

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

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



Introducing the *Stained Glass Window*

A weekly look into the life
of First Presbyterian Church

A new publication is available each week on Sunday and outlines important news items for the following week. Please feel free to pick one up in the atrium.



MARKING OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Jane Hallman

Located in the hall to the right of the door to the Sheldon Jackson Lounge is our community bulletin board and it is NEW, NEW, NEW. Be sure to check it out if you have not already seen it!

In June, we featured pictures of:

- ↳ our newest baptized members,
- ↳ 2021 confirmands and high school graduates,
- ↳ and the First Players concert and community picnic held on June 3.

The “items of note” shares information about youth group activities, Vacation Bible School, volunteer opportunities, recent obituaries and even a list of members whose birthdays we are celebrating this month (don’t worry, it’s only the month and date!)

The entire space a work in progress. Please let Cindy in the office know if you have news items or would like to see something posted on the board

First Presbyterian Church	
Financial Statement / May 2021	
General Operating Budget	
Balance (04/30/2021)	\$ 17,726.02
Receipts (May 2021)	71,819.53
Disbursements (May 2021)	<u>55,622.72</u>
Balance (05/31/2021)	<u>\$ 33,922.83</u>



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for July 2021



PASTOR’S QUILL

Like many of you I’m sure, during these pandemic days I have spent a great amount of time streaming movies and series from Netflix, Disney+, Hulu and Amazon Prime. I never used to do that very much, but then network TV went on hiatus and everything shut down, so I discovered the world of streaming. It began with *The Mandalorian*, and from there I moved to *Jack Ryan*, the *Marvelous Mrs Maizel*, *Tiger King*, *Ted Lasso*, *For All Mankind*, *Space Force*, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, and a bunch of other shows. That became one of my go-to conversation questions for friends and family - “What are you streaming these days?” Movies and miniseries became a real comfort in our quarantine days.

So I was interested to see an article in the recent *Christian Century* by a theology professor from Fordham University named Kathryn Reklis, who was writing on the question “What makes a movie a “family movie”?” For her, there’s a difference between a “kid’s movie” and a “family movie” A kid’s movie is “something a kid can watch all by themselves, even in excerpted scenes divorced from the plot as a whole – think *Moana* or the *Frozen* movies.” But family movies are a bit more. “While they are still aimed at kids and their adults, they make the family itself the main subject of exploration. Usually a quirky member of the family (the outsider) drags the rest of the clan into a series of wild adventures that force the family to think explicitly about what makes them a family.”

She cites a couple of recent releases to make her point (which I am taking as movie recommendations to pass along!): *Flora and Ulysses* (Disney+), *Finding ‘Ohana* (Netflix), and *The Mitchells vs. the Machines* (Netflix). All three are worth a watch, but I like what Dr. Reklis says about the main character in *The Mitchell’s vs. the Machines*. At the end of the movie, Kate realizes that family isn’t just a bunch of weirdos you try to escape. If you are lucky, family are “your people”, and they make you the awesome weirdo you always wanted to be. This is the fragile hope of the family movie: that families can be webs of love that expand to hold us through our fears, insecurities, self-discovery, and joy.”

It seems to me that Dr. Reklis could be talking about churches as well as nuclear families. Every week, I have been opening my weekly email message with “Hello Church Family” because I think it is true that our church family isn’t just a bunch of weirdos that you put up with, but our church family is “your people” and they make you the awesome weirdo you always wanted to be. Jesus and Paul often refer to the world’s perception that Christians are weirdos, we don’t make sense, we don’t operate like the world does. We live in God’s kingdom, which has a set of operating procedures all its own – based on grace, forgiveness, sacrifice and love.

So I invite you to give those three “family” movies a watch this summer, and think how they might apply to your church family.

Peace,

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



Happy July! The Christian Education Committee (CE) was proud to host and support the following events and activities during the month of June:

- **Graduation Sunday on June 6.** We were pleased to be able to celebrate in-person with many of our graduates. Congrats to **Kyle Doppler, Luke Drake, Elliot Mahon, Kate Pedelty, Ryan Perkins, Grafton Parlette, and Tyrah Rostad.** Best wishes on this next chapter in your lives!
- **Worship service spaces for families:** when in-person worship services resumed on June 13, the CE Committee provided various spaces for families to worship. Families are invited and welcome to worship in the sanctuary. In addition, the nursery is open for families with toddlers to remain with their parents, the social hall is available for a place to move around during the service, and the multi-purpose room is available for the most active kids, with a few larger toys, some books, as well as a coloring station.
- **Youth Group** had their first summer outing on June 30. The youth gathered and spent some time at Bowlocity, bowling, playing laser tag, and having fun. The next Youth Group outing will be on July 26 with a hike through Chester Woods Park.
- **Sunday School videos** are posted each Sunday at 9 am on YouTube. The videos are based on the Celebrate Wonder Sunday School curricula for Pre-K through 5th graders, though everyone is welcome to watch! Each video has the week's Bible story, reflection, and a craft idea.

A few reminders:

Vacation Bible School (VBS) registration is OPEN! Sign up online for *VBS 2021: Compassion Camp* which will be held **Monday-Thursday, August 2 – 5** from **9:30 – 11:30 a.m.** in-person at FPC. VBS is open to ANY child age 3 through 5th grade. Sign up at: tinyurl.com/FPCVBS21



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are in need of a group of volunteers to help both with VBS set-up/preparation the week of July 26 and to assist with VBS the week of August 2. We will work with your schedule, so whether you can only come for an hour, or for a few days, we need YOU! If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Susanna.

Happy Summer, *Susanna*

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education
stone.susanna@fpcrochester.org



On Sunday, June 6, we recognized and celebrated the following high school graduates.

KYLE DOPPLER
LUKE DRAKE
ELLIOT MAHON
GRAFTON PARLETTE

KATE PEDELTY
RYAN PERKINS
TYRAH ROSTAD



2021 GRADUATES

Last month we recognized a number of our members who have celebrated milestone graduations this past year. Sadly we missed a few and would like to include them in another publication. Please let us know if someone in your household graduated with a degree or certificate in since last spring, 2020.





Music Ministry

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

What a time this is! It seems to me there's a lot happening, or perhaps it's that there is a lot in the works. Exciting worship opportunities and other projects for summer are upon us! There seems to be a lot of motivation, momentum, eagerness, and energy, building for the kickoff of a new season for ministry come September. I hope everyone will jump on board with that – if it's not evident publicly, I can tell you it is certainly an anticipation shared by the staff and I know also by several of our committees.

Not least in the list of exciting happenings is that Nathan Elsbernd is joining our staff as Music Ministry Intern, thanks to the caring support of the Worship and Music and Personnel committees and the Session. Nathan began Monday, June 21, and will be among us until Sunday, August 22. Nathan is a student at Luther College where he is studying music, organ, sacred music, and religion, respectively! Throughout his internship he will work alongside me in all aspects of music ministry from Sunday music to Vacation Bible School and music filing. He will also be mentored by his (and my former) organ professor during this time, and I look forward to collaborating yet again with Dr. Gregory Peterson. Many grateful thanks are due to Bill and Sharon Nichols who have graciously offered to host Nathan at their home this summer. Thank you to them, and all of FPC, for offering such a rich learning opportunity for a future servant of the church!

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

(Romans 12:11-13)

Since April 11, the future has been coming more into view for me, personally. My little idea book that I keep in my office is burgeoning with hopeful thoughts for ministry and the life of the FPC musical community. This has felt like a transition period from exclusively online worship life to something more open and to time where I can focus on building for the future rather than merely slogging through audio/visual needs and basic ‘getting by’ survival work.

I’d like to share something about my pattern of thinking in these days. In the words of theologian Marva Dawn, “...we must be careful lest our character as individual Christians and the character of our communities lack sufficient substance to reach out to the world around us and to influence the culture.” What’s more: that is a decades-old quote that doesn’t account at all for the challenges of distance and space during a global pandemic! Questions that are on my mind include: So, how can we assess the work of our ministry and fellowship and prepare for the present that is and the future that may be? And further, are we willing to band together to support what is truly important while we connect our music and ministry efforts to worship as well as seek ways to connect with Rochester and the world outside FPC’s walls? Are we merely practicing surface level “welcome;” and can we deepen our welcome into true hospitality for all people?

It’s these kind of questions that motivate me to think carefully about the music and fellowship I am planning to be shared in our community. The same questions motivate me to think about the many mechanical things that I’ve been investing time in lately.

Although it’s been done many times, I’ve once again re-imagined the moveable chancel boxes to improve conditions and space for our vocal and handbell ensembles both in rehearsal and in worship. I’ve acquired new and more flexibly utilized handbell tables and plan to place them down into the front of the sanctuary and out of the cramped chancel space. The choir library has been tidied with more storage added, the choir room has been painted and attention is being given to updated lighting and flooring as well. Percussion instruments are being catalogued with an eye toward thoughtful children’s music education opportunities and the launching of a church-hosted community drum circle. Routine rehearsal schedules for each day of the week are being discussed and revised in hopes of maximizing education and community building benefits come fall. New ideas and resources for children’s music education, fundraisers, music related travel opportunities, special worship services, guest musicians, lecture/discussions, and creative fellowship opportunities and other performance interests are being gathered and developed.

I don’t seek to boast in any of the doing here. I merely want to share my excitement for the work of ministry alongside you all and encourage that there is plenty of vision to catch up with when you find yourselves back in the swing of church in the coming months. Be in touch! Be of good faith and have hope!

Be the Body!

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



“Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth.”

Karla Koll, Mission co-worker in Costa Rica

The Reverend Doctor Karla Koll is a PC(USA) mission co-worker and professor of history, mission and religions at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) in San Jose, Costa Rica. In March 2020, the pandemic forced all universities in Costa Rica to go online, a smooth transition for UBL with their online experience. Despite the deprivations of the pandemic, with support from Presbyterian World Mission, Karla has been able to remain in Costa Rica and to continue to connect remotely with students and churches worldwide. The new academic year of 2021 is now well underway with virtual classrooms for students in seventeen countries. Although local students and staff miss gathering together, the pandemic has had some blessings. Zoom meetings connect students in other countries, allowing greater interaction and sharing of perspectives among different cultures. People under lockdown also had more time to dedicate to their studies, and to theological studies in particular. Student numbers have grown – Karla has had an increase from 12 to 45 students recently. Funds are being redirected from students in residence to help with the cost of online classes for more people. More online seminars have provided a space for biblical and theological reflection and more podcasts are underway! But many in the UBL community have lost family members and friends to COVID, and there is still great uncertainty about when students in different countries will be vaccinated.

We are grateful that FPC is able with our mission funds to help support Presbyterian World Mission, which has allowed Karla to stay in Costa Rica and to continue to guide the theological training of church leaders throughout Latin America.

Forman Christian College

For years now, FPC has supported Forman Christian College (FCC) through our mission funds which provide aid for scholarships and new buildings. Founded in 1864, FCC is a unique liberal arts university in Lahore, Pakistan. As a Christian institution administered by the Presbyterian Church, its 8,500 students come from all backgrounds – men and women, Christian and Muslim, all economic levels – and they interact and learn together. This model of interfaith harmony is found nowhere else in Pakistan, a nation deeply divided by religion, gender and class. It is also currently the only university in Pakistan offering a liberal arts education providing broad learning in humanities, science, mathematics,

information technology and social science, in addition to courses in each academic major. Funds from our church in 2016 helped FCC to open Light of Hope Elementary School, an on-campus school to educate children of the poorest Christian workers who remain among the most underprivileged and illiterate people in Pakistan. This school has now reached into the local community and provides education from kindergarten up to the 10th, 11th and 12th grade curriculum already supported by FCC.

Covid-19 has provided an additional challenge to the many existing ones in this community. The pandemic has been devastating to the personal finances of the poorest populations, including the majority of Christians, 70% of whom are day laborers who have lost their jobs. The available vaccines are too expensive for them. A Covid-19 relief and assistance fund for FCC is providing masks, sanitizer, plexiglass barriers and

continued on page 9

\$1,600 Collected for Birthday Offering

The three circles collected the annual national birthday offering in May. This offering has funded over 200 major mission projects that continue to impact women and children in the United States and around the world.

The 2021 projects are:

- ✂ **Garden Gate Ranch, Inc. — Des Moines, Iowa**
[Education Center]
Garden Gate Ranch provides safe housing and restorative and transitional services for sexually-exploited women and their children. This is a project in our own *Synod of Lakes and Prairies*.
- ✂ **Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc. — Stone Mountain, Georgia**
[Gymnasium Improvements]
This organization is a partnership between the *Presbytery of Greater Atlanta* and six other churches. The roof needs replacing. The gym houses sewing, karate, dance, Frisbee, badminton, basketball and other after-school activities.
- ✂ **Nkhoma Mission Hospital — Nkhoma, Malawi**
[Women’s Health Center/OBGYN Theatre]
This theatre will be build next to the existing prenatal and maternity wards and will help decrease delays and maternal deaths caused by having to move patients a significant distance across hospital grounds.

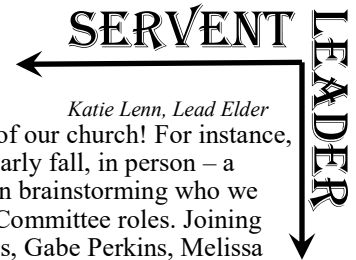
Thanks to all who contributed!

Nominating Committee to Convene

I am pleased there is normalcy coming to every corner of our church! For instance, the Nominating Committee is meeting in late summer/early fall, in person – a change from our totally digital world last year – to begin brainstorming who we will contact to serve in elder, deacon, and Endowment Committee roles. Joining me on the committee are Dwight Jennings, Lea Jennings, Gabe Perkins, Melissa Wobig, Casey Lenn, Andy Thoreson (Deacon rep), and an Elder representative yet to be determined. We will plan to meet after the 8:30 a.m. church service on Sunday mornings.

FCC is striving to provide educated leaders for tomorrow’s Pakistan by following their motto “By Love, Serve One Another,” and we continue our support through this challenging time.

If you have considered serving in a leadership position, please reach out to me or another committee member! Terms are for three years. If you see us at church, please don’t run away – we are talking to you because your name has come up as a leader and valuable congregation member. Please prayerfully consider serving our church community in a leadership role. As we return to our ‘regularly scheduled programming,’ we hope you will see these positions as an opportunity to dive back into church and support our faith family. **You are wanted and needed!**



Katie Lenn, Lead Elder

MISSION



EXPLODING

the Myth of Firework Safety

Ariel Boswell, Parish Nursing Program

Fireworks are easy, safe, harmless fun, right? Not for everyone. According to the National Safety Council in 2017 over 12,000 people were injured enough to require medical treatment by fireworks. Half were children and adolescents under 20, and 2/3 of incidents occurred around July 4th. Fireworks start over 18,000 fires per year. So what can you do to avoid becoming a statistic?

Leave it to the professionals! Indulge your inner pyro with some grilling or a careful campfire instead. S'mores anyone?

- 1) If you use fireworks, treat them like driving. Use legal fireworks, don't light while drinking, don't use them indoors, don't let young kids use them, and closely supervise older kids.
- 2) "If you play with fire, you're going to get burned." Set fireworks off in a safe place away from houses, cars and forests. Keep water nearby and soak used fireworks for a few hours. And don't forget "where there's smoke..."
- 3) Lose the sparklers. Half of injuries to kids under 5 are from sparklers. They burn at 2,000 degrees and can light clothing and burn feet if dropped.
- 4) Think twice, light once. Are your eyes and ears protected? Is anyone "in the line of fire?" Are your pets secured? (Pets most often go missing on the 4th and 5th of July!)

I'll never forget a "spinner" that spun its way under my chair when I was a child (I was fine.... but still). Be mindful in your firework use – and have a happy, healthy 4th of July!

An Open Letter regarding Native American Land Acknowledgements

One of the areas we studied during the PTCA Anti-Racism Pilgrimage was the importance of recognizing and acknowledging that the land we occupy was once the home of Indigenous people who were forced to leave. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement presented at the beginning of an event or gathering that recognizes and honors Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we live and work on.

There are a few practical things we can do around Land Acknowledgements.

- *Consider starting your meeting, class or small group with a simple Land Acknowledgement. It can be as simple as saying:
"We acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what is now called North America. We further acknowledge the Dakota and Ojibwa Peoples who have been stewards of these lands in Minnesota."*
- *Learn about the First Peoples in Minnesota, including Dakota and Ojibwa peoples. There are many resources on the internet, such as <https://nativeland.ca> Learn more about the use of Land Acknowledgements. As you learn more, your Land Acknowledgements will become richer and more meaningful.*
- *Talk about insights and ideas we are gathering.*

All of this is voluntary. Land Acknowledgements are not being mandated by the Presbytery or by First Presbyterian Church leadership.

Looking forward to learning and sharing,

Allyson Maurer, Carol Shaffer and Phyllis Schmid



BIRTHDAYS ...

July 4—**Char Davis**, 93

July 14—**Robert Pettit**, 92

July 7—**Mary Sheridan**, 92

July 22—**Naomi Spiekerman**, 91

July 9—**Ursula Thedens**, 93

... CELEBRATIONS ...

Congratulations to **Douglas & Joyce Nelson**, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 8.

Congratulations to **Ralph & Naomi Spiekerman**, who celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary on July 12.

Congratulations to **Donald and Ardith Ottman**, who celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on July 19.

Congratulations to **Antonio & Frances Gomez**, who celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on July 24.

Congratulations to **Dale & Jane Goodfriend**, who celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on July 24.

Congratulations to **Dudley & Peg Parsons**, who celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on July 24.

Congratulations to **James & Janiece Claire**, who celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on July 31.

... AND CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Constance Bowen** who died on May 30.

First Presbyterian Church

512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902

507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / 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. 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