

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

August 2024

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

THE TERRITORY AHEAD

Hello Church Family ! As you know we all are on a JOURNEY TOGETHER toward THE TERRITORY AHEAD. This journey includes both: keeping the church operational (lining up sermons and services, as well as the day to day operations) -- and -- beginning the process of bringing on a new pastor.

As you read in prior newsletter articles, your Church Session has been working on developing a sixteen (16) page questionnaire called a C.I.F. (Church Information Form). In this questionnaire, we had to provide detailed responses to cover six (6) categories:

Church Details (paid staff members, key volunteer positions, worship information and local community statistics)

Church Financials (budgetary \$-figures, properties description, expected pastor salary \$-package)

Church Characteristics (worship style, role of deacons & elders, member participation, strengths-weaknesses-goals)

Pastor Expectations (job description)

Church History (important events, challenging events such as Covid)

Miscellaneous (website, Facebook, annual events such as National Night Out, discipleship and bible-study groups, local and missional groups supported)

This C.I.F. was completed and approved by Session on July 16 -- it has now been sent to the EPC-MIDWEST MINIS-TERIAL-COMMITTEE for review/approval. When this step is completed, we will finally “post” our vacancy on the E.P.C.-Ministerial Staff Opportunity website (where potential candidates can learn about our opening and our church/community - and - be given the opportunity to submit their resumes a.k.a. P.I.F. Personal Information Forms). We also have a list of Reformed Theology Seminaries we will communicate with.

With this in mind, we can now initiate our church’s Pastor-Nominating-Committee. At the July 16 meeting, our Church Session approved five (5) congregation-members to serve on this committee (with Al Fulton serving as Advisor - and - Mediator with EPC). These five (5) candidate names will be presented to the congregation on Sunday August 4 (immediately following worship) for a formal vote to approve.

The committee will then begin meeting to first elect a chair-person and discuss how they will conduct the search (and prepare a list of questions for Lead-Pastor candidates). Second as resumes (P.I.F.s) are received, the committee will review the paperwork and conduct in-person meetings via “zoom” or other means. These are the first two important steps for our committee (with much more to follow). We will keep you updated all along the way!

In each of the upcoming Newsletter Articles, we will continue to remind us all that - the overall process will take time and much patience and prayer. As always, if you have any comments or questions, we strongly encourage you to reach out to any of our current Session Members.

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Group and Committee Dates

Session Meeting - The Elders will meet on **Tuesday August 13, @ 6:00 PM** in the Welcome Center.

Deacon's Meeting – The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, August 14, @ 6:15 PM** in the Welcome Center

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, August 22, at 12:30 pm** at Old 30.

Discipleship Group - The Men's group will meet on **August 13 and 27, at 7:00 PM.**

Presbyterian Men - The Presbyterian Men's group meets each **Friday @ 7:00 AM, at the Pelican.** All men of FPC are invited to attend.



**Please join us for National Night Out
on August 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Please see Kudos and Updates from Jan
for all the details.**



Happy Birthday

- 3 Dan Price
- 7 Owen Myers
- 11 Carrie Diebler
- 12 Joey Rager
- 14 Carissa Diebler Massey
- 18 Ed Dolch
- 20 Tom Britton
- 29 Spencer Mutchler

Anniversary

- 5 Lori and Charles Rager
- 7 Brydan and Victoria Lohr
- 8 Gary and Susan Irwin
- 22 Leon and Carrie Diebler

Liturgist

- 04 – Marcia Stout
- 11 – Lori Rager
- 18 – Tasha Nickler
- 25 – Bob Thompson

Worship Schedule

- 04 – Marcia Stout
- 11 – Carrie Diebler – Gateway
- 18 – Tom Britton – Gateway
- 25 – Tami Robinson - Gateway

Ushers/Greeters

- 04 – Lori Rager
- 11 – Gary Irwin
- 18 – Duane & Connie Watts
- 25 – Harley & Rachel

Flowers

- 04 – Brydon & Victoria Lohr
- 11 – Lori Rager
- 18 – Tami Robinson
- 25 -

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, JoeAnn Johns

Cancer

Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Bruce Price, Dan's brother

Surgery

Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, received a liver transplant

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Emily Fox, daughter of Lauren Bishop
Dan Price

Judy Eichhorn, prayers for acceptance, endurance and patience while Judy lives with chronic pain

Lou Ross, recovering from a, stroke, Lori Rager's Dad

Whitney Hildebrand, Courtney Posey's sister
Abigail Sutherland, recovering from heart surgery, Dishon's granddaughter

Mike McKee, Heart problem. Friend of Kathy Bardon

Becky Bellamy, Parkinson's, sister of Kathy Bardon

Mary Dunham, Kathy Byrne's friend

Military:

Keagan Rios, Gennie Rios grandson

Levi Diebler, member and Carrie Diebler's son

Grayson Robinson, Tami Robinson's grand-nephew

August Elder: Tom Britton

First Presbyterian News

Kudos & Updates from Jan:

KUDOS to all of you who attended our pot-luck dinner on June 30th and church family discussion about the future of our ministry. The food was stellar and the discussion was positive.



Tuesday, August 6th, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, is NATIONAL NIGHT OUT! We will co-sponsor the NNO in our neighborhood with our friends from Good Hope Lutheran Church. We will be serving a free meal of hotdog sandwiches, chips, beverage and a cup of Mark's Ice Cream. There will be games for kids and adults. We will have visits from police, fire and sheriff departments if their time allows. This is a way for us to reach out to our community and share the love of Jesus. Please grab your lawn chair and join us in our neighborhood outreach for a fun evening!!

KUDOS to Ron who will continue to fill the organ pit on the first Sunday of every month. He will also be playing on the fifth Sundays and will be with us for some of our special services this year.

We have two pianos available if anyone would like them. There is the old upright in the fellowship hall and another piano in the old choir room. Let me know if you are interested.

It has been so wonderful to be able to help out our neighbors at **Good Hope**. They've been filling our pews at the 8:00 am service and feel very comfortable using our space. Who would have thought that one of our biggest neighborhood outreach projects would be to a fellow congregation in need? Many, many thanks to **Patti Neff** who has offered to fill in as our organist/pianist a couple Sundays here and there as a way to thank us for our hospitality. **WOW!! How blessed are we???**

Beginning in August, **the Deacons will offer greeting cards and stamps to the congregation.** We will have small baskets on the shelves in the Resource Center with birthday, sympathy, get well, etc. cards that you may have to send to friends and loved ones. There will also be postage stamps available for your card. This is a ministry of love from us to you... so there is no charge. If you would care to help the Deacons with future card and stamp purchases, please see me.

Jan Fulton – 419/561-0263

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office! How long has it been since you received a handwritten note or card? I hope not long, but if you're like me, I rarely get more than junk mail or bills in my mailbox. Part of my ministry here at First Pres involves reaching out to members and friends with encouragement or offering congratulations for special celebrations. If you haven't already received one, I hope you will enjoy the cards I design and send out. How will you know it's handmade by me? Look for the little dachshund stamp on the back!

Another important part of my ministry is taking communion to our homebound members because serving the Lord's Supper is an essential sacrament and all God's faithful children deserve the opportunity to partake. Session has gifted me with a darling, portable communion set, and it has been my honor to serve the meal of remembrance to several of our members already. If you know someone who wants communion brought to them, please let me know, or if you'd like to join me in the visit, I welcome you.

This verse is on my heart today as I thank God for all the gifts He has so graciously given to me: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* 1 Peter 4:10 Join me, won't you, as we chase after Christ and seek to serve Him in this place. May blessings abound! Marcia

