



**First
Presbyterian
Church**
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

February 17, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | a newsletter supplement

FAQ: The Congregational Meeting

As we get ready for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, here are a few questions and answers to help clarify the direction of the conversation.

What are the next steps in the process?

The session must present a report to the Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT), talk with them, and receive their permission to move to the next step. Because of the particular circumstances in which FPC finds itself, that next step will be based on decisions the congregation and session make on how to proceed. The options are:

- **Seek an installed pastor (full or part time).**

This would require the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee, comprised of three to five members who are willing to meet weekly to do the work of discernment. This PNC would create a Ministry Information Form, which would be approved by the session and CPT, then uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection, the PC(USA) online matching service. Given the current state of affairs in the PC(USA), this search could take a long time. The Interim pastor would move to another congregation in transition.

continued

COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000 from the Virginia Dept of Health.

Augusta County:	70.2
Harrisonburg	52.1
Rockingham	33.3
Staunton	56.7
<u>Waynesboro</u>	<u>30.8</u>
Average/100K	48.6

Level of Community Transmission

High

Substantial

Moderate

Low

FAQ: The Congregational Meeting, *continued*

- **Seek a supply pastor (full or part time).**

Because supply pastors are contracted by the session, a Pastor Nominating Committee is not needed; rather, the session appoints a search committee who will create a job description and /or a Ministry Information Form. A supply contract provides more flexibility in compensation, especially for retired pastors who seek to serve, but are limited in how much they can work and earn. Given the current state of affairs in the PC(USA), this search could take a long time. The Interim pastor would move to another congregation in transition.

The key to any pastoral search will be the candor and honesty brought to the process. The Ministry Information Form must accurately reflect not only what the congregation is looking for in a pastor, but who they are as a congregation, warts and all.

- **Ask presbytery to dissolve the congregation immediately.** Presbytery would then appoint an Administrative Commission to oversee the dissolution, in consultation with the Session and congregation. Members would be dismissed to the congregation of their choice, and presbytery would determine the disposition of financial resources, real estate and tangible property.

- **Create a legacy plan** to determine the highest and best use of the congregation's resources to further the mission of FPC after its ministry comes to an end. This process, which could take, say, one to three years, would determine the disposition of financial resources, real estate and tangible property in ways that will support and enhance FPC's mission priorities, and would include a dissolution date. Presbytery would consult with the session and congregation, but FPC would make the decisions. The Interim pastor would stay to help facilitate these discussions.

Can't we just continue as we are?

Interim ministry is limited in its scope, and requires a different emphasis than other kinds of ministry. If, once the discernment process is completed, the decision is made to continue as things are, the Interim' work will be complete, and they will seek a new challenge; FPC will have to find someone else.

Will the presbytery move to close FPC and take our money and property?

NO. The presbytery has no interest in repossessing the church property, and no desire to redirect the use of church funds. Presbytery will continue to support the process of discernment at FPC, and will seek to facilitate the congregation's legacy, whatever it may be.

What about merging with another congregation?

Merging is certainly a possibility, but it is an involved process, which has as its goal the creation of a new entity, distinct from either predecessor congregation. It requires a great deal of discussion within and between the respective sessions and congregations, and is often less than successful in integrating the two congregations into one.

How come Second Presbyterian was able to call a pastor?

During their discernment process, the Session and congregation of Second Presbyterian Church recognized both their limitations as an aging and dwindling church, and their Call to reach out to the community through Disciple's Kitchen. They decided to step out in faith, committing their resources to funding an installed pastor for as long as possible to both care for the congregation and grow the outreach ministry. Their new pastor, the Rev. Caitilyn Hoy, has both experience in ministering to an aging population, and a passion for outreach - and she was willing to accept the fact that the funding might run out.

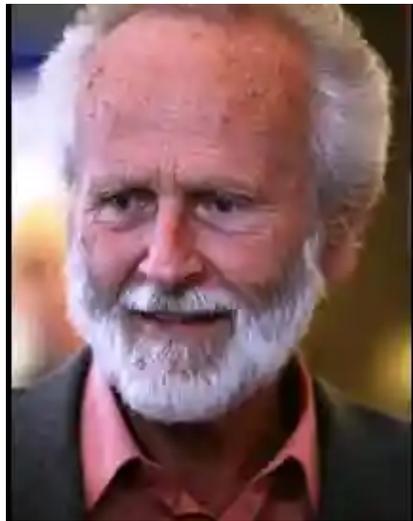
Please bring your questions on Sunday, and we will do our best to answer them.

Music Notes

The music for this week's service reflects the need for healing among all peoples. The opening hymn, *O God of Every Nation*, looks to the Lord to bring us together, no matter where we live. The text by William W. Reid, Jr. (1923-2007) is set to a Welsh melody, named after the town of Llangloffan. The anthem, *For the Healing of the Nations*, prays for unity and equality to heal us all. Reverend Fred Kaan (1929-2009) wrote the text, paired with John Francis Wade's (1711-1786) hymn known as St. Thomas. Wade is remembered today for writing both the text and music to *O Come All Ye Faithful*. The closing hymn for this Sunday is *Be Still, My Soul*. The text by Kathrina von Schlegel is set to the most famous piece by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), *Finlandia*, also known as *Suomi Herää* (Finland Awakes). Sibelius composed the music in 1899 for a series of tableaux depicting famous moments in Finland's past. The piece soon became a symbol of the call for Finnish independence from Russia, declared 6 December 1917.



Watkins.



Kaan.



Sibelius.

Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



Liturgist this week: Bill Pannill

Scripture lessons: Psalm 37
Luke 6:27-38

Sermon: Giving as good as you get

Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, Noon

Book Study- and Lunch

Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt

Wednesdays at Noon

March 9 March 16

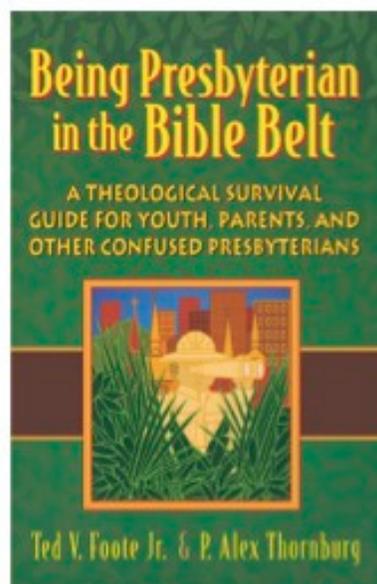
March 23 March 30

April 6

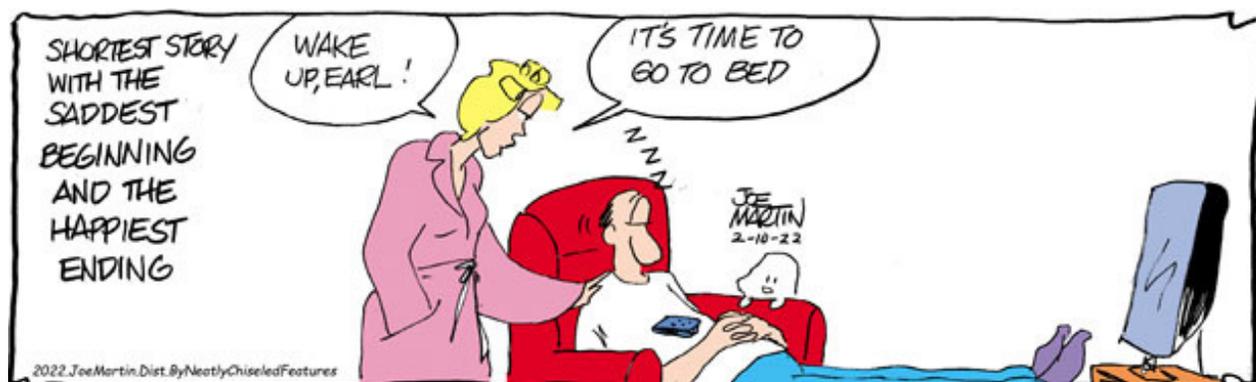
Maundy Thursday Simple meal

with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

April 14, Noon



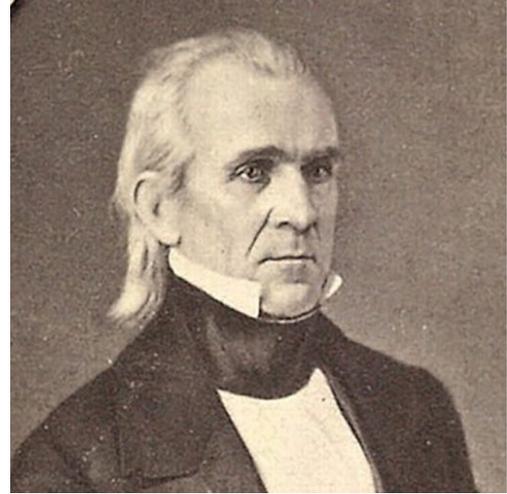
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(540) 949-8366
to receive a copy of the book



This Week in History.



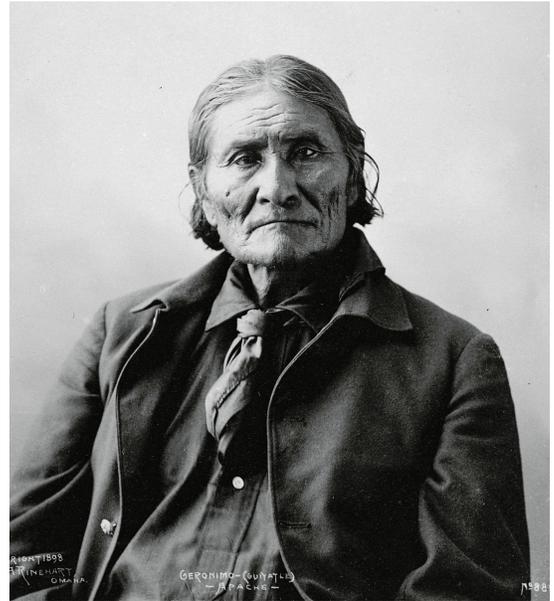
Allied forces commence firebombing of Dresden, Germany
February 13, 1945



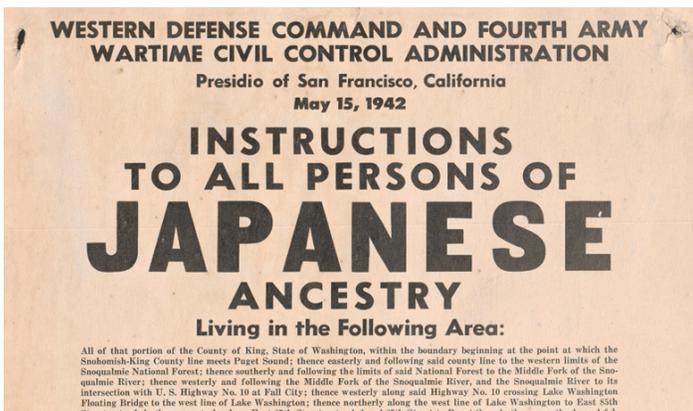
James K. Polk is first US President
to be photographed
February 14, 1849



USS Maine explodes in Havana harbor,
February 15, 1898



Apache Leader Goyaałé (Gernomio)
dies in captivity, Fort Sill Oklahoma
17 February, 1909



Internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans begins
February 19, 1942