

THE COLUMNS

March 2021, Volume 59, Issue 3

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
2:30

Video Broadcast until further notice

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 -

Thursday 8-4:30

Friday - Closed

*Sometimes we have an experience in life that seems like walking through a long dark tunnel. The chilling air and the thick darkness make it hard walking, and the constant wonder is why we are compelled to tread so gloomy a path, while others are in the open day of health and happiness. We can only fix our eyes on the bright **light at the end of the tunnel**, and we comfort ourselves with the thought that every step we take brings us nearer to the joy and the rest that lie at the end of the way.*

Rev. Theodore Cuyler, God's Light on Dark Cloud, 1882


Growing up in Pittsburgh, I have more than a little experience with tunnels. In order to get to the Golden Triangle from our home in the South Hills, it was expedient to use one of the tunnels bored through Coal Hill (or Mt. Washington, as it came to be known). For us, that usually meant the Liberty Tunnels, or 'The Tubes.' Opened in 1924, they were a modern marvel: Gleaming gateways to a bustling city. Forty odd years later, though, Model Ts had given way to massive Belairs and Biscaynes, Country Squires and Catalinas, and the Tubes had become gritty reminders of an earlier age - black with the soot of the dying steel industry, dimly lit, poorly ventilated and frightfully cramped. As a kid, entering the Tubes was like descending into Hell: grim and dark, with foul smells and the weight of an entire mountain just above your head. And long - the longest automobile tunnel in the Pittsburgh area. In heavy traffic, they were almost unbearable. From the back seat, I couldn't really see the light at the end of the tunnel; instead, I relied on the radio to tell me when this nightmare was coming to an end. Since its early days, the tunnel had been equipped to provide uninterrupted AM radio for motorists. But this was the seventies, and FM was the thing; but the signal was lost soon after you entered. There was this funny thing though: about halfway through the tunnel, the signal would come back for just a few seconds. Maybe the ventilation shafts acted as an antenna, or maybe it was Providence looking out for a scared kid who hated tunnels. Either way, it was a frame of reference: halfway home, and the second half was always easier than the first. By the time the signal returned, and WTAE was back, I was OK.

The Liberty Tunnels are much nicer now; the facades restored to their 1920's splendor, the lanes widened by removing pedestrian walkways no one ever used; brighter lights, and even cell service. And I am no longer scared of tunnels; I've even walked through the Chesapeake & Ohio canal tunnel at Paw Paw, West Virginia - not once, but *twice*. (Actually, it was down and back two times, which makes *four times*, so there.) In that narrow old tunnel, one really does walk in utter darkness for a time, until finally, a tiny light appears in the

distance, growing larger with every step, until finally the light becomes the end of the tunnel, and you emerge in a brand-new place.

After a year of uncertainty, and the deaths of 500,000 neighbors and loved ones, we begin to see the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. Many of you have received a vaccine, as I have, and each day, more and more people are being inoculated. Infection rates, while still high, are trending downward, and suggest we can begin to plan a return to in-person activity. This is great news, exciting news, but I would be lying if I didn't tell you it's also a little scary. I haven't been in the pulpit for a long time, and I've *never* actually led worship with you. It's bound to be pretty awkward and tentative, and anything but the smooth, seamless worship experience we would like. But we will be together as the people of God. And it will be worship.

Keep your eyes and ears open; listen for the signal and look for the light.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Pettit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P".

Patrick Pettit, Interim

Pastor





MUSIC NOTES



Last year, in-person church services at First Presbyterian were cancelled on 15 March due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. “Beware the Ides of March,” indeed! Little did we know that it would be over a year before we could worship together in person. (Although Linda Sandquist knew! She accurately predicted, when services were cancelled last year, that “it’ll be a year before we get together again.”)

We spend the month of March deep in the throes of Lent. Included in the music for 7 March is the hymn *Your Law, O Lord, is Perfect*. The hymn is a setting of one of the day’s readings, Psalm 19. The text is a kind of template for following God’s word, from His commandments enlightening our eyes to His words being our souls’ wealth.

On March 14th, our Lenten journey continues with the hymn *Forty Days and Forty Nights* as well as a hymn whose lyrics were first published in Lynchburg around 1811, *What Wondrous Love is This*. The final hymn for the fourth Sunday in Lent will be *O for A Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

The third Sunday of March also happens to be the 336th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). First Presbyterian Church will honor the birthday of the composer who signed every piece of music “Soli Deo Gloria” (To God alone be the glory) with voluntaries by and hymns harmonized by “der Meister alle Meister” (the master of masters).

The final Sunday of March is also Palm Sunday. We welcome the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem with loud Hosannas! We also eagerly anticipate the day when we may worship together. With vaccines now available, there is hope on the horizon! We look forward to being with you, praying together and singing praises to God in our Sanctuary. Until then, may you stay safe and feel the Spirit of the Lord in FPC’s virtual services.

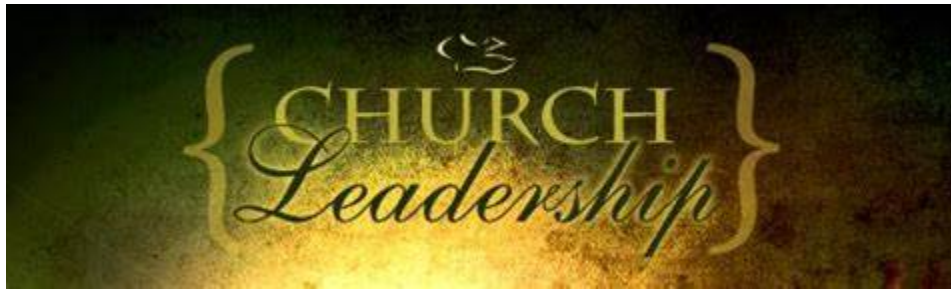
Blessings,
Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



Important Dates of Lent in 2021:

Important Dates of Lent	Brief Overview of Significance	2021 Dates
Palm Sunday	Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem	March 28, 2021
Holy Week	The week leading up to Easter	March 28 - April 3, 2021
Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles	April 1, 2021
Good Friday	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary	April 2, 2021
Holy Saturday	Commemorates Jesus' body resting in the tomb	April 3, 2021
Easter Sunday	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over sin and death.	April 4, 2021





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Meeting via Zoom on February 9, 2021. All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

- Session approved 2020 Church Statistical Reports.
- Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ruling Elder Mike Cunningham.
- Session approved Nate Rudin as full-time Preschool Director.
- Mission Committee – Promote One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for Easter. The congregation will be asked to underwrite CWS Buckets for Disaster Relief.
- P&M – ADT, Lumos and Level 8 have been working on the internet service, fire alarm and data infrastructure, in particular cleaning up wiring. Problems are not yet solved. Problem of leakage in the Preschool has not been solved. A new general plan for landscaping is needed. Cary Bennett has volunteered to work with this committee.
- Worship Committee – Benchmark for in-person worship: new COVID-19 case average/week below 10/100K. There will be a virtual Ash Wednesday service on February 17. Ashes will be packaged and available for pick-up or delivery. Short virtual services will be held each Wednesday during Lent on YouTube with different pastors participating.



For obvious reasons PW has not met since the beginning of the pandemic. However, it is possible to hold a Bible Study via Zoom. A participant needs only internet access for her tablet or computer! Interested? Contact Ruth Kelley (337-2665), or the Church Office (949-8366).

A Seven-Day Cycle of Prayer

based on the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

***Living God, we give you thanks and praise for
the new things you are doing among us ...***

SUN	Spirit-Inspired Worship <i>for the transforming presence of Christ</i>
MON	Lifelong Discipleship Formation <i>for your call to follow the way of Jesus</i>
TUE	Intentional Incarnational Focus <i>for the gifts of your Word made flesh</i>
WED	Authentic Evangelism <i>for the good news of your holy realm</i>
THU	Empowering Servant Leadership <i>for Jesus' example of humble service</i>
FRI	Caring Relationships <i>for your great love for all the world</i>
SAT	Ecclesial Health <i>for our common ministry in Jesus' name</i>

Other joys and thanksgivings may be added.

***Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to
bear witness to the risen Lord ...***

SUN	Spirit-Inspired Worship <i>proclaiming the good news of salvation</i>
MON	Lifelong Discipleship Formation <i>growing in the image of Christ</i>
TUE	Intentional Incarnational Focus <i>offering your grace to others</i>
WED	Authentic Evangelism <i>sharing the hope that is within us</i>
THU	Empowering Servant Leadership <i>loving and serving one another</i>
FRI	Caring Relationships <i>extending your compassion to all</i>
SAT	Ecclesial Health <i>building up the body of Christ</i>

Other concerns and petitions may be added.

***Living God, in the great mystery of our faith, receive
us each night and revive us each day, that we may be
dead to sin and alive to you; through Jesus Christ our
Savior. Amen.***



MISSION COMMITTEE

Sharing God's love with those in need: CWS Hygiene Kits

As we watch the news day in and day out, it is no surprise that our siblings near and far are facing innumerable difficult situations, both natural and manmade. One of the ways we can help is by sending hygiene kits through Church World Service.

Simply contributing the cost for a kit (or kits!) will enable the FPC mission committee to purchase specific items in bulk. Some items included are soap, toothbrush, towel and washcloth. Kits will be assembled and delivered to CWS so that they can be distributed where most needed.

The cost for each kit is \$15 plus a \$2 processing fee (\$17 total). You can pay for one kit, multiple kits or a partial kit. Any donation is welcome and appreciated. **Our goal is 100 kits.** Donations should be *marked 'Hygiene Kits'* and need to be in to the church office by Monday, March 29.

If you would like to put together an actual physical kit, you are welcome to do so. Lists will also be available at the church office, and I can also email one to you directly (jenbuckjones@yahoo.com). If you would like to join the mission team when we assemble the kits - socially distanced but in person - we would welcome extra assistance! Let me know if you are interested (email above or 434-882-3259).

Thank you in advance for your support! We are grateful that we can continue to show and share the Light of God throughout this difficult time.

Peace and gratitude, Jen Jones, Mission Chair



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This past year the pandemic has stretched the Church in many ways. But despite the challenges, we were still very much a Church – alive, vital, present – together.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to build God's household and welcome our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, giving food for the hungry, and supporting the poor and oppressed.

Whether or not we can worship physically in the same space, **One Great Hour of Sharing** unites us in the way that matters most: We become the household of God.

The pandemic has reminded us that the Church has always existed beyond the doors of any building.

It has underscored through experience what we learn from Scripture – that our Church belongs to those in need.

Each gift you make to **One Great Hour of Sharing** helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program – Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People – Partners with communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Although this past year has been difficult, imagine facing the pandemic without enough food to eat without safe drinking water – without access to health care. Imagine being denied justice time and time again.

This offering is traditionally taken on Easter Sunday. Since FPC is not meeting in-person, checks may be written, designated for **One Great Hour of Sharing**, and sent to the Church any time. Special envelopes will be included in the April newsletter.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Texas

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in communication with Presbyterian leadership on the ground in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. We have offered assistance and assessments will be more accessible as power is restored and things begin to thaw. PDA stands ready to assist. Please join us in praying for safety and warmth.

To support this response, designate gifts for DR000015

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/winter-storms/>



Happy March First Presbyterian Church! February was a fun filled month for us in the Preschool. The children learned many subjects. Some of the highlights include Presidents' Day, Dental Health Month, and Valentine's Day. We were graced with nice weather the day of our walking field trip to the Post Office, where the children mailed valentines to their families. Each class enjoyed individual parties where the children passed out their own valentines to their friends.

March will be a month full of fun and learning. The first week of March we will observe Dr. Seuss week. The days are as followed, 1st- Crazy Hat Day, 2nd-Mismatch Day, 3rd- Crazy Sock Day, 4th-PJ and Green Eggs and Ham Day, 5th-Crazy Hair Day. In observance of St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, the classes will join in a fun filled hunt for The Leprechaun and his Pot of Gold!!! This hunt will take the children through all parts of the Preschool and Church. With the early Easter holiday this year we will be concluding March with our annual egg hunt on the 25th. Each class will hide their own eggs and hunt them either inside or outside the Church. March is coming in as a lion.

Thank you and Happy March,

Nate Rudin



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is officially observed on March 17 each year, the date of his death in the late 15th century (circa A.D. 493).

There are many legends about him that mix with the truth. Did he play a large role in spreading Christianity to Ireland? Yes, absolutely. Did he really drive all the snakes out of Ireland? Probably not, as snakes weren't native to Ireland to begin with.

The man who eventually would become St. Patrick was born in Britain (part of the Roman Empire at the time) as Maewyn Succat in the late 4th century. His family was Christian, but it's said that Maewyn himself was an atheist throughout his childhood.

That would change at age 16 (around A.D. 400) when Maewyn was kidnapped from his home on the west coast of Britain by Irish pirates, who proceeded to carry him off to Ireland and force him to work as a shepherd herding sheep. After six years he escaped his captors, walking nearly 200 miles through the Irish landscape and convincing a ship to carry him back to Britain. This harrowing experience certainly had an effect on Maewyn, who was convinced it was the Lord who protected him and delivered him safely home.

Upon returning home Maewyn received his call (in a dream) to preach the Gospel – in Ireland, of all places! He spent the next 15 or so years in a monastery in Britain, preparing for his missionary work. When he became a priest, his name was changed to Patricius and he returned to the land of his captors to begin his teachings.

Although some Christians already lived in Ireland at the time, the country was largely pagan, so spreading a foreign religion was not an easy task. Patricius traveled from village to village to share the teachings of the Lord and was successful enough to found many churches.

We wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because, the legend says, St. Patrick used its three leaves to explain the Holy Trinity in his teachings – three divine persons who are one divine. However, there is no direct record that the saint actually used the shamrock as a teaching tool.

MORE ST. PATRICK'S DAY FACTS, FUN AND FOLKLORE

- Blue was the color originally associated with St. Patrick, but green is now favored.
- The first St. Patrick's Day parade in the American colonies was held in New York City on this day in 1762.
- Favorite St. Patrick's Day foods include corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, soda bread, colcannon (potatoes and cabbage) and green milk and beer.
- St. Patrick's Day is the traditional days for planting peas, even in the snow!
- Cabbage seeds are often planted today, too, and old-time farmers believed that to make them grow well, you needed to plant them while wearing your nightclothes!
- Long before the three-leaf shamrock became the symbol of St. Patrick, a four-leaf clover was regarded by ancient Celts as a charm against evil spirits. In the early 1900s, O.H. Benson, an Iowa school superintendent, came up with the idea of using a clover as the emblem for a newly founded agricultural club for children in his area. In 1911 the four-leaf-clover was chosen as the emblem for the national club program, later named 4-H.
- Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover? You don't want to press your luck!

(from The Old Farmer's Almanac at almanac.com)





Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Regency Senior Living at Augusta: Glennis Bear

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Steve Doherty, Kathy Brown, Mary Ann Maupin,

Friends and Family: Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds (Cunninghams), Steve Stevens, Marianne Beck, Bill Bromley (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Kathy Doyle (Cindy & Rodger Doyle), Bill Metzel (Joyce Tipton), Tony Poplin, Jerry Hughes, Paul Watts (Colleen Cash), Shae Blackwell and Family (Preschool), Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

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

March 1	Sandy Bellamy
March 8	Holly Bennett
March 9	Steve Doherty
March 11	Harold Gallimore
March 11	Tom Montgomery
March 14	Olive Prettyman
March 19	Art Johnson
March 20	Pam Hammock
March 21	Dick Huff
March 22	Buck Hartley
March 22	Patrick Pettit
March 24	Sandra Curry
March 25	Linda Sandquist



Editor—Betsy Ruehl (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) *Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website:*

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

March

Tuesday, March 9 2:30pm
Session Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, March 11 2-4 pm
Food Bank

Tuesday, March 16 11:00 am
Staff Meeting

Thursday, March 25 2-4 pm
Food Bank



Sunday, March 14

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church@firstpresway.com

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www.firstpresway.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday

Closed

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Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

Custodian

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

Child Care Attendants

Nate & Karalyn Rudin

