



First Pres News *monthly*

VOLUME 5 | MAY 2021

Session *in Session*

Highlights of March & April Session Meetings

- ♦ Hand of Hope offering will run through Pentecost. Recipients are Health Care Network, Hospitality Center, Julian Thomas School, and Racine Co. Foster Care Program.
- ♦ Money that PNC still has in its budget after the candidate's visit can go to help paying their moving expenses.
- ♦ Treasurer Steve Hansen provided a 1st quarter summary of our financial situation, which showed offerings up from last year and expenses down overall.
- ♦ We received two anonymous gifts: one of \$20,000 half to go to the Foundation & other half to be used by the discretion of session. The other of \$10,000 to make up the shortfall of new pastor's moving expenses.
- ♦ Two baptisms in May on the 16th and 23rd.

May Events

- ♦ May 2nd at 9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship with Communion
- ♦ May 2th at 1:00^{PM}—Handbell Choir Rehearsal (*every Sunday*)
- ♦ May 9th at 9:30^{AM}—Mother's Day - Sunday Worship
- ♦ May 12th— Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- ♦ May 16th at 9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship & Baptism
- ♦ May 18th—Community Meal
- ♦ May 23st at 9:30^{AM}—Pentecost Sunday Worship & Baptism
- ♦ May 30th at 9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship

Session Highlights Continued

- ♦ Church Manual of Operations will be looked at and updated to include our Initiatives.
- ♦ Staff is ready to meet in person and work on site again.
- ♦ The last components that are needed for our AV tech upgrade will be purchased soon.
- ♦ There are many outside viewers of our service live on Facebook.
- ♦ We need to seek out tech savvy people to help with our live on Facebook and recorded services. Local high schools and colleges with Theater Tech classes may be the source for help. We could offer internships or small stipends to get greater commitment.
- ♦ Member singing will begin to be allowed. We should wait a little longer before having the choir singing live.
- ♦ Next we will be looking at what conditions would allow us to have fellowship in Ihrman Hall again.
- ♦ The Nominating Committee is having a lot of trouble getting people to fill upcoming vacancies on session and deacons. We can wait until after the Rev. Darren Utley is here to install officers.
- ♦ Roofing project will start soon! The week of May 3 scaffolding will be erected on the east and west sides of the Sanctuary. The week of May 10 the teardown will be done. The entire job is expected to last 3-4 weeks.
- ♦ Everyone with a graduate should tell the office for Graduate Recognition Day.
- ♦ Session will meet in person for the next session meeting.

Debbie Yale
Clerk of Session



On Tues., May 18th, First Presbyterian will be providing the Community Meal. We are now taking casseroles, fruit, vegetables and bread to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and handing out packed meals.

You can make any kind of casserole, but some of the simplest are the favorites - like mostaccioli & sausage or Mac 'n' cheese with vegetables and hot dogs added. Drop off casseroles at church from 2:30 to 3:00^{PM}. Want to help prep the dinners? Be at church at 3:00^{PM}.

If you can help with a casserole donation, please call or email me at (262) 639-5004 (h) (262), 498-8753 (c) or deb.yale5@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Debbie Yale

Notes from the pastor

Spring is a season of transition. We put the winter coats and boots and snow shovels (we hope!) away, do a bit of Spring cleaning, and bring out the warm weather clothes (and maybe get the grill ready for some fun cookouts).

Members of our church are making transitions. They are those graduating from high school, college, certification programs, military training, etc. If you, or someone in your family is graduating or completing a certification program, please contact the church office with information about the school or program they are completing and their plans for the future. We would like to recognize their accomplishments during a service in June.

It is a time of transition here in our church as well. Now that the weather is warmer, the roofers will be here to replace the roof of the entire building. No more leaks! Soon you will see scaffolding on the east and west sides of the sanctuary. After the sanctuary roof is replaced, the roofers will move to the south end of the building and you will see some lift equipment on College Ave., and a dumpster in the handicapped parking space next to the Pastor's Study. The rest of the parking lot will be clear and all the spaces will be available Sunday mornings. And as I write this article, the doors to the Atrium are being serviced so they close and lock dependably.

We are also transitioning from the severe lock down of Covid to more relaxed but still safe protocols for gathering. And I am pleased to announce that we can once again allow singing during worship provided we all keep our masks on and practice social distancing. While we are not yet ready to provide refreshments in Ihrman Hall after worship, we can provide coffee and tea for you to enjoy outside in the parking lot. Whenever we are inside, we all need to keep our masks on, but once outside in the fresh air and gathering in small groups, we can take our masks off.

It is also time to transition to the new installed Pastor. I am sending Session minutes to Rev. Utley and he will attend one or more of our weekly staff meetings during the month of May. Rev. Utley has been in contact with our office so he can provide bulletin information as he prepares to lead worship beginning in July. I will lead worship the Sundays in May and then leave for a study leave and take some vacation time in June. May 30 will be my last Sunday in the pulpit. Elie Hunt, our worship chair, is recruiting ministers from the Presbytery to lead worship in June. I will attend the June Deacon's meeting and moderate the June Session meeting and Rev. Utley will begin his service as Pastor July 1.

As you move through this time of transition, I invite you to consider ways you can serve. One of the most helpful ways to serve is to say yes when asked by the Nominating Committee to serve as an Elder or Deacon. A new Pastor means a new chapter in the life of First Presbyterian. This is your opportunity to play a leading role in taking the church into the future. Whether asked to serve as an Elder or Deacon, to serve on one of the four initiatives, or to try something you've never tried before, say yes. Always be a church that says yes to the possible.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Linda Schubert
- 2 Victoria Vollman
- 3 Ken Schacht
- 5 Betsy Walton
- 6 Royce Earnest
- 7 Bill Blandford
Logan Humphreys
- 10 Warren DeKraay
- 11 Alejandro Alumbremos
- 13 Ken Nakayama
- 15 David Griffith
- 16 Austin Moulds
- 20 Megan Humphreys
- 25 Jenny Humphreys
- 26 Jennings Leavell
- 27 Mike Wahlen
Debbie Yale
- 28 Brian Stahl
- 30 Les Lucareli
Harold Ralston

Liturgists

FOLLOWING ARE THE LITURGISTS
FOR MAY 2021

- 2 Royce Earnest
- 9 Jenny Humphreys
- 16 Debbie Yale
- 23 LuAnn Hansen
- 30 Sharon Campbell

Happy Anniversary!

- Brian & Susan Stahl
May 5, 2001
- Patrick & Denise Harris
May 19, 1996
- Ken & Fumi Nakayama
May 24, 1997
- David & Dana Griffith
May 25, 1996
- Michael & Pamela Wahlen
May 26, 1984
- Royce & Barbara Earnest
May 26, 1990
- Jeff Leavell & Georgia Herrera
May 27, 1989
- David Wright & Kristin Holmberg-Wright
May 30, 1980

Celebration!

In June, we will once again celebrate our accomplished. While First Presbyterian has always recognized high school and college graduates, we will also be recognizing all those who have completed other forms of certification, e.g. basic training in a branch of the Armed Forces. By Tuesday, May 25th., please email a small blurb and photo to: office@firstpresracine.org.

Presbyterians have always valued education and so we celebrate all those of our congregation who endeavor to improve their knowledge and skills so they may better serve humanity and be a sign of God's creating, redeeming, and sustaining love.



Our sincere apology!

It was recently brought to the attention of the **Memorial Committee** that families were not aware of all donors giving memorial gifts to the church in memory/honor of their deceased. This communication error between our committee and the office has been rectified and the problem resolved.

Going forward, families will receive a letter listing all donors who gave memorial gifts to the church in the deceased honor.

Online Memorial and Honorary Giving

Memorial giving has been added to our church website! Simply fill out the form and make a donation through PayPal.

<http://firstpresracine.org/give/memorial-honorary-giving>

A huge thank-you to Shelley for working her magic and getting our information uploaded and the site working smoothly!

Join us!

Our committee is seeking individuals interested in serving on the Memorial Committee. Please email Nancy Reeser, maui71@att.net, or call 632-7807, if interested.

First Pres Book Club

After our very interesting discussion of *How to be an Indian in the 21st Century*, the members of our Zoom book club chose *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain for our next meeting.

According to Wikipedia, "*The Innocents Abroad*, or *The New Pilgrims' Progress* is a travel book by American author Mark Twain. Published in 1869, it humorously chronicles what Twain called his 'Great Pleasure Excursion' on board the chartered vessel Quaker City through Europe and the Holy Land with a group of American travelers in 1867."

Wikipedia also notes that generally exclusive rights for an author expire 70 years after the author's death or 95 years after publication. In the United States, works published before January 1, 1926, are generally considered public domain. Because of this, it is easy to find a very inexpensive copy of this work. Amazon Books has the Kindle edition listed for \$2.49 or if you are a member of Kindle Unlimited, it is free. And free is good. The public library will also have it for free with your library card. And one Book Club member found it for free on Google Play.

We are meeting next on Friday, June 4 via Zoom at 3:00^{PM}. We hope that you will join us. If you would like to receive the Zoom link, please let me know by text to 847.212.0599 or by email at lindaschubert42@icloud.com, and I will add you to the Book Club email list.

Thank you,
Linda Schubert

Parish Nurse Corner

How Come I Have Another Headache?

Headaches are often sparked by a “trigger”, a substance, event or situation that allows head pain to blossom. Keep pain from sidelining you by avoiding these common triggers.

- ♦ Erratic sleep. Go to bed and get up at the same time each day to avoid headaches that result from too little or too much sleep.
- ♦ Skipping meals. Hunger causes blood sugar levels to drop, which could bring on a headache.
- ♦ Stress. Practice relaxation techniques as part of your daily routine. Exercise, self-massage of neck and shoulder muscles, counseling and meditation are all possible solutions.
- ♦ Poor posture. Sit and stand up straight, and consciously relax your neck and shoulders.
- ♦ The three Cs. Cheese, chocolate and citrus fruits contain substances that cause blood vessels to swell. These can lead to headaches.
- ♦ Processed foods. Foods that contain monosodium glutamate (MSG), sodium, aspartame, and other artificial ingredients can trigger headaches.
- ♦ Odors. Smoke, perfume, varnish, paint, glue and printer toner- all of these can bring on a headache by smell alone. Notice how strong odors affect you and try to avoid them.

If a headache hits, try these pain-relief methods.

- ♦ Lie down in a quiet, dark spot when possible.
- ♦ Take an over-the-counter pain reliever such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen or naproxen (unless unable due to a medical condition or interaction with other meds) as soon as you feel pain. Pain relievers work better if you take them early, rather than after pain escalates.
- ♦ Take a warm bath or shower or place a warm cloth or heating pad on the back of your head.

See your physician if your headaches are frequent or interfere with your daily life. A doctor can point you to other pain medications, a headache therapist, biofeedback, and self-care tips that can keep headaches from ruling your life. Don't suffer in silence.

God's richest blessings to you.

Peggy Taylor RN
Parish Nurse



The Racine Arts Council would like to welcome Marie Martin as a new member to our board of directors. Marie recently retired from Fox Valley Technical College where her role was Director of Global Education and Services leading all international projects at the College. Her work experience included educational programming, recruitment, fundraising, grant writing, marketing and promotion, and oversight of a large budget. She is a big believer in the transformative power of art and follows visual, performing, and literary arts. For many years she served on the Board of Fox Valley Arts Alliance in Appleton, WI where they worked hard to bring arts programs to the community. She and her husband fell in love with North Beach and have settled in Caledonia. Marie has already begun working on a collaboration between Downtown Racine Corp, Real Racine, First Presbyterian Church and the Racine Arts Council's Quilt Window display project for the month of October 2021. This will include the Ozella's Story, Underground Railroad quilts made by the community in 2001-2203.

ArtStart has been an important outreach program to the underserved during the pandemic where our focus has been with many "locked in" communities. Spectrum School of Art has added their signboard paintings and photographs to the DeKoven Outdoor Walking Gallery started by the RAC in the fall of 2019. This gallery became a great walking space to enjoy art and the outdoors during the pandemic. It is located on the backside of the DeKoven Center between the chapel and the pool building.

In February 2020, we had just begun conversations with Robert Ellsworth Correctional Center in Union Grove to begin an art program for mothers and their children, one of the great ways to keep them connected to each other during incarceration. Because the program was halted, the Racine Arts Council instead used its resources and delivered 100 "I Love my Mother" packets for the mothers to give to their children. When it is safe to reopen, we will create a safe and creative program for the correctional center.

The RAC is excited to be hosting Ballyhoo at the Zoo, Fine Art Fair in June. For over 50 years the fair has been on Monument Square. We had to reimagine a new way of hosting an art fair based on social distancing and found the Racine Zoo open to our needs. Many of our artists will be back this summer including, nonagenarian Donald VanderLeest who will be exhibiting for his 50th year. Don is a painter, historian and carpenter and his paintings include barns, churches, homes and buildings from Racine's past. VanderLeest works on commission, hired by people or organizations to paint pictures of their home or buildings. He has created paintings for Preservation Racine and designed the cancellation stamp for Racine's sesquicentennial.

Our Lonely Instruments Need Kids (LINK) program is grateful for Steve Schoenes dedication over the many years that Schmitt Music was open. Before we lend an instrument to a student at RUSD, we have them appraised and repaired so they are "like new" for an excited music student. Steve has been our "fix it" technician for hundreds of donated instruments and we are grateful for his energy and commitment to our program. Now that Steve has retired, we wish him all happiness and joy!

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 9:30a—Worship 10:30a—Christian Formation Meeting	26 9a—Staff Mtg via Zoom 5:45p—RKYS Rehearsal	27 3p—Coffee on the Terrace 6:30p—Session Mtg via Zoom	28 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga	29 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	30	1
2 9:30a—Worship with Communion 1p—Handbell Choir Rehearsal	3 9a—Staff Mtg via Zoom 5:45p—RKYS Rehearsal	4 3p—Coffee on the Terrace	5 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga	6 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	7	8
9 9:30a—Worship 1p—Handbell Choir Rehearsal MOTHER'S DAY	10 9a—Staff Mtg via Zoom 5:45p—RKYS Rehearsal	11 3p—Coffee on the Terrace 6:30p—Deacons Mtg via Zoom	12 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga 7p—Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	14 1p—Delivery to the Food Pantry	15
16 9:30a—Worship and Baptism 1p—Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17 9a—Staff Mtg via Zoom 5:45p—RKYS Rehearsal	18 2:30-3p—Community Meal 3p—Coffee on the Terrace	19 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga	20 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	21 1p—Delivery to the Food Pantry	22
23 9:30a—Pentecost Sunday Worship and Baptism 1p—Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 9a—Staff Mtg via Zoom 5:45p—RKYS Rehearsal	25 3p—Coffee on the Terrace 6:30p—Session Mtg via Zoom	26 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga	27 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	28	29
30 9:30a—Worship 1p—Handbell Choir Rehearsal	31 MEMORIAL DAY	1 3p—Coffee on the Terrace	2 12p—Bible Study via Zoom 4-7p—Food Pantry 5:30p—Yoga	3 4:30p—Contemplative Prayer via Zoom	4 3p—Book Club via Zoom	5