



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 59, Issue 5, June-July 2019

A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Not that many weeks ago, shortly after Easter, I left Reno, NV, where I'd lived for nearly four years, and was now driving across the country. A 26 foot U-Haul truck, towing a flat-bed auto carrier on which rested Mr. Rhett, my 2007 red, five-in-the-floor Toyota Solara ("Red" Rhett, as I call my car). Although I've driven rented trucks many times (having four daughters, all of whom attended college, means that daddy is called on to help them move. . . . a lot!), this was the first time what I was driving slowed to a crawling 35 mph on the interstate, as I drove up and across a number of mountain ranges.

This trip was made even more interesting thanks to my driving buddy, my little gray cat, Mr. Jazz. Cats are not known for enjoying car rides, much less a trip across country in the cab of a truck. A lot of the trip he disappeared underneath the seats and would emerge when I'd stop for gas or for a break, blinking a bit in the sunlight. After about three days he'd spend more time stretched out on the pillow I put on the passenger seat for him. He actually became a pretty good traveler, all things considered.

After six days of driving, I was very glad to get to Cumberland and was ecstatic to see GREEN EVERYWHERE!!!! I had become so used to seeing brown everywhere. I had forgotten just how much I missed seeing green. Now that I've been here going on a month and a half, I've discovered that not only is this a beautiful area, but there is so much culture and history here! PLUS a strong emphasis on the arts!

But above all, as wonderful as all these things are, there's you, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland, MD. You are very special people, not just because you welcomed me so wonderfully, but because of your outstanding work for the Lord here in western Maryland. Your committees, session and church groups all work extremely well, being on top of things in really good ways. You respect one another and work very well with each other. You give very well to your church and to many, many missions, both global and in this local area.

Yes, I do know that this area has changed a great deal over the past twenty/twenty-five years. In the coming months we will need to work together to think through what these changes mean for First Presbyterian, and what you all believe and discern the Lord is saying to us, as His people to do here. This is a huge task, but I am very excited to work with you on this.

The honest truth is that I realize I am very privileged and very fortunate to have been called to serve you as your Interim Pastor at this point in your life as a church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I give thanks to the lord for his blessings, both to me and to you His people in this place.

(A Note from Our Interim Pastor continues on page 2.)

(A Note from Our Interim Pastor continued from page 1.)

I look forward to getting to know you better! Please feel free to come by and see me. (you don't have to make an appointment--I'm usually in the office by mid to late morning, Tuesday thru Friday, and there until around 2 to 3 PM when I sometimes go out on calls and errands. If it's more convenient for you to come by in the afternoon, just let me know and I'll be in my office for you). Also feel free to simply call and chat with me! I'm happy to come to your place for a chat as well. I'll even bring a snack, because I've recently discovered Caprole's (Italian--4 generations and going strong!) Bakery here in Cumberland!

And feel free to check out my Facebook page (Jim Young, Cumberland, MD), where you can find pictures of yours truly along with pictures of my four daughters and other family members!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the library of the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Dr. James R. M. Young served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the 2019 year to date Membership Record as of May 15, 2019.
- Approved, with regret, the resignation of Agnes Yount from the Session to give her more time to care for a family member.
- Approved a motion to incorporate both the traditional and ecumenical versions of the Lord's Prayer on a monthly rotating basis.
- Approved the proposal of the Building and Grounds Committee to begin the construction of renovations to the Gathering Space without committing at this point to purchase the furnishings until the full extent of the work on the Sanctuary leaks is verified.

In addition the Session heard:

- From the Faith Formation Committee that 20 people attended the Graduation Milestone held on May 10, 2019 at the Kellermeyer's home, with two of our four graduating seniors present.
- From the Administration and Finance Committee that direct deposit for church employees is nearly ready to implement and that the e-giving software is operational and is being used by some congregation members.
- From Gary Hendrickson that the plan to upgrade the remote door release and install a security camera has been placed on hold in order to evaluate alternatives as the contractor, TWR, increased their original cost estimate from \$2,140.00 to \$3,175.00.
- From Laura Fiscus that Cheri Duncan is starting a group for meditation and will begin in June.
- From Rev. Young that he is now unpacked and settling in to his interim pastorate and making it his goal to meet each elder personally.

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

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE GIFT OF 70 1/2 YEARS?

For several years now, persons aged 70 1/2 or older who must receive taxable required minimum distributions from their traditional IRAs have had a possible advantage on federal taxes. If the taxpayer chooses to have a portion of the required amount sent directly to a church or charity, the taxpayer's federal income is reduced by that amount. The amount does not count as an itemized deduction but may help reduce Medicare Part B premiums.

Federal tax law now provides a standard deduction of \$12,000 for single persons and \$24,000 for married persons. Many persons will no longer itemize on the federal return. When doing taxes this year, many taxpayers realized that their Maryland taxes are now different. However, Maryland tax law has not changed. The law has been that if a taxpayer did not itemize deductions on the federal return, he/she is not allowed to itemize on the state return. Ouch!

However, Maryland tax returns still accept as the income amount the amount of income shown on the federal return. So, if you made what is called a qualified charitable distribution, your federal income and Maryland income and Maryland taxes will be less. The requirements are that for 2019 taxes, the distribution must be made in 2019, received by the church or charity in 2019, and must be less than \$100,000. Most of us can meet those requirements, right?

Persons often choose to make the qualified charitable distribution in November or December. If you've already been giving your 2019 offering to the church, simply ask the Administration & Finance Committee to classify the check from your investment account as a 2020 offering. This is easily done, and your offering will be used by the church in 2020.



Prayers and sympathy to family of Irene Kuykendall upon her death on Friday, May 24, 2019.



June

Kathy Dowell	8-Jun
Ben Fiscus	16-Jun
Judie Brown	17-Jun
Shirley Giarritta	18-Jun
Bonnie Martin	23-Jun
Sean Aurigemma	25-Jun
Carolyn Mathews	25-Jun
Miranda Forbes	26-Jun
Jeff Getty	26-Jun
Dave Corley	28-Jun
Julie Courtney	30-Jun
Jim Gill	30-Jun

July

Garrett Corley	4-Jul
Polly Eyler	4-Jul
Bill McElvie	4-Jul
Margaret Hartsock	14-Jul
Bob Martin	14-Jul
Caroline Kelly	17-Jul
Bill Shaffer	20-Jul
Kay Rudd	24-Jul
Elena Corley	25-Jul
Sylvia Kellermeyer	25-Jul
Brennan Kellermeyer	31-Jul



Like us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUMMER LUNCHBOX PROGRAM



Tick, tock, tick, tock...the school year is winding down and summer is approaching. It's time to start thinking about the 2019 Summer Lunchbox season. We will again be making and delivering lunches or eight Fridays this summer -- beginning Friday, June 21 and running through Friday, August 9.

Please plan to join us for any or all Friday mornings this summer. We welcome all helpers. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks, or contact Cathy Levitas with any questions.



Congratulations to Benji Bryan, who graduated from Allegany High School on May 22, 2019. He will be furthering his studies at the University of Maryland in the fall.

Congratulations to Matt DiNola, who graduated from Bishop Walsh High School on May 24, 2019. He will be furthering his studies at Loyola University in the fall.

Congratulations to Tim Sterne, who graduated from Allegany High School on May 24, 2019. He will be furthering his studies at Allegany College of Maryland in the fall.

Congratulations to Jack Taube, who graduated from Allegany High School on May 22, 2019. He will be furthering his studies at the University of Maryland in the fall.

THANK YOU

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for my "college survival" bag. It's hard to believe that I will be gone soon, but I leave with many great memories of my time spent with all of you.

From youth group activities, mission trips, traveling to South Dakota, helping Joe Aurigemma with sound, and riding in Phil Mill's cool car, I always felt accepted and at home at First Presbyterian. That meant a lot to me.

I'm excited about what's ahead for me at the University of Maryland and beyond, but a little sad too. No matter what, I will always remember my time spent at First Presbyterian with a smile.

Thanks so much,
Jack Taube

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR MOVIE NIGHT!



**Sunday, June 30th at 5:30 PM
In the Heritage Room**

Pizza and refreshments will be provided!

GUIDED MEDITATION GROUP HAS BEGUN AT FPC!



In response to the interest indicated on the Wellness Assessment earlier this year, Cheri Duncan will be leading a guided meditation group **on June 24 at 5:00 PM in the Parlor**. The group plans to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. If you're interested in participating in this group and would like further information, please contact to Laura Fiscus, Josh Gilhart, or Cheri Duncan to discuss the group.



The Congregational Care and Outreach Committee would like to offer congregation members the opportunity to go see the performance of *Jesus* at Sight and Sound Theater. Since this show ends in October, it would probably be a Saturday trip in either August or September. Tickets will be about \$120-140 including transportation and a meal (these prices are just an estimate). Family and friends are welcome. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Joshua Gilhart (240-920-9395). Once the committee has an idea of how many people would like to go, a date and more details about pricing will be provided. At this point you do not need to make a commitment to attend, we are just trying to find out who would be interested. Thank you!

LEARN & GROW

JOIN THE LADIES FOR GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE!

Gathering around the Table Ladies Lunch will be held on Tuesdays, July 9 and August 13 from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM. Our gatherings will be in a relaxed format where everyone considers a Bible verse, listens to a short devotion/discussion on the theme and then takes turn answering four questions while we enjoy a simple meal. The Bible verse, theme and questions come from IfGathering.com under the If Table section. We currently meet at the home of Julie Courtney, 209 Fayette Street. Contact Julie Courtney at 301-707-2037 with any questions and to RSVP.

If Tuesdays don't work and you would like to attend, let Julie know if a Thursday evening or Saturday brunch would be preferred. There's room at the table



WELLNESS NEWS "Build Resilience"

When faced with stressful or traumatic situations, how do you cope? You may search for inner strength to help you get through. That inner strength is called Resilience, and it's a skill every person has the potential to build.

Resilience helps you bounce back from difficult experiences and emotional distress. Because people grow differently, your path to building resilience is unique. Look at the following areas in your life and find where you might have room to grow.

- **Connect with family, friends, and neighbors.**
 - ◊ Giving and accepting support from others can strengthen your resilience.
- **Focus on small steps.**
 - ◊ Don't obsess over big problems beyond your control. Do something small to build positive momentum.
- **Believe in yourself.**
 - ◊ Trust your instincts and your ability to solve problems when the pressure is on.
- **Accept change.**
 - ◊ Allow yourself to accept the way things evolve. Letting go of the past can be painful, but doing so is an important part of moving forward.
- **Stay positive.**
 - ◊ Train yourself to focus on what's going right instead of what's going wrong. An optimistic outlook helps you find hope and stay strong during stressful events.
- **Take care of yourself.**
 - ◊ Resilience requires a strong body and mind. Stay fit and manage your stress with the help of physical and mental endurance during difficult times. Go for a walk, stretch, or practice meditating to build resilience. YOU CAN DO IT!

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9



During worship on Sunday, May 12th we recognized our high school seniors: Benji Bryan, Matt DiNola, Tim Sterne and Jack Taube.

COMMUNION INFORMATION

Did you know that ordained elders aren't the only folks who can serve communion. According to the new Directory for Worship, "Ordinarily ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament serve the bread and cup; the session may authorize other church members to do so." (W-3.0414 Communion). Even if you've never been an elder, you can still be a communion server, and we can provide the training. Consider saying yes to this opportunity if someone from the Worship and Music Committee calls you to ask.

NEW FORMAT FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

In the interest of personal privacy, the way that Joys and Concerns are expressed during worship services will change. Members and guests will now have the opportunity to write personal prayers on colored cards available in the pews, and indicate if the prayer is confidential. Ushers will collect prayer cards separately during the offering and present them to the pastor. After reviewing the cards, the pastor will incorporate individual prayers, where appropriate, with other pastoral prayers. In this way, we will continue to hold each other up in prayer, while being sensitive to privacy issues.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

June-July

Address Service Requested



**Please note that the Church Office will be CLOSED
on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.**