

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

August 2017

Dear First Folks,

We are August people, in the highest sense of the word, as God's children and royal emissaries. As August approaches and final vacation plans are had, let us redouble our efforts to be an effective and growing body of Christ here on the corner of 2nd and North Main. We have so much to be thankful for, and you are one of those blessings. Pray for, participate in, and support the many ministries which happen through this blessed Church. Take a look at the contents of the newsletter, and ask God's blessings on every line, word, and paragraph. This is what God does, and we are so thankful for the wonder and grace He makes possible day by day.

In Him,

- Russell



August 6

Sermon: "Managers of God's Mysteries"

Scriptures: Psalm 63; 1 Cor. 3:18-4:5

August 13

Sermon: "Love"

Scriptures: Psalm 44:1-4; 1 Cor. 13:1-13

August 20 -

Sermon: "Living Sacrifices"

Scriptures: Psalm 98: 1-6; Romans 12: 1-8

August 27

Sermon: "Redemption In Christ"

Scriptures: Psalm 130; Colossians 1:14-20

September 3

Sermon: "A Cloud of Witnesses"

Scriptures: Psalm 96; Hebrews 11:32-12:2

September 10

Sermon: "The Victory"

Scriptures: Psalm 18:1-6; 1 John 5:1-5



CW's mother is improved; however, she continues to have difficulty with her knee and fluid build-up in her legs. She had to be in bed for several days two week ago.

The situation with their visas and work permits is still unresolved. Political unrest and disorganization in the government is delaying their permits and visas.

Please pray for CW's mom to continue improving and for a favorable resolution of the visa situation.



We are so grateful for Ray Shields' dedication and offering. He has provided over 1000 wooden crosses for those who wish to have them. They have been widely distributed across the area, and many that come into the church for meetings, or help, have asked to take one.

Mission Possible

A First Presbyterian World Mission ministry



Sponsorship Department: Greetings! This is a slower time of year as our students are out of school, and registration information hasn't been received. But great things will be happening when school starts in Haiti and for the Dominican Republic.

One exciting thing is the opportunity for our donors to sponsor our new Community Health Agents in Haiti. These are the MP staff who are being continually trained by our medical coordinator and other faithful medical professionals to help our Haitian nurse care for and treat our 2,000 students and other staff at the MP schools. ~ by Trace

Mission Possible on Television! Recently, a former team member reached out with the opportunity to put MP in the spotlight. An Audiologist that traveled with MP to Haiti, made contact with a local news station and arranged for MP to talk during the noon edition of their news. ~ by Rene Inniger

Learning Creole! The desire to be able to communicate with the Haitians is a common theme among team members that have traveled to Haiti. Our broken Creole, along with their broken English, makes it difficult to get to know each other's hearts as deeply as we'd like. Now that we have someone in our Findlay, Ohio office who speaks it as their native language we are taking the opportunity to learn.

Embracing Change—Change can be hard sometimes. We like our routines, our habits, and we like them because they are comfortable. For the last eleven years, Kurt Bishop has served MP extremely well. He has strengthened countless areas and grown MP to the great organization that it is today. Assembling a great, hardworking, passionate staff, he has shown great leadership and done so as a true servant. Even though Kurt will be stepping down as President of MP, he is not going far. He will continue to serve MP in various capacities. He is excited to see what the future holds for MP and his family. We want to thank Kurt for all his years of faithful service to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

My name is David Rath. I have the honor of trying to fill Kurt's shoes as president. I have been in ministry for 21 years and am excited to take the reins. I look forward to getting to know as many of you as I can and hearing the stories of how MP has impacted your lives. It is an honor and a privilege to be working and serving.

Prayers would be appreciated as we transition here in the hope office but rest assured that ministry is happening. Students are being taught, being fed, being seen by medical teams, learning about Jesus, and Christ-centered leaders are being developed. Change is hard, but we lean on the one who never changes—Christ!

Thank you so much for your faithful giving, relentless prayers and your heart for the Island of Hispaniola. ~ David Rath



New President Appointed! March 2017—A note from MP President, Kurt Bishop:

Serving as President of MP has been a real privilege and blessing to me, Julie, and our children. God has blessed me with a great fit at the intersection of my gifting and background and Mission Possible's needs over the last 11+ years. Working with the U.S. and Canada Boards, and our supporters has been amazing and I thank God for bringing us to where we are today. Together, with God's direction, we have prepared a solid base of leadership in our Haiti field. We have also built the financial support and a solid U.S. administrative team and operation.

Pastor David Rath is someone I have worked with in various ways since the early 1990's. In fact, I am the one who recommended the Board consider him as a possible candidate to replace me. I believe David has qualities, gifts, skills, experience, and vision to lead MP in the future. His background in youth, evangelism, church growth, and leadership development are just what MP needs in the future. He is a proven leader of small teams. What a great gift! With Thankfulness, Kurt Bishop

Bible Reading Schedule

Week 47—July 31—Aug. 5

Acts 17—1 Corinthians 8

Pages 1273—1288

Week 48—August 7-12

1 Corinthians 9—2 Corinthians 13

Pages 1289-1307

Week 49—August 14-19

Acts 20—26

Pages 1308-1333

Week 50—August 21-26

Acts 27—1 Timothy 6

Pages 1334-1355

Week 51—August 28– Sept 2

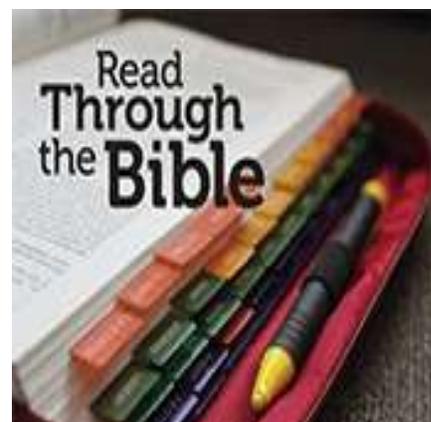
1 Peter 1—Jude

Pages 1356-1378

Week 52—September 4-9

1 John—Revelation 22

Pages 1379-1403





We celebrate all ages of membership, and plan to launch ministries which equip and bless all of the age dynamics of First Presbyterian Church. On one important front, following up on discussions from our annual retreat, the session is proactively addressing the blessings that our young adults are to the church, and designing ways of reaching out to those folks inside and outside the church. More people these days are not a part of a church than are, and it is our blessing to reach out to them on a daily basis. We have plans for identifying and establishing ministries for this age group, and will be asking for your help in this important matter. They are the future of the church, and we celebrate and look forward to the possibilities this can create. There are many other facets of these plans for all of us, and we ask your prayers as we become more and more a young adult and child friendly family.

Fellowship Plans

The session is also looking to expand the opportunities for fellowship, as God makes it possible to get to know and fellowship with one another. There will be periodic times for whole church and small fellowship planned, in addition to the times we already share together. Be in prayer and participation for this blessing of God that happens when His people gather together.



Bible Studies and Teaching Times

We are examining plans for day and night time Bible study and teaching times for all ages, for men and women, children, and for young adults in this Year of the Child. As the fall approaches, make plans to adjust schedules and priorities to find room for the best times yet at First Presbyterian Church!

An Update on Julia Baskervill—by daughter Meg

Everyone,

It's been awhile since you've heard from me & that is because Mom is doing so well healing from her fractured femur. We have PT & OT coming to our home each week working with her, they are pleased & she's getting stronger. We see the orthopedic surgeon next Wednesday for a check-up & hopefully will be told she can put full weight on that leg now, making walking easier for her. She uses the walker & probably will for awhile longer but the goal is to eventually move her to a cane when she feels stable enough on her feet.



We learned yesterday, however, that the frontal hematoma that appeared when she fell (she slammed her head on the cabinets as she fell & required 11 stitches) has not dissolved on its own as they had hoped. She will now have an MRI to study it further, then see a neurologist & then follow back up with the neurosurgeon, whom we saw yesterday.

I was not surprised with this news, since her fall I had noticed several changes with Mom. The most concerning one being throughout the day she would have multiple times when she would just "zone out", as if she was in a trance, & once she came out of them she had no idea they had occurred. They occur when she is sitting & not actively talking. I had contacted this doctor several times with my concerns & the new CT scan confirmed there were still issues that need to be investigated more thoroughly. Though they don't "bother" Mom nor are they painful, there is the worry that they will continue, possibly increase in frequency & duration & may result in unsafe situations for her. So once we know more I will relay it.

Right now we just ask for your continued prayers, we know they play an enormous part in our daily living. I haven't sent this update to all those I had before, I just ask that you please relay the news to other family members you know may be interested in this update. Many thanks for your calls, cards & messages of support & love, they are so appreciated!! Hope all of you are enjoying your summer & staying cool in this excessive heat. Love to all of you from Mom & from me! Meg

Jesus Christ, our Shepherd

I heard a story about a little shepherd boy who was holding a new baby lamb, keeping it safe through⁴the night. Christ does that for us as well. He holds us close, if we will turn to Him, and is there to protect us and to comfort us in dark times, when we feel most vulnerable and scared.

It is written that the unrighteous can not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9); and yet when we sin, we are not turned away. When Christ walked the earth, He did not run at the sight of sinners, or those with infirmities. Instead, He embraced them, and healed them.

Even the woman taken in adultery, was not turned away by Jesus, instead he showed mercy. When others wanted to stone her, Christ asked who amongst them was without sin. When all turned away and left, knowing they too were sinners, Christ told the woman "neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more". (John 8:1-11) He always showed compassion and love. There is no doubt that the Lord did not condone adultery, but He saw past the sin and saw the woman whom He loved. Because, He showed her love and did not condemn, she was able to forgive herself and went and changed her life.

We are all sinners, no one is immune to making mistakes, but we can learn and grow, and repent and be forgiven. Christ and our Father in Heaven, both love us and want us to return home to them. Christ is the great Shepherd, caring for his flock. He desires to lead us to life ever lasting, and eternal happiness. God

One great prophet of old was asked "Shall he (Christ) save his people in their sins?" but this prophet answered no, for we cannot be saved IN our sins, but FROM our sins. It's crucial to repent, and do all we can to be as righteous as we can. Then Christ will make up the difference through His atonement. We will then have the opportunity to live once again with God, the Father and Jesus Christ in one of the "many mansions" that Christ is preparing for us. John 14:2—"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

God wants us to be actively listening and following His commandments, and choosing to do right. Then, and only then, can He reward us with all the He hath. What a great promise! What great joy is to be had at that time. Life here is not easy, but it will be worth it. I know this to be true.

~ Sherolyn

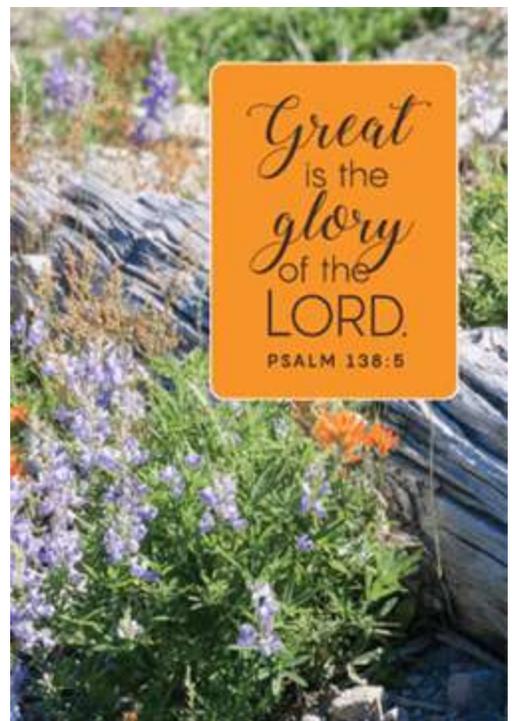


Weekly Happenings

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

August 21st

7:00 — Elders Meeting



Youth continue to meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm for dinner and youth meeting.



August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 July 5cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	31 July 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	1 August 12 noon NA	2 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	3 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	4 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	5
6 Communion 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	7 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	8 12 noon NA	9 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	10 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	11 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	12 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
13 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm Youth Group 6 pm NA	14 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	15 12 noon NA	16 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	17 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	18 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	19 Presbytery of the Peaks Meeting
20 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	21 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 pm Elders	22 12 noon NA Newsletter DEADLINE	23 Summer Begins! 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	24 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	25 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	26
27 5 cents a meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	28 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA	29 12 Noon AA	30 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	31 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	September 1 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	September 2

- 2 Paul Faulkner
- 2 Meredith Howell
- 4 Donnell Corelle
- 6 Joan Owens
- 7 Ann Crabtree
- 10 Jim Luedtke
- 10 Drew Morgan
- 14 Barbara Johnston
- 15 Lisa Howell
- 16 Zachary Raney
- 17 Wilma Hendley
- 19 Sylvia Hendley



- 20 Ronnie Crabtree
- 20 Michele Fitch
- 25 Dan Koutsos
- 27 Jo Roberts
- 29 Sally Slaff
- 29 Marge Nelson
- 30 Debbie Burton
- 31 Polly Ratcliff*



July Session Report

At the meeting since the last newsletter your Elders:

1. Received John and Debbie Leznik as members.
 2. Prepared for and served the Lord's Supper.
 3. Approved a financial review by a local CPA.
 4. Discussed and approved plans for proactive Inreach and Outreach for Membership and Young Adults.
- Approved new plans for fellowship opportunities.
 Approved delegate for August 19 Presbytery Meeting in Farmville.
 Approved a hat shower for Nancy Pool
 Approved June balance sheets.
 Set next communion for August 6.
 Received updates on Columbarium and Veterans Memorial Plans
 Received updates on Missionary News
 Approved minutes
 Received updates on new playground and church sign.

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Here is your August 2017 Newsletter