



FIRST WORD

*First Presbyterian
Church*

AUGUST 2021

August 2021

Blest Be the Ties That Bind by The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger



Dear Church,

I cannot believe it is already August. In much the same way I thought the year 2020 would never end, this year seems to be flying by! The school year will soon begin for kids, grandkids, and teachers. Football season is right around the corner, and the church is gearing up for all of our Fall programs.

However, I look forward to one thing above all others, and that is the body of Christ gathered together for worship, service, and fellowship. While Covid continues to trouble us, I still see more and more of our church members returning to the church building. Every Sunday, when I begin worship, I see more of our church members venturing into our community, gathering together physically. It brings me so much joy. Virtual worship has been a blessing during the pandemic and continues to be a blessing for folks with busy lives. However, it is no substitute for the things we experience when we physically gather together: a smiling face in the pew next to us, or a hug from someone we have not seen in a while, or the spirit of fellowship that fills our hearts when we are together.

As is so often the case, the author and priest N.T. Wright describes this better than I can when he writes: "The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship."

Out of the busyness of our lives, I hope we can make time for Christian fellowship. I hope to see you soon.

In anticipation for all God will author in this place,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara" with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Please note: Session did not meet last month so there will be no minutes in this newsletter.

August 2021

Gathering

by The Rev. Brett Gudeman



Dear Church,

Last Summer, I eagerly awaited the release of the musical “Hamilton” to be viewed on Disney plus. I had been listening to the soundtrack for several years, and every time I went to New York City, I would pass by the Richard Rodger’s theatre where Hamilton was performed. Every article of praise for Hamilton, I had read, and every interview with the musical’s creator, Lin Manuel Miranda, I had watched. However, I never could justify the cost of the ticket. So, when the musical came out on video, free to watch, I was immensely excited. Ally and I made popcorn, we gathered drinks, and we watched this musical that we had been looking forward to seeing for five years. Yet, after viewing it on our tv, we felt something was missing, there wasn’t the excitement, or beauty, or life that is usually captured with attending a live show. This is how I have experienced online church.

I am so grateful for our technology and the substantial investment we made in our streaming service and internet over the past year. It provides a beautiful service for us to connect when we cannot gather, when we are ill, out of town, or have another ailment preventing us from coming to worship. But, to gather in-person, to hear Patricia’s voice worshipping in-person, to have your soul shook by the organ, to hug a friend you have not seen in a long time, these are aspects of a worshipping community that bring a new spiritual wholeness.

Our community is one that thrives when we can gather together, hold one another, cry together, and smile together. When you are able and feel safe, we hope to see you, because our fellowship not only brings life to ourselves, but your presence is a gift to other members, providing joy and hope.

With Grace,

Brett

August 2021

Christian Education by Kathy Gillmore



It's a New Year for the Education Hour! August 15 – May 22

9:30 – 10:30 each Sunday morning except December 26, Jan 2, and April 17.

There's something for everyone on Sunday morning between services! While children and youth are participating in a carefully designed journey of faith development, all adults are invited to participate and enjoy their own opportunities to explore faithful living and make new friends. Contact Kathy Gillmore at dce@fpchsv.org for more information on these Sunday opportunities:

Adults:

Charles Danner Seminar	Meets in the Library (Room #104) and on Zoom
Feasting on the Word	Meets in Room #207
Comrades	Meets in Room #106
Genesis	Meets in John Allen Hall in the Gideon Blackburn House

Youth:

LEAD (new! Service Group)	6th – 12th grade	PYC room (in GBH)
Confirmation (starts in Jan)	8th – 9th grade	Gideon Blackburn House

Children:

Meet for Music Assembly	K – 5th grade	CE wing basement (rm 011)
Connect	4th & 5th grade	CE wing basement (rm 012)
Spark	2nd – 3rd grade	CE wing basement (rm 010)
Godly Play	K – 1st grade	CE wing basement (rm 009)
Meet for Music Assembly	Infant – 4 yrs	CE wing (rm 110/11)
Peepers	Preschool (3&4yrs)	CE wing (rm 110/11)
Toddlers & Twos	Infant – 2 years	CE wing (rm 110/11)

New to FPC?

Call the church office or use the form online at fpchsv.org/registration to receive email invitations to our educational opportunities such as Youth Group (Presbyterian Youth Connection – PYC – for middle school and high school youth, and Presbyterian Kids Connection – PKC – for 3rd – 5th grade children) and special events.

Confirmation

Those in 8th and 9th grade (or older) are invited to participate in Confirmation this year. We start with an information meeting and lunch for confirmands and their parents on August 29 from noon-1:30pm. If you are interested please email me at dce@fpchsv.org.

August 2021

Christian Education by Kathy Gillmore



Rally Day – August 15

Everyone, all ages, please meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 for a short celebration of children and youth as they are promoted to their new grades! They will receive a gift of a backpack tag and the following grades will receive gift bibles:

2 year olds (and preschoolers new to our church) The Beginner's Bible
Kindergartners (and children new to our church) The Spark Story Bible
4th graders (and 5th graders new to our church) The Connect NRSV Bible
6th graders (and youth new to our church) The CEB Student Bible

Everyone will then proceed to their classrooms for the first day of Sunday School!

“Blessing of the Backpacks” Bring your backpack if you are a student or a teacher for a special blessing during Worship that day at either 8:30 am or 11:00 am!

Celebrate with “Lemonade and Popcorn on the Lawn” at Noon!

PKC (Presbyterian Kids Connection) Kickoff – August 22

All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to PKC! We meet once a month from Noon – 2:00 on a Sunday for lunch, a special activity, a rope prayer circle, and lots of fun youth group games. This once a month youth group, PKC, gives children a head start on building relationships that will make the every week youth group, PYC, starting in 6th grade even more awesome and exciting.

For our August 22 event we'll have pizza for lunch and Leslie Lockhart will lead us in an art project! We'll be creating a tree to help us kick off our theme for this year “Rooted in Scripture”. Let us know you are coming so that we can be sure to have enough food for lunch and materials for the project. Register [HERE](#) or on the church website on the Registration page.

Register Now for Wednesday Night Live

Our mid-week program for all ages starts on September 8 and continues each Wednesday until November 17, expect for October 6 for Fall Break. Children and Youth meet from 5:00 – 6:15 for Bible Study and Worship Skills, and Adults meet from 5:30 – 6:30 for Bible Study. One option for adults is gathering in person for "Psalms," a look at the Psalms with Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger. We will also be offering a women's bible study class this fall. Another option for adults is to gather on Zoom or in person with Rev. Brett Gudeman for "Follow Me," an adult study of the spiritual practice that the children and youth are also exploring – accepting the invitation to follow Jesus. Everyone enjoys a time of fellowship and dinner together from 6:30 – 7:00. To register to participate, and/or volunteer, click [HERE](#) or go to the church website to the Registration page.

August 2021

Music Ministry by Dr. Patricia Hacker



“The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.”

— N.T. Wright,

When I read this quote the first thing I thought was, yes! That is my church. First Presbyterian Church has been and is a community that encourages one another. Our choir members for example are a community that builds each other up in every rehearsal and every worship service. As A.W. Tozer says, “they are like a hundred pianos all tuned to the same tuning fork.” But they are not just tuned in music, they are in tune in faith, in prayer, in learning from one another and as Wright states that is known as fellowship.

It is important and vital for the growth of our faith, to care, help, serve, and pray for our community, for our homebound members, for our youth who are facing changes, for our children who are discovering life, for parents and their wisdom, for our pastors and elders who work for the good of this body of believers, for our world who is facing constant challenges. Believing that caring for each other and helping each other is important, we will make a better world, and it all starts with each and every one of us.

As we start a new school year for our students and our activities here at First Presbyterian Church, I pray that we come to the church with fellowship in mind. We are welcoming all of you with many activities. The Chancel Choir is preparing a wonderful Christmas musical. We have prepared for the children a fabulous program with stories, songs and activities for WNL and Sunday School. Our children will participate in worship and all for the primarily purposes that the church exist, to worship God and to work for His kingdom in the world.

Patricia Hacker
Director of Music

August 2021
Youth Ministry
by Anne Dillon Loflin



Happy August! We are so excited about all the upcoming youth activities this Fall.

PYC:

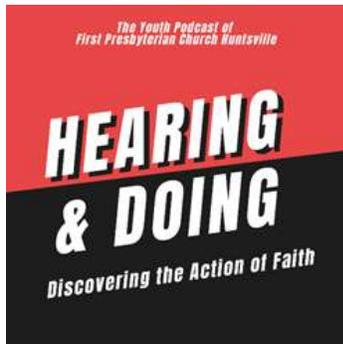


Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) is a weekly Sunday night gathering for 6-12th grade FPC members and friends.

Join us for PYC Rally Day (Sunday, August 15th) for a great evening of games, fellowship and dinner! Middle School (6-8th grade) will meet from 5pm-6:30pm and High School will meet from 6pm-7:30pm.

If you would like to provide a meal for PYC or volunteer at a youth event, please contact Anne Dillon at youth@fpchsv.org.

Youth Podcast:



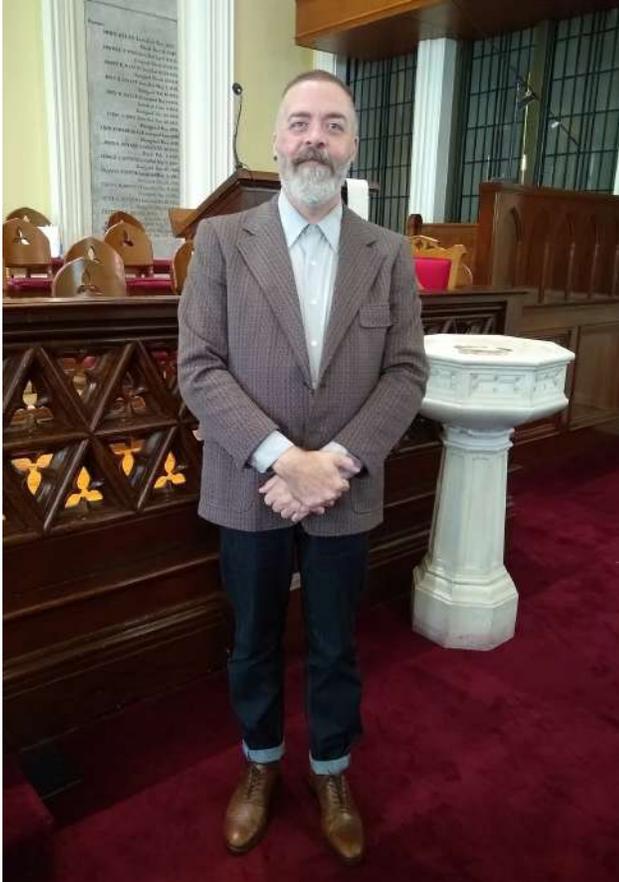
We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new youth podcast! Hearing and Doing: Discovering the Action of Faith is a 6-episode series featuring Anne Dillon, Pastor Brett, and Pastor Tara. Tune in each week for an exploration and discussion of the Book of James and its applicable and inspiring message for young people of faith. Streaming now on all listening platforms!

August/September Fall Calendar:

- Sunday, August 15th: PYC (Middle School: 5pm-6:30pm; High School: 6pm-7:30pm)
- Friday, August 20th: Trash Pandas Baseball Game (All youth: 6:30pm-9:30pm)
- Sunday, August 29th: PYC (Middle School: 5pm-6:30pm; High School: 6pm-7:30pm)
- Sunday, September 5th: NO PYC (**Labor Day**)
- September 19th: PYC Lunch and Tie-Dye Party (All youth: 12-2pm)
- September 24th: Fall Festival at FPC (All youth: 6-11pm)

Blessings,
Anne Dillon Loflin, Interim Youth Director

Welcome New Members!



Neil Sanders is a Co-Manager at Hallmark and a resident of Huntsville, Alabama. We are happy to have him join our congregation!

Clinton and Vida Wann have two children, Lizzie and Easton. Clinton is a Mechanical Engineer with the U.S. Army, and Vida is a full-time homemaker. Welcome Wann family!





August Mission of the Month

The Huntsville Inner City Learning Center provides children grades K – 8 with a highly structured, disciplined program that provides mentoring and tutoring in academics, fitness/enrichment, biblical knowledge, and gardening. Volunteers help to ensure that students leave the center well-fed, prepared for the next day's classes, filled with a sense of accomplishment, and better equipped to deal with life's obstacles.

The Children arrive between 2:45 and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The first hour is devoted to physical fitness/enrichment. That is followed by a half hour of Bible study/life application and a half hour mealtime. Finally, they spend the last hour receiving tutoring and help with homework.

Please join us in supporting this outstanding mission by either volunteering or donating items as listed below. This 501(c)(3) non-profit organization depends almost exclusively on its volunteers and sponsors.



Mission of the Month by Vicky Goodwin

Hands on Volunteer Opportunities

- Tutors-to help students with homework
- Provide a meal-Monday through Thursday, a meal or hearty, healthy snack is provided.
- Art, Running, Dance and STEM Volunteers-to help the instructor with the students.
- Bible teachers-to connect with young children.

Contact Vicky Goodwin
(goodwingoodwins@gmail.com or 623-330-5805 to sign up.



August Collection for September Learning Center Opening

Office Supplies

- Copy Paper
- Manila Envelopes-all sizes
- Letter Size Envelopes
- Sticky Notes

Teaching Supplies

- White Board Markers
- White Board Erasers
- Kleenex

Meal Supplies

- Paper Cups-12 oz.
- Paper Plates-12"
- Paper Napkins
- Paper Towels

Please bring donations to the church by
August 31

Mission and Evangelism by Vicky Goodwin

June Village of Promise Update

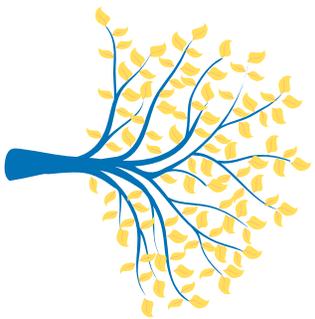
First Presbyterian Church provided a delicious meal for the Village of Promise summer reading program on June 28.



Update on the July Mission of the Month

On Wednesday July 7, First Presbyterian Church volunteers went to Second Mile Preschool to spread pine straw in the front flower beds.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Church

307 Gates Ave SE

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