

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE

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Music Program

*John Stender, Director of Music
Katie Kuisle, Calvin and Cherub Choir director
Janine Yanisch, First Players*

We are a blessed body of people for the many gifts and talents we all share. Especially, I am grateful for the participation this summer in our digital services- the many varied musical offerings have been a joy to prepare and the collaboration with so many of you has been vital to the worship of our whole congregation. I look forward to continuing collaboration, seeking out members who may be willing to prepare musical offerings, and focus on encouraging and creating opportunity for all. We all benefit from viewing church music as something created in community focused on worship.

Engaging all people in our congregation in creative digital ways will be an increased focus for me as we move toward the naturally isolating cold seasons. Aerosolization is a problem, and limits will be firm for some time yet. We must find ways to engage our faith musically and in community that are acceptable to the times and our safety. Plans are coming together, and I'll be working with our handbell musicians to find a new socially distant and guideline-following normal very soon. Festival of Music digital concert offerings are planned for this fall and some plans are loosely held for the spring- more information soon! I'll be inviting our choral musicians to engage in some music-making in very small and distanced groups and also as a larger ensemble in digital ways. Look forward to a virtual choir project or two yet to come. With the beginning of school routines, we will also be working to engage our young singers regularly in what ways we can digitally.

I also have been working to draw up what an internship might look like for a young aspiring organist and church musician to join us. Both present and future opportunities for this have presented themselves and it will be exciting to see how this develops. Stay tuned!

I do hope the people of First Presbyterian (and beyond!) have found solidarity in engaging with our digital worship services each week. Your feedback, interest, kind support, and the knowledge that you are there watching has been sustaining for me and I thrive on the inspiration and creativity that comes from attempting to reach you, somehow, across the void.

Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



September is here! While our building remains closed through September, we will continue to offer our virtual Christian Education programming. This includes:

- 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 will find a different Sunday School lesson, a Bible reading, and a simple craft idea aligning with that week's Sunday School lesson.
- 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, though-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:

- Google Meet Youth Group Meetings: We will begin our Google Meets again on September 9 from 5:00-5:30 pm. Contact Susanna for the link to join us!
- Youth Group Socially-Distant Outings: Our late July socially distant bike ride was a success, so we may arrange another socially distant youth group outing for the fall. We will communicate details through the e-newsletter and email list.

As always, please get in touch with Susanna with any needs, questions, or concerns you have.

SUSANNA

First Presbyterian Church Financial Statement / July 2020

Balance (6/30/20)	\$83,415.59
Receipts (July 2020)	+37,009.80
Disbursements (July 2020)	- 63,432.38
Balance (7/31/20)	<u>\$56,993.01</u>

First Presbyterian Church

Participates ...

Poetry and Art were celebrated with chalk on Rochester sidewalks, Saturday, August 15, 2020. Southeastern Minnesota Poets and RNeighbors collaborated to chalk it up. The project theme was "Healing: Joy & Unity." The weather was beautiful and members of First Presbyterian Church decorated the sidewalks along the parking lot and on 3rd Street SW wrapping around onto 5th Ave SW! Beautiful images, rainbows, poems and quotes were created. **Thank you very much** to all participants and spectators!

Lea Jennings, coordinator



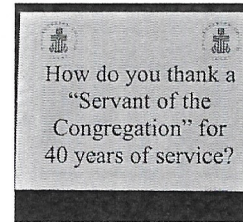
Alpha & Omega

God created this world,
 everything that it holds.
 And God still is creating
 as each day unfolds.
 What we once called the future,
 we now call the past.
 While the present is fleeting,
 God stays — first and last!
 —Peggy Ferrell

The Newsletter Newsletter, September 2020

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10)

How do you thank a "Servant of the Congregation"?



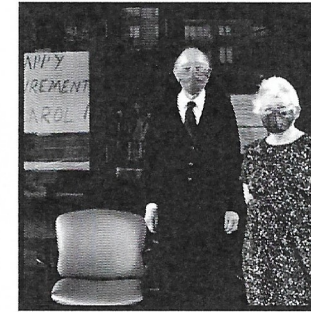
... you bring them flowers ...



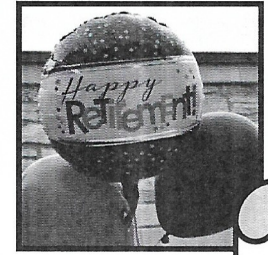
... and fly balloons ...



... you call them "superstar"...



Carol & T.C. Evans,
 Servants of
 the congregation



Dear Friends,
 The only thing better than lovely weather on August 2 was the presence of everyone who drove by the church to wish me a Happy Retirement. It was good seeing your smiling and happy faces after so many weeks of being separated from one another. Thank you!
 The many cards, the kind words, the happy faces, reveille, ringing bells and honking horns, the decorated cars were all part of the festivities and have a special place in my book of remembrances. I'll still be around and finding new ways to serve.
 One of the cards read:
*"Gratitude is a smile in the heart."
 My heart is smiling big right now,
 and for that I thank all of you!*

Carol



... then you find a competent replacement ...



... and there are more flowers ...

A message from Rev. Jay Rowland

What will Autumn bring?

The pandemic became a constant “companion” arriving with the end of winter. It captured my attention and stirred my fear. It took away familiar routines and future plans. Even so, it couldn’t steal the joy of seeing winter give way to spring. It couldn’t steal Easter joy even though we couldn’t gather to sing and celebrate and praise God together in our sanctuary like we always had before, surrounded by all the sound and color of Easter. No matter. We still praised God for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—for the hope the Lord God evokes in us.

But then, of course, the pandemic continued its relentless intrusion. It rudely interrupted everything else we cherish, from sports tournaments and competitions, to graduations, to birthdays, to end-of-the-school-year recognitions, to retirements and farewells. It took away the community and fellowship support we rely on to uphold us when our beloved die. We did not like any of this. But we had no choice. We had to accept it and keep on keeping on. No, we did not and we do not like what we have to do.

But we have discovered we can do it.

Meanwhile, the pandemic couldn’t and didn’t steal the wonders of summer: daylight’s lengthening reach, the warmth of the summer sun, the luxurious evening breeze, the dazzling flashes of a summer thunderstorm, the silent power of a distant comet; starry night skies and brilliant moonlight, bountiful flowers and blossoms and garden harvest.

Through it all, week by week, we faithfully gathered to worship, Sunday after Sunday, connected by the magic of digital technology and human ingenuity, singing hymns, listening to scripture, the Word read and Proclaimed, praising God and praying prayers, while the pandemic continued its tight strangle-hold upon our expectations and routines.

And as summer now begins its turn into fall, the pandemic will not be able to steal the brilliant colors and feelings autumn brings every year. “Back to school” is already different, as different as the end of school was last spring. We still don’t like what this pandemic is doing and what it’s forcing us to do. But we know we can do “it” we can do whatever it takes to outlast this thief.

We may not know exactly what autumn, or winter for that matter, will bring. But we do know that the Lord is faithful. The Lord is here. The pandemic cannot come between our Lord and us. It cannot come between your Lord and you. In the midst of all the uncertainty and change, remember that. Cling to the Lord as tightly as you can. No thief, not even this thief of a pandemic can steal the Love and the Presence of the Lord from you. Or from me. Not now. Not ever. And so, let us praise God with our every breath. Praise God with me. And if you can’t right now, that’s okay. I’ll keep praising God until you can.



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

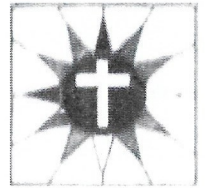
Thank you for your generosity!

A **super big thank you** to the members of First Presbyterian Church for their generous donations to help the people of the Bdecan Church!

The Ruth Circle donated \$500.00 to be used for winter clothing for the children of the church so they will be warm while standing out waiting for the bus and, because homes also can be cold, when they are home. In addition, congregation members donated \$520.00 with no project specified; \$150 was donated to help the food pantry; \$600 was donated for winter clothing for the children; and \$350 for either Covid needs or school supplies.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for your concern for the people of Bdecan Presbyterian Church. It is so much appreciated. The church leaders of Bdecan also expressed their sincere appreciation to FPC!

Marylynn Aalderks and our Bdecan VBS team



September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Blood cancers make up about 10% of the cancers diagnosed in the United States. The blood cancers include leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndrome. Here is a very brief overview:

- Leukemia starts in the bone marrow, causing too many immature white cells to develop, which reduces your other useful blood cells.
- Lymphoma is an overgrowth of lymphocytes or white cells in your lymph system, and causes swollen lymph nodes and organs.
- Myeloma causes an overgrowth of plasma cells, which produce antibodies, and reduces healthy blood cells and release chemicals that lead to reduced repair and pain.
- Myelodysplastic syndrome occurs when the bone marrow cells are abnormal and produce insufficient, defective and immature blood cells that are destroyed by the body.
- Some common symptoms of blood cancers include fatigue, unintended weight loss, pale skin, easy bruising or bleeding, bone pain, abdominal pain, swollen lymph nodes, weakness, confusion, GI disturbances, or night sweats.
- Physicians use blood counts and smears, imaging tests, and bone marrow biopsies to evaluate symptoms. Treatments vary depending on the type and sub-type of cancer but include chemotherapy, surgeries, radiation, bone marrow transplants, and many innovative new targeted medications.

Many of us have friends and family going through treatment now and are praying earnestly for them!

Kristina Wright-Peterson is a great contact for those interested in helping; she is the founder of Red Drop Resources, an organization that supports patients navigating blood cancer treatment at Mayo.

Ariel Boswell, FPC Parish Nurse Coordinator



News from Presbyterian Women

Sylvia Swede, Coordinator

More Mission Money Disbursed

Earlier we spent \$1802 to support the education of our students in Haiti and Niger and to continue our support of the work of NOROC in Romania. (See May and July newsletters). Because of FPC women's generous pledges, we had \$2100 available for additional projects. PW officers and circle leaders met and selected the following, each receiving \$300:

- **Hawthorne Helps.** This will help to supply the "store" at Hawthorne school where immigrants learning English and other skills may select needed diapers, hygiene items and cleaning supplies.
- **Women's Center at Rochester, Adult/Teen Challenge.** Here women are helped to overcome addictions.
- **Community Food Response.** Recipients are now receiving pre-filled bags. Since restaurants are not providing as much donated food, there is a need for money to purchase more food.
- **Channel One Food Bank.** This also will help those with food insecurity.
- **Casa de Esperanza, TX.** This is a border ministry for women and children that we have supported for many years.
- **Kemmerer Village, Assumption, IL.** In the past we have supported this child care agency by collecting Boxtops for Education. Since this is now an app project, we are sending money instead. Kemmerer welcomes visitors if you are in the area.
- **Church World Service.** CWS says that supplies of school and hygiene kits are very low. Since there will be no gathering this fall, Belinda Breit of Calvin Presbyterian in Long Lake has offered to put kits together and ship them. The women in her church have made bags for them

Thanks for your generosity!

Update on the Racial Justice Challenge

Carol Shaffer, Ruth Saling, and Sylvia Swede have participated in afternoon sessions and Phyllis Schmid has participated in the evening session of the Racial Justice Challenge sponsored by PW/Synod.

Are you biased? Why not test yourselves. Harvard has made available online an Implicit Association Test which measures attitudes and beliefs you might otherwise be unwilling or unable to report (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>).

Also available online is a TED Talk: "How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them" by Verna Meyers, or you might want to read "White Privilege: Unpacking the invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh.



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church For September 2020

A message from Rev. T.J. Parlette

Hope for Your Worries

(excerpted from Kimberly Lankford, AARP The Magazine, August/September, 2020, p24-26)

In these months of isolation, social distancing and up-ended schedules, I've been on-the-lookout for signs of hope. So I was particularly pleased when the August/September issue of AARP Magazine came in the mail. In that issue, author Kimberly Lankford offered some nuggets of hope in the face of our many different worries. I'd like to share a couple with you:

If you are worried that the U.S economy will never recover...

...know that the 1918 influenza epidemic "left almost no discernible mark on the aggregate U.S. economy," according to a recent paper.

If you are worried that your retirement savings will never recover...

...know that Fidelity Investments' 401(k) customers who stayed in the market during the 2008 downturn saw their account balances rise, on average, from \$79,000 that year to \$360,000 by the end of 2019. In fact, the best year ever for stocks was 1933, just four years after the stock market crash. Says James Angel of Georgetown University, "Often the highest returns come right after the biggest drops."

If you are worried that you won't ever feel safe enough to go to the theater or a museum...

...know that from late 1592 to early 1594, the bubonic plague killed more than 10,000 people living in London. In the midst of William Shakespeare's career, all of London's theaters were shuttered for over a year, in an effort to halt the plague's spread. But when Shakespeare's Globe reopened, gate receipts were huge, according to James Shapiro, author of *Shakespeare in a Divided America*. Soon afterward, Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer's Dream*, and he continued to write through a second wave of the plague in 1603, completing *King Lear* and *Macbeth* a few years later. "If Shakespeare's age offers any model and consolation, it's how quickly numbers were back to normal and people were living their lives again," notes Shapiro. "Cities bounce back, and people crave theater."

If you are worried that you'll never be happy again...

...Listen to the words of the "World Happiness Report," an annual survey of global happiness. "The key to finding happiness during this time is not through social distancing, but rather through distance socializing. Remaining socially connected with friends, colleagues and family is crucial in finding happiness during this public health crisis."

So please keep in mind that things will get better. This virus-induced life will not last forever. Let's continue to be physically distant but spiritually close – and God will lead us through.

Peace and Blessings to you all,

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

How we stay in touch in this time of social distancing

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

- ⇒ **Sunday bulletins and sermons on our web page.** Go to www.FPCRochester.org. In the blue banner, highlight [WORSHIP] and follow >SERMONS or >BULLETINS. Below the option you choose, click on [READ MORE] and then [DOWNLOAD PDF].
- ⇒ **Sunday worship.** We present Sunday worship with T.J., Jay, and John at 10 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook. The pre-recorded service premieres at 10 a.m. each Sunday. If you miss it, you can view it later via access through our web page.
- ⇒ **Prayer requests.** Because we pre-record the Sunday service, prayer requests should be e-mailed to either Rev. Parlette (Parlette.TJ@fpcrochester.org) or Rev. Rowland (Rowland.Jay@fpcrochester.org) by Thursday noon.
- ⇒ **How do I access the services?** The easiest way is through 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 that appears across the top of the page. There is sometimes a delay before it loads. Click on the red banner to go to the church's YouTube channel. Available service uploads will appear on your screen. Click on the service you would like to watch.

First Presbyterian Church
512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / web@FPCRochester.org

Head Pastor: Rev. T.J. Parlett
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 and Facebook
Education classes: See "Sunday School with Susanna" on our web page.
Office hours: Mondays & Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Call the office at 282-1618 for entry into the church

Member: Presbyterian Church USA

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to these couples who will celebrate 50+ wedding anniversaries in September:

- 9/11 __ Peter and Isabelle Dyck (66)
- 9/11 __ Robert and Charlene Kyle (66)
- 9/18 __ Kenneth and Laura Irvin (64)
- 9/26 __ Derald and Sandra Holloway (56)
- 9/27 __ Ronald and Judy Hunter (51)



Birthdays

- Happy Birthday to **William Karnes**, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on September 5.
- Happy Birthday to **Ruth Pexton**, who will celebrate her 102nd birthday on September 8.
- Happy Birthday to **Elmer VanDerHeyden**, who will celebrate his 92nd birthday on September 19.
- Happy Birthday to **Louise Bastron**, who will celebrate her 97th birthday on September 30.

Deaths

- Our condolences to the family and friends of William "Bill" Johnson, who died August 16 at Charter House.
- Our condolences to the family and friends of Jennie Orvis, who died August 17.

