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First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**June 2024, Volume 62, Issue 6**

*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.*

*15  Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting*

*late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”*

*16  But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”*

*17  “All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.*

*18-21  Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the*

*five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the*

*bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate*

*their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

*Matthew 14:15-21*

*When in doubt, always quote scripture. This is not one of the rules I have painstakingly collected over the years,*

*but perhaps it should be. Last month, we began with insights into basketball; for May, we are diving back into*

*the New Testament for illumination.*

*We are conditioned, I think, to look at the miraculous as magical, the theological equivalent of alchemy. Just as*

*the medieval alchemist sought to turn lead into gold, and thus enrich themselves without labor, we look at*

*miracles at least in part, as labor-saving plot devices: healing without the effort of treatment; gifts that eliminate*

*the need for impossible choices; rescue that makes of us passive recipients of grace. But, in the words of yet*

*another of my rules, God is not a magician; what we call miracles are signs of God at work in our midst - and*

*God hates to work alone.*

*In the feeding of the multitude, the disciples recognize a need - the crowd is getting hungry and the day is*

*mostly gone. This is a real problem, they know, but the best they can come up with is to send the crowds*

*back to town, where they might find some supper. But Jesus has something else in mind; not just pushing*

*the problem down the road, but actually doing something about the hunger of the people. He asks what*

*food is available, and is told, 5 rolls and 2 cooked fish - the lunch of a well-prepared young man. Jesus*

*then does the miraculous, but the miracle isn&#39;t magic- Jesus does not make everyone feel full, or have*

*manna fall from the heavens. The miracle happens through the work of the disciples. It is the disciples*

*who organize the people, getting them to sit down in an orderly fashion; they who oversee the distribution*

*of the loaves and fishes, making sure everyone is fed; even making sure the leftovers are collected. And*

*that, friends, leads us to Rule #10:*

THE COLUMNS

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

So. A lot has happened since the Fall of 2020. We have weathered a global pandemic, and you found a new way to worship as a community: online. Remember worshipping in your PJs? Well, thanks to modern technology and a grant from the Presbytery, you can still do that, any Sunday you feel under the weather, or you find yourself in a strange town.

You have contemplated your future in honest, difficult ways. Your session has talked a lot about the church; your past, your strengths, the challenges you face; and they have done so in thoughtful, prayerful, respectful ways. It has been a privilege to moderate their meetings.

And it's not just the session. So many of you have been open and honest with one another, sharing and hearing hard truths. Over lunch, over dessert, in formal meetings and informal, and in discussions, you have participated in discernment, helping us all understand what the future can hold for you as the people of God.

Of course, honest self-reflection can be daunting, and often prompts us to realign our expectations. You have mourned the church of the past, and made some hard choices about the future, decisions which have no doubt closed the door on some people's hopes for the church. Those decisions haven't always set well with them; some have even departed. But in discernment, every choice one makes closes some doors, but opens others.

A person in a suit and tie

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As a congregation, you have opportunities now no one could have imagined when we began our work together. In particular, the partnership you have begun to forge with Fishburne will transform your ministry, if you let it.

Oh, and the boiler is new, and it works. The roof has been replaced. The kitchen and sanctuary have been refreshed. The obsolete air conditioning units for the sanctuary have been replaced, and will [probably] work, [someday]. Leaks have been repaired. Bats have been relocated. The list of deferred maintenance is much shorter than it was in 2020.

Your outreach ministries are strong. The Food Bank has expanded, in partnership with Westminster Church, and for the first time in awhile, the Preschool has a waiting list for the coming year.

You have also held me up with love and grace, during some of the worst moments of my life. Your kindness and consideration after our son Connall's death has been a blessing to Ann and me, and we will be forever grateful for the love you shared with us in our grief.

I would dearly love to take credit for some, if not all of this. But here's the thing: Credit always comes due. If you take it now, you will have to pay it back later, so you better make sure you can afford it. And truth be told, I simply cannot. What has transpired during this time of transition is not on my tab; the Holy Spirit has worked among us, bringing lessons and insights from the pastors of yesterday into new light; building on our experiences, mining our gifts, helping us learn from our mistakes. While I will take my leave of you with satisfaction, I must give credit to the Lord, for it is rightly his.

Of course, all those things I failed to do, or didn't do well - that's on me.

Exciting things are on the horizon for First Presbyterian. I will keep you in my prayers.

*A close-up of a signature

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**Music Notes for June**



We are blessed to live in such a beautiful area, with the glory of God’s creation growing all around us! Our area of the Shenandoah Valley sports the most diverse deciduous forest in the world, and in it, we see the incredible range of flora and fauna created by our Lord - much to our delight!

In addition to flora and fauna, a variety of music will be heard during worship services throughout June, July and August, both vocal and instrumental. We will hear musicians from our congregation as well as visitors, including students at the Heifetz International Music Institute in Staunton and the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the choir at First Pres. Many changes have occurred at the church since we arrived in 2015, and one of the constants is the choir. Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl, Susan Elder and Bill Pannill have sung with the ensemble week after week, and we are so grateful for their dedication and commitment! Our son, Max, continues to sing with the choir, which he tells us “Uplifts his soul.” Recently, Patrick Fitzgibbon has lent his fine bass voice to the ensemble, complete with resonant low notes that fill the Sanctuary! Additionally, we are so grateful to Rev. Patrick Pettit for singing as well. Talk about an ideal Irish tenor! With this ensemble leading the singing on Sunday morning, we, indeed, pray twice!

Finally, Roger will begin the month with a First Friday Organ concert, followed by a light luncheon. We deeply appreciate First Presbyterian Church for supporting this series. The summer affords Roger a break from these programs, which will resume in October.

Blessings –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

**Final First Friday’s Concert until October**

**June 7, 2024 12:15pm**

**Lite lunch to follow**

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on May 12, 2024

* Motion: Session approved Mike Cunningham Commissioner to the Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting at Westminster PC in Waynesboro on May 13, 2024.
* FPC has been incorporated. Follow-up includes transfer of property from current trustees to the session.
* Cynthia Hoover agreed to discuss the Discernment process with Staunton FPC.
* Motion: Session approved Preschool Aide scholarships from present Scholarship Funds, not to exceed $500 and payment based upon receipts for expenditures.
* Cynthia Hoover presented the Mission/Food Bank Report (printed elsewhere). In addition, she reported that 11 Disaster Kits and 8 School Kits had been assembled and delivered to Church World Service in Grottoes.
* Delivery of incorrect sensors has complicated cooling of sanctuary.
* Bins of refuse have been professionally shredded as we begin to eliminate clutter in the Educational Building prior to the opening of Fishburne’s Middle School.
* *Presbyterians Better Together* presented planning requests for the coming year. After May 20 the weekly Bible Study will be on hiatus until September.
* A contract is being drafted for our Stated Supply Full Time Pastor.
* Two new elders are required for Session.
* A Congregational Meeting will be called soon, probably in June.
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next meeting will be June 11.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session

**Sunday, June 16**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF**

**THE SUMMARY OF**

**THE 201ST STATED MEETING OF SHENANDOAH PRESYTERY**

The meeting was held on May 14, 2024, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro.

The Worship Service and Coffee Fellowship were coordinated with and through the *Better Together* cohort, a group of Presbyterian churches in the wider Waynesboro area. They have been meeting together for several years, originally with Rev. David Witt and currently with Rev. Rich Schemp.

Guests were introduced, including partners from Ethiopia.

Associate General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, reviewed the Presbytery’s Background Check and Mandatory Boundary Training policy. Also included was a first read of the required Harassment Prevention Policy.

Worship with organ, choir, saxophone, piano and organ were celebrated. Representatives from each of the *Better Together* churches participated in the service. (Editor’s note: Kimberlea and Roger Daggy directed the *Better Together* Choir and Roger played the postlude.)

The pastor at Community Cup New Worshipping Community shared pictures and stories of the ministry happening in Martinsburg, WV.

Four of the five commissioners to the General Assembly were commissioned.

The presbytery approved the sale of property to Fishburne Military School from FPC Waynesboro.

Presbytery approved the reformation of the Committee on Ministry from two distinct previous committees. Rev. Patrick Pettit was elected moderator of the new COM.

**MISSION/OUTREACH APRIL 2024**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank April 9, 16 and 23. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank held April 4, 11, 18 and 25.
* Purchased eggs, bread, and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 102 individuals and 39 households.
* Collected chicken noodle soup from congregation for April.
* Next Disciples’ Kitchen is May 16.
* Formative meeting for Book Club to be held in Parlor May 20.

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair



**NEEDED:**

**FOOD BANK – CEREAL**

**UPCOMING**

**226TH General Assembly (2024)**

**June 25 – July 4, 2024**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half the commissioner will be ruling elders, half teaching elders. Most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of the church – session, presbytery, or synod.

It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church. Several specific responsibilities are outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1) First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly.

The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, works to ensure that the Presbyterian Church maintains itself as a church, i.e. carries out all constitutional and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly.

Mission programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly.

2) Overtures – recommendations and matters of concern -from synods and presbyteries are the second source of GA business.

3) Commissioners Resolutions are a third source of GA business.

WHAT’S GOING ON THIS YEAR?

Prior to the meeting, Informational Sessions and Town Hall regarding upcoming business will be online June 3-7. These sessions are available to any who registers.

Online Committee Meetings available to commissioners will be held June 25 – 27.

In-person Plenaries (gathering of the whole Assembly) begin June 29.

Five commissioners will be attending from Shenandoah Presbytery.

Moderator/co-Moderators will be elected. Report will be heard from Stated Clerk Nominating Committee.

The theme of GA226 is “Live into Hope” based on the hymn of the same name. The Acting Stated Clerk (our own on leave Shenandoah General Presbyter, Bronwen Boswell) chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the denomination after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope.

Live Into Hope ….and hear God’s work ….of captive head

….the right to be ….the end of greed ….to faith, hope, joy and peace



**Preschool News!!**

We are excited and sad that our school year has come to an end, although we are ready to welcome some new friends to our fun-filled summer camp! This past month we had so much fun getting ready for our spring music program with Mrs. Lynda and all our friends. Our preschoolers learned 14 songs to perform for our families and aced them all!!

Each of our classrooms got to enjoy watching their own caterpillars change into butterflies and we released them as a group. We all learned a lot about how they transform and grow.

A group of children on a stage

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**Liturgists**

June 2 Betsy Ruehl

June 9 Bill Pannill

June 16 Jo Pannill

June 23 Jean Hashagen

June 30 Betsy Ruehl

**REV PETTIT’S WORK SCHEDULE**

Monday – work at home

Tuesday and Thursday– onsite First Pres

Wednesday – visitation

Friday – off

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**BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

June 5 Jean Droughman June 1 Roger & Ann Bryant

June 9 Pam Leech June 13 Bruce B & Kevin H

June 14 Betsy Ruehl June 14 Bob & Mary Scott Miller

June 14 Colleen Cash June 23 Bill & Jo Ann Pannill

June 16 Warner Sandquist June 25 Art & Anne Johnson

June 24 Carol Powers June 28 Mark & Sandi Henderson

June 29 Bill Pannill

June 29 Phyllis Hanna



***IN MEMORIAM***

***Martha Ann “Molly” Martin***

***May 31, 1938 – May 4, 2024***

**June Calendar**

**Sunday, June 2**

11 am Worship Service

**Tuesday, June 4**

**Wednesday, June 5** Symphony Interviews

**All Day** Room 212

**Thursday, June 6**

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Friday, June 7** First Friday Concert

12:15 pm

**Sunday, June 9**

11 am Worship Service

**Tuesday, June 11**

2:30 pm Session Room 212

**Thursday, June 13**

2-4 pm Food Bank

**Sunday, June 16 Father’s Day**

11am Worship Service

**Thursday, June 20**

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Sunday, June 23**

11 am Worship Service

**Thursday, June 27**

2-4 pmFood Bank

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Preschool Director Audio/Video Technician

Ms. Tami Hemp Mr. Craig Cavenaugh

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Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

**FLAG DAY**

**Friday, June 14**

It is the day, 247 years ago, when Congress approved the design for its first national flag.

It is not a federal holiday, so schools and banks are open and mail should be delivered like any other day.

According to the National Flag Foundation website:

•The Red, White and Blue: Red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

•Today’s design: A 17-year-old high school student, Robert G. Heft, of Lancaster, Ohio, submitted the design in a contest in 1958, chosen from more than 1,500 submissions by President Dwight Eisenhower.

To the moon: Several flags have made the trip to the moon, not just the one placed by Apollo 11’s Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Apollo missions 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 also featured an astronaut placing a flag on the moon.



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