

# Welcome Back

**First Presbyterian Church** is returning to  
**two services** on Sunday morning starting **September 12**.

Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

with Sunday school and time for fellowship in between.

A service will livestream on our YouTube channel,

and audio from the service can be heard in the parking lot via FM channel 88.5.

See the full schedule inside the front cover.

Masks and social distancing are required.

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester  
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*



**2021**

SEPTEMBER

First Presbyterian Church  
512 3rd Street SW  
Rochester, Minnesota 55902  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
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Rochester, MN  
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September 2021						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



# The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for September 2021

## PASTOR'S QUILL

Well, I had hoped that this Fall would bring some easing of Covid-19 restrictions, but alas, it appears we need to keep our guard up for a little while longer. As I have watched recent news coverage of the rise in Covid-19 cases and the growing concern of children becoming sicker and sicker, we also see images of the Taliban taking back control of Afghanistan and the terrible loss of human life in Haiti. The list of awfulness seems to grow every day. I am reminded of something Henri Nouwen once said as he pondered the paradox of the spiritual life. "The Holy Spirit lifts us," says Nouwen, "into the kingdom of God's love, yet forces keep pulling us back into a worry-filled life." Those forces have felt especially strong these last few weeks and months.

Because of this struggle, we are called to the discipline of constantly listening for the quiet voice of the Spirit, rather than the deafening roar of what's going on around us.

Noise of all sorts can make us deaf to God's voice. The danger is if we don't detect the nudges and whispers of the Holy Spirit, our lives may become what Nouwen calls "absurd," based on the Latin word for "deaf" – surdus.

Absurd is an especially relevant word these days. So much absurdity goes on all around us. As Shakespeare once wrote of events in his own time, they were "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" – or, as Nouwen would say "absurd."

In contrast, in Jesus we see someone who was always listening for God's whispers, always attuned to divine nudges. As Nouwen once wrote, "Jesus was 'all ear.' That is true prayer: being all ear for the Spirit of God."

As we begin this Fall season, let us be "all ear"; listening for God's whispers and divine nudges as we live into hope.

Blessing,

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

- ♪ *The fall Music Ministry schedule is outlined on page 6* ♪
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Worship & Communion @ Charter House .... **1:00 p.m.**  
Adult Bible Study ..... **6:30 p.m.**
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Worship & Communion ..... **10:00 a.m.**
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Deacons (via Zoom) ..... **7:00 p.m.**
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... **1:00 p.m.**
  - 12 \_\_\_\_\_ **KICK-OFF SUNDAY**  
Worship ..... **8:30 a.m.**  
Sunday School ..... **9:45 a.m.**  
Worship ..... **11:00 a.m.**  
Festival of Music ..... **4:00 p.m.**
  - 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Priscilla Circle ..... **9:15 a.m.**  
Youth Group ..... **5:45 p.m.**  
Adult Bible Study ..... **6:30 p.m.**
  - 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_ PW Mission Rummage Sale ..... **9:00 a.m.**
  - 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth Circle ..... **10:00 a.m.**
  - 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Worship ..... **8:30 a.m.**  
Sunday School ..... **9:40 a.m.**  
Worship ..... **11:00 a.m.**
  - 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Esther Circle ..... **1:00 p.m.**
  - 21 \_\_\_\_\_ Session Meeting (via Zoom) ..... **7:00 p.m.**
  - 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Bible Study ..... **6:30 p.m.**
  - 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Worship ..... **8:30 a.m.**  
Sunday School ..... **9:45 a.m.**  
Worship ..... **11:00 a.m.**

### First Presbyterian Church Financial Statement / July 2021 General Operating Budget

Balance (06/30/2021)	\$	36,323.86
Receipts (July 2021)		65,418.46
Disbursements (July 2021)		<u>58,421.16</u>
Balance (07/31/2021)	\$	<u>43,321.16</u>

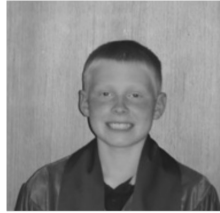


As we approach a new school year and church program year, I wanted to take a look back at the Confirmation class which met on-line last program year. I'll be reaching out to the families of our upcoming confirmation class of 8th graders as well as any who opted out last year due to having to meet on-line. The class of '21 was recognized during worship on May 23 after they were officially examined and received by the Session via Zoom meeting prior to that. I thought it would be good to share an excerpt from their faith statements, specifically what they believe about church.

Jay

Jonas Braun

"I believe that church is a place where people with similar ideas and beliefs come together to share. I believe the church can promote community. I believe the church will need to change to keep going for a long time. I believe the church (and the people in it) does help us understand and answer questions that we don't understand about religion. I want to be active and a member of the church because our church is ok with people who are still developing their faith and have questions."

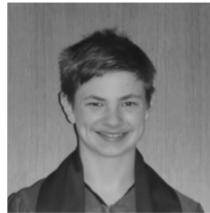


Thomson Parlette

"I believe that church is a place of worship. I believe the church can heal wounds that you cannot see. I believe the church will provide answers or clues to questions I can't solve by myself with my experience. I believe the church does bring a place of peace and forgiveness. I want to be active and a member of this church because I am known and respected here."

Jacob Wobig

"I believe Church is a place where I can go to seek forgiveness from God through Jesus. Church is a place I can go in my time of need. I believe the church can help people believe in God. I believe the church can help me be a better person. I believe the church can raise awareness for social causes. I believe the church will answer all my questions about my religion and God. I believe the church will keep me safe and protected. I believe the church does kind things for people like watching over the elderly, sending cards to people, and donating money to good causes. I want to be active and a member of this church because I want to make my parents proud, so I can make a difference in peoples' lives, and so that I can see my friends more often."



Calista Young

"I believe the church is a welcoming sanctuary for the people of God, somewhere to find community and belonging. I believe that the church can bring people together and make people feel comforted even in the worst times. I believe the church will continue to help and inspire people in the future. I believe that the church helps people in many different ways. I want to be an active member of church because it gives me a sense of community and purpose."

Contact: Rowland.Jay@FPCRochester.org  
Phone: (507) 990-1367



## Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



### September Youth Group Update

Welcome to September! I am happy to report that the FPC Youth Group is planning on meeting in-person on Wednesdays during our pre-COVID regularly scheduled time of 5:45-7:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 15 from 5:45-7:00 p.m. All youth in grades 6-12 (and their friends!) are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and fun! Dinner will be served each week and the youth will spend time exploring their faith, making new friends, working on service projects, and having fun! All FPC COVID guidelines will be followed: masks are required, social distancing enforced, and we will meet outside as much as we can.

### Kickoff Sunday, September 12

Join us on Sunday, September 12 in the Social Hall to celebrate the beginning of another program year at FPC.

9:45-10:00 am: Social Hall--Introduction/Presentation by Jay, Susanna, John, and Katie

10:00-10:20 am: Open House—Find your Sunday School room, meet your Sunday

School teachers, make a craft, find the music room, and meet your music teachers.

Feel free to do all of those in whatever order you wish!

### Save the Date

#### FPC Halloween Spooktacular, Saturday October 30, 2:30-4:00 pm

Join us for an outdoor Halloween gathering FOR ALL AGES! We will have a "trunk-or-treat", games, crafts, and activities that everyone can enjoy. Stay tuned for more details and registration!

### Sunday School Teachers —

We are looking for a few more Sunday School teachers for children's classes. We would like to have a teaching "team" in each classroom to accommodate teacher absences and allow the children to get to know more adults in the church. If you are interested in occasional Sunday School teaching, please email Susanna!



### Nursery attendants —

We are looking for volunteers to assist the nursery staff both on Sundays and for other nights when there are activities at the church. Contact the office if you are willing to have your name on that list.

**Sitter Service volunteers** — We are looking for sitters to assist on the second Friday evening of the month during the school year. Contact Sarah Edgerton with questions.

### Sitter Service to Resume

Current plans are to resume our Parents Night Out service on Friday, October 8, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. — we're so excited to see the kids again!!

But — as with everyone's plans this last 18 months — this could change, be delayed, or canceled based on the COVID-19 situation in October, so stayed tuned.

All children (6 months to 10 years old) of members or regular attendees are welcome and kids older than 10 may come and help.

Watch for sign-ups beginning Sunday, October 1 through October 6. Please email or call Sarah Edgerton with questions or concerns at edgertonsarah@gmail.com or 507-269-1521.

We will follow the FPC COVID-19 protocol, so everyone (kids and sitters) will need to wear a face mask.



# Music Ministry

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

“IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
TO SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH ...”

*Psalm 92*

The last Sunday in August marked the end of Nathan Elsbernd’s internship. Nathan was our second Music Ministry Intern. I am so thankful that the people of FPC have supported this effort. I have learned so much from the opportunity to teach and reach back to memories of myself as a Luther student. I knew that I thought I wanted to be a church musician, but at that time I only knew so much of what that meant. It has been a blessing both to me, and I know from experience it has been to Nathan. Thanks be to God!

With the end of summer and the beginning of yet another fall season under the cloud of the pandemic, I am entering my third year of ministry here. I do lament, in part, that in more than two years only 25% of the time has been under “normal” circumstances. Challenges, strained connection opportunities, and alternative formats aside, I remain committed to a vision of growth for our music program and to the congregation’s mission of “...showing and sharing the love of Jesus Christ, reflecting God’s love for all people...”

I am excited to share some schedule basics to live by through the end of this year. I am eager to invite people to join us who have not joined us before! I look forward to partnering with children and adults in music ministry and am ever grateful for the colleagues I have in all the church staff and Katie and Janine. Soli Deo Gloria!

## Music Ministry Fall Schedule 2021

### Sunday

- 8:30AM worship—occasional offerings from music ensembles
- 9:40-10:00AM—“Sing God Alive” musical opening to Sunday School—Gr 2-5
- 10:20-10:50AM—**Cherub Choir**—Age 4-Gr 1, Katie Kuisle, director
- 10:15AM—Chancel Choir Rehearsal and Preparation for Worship
- 11:00AM worship—Chancel Choir leads  
occasional offerings from all music ensembles

### Wednesday

- 4:45-5:45PM—**Calvin Choir**—Gr 2-4, Katie Kuisle, director
- 4:45-5:45PM—**Youth Choir**—Gr 5-9, John Stender, director
- 5:45-6:15PM—FPC community Meal  
(6:15-7:00PM—Youth Group)
- 7:00-7:45PM—**Joyous Praise Handbell Choir**—Grades 5 and older

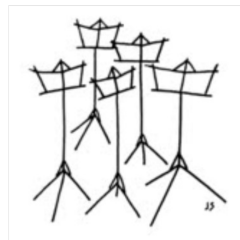
### Thursday

- 6:00-7:00PM—**Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir**—high school and adults
- 7:00-8:30PM—**Chancel Choir**—high school and adults

“I WILL SING WITH THE SPIRIT, AND I WILL SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING ALSO.”  
*1 Corinthians 14:15b*

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

## A Festival of Music presents...



## Chulrua—Irish Traditional Music

Sunday, September 12, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Join us September 12th for music and storytelling featuring truly world-class Irish musicians. Master of the button accordion and leading proponent of Irish tunes, Paddy O’Brien, model fiddler Barry Foy, and consummate plucked string player and vocalist Paul Wehling will perform together. The band says, “The heart of Irish music is the session, where tunes are played and traded, and conversation about music is the central theme.” Chulrua promises music in a relaxed, intimate atmosphere, and tunes offered as they were handed down from generation to generation.

*Face masks will be required for all present.  
Fellowship in the atrium will follow, with no reception.*

## News from the FPC Mission Committee:

*Marylynn Aalderks*

The members of our congregation are amazingly generous and your contribution dollars to FPC are finding their way across the world to help those in most need.

Money designated to the PC(USA) Christmas Joy offering support present, past and future church leaders. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering allows us to share God’s love with neighbors-in-need around the world, providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Blanket Sunday provides sturdy, comforting blanket to children, men and women struggling against the cold.

The congregation also responded very generously to the request for funds to support the Bdecan Church and purchase hygiene products and winter clothing for children and to support the food pantry with addressing food insecurity.



The Mission Committee helps those in emergency situations throughout the world through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. We contribute to a number of international programs, many which are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. We continue to provide scholarships for disadvantaged students attending Forman Christian College (FCC) in Pakistan. This year we also sent funds for masks, sanitizer, Plexiglas barriers, and vaccines for low-income

workers at FCC. Through the PC(USA), we helped finance mission co-workers returning abroad after having spent the past year in the U.S. due to the COVID pandemic. We are sponsoring two programs that build wells in Africa and one that addresses sanitation issues. Funds have gone to a hospital in India; supported nursing scholarships in Haiti; and helped Cuban Presbyterian Churches suffering severe financial hardships.

These are only some of the programs that receive support from FPC! For that,

*we are thankful !!!*



## Mission Fundraiser Sale is Coming

*Sally Brooks and Judy Kruesel*

The PW Rummage Sale will finally take place this fall — scheduled for September 17 and 18, with a pre-sale on September 16 by admission only. Workers for sale days are needed, and many hands will make the sorting/set-up process much lighter! Please volunteer through Sign-up Genius. If you have unexpected free time, please drop in. You are always welcome! **DONATIONS:** We are accepting non-clothing donations beginning September 8 through September 15 at 3p.m. We are not accepting exercise equipment, TV's, microwaves, computers or unusually large items. Contact Sally Brooks (507-316-9339) or Judy Kruesel (507-250-5128) with any questions or concerns. Masks are required for all.

## PW News

### Circles

The 2021-2022 circle year is beginning! New members are always welcome to any of the circles. The Bible study lesson this year focuses on the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

*Sylvia Swede, coordinator*

- ✂ **Esther Circle** meets on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m., with the first meeting on September 20.
- ✂ **Priscilla Circle** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:15 a.m., with the first meeting on September 15.
- ✂ **Prayer Shawl Group** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m., with the first meeting on September 18.

### Mission Projects

- † **Kemmerer Village:** Kemmerer provides residential and foster care services and is located on 60 acres surrounded by farmland. In May, a tornado touched down on the north end of the campus, damaging roofs and crushing cars, but luckily no one was injured.
- † **Channel One Food Bank:** Channel One provides free groceries to more than 3,600 households each month.
- † **Remember Niger Coalition:** The vast majority of children in Niger do not have the opportunity to receive a quality education, with 51% attending primary school, and only 19% continuing on to middle school.
- † **Casa de Esperanza:** Two centers in Pharr and Progreso, Texas, provide early childhood development programs to underprivileged families. Five hundred forty five mothers and children currently participate.
- † **NOROC:** Before NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children), it was rare for an orphan in Tulcea County, Romania, to graduate from high school. Now most graduate from high school and some have attained university degrees.

### Something to ponder

Josh Heikkila, PC(USA)'s liaison in West Africa, was asked by a Nigerian Presbyterian man, "Why don't Americans go to church anymore?" How would you answer this man? Why do you go to church?

Blessings ... Stay Well ... See you in church!

## National Suicide Prevention Week

*Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse*

In September we commemorate National Suicide Prevention Week. Suicide is unspeakably tragic for all involved. Suicide rates increased 33% between 1999 and 2019. Paradoxically social media and technology are making us more isolated. The pandemic hasn't helped! All ages can be susceptible to depression and suicide. If you are struggling, please reach out; you are loved and needed more than you know!

The right questions at the right time can save lives so become familiar with the risk factors, warning signs, and resources to help. **Risk factors** for suicide include previous attempts, family history, substance use, mood disorder, access to means, losses and struggles, history of trauma, chronic illness, and recent suicidal behavior of someone they know. **Warning signs** of immediate risk include talking and writing about death, comments about hopelessness, increased substance use, withdrawal, reckless behavior, mood changes, and expressing feeling trapped or burdensome. **Protective factors** that reduce risk include problem solving and conflict resolution skills, social connections, mental health care, and contacts with providers.

If you or someone you know is struggling, there are many resources:

- provide compassionate, non-judgmental listening and help to make a good plan to connect with help
- call 1-800-273-TALK or 1-844-CRISIS2
- use Lifeline's online chat option
- text HOME to 741741 for text support,
- the new Southeast Regional Crisis Center is open 24/7 for those experiencing mental health emergencies at 2121 Campus Drive SE
- the Emergency Department particularly if there is concern for injury.

If the Holy Spirit or your intuition is prompting you to reach out and check on someone - pay attention! Caring can save lives.

Resources: CDC, Psychiatry.org, Lifeline, Olmsted County National Suicide Prevention Week



## Participate in the *Out of the Darkness* Walk

*Mark Mueller*

Join hundreds of others in the support of suicide prevention and awareness in our communities. There is no fee to walk, but donations are appreciated.

When you walk in the *Out of the Darkness* walks, you join the effort with hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Please visit [afsp.org/rochestermn](http://afsp.org/rochestermn), and join team **FirstPresbyterianChurch**. Even if you can't walk you can still go on-line and join team **FirstPresbyterianChurch** and be a virtual walker.

Walk Date: **10/02/2021**  
 Walk Location: **Prairie Care Medical Group**  
**5255 Members Pkwy NW, Rochester, MN**  
 Check-in/Registration Time: **9:00 am**  
 Walk Begins: **10:00 am**

If you have questions, contact Mark Mueller at [markmueller@chartermi.net](mailto:markmueller@chartermi.net)

# Among our Church Family

## Anniversaries

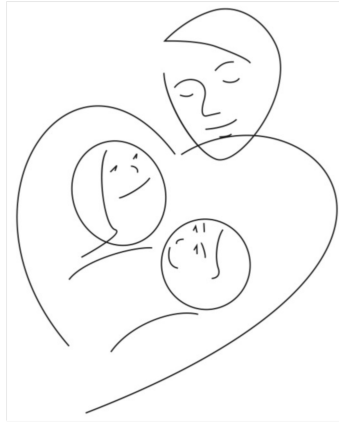
**James & LaVonne Jacobson** on September 10, 50 years  
**Peter & Isabelle Dyck** on September 11, 67 years  
**Robert & Charlene Kyle** on September 11, 67 years  
**Derald & Sandra Holloway** on September 26, 57 years  
**Ronald & Judy Hunter** on September 27, 52 years

## Birthdays

**William Karnes** on September 5, 91 years  
**Elmer VanDerHeyden** on September 19, 93 years  
**Louise Bastron** on September 30, 98 years

## Our Condolences

We extend our sympathy to **Ann Groover** and her family on the death of her husband, **Robert Groover**, on July 24.



## SMILE AND SAY “CHEESE”!

The Welcoming & Nurturing Committee has scheduled the photographer for Tuesday, October, 26, through Saturday October 30, with times tentatively set for 2:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. on Tuesday thru Friday, and from 10 a.m.—4:00 p.m. on Saturday. We will be utilizing an electronic system to schedule the time for sittings. Watch our weekly electronic *Good News* email, the weekly *Stained Glass Window* publication, and the *Marking Our Journey Together* bulletin board for more information. If you are willing to help during the week of the photos, please call the office at 282-1618 or contact Holly Ebel, Jane Murl, Gregg Erickson, or Allyson Mauer. Dust off and freshen up, and practice your best smiles for the new directory.

*Jane Murl, Welcoming and Nurturing Committee*



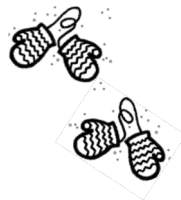
## Attention all knitters, crocheters and fleece sewers!

*Susie McClocklin, Prayer Shawl Group*

Acorns and walnuts are already falling from the trees so we know that winter is coming!! The Prayer Shawl group would like to extend an invitation to all to help create some fun, warm and very much needed caps, scarves, mittens and warm gloves for school-aged children and adults. These cozy items will be distributed to Hawthorne Helps, a part of the Hawthorne Education Center in Rochester and to NOROC, a FPC sponsored organization helping children in Romania.

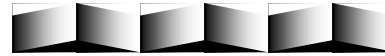
Please bring your items to the church office by October 15 and specify where to direct your donation

Thank you for sharing your love and talents to help everyone stay warm this winter!



## Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage

Larry and Nancy Boutelle, and Mike McDonough have signed up along with Allyson Maurer, Phyllis Schmid and Carol Shaffer to participate in the Presbytery's second Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage starting in September and running through May 2022. The pilgrimage includes readings, videos, podcasts, and small group discussions and provides a chance to integrate action with reflection, and develop spiritual capacities for life long anti-racist action. Please contact Carol Shaffer [rev.carol.shaffer@gmail.com] if you have signed up to be included in a group meeting in October.



According to the Rochester Public Library website, three local authors' were selected through a statewide writing contest highlighting water-related stories in MN. Andrew Pruett, an FPC member, is pictured on the left, and Jan Wiersma, pastor, Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, is on the right. Their stories are included in an anthology available in the library's collection.

## Mission team cancels trip to North Dakota

*Cindy Kunzman*

After prayerful consideration and much discussion, the team consisting of Marylynn Aalderks, Jane Hallman, Cindy Kunzman and Vicki Wintheiser made the difficult decision not to visit the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota, at the end of September. Increasing COVID cases in the area coupled with vulnerabilities among the team (despite all being vaccinated) prompted the decision (with the support of the Mission Committee) to postpone the trip until July 2022, when plans are to conduct a Vacation Bible School at the church.

One of the special things about this church is the overwhelming generosity witnessed every day. A committee or group identifies a need and everyone responds ... again and again and again. This summer, you have once again come through – with blankets! Individuals went through their closets and watched sale flyers and brought us blankets, but that wasn't all. At yard sales, sellers donated their gently used blankets because they knew it was a great cause! Words of thanks do not come close to express the gratitude we, and the people of Bdecan, feel having experienced your good works. Thinking of all the residents of the Spirit Lake Nation community, adults and children, who will be warmed by the nearly 80 blankets that were collected, we offer each of you a heartfelt “Thank You!” The blankets will be delivered to the church by Phyllis Schmid and her son on their return from a trip out west.

If you are interested in joining the team for 2022, please contact Marylynn Aalderks.

**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 10 a.m. in-person and on YouTube  
 Education: a weekly video with a Bible story is available on YouTube.  
 Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Ring the bell or call the office at 282-1618 for entry into the church.

Member: Presbyterian Church USA