



# THE COLUMNS

October 2020, Volume 58, Issue 10

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 Monday -Thursday 10-2:30

Video Broadcast until further notice

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30

Thursday 8-4:30

Friday - Closed

I think a lot about *transition*. It turns out, if you are called to what we cutting-edge types in the church are now calling *Transitional Ministry*, transition is on your mind a lot.

For the past several years, Ann and I experienced what one might call *domestic transition*: first, our children finished their college career and *fledged* – started their various careers in various places. Our nest was well and truly empty.



There goes Mairéad. Brigid is on deck.

(not pictured: Connall)

Until it wasn't. With the pandemic making it difficult to navigate city life alone, they came back to the nest. Before we knew what hit us, there were five cats, two dogs and five adults - twelve pounds of family making the transition to life in a six-pound bag, er, *house*. You get the idea.



The Pettit home (actual photo)

Transition is all over the place these days. Covid-19 has meant transitioning from "normal life" to "whatever this is we're living;" our nation is preparing for the transition of national elections; men and women all around us are looking for the transition from financial insecurity to gainful employment and a living wage; and the church of Jesus Christ (including the Presbyterian Church, USA) continues to make the painful transition from *what it has been* into, quite literally, *Lord knows what*.

Of course, I wouldn't be the reformed English major I am if I didn't use this as an excuse to do some etymological work. So, what is *transition*, anyway?

Merriam-Webster defines **transition** (noun) as *the process or period of changing from one state or condition to another*.

In its plural form, **Transitions**<sup>TM</sup> is a brand of photo-chromic eyeglass lens – the kind that go from clear inside to sunglassy outside.

In genetics, **Transition** is a point mutation that changes a purine nucleotide to another purine (A  $\leftrightarrow$  G) or a pyrimidine nucleotide to another pyrimidine (C  $\leftrightarrow$  T). Don't ask me what any of that means.

In wrestling, **Transition** is the movement from one grappling hold or position to another, while in basketball, **Transition** is what one calls the change from defense to offense, or vice-versa.

Of all these, I particularly like the last two definitions, for a couple of reasons.

I can imagine the struggle of Jacob with God that dark night by the Jabbok river; the grunting, sweating, grabbing and twisting, each *transition* symbolic of Jacob's experience: each clench, each escape and subsequent hold evoking his hard headed, hard fought approach to life, and the constant, unceasing change in store for his progeny.



*Jacob Wrestling with the Angel #2. Wayne Forte, 1996*

Then again, I think about the importance of transition to winning basketball games. Each basket or possession change is like a little ending, as offense changes to defense; but it is also a new beginning, as defense now goes on the offensive. In those moments of transition, much can happen – baskets made, opponents worn down, momentum changed - if a team recognizes the value of that *transitional moment*, and approaches it with specific goals in mind, and the plans to achieve them. Red Auerbach, legendary coach of the Boston Celtics, was perhaps the first to exploit this in-between time, advocating the *fast break*, in which the offense exploits that time of change to push the ball down the court and score.



Boston Celtic Guard Bob Cousy.  
(Hy Peskin for *Sports Illustrated*)

As your Interim Pastor, it is my task to help your Session and you make the most of this ‘in between time,’ helping to identify, in the midst of so much change, the tools and resources God is providing, the goals to which he is calling us to strive, and the plan for living into those goals. May God bless us in this time of *transition*.

Rev. Patrick S. Pettit  
Interim Pastor



### MAILING *THE COLUMNS*

Before the pandemic, monthly issues of *The Columns* were available for pick-up in the narthex or church office as close to the first of the month as possible. Some were mailed on request. When we were no longer gathering together, it was decided to mail copies to all members of the congregation. And we continue to do so.

This mailing comes at a cost. About \$1.25 postage apiece plus paper and large envelopes. We are delighted to continue this procedure for shut-ins or anyone who wishes to receive a copy. But the newsletter is available also online, usually before a copy hits your mail box. Bulk mail is not an option. We tried several years ago but some deliveries took at least two weeks. We know that some folks could care less about receiving a paper copy and prefer to read online.

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please call the church office (949-8366). If not, sit tight, and we'll be happy to keep 'em coming.



## MUSIC NOTES



We extend a most cordial welcome to, and thanks for, the leadership of our new Interim Pastor, Patrick Pettit. We will all benefit from his substantial skill, experience, and commitment as we look forward to his innovations and vitality.

With the onset of October, we welcome the crisp, dry air, the cool evenings, and the array of colors that autumn brings. How we wish we could share a glass of apple cider or perhaps some of Joan Berry's exquisite shortbread after worshipping together in person. Although those days seem so long ago, they will be with us again, and we will share the joy of the Good News face-to-face!

Speaking of which, prior to our most recent recording session for FPC's virtual services, we had the great pleasure to see Cathy and Mike Cunningham in the Barksdale Room. They were spending the day repairing choir robes, and our hearts leapt with joy at seeing them in real life! Cathy, being the wonderful musician she is, sang the hymns with us, as you will hear – and see – in the virtual services on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We are so grateful to Cathy and Mike for their service to FPC!

For the October 11<sup>th</sup> service, the anthem will be provided by Micheal Hodgson and Justina Nadal. They moved from Long Beach, California, to Waynesboro in January of this year. You may have heard them on some of the virtual Waynesboro Presbyterian Church services during the spring. They have enthusiastically offered music for our services, and we're gladly taking them up on their kind gesture! They wrote both the music and the text to *When Kingdom Comes*.

The Daggy family is singing two of the anthems in October: *What Does the Lord Require* by Eric Routley on October 4<sup>th</sup> and *Spirit of the Living God* on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful that our family can assist with providing some of the music for the online services during the pandemic, although nothing replaces singing with a choir! How we look forward to doing so again once it is safe for people to sing together. In the meantime, we continue to enjoy hearing the musical contributions of our congregation in our online services.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, our own Terry Crickenberger will sing "The Call," one of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. Vaughan Williams composed the sacred songs on texts by seventeenth century poet and priest George Herbert. "The Call" remains one of Vaughan Williams' most beloved songs, and we are thankful that Terry is sharing his musical gifts through this lovely sacred song.

While these times may be unsettling, we remain grateful for God's constant love and for the support we receive from FPC. May you find comfort in the lovingkindness of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Blessings and peace,

Roger and Kimberlea

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a **Stated Meeting** via Zoom on September 8, 2020. We gave thanks for a new beginning with our new interim pastor, Rev. Patrick Pettit.

Rev. Pettit shared a description of his Interim Philosophy so that we might understand his roll. He is not a temporary caretaker, but a diagnostician to help our congregation discern who they are and what kind of pastoral leadership they need. His Office Hours will be Monday-Thursday, 10:00-2:30.

By consensus, Session agreed to continue online worship services until the first of the year. Closer to the time they will see if it is possible to do something special during the Christmas season.

Bruce Bosselman, Commissioner to the Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting held via Zoom on August 25, gave a detailed report.

19 students have signed up for Preschool which begins September 14 and 7 for Extended Day. A trip to the Pumpkin Patch in Stuarts Draft is planned for October.

The local CROP Walk will be held the end of the month. The Presbyterian Outlook is presenting a webinar "Holy Imagination + Race".

Four bids have been received or are pending for boiler replacement. In a separate matter, Session approved \$5,000 for a new furnace that services the Offices and the Library.

Session dissolved, with thanks, the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

The CAT Letter to the Congregation is almost in final draft.

The Session approved Betsy Ruehl as Clerk of Session for a one-year term.

Letters of thanks and gift cards will be sent to Rev. Wray Sherman, Rev. Sarah Wolf, Rev. Karen Allamon and Craig Cavanaugh for their service to FPC since Rev. Chapman's departure.

Session held a **Called Meeting** via Zoom on September 22, 2020, for the purposes of voting on the proposed CAT Letter to the Congregation and to vote on the recommended boiler replacement.

Session approved the CAT Letter. It will be mailed to the congregation with a cover letter indicating feedback is welcome.

Session approved the contract from Southern Air, Inc., to replace the boiler and feed water tank at a cost of \$67,100.

All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.





## STEAM HEAT

After years of service, it became clear earlier this year that the main heating plant for the church needed serious attention. The centerpiece of the system is a low-pressure boiler, located under the Parlor, which generates steam that is pumped through various pipes to radiators around the church. As you might imagine, making steam under even low pressure can be dangerous, which is why inspection, maintenance and timely replacement are crucial.

With the approval of the Session, the Property and Maintenance Committee consulted with the Trustees and began gathering estimates for this costly and difficult job. While their efforts were complicated by the current pandemic, four detailed estimates were secured from local HVAC companies. Each estimate covered the following:

- Replace boiler with new unit
- Replace water holding tank with a new unit
- Remove debris and old boiler
- Labor and materials

In addition, the existing steam piping in the boiler room will be rerouted to ensure maximum heating efficiency. After reviewing the proposals, P&M recommended Southern Air, a company based in Lynchburg, with locations in Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, Newport News, Richmond, Roanoke and Winchester VA, Bluefield, Morgantown, WV and Greensboro, NC. Founded in 1946, Southern Air has more than 750 employees and has an annual business volume of \$100,000.00.

The work is estimated to take four to six weeks and will result in both fuel cost savings and more reliable heat to the preschool areas. Related to this is the routine replacement of steam traps on each radiator, which will also improve heating efficiency.

Finally, the forced air furnace on the second floor of the education building is also being replaced. This will improve safety and provide more reliable heat to the office areas.

If you have any questions about property issues, please contact Mike Cunningham or Mark Henderson.

*image from the OSMaD production of "The Pajama Game," 2016.*



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: WHY WE DO IT AND HOW

This coming October 4, congregations around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday. According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940. Since then the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

The key word of World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal – when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance—and of Jesus' sacrifice. So accounts of the last supper feature prominently, by virtue of World Communion Sunday being a celebration of the Eucharist.

But there is a flavor of the Christian celebration of Pentecost as well when people from around the Mediterranean world came together in mutual understanding and inspiration, by the power of the Holy Spirit. World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. At its best, therefore, World Communion Sunday serves two purposes: it is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a mind-opening exposure to different Christian traditions from around the world.

### COMMUNION AVAILABLE AT FPC ONLINE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

You, too, can be part of World Wide Communion Sunday. Tune in on our website [www.firstpresway.com](http://www.firstpresway.com) or click on the link you receive in an email from Colleen for our online worship service on October 4. For the first time Communion will be part of our online worship. However, you will have to provide your own elements.

We suggest that before the service starts you assemble whatever you'd like to use. A piece of bread or a cracker would do as well as water, juice or even wine. Whatever symbols are meaningful to the participant would be appropriate.

We can still celebrate Holy Communion together.





On Monday evening September 20 Cynthia Hoover, Joe Earhart and Terry Crickenberger participated in a socially distanced CROP Walk leaving the church at 5:30 pm. We walked in the spirit of grace and gratitude through downtown Waynesboro and the greenway, recognizing the many gifts given to us as individuals and our larger church community. We met and enjoyed Fellowship with other TEAM captains at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday afternoon 9/27.

The annual CROP Walk supports both the international and local communities. Church World Service supports efforts to help those displaced by disaster, those living in poverty, and those with inadequate access to food. Locally, the CROP walk supports Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army and Disciples' Kitchen. Over the years the CROP Walk has raised over \$200,000 for these local entities and \$600,000 for the international efforts.

We humbly invite the members of FPC to contribute, as able, to the CWS/CROP effort to improve the lives of those in need as Jesus Christ and the holy scriptures have commanded. Monies will be collected through the end of October. You can leave a check at the church office made out to CWS/CROP or donate online by going to the Waynesboro-East Augusta CROP Walk website ([CropHungerWalk.org/Waynesboro/va](http://CropHungerWalk.org/Waynesboro/va)), click on TEAMS, and click on First Presbyterian Church. Thank you in advance for your participation!





October 6 Jeannie Curry  
 October 6 Mary Ann Maupin  
 October 10 Charles Simpkins  
 October 10 Nancy Geer  
 October 11 Shirley Straka  
 October 15 Lorain Kent  
 October 17 Susan Elder  
 October 18 Jennifer Jones  
 October 21 Kevin Henkel  
 October 22 Kimberlea Daggy  
 October 23 Helen Schurz  
 October 26 Mark Henderson  
 October 30 Anne Wood

October 16 Paul & Phyllis Poluito

### Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:



The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Lillian Hryshkanych

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

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 Metzel (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



**LETTER FROM REV. WRAY SHERMAN  
PASTOR OF HERMITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Please communicate my thanks to the First Presbyterian Church Session for giving me the opportunity to participate in the July – August 2020 virtual worship. The 1<sup>st</sup> Church sanctuary is beautiful and inspiring, reminding me of the feeling I often had walking into European cathedrals.*

*Also, thanks to Craig for continuing to send the Hermitage congregation the virtual worship services. Although we are worshipping in-person at Hermitage, over half of our congregation continue to stay at home and worship using these services. Many of the Hermitage members, who worship in-person, download the First Presbyterian Church service. The Hermitage congregation is blessed to hear God's Word through the beautiful choral and organ music and the sermons of Patrick.*

*Deep Peace.*

*-Wray Sherman*



Halloween is alive and well in the **Preschool**. The children will be trick or treating in the church offices on Thursday, October 29. If you would like to participate, please contact Colleen in the church office (949-8366). You can wear your ordinary mask or choose something seasonal.

# Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

## *Prayer Concern*

### **Ethiopia Request for Prayer**

The following letter was sent to Bill Burslem of our Ethiopian Partnership Team. We ask that churches include it in this week's corporate prayers and individual prayers as well.

"Dear Dr. Bill, may the grace and joy of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ be with each of our friends in Shenandoah presbytery.

Friends, this is to share our concern to seek your prayer.

The pictures attached are taken on September 13, 2020. I was in Darimu Presbytery Aso Congregation last Sunday to visit and encourage our members there. Because of the heavy rainfall mixed with ice and heavy wind the maize, peppers, coffee plants on field is totally destroyed. About 1,200 members of our Church exposed to starvation following the destruction.



In addition, tree fell down on milestone of that Church and it's damaged and out of use. The milestone was serving the community in that village. There's no hope for the families to send their children to school. All the economic sources are damaged. The village is located near by Aremi Village.

By having in mind the above mentioned problems I kindly ask your faithful prayer and to share our concern for friends to be with us in this difficulty time.

Thanking you for your unreserved concern.  
Together in God's mission.  
*Amena Burayu"*

Editor—Betsy Ruehl ([etruehl@ntelos.net](mailto:etruehl@ntelos.net))    Layout—Colleen Cash    Reporters—Members of the Congregation & Staff

#### *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](mailto:church@firstpresway.com) *Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website:*

[firstpresway.org](http://firstpresway.org)    Deadlines: *COLUMNS*: 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

