



THE COLUMNS

August 2021, Volume 59, Issue 8

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



Good Lord, it's been hot.

As I write this, the temperature is climbing into the nineties again. Over the past week it's been hot and humid; hotter and not so humid; even hotter and humid-er. I have always been the perspiring sort, so high temperatures mean damp shirts, steamy glasses - not to mention the heart-stopping chill of walking into an air-conditioned building. It hasn't helped that there have been some major outdoor projects requiring my attention in the heat of the day, after my work in the office. Gallons of unsweet tea, dozens of tee shirts and bandanas, handfuls of aspirin to combat brain boil headaches. I hate it.

The first summer I lived in Texas, I learned an amazing thing from my neighbor Charlie. If these past weeks have been uncomfortable, summer in Houston is Hell, and before air conditioning became universal, the only way to beat the heat was to keepvery.....still. Until the late 1950s, that's how most Texans survived: they simply sat out the hottest part of the day.



Kind of like this.

The life lesson started like this: at about 9:00, I went out to work on my car, which would continue until the tools got too hot to handle or my hands got too sweaty to hold them - say eleven o'clock or so. Charlie, being a late sleeper, strolled across the yard about then, poked his head under the hood, and made some sort of comment - an appraisal, some advice, maybe an offer of assistance. But before I knew it, we were no longer *working on my car - we were sitting*. On the porch. With a cold drink.

We would sit and talk. And sit and not talk. And sit. And sit. And sit.

The next thing we knew, my parents were pulling in from work, looking for the dinner I was supposed to cook.

"What did you do all day?" they would ask.

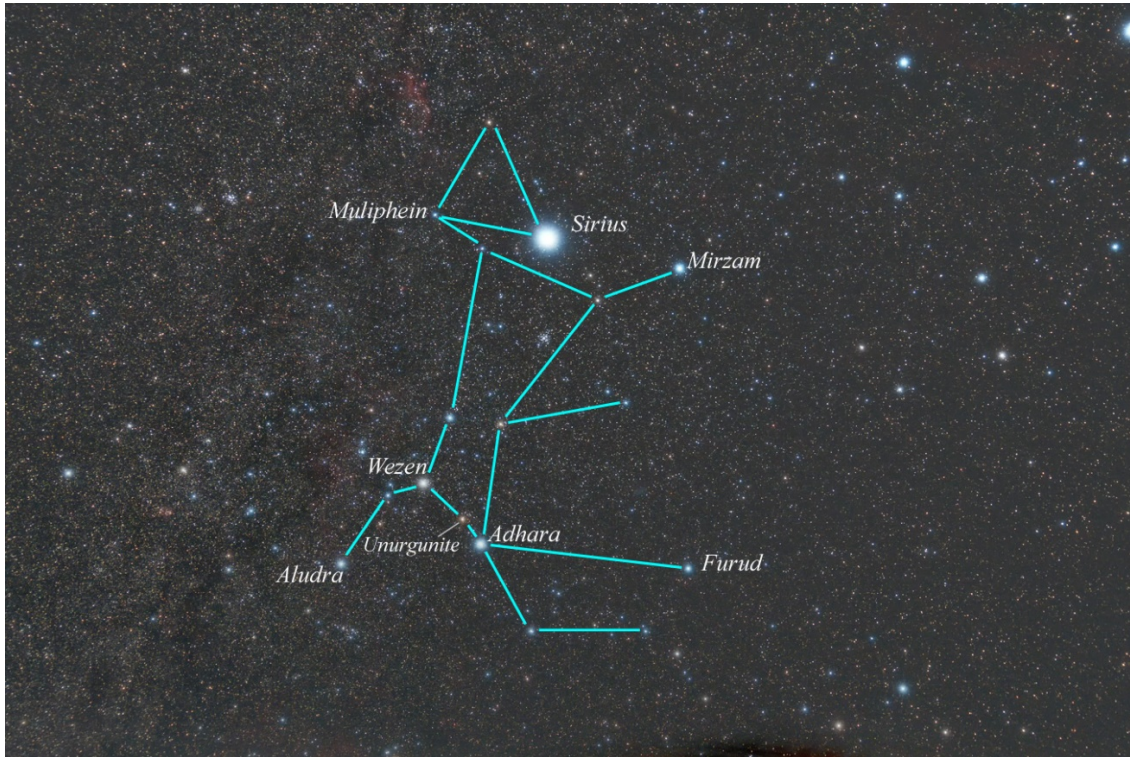
"Uhhhhhh..." I would mumble.

The ancient Romans called the hottest days of summer *dies caniculares* or *dog days*.



But not for the reason you might think.

The name came about not because of all the, er, hot dogs lying around, but because it was at this time of year the star Sirius appeared as the morning star, a process known as the *heliacal rising*.



Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major; hence the name.

Of course, none of this really matters; it's just an example of my inability to stop: stop *overthinking*; stop *mansplaining* (or *teaching*, if I'm generous with myself); stop *doing*; stop *worrying*. Which is to say, I need a rest.

We're at a crucial point in my time with you, the turning point from *what's going on?* to *what comes next?* You will need my full attention, and the enthusiastic participation of your brothers and sisters in the congregation. But it's hot. We've had a hard year. And I think we all need to just sit for a spell.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick S. Pettit". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "P".

Patrick S. Pettit, Interim Pastor

Rev. Pettit will be on vacation August 16-26.



MUSIC NOTES



August is here, and with it, the long, lazy days of summer combined with getting ready for the fall. The special music on the first Sunday of the month will be a rendition of *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* for recorder and organ. This American folk tune, known as *Resignation*, has been around since colonial times. It was included in *Southern Harmony*, a hymnal of 335 songs compiled by William “Singing Billy” Walker and first published in 1835. *Resignation* has since become one of the most beloved hymn settings of the 23rd Psalm.

On 8 August, Diane Kingsbury will return to our Sanctuary, as Roger and Kimberlea will be away. We are grateful to Diane for providing music for worship on our mighty 1893 Woodberry and Harris pipe organ. Diane has expressed on many occasions how much she enjoys providing music for worship at FPC – and playing the instrument!

Charles Simpkins will provide the special music on Sunday 15 August. Charles has played piano for our congregation on many occasions, and we are thankful that he will do so once again in the middle of the month.

We are fortunate to have Terry Crickenberger share his gifts with us on the fourth Sunday of August. Terry has chosen the final piece of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs*. The text to “Antiphon,” written by George Herbert (1593-1633), will be familiar to many, as it corresponds to an introit often sung by the choir: “Let all the world in every corner sing: My God and King!” Vaughan Williams composed the work between 1906 and 1911. It was first performed in 1911 at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester, England, with the composer at the helm.

The final Sunday of August brings violinist Isabella Gorman to our Sanctuary. Isabella lives in Charlottesville and studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. She has participated in the Heifetz International Music Institute, both as a musician and administrator, since 2015. Isabella will play the opening movement from one of the towering works of chamber music, the Sonata by Cesar Franck.

We remain grateful for God’s gift of music and continue to be blessed by the musical talents of our congregation. Thank you so much for your continued support of the music program here at FPC.

Peace,

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, July 18, 2021, in the Sanctuary immediately following worship, for the purpose of acting on two recommendations listed below.

The Moderator, Rev. Patrick Pettit, opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

MOTION from Session: The Bylaws of First Presbyterian Church be amended to establish the size of the session at six Ruling Elders, arranged in three (3) classes of two (2) persons each.

- *Rationale:* The current size of the congregation places an undue burden on the discernment of the Church Nominating Committee and on the most active members of the congregation. Requiring fewer officers to serve each year will provide more opportunities for rest and refreshment within the candidate pool.
- *Implementation:* The class of 2022 is composed of three (3) Ruling Elders, who will serve until June 2022. One (1) Ruling Elder will be elected to the Class of 2023, serving a two-year term. Two (2) Ruling Elders will be elected to the Class of 2024, serving three-year terms. The Session will have **six** members. (Next year one (1) Ruling Elder will be elected to the Class of 2023, serving a one-year term and two (2) Ruling Elders will be elected to the Class of 2025. Session will have **six** members. In June 2023 two (2) Ruling Elder will be elected to the Class of 2026, serving full three-year terms. Session will have **six** members.)

MOTION from Church Nominating Committee: Colleen Cash serve as Ruling Elder in the Class of 2023, Terry Crickenberger and Jean Hashagen serve as Ruling Elders in the Class of 2024, and Bill Pannill serve as Trustee. There were no nominations from the floor.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

STATED SESSION MEETING

The meeting scheduled for July 13, 2021, was not held for lack of a quorum.

CHURCH DISCUSSION

After the Congregational Meeting on July 18, member adjourned to the Fellowship Hall to share a delightful meal. Home cooked barbecue with a choice of sauces plus a variety of salads awaited members of the congregation. All of this preceded the first CAT small group discussion.

Rev. Pettit presented initial information. At three separate meetings we will be focusing on three main areas: 1) Mission (God's call to us); 2) Worship (including music); 3) Pastoral Care (What pastors do and what WE can do).

Discussion centered on Mission which is outward-focused and gives people a sense of purpose. We broke into small groups and then regrouped as we listed the many missions, past and present, in which FPC has been involved.

Mission can be defined as 1) discrete activities in the service of humanity and 2) a defining purpose or focus on why we are here. As we move ahead we need to understand and define the mission of FPC. Our church is changing, whether or not we want it to do so. We need to remember that God will provide what we need. Discussion was lively and insights will be made available soon.

While the meeting was an opportunity to share ideas, it also provided a welcome change of just being able to be together in fellowship. We look forward to the second session.

~Betsy Ruehl

CDC Mask Recommendations

For your information, on Tuesday, July 27, the CDC revised its guidance on indoor mask wearing, including for people who are fully vaccinated, due to the spreading Delta variant of covid-19:

CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people:

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#).
- Fully vaccinated people might choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in their household is unvaccinated. People who are at increased risk for severe disease include older adults and those who have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, overweight or obesity, and heart conditions.

(source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>)

Dear Congregation,

July was a month full of fun. We celebrated the 4th of July. The children filled their classrooms with red, white, and blue colored crafts and enjoyed a day off from camp to spend with their families. The children all enjoyed their first spoils this year from their Preschool garden.

August will bring the end of our fun filled Summer Camp and we will begin preparations for a new school year. We will be sending children off to kindergarten and welcoming new faces to the school. Preschool is set to begin Aug. 30th.

We are asking for volunteers in building our new playground. We have been given a tentative date of Aug 17th. The labor will involve lots of digging, removal of dirt, and assembly of the equipment. We are looking for some wheelbarrows and shovels to help with the removal. If you are interested, please get in touch with me.

Donations are still being accepted and most welcome for scholarships for children in need of assistance. We received two donations last month and two families were extremely thankful. If you wish to donate, please email me at preschool@firstpresway.com.



Thank you for your time
and God bless,
Nate Rudin, Director



August 10	Bob Miller
August 13	Craig Cavanaugh
August 16	Nancy Hypes
August 24	Margie Hartley
August 25	Lillian Hryshkanych
August 26	Tom Bellamy



August 1	Mark & Pam Hammock
August 4	Lewis & Ruth Kelley
August 14	Warner & Linda Sandquist
August 17	Richard & Jeannie Curry
August 31	Ron & Carrol Smith



August is known for many things, including the dog days of summer, National Watermelon Day (Aug. 3) and National Smile Week (Aug. 5-11). There are many other fun facts associated with summer's last full month.

August is named after Augustus Caesar, founder and the first emperor of the Roman Empire, who was posthumously adopted by his maternal great-uncle Gaius Julius Caesar.

In the early Roman calendar, August was actually the sixth month of the year. It was originally 30 days in length, but an extra day was added so that it would equal the number of days in July, which was named after Julius Caesar.

On Aug. 24 in 79 A.D., the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying the city of Pompeii and others.

On Aug. 21, 1911, the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre Gallery and not recovered for two years.

Although civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., is honored in January, when he was born, he is best known for his famed "I have a dream" speech, which was given on Aug. 28, 1963.

The month of August is often referred to as the "dog days of summer" but not because of pet pooches. It has to do with the star Sirius, also known as the dog star, which rose at the same time as sunrise during the month of August in ancient Roman times.



Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris, Mary June Cook

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Mary Ann Maupin

Friends and Family: Andy & Jean Robeson, (Cunninghams), Steve Stevens, Marianne Beck, Bill Bromley, Grace Measles, Tom Evans, Debbie Conner (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), Erwin Berry (Joan)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

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

SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING

Live beneath your means.
Return everything you borrow.
Stop blaming other people.
Admit it when you make a mistake.
Give clothes not worn to charity.
Do something nice and try not to get caught.
Listen more; talk less.
Every day take a 30-minute walk.
Strive for excellence, not perfection.
Be on time. Don't make excuses.
Don't argue. Get organized.
Be kind to unkind people.
Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
Take time to be alone.
Cultivate good manners.
Be humble.
Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
Know when to keep your mouth shut.
Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
Learn from the past.
Plan for the future.
Live in the present.
Don't sweat the small stuff.
It's all small stuff.



(Words of wisdom gleaned from Facebook)



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



Sunday, August 1

Worship 11AM

Thursday, August 5

Food Bank 6-8 PM

Sunday, August 8

Worship 11AM

Tuesday, August 10

Session 2:30 PM

Thursday, August 12

Food Bank 2-4 PM

Sunday, August 15

Worship 11AM

August 16-26

Rev. Pettit on vacation

Thursday, August 19

Food Bank 6-8 PM

Sunday, August 22

Worship 11AM

Thursday, August 26

Food Bank 2-4 PM

Sunday, August 29

Worship 11AM

Mailing Address

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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

Interim Pastor

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Audio/Visual Technician

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

Custodian

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

Child Care Attendants

Nate & Karalyn Rudin