessons in Chemistry,” Bonnie Garmus

December 11—“Remarkably Bright Creatures,” Shelby Van Pelt

Please join us!



First Presbyterian Church

100 North 10th Street
Richmond IN 47374

Pastor: Rev. LydiaGrace Quine-Espiritu
Gray: lydiagrace.espiritu@gmail.com

Youth Director: Jon Richwine;
richwinejon41@gmail.com

Emily: emilyaflee@gmail.com

Church Phone: 765.966.2234

Fax: 765.966.8174

Church E-mail:
fpcrichmond100@gmail.com

Website: www.firstpresrichmond@squarespace.com

Cable Broadcast : WCTV on Channel 21 ~ 7 PM Sunday

NON-PROFIT ORGN
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 751
RICHMOND IN



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Glorify & enjoy God
Make Disciples
Serve Human Need**



Deadlines for Church Office

All articles for PresbyNews must be received in the Church Office by on the Thursday following a regular Session meeting; Session meets October 17, the deadline for the November newsletter is

Thursday, October19

Checks are printed on Thursday, signed on Sunday, then mailed on Monday. If you need something, please submit a check request **at least one week** before it's needed.