



THE COLUMNS

September 2020, Volume 58, Issue 9

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA



First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Pastor's Hours to be announced
Video Broadcast until further notice

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30
Thursday 8-4:30
Friday - Closed

Meet Rev. Patrick Pettit Our New Interim



I was born in Pittsburgh, into a US Steel family, and while my father's career took us to Kentucky and Georgia, western Pennsylvania was where I started kindergarten and where I graduated high school; it has always been home. That being said, the family moved again, this time to Houston, Tx, and I went to the University of Dallas, where I got a Bachelor's degree in English Literature. I took off for Los Angeles, chasing dreams of being a writer (and, truth be told, a girl). Following that disaster, I returned home, and began to recognize the whispers of God's call.

At Southern Methodist University in Dallas, that Call began to clarify, as did the realization that SMU was not where I needed to be. I transferred to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where I would meet and marry my wife, Ann, and receive my M.Div.

Over the years, we have served churches in Pennsylvania, New York and, since 2001, Virginia. But I've also been a stay-at-home Dad, bartender, kitchen manager and hotel concierge; study hall monitor, silkscreen printer for Champion Products, freelance writer and bass player. My interests include music, history, automobiles, working around the house, and chairing the Church in Pastoral Transition Committee for Shenandoah Presbytery.

Ann and I have three adult children, who have returned with their pets to ride out the pandemic: a son, Connall, and daughters Mairéad and Brigid. There are now two dogs (big and little), five cats (two kittens, two adults and a grumpy old stray) and five people holed up in our Grottoes home.



MUSIC NOTES



In any other year, September would bring the choir back to the Sanctuary after a well-deserved rest. But, as we know, this is not a normal year. When the coronavirus pandemic shut the doors of worship spaces around the world, we had no idea how long we would remain apart from one another. We still don't! However, we are grateful that we can at least share God's gift of music with one another, even if it is virtual.

During these five-plus months of online services, Craig Cavanaugh has assembled the services and made it possible to hear God's word through Biblical passages, the liturgy and music. It is no exaggeration to say that, without Craig, the online services wouldn't be what they are. We are so grateful to Craig for his recording and editing gifts, as well as his fount of patience!

We are excited to welcome Pastor Patrick Pettit as Interim Minister of First Presbyterian Church beginning 1 September. We look forward to working with him during this time of transition at FPC. Since Pastor Pettit's time with FPC begins after the publication of the *September Columns*, we are waiting to finalize the music planned through the beginning of Advent until after we receive his liturgical schedule. He has informed us, though, that he plans to continue to follow the lectionary. With that in mind, the opening hymn for the first Sunday of September, *Give Praise to the Lord*, is an adaptation of the Psalm of the day, number 149, *Laudate Dominum*, or Praise the Lord! Both the anthem and the closing hymn are inspired by the Gospel text, Matthew 18: 15-20. The anthem is Harold Friedell's *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* and the closing hymn is *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*.

In these coming months, we hope to continue the variety of musical offerings from members of our congregation and our community. Not knowing when the choir will return leaves us all with a hole in our musical experience, as hearing God's word proclaimed in song by believers makes us feel closer to Him. But until it's safe for us to sing together again, we will praise God in a myriad of other musical exclamations!

Blessings to you all,

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



10 FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

The first Monday in September is celebrated nationally as Labor Day. The Labor Day holiday grew out of the late 19th century organized labor movement, and it quickly became a national holiday as the labor movement assumed a prominent role in American society. Here is how it all started with the facts, as we know them, supplied by the Labor Department, the Library of Congress, and other sources.

1. **The idea first became public in 1882.** In September 1882, the unions of New York City decided to have a parade to celebrate their members being in unions and to show support for all unions. At least 20,000 people were there. Workers had to give up a day's pay to attend. There was also a lot of beer involved in the event.
2. **The New York parade inspired other unions.** By 1887 Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Colorado had made Labor Day a state holiday.
3. **How did the Haymarket Affair influence Labor Day?** On May 4, 1886, a bomb exploded at a union rally in Chicago's Haymarket Square, which led to violence. This incident led to May 1 being celebrated in most nations as Workers Day. New York unions had already chosen the first Monday in September as their holiday and the U.S. government agreed.
4. **Two people with similar names are credited with that first New York City event.** Matthew Maguire, a machinist, and Peter McGuire, a carpenter, have been linked to the 1882 parade. The men were from rival unions.
5. **Grover Cleveland helped make Labor Day a national holiday.** After violence related to the Pullman railroad strike, President Cleveland and lawmakers in Washington wanted a federal holiday to celebrate labor – and not a holiday celebrated on May 1. Cleveland signed an act in 1894 establishing the federal holiday.
6. **The holiday has evolved over the years.** In the late 19th century celebrations focused on parades in urban areas. Now the holiday is celebrated with fewer parades and more activities. It also marks the end of the perceived summer season.
7. **Can you wear white after Labor Day?** This old tradition goes back to the Victorian era where it was a fashion faux pas to wear any white clothing after the summer officially ended on Labor Day. The tradition isn't really followed any more.
8. **Labor Day is the official end of Hot Dog season.** The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council says that between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans will eat 7 billion hot dogs.
9. **How many people are union members today?** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 14.8 million union members in the workforce in 2017. There were 17.7 million in 1983.
10. **What is the biggest union today?** The National Education Association has about 3 million people who are members, including inactive and lifetime members.

(www.constitutioncenter.org/blog)



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Session Meeting via Zoom on August 11, 2020.

Clerk's Report: Clerk sent letters of appreciation on behalf of the Session to participants in online worship services – Rev. April Cranford, Rev. Wray Sherman, Rev. Henry Scoggins, Craig Cavanaugh, Linda and Glenn Fields, and Roger and Kimberlea Daggy; Clerk sent email welcome to Rev. Pettit.

Preschool: There are now 11 students in Summer School. 21 have signed up for the fall semester which begins September 14. Nate has done an outstanding job painting the outdoor equipment and planting a garden. There is a new Preschool banner.

Budget & Finance: Session approved setting up online Giving through the Presbyterian Foundation. There is a 2% transaction fee.

Christian Education: Books for PW are not yet available. Colleen prepared Goody Bags for Amber and Miley.

Mission: Members stepped up to provide breakfast for WARM clients at the Day's Inn for a week. WARM is working to organize long term housing for clients and has found apartments for twelve.

P&M: Session approved installation of a new boiler and removal of old. Schedule for this year's Grounds Upkeep is OK. Additional help may be needed next year. Weeds have been sprayed with a homeopathic weed killer.

Worship: No in-church worship services have been held since March 8, 2020. The local Presbyterian online services concluded July 5. FPC Sunday video services began on our website July 12 led by Rev. Wray Sherman. Roger Daggy has coordinated musical offerings.

Interim Pastor Search Committee: Rev. Patrick Pettit was approved as our interim pastor, effective September 1, at the Presbytery CPT meeting on August 4.

CAT Team: The CAT survey has been distributed; deadline is August 14. Results will be tabulated and results interpreted by Rev. Malcolm Brownlee. Scheduled dates for the CAT Team to discuss results with Session are August 25 and September 1.

Session approved a Celebration of Life Service for Bill Bare in the sanctuary on July 30 for immediate family, Rev. Albert Connette officiating. Proper covid-19 protocols will be followed.

Session renewed the Covenant Agreement with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayer by Moderator Rev. Sarah Wolf.

UNDER GOD:

Out of brokenness
comes healing.
Out of suffering
comes hope.
Out of chaos
comes peace.

186th STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The presbytery had 129 folks on our first zoom presbytery meeting! There were a few bumps, but a good job was done by all. Thank you to TE Rachel Crumley and TE Kate Rascoe for organizing a meaningful worship experience. We welcomed David Staninus from the Presbyterian Historical Society who gave a short reminder of what the historical society does for us as a denomination.

We welcomed Martha Reisner from the Board of Pensions who gave us an update on what the Board has to offer in 2021. We heard the report from our General Assembly Commissioners.

We elected more folks to committees of the Presbytery. We passed an additional statement concerning Black women and Girls to be added to the General Assembly's "Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action". Our statement will be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, and will be circulated to our congregations.

The Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT) welcomed representatives from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg to share what they have been doing during this unusual time of the pandemic.

We passed the recommendations from the Committee on Relational Ministry to update the Sabbatical Policy for installed pastors and the Salary Policy for Installed Pastors.

A special thank you to our Moderator RE Rick Comstock for keeping us on course, to our chair of the Coordinating and Planning Commission TE Rachel Crumley for volunteering to take us through how to participate in the meeting and to RE Donna Lanaghan, the communications director for the presbytery who put in extra time to make this meeting possible. Well done good and faithful servants!

Our next stated meeting is Tuesday November 17, 2020 and currently is scheduled to be by zoom.

Bronwen Boswell, Stated Clerk



To my dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for all the food, cards, flowers, visits, and donations to our Food Bank after Bill's death. We were able to hold a Celebration of Life for family shortly afterwards thanks to the efforts of Rev. Albert Connette, Roger Daggy and Colleen, who put it all together.

Bill and I shared wonderful memories of 66 years. *Thanks be to God and our savior, Jesus Christ. We have been so blessed.* —Polly and the Bare Children



“God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonders of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their spirits.”

As the Preschool prepares to begin the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, September 14, I find myself reflecting on the Preschool’s journey from having its doors closed in March to the reopening in July. During my time of introspection, I came across the above prayer for the upcoming school year. The opening line is hopeful and reassuring as it reminds us that we can count on God’s “wisdom and might” to guide the Preschool through the difficulties and uncertainties during the COVID-19 pandemic. The prayer is also a reminder of the many things that we have to be grateful for. Being grateful to experience another day. Being grateful for having a mind, body and spirit to use to the best of our abilities, to fulfil God’s plan for us each day. I believe that God’s plan for the teachers and staff at First Presbyterian Church Preschool is to create an environment that allows each child the opportunity to grow, and to do so gracefully. God blessed First Presbyterian Church Preschool with teachers and staff that are full of wisdom, knowledge and compassion which they can pass on to each child “as they search for understanding.”

So how does the Preschool plan to create and sustain such an environment? Well, each teacher has planned a September that is full of faith, learning and fun!

Ms. Diggs and her two-year-old class kick off the first week of Preschool by getting to know one another, exploring playdough (any volunteers to come and watch a two-year-old’s first experience with playdough?) and beginning to learn about numbers and letters. The second week consists of learning about autumn, punctuation and having fun with comic book day. Johnny Appleseed is the theme for the last week in September (look for pictures in next month’s Columns).

Ms. Lynda and the three-year-olds will be learning about apples, the five senses, different sizes and shapes and bears. I am sure that there will be lots of singing, different books and activities that make learning about bears fun. The learning continues as they learn the letters A, B and C and the colors red and yellow.

Ms. Aimee and the four-year-old class begin the first week with the theme “All about me” and a “Show and Tell” on Thursday. The second week’s theme is “Exploring the Five Senses.” The final week they will be learning about the letter “B”. I can’t wait to see what crafts, stories, and activities that Ms. Aimee has in store for her class.

The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely placed a new set of obstacles to overcome and led to the rise of uncertainty and a “new normal”. What is certain is that God planned for our little treasure that is First Presbyterian Church Preschool to be a place where each child is welcomed and afforded the opportunity to “find peace and zeal to their spirits”. I believe that God provided each teacher and staff member with the tools to execute His plan. Finally, I thank God for our First Presbyterian Church Family and their continued love and support for its Preschool.

Thank you, and God bless you all,

Thomas V. Sheffey, Preschool Director



September 3 Kathy Brown
 September 4 Rubye Schwab
 September 9 Joan Berry
 September 10 Ruth Kelley
 September 11 Danny Leech
 September 14 Polly Bare
 September 24 Branch Hammock
 September 29 Eloise Morris
 September 29 Jo Ann Pannill
 September 29 Joe Earhart

September 1 Buck & Margie Hartley
 September 14 Mike & Cathy Cunningham

CROP WALK

FPC will be participating in the annual Church World Service Waynesboro East Augusta CROP walk this year during the week of 9/20/20-9/27/20. This year's walk will include small groups picking a time to walk during the week.

You can make your CROP offering one of two ways: 1) online by going to Waynesboro East Augusta CROP walk and clicking on First Presbyterian Church or 2) drop off a check at the church made out to Church World Service CROP walk. Contributions will be accepted through the end of September.

If you are interested in walking with a small group (socially distanced walking, of course), contact Joe Earhart, Terry Crickenberger or Jen Jones. We will pick a date and time suitable to the small group. A portion of the funds raised will be used to locally support Meals on Wheels, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Disciples' Kitchen and the Salvation Army. As you know, the demand for Food Bank Services through the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank has increased significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please think about giving generously to this worthy cause as one way to stay connected to our local church community and the greater world at large.





Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Ruth Quillen, Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Steve Doherty, Nancy Snyder, Campbell Epes

Friends and Family: Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds (Cunninghams), Nancy Vilain, Chris Davenport (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Kathy Doyle (Cindy & Rodger Doyle), Peter Johnson, Lawrence Maddox, Joan Blazek, Glenn Fields, Sr. (Jen Jones), Bill Metzler (Joyce Tipton), Tony Poplin (Colleen Cash), Helen Schurz (Holly Bennett), Shae Blackwell and Family (Preschool), Carol Buckalew (Jen Jones), Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Merle Fisher (Anne Wood)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

Missionaries: Elmarie & Scott Parker, PC (USA) Regional Liaisons to Iraq, Syria & Lebanon

Calendar It has been requested to post Sundays' Lectionary Schedules.

Tuesday, September 1

3pm CAT Session Meeting

Sunday, September 6

Exod. 12:1-14; Ps 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

Monday, September 7

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

2:30 Session Meeting

Thursday, September 10

2-4pm Food Bank

Sunday, September 13

Exod. 14:19-31; Ps 114; Exod. 15:1b-11; Romans 14:1-12 ; Matt 18:21-35

Sunday, September 20

Exod. 16:2-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45; Phil.1:21-30; Matt. 20 :1-16

Thursday, September 24

2-4pm Food Bank

Sunday, September 27

Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16; Phil .2:1-13; Matt 21:23-32

**WE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
LABOR DAY**



*Patriot's Day
Friday, September 11*

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.”
~Mother Teresa

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COLUMNS Mailing List

During the pandemic the newsletter is being mailed to members and friends. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news. Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or church@firstpresway.com — *Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website:*

firstpresway.org Deadlines: ***COLUMNS***: 20th of the month