

# June 2021



## First Presbyterian Church E-News

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### May-June Clerk's Report

With the increasing number of persons who have received vaccinations against COVID-19, there is a reawakening of activities within the church. This trend is highlighted by the return to in-church services. The Worship and Music Committee reports that our Pulpit has been filled with ministers from June 13 through Labor Day 2021. On June 13, June 20, June 27, July 4, July 11, August 8, August 15, August 22, August 29, and September 5, 2021, Rev. Dr. Walt Peters will occupy the Pulpit. On July 18, July 25, and August 1, 2021, Rev. Rebecca Vardiman will return to our Pulpit. The Session thanks Rev. Dr. Peters and Rev. Vardiman for their assistance while the Pastor Nominating Committee is in search of a new pastor.

Please be reminded that masking is neither required within the church nor for church sponsored activities, BUT anyone who has not been vaccinated, who has serious underlying conditions, or who feels uncomfortable should continue to wear masks at worship. Singing, gathering together holding hands and touching elbows will be deferred for further study by the Worship and Music committee. This follows the guidance set forth by the

CDC and Governor Hogan.

Worship and Music Committee reminds everyone that Worship begins at 10:00 AM in June, July, August, AND September 5, 2021. Worship will return to our 11:00 AM hour on September 12, 2021 with an outdoor worship service and a picnic, weather permitting, at Rocky Gap Park.

The Faith Formation Committee has scheduled a June 13, 2021 worship service to be held at rocky gap and will include worship, lunch, and a Milestone activity. Rev. Dr. Walt Peters has agreed to lead worship.

With Bryan Lohr resigning as the DMM, a music search committee was appointed by Session. The scope of this committee will be to find substitute organists/musicians starting on July 4, 2021, and to find a new Director of Music Ministries to be hired by the Session. The members of the search committee are: Julie Courtney, Mikayla Dodge, Nancy Hodges, Kathy Getty and David Stickler. Julie Courtney is chair of the search committee.

The Session approved the Congregational Care and Outreach motion that a luncheon/reception for Bryan Lohr in the Gathering Place and Parlor following the Sunday, June 27, 2021 service. A "Love Offering" is to be collected for Bryan Lohr from the congregation and is to be presented to him on Sunday, June 27, 2021. If donations are by check, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, ear marked "Love Offering".

Session approved Building and Grounds motion that the Senior High room in the basement be remodeled with new flooring, new ceiling tile and new paint and be dedicated as a space for the "Dakota Learning Camp Room" in memory of Janet Hendershot. Space will be utilized as a multipurpose conference room and the storage cabinets and closets will be used to consolidate the Learning Camp "Stuff" that is scattered throughout the building. Cost will be approximately \$4500 which is requested from the Capital Improvement Fund.

As actions demonstrate, First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland is slowly, methodically, and carefully returning to its status as a robust and active church before being inflicted by a state of near dormancy, which was imposed by COVID-19 throughout the past year.

David Stickler, Clerk

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## June-July Clerk's Report

With a waning of COVID-19, the First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland is returning to a more pre-COVID mode of operation. This return is reflected in two of motions. The motion from the Worship and Music Committee approves reverting to pre-COVID protocol for worship service and all activities at the Church with the guidance and advice from Dr. Michael Levitas. This would eliminate the requirement for social distancing and masks. Singing and holding hands in fellowship would be permitted. With respect for those who have not been vaccinated or with underlying medical

conditions within their family, we would encourage the use of Covid-19 masking protocols. Virtual live-streaming of church services will continue in this post Covid-19 protocol. A second motion affirms that social gathering after church service can resume. With these motions, there is a return to pre-COVID worship and church activities.

The communion scheduled for August 1, 2021 has been moved to August 8, 2021.

Josh Gilhart gave a brief report to session from the Pastor Nominating Committee. He stated that the search committee was busy and pursuing leads for the identification and selection of a new pastor. From the tenor of Josh's report, there seems to be a sense of optimism in the selection of a new pastor.

Julie Courtney, Chair of the Director of Music Ministry Search Committee, reported that the committee was actively seeking a pianist and/or organist through September. The Position Announcement for the Director of Music Ministry is currently being crafted and should be ready to distribute shortly. Judy Stern, Missions Committee, stated with regret that the Summer Lunchbox Program will not be available this summer.

From the above, it is apparent that pre-COVID life is slowly returning to a new normal.

David Stickler, Clerk

## Nurture

### Joys and Concerns



### June Birthdays

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 Birthdays

Garrett Corley 4-Jul  
Polly Eyler 4-Jul  
Bill McElvie 4-Jul  
Margaret Hartsock 14-Jul  
Bob Martin 14-Jul  
Bill Shaffer 20-Jul  
Elena Corley 25-Jul  
Sylvia Kellermeyer 25-Jul  
Brennan Kellermeyer 31-Jul



The Church office will be CLOSED on Thursday, July 1st in observance of the Fourth of July.

Learn and Grow



# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GOD KIND

Have you ever wondered how your ordinary life would change  
if you actually heard God talk to you?

Have you stood at a fork in the road and prayed

“God, which way should I go?”

Have you had a close encounter of the God kind?

JOIN US FOR OUR CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GOD KIND CHURCH  
RETREAT: Mark July 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and join us for a daytime retreat  
with storyteller, Katie Ross. Katie will present Joseph, the unsung hero of  
Jesus' life, then assume the role of the Virgin Mary to recount what it was  
like to be the mother of God's child as Jesus was growing up. Creating  
dramatizations based on scripture and biblical research, Katie uses her  
imagination and storytelling skills to bring the Biblical stories to life.

Joseph and Mary both encountered God's messengers, preparing them for  
an opportunity to truly have a close encounter with God through His son –  
and their son – Jesus.

Mary and Joseph said YES to God. Are we willing to do the same? Through  
discussion, fellowship, fun, artistic expression, movement, music and  
silence we can learn together and experience close encounters with God.

Saturday, July 24, will find us at the church from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a  
social time starting at 9:45 AM. You are welcome to invite a friend or family  
member to come with you. Lunch provided by the Faith Formation Team  
will come from Orchid Owl Catering. Your RSVP is needed by WED. JULY  
14, 2021.

Use the tear-off below to confirm your attendance and your lunch  
preference.

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PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BY JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch will be provided and include choice of sandwich on a fresh bakery  
roll, potato chips, fresh fruit, celery & carrot sticks and a dessert.

Choice of Sandwich (1 per person):

Turkey.....  
Ham and Cheese.....  
Italian Club.....  
Chicken Salad.....  
Cream Cheese & Veg. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Blessing of Reemergence

**On Sunday, June 13th we emerged from the cocoon of the pandemic for a day of worship and fellowship at Rocky Gap State Park for our Blessing of Reemergence Service.**







