

# First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

I always think of Memorial Day as the beginning of summer even though the solstice does not occur until June 20 or 21. In my grade school days I usually marched in the Memorial Day parade as a boy scout and that parade marked the beginning of the countdown to the end of the school year. In those days the teachers took for granted that their student's interests would be outside of the classroom, so we were treated to educational trips to local attractions.



Historical sites and museums were the usual fare, but then, as a kind of finale the whole school would go to an amusement park for a day. Students were set free to enjoy all the rides and carnival type entertainments that they wanted. Teachers and administrators would roam the park keeping an eye on the children, but also pausing for some refreshment or recreation themselves. It was a full day away from the pressures of schedule and work. I remember that feeling of released tension and the joy of seeing classmates and teachers enjoying a break from the routine. It was a trip that I looked forward to taking each year.

In my life as a pastor, I am often reminded of God's gift of the Sabbath and the idea of Jubilee. The Old Testament reveals God's plan for his people to set aside the seventh day for holy rest. Every seven years was to be a Sabbath for the land, then every forty-ninth year represented a Jubilee wherein the earth rested from cultivation and people were returned to their land for family reunions, debts were cancelled, and celebrations of liberty were held. In my memory, those last weeks of the school year were a combination of Sabbath and Jubilee.

It has been a tough year living under the pandemic restrictions and coping with various challenges. You/we deserve a break. God knows us better than we know ourselves and God has given us the gift of the Sabbath. While I hope everyone observes a weekly Sabbath and attends worship, I also invite you to take some time this summer to take a break from the routine stresses of life. Find a place and time outside of the normal grind to refresh and renew. "*Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,* <sup>20</sup> *that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.*" Acts 3:19-20a

- Rev. Glenn Coleman, Interim Pastor



**Flower Calendar** - The flower calendar is up for the 2021 year. Call or visit the church office door to request your favorite dates for providing flowers in the Sanctuary. Very few days have been reserved. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, special dates... all are wonderful reasons to beautify the sanctuary. Dates do not have to be on or close, they can look back at dates and recognize a special occasion that may have been missed.



**Prayer List** - Continued prayers for Freddie Collins, Donnell Corelle, Jack Horner, Sarah Helen Greenbacker's 4 year old great nephew and Ann Cabell Zimmerman's great grandson, who has Leukemia, Colby Harris, 5 year old great grandson of "Tee" Godbold. Gracie Lynn Bates - went home. Janet Adams is now home with Wayne. Caroline Sandy Tribley fought a good fight, but passed, Keith Gilliam's family continue to need of prayers. Horace Griffin passed away. New prayer lists include: Kim Albert is back in the hospital at the time of publication. She had to have another surgery. She sent this message: "My mission team buddies will appreciate that I would rather be in Georgetown, SC, smelling paper mills, sanding sheet rock (over and over again!), and sleeping on the floor, than trying to live with as sick as I have been. I love and miss you all, and cling to your prayers and words of encouragement. Del Pool is in need of prayers. Caroline Laughorn is receiving another round of treatment. Chris Jones' mother—Tine Jones mother fell and broke her femur, and had surgery and is now in therapy.

**Celebration** - We want to celebrate the graduates for their hard work and successes they have had through their school years. Wishing them well as they journey through the next stage of their lives. We will also celebrate and officially welcome Cynthia and Glenn Coleman to our church and area. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 13. We will have a meal and enjoy fellowship out at the picnic area after church.



**Communion** - Our next observance of the Lord's Supper will be Sunday, June 6. Mark your calendar so you can make sure to be here for this special day.

**June 6 - Second Sunday after Pentecost** Sermon Title: "The Gift of Sabbath" - Communion Sunday  
Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-18; Mark 2:23-3:6

**June 13 - Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sermon Title: "The Spirit of Generosity"  
Scriptures: Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

**June 20 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sermon Title: "Just a Seed"  
Scriptures: Psalm 20; Mark 4:26-34

**June 27 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sermon Title: "Our Commander"  
Scriptures: Psalm 9:9-20, Mark 4:35-41

**July 4 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sermon Title: "Wisdom Proven Right"  
Scriptures: Psalm 48:9-14; Matthew 11:16-30





Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I. ~ Newsletter/Newsletter



### Jesus is everything

Although growing up as a PK (pastor’s kid) could be challenging, admits Ray Ortlund Jr., it also was “a sacred privilege given to me as a gift from God.” Ortlund — now a pastor, father and grandfather himself — notes that any difficulties associated with the role were more than offset by his dad’s love and admiration, as well as “the real Christianity I saw in him.”

When Ray Sr. was on his deathbed in 2007, family members gathered in a California hospital to read Scripture, sing hymns and receive a personalized blessing from the patriarch. Ray Jr. was ministering overseas and had to say his earthly goodbyes via the phone. “Later I asked my sister about Dad’s message to me,” Ortlund writes. “It was this: ‘Tell Bud ministry isn’t everything. Jesus is.’ My dad’s dying words summed up his parenting and his whole life.” ~ Newsletter/Newsletter





## All In

I recently heard an analogy that really struck me, and here it is: What if all the other disciples and believers of Christ lost their faith after seeing and hearing Peter deny Christ? Peter walked with Christ, knew him better than most, and yet he denied knowing him, when temptation was great. What if everyone looked at Peter, and said “Wow! He who has been with him the most just made a bad decision, and we cannot stand with him or support the cause to which he represents?”

Luckily that did not happen, however, today, we experience similar situations. How many times have you known someone who left church or stopped coming because they didn’t like what a church leader said or did? We are all infallible people. We make mistakes all the time. We have the opportunity to repent, and to ask the Lord to take us back into His fold and make us great. Just as Peter realized his error, and repented and Christ forgave him, then he became a great disciple, and example of Christ. He was stronger, and withstood other temptations.

We too, can become stronger when we “hang on” to our faith, and not allow others’ mistakes and errors to deter us from church attendance or our beliefs. I heard a quote once “Doubt your doubt, before you doubt your faith.” I really like that quote. We are also commanded in scripture to “Look unto [Christ] in every thought; doubt not, fear not”.

In fact, we are to be of one heart and mind, just as Christ and the Father are of one thought, purpose, and intent; for “if [we] are not one [we] are not [His].

I have made many errors in my life, and I can – ashamedly say, I was not always “All in”, but now I am “all in.” I know that God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ love me, and I pray I will be fearless in sharing the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ. His atoning sacrifice for me, His unyielding forgiveness of my sins, IF and when I repent are great strengths to me. I know my Redeemer Lives! He and His gospel are true, and perfect.

We are only humans and far from perfect, so we need to be more understanding and forgiving of others’. I love Christ and want to be found worthy, as Peter, to be called one of

His. ~ *Sherolyn*



**PNC Update** - As I reported last month, we are continuing in another “search cycle” with the Vanderbloemen Search Group. We continue to receive additional downloads of PIF’s (resumes) from the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection (CLC).

The PNC is scheduled to meet with our account executive from Vanderbloemen on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to be presented with potential candidates. We pray that God has chosen this time to reveal to us the next pastor for our church.

*“Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.” - Proverbs 8:34*

We thank you for your continued prayers and your encouragement as we “wait” on the Lord. You have entrusted us with this important task and we continue to work to complete it.

In His saving grace,

*Don Cherry*, PNC Chairman



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>May 30</b> 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	May 31 - Office Closed 	June 1 12:00 PM NA	June 2 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	June 3 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	June 4 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	June 5
<b>Glenn off for Vacation</b>						
<b>6 - Communion</b> 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	7 6:00 pm NA	8 12:00 PM NA	9 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	10 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	11 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	12
<b>Glenn off for Vacation</b>						
<b>13</b> 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 12 pm - Celebration	14 6:00 pm NA	15 12:00 PM NA 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Elders	16 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	17 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	18 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	19
<b>20- 5 Cents a Meal collection</b> 	21 6:00 pm NA	22 12:00 PM NA	23 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	24 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 - AA	25 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	26
<b>27</b> 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	28 6:00 pm NA 	29 12:00 PM NA	30 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	July 1 7:00 pm - Girl Scouts 8:00 pm - AA	July 2 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	July 3

# JUNE



- 1 Laylo Ridgeway
- 1 Lorene Gilliam
- 4 Corinne Williams
- 6 Carol Foster
- 6 Janet Adams
- 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
- 26 Jack Morgan
- 29 Grace T. Seat

\* In Memory



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:**

The Session met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman updated the Session on congregational news.
2. The minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> Session and Diaconate meetings were read and approved as written by the Session.
3. Changes to the Virginia minimum wage law were discussed.
4. Cynthia Coleman has requested membership by transfer of letter. She will meet with the Session on June 6<sup>th</sup> before the worship service.
5. Mike Freshour (Commissioner from FPC) gave a report on the May 1<sup>st</sup> Presbytery Meeting.
6. First four months financial reports were reviewed.
7. An outdoor fellowship event is being planned by the Deacons for June 13<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. This will be to officially welcome Rev. Glenn Coleman and his wife Cynthia to our church, and to honor our High School graduates.
8. Next communion will be Sunday, June 6, 2021.
9. Based on the changes to the CDC and State guidelines, the Session approved the following changes be put into effect immediately:
  - facemasks no longer required for fully vaccinated members,
  - congregational singing to resume,
  - the blocked off pews be reopened while proper social distancing is maintained.
 Warnings will be posted stating that un-vaccinated persons should wear masks and take proper precautions. Non-compliance is at personal risk and liability.
10. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
11. Graduate recognition will take place during the June 13<sup>th</sup> worship service.
12. A renewal of the Interim Pastor contract (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) for Rev. Glenn Coleman was approved by the Session.



**Upcoming :**

**Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

**Deacons** - Tuesday, June 15 at 6:00 pm. Don't usually meet in June

**Session** - Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church  
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