

**LIVE Music!**

*2nd Annual Event*

**Grilling Cookout and Ice Cream Social**

with LIVE performances by

★ **First Players** ★  
*with the*  
**Notochords Jazz Band**

**\*May 18 @ 5 PM\***

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Patio & Parking Lot**

Bring a chair!  
Bring your appetite!  
All are Welcome!

Sponsored jointly for the FPC Community by First Players Bands, the Welcoming & Nurturing Committee, and the Music Ministry



**MAY**  
**2022**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**512 3rd Street SW**  
**Rochester, Minnesota 55902**

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**Address Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Rochester, MN  
Permit No. 111

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902**  
**507-282-1618 / [www.FPCRochester.org](http://www.FPCRochester.org) / [web@FPCRochester.org](mailto:web@FPCRochester.org)**

Senior Pastor: Rev. T.J. Parlette  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Jay P. Rowland  
Director of Music: John E. Stender  
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education: Susanna L. Stone

Sunday worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in-person;  
service livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. on YouTube (channel fpcrochester.org)  
Education & Fellowship Hour: 9:40 a.m.

A weekly video with Bible Story is available on YouTube.  
In-person music education for ages 4-12<sup>th</sup> grade on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.  
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Member: Presbyterian Church USA

# The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for May 2022

## PASTOR'S QUILL



I subscribe to a newsletter from a storyteller friend of mine. Her work centers on grief workshops, with a special focus on widows. On the Tuesday after Easter, I got an email from her with the headline “Does your life need a resurrection?”

We could all use a little resurrection in our life. And keep in mind that Easter is not a day – it is a season! Through the end of May, we are actually still in the Season of Easter – so it's appropriate to think about resurrection.

First, a definition:

*Resurrect (transitive verb)*

1. To raise from the dead.
2. To bring to view, attention, or use again.

In the church, we usually just use the first definition when we talk about resurrection, especially on Easter Day. But in the Season of Easter, perhaps we should focus on the second definition. Perhaps we should focus our attention on re-viewing our life. What new attitudes or habits can we bring to this season of resurrection and new life?

In thinking about this, a quote from Rosemary Budd comes to mind. “*The music of humility is the sound of laughter.*” Humility and laughter? How do they go together?

Well, perhaps you've had a moment when you look at yourself in the mirror and you see yourself as you really are – they good stuff, the good intentions, the positive feelings you put out into the world. And then you also see your shortcomings, the mistakes you've fallen into and the dumb decisions you made. And you couldn't help but laugh at yourself a little bit.

That's the music of humility! Humility is simply knowing the truth – the truth that our skills and abilities, our success and stability, our health, and even our faith, are all gifts from God the Creator. We own nothing. We don't own success; we receive it as a gracious gift from God.

As Rosemary Budd writes, “*If I own nothing, then no one can take it from me. From humility springs poverty; from poverty springs freedom; from freedom springs joy.*”

Perhaps that attitude can lead us to the kind of resurrection we need in the Easter Season. Re-view your life through the lens of humility and laughter, and eventually joy will spring forth.

Peace,

Contact: Parlette. TJ@FPCRochester.org  
Phone: (814) 715-0290

29	10:00 a.m. Worship in-person & Livestreamed	Memorial Day The church office will be closed	31							
22	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship in-person 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour Celebration Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed	23	24	7:00 p.m. Session	25	4:45—8:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth and Music Activities 6:30—8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	26	6:00—8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	27	28
15	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship in-person 9:30 a.m. Final Sunday School & Fellowship Hour 11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed	16	17	11	18	11:00 a.m. Priscilla Circle 4:45—8:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth and Music Activities 5:00-7:00 p.m. First Players Concert/Cookout 6:30—8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	19	6:00—8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	20	21
8	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship in-person 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Hour 11:00 a.m. Worship Livestreamed	9	10	4	11	1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Group 4:45—8:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth and Music Activities 6:30—8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	12	6:00—8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	13	14
				3	4	4:45—8:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth and Music Activities 6:30—8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	5	6:00—8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsals	6	7
				4	5	4:00—7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings— Check with your lead elder	6	5:30—9:30 p.m. Sitter Service		
				9	10	12:00 noon Esther Circle	11	5:30—9:30 p.m. Sitter Service		
				2	3	12	13	10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle		
				2	3	11	12			

# Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



Contact: Stone.Susanna@FPCRochester.org  
Phone: (507) 282-1618



# VBS is Coming!

VBS is back at FPC! Announcing the return of **IN-PERSON VBS** for 2022. Monday thru Thursday, June 13-16 — 9:00-11:30 am.

VBS is open to all children (not just FPC families) kindergarten thru 5th grade (based on 2022-23 school year). The theme is: *Compassion Camp, Changing the World with Loving Kindness*, and we will explore different Bible stories which showcase examples of compassion, kindness, friendliness, and love. The cost is \$10/child, with a maximum \$25/family. Scholarships are available.

VBS registration is available now by going to: [ [tinyurl.com/FPCVBS22](http://tinyurl.com/FPCVBS22) ]



## Youth Group

April was another busy month for the FPC Youth Group. We filled Easter eggs, played games, went on an outing to the movies, and spent time in fellowship with one another. We were delighted to spend part of our time during Lent watching the Wednesday evening Lenten prayer services, too.

Youth Group will meet four times in May: May 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 5:45-7:00 pm.

May 25 will be our last regular meeting for this school year. Over the summer, we will have monthly events and outings to look forward to. Stay tuned for more details!



## Sunday School—CE Celebration Sunday

EVERYONE is invited to join the CE Committee in recognizing and honoring our Sunday School classes, youth music participants, and all of the CE volunteers during the annual Celebration Sunday event held on **Sunday, May 22 at 9:45 a.m.** The event will be held in the Social Hall and special refreshments will be served. Help us honor all those children and youth who participated in CE and music programs and the faithful volunteers who supported them along the way. See you there!



## Easter Brunch THANK YOU!

After a few years on hiatus, the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee and the Christian Education Committee joined forces and were thrilled to co-host the annual Easter Brunch. Thanks to our FPC Church family, this event was a great success! We served over 130 people and raised over \$700 for Channel One Regional Food Bank.



There are so many *thank you's* to be said: to everyone who came to the brunch; to those who donated food for the brunch; to those who helped set up on Saturday; to those who helped cook, clean, and serve during brunch; and to all those who helped us clean up in record time.

A very special thank you to Holly Ebel and Lindsay Zetsche for all of the effort in planning, recruiting volunteers, decorating, and serving food. We are so grateful to have such a supportive and giving church community.

*Susanna*

## EXTRA EXTRA...



As an added bonus, sign-up to participate in the FPC Arts Camp, held the same days in the afternoon. Participants attending both camps will bring their lunch and have time to eat and play before the afternoon Arts Camp. Contact John Stender for more details about the 2022 FPC Arts Camp.



## Volunteers Needed!



VBS requires at least 25 volunteers to work smoothly, and we are looking to build our VBS volunteer team NOW! You can be as involved as you like, from leading a group, supporting a leader, providing snacks, or being a shepherd and making sure the children get to where they need to go. You can volunteer for all four days or only one day; for the whole morning or just one hour. If you enjoy working with the children of the church and are interested in assisting VBS in any way, please let Susanna know at [ [stone.susanna@fpcrochester.org](mailto:stone.susanna@fpcrochester.org) ]



John Stender, Director of Music  
stender.john@fpcrochester.org

# Music Ministry

John Stender, Director of Music  
Katie Kuisle, Calvin & Cherub Choirs  
Janine Yanisch, First Players Bands

Thinking about intentional outreach has been a simmering priority for me since I interviewed for my position as Director of Music Ministry here at FPC. While the past two years certainly presented an unplanned portage, of sorts, I remain committed to increasing and promoting well-rounded community outreach and involving our music program in it. I believe this congregation (especially in light of its surrounding community) absolutely must be engaged in outreach and we are a particularly adept creative crowd with the power to make meaningful offerings.

It's been at least 10 years, according to Carol Evans (or maybe more), since FPC hosted a Summer Worship Arts and Music camp. I learned of this recently, only to find that my 'new' idea was really just an old tradition in need of refreshing.

So, plans are coming together for a new take on this scheme- following Vacation Bible School during the same week, we will be offering a **Summer Music/Arts/Drama Camp** this June. **Monday, June 13 through Friday, June 17 from 12:30-4:00PM**, for children and youth age 5 and up.

Aside from somewhat similar arts engaged offerings from SEMYO and Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, I have found very little that compares to this in our area.

My goal is to provide families the opportunity to have their children engaged for a 'full' day if they take us up on VBS and our M/A/D Camp. This is for any young person in the broad community who has artistic gifts that they'd like to exercise and enjoy, and grow.

Engagement is needed from the FPC community to provide support in many ways: teaching, helping lead creative sessions, and learning alongside our attendees is very much needed, as well as folks willing to help facilitate lunch to bridge the gap between the end of VBS and the beginning of M/A/D Camp. We already have members planning to offer opportunities for students to engage in choral singing, keyboard and other instrumental opportunities, a workshop for Ghanaian Drumming and Dancing, creative writing, and more. What gifts can you bring, and what gifts are you willing to recognize and help foster in the young minds who will join us?

For me, lifelong learning was one of the most important concepts instilled in me through my education. I hope that I'll never feel that I've learned everything I need to know or lack the desire to take my knowledge and experience of something a step further. A church music ministry program is a wonderful space to foster that concept at the individual level and in community through tradition, worship, liturgy, and more.

I hope you'll consider joining this effort and getting in touch with me to talk about how we can promote this outreach opportunity as a positive offering for area youth and as a mutually beneficial ministry. All good gifts are from God, and I think we (as artists) share a common vocation to share our creative gifts and passions not only as an expression of ourselves but to return the favor of the gift with the hope of contributing to what is beautiful in and about our society.

## First Players Notes



Things are winding down for the year, and it has been another great season! Even though we still had some hiccups related to the pandemic to get through, there were also some wins, including spending time with the Luther College Concert Band on April 9. We had an afternoon of clinics, followed by dinner and culminating with a concert that evening. Here are a couple of things we are looking forward to this month:

- 1) Meet the Instrument Night – **Tuesday, May 10th 5–7 p.m.**  
Intended for students in 3rd grade and older, students have the opportunity to learn about various band instruments and about the band program
- 2) Final Concert of the Year – **Wednesday, May 18th** (rain date May 25th) **5–7 p.m.**  
First Players have been practicing all spring to prepare for this concert. Their concert will be followed by a performance by The Notochords, famous in the Rochester jazz landscape. There will also be grilled food and accompaniments and ICE CREAM!



Spread the word, near and far: 🎵 🎵 🎵  
FPC has a great First Players band program !

First Presbyterian Church	
Financial Statement / March 2022	
General Operating Budget	
Balance (02/28/2022)	\$ 54,383.97
Receipts (March 2022)	71,570.13
Disbursements (March 2022)	78,193.83
Balance (03/31/2022)	<u>\$ 47,760.27</u>

### Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving

**2022** marks a *century of giving* to the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women. It was launched in 1922 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Over the last 100 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people, especially women and children. It is a message of hope. Circles will collect this offering at their May meetings. The recipients this year are:

1. **Mission at the Eastward (MATE)**, McCleary House Transitional Housing, Farmington, Maine. This grant will help renovate McCleary House for people experiencing homelessness. Poverty has been increasing in Maine, with a growing number of vulnerable people losing their job due to job loss, eviction, sickness or economic hardship, all complicated in the last years by the pandemic. This transitional home will provide a warm, healthy place for families or individuals. It also will provide a safe space for individuals to begin the psych-social, educational and vocational work needed to move forward with their lives.
2. **Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares (Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand)**, Puerto Rico. Following the hurricane of 2017 and the earthquake of 2020, the Presbyterian Church in Lares has become the go-to location in the community for food, purified water, and personal items. With much of the population elderly and infirm, they rely on the church for help with necessities. Because the kitchen is small, dated, and not up to code, upgrades are needed to continue this ministry. Solar panels and a heavy-duty generator will also be installed to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.

### Horizons Bible Study for 2022-2023

The Bible study for 2022-2023 is *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, by Carol Bechtel. Each circle will receive one copy. If you would like an individual copy for yourself, please let Peg Parsons or your circle leader know by June 1.

### Synod of Lakes and Prairies Gathering in June

The registration deadline for the Synod Women's Gathering is May 15. Don't forget to tell Peg Parsons when you register. Hope to see you in Sioux City June 16-19.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

### Circles

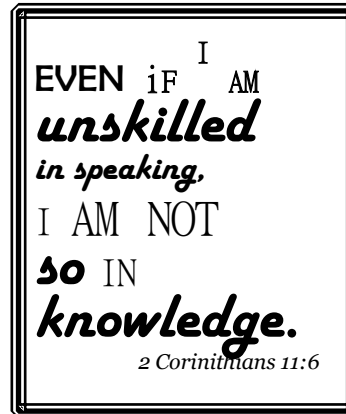
- ✂ **Esther Circle** meets Monday, May 9 @ 12:00 noon.
- ✂ **Prayer Shawl Group** meets Wednesday, May 11 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Priscilla Circle** meets Wednesday, May 18 @ 11:00 a.m.
- ✂ **Ruth Circle** meets Saturday, May 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

### Let's Talk About Hearing, Speech & Stuttering

– Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse

Our knowledge and understanding and our ability to communicate them do not always go hand-in-hand, as even the apostle Paul knew (see 2 Corinthians 11:6). This disparity can be frustrating and life-changing.

Stuttering is caused by interruptions in speech from repetition of a consonant or prolongation or absence of sound. While up to 5% of children struggle with stuttering, around 1% of adults do as well. Stuttering can be inherited and is related to brain and mouth coordination rather than intellect or emotion. Speech therapy and support can help but it can worsen during times of stress. When speaking with someone who is stuttering, don't make remarks like "slow down," "take a breath" or "relax" - while well meant, such remarks are patronizing. Try not to finish sentences or fill in words. Be particularly patient on the phone, where communication is hardest. Speak in an unhurried but not unnaturally slow way. Maintain eye contact. Show you are listening to what they say, not how they say it.



Bruce Willis's recent diagnosis with aphasia has brought this diagnosis into public awareness. Aphasia is a language disorder that may occur after a stroke or brain damage and can affect speaking, understanding, reading and writing. People with aphasia may struggle to find their word, use an incorrect word, switch sounds in words, use made-up words, struggle with sentences or scramble real and made-up words. Doctors can help discern the cause and speech-language pathologists can help treat the symptoms. If a loved one has aphasia, make sure to get their attention and keep eye contact. Talk in a quiet place and remember that they may not have trouble hearing but rather understanding and do not need increased volume. Remember this does not reflect intelligence but language processing. Use short sentences and simple but adult words and slow down your speech. Have patience in waiting for replies, and use drawing, pointing, writing and yes/no questions when helpful. Allow mistakes, and let them take their time.

During May, we commemorate Better Hearing and Speech Month and National Stuttering Week to help raise awareness about communication disorders and promote treatments that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding or hearing.

Resources: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, National Stuttering Association, The Stuttering Foundation

### Circles

**Esther Circle** Salad Luncheon  
Monday, May 9, at noon  
at the home of Alice Kerr  
(1405 Wilshire Woods Ln NE)  
Please give your RSVP to Alice.

**Priscilla Circle** Salad Luncheon  
Wednesday, May 18 at 11:00 a.m.  
at First Presbyterian Church

# What We Believe

Submitted by Lea B. Jennings

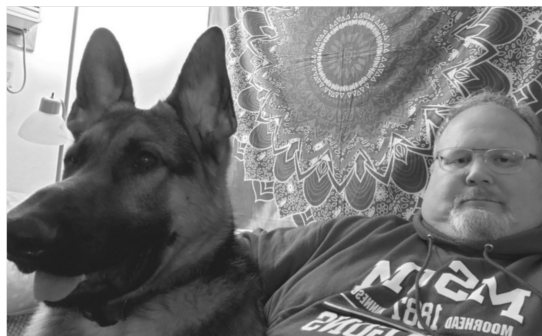
## Gabe Perkins

Growing up in Chatfield, MN., Gabe was both baptized and confirmed at Pioneer Presbyterian Church in Chatfield. During high school while active in youth group, Pioneer Presbyterian Church and the John Knox Presbytery sponsored Gabe's travel and registration to attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Gabe continues to remember Triennium as a great personal experience.

Gabe met his wife Kristen, who is from Alma, Wisconsin, and they have been happily married for over twenty years. He attended Winona State University, has his Masters Degree and currently works in human resources. After their membership at both Bethel and Mt. Olive Lutheran Churches, the Perkins joined FPC in 2012. They were welcomed by the late Linda and John Tillotson. Music was a magnet for the family. Both their daughter, Maddie, and their son, Ryan, participated in First Players and joined Gabe and Kristen playing in the FPC Orchestra. Gabe is grateful for music opportunities shared with Lee Afdahl and Jennifer Taylor and appreciates the continued leadership of John Stender.

An active FPC member, Gabe has served multiple terms as an elder and currently leads the Personnel and Administration Committee. Both of his children attended FPC youth activities and are now in college. Gabe and Kristen love belonging to FPC and believe Rev. T.J., Rev. Jay, and the entire FPC Staff are treasures, tending to our congregational spiritual needs. Gabe appreciates our other church members who come from various walks of life including business, teachers, doctors, and allied health, all of whom participate in our faith leadership opportunities. Gabe also continues to enjoy the FPC music ministry, conversations with the church family during Sunday fellowship hour, and Al Depman's current events discussions. Gabe's personal mantra is to "reach out and try to bring more members into our FPC Family!"

Thank you Gabe for sharing your talents and enthusiasm for FPC. FPC is **truly grateful.**



Gabe enjoying a quiet moment with his 2-year-old puppy, Teddy.



### Celebrating Birthdays in May ...



- <sup>04</sup> Pauli Krieger (89) & Neil McKay (87)
- <sup>06</sup> Donald Wiegert (92)
- <sup>08</sup> Ellen Harkey (88) & James B. Seward (80)
- <sup>10</sup> Lonnie Martin (98)
- <sup>17</sup> Ellis Bloomfield (82) & Jackie Kruger (80)
- <sup>23</sup> John Brandrup (92)
- <sup>24</sup> Sharon Nichols (81)
- <sup>27</sup> Mary VanDerHeyden (85)
- <sup>29</sup> Melvin Hicks (96)

### Celebrating Anniversaries in May ...

- <sup>15</sup> Robert & Cindy Sannes (56)
- <sup>30</sup> John & Jane Tietjen (51)



We extend our condolences to the family of Tyler Schultz, who died on April 1, 2022.

We extend our condolences to the family of Nancy Boutelle, who died on April 12, 2022.

We extend our condolences to the family of Nancy Brandrup, who died on April 13, 2022.