

October 2020



First Presbyterian Church E-News

Connect with First Presbyterian Church

September Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met virtually at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 17, 2020 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. James Young served as Moderator. Jeff Getty served as Clerk.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the Amended Membership Records as of August 19, 2020 and approved the Membership Records as of September 16, 2020.
- Approved the recommendation from Building and Grounds Committee for funding up to \$46,000 from the Capital Improvement Account to replace windows and perform exterior painting on rear concrete block wall of the church.
- Approved the recommendation from Building and Grounds Committee for funding up to \$22,000 from the Capital Improvement Account to replace the church heating system and upgrade of controls.
- Approved Sharon Kazary to serve in the pulpit for worship services on September 27, 2020.

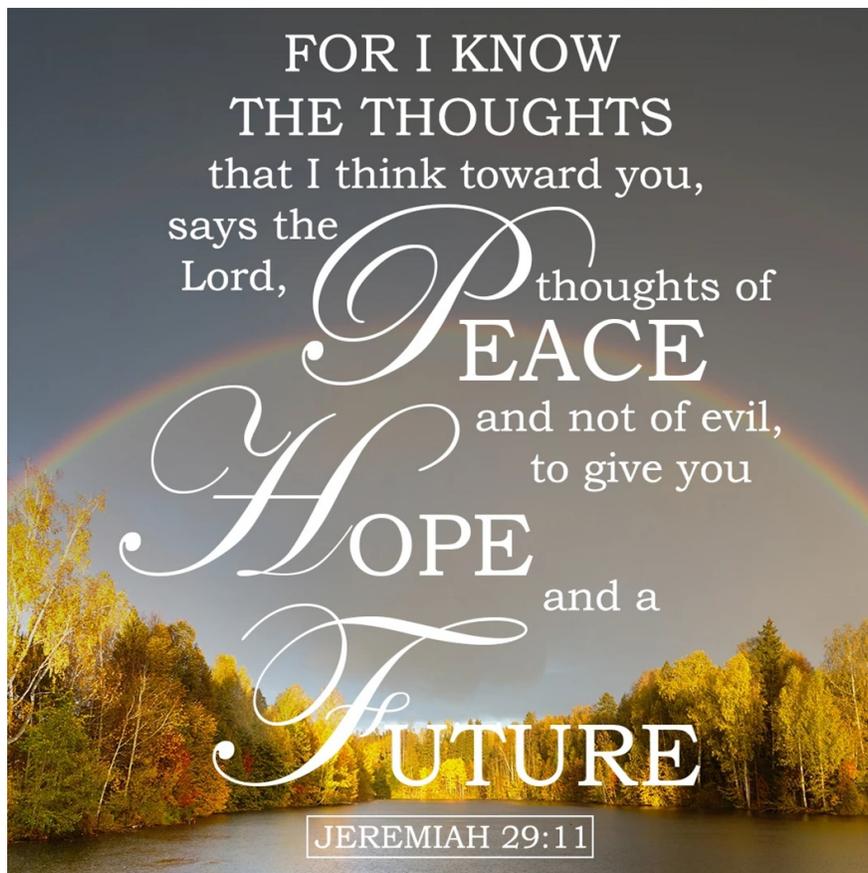
In addition the Session heard:

- From the Faith Formation that they have started a class on White Privilege and as a result of promoting it, they have attracted participants from our congregation as well as people outside our congregation. The study meets virtually and is being led by Janet Hendershot and Cathy Levitas.
- From the Congregational Care and Outreach that they have offered support to eight (8) people who are fearful of COVID-19 exposure by giving them a contact and number to help with groceries and shopping during this crisis. Kristina Hall also expressed her appreciation for Eric Ringler's help in the production of Queen Esther which was successful.
- From the Congregational Care and Outreach that Julie Courtney has organized a daily prayer meeting for five (5) minutes every day at noon to pray for the Pastoral Nominating Committee and its work.
- From the Administration and Finance that they would like each committee to begin working their budgets for 2021.

Session will begin in-person meetings on October 17th at 7:00 PM with the meetings to be conducted in the Heritage Room.

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

Peace, Hope, and a Future 2021 Stewardship Campaign



Jeremiah 29:11 "For I Know the Thoughts that I think toward you" says the Lord, "thoughts of Peace and not of evil, to give you Hope and a Future."

The Stewardship Committee thought that this Bible verse couldn't be more appropriate given how challenging 2020 has been. COVID 19 has changed many of the events from our "normal" routine. Our world was largely shutdown for 60 days until we started to re-imagine our lives. We couldn't go to church, so we started live-streaming. When we felt that we had adequate protocols, we began having in-person services, making sure that we wore masks and maintained social distancing. We found a new way to receive communion.

This year's Stewardship campaign will look different than prior years too. We can't have fellowship lunches/dinners. We are probably going to see more online pledging and giving. We have already created a link on our website where you can pledge. We are going to encourage more online giving through Realm. This link can also be easily found on our home page.

We are going to prepare a year in review because despite living through a pandemic, hope and caring did not stop. We continued our focus on mission work. Locally we helped with outreach dinners, supporting Union Rescue Mission and Barrelville Presbyterian Church. Globally we supported the people of Qholaqhoe, Lesotho, Africa, Robert Gamble's "This Child Here" for orphans in Ukraine and the PEB in Pakistan.

The Building and Grounds committee has worked hard to maintain our magnificent church building. Their efforts guarantee the continued upkeep of our facilities. Just as in other areas of our lives, this committee will be doing what needs to be done post-COVID 19.

Finally, the Pastoral Nominating Committee has been working hard on the journey to finding a permanent pastor. During the Stewardship Campaign, we will get an update on their progress and what their next steps are.

We are changing and growing as one community in so many ways. We are also growing as individuals, maturing in the life of faith together. This year's theme is reminding us to remain hopeful and to look toward the future with our church. Your pledges help the church plan for its future. Please consider renewing and/or increasing your support of our church's good work.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I Know the Thoughts that I think toward you" says the Lord, "thoughts of Peace and not of evil, to give you Hope and a Future."

--- Your Stewardship Campaign Committee



Save the Date
Fall Clean Up Day

On Saturday, November 7th , the Buildings & Grounds Committee invites you to come out and help clean up the church from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

Queen Esther Simulcast



Members and friends gathered in the sanctuary on Friday, September 4th for the simulcast of Queen Esther. Special thanks to the Sight & Sound Theatre and the Congregational Care and Outreach Committee!

Nurture

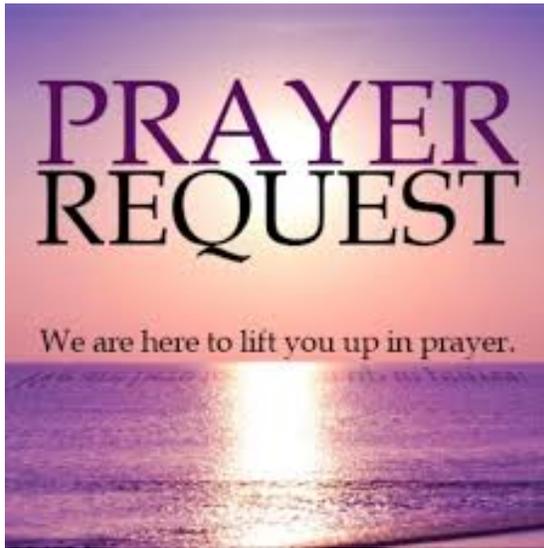
Joys and Concerns



Happy Birthday

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



If you have prayer requests that you would like to add to First Presbyterian Church's prayer chain, please contact the church office or you can now submit your prayer request on the FPC website under the nurture tab.

A Note from Bob Kazary

Dear member and friends,

I have been growing windowsill tomato plants in our greenhouse. They produce small, tasty tomatoes. If you would like to have some for your home, please come to church to pick them up on October 4th.

Bob Kazary

Learn and Grow



The Book Of Revelation

Bible Study with Jim Young

**Resuming:
September 10th**

**Thursday Evenings
In the Sanctuary
5:30pm**

Masks Required

Join Rev. Dr. Jim Young on Thursdays at 5:30 PM for his weekly Bible Study on The Book of Revelation in the Sanctuary.

Given the concerns of COVID-19, we will be maintaining appropriate social distancing and masks will be required. This class will take place weekly and likely carry us through to the end of October. We hope to see you there!

The study will also be streamed via Zoom for those that would prefer to tune in from the comfort of their homes.

Opportunities to Serve

Peace and Global Witness Offering

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Come to the Table

Jesus Christ, the prince of peace, invites us to the table — the table we share with those who suffer, as he suffered, to be nourished by his compassion. Christ invites, which makes for peace.

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On World Communion Sunday, October 11TH, we have the opportunity to contribute to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Donations to this offering allow us to assist the vulnerable around the world. This offering strengthens the collaboration of the Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations with the peace work of global

partners through World Mission. It has meant scholarships for students recognized as peacemakers, resettlement of refugees, and support for shelters where those who are abused may find refuge.

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 donate 25% of this Offering to a local organization promoting peace. Our 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 which works towards peace internationally, nationally, and locally.

Presbyterian Education Board Worthy Endeavors

What has your investment in PEB schools done? Why invest in schools in Pakistan?

Here are a few reasons:

1. The Punjab region where PEB is located is a strategic area of the world. Bordered by Iran, Afghanistan, India and China, Pakistan is deemed by many experts as the most strategically critical area of the world.
2. PEB started from a handful of people missionaries saved from starvation, and now has 25 schools and nearly 6,000 students.
3. PEB schools teach a unique values-based curriculum.
4. PEB has established an excellent track record of financial accountability.
5. PEB provides high quality education to primary and secondary schools, higher education and vocational, professional and technical training for children.
6. PEB provides a safe living environment for the poorest of the poor Christian children in boarding houses.
7. PEB offers this education to children of all religious backgrounds regardless of their ability to pay.
8. PEB offers this education within an environment that embodies the core values of self-discipline, integrity, tolerance and respect for others, and fairness and justice in all of our dealings.
9. At PEB all students will be educated to have a spirit of service and a quality of character that will enable them to contribute to positive changes in society as citizen-leaders of their community.
10. PEB's students will be prepared to successfully compete as they go on in intermediate and higher education and as they prepare for the world of work.

Worship With Us



Join us on Sunday, October 4th for World Communion Sunday as we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. During the worship service, the Lord's Prayer will be spoken in two or more languages and the Communion Table will be decorated with global fabrics, wheat stems, and plates of grape. We will also receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.