



# THE COLUMNS

May 2021, Volume 59, Issue 5

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

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30

Thursday 8-4:30

Friday - Closed



There's a good chance by time you read this, it will be May; I'm notoriously last minute with my newsletter articles. Memorial Day is just a few weeks away, and with it begins the 'Summer Season:' white shoes and shorts; tee shirts and sandals; a certain informality as the temperatures begin to rise. Which brings up the issue of robes.

For most of my career, I have spent summers unrobed (*disrobed?!*) in the pulpit. When you serve small country churches, air conditioning is a rarity, and even when it's there, it rarely cools the sanctuary enough to keep one comfortable in a *Bentley and Simon Clergy Robe, Black, in Tropical Wool - hold the velvet panels*.

Not only are robes uncomfortable in hot weather - they can also be dangerous. I can't tell you how many candles I have knocked over with my puffy sleeves, or how often I have walked right up my hem ascending the stairs to the chancel. And robes are expensive, especially when one is just starting out.

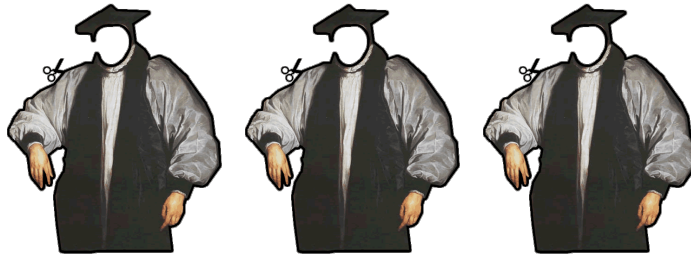
My first robe was a cast-off from the estate of a very old minister who had left his books to the seminary library. Years on a hook in the sun had faded the shoulders to purple, and the hem was in the process of returning to the dust from whence it had come. It was so bedraggled - literally moth-eaten - that my first church took pity on me. No, they didn't buy me a robe; but they did graciously let me use the one my predecessor had left behind...when he died. That's right: I wore a dead guy's robe. My current *Bentley and Simon Clergy Robe, Black, in Tropical Wool - hold the velvet* was a gift from another congregation - fifteen years later.

So why do preachers wear robes in the first place? It's not like there's a Presbyterian law that says I have to wear, well, *anything*, really. What's the deal with clergy robes?

The truth is, what one might call *religion specialists* have worn distinctive clothing since prehistoric times: animal skins, amulets, feathers all served to set apart the shaman or priestess from the crowd. In the book of Exodus, one can read detailed descriptions of the garments to be worn whenever the priests were serving in the temple.

Of course, there were no priests in the early church; leaders simply wore their Sunday best, which in the Middle East were (and are) actual *robes*. But time marched on, and styles changed - it wasn't long until Germanic barbarians brought *pants* to the civilized world! Of course, church leaders have never much liked change, so they continued wearing robes, even as more and more folks began hitching up their trousers. Over time, robes became *vestments*, acquiring symbolic meanings and becoming more colorful and elaborate.

With the coming of the Reformation, pastoral attire really did change. Reformers, such as Calvin, were strong advocates of an educated clergy, and the black robe of the scholar came to demonstrate a pastor's academic qualifications; likewise, the tabbed collar showed a pastor had the approval of their church court to preach.



The robe also served a more practical function. By covering the minister's street clothes, it directed the focus of the congregation away from the *preacher* and toward the *preaching*, emphasizing the office and de-emphasizing the individual.

In modern times, Protestant clergy have begun to rediscover classic vestments. *Stoles* bring color and symbolism to black robes, which can be adorned with the aforementioned velvet panels; the *alb* - a simple white garment, ankle length, tied with a belt (or cincture) has become popular with many pastors; and clergy collars have been adopted by many, especially when serving in the public square.

I'm not big on innovation, though, at least when it comes to what I wear; just as button downs and khakis have been my uniform for forty years, my pastoral kit remains a simple black robe - unbuttoned and worn like the mantle of a prophet of old.

Except, of course, when it's hot.

Stay cool.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick S Pettit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Patrick S Pettit, Interim Pastor



## MUSIC NOTES



The month of May is upon us, complete with tulips, irises, flowering dogwoods and redbuds in bloom. We are so fortunate to live in a place where spring truly springs! We are also grateful to, once again, praise God in the Sanctuary – in person! Seeing your smiling faces (clear, even behind your mask!) brings back the familiar three-dimensional joy of worshipping together.

This month of renewal opens with Christ describing himself as the True Vine. (A print in the choir room has a cartoon of a tree with children with the inscription “He is Divine. We are de branches.”) In John 15:1-8, Jesus reminds us that the branches cannot bear fruit by themselves, only when it abides with the vine. The closing hymn for May 2, *Abide with Me*, brings that message close to home.

On Mother’s Day, Terry Crickenberger and Joe Earhart will sing the anthem (behind a clear screen, adhering to safety protocols). They will sing *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*, a hymn from the Taizé community, an ecumenical monastic community founded in Burgundy, France, in 1940. Much of the music was conceived of and composed by Jacques Berthier, informed by various musical traditions, from Eastern Orthodox chants to simple, repeated phrases.

May 16 brings the return of Cathy Cunningham and her heavenly harp! Cathy will play a medley of two hymns, *Wondrous Love* and *Wondrous Cross*. The arrangement was made by Frank Voltz, a multi-faceted musician based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who, in addition to harp, plays piano and organ and composes and arranges music.

Pentecost falls on May 23 and the service is filled with music inspired by the Holy Spirit. The music for the opening hymn, *Come Down, O Love Divine*, was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), inspired by the hundreds of English folk tunes he collected around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The closing hymn is one of the most familiar hymns from the 1960s, *We are One in the Spirit*. The text and music for this iconic hymn was written in a day by Peter Scholtes for his youth choir. The service opens and closes with renditions of the tune, *Komm, heiliger Geist* (Come, Holy Ghost). The prelude was composed by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707), the influential composer, organist and kapellmeister (music director) who worked in Lübeck, Germany. The postlude was composed by a man who spent months soaking in all Buxtehude could offer, Johann Sebastian Bach. His chorale fantasia on *Komm, heiliger Geist*, is a musical depiction of the swirling Holy Spirit as the chorale melody thunders in the pedals.

The final Sunday of May celebrates both the Holy Trinity and Memorial Day. The opening hymn for the 30<sup>th</sup> will be the very first hymn in the hymnal, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. This stirring hymn will conclude with an arrangement of the hymn that Roger composed twenty years ago. Soprano Jean Hashagen will share her musical gifts that day singing the anthem. The closing hymn will be *God of Our Fathers*, in honor of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.

We are blessed to worship in person again. May we share the love of Christ both inside and outside FPC!

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

## THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The first Scripture reading at the worship service on April 25 was the familiar 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. I am sure that most of us can recite this psalm from memory. Bible verses, learned in Sunday School, float to the surface every once in a while and are comforting. We know and love those familiar passages.

Many years ago, on the cover of a funeral bulletin, I was introduced to a modern version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm from *The Message* from Eugene Peterson. It blew me away! All of a sudden I experienced a totally new understanding of this sacred song.

I prefer the original. King James version does it for me. But occasionally a modern version of the known provides a real awakening. With that in mind, I am including below two versions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm for your perusal.

~Betsy Ruehl



### THE LIVING BIBLE (paraphrased)

#### THE 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM

BECAUSE THE LORD is my Shepherd,  
I have everything I need!

He lets me rest in the meadow grass  
and leads me beside the quiet streams.  
He restores my failing health.  
He helps me do what honors him the most.

Even when walking through the dark  
valley of death I will not be afraid,  
for you are close beside me,  
guarding, guiding all the way.

You provide delicious food for me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You have welcomed me as your guest,  
blessings overflow!

Your goodness and unfailing kindness  
shall be with me all of my life,  
and afterwards I will live with you  
forever in your home.

### THE MESSAGE by Eugene Peterson

#### THE 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM

God, my shepherd!  
I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush  
meadows.  
You find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word,  
You let me catch my breath  
And send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,  
I am not afraid  
when you walk by my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook  
Makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You receive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God  
for the rest of my life.



The 2021-22 Memorial Scholarship application is available on the church website and in the church office. Students may submit the application until Friday, May 28. Please feel to contact Holly Bennett with any questions: [hollybbennett@outlook.com](mailto:hollybbennett@outlook.com) or (540) 836-9844.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021

### When is Pentecost Sunday?

Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday or Whitsunday, is observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter and 10 days after Ascension. The name come from the Greek word "pentekoste" which means fiftieth, as Pentecost Sunday takes place on the 50<sup>th</sup> day of Easter.

As the date is based on Easter, this day is a moveable feast. The earliest day that Pentecost Sunday can fall is May 10 (as in 1818) and the latest possible date is June 13 (next in 2038.). It marks the end of the Easter cycle that began 90 days ago with Ash Wednesday at the start of Lent.

### Why is it called Pentecost Sunday?

This Christian holy day commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of flames to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament in Acts 2:1-31. The Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak in other languages and they started preaching the word of Jesus to the Jews who were in Jerusalem for the feast of Shavuot (also known as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost – in this case, meaning seven weeks since Passover).

Many Christians recognize the Decent of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church.

*Did you know?* In 1662 Isaac Newton compiled a list of 48 sins he had committed before Whitsunday that included "eating an apple at Thy house", "making pies on Sunday night", and "denying a crossbow to my mother and grandmother though I knew of it".

(Article from [www.officeholidays.com](http://www.officeholidays.com))

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Session Meeting via Zoom on April 13, 2021. All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

- Preschool will hold its Spring Concert and Graduation on the front steps of the Sanctuary on May 20.
- P&M: The pinhole on the top of the roof has been fixed. The defunct refrigerator from the Fellowship Hall kitchen has been removed. The Committee needs to have a walk-through of the church.
- Mission: The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering amounted to \$1125.00. 37 Hygiene Kits were collected for Church World Service. Our Food Bank is now open every Thursday - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> operated by FPC, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> evenings by Westminster PC.
- In-person worship, which began Easter Sunday, is going well.
- Rev. Pettit will begin visitation.
- Education is the cornerstone of the church.

## PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

- Everyone must wear a mask. If you need one, masks are available at a hygiene station in the narthex, along with hand sanitizer, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Stationary collection boxes are available in the narthex.
- To maintain social distancing, every other pew is closed, and markers in the open pews denote six feet intervals. Individual worshippers and family groups should remain at least 6 feet apart from one another.
- Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or kissing each other.
- For the time being, the congregation will not be singing .
- To minimize risk, we will do our best to limit the length of the service.



## CWS HYGIENE KITS

In the face of natural disaster, violence or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. They are particularly useful in shelters. In response to information on Shenandoah Presbytery's website, members of First Presbyterian Church have provided 37 such kits for distribution by Church World Service.

Church members provided money for items for the kits including shipping charges. Members of our Mission Committee – Jen Jones, Jeannie Curry and Betsy Ruehl – shopped for supplies and then assembled and delivered the kits. Items to be included were very specific: hand towel, washcloth, wide-tooth comb, fingernail or toenail clipper, bath-size bar of soap, toothbrush and ten standard band aids. These items were packed in one-gallon Ziploc plastic bags. No extra items or toothpaste were to be included. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

Collection point for the kits was the Disaster Ministries Building at the Church of the Brethren in Grottoes. Many thanks to all who gave time or money. But don't overdo the kudos to the shoppers who were delighted to have a reason to be out and about in stores once again!



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

April was a month filled with lots of fun. The two-year-old class enjoyed their Easter festivities on their arrival back from Spring Break. Each class did their own lesson on planting, flowers and gardening. The three-year-old class planted their first seeds of the year.

Going into May, we plan on starting our vegetable garden in the courtyard adjacent to the sanctuary. Like every year the children will help plant and maintain the garden. We will also observe the life cycle of butterflies. The children will learn and watch how they grow from little caterpillars and turn into beautiful butterflies. On May 20, the children will end the year with their spring concert. It will be conducted outside the front entrance of the sanctuary. Graduation will conclude the concert.

We look forward to Summer Camp and the next School Year.

Nate Rudin, Preschool Director





|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| May 2  | Bird Heuchert |
| May 5  | Miley Poluito |
| May 12 | Roger Bryant  |
| May 13 | Walt Flora    |
| May 14 | Don Hashagen  |
| May 15 | Betty Dixon   |
| May 16 | Carrol Smith  |
| May 25 | Mark Hammock  |
| May 26 | Ron Smith     |
| May 30 | Gil Ayers     |
| May 31 | Molly Martin  |

|        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| May 17 | Michael and Kathy Brown |
| May 19 | Burnie and Carol Powers |
| May 24 | Cary and Holly Bennett  |
| May 25 | John and Cynthia Hoover |
| May 31 | Danny and Pam Leech     |



## COMPANIONS ON THE ROAD

....the whole point of cultivating a contemplative approach to life is to learn how to *be*, here and now, in the presence of the One Who Is. If Jesus is with me as my companion on the journey, if he waits for me at the end of my long road, he is also the road itself. And therefore, he is as fully present at every point on that line, that winding skein of minutes, days and years, as he is at the end. From every moment in time, from every locus in space, Jesus is the access, the portal, connecting the passing now with the eternal now. This very moment is the time to pause, sit down with the one who is forever my companion, break “our daily bread” with him and savor the taste of this precious gift that is too rich for words.

(Written by Ben Harrison, a brother in Mother Teresa’s Brothers of Charity in Manchester, England. Published in *Human Development*, Volume 41, No. 2 Winter 2020. The author is the uncle of Linda Sandquist, who shared this passage at the April Session meeting.)



# Sunday, May 9



## FPC FOOD BANK IS OPEN EVERY WEEK

By partnering with Westminster Presbyterian Church, we are able to open our Food Bank two more days each month. Our church will still operate the Food Bank on the second and fourth Thursdays. Westminster will open the Food Bank on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

The volunteers from Westminster are excited to expand the ministry and will offer evening hours from 6PM-8PM. This will allow working families a chance to receive necessary pantry items.

Our congregation will order and shelve pantry items with an emphasis on fresh produce and protein sources such as fish, chicken, and beef. Milk, eggs, bread, and butter are made available too.

The folks from Westminster started April 15, 2021. I will continue to coordinate activities but will step back as they become accustomed to the routine.

I remain thankful for the continued support from the members of First Presbyterian Church for the Food Bank. Members have donated stimulus checks, tons of toilet paper, personal care products and cereal. Our pantry workers are unwavering in their dedication to serving our community. In April we served 95 individuals and 35 households. I hope these numbers will increase with more days and new opening hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Hoover



**Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:**

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Regency at Fishersville: Glennis Bear

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), Alissa Voils (Pam Leech), Phil Hashagen (Jean & Don), Perry Gillenwater (Caroliea Strandberg)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

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



Editor—Betsy Ruehl ([etruehl@ntelos.net](mailto:etruehl@ntelos.net))

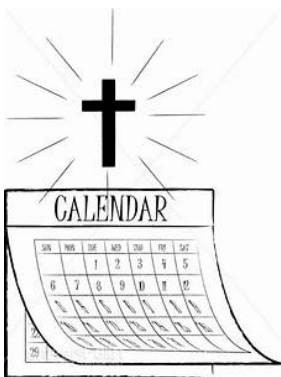
Layout—Colleen Cash

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



**Sunday, May 2**

Worship 11AM

**Thursday, May 6**

Food Bank 6-8PM

**Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day**

Worship 11AM

**Tuesday, May 11**

Session 2:30 Zoom

**Thursday, May 13**

Food Bank 2-4 PM

**Sunday, May 16**

Worship 11AM

**Tuesday, May 18**

Staff Meeting 11AM

**Thursday, May 20**

Food Bank 6-8PM

**Sunday, May 23**

Worship 11AM

**Thursday, May 27**

Food Bank 2-4 PM

**Sunday, May 30**

Worship 11AM

**Monday, May 31 Office Closed Memorial Day**

### **Mailing Address**

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540.949.8366

### **Fax**

540.949.5750

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### **Website**

[www.firstpresway.org](http://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

### **Interim Pastor**

Rev. Patrick Pettit

[pspettit@gmail.com](mailto:pspettit@gmail.com)

### **Administrative Assistant**

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### **Preschool Director**

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[preschool@firstpresway.com](mailto:preschool@firstpresway.com)

### **Director of Music**

Mr. Roger Daggy

[firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com)

### **Music Associate**

Mrs. Kimberlea Daggy

[firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com)

### **Audio/Visual Technician**

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

### **Maintenance Technician**

Mr. Michael Griffith

### **Custodian**

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

### **Child Care Attendants**

Nate & Karalyn Rudin