



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

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A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

September has become the time when school begins again. It's also a time for fall events at colleges, universities. . . and churches! As part of the resumption of church activities, especially educational activities, I'm teaching a course on the Bible on Thursdays from 5:30 to about 6:20 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Big whoop. The preacher is going to do a course on the bible.

Ah! But this is NOT like most such offerings. You see, I want to share some learnings about the scriptures that have become intensely fascinating to me, namely how the scriptures came to be, who wrote them, why these writers wrote what they did, and what was going on in and around their town and cities when they wrote what they did, thus prompting them in some way to write what they did.

I begin with mechanics. That is, the means of communication the writers used. And immediately we collide with a wall, namely they didn't use paper and ink like we do. And, for the New Testament, they didn't use scrolls either (that was SO yesterday for them!). What did they use? And just where are the writings now? Locked away in some vault in the Vatican? Can we see them? And, above all, just how reliable are these pieces of writing that we have? How do we know they told the truth?

Gradually working our way around this wall, we find ourselves entering a room that seems familiar yet. . . um. . . odd. There are things in here that . . . well. . . are. . . different, I guess would be a good word. We've entered the room of Christian writings in the first two to three hundred years (95 to 300 AD). And believe you me, there's a lot more than just what's in the New Testament! You may have heard of some of these writings, like the Gospel of Thomas or The Gospel of Judas. There are actually around 27 different gospels, plus a whole bunch of other stuff. We're going to read/examine some of these. I will have copies available for you to take home and read, and see for yourself what is really in these so-called 'banned' writings. And rest easy: they're short, like four to eight pages at most.

From that room we move into a huge courtyard at the center, known as the Canon, the New Testament (and the bible as a whole) as we know it. We'll look around and see if we can figure out why this huge courtyard looks as it does, that is, dealing with why and what writings were excluded, and why and what writings were included. From here we'll begin touring the main rooms leading off from this, spending time with each of the four gospels and, if we have time available, the writings of Paul and others.

This is fun and exciting stuff! I do hope you will stop by for a time or two and have fun with me!

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW
CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS



Monday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Tuesday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Wednesday 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM



On **Saturday, October 26th**, the Building & Grounds Committee invites you to come out and help clean up the church from **9:00AM-12:00PM**. The tasks to be performed are removing the AC units, cleaning and organizing the kitchen, repainting the hand-capped bench (in the parking lot), and outside work on the front of the church, the rear bank, and the rear wall. We need and greatly appreciate your help!

SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Heritage Room of the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Dr. James Young served as Moderator. Ann Kellermeyer served as Clerk *pro temp*.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the 2019 year to date Membership Record as of September 18, 2019.
- Approved the year to date financials as of August 31, 2019.
- Approved the electronic vote of Session to authorize the Buildings and Grounds Committee to proceed with the reconstruction and placement in the Gathering Space of the stained-glass window found in the basement at a cost of \$2,000.00 with permission to ask for donations to cover the cost.
- Approved Kristina Hall to be received as a new member of First Presbyterian Church.

In addition the Session heard:

- Faith Formation Committee announced that Rev. Young will be conducting an adult class to meet at 5:30 PM on Thursdays titled "The Bible, especially the New Testament: Why, Where and How Did It Come To Be" and "What's Really In It."
- Building and Grounds Committee reported that the Gathering Space will not be completed until the fire doors are installed which will take approximately two to three weeks.
- Gary Hendrickson reported on the mission trip to New Bern, North Carolina to assist in the disaster relief for homes damaged by last year's hurricane. Nine people from the church including Rev. Young went and worked to restore the house of a couple who have been living in a FEMA trailer for a year.
- Rev. Young suggested that an Ad Hoc Team be elected to renew our New Beginnings report of 2013 to make recommendations to Session about what elements of the report has been accomplished and what remains undone. Jeff Getty, Josh Gilhart and Cathy Levitas volunteered for the team. Other members of the congregation were suggested. Anyone interested can contact Jeff Getty.

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

CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Matthew 6:19-21 – Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and

steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Every day we are all faced with numerous decisions on how to spend our time, energy, and money. We are confronted with choices and conflicts on how to divide those resources. It is quite easy to find a person’s interests and passions based on where they decide to devote their resources. We value entertainment so we have TV subscriptions and purchase concert tickets. We value creativity so we spend money and time on our artwork, music, or woodwork. We value our family so we devote our time and resources to one another. The things we spend our “treasures” on is where you will most often find our hearts. In this verse, Jesus is getting us to consider where we find our hearts. Do we find them in material possessions, status, self-fulfillment? Or do we find them in God?

When we share our resources with the church, we are sharing our heart with the church. By making a pledge during this Stewardship season, we are giving the church the tools to plan and carry out God’s will for the church. The Stewardship Committee would like to challenge you to consider what is in your heart and follow the journey of tithing by increasing your pledge.

We thank you for your past giving and ask that you again prayerfully reflect on the financial support that you may provide in 2020. Your pledges represent the largest component of the church’s budget. With your support we can plan our priorities for both our ministry and mission.

As we are in the midst of a pastoral transition, we have a new opportunity to explore the future of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. Not only are there numerous mission, fellowship, and worship activities in which we already engage, there are innumerable opportunities to grow our mission, fellowship, and worship in the coming months and years, opportunities we have not even considered yet. Your tithes and offerings allow our church to continue the good work God has encouraged us to pursue as well as begin new good works, good works that you may be pondering in your heart.

STEWARDSHIP FALL FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Dear Friends:

This year’s Stewardship luncheons are taking shape as we plan for the opportunity to break bread with other members, learn more about our Church’s financial health and the role your giving will play in constructing the 2020 budget. The host will provide the main course, and you are asked to bring side dishes, bread, beverages or desserts.

Those who have agreed to host dinners and their dinner dates are as follows:

Sunday, October 20th: Jane Belt and Sandra Burton after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 27th: Cindy Corley and Kathy Getty after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Please complete your luncheon reservation below and include it in the offering plate or give it to Brittany Jackson in the church office.

Name: _____

I/We would like to attend the luncheon on:

Sunday, October 20th: _____

Sunday, October 27th: _____

I will bring: _____

NURTURE

LEARN AND GROW



Debbie Wodaski	1-Oct
Sandi Rowland	4-Oct
Rick Bissell	7-Oct
Josh Gilhart	7-Oct
Bill Courtney	15-Oct
Miranda Kellermeyer	15-Oct
Bob Courtney	19-Oct
Charlene Lelinski	20-Oct
Carlotta Shaffer	24-Oct
Nadene Stroup	24-Oct
Susan Wilson	24-Oct
Sandy Fritz	25-Oct
Sharon Squires	28-Oct
Stephen Weddle	29-Oct



A Memorial Service for Irene Kuykendall will be held at the church on Saturday, October 19th at 11:00 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS NEEDED

You are invited to support our commitment to children in our congregation by volunteering to serve for one Sunday this year as an assistant to our youngest learners Sunday School class. Please contact Julie Courtney or sign up on the white board, if you are interested in serving as a Sunday School Assistant. You do not need to do any lesson planning, just assist the Sunday School teacher.



MILESTONE MISSION FOLLOW-UP

Join us **Sunday, October 13th** after worship to hear from our South Dakota Learning Camp participants as well as our New Bern Mission Trip participants about their experiences in Marty, South Dakota and New Bern, North Carolina.

**MIND/BODY
SKILLS CLASSES**



Please join Pam Jan and Laura Fiscus for an 8-week course in Mind/Body Skills. Sessions will be held in the chapel every Tuesday through October 22nd. Learn how to manage stress and improve overall wellness using evidence-based techniques.

Baby Shower

to benefit newborns & toddlers of
Pressley Ridge is scheduled for:
Friday, October 25, 2019
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

To prepare for the baby shower, we are doing a Donation Drive. Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran have been invited to join us. The following is a list of items needed by Pressley Ridge:

Receiving blankets	Pacifiers	Dr. Brown's Bottles
Bottle brushes	Diapers; all sizes	Pull ups
Wipes	Premie socks	Onesies
Sensitivity (Orange container)	Desitin/Aquaphor	Bibs
Sensitive laundry detergent	Baby books	Baby teethers
Baby blankets	Baby monitors	Infant feeding/support pillows
Car seats		
Formula [Similac Total Comfort Easy to Digest (Purple Container) &/or Similac Sensitive Lactose]		

Do not wrap the items.

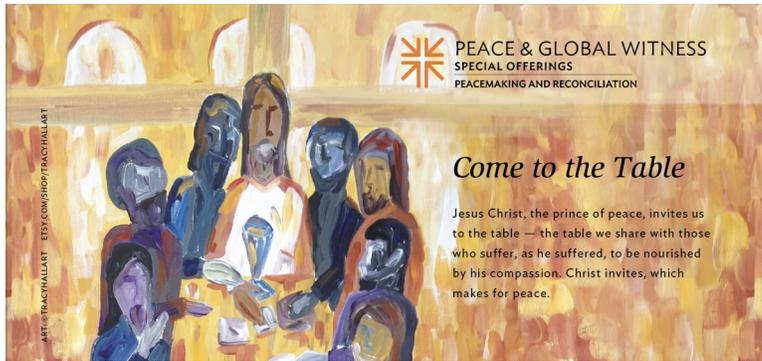
The Donation Drive will continue from now until Sunday, October 20, 2019.

The program within Pressley Ridge that the donation of these items will support is the Homebuilder's Program. This program works with two families at a time for 28 days. These families have newborns, are vulnerable and are at risk for foster care. They receive 40 hours of therapy. (This is comparable to 1 year of traditional treatment.) Parents learn parenting and coping skills, and have therapy for trauma and other mental health issues. Older children receive therapy for mental health and behavioral issues. At the end of the 28 days, referrals are given for ongoing treatment in the community. The Homebuilder's Program has been operating for 18 months. Statistics show that six months after case closure, 94% of children are still with their families. This program intervention is a highly effective resource for at-risk families in our community. The need is constant for these children.

This is our opportunity to make a real difference. As you prayerfully consider what your role will be in this local mission, know that whatever you give will be received with great appreciation. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

If you have any questions, see Cheri Duncan, Judy Stern, or Kristina Hall.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

It is that time of year when our congregation contributes to The Peace & Global Witness Special Offering. Here is some information about this offering, which is one of four special offerings of our denomination.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together, and provides us with exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict, provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace.

Our local portion of the monies collected will go to help support the Family Crisis Resource Center here in Cumberland. Mid-councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Please consider giving generously to this Offering on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 6, 2019.

WORSHIP WITH US



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is October 6th: The Worship and Music Committee plans to decorate the communion table with fabrics from around the world and serve breads from different cultures during communion. We invite you to join in the spirit of worldwide communion by dressing in apparel from another country or wearing an accessory that represents another culture. If you would like to lend fabrics to display, please tape your name on them and place in the volunteer office by October 3rd.

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

October

Address Service Requested

Too Toxic To Trash

Allegany County Recycling Collection Event
Dispose of household hazardous waste the RIGHT way

Allegany County Residents Only
Please be prepared with proof of residence.

WHEN Saturday, October 5, 2019
9 am - 2 pm Rain-or-Shine

WHERE Allegany County Fairgrounds
11490 Moss Avenue
Cumberland, MD

Questions? Call 301-777-5933x210 or Visit alleganygov.org/HHW

This event is made possible by the Allegany County Commissioners, Advanced Disposal, Chesapeake Bay Trust, City of Cumberland, City of Frostburg, Maryland Environmental Trust's Keep Maryland Beautiful, NEFCO, and Yuck Old Paint.