

First Presbyterian News

1

Sherolyn Barnett, Office Manager
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton
Terri Hazelwood—Nursery Leader
Doris Koch—Treasurer



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/firstpressobo
Website: 1stpres.cc

Office Hours
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
434-572-3581



First Pres Family,

Though I have much to say to you about all your Elders are accomplishing, I will only address what I understand to be your primary concerns at this time.

The Transition Team and the Pastor Nominating Committee are working diligently and making progress toward finding our Interim Pastor and our full-time pastor. Please keep these searches in your prayers.

In April your Session voted to suspend worship services through June 17, to reassess at the June 18 Session meeting. Though we did not amend that decision in our May 18 meeting, a committee has been created to prepare for resumption of services as soon as possible. Many of you are anxious to return to church but may not be aware of the guidelines with which we must comply. The guidelines in Virginia for Phase 1 can be found online. I encourage you to read them; it may help you to understand our delay in opening and the efforts by the committee in preparation.

Thank you all who have sent your tithes and offerings to God's glory in our church. As our church moves forward in many ways, we hope you will continue to share your gifts.

We realize each of you are unique in your emotions and opinions at this time. Know that your Elders are always available to you and are praying for you. Most importantly, know that God is always with you. READ Matthew 6:25-34.

I pray for the joy of the Lord in each of your hearts,

Linda Lumsden

Elder of Worship



Church reopening plans

If all goes well, we will hope to resume service on June 21. The session will meet again on June 15 to reassess and determine the feasibility of re-opening the church for worship.

June 21 - Sermon by Jane Lyon - she has been leading Bible study for women in large and small communities. Jane received her Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. Jane and her husband, Michael own businesses in South Boston, and Clarksville. Jane shares a deep love for and commitment to God that has developed through years of personal trials and life experiences.

June 28 - Sermon by Mike Rand - He and his wife, Kak, have been members of FPC for 9 years. Mike is currently serving as a Ruling Elder responsible for Personnel and Finance. We have enjoyed his past messages. We are honored to hear from him again. Come out and enjoy his thoughts.



Persecution Project Foundation

(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

2

What a difference a month makes!

The novel Coronavirus pandemic is changing many things about the world's "normal." And it will change all of us. The only question is, *how will we change?*

Tragedy and crisis bring out both the best and worst in people. For myself, I want the change to be positive. But I know what this means. It means thinking of others more than myself and my own needs. It means reaching out, not pulling back. It means giving more, not shrinking away.

According to the [UN](#), the COVID-19 lockdown is the latest in a series of catastrophic events which endanger the food security for as many as 250 MILLION people throughout the developing world.

The good news is that [Persecution Project](#) is responding to one of those hard-hit areas.

Today, we received photos of our next shipment of **compact emergency food** being loaded for transport and delivery.

The consignment will serve thousands of families in the war-torn Nuba mountains of Sudan, one of the areas highlighted by the UN as being particularly vulnerable.

Your active compassion makes this possible!

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry to the persecuted!



Ed Lyons

Persecution Project Foundation



Happy Father's Day - Sunday, June 21

A Dad is his son's first hero and his daughter's first love.
Happy Father's Day ~ unknown

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet on of the most valuable assets in our society.
~ Billy Graham

My father gave me my dreams. Thanks to him I could see the future. ~ Liza Minnelli

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way. ~ unknown

Highly Esteemed

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly his 3-year-old daughter ran toward him yelling, "Daddy! Daddy! That's my daddy!" and launched into his arms.

"What a welcome," he writes. "I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life." Perhaps that's how God feels when we call on his name in worship and prayer, acknowledging him as our heavenly Father — and honoring him above all else.

~ from NewsletterNewsletter





COVID 19 Reopening Information - To view the Virginia guidelines for churches to reopen search on the following sites:

CDC website - www.cdc.gov

Presbytery of the Peaks website: www.peakspresbytery.org

Or use this phrase: "Virginia Phase 1 requirements for churches" to enter a search in Google, Bing, or other search engine.

We have an exciting announcement!

The Transition Team of the Session has reached agreement with a Transitional Interim Pastor to lead our church while we continue our search for the next permanent pastor. The Session has approved Rev. Glenn Mark Coleman to begin serving as our Interim Pastor on July 1st. He and his wife will be moving to South Boston from Charleston, West Virginia. We look forward to benefiting from Rev. Coleman's leadership and experience in helping us prepare for a new pastor. More information about Rev. Coleman will be shared with you in the near future.



Blessings,

Session Transition Team

Carter Henderson

Mike Rand



Stephen Ministry – Especially during this difficult time, if there is anyone you know who could use some support, someone to listen, and/or encourage them through an illness or this health crisis. Please contact one of the Elders, or one of the Stephen Ministers. They are here and wanting to be of support for those who are sick, lonely, depressed, or just needing a friend. Or if you are someone who is willing to reach out to another or help them in any way you can, we need you! More Stephen Ministers are needed. Please reach out to an Elder or another Stephen Minister to be added to this group.

Vacation Bible School—It is hopeful that it will be possible to have Vacation Bible School, however at this time, we are not sure about the dates or possibility. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.



Offering - Don't forget to continue to provide your offerings. Even though we are not able to gather at church, the church continues to have expenses and bills which still need to be paid.

Stewardship means many things such as prayers, presence and service, as well as gifts. In times such as these, when we cannot contribute by being present at worship, we can still pray and seek opportunities to serve; and of course, we can still honor God with our gifts.





Wait on the Lord

4

During this health crisis and pandemic, I find myself relating to several stories in scripture. I see areas I can improve. I am a bit impatient for things to change, and I can think of past experiences when I had a shortage of patience. I am trying to think more of Job and his undying faith and patience as he waited on the Lord. He had friends forsake him believing the Lord was punishing him, he lost his home, health, livelihood, "Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly" (Job 1:21-22). Then I think of Christ and His ultimate endurance of patience and long suffering. He allowed others to spit on, and torture Him. In the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed "If thou be willing, remove this cup..., [but] not my will, but thine be done" (Luke 22:42). In His agony on the cross, he cried out "My God, why has thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). He knew He was sent here not to condemn the world, but through Him, save it (John 3:17). We also read: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38).

I am grateful for my faith and knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, His Son, who has descended below all things, and knows how to comfort me.

I heard a story of someone who had been wronged. She was struggling with feelings of bitterness, and mentally said "Someone should pay for this wrong". When she heard a voice say "Someone already has". That is profound, and really hit me. How true!

Christ is the source of all hope.

How many of us too, have felt that we have been forgotten and wondered either in heart or out loud "Where art thou?" In Psalms 27:14 we read that we are commanded to "wait upon the Lord". We need to have patience for His timetable to be fulfilled. We are to trust Him and understand that the trials and tribulations we go through are for our good and experience. I am learning to find comfort in the scriptures and realize that even if "the winds prevail against me, or the jaws of hell open its mouth wide around [me], that these things are for [my] good and experience" for Jesus Christ experienced awful trials and nothing I go through can surpass what He went through for me. Even during these hard times, we can find patience and hope in turning to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is with us, and will comfort and support us in our hour(s) of need.

May I be more mindful of these facts, and be more trusting, and patient through my trials.

~ Sherolyn

PNC Update

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been hard at work in the search process for the next leader for our congregation.

Over the past few months, we have reviewed over 70 resumes and still have not found a suitable candidate that is available. It has become clear to us why this process takes so long. In light of this realization, we requested and received approval from the Session to engage an executive search firm that specializes in church staffing. The Company's name is Vanderbloemen based in Houston, Texas.

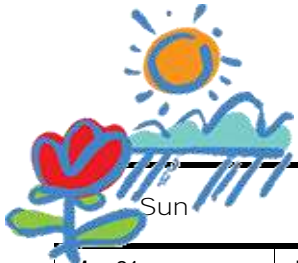


The founder of the company, William Vanderbloemen, and our account executive, Jay Mitchell, are both former PCUSA pastors. The company has a great success rate for finding and placing pastors in churches of all sizes and denominations. If you would like to check them out you can visit their website at: <https://www.vanderbloemen.com/>

The PNC had a three-hour initial kick-off Zoom meeting with Jay Mitchell. This was after we had completed multiple in-depth surveys to help them focus on our needs, beliefs, and desires in a new pastor. We are excited to have a professional team to help us in this search. Our prayer is that God will reveal His choice for our next pastor in His time, hopefully sooner instead of later.

Blessings,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



June 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 31	June 1	June 2	3	4	5	6
No First Pres. Activities due to COVID-19 criteria.						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
No First Pres. Activities due to COVID-19 criteria.						
14	15 Elders meet with Betsy Soto	16	17	18	19	20
No First Pres. Activities due to COVID-19 criteria.						
21 Possible resume Worship - 10:30 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
  						
28 Possible Worship - 10:30 am	29	30	July 1	July 2	July 3	

JUNE Birthdays

* In Memory

- 1 Laylo Ridgeway
- 1 Lorene Gilliam
- 3 Deborah Lesnik
- 4 Corinne Williams
- 6 Carol Foster
- 6 Janet Adams
- 6 Catesby Saunders
- 7 Katy Temple Nelson
- 9 Paul Edmunds
- 12 Ken Cochran
- 12 Lauren Henderson
- 12 Jennifer Lee Miller
- 13 Robert Guthrie

- 16 Veronica Raney
- 20 Carol-Ann Lawson
- 20 Scott Carter
- 21 Eliza Dillard
- 24 John Lesnik
- 26 Jack Morgan
- 29 Grace T. Seat



If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

- 1 - Communication continues with missionaries
- 2 - Financial expenditures were approved for January through April
- 3 - Required steps are being completed by the PNC
- 4 - Transition team continues search for Interim Pastor
- 5 - Improvements on church building and grounds continue
- 6 - A committee will be formed to prepare for worship services in compliance with regulations
- 7 - Resumption of worship services will be discussed at next Session meeting

June 15

Elders at 6:00 pm -



Elders will review the current situation to determine the feasibility of re-opening the church for service. More will be announced after this meeting. Watch for more updates.

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592

PRSRT
US Postage Paid
Permit #15
South Boston, VA

Here is your June 2020 Newsletter