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Presbyterian REPORTER

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A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

It's only the first day of August, but already there are signs that summer is quickly coming to a close. School bands and athletic teams are back at practice. Teachers are preparing their classrooms for the new year. Several of our youth are gearing up for their final year of high school and several others are preparing for their first year of college.

The church has been quieter during July, but our ministry together has not slowed down. We have been serving more than 700 children weekly through the Summer Lunch Box Program and collecting badly needed hygiene items for guests of the Union Rescue Mission. A handful of our members, together with others from the community, journeyed to South Dakota to provide a summer learning camp for children of the Ihanktonwan tribe.

Our learning and fellowship has continued with two milestone recognitions: the Caregiver Milestone on July 15th and the Communion Milestone this Sunday, August 5th at 8:30am, as well as our First Sunday Fellowship after worship and an intensive bible study, led by Hans Killius. Later this month, the Young Adults and Midrifters will gather for a picnic and concert at Constitution Park and the Youth and their families will have a Back to School cookout at the Fiscus's.

We, too, at the church have been gearing up for a new year. Our service at the Outreach Dinner meal resumes on August 26th, moving from the HRDC on Virginia Avenue to St. John's Lutheran Church on Arch Street, just a few blocks away. We will be offering an orientation for new folks and a time to hear from regular participants about their experience. Look for upcoming announcements.

Summer officially ends with the resumption of 11:00am worship on September 9th at Rocky Gap, followed by a potluck picnic lunch. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the start of a new year.

For the fall, we are planning a second book study related to systematic racism and a new class that I will teach on basic Christian doctrine. In addition, Cheri Duncan (and others) will be teaching a Sunday school class for our early elementary school children.

But lest we get ahead of ourselves, enjoy the blessings that summer still has to offer – sweet corn and tomatoes, cold brewed coffee, long days of warmth and light, time at the beach or the pool, evenings on the front porch, the smell of freshly cut grass, time with family. Above all remember to give thanks to the one who makes them all possible, whose work never ends, and who walks with us, season to season, year in and year out.

Faithfully, Caroline M. Kelley

Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Heritage Room at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2018 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the 2018 year to date Membership Record as of June 20, 2018.
- Approved year to date financials as of May 30, 2018.
- Approved the use of the church parking lot for a Dakota Learning Camp fundraiser the weekend of June 11-12, *nunc pro tunc*.
- Approved the invitation to the Rev. Ann Atkins to preach and preside at communion during worship on Sunday, July 1, 2018 and to Rev. Rebecca Vardiman to preach during worship on Sunday July 8, 2018.
- Approved the establishment of a church safety plan task force consisting of Jeff Getty, David Stickler and Zach Dodge.
- Approved the creation of a host committee for September Presbytery Gathering to be appointed to Rev. Kelly.

In addition the Session heard:

- An annual report of the Learning Tree Nursery School from Nadene Stroup. Learning Tree will be starting its 40th year. The pre-school is in session from Labor Day until Memorial Day and operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It has classes for 2 year-olds, 3 year-olds and 4 year-olds, with their vision being to teach children classroom behavior and socialization. This year, for the first time, Learning Tree is conducting two summer camps for the children. The camps will each last one week, and will be held from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Nadene expressed the Learning Tree's appreciation for the church's ongoing support.
- A report from Pam Jan that the Mission Committee is undertaking the collection of supplies for hygiene kits for those in need in our community and globally. Locally the kits are being supplied to the Union Rescue Mission.
- A report from David Stickler of Worship and Music Committee that Sharon Kazary has volunteered to serve as coordinator of ushers and plans to seek ushers by email scheduling, which is similar to the process for scheduling of liturgists.
- A report from Shirley Giarritta of the Buildings and Grounds Committee that the LED lighting project will be completed within a week.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

FPC Welcomes New Member Beau Hartman

During worship on Sunday, July 29th, FPC welcomed Olivia "Beau" Hartman as a new member!

Save the Date

First Presbyterian church is hosting the 880th Gathering of the Presbytery of Baltimore on Thursday, September 13, 2018. During worship, Rev. Kelly will be installed as the new Presbytery Moderator, and the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in D.C., will preach. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! If you can help direct parking or serve as a greeter, please let Brittany Jackson know at firstpresbyteriansecretary.org.

Summer Planning List

Does your summer planning list include sun screen, sunglasses, and your Sunday pledge?

God gives us beautiful summer days, but even then God's people and God's church need our support through pledged giving. As of July 29, our year-to-date budgeted offerings were $119,688.96, while pledged offerings received were $115,247.76.

With your thoughtfulness, we should be able to finish the summer on track.

Thank you for supporting the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Church Office Notice

The Church office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Midrifters and Young Adult Group

Join the Midrifters and Young Adults on Sunday, August 19th at Constitution Park beginning at 6:00PM. We will fellowship and picnic from 6-7:30PM, then enjoy the tunes at the Shanty Irish band starting at 7:30PM! There is no charge for the concert. Please bring your own food and a blanket to sit on. We will picnic somewhere close to the stage where the band will play.

Come young (and not so young) to our Communion Milestones Ministry Event!

Join us this Sunday, August 5, 2018 for a Milestones Ministry Event focused on the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We'll start at 8:30AM with breakfast (in lieu of our after worship fellowship hour) and then reflect on the meaning and practice of communion. We will share communion later during worship. We will provide drinks, plates, and utensils. Please feel free to bring a simple breakfast food to share. Activities will include grape stomping, making bread, devotions, caring conversations, blessing, and prayer. Please be sure to wear something that will not be ruined by the grapes! Please RSVP to Brittany Jackson at firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com and bring a breakfast item to share. We will provide drinks.

We will offer prayers and blessings for students and teachers of all ages during worship on Sunday, August 26, in preparation for the start of a new school year.

Our Help is Needed!

The Union Rescue Mission provides a safe shelter, three hot meals per day, clothing, hygiene items, diapers, formula and other necessities to those in need in our community.

They are currently in dire need of:

Tampons
Baby wipes
Diapers, size 4 – 6
Soap bars, bath size
Shampoo, regular size
Conditioner, regular size
Deodorant, women's & men's

Goal: 100 Packs
When: July through September
What: Donations of individual items
Where: Please place items in the marked donation box located in the foyer.

HELP IS NEEDED TO DELIVER DONATIONS TO THE UNION RESCUE MISSION

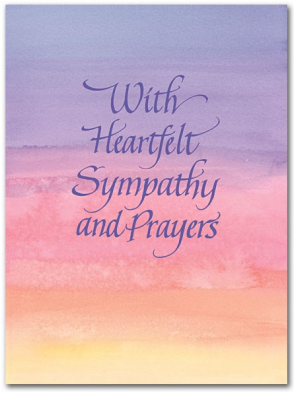
We are in need of people to sign up to deliver the donations to the mission. We plan to deliver the items twice a month. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer beside the donation boxes.

Summer Lunchbox 2018 Help Needed for Final Two Weeks!

Calling all sandwich makers and lunch packers to come join us for our final two weeks of the season. Please plan to join us this Friday, August 3rd and next Friday, August 10th in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – noon. We welcome all helpers. Please sign up on the sheets in the side hallway at church or call Cathy Levitas at 301-707-7386 for more information.

Joys and Concern

Norma Sterne	5-Aug
Joan Ralston	7-Aug
Bob Salathe	8-Aug
Eric Ringler	9-Aug
Nancy Hosken	16-Aug
Pam Griffith	19-Aug
Ann Rebuck	22-Aug
Agnes Yount	24-Aug
Jane Belt	30-Aug



Prayers and sympathy to the family of former member, Jeannine Clark, upon her death on Thursday June 7, 2018.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

August

Address Service Requested

Like us on Facebook!
http://wwwfacebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland

Worship with Us

Our Fall Kickoff has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 9th, at Rocky Gap State Park**. The kickoff will be held in the Lakeview Shelter starting with worship at 11AM. We will welcome Rev. Walt Peters as our guest preacher. The service will be followed by a congregational picnic. Please mark your calendars! If you have any questions or if you would like to see how you can help, contact Cathy Levitas, Laura Fiscus, or Josh Gilhart.