



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

Volume 59, Issue 8 November 2019

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Heritage Room of the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2019 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Dr. James 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 October 16, 2019.
- Approved the year to date financials as of September 30, 2019.
- Approved the request of Worship and Music Committee to have two communion services on Christmas Eve 2019 at 7:45 PM and 11:00 PM.
- Approved the 2020 scheduled communion services.
- Approved hosting a violin recital for Wesley Mason with a free will offering on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. with Bryan Lohr as accompanist.
- Approved a free will offering to be taken during church on October 27th to go toward purchasing car seats for Pressley Ridge consumers.

In addition the Session heard:

- From the Faith Formation Committee that the Hanging of the Greens will be on Thursday evening, December 5, 2019 to begin with dinner, blessing the Christmas tree and caroling at the Kensington.
- From Gary Hendrickson that the Gathering Space renovations should be completed by the week of October 20th and the "half pews" are currently under construction.
- From the Worship and Music Committee that there will be training on November 3rd for serving communion, which is also a communion Sunday.
- The Pastor's Report, which included the information gathered from the congregation during the Historical Remembrance event. This was referred to the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the New Beginnings program and its relevance to the pastoral search process, in light of concerns over the completeness of the data collected.

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

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Matt DiNola	2-Nov
Bob Dawson	8-Nov
Sheri Corley	9-Nov
Kelsey Parker	9-Nov
Louise VanMeter	11-Nov
Shirley Lacy	12-Nov
Jack Workmeister	12-Nov
Christopher Fritz	13-Nov
Randy Sterne	15-Nov
Haris Medina-Guess	15-Nov
Cheri Duncan	17-Nov
Kathy Getty	18-Nov
Kim Mills	21-Nov
Marilyn Nelson	21-Nov
Jane O'Rourke	29-Nov

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FOR CONSECRATION SUNDAY

For Where your Treasure Is,



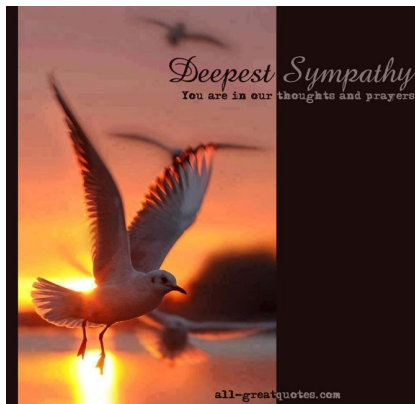
There Your Heart Will Be Also.

MATTHEW 6:21

Next Sunday, November 10th, we will consecrate our financial pledges for 2020 and give thanks for all that God makes possible through the ministry of this congregation. We hope that you will join us for this special service.



Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th, and Friday, November 29th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Sympathy and prayers to Kathy Dowell and family on the death of Kathy's mother, Clara McCall, on Wednesday, October 9th.



Dear members and friends,

Thank you for all your support during the past three years and for the many beautiful sympathy cards. My mom is finally at peace.

Kathy Dowell



WELLNESS NEWS

HEALTH INFORMATION

If you are interested in health information from the Western Maryland Health System, please contact Cheri Duncan.

\$100 QUARTERLY BONUS

First Presbyterian Church was the \$100 winner of the quarterly Wellness drawing at WMHS!

If you have any suggestions as to how we could put this money to use for Wellness, please contact Cheri Duncan, Josh Gilhart, or Laura Fiscus.

GRATITUDE CHALLENGE

November is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, the holiday that reminds us to be grateful for our many blessings.

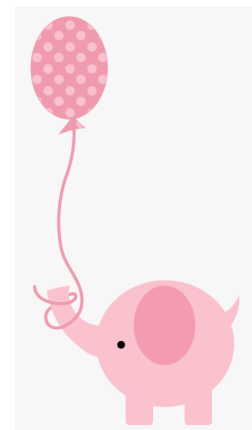
Take the Wellness Challenge this month and spend intentional time doing affirmations each day for the month of November.

If you Google "Christian gratitude affirmations," you will find a wellspring of Youtube videos from which to choose. Or . . . write your own!

BABY SHOWER FOR ZACH, MIKAYLA & ARIA DODGE



The sanctuary choir will be hosting a baby shower for Mikayla and Zach Dodge on **Sunday, December 1st** immediately following the worship service. All members of the congregation are invited. Since this will fall on First Sunday Food & Fellowship, the Congregational Care & Outreach Committee will be helping us serve lunch. Members may bring gifts or cards if they desire. Items that are needed and would be appreciated are blankets, wipes, disposable diapers (0-3 month size) and age appropriate toys. Aria will be right around four months old on December 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Hodges.



PRESSLEY RIDGE BABY SHOWER

The Donation Drive to benefit the newborns and toddlers of the Homebuilder's Program of Pressley Ridge culminated in a Baby Shower on Friday, October 25th. We looked with great anticipation to this event, one year after initially partnering with Pressley Ridge, by showing the Girl Rising film in the fall of 2018!

The event began with the tradition of a game. We played "Who am I?" Each person had taped to their back the name of a child actor or fictitious character. The goal was to figure out whose name was on your own back by asking questions with a 'yes' or 'no' answer. We guessed them all – Shirley Temple, Macaulay Culkin, Michael Jackson, Tempest Bledsoe, Pinocchio, SpongeBob SquarePants, Charlotte the spider from Charlotte's Web; and Mickey Mouse.

Georgene Mckenzie, Linda Smith, Julie Courtney and Cheri Duncan shared First Presbyterian's global and local mission with Pressley Ridge.

Mary Beth, Wendy, Amy, and Vanessa then told how Pressley Ridge began in 1832 in Pittsburgh as two separate orphanages, one on "Pressley St." and the other on "Ridge St.," the two merging to become the current organization. Pressley Ridge operates in six states: MD, PA, VA, WV, OH, DE, as well as in Portugal and Hungary. In Maryland, the organization is active in Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties. There are four programs in Maryland:

- Therapeutic Foster Care: Loving, safe homes that currently house 15 children.
- Outpatient Mental Health: Individual and family therapy and psychiatry for children and adolescents.
- Juvenile Diversion Program: A prevention program to keep kids out of juvenile services.
- Homebuilder's Program: A family preservation program for babies born addicted to substances, keeping newborns with their families, and transitioning them home safely. The Homebuilder's Program teaches parenting and coping skills and relapse prevention and advocates against stigma. They teach about how to become a family and how to maintain family support. All of this is done in 40 hours of therapy in one month's time – Homebuilder's serves two families at a time. It is an evidence-based program with 96% of children remaining with their families after 6 months. The program is supported by county, state, and federal grants.

First Presbyterian presented the gifts to Pressley Ridge staff. An envelope was also given with a copy of St. Paul's Lutheran Church's check for \$500 to be used for the purchase of strollers. The afternoon ended with cake, fruit salad and drinks and a photo to memorialize the event. It was expressed to Pressley Ridge staff that others from the congregation had wanted to attend, but were unable.

Thank you and deep appreciation goes to Judy Stern, Kristina Hall, and Jan Layman who planned and organized this mission project; to Brittany Jackson for her help with the coordination; to Zach Dodge for the set-up; to Georgene, Linda, and Julie who participated in the Baby Shower set-up, clean-up and conversation; to the Mission Committee and Session for their support; and to the entire congregation for their generous contribution of gifts and monies. The families with whom Pressley Ridge works will be blessed because of all of you!!

First Presbyterian Church
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We Thank God For:

November

Address Service Requested

