



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for July 2020

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8.38-39)

A message from Rev. T. J. Parlette

It has truly been an adventure navigating in the downtown area this spring and summer. Major roads are closed, new traffic patterns seem to emerge overnight and there is construction on every corner. I live in the Northeast quadrant of town, so my normal route to the church involves Broadway, to 7th Street, then 6th Avenue to the church. Some days it seemed like I could set my car on autopilot and it would drive that route on its own. But because of construction, I've had to shift my route a couple times now. My current route takes me past Cooke Park on 7th Street, which led to a welcome sign of hope one day a couple of weeks ago.

As you might know, Cooke Park is home to about six Pickleball courts. Pickleball is a sport that has gained a lot of popularity recently – it's very similar to tennis, but is played on a smaller court with paddles instead of racquets. For most of the month of May, Cooke Park has been abandoned – no kids, no joggers and no Pickleball. But then one day a couple weeks ago, I was driving by on my way to the church – and I saw two people playing Pickleball! I was so excited to see something normal going on, that as soon as I got to the office, I texted Juliet to tell her I had seen a bit of hope at Cooke Park! Hope through Pickleball – who knew! It made my day.

I suppose there is something to be said about changing routines, like the route you take to work every day. Being forced to travel a different path can lead you to new signs of hope. I think that's the case as we live through the COVID-19 pandemic. We've all had to change our routines and travel new paths. But new paths can bring new hope.

I think I might want to learn to play Pickleball!

Peace and Blessings to you all!

T. J.

Contact: Parlette.TJ@FPCRochester.org



Ministry of Music

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

Greetings from First Players!

The First Players ended their 2019-20 season with the first ever First Players (FP) Zoom Recital In The Time of Covid-19! What is that, you ask? Well, about 15 FP students continued their instrument study during the shutdown by having weekly half-hour lessons with me on Zoom. On June 2 we had one big Zoom meeting and everyone played a piece (or 2) on which they had been working. Everyone got to SEE one another AND got to HEAR one another. Yay!!! As a teacher it was fun to see the students' reactions to hearing and seeing each other again, and getting to interact a bit again. The recital was recorded and placed on the Rochester First Players facebook page, so go ahead and have a look!

Last week I had some time set aside for parents to drop off their students' First Players books and binders. It was wonderful to see the faces of parents and many students again! Many stayed and chatted for awhile and commented on their child really missing the interaction that happens in a First Players band rehearsal. I totally get it, and it totally breaks my heart.

I encourage my students, and everyone, to keep making music, however you can. There's so much that we can't control right now, but creating music is something we can do, and it's such a positive force. I believe that making music makes us more human, and makes the world a better place. This quote from Leonard Bernstein is one I shared with the students and families at the Zoom recital, which was shortly after the murder of George Floyd, and share it now with you:

"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

Whether it's violence, or a virus, or a soul-crushing event, I believe the power of music can help.

That said, I will do my best to have some sort of safe and meaningful band/instrumental music experience for the students during the time set aside for our August 24-28 Band Camp. Thoughts and prayers appreciated:-)

Wishing peace and good health to all,

Janine (contact: FPCFirstPlayers@gmail.com)





Christian Education / Youth Group News

Summer is here! During these summer months we are continuing to offer the following Christian Education and Youth programming:

Children's "Sunday School"

- **Sunday School Storytime:** Check out the FPC YouTube site or FPC Facebook page for each week's "Sunday School Storytime with Susanna." Each week you'll find a different Sunday School lesson, Bible reading, and craft idea aligning with that week's

lesson from the Deep Blue Sunday School curricula. The summer theme is Communities Live, Change, Grow, and Worship Together.

Other resources: Susanna has a variety of other resources available (coloring pages, devotions, etc.). Please contact Susanna if you would like other resources.

Adult Bible Study:

- **Al Depman** continues to send out a creative, thought-provoking, enjoyable weekly email with a short Bible Study topic (and many funny comics). Please contact Susanna or Al if you'd like to be added to the email list.

Youth Group:

During the summer the Youth Group is meeting virtually on Google Meets every other Wednesday, from 5-5:30 p.m. We chat, play games, share a Bible devotional, and pray together. We've been having tons of fun! In July we'll be meeting on July 8 and July 22. Contact Susanna for the link to join us!

- **Summer Youth Group Outings:** Stay tuned for more details on our first socially-distant Youth Group outing of the summer. More details will be sent to the Youth Group email list and posted on Facebook.
- **Join the email list:** Please contact Susanna if you would like to be added to the Youth Group email list. Emails are sent out weekly during the school year and sporadically during the summer. Being on the email list is the best way to stay informed about Youth Group news and activities.

If you have any ideas for other ways to connect, please contact Susanna. And as always, please get in touch with any needs, questions, or concerns you may have.

2020 VBS: Tentative Plans

Details for this summer's VBS are being finalized, but we are currently planning on offering VBS in some form (either in-person or virtual/at-home) during the second week of August. Once we have more definitive plans, we will send out an update. Stay tuned!

Contact: Stone.Susanna@FPCRochester.org; AlDepman@aol.com

Good News of First Presbyterian Church - 3 - July 2020

Congratulations, graduates!



On June 7 in worship we recognized these members recently completing college degrees:

Jessica Leigh Dahl graduated from South Dakota State University with degrees in Mathematics and Business Economics with a minor in Statistics.

Courtney Hruska graduated from University of Minnesota School of Biology with a degree in Neuroscience.

Aidan Kemp graduated from University of Minnesota Duluth with a degree in Civil Engineering and has accepted a position as a Civil Engineer with Ramsey County.

Christina Wentz graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in physics with a biological emphasis and minors in astrophysics, biology, chemistry and mathematics. In the fall she will attend Illinois College of Optometry working toward a doctor of optometry degree.

Congratulations and God's blessing upon our college graduates.

We're proud of you and wish you the best!

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

July is Hemochromatosis Awareness Month



Hemochromatosis is one of the most common and underdiagnosed genetic disorders. One in 300 white Americans has this disease!

The genes involved cause those who have it to absorb more iron. In the past, this improved survival during reproductive years due to iron absorption and disease resistance.

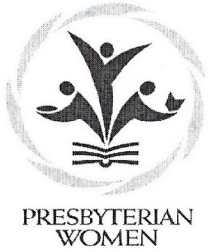
However, if someone gets two copies of the genes, they may develop complications which start surfacing around 40 in men and 60 in women.

The most common sign of hemochromatosis is bronzed or grayish colored skin caused by iron deposition. If untreated, hemochromatosis causes iron to build up in parts of the body, leading to joint pain, liver complications including cirrhosis and cancer, pancreatic problems, heart issues, and possibly problems in the brain.

The treatment is regular therapeutic blood-letting - it may be weekly to start and then move to every few months. If you think you may have hemochromatosis or if you know it runs in your family but have not been diagnosed, talk to your doctor about the recommended bloodwork.

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nurse Coordinator

Good News of First Presbyterian Church - 4 - July 2020



News from Presbyterian Women

✧ *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

PW supports students in Niger and Haiti

One of the articles in the new HORIZONS magazine is titled "Educate a Child, Transform the World." PW, through your pledges, continues to educate eight students in two of the poorest countries in the world, Niger and Haiti. In Niger, Yassine finished kindergarten and Ramatou finished Grade 4. We recently received copies of their teacher evaluations, and they are both doing well. Your contributions to the Scholarship Fund of the Haiti Education Foundation continue to provide education for six students.

NOROC programs (Romania) are up and running again

June 1 the Department of Child Protection allowed NOROC staff to take children from Cocoril 1 by van to Casa Noua so they could have a chance to play on the playground and soccer field. The children were first screened to make sure they didn't have a fever and all hands were sanitized. Everyone had a good time and there are plans to bring other small groups to Casa Noua as well.

2020-2021 Bible study books are in the office

The Bible study for 2020-2021 is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." Each circle has received a copy. If you ordered a copy for yourself, they are in the church office and may be picked up there. The office is staffed on Mondays and Thursdays. If you did not prepay, please remember to bring \$10 for payment. Copies not picked up this summer will be distributed this fall when we hope we can all be together again.

Looking ahead -- The **2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** will be in St. Louis, Missouri, August 5-8, 2021. The theme is "Rejoice in Hope!" based on Romans 12:12-13.

A book suggestion: "The White Devil's Daughters: The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown" by Julia Flynn Siler. Learn about the Presbyterian women who fought back against the trafficking of Asian women at the start of the 20th century in San Francisco. The May/June HORIZONS has an excellent article about this on pages 18-21.

~ *Sylvia /Swede / PW facilitator*

Prayer Shawl group is meeting again at their regular time but have moved to the social hall where they can better social distance. They're on for July 9 and August 13 at 1 p.m. Even if you aren't able to participate during the school year, you're welcome to come during the summer!

Bdecan mission trip postponed to 2021

First Presbyterian Church's Bdecan VBS team postponed its trip to North Dakota until the summer of 2021 to protect the health of our team members and the members of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church from exposure to coronavirus. Next summer we will reassess the situation and hope to be able to return to North Dakota to provide VBS.

In February, Presbyterian Women from our church began preparing hygiene kits for the children from the Spirit Lake Reservation heading to residential school in the fall. We are asking that members turn in any completed hygiene kits to the office. In July, we will mail the kits to the Bdecan Church and ask them to distribute them through the Tribal Health Service as usual or through the church itself. If North Dakota delays the start of residential school, we will ask the Bdecan Church to hold the kits until residential school starts.

FPC's Mission Committee sent \$2,000 to the food pantry at the Bdecan Church to help insure that families of the church and immediate area have enough food during this difficult time. Financial contributions to the food pantry are decreasing at the same time as demand is increasing, so this donation is a real blessing. To receive food from the food pantry, families must register with the church. Right now, Joe Obermeyer, the Commissioned Lay Pastor at the Bdecan Church, is purchasing the food, packing it and doing the distribution by himself to protect the members of the church from infection. Joe is making sure the social distancing guidelines are being followed. 24 families were initially anticipated at the last food distribution, but by the deadline for registration, 40 families had signed up. There is definitely a need for good nutritional food.

If you are interested in making a personal contribution to help the members of the Bdecan church, you have three options:

- 1) The children of the Bdecan church need warm clothing for winter, both to wear to school and to wear in homes that are not well heated.
- 2) If school resumes in the fall, the children will need school supplies.
- 3) Contributions to the food pantry at the Bdecan Church

Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and put "Bdecan Project" in the memo line and indicate if your donation is for winter clothing, school supplies or the food pantry. The funds are sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Bdecan Project and they provide financial oversight of all donated funds. Our plan is to collect funds in July and August.

Thank you so much for your generosity and concern for the children and mothers and grandmothers of the Bdecan church.

Marylynn Aalderks and the Bdecan VBS Mission Team: Cindy Kunzman, Jane Hallman, Vicki Wintheiser, Margie Schaaf, Ron and Nancy Kreinbring, Jean Abels, Larry and Than Boutelle, and Allyson and Mike Mauer

We recently learned that **Joe Obermeyer**, the commissioned Lay Pastor at the Bdecan Church, will be moving to California. Rosie and Bob Helland from Devils Lake will be taking Joe's place working with the people at the Bdecan Church. Rosie and Bob are members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Devils Lake and have been actively involved with the Bdecan food pantry, clothing pantry, Wednesday children's Bible study program (KICK) and many other programs.

~ *Marylynn Aalderks / project coordinator*

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to these couples who will celebrate fiftieth (+) wedding anniversaries in June.

- 7/8: **Douglas and Joyce Nelson** (59)
- 7/12: **Ralph and Naomi Spiekerman** (67)
- 7/19: **Donald and Ardith Ottman** (63)
- 7/24: **Ed and Frances Gomez** (55)
- 7/24: **Dale and Jane Goodfriend** (55)
- 7/24: **Dudley and Peg Parsons** (55)
- 7/31: **James and Janiece Claire** (55)

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Charlotte Davis** who will celebrate her 92nd birthday July 4.
Happy Birthday to **Mary Sheridan** who will celebrate her 91st birthday July 7.
Happy Birthday to **Ursula Thedens** who will celebrate her 90th birthday July 9.
Happy Birthday to **Robert Pettitt** who will celebrate his 91st birthday July 14.
Happy Birthday to **Naomi Spiekerman**, who will celebrate her 90th birthday July 22.

Deaths

We extend our condolences to Michael **McDonough** on the death of his wife, **Carol McDonough**, May 23. A private family service was held May 27. A time to celebrate Carol's life with her many friends will be held at a later date.



Thank you, everyone, for your continuing and generous support!

First Presbyterian Church Financial Statement / May 2020

General Operating Budget

Balance (5/1/2020)	\$ 101,138.40
Receipts (May)	+ 61,603.27
Disbursements (May)	- 48,813.05
Balance (5/31/20)	\$ 113,928.62

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

In Search of a Volunteer Treasurer for FPC

As she announced several months ago – Carol Evans is retiring! We are so thankful for the decades of service she has provided to us and it is hard to imagine what we will do without her in the church office. We can't replace what Carol has done for this congregation for so long, so we are restructuring – dividing up her duties.

As part of that reorganization we are looking for a volunteer treasurer for First Presbyterian and ask that you prayerfully consider assuming this responsibility. Please talk with Carol or any of the members of the Personnel & Administration or Stewardship & Finance committees if you have any interest or questions. This is the position description:

Treasurer of the Congregation First Presbyterian Church / Rochester, Minnesota Updated 2020

Purpose:

To provide financial oversight of the operating, capital and endowment funds of the congregation.

Accountability:

The Treasurer is supported by the Stewardship & Finance Committee and is accountable to the Session.

Requirements:

1. Member of First Presbyterian Church
2. Willing to serve in this position as a volunteer to the congregation
3. Solid financial background via education, work or other volunteer experience
4. Experience working with a financial advisor to manage an investment portfolio

Responsibilities:

1. Primary signer on all congregation bank and investment accounts.
2. Reviews all payables for proper coding and backup prior to signing payment checks twice monthly.
3. Reviews, adjusts if necessary, and approves the monthly and annual financial reports.
4. Attends monthly Session and Stewardship & Finance Committee meetings.
5. Attends quarterly Endowment Committee meetings.
6. Annually, works with the Office Manager, outside accounting contractor and the Stewardship & Finance Committee to prepare the congregational budget and assist with the required accounting audit/review.

Relationships & Evaluation:

The Treasurer is overseen on a month-by-month basis by the Stewardship & Finance Committee. An annual performance review will be completed by representatives from the Stewardship & Finance and Personnel & Administration Committees, along with the Senior Pastor.

~ Sarah Edgerton / Finance Committee; Karen Sessler / Personnel Committee

How we stay in touch in this time of social distancing

We don't know how long social distancing will last, but we'll let you know when we start scheduling meetings and events again. In the meantime, we'll keep you informed through various means.

- » **Sunday bulletins and sermons on our web page.** Go to www.FPCRochester.org. Below the top banner is 'Worship @ FPC' and below that click on 'Learn More'. That will bring up a choice of sermons (click one and click 'read more') and bulletins (click a date, read more, and download PDF).
- » **Sunday worship.** Since March 15 we have presented an informal Sunday worship service with T.J., Jay, and John at 10 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook. The pre-recorded service airs at 10 a.m. each Sunday. If you miss it, it will stay on our WEB page and you can watch it later.
- » **Prayer requests.** Because we are pre-recording the Sunday service, prayer requests should be e-mailed to either Rev. Parlette (814-715-0290) or Rev. Rowland (990-1367) by Thursday noon.
- » **How do I access the services?** The easiest way is on our church's WEB page:
 1. Go to www.FPCRochester.org. You may need to click on 'First Presbyterian Church - located near Mayo Clinic.' Wait until the FPC page loads.
 2. There should be a red banner across the top of the screen. If there is, click on that. If there isn't, scroll down to 'Highlighted Events' and click on the middle panel. The link to the service is under the picture. Click on the link and you should be ready to watch. Until we actually go on the air, the space you get may be blank, so don't panic and please be patient!

In these challenging times, supporting one another means more than ever. We'll communicate information as it becomes available. For now, please continue to take care of yourself and look out for one another.

First Presbyterian Church

512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, Minnesota 55902
507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / web@FPCRochester.org

Pastors: Rev. T. J. Parlette, 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 and Facebook

Education classes: See "Sunday School Storytime with Susanna" on our web page.

Office hours: The office is open Mondays and Thursdays.

Call the office when you get there and someone will come to the door to help you.

Member Presbyterian Church (USA)

Office Manager position open at First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN

As the Office Manager at FPC you are an extension of the leadership, development, administration and care of our Church. You will manage a multi-disciplinary plan encompassing four general areas: Membership, Operations, Communication and Finance. The Office Manager role is instrumental in our ability to provide the ministries FPC seeks to implement in both our congregation and our community.

Logistics: The OM works in a Church office environment. 40 hours, Monday-Friday, with seasonal peaks (Christmas and Easter) and valleys (summer months).

Compensation package target: \$45,000 mixture of salary and benefits

The Office Manager will be the Church's first point of contact for members, visitors, vendors and others.

- Coordinate FPC tasks, projects, events, and communications.
- Manage and update the church's website and social media platforms.
- Lead volunteers to assist with ministry projects while helping other teams accomplish their goals.
- Assist the treasurer with the development and execution of the church's budget, endowment and stewardship strategies.
- Work with a contracted accounting firm to maintain church finances and financial reporting.
- Prepare weekly service bulletins, monthly newsletters, assist the pastoral staff with programs for baptism services, weddings, funerals, and other events as requested.
- Maintain membership records and reports to Presbytery.
- Manage courtesy staff scheduling & coordinate support staff as needs shift through each season.
- Manage human resources needs/issues for staff and ensure FPC's policies and procedures are effective and executed.
- Oversee the office supplies and keep equipment up-to-date and operational.

Education and Experience

This position requires a minimum of five years of experience as an operations professional in a business or church environment. Possession of a business, finance, or a related degree is helpful. Experience with budget and financial reporting is necessary. The successful individual will be a strong leader with a solid work ethic, and will possess a clear call to ministry with the ability to lead and develop staff and volunteers.

Personal Characteristics

- Cares about maintaining a spiritually positive environment.
- Is exceptionally organized with an operational and administrative mind.
- Has an ability to create and manage strategic plans.
- Has an eye for detail but also the capacity to see the larger vision.

Required Skills:

- Microsoft Office; Excel
- Squarespace or similar web management software
- Experience with online financial software (i.e. Quickbooks or similar)

Preferred skills:

- ServantKeeper; ParishSoft; Adobe Creative Cloud; Mailchimp or similar
- Facebook page manager, other social media; Signup Genius

*For further information or to apply, contact **Karen Sessler** or any member of the Personnel and Administration Committee.*