



# Presbyterian

## R E P O R T E R

Volume 59, Issue 6, September 2019

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUGGESTED TRANSITION TIME LINE

September 22	A time of Historical Remembrance (after worship)
September 19	Formation by Session of an Ad-Hoc team to review “New Beginnings” and to work through current needs and hopes
September 29	A time of Appreciative Inquiry (after worship)
October – December	Ad-Hoc team meets and does its work
January	Ad-Hoc team makes its report to Session and then to the congregation  Interim Pastor informs the Committee on Ministry of Baltimore Presbytery that the church is ready to form a Pastor Nominating Committee, and thus requests, on behalf of the Session, for permission to do so.
February	After COM grants permission, the congregation meets to form the PNC.
February/March -	The elected PNC begins its work
April	If elected in mid to late February, there’s a good probability that the initial phase of the PNC’s work, the completion of the Church Information Form, (i.e. the ‘paper-work’) can be completed by mid-April, that is, shortly before or after Easter (April 12).
May	The PNC receives its first set of pastor resumes, the Pastor Information Form, from CLC, Church Leaders in Connection, a part of the Office of the General Assembly. The PNC also will begin to receive ‘self-referred’ forms sent by pastors. The PNC works through all of these, ranking candidates, and eventually narrows the candidate list to three or four or five, and then sets up interviews with these final candidates, eventually recommending one to the congregation.

*(Suggested Transition Time Line continues on Page 2.)*

*(Suggested Transition Time Line continued from page 1.)*

The all-pervading question addressed to the PNC: when will it be recommending the final candidate to the congregation? This is answered only in God's good time. . . . the current Interim pastor can only suggest a possibility: based on his experience and observation of other congregations that have worked through this process, and based on his (admittedly limited) experience with this particular congregation, he does not believe it will take a long time to complete the CIF, and therefore this PNC will likely move with dispatch and care through the candidates. Unless something happens to delay this process, his informed opinion is that it is likely that the PNC will be able to recommend a new pastor by August or September. It may very well be sooner. And, of course, it may be later.

## JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the library of the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 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 June 19, 2019.
- Approved the payment of \$8,044.66 for Rev. Young's moving expenses.
- Approved the request of Congregational Care Committee to collect money to cover transportation and tickets to the Sight and Sound Theater.
- Approved the request of the Mission Committee to hold a chili cook-off to raise funds to purchase items for a baby shower in support of Pressley Ridge's clients.
- Approved the request of the Mission Committee that First Presbyterian together with Pressley Ridge host a baby shower for clients of Pressley Ridge.

In addition the Session heard:

- from Gary Hendrickson that the 2019 pledge contributions are greater than expected for the first five months. As of June 9, pledges were \$2,272.00 ahead of expected contributions and 2019 income is in reasonably good shape.
- from Shirley Giarrita that construction on the Library/Gathering Room renovations began on June 5 and the project continues on schedule for the construction progress.
- from Laura Fiscus that Cherie Duncan started a mediation group on Monday, June 10 with plans to meet every other week.
- from the Mission Committee that they are looking for greeters for the NAILS guests and trying to organize a meal for the visitors. The Art's council is sponsoring events to build on relationships with the Summer Lunchbox program at St. John's Lutheran Church and Metropolitan AME Church on Wednesdays each week.
- from Rev. Young that he is developing a timeline for our efforts to find a permanent replacement for the Pastor and will present it to Session at the August meeting.

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

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# CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the library of the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 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 August 14, 2019.
- Approved the Building and Grounds Committee request to schedule TWR to install the new TWR Security System with camera and remote door opening features at a cost of \$4,030.00 and to approve the payment to be made from the Emergency Capital Improvements funds of the First Presbyterian Church.
- Approval of a request from the Worship and Music Committee to allow joys to be shared from the floor by worship participants while prayer cards for concerns will be available and collected with the offering. Those cards not marked confidential will be read aloud by the pastor during the pastoral prayer. No names will be mentioned in joys and concerns.
- Approved the theme and calendar for the 2019 Stewardship Campaign after a presentation by Kathy Getty, campaign-chair.
- Approved the request of Buildings and Grounds Committee to a change order in the Gathering Space renovation for an additional \$2,445.00 to fund the cost of repairing the subfloor and remedying asbestos discovered in the old subfloor.
- Approved the request of Building and Ground Committee to purchase and install (3) three fire doors as required by the Fire Marshall's Office in the Gathering Space at a total cost of \$8,630.00.
- Approved the attached timeline prepared by Rev. Young for the process to complete a search for our new permanent pastor.

In addition the Session heard:

- Administration and Finance Committee reviewed the performance of the church's endowment which is managed by Sterling Advisors. For the first seven months of 2019 the fixed income was up 5.22% and equities were up 16.09% with the Total Portfolio up 11.09%. Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that Eastern Elevator has addressed and fixed the code violation cited by the State in its last inspection. The Case for the repairs was \$1,405.00.
- Congregational Care and Outreach Committee reported that the Mind/Body Skills class led by Laura Fiscus and Pam Jan will begin the Tuesday following Labor Day and they need eight people in order to hold the class. They are also looking for volunteers to assist with in-home communion.
- Mission Committee has decided not to put on the chili cook-off but is continuing its work on the Pressley Ridge baby shower. In the Summer Lunch Box Program our church provided 785 lunches per week.
- Worship and Music Committee reported the Fall Kickoff worship service will be at the Lakeside Pavilion on Pleasant Valley Road at Rocky Gap State Park on September 8th at 11:00 AM. The last Sunday of 10:00 AM worship will be Labor Day Sunday, September 1st.

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

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## CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Betty Lange	1-Sep
Tim Workmeister	8-Sep
Amy Workman	9-Sep
Rex Burton	10-Sep
Jim Mooney	11-Sep
Jim Williams	12-Sep
Kaitlyn Kauffman	13-Sep
Penny Campbell	14-Sep
Becca Medina-Guess	14-Sep
Robert Gamble	17-Sep
William Fritz	20-Sep
Mike Weddle	20-Sep
Ernie Casseday	21-Sep
Betty Luger	21-Sep
Elva Berry	22-Sep
Phil Nelson	24-Sep
Carol Morgan	25-Sep
Cindy Corley	30-Sep
Charlie Orlick	30-Sep



Sympathy and prayers to former member, Tom Horn, on the death of his son, Kurt Horn, on August 20<sup>th</sup> in an automobile accident. Cards may be sent to Tom at 6005 Madera Court, Plano Texas 75024.

### JOIN US FOR TWO CONGREGATION EVENTS AS WE BEGIN OUR TRANSITION PROCESS

#### A Time of Historical Remembrances:

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> following worship in the Fellowship Hall**

This two-hour congregational event focuses on what has occurred in the life of First Presbyterian Church over the years and decades. More than simply listing such things, participants share memories and what these say about our life together as a church and what's important to us. These are key elements to keep in mind as we move through our transition time.

#### A Time of Appreciative Inquiry:

**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> following worship in the Fellowship Hall**

This two-hour event provides an opportunity for us to share with one another what we like and really appreciate about First Presbyterian Church. Participants will 'interview' one another asking a series of questions such as 'what attracted you to our church', 'what are the particular characteristics of our congregation that are most valuable' and 'when we are at our best, how do we express God's love to others'? The responses will help everyone to perceive First Presbyterian's greatest strengths and what we want to build on as we move through this transition time.



Congratulations to Zach and Mikayla Dodge on the birth of their daughter, Aria Elan Dodge, on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:26 AM.

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# CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Matthews 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

If our treasures are put into the hands of God, our hearts will be with him and be settled on him.

What we put first in our lives matters. If we choose to put God first in our lives and in our giving, we can touch more people. As a church, we have experienced God doing more things through us this past year than ever before. We are just seeing the beginning of what God is going to do as we allow him to use us. Let's keep God first and see what God can do.

When we share our financial gifts with the church, we share in mutual love with God and each other through the Body of Christ, which is the church. Our hope is that we make pledges, so the church can plan for its future and that we consider increasing our pledges as a sign of our growing love for God and neighbor.

During this Stewardship season, we will explore our faith during two Congregational lunches, moments of reflection in worship, stewardship focused sermons and through the words found in letters from the Stewardship Committee.

### Congregational Lunches

As part of this year's stewardship season, we will invite our congregation to join us for a congregational luncheon where we can share the milestone of giving. You may choose to attend a lunch on October 22nd or October 27th after our worship service. The host will provide the main course and guests will supply the side dishes, bread, beverage or dessert. If you would be willing to host one of these lunches, please contact the church office.

### Reflections during Worship

During worship we will hear the stories of growth as experienced by members of the congregation. We will focus in the areas of Mission, Congregational Care, Facilities (Gathering Place) and our Journey toward finding a permanent pastor. The committee has identified some individuals that we think will have moving stories to share.

We hope you'll join us on this journey as we explore together how our faith shapes our lives as individuals and a congregation and how we use our time, our energy and our money.

Matthew 6:21-“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

--- Your Stewardship Campaign Committee





GATHERING PLACE RENOVATIONS



## NURTURE

### GUIDED MEDITATION GROUP

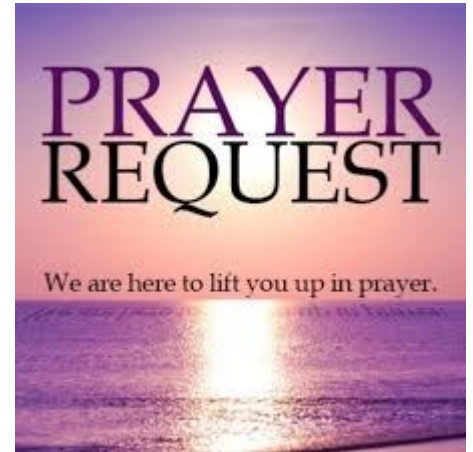


As the fall presents a hectic schedule, we are taking a break from our group meetings. We look forward to reconvening after Epiphany. In this time, may we all in our daily lives recall the presence of God, be conscious that the air we breathe is sacred, and practice relaxation for total body health & rejuvenation.

### MIND/BODY SKILLS CLASSES



Please join Pam Jan and Laura Fiscus for an 8-week course in Mind/Body Skills. It will be held from September 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'll meet in the chapel each Tuesday afternoon or evening (depending on the group's preference). Learn how to manage stress and improve overall wellness using evidence-based techniques.



If you have prayer requests that you would like to add to First Presbyterian Church's prayer chain, please contact the church office at 301-777-3700.



We will return to our Fall Worship Schedule with worship beginning at 11:00AM on Sunday, September 8th at our Fall Kickoff and Picnic.



Like us on Facebook!

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



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### UNION RESCUE MISSION ANNUAL DINNER

The Union Rescue Mission has invited us to attend their Night of Promise annual dinner where donors are given the opportunity to hear personal testimonies of those served and helped at the Mission, meet the staff and directors of the URM, and have an opportunity to sew back into the ministry via a silent auction as well as other donation opportunities. The dinner will take place on **Friday, October 4, 2019** at the **Allegany Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Building**. The auction and appetizers will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by a buffet dinner and program. First Presbyterian Church will be among the organizations that will be recognized for donations provided throughout the year. We would like to get eight people to attend the event and purchase a table at \$250.00. The cost per person to attend the dinner would be \$31.25. Please contact Aaron Hendrickson or Pam Jan, if you would like to attend this dinner.

### SUMMER LUNCHBOX PROGRAM



Thank you, thank you, thank you to the many church members, friends, and community volunteers who helped with the 2019 Summer Lunchbox local mission project which wrapped up on Friday, August 9th. Over the course of eight Fridays this summer we were able to provide 5,610 lunches to hungry and food insecure children in Cumberland. This was our 13<sup>th</sup> year of involvement in the SLB. Year after year our children need us, and year after year we continue to answer the call to help feed our youngest and most vulnerable neighbors. It truly takes a village, and we are blessed to be part of one that serves the Lord with gladness and many willing hands!

Your Summer Lunchbox Committee – Laura Fiscus, Deb and Gary Henderickson, Pam Jan, Cathy Levitas, and Nadene Stroup





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# 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.

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## WORSHIP WITH US

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### AN INVITATION FROM THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

The FPC Sanctuary Choir will begin its fall season on Wednesday, September 4th with an informal rehearsal at 7:30 PM in the choir room. The choir will begin singing again in worship on Sunday, September 15. The choir extends an invitation to any and all voices who would like to join us in making a joyful noise this year!

The choir will rehearse every Wednesday at 7:30 pm throughout the fall, and welcomes all ages, voice parts, and musical experience levels (including no experience!) For more information, please contact Bryan Lohr by email ([bryan@bryanlohr.com](mailto:bryan@bryanlohr.com)) or call (814) 442-4168.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER MUSICIANS

While the choir was on summer break, our worship at FPC was blessed and enriched from music shared by talented members and friends of the congregation. These include Julie Courtney, Mikayla and Zach Dodge, Beau Hartman, Gary Hendrickson, Nancy Hodges, Brenda Luger, Carolyn Mathews, Wesley Mason, Adam Pomeroy, Betty Richtmeyer, Eric Ringler, and Rev. Jim Young. Thank you all for sharing your gifts, time, and passion for music with us!



**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**

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First Presbyterian Church  
Eleven Washington Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

We Thank God For:

*September*

Address Service Requested

A promotional poster for a 'Fall Kick-Off' event. The background is a scenic photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a field with trees in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'JOIN US ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH!' in a black serif font. Below that, 'FALL KICK-OFF' is written in large, bold, white sans-serif capital letters. Underneath, 'WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:00AM' and 'FOLLOWED BY A PICNIC' are in a smaller black serif font. At the bottom, 'Rocky Gap State Park' and 'Lakeview Pavilion' are written in a white serif font.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>!**

**FALL KICK-OFF**

**WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:00AM**  
**FOLLOWED BY A PICNIC**

**Rocky Gap State Park**  
**Lakeview Pavilion**