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First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**May 2024, Volume 62, Issue 5**

*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

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

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**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’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:**

A basket of bread with text

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A close-up of a signature

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**MAY MUSIC NOTES**

The month of May is upon us. We are so fortunate to live here, where nature’s glory bursts forth in

gardens and forests throughout the Commonwealth.

First Presbyterian Church celebrates communion on the first Sunday of each month. The opening hymn

on 5 May will be *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*, with the tune name HOLY MANNA. The anthem will be

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*, known by the tune name BEACH SPRING. The closing

hymn, *Come Down, O Love Divine*, takes its text from a poem by Bianco da Siena c.1390.  The tune,

*DOWN AMPNEY*, was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), inspired by the hundreds of

English folk tunes he collected around the turn of the 20th century.

The second Sunday of May is Mother’s Day, and the hymns for the Easter VII service will be *For the*

*Beauty of the Earth* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful.* These hymns reflect the joy, beauty and wonder

of creation, as we honor those who bring life into the world!

We celebrate Pentecost on the third Sunday of May, with music depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The anthem will be *We Are One in the Spirit*, also known as *They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love,*

one of the most familiar hymns from the 1960s. The text and music for this iconic hymn were 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 the month rejoices in the Holy Trinity. We will praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

in Scripture and song. The opening hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, is the very first selection in our hymnal.  This

stirring hymn will conclude with an arrangement created by Roger decades ago. The closing hymn,

*Come, Thou Almighty King*, was composed by Felice di Giardini (1716-1796). The Italian composer

honed his violin skills playing in theatre orchestras before he hit his teens! Giardini played violin

throughout Europe, eventually settling in London, where he directed the Italian Opera and led the

orchestra. While in London, Giardini played for Johann Christian Bach (the youngest son of Johann

Sebastian Bach), who ran a successful concert series in the British capitol. Giardini composed music in

various genres, most notably in opera and chamber music.

On Tuesday 14 May, the Shenandoah Presbytery will hold a service at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

We have been asked to coordinate the music for the service, which will include the Better Together choir.

Musicians from First Pres, Second Pres, Smyrna, Finley, Hermitage and Westminster will join forces to

lead congregational singing. All are welcome to attend the service that day, which begins at 9:45am.

Finally, Roger will present a First Friday program on 6 June. The series will be on hiatus through the

summer and will resume in the fall.

We remain thankful for FPC’s continuous support of the music program!

Blessings –Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Session Meeting on April 9, 2024.

 There needs to be a general clean up and clean out in the Educational Building in

preparation for the start-up of Fishburne’s new Middle School. Once the Library

has been cleared of FPC materials, folks will be invited to take a book or two.

 Preschool Graduation will be held May 23. Need to hire additional aide in the 4-

year-old class.

 Cynthia Hoover provided statistics for the Food Bank (printed elsewhere).

 Cynthia Hoover proposed an Organizational Meeting to restart the FPC Book Club.

 Five cameras have been installed in the Preschool and Lunchroom. Wi-Fi service

has been ramped up.

 Presbyterians Better Together will be leading worship at the May 14 Presbytery

Meeting. Jean Hashagen and Linda Field of Second FPC will coordinate.

breakfast. The Daggys will lead a Better Together volunteer choir.

 Pastor Search Committee – Progress is being made toward hiring a pastor.

 All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next meeting will

be Monday, May 13, to avoid conflict with Presbytery meeting.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session



SUMMER BREAK

Better Together Bible Study

Last Session May 20

**DAY OF PENTECOST**

Sunday, May 19, 2024

The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it

does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ – the church.

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy

Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the

rush of a mighty ruach (wind, spirit, breath) invaded he house in which the apostles gathered

and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power

– the unseen power of God – moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen

like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it ruach YHWH, “the wind, or breath of God”

(John 3:8). The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost’s new creation: people

witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately

tumbled out into the streets to witness to God’s mighty works in the languages of people all

over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, spirit-filled community of faith that broke from

its present order has spread across the continents to bring new things into being. With the gift

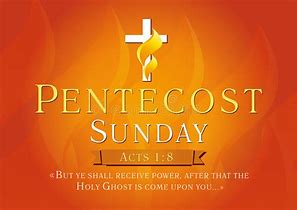
of the Spirit, all things are possible.

Therefore, on the day of Pentecost, we celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit which

draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and

empowers us to proclaim, in word and deed, God’s plan of reconciling all people in the name of

Christ. (Ephesians 1:10)



BETTER TOGETHER CHURCHES\* MEETING

April 28 at Second Presbyterian

Representatives from the Better Together churches met for their quarterly meeting with

convenor Richard Schempp. They reviewed the group activities of the past year – what worked,

what didn’t work – which should be repeated or revised. Advance notice and preparation play

an important part in the success of joint ventures.

Leaders of newly formed HERO (Housing Energy Relief Organization) described its

function and procedure. They have an online form for (only) Waynesboro residents to apply for

up to $300 for utility cut-offs and evictions. Several local churches have pledged support and

they are also soliciting financial aid elsewhere. They do not have a physical location at this

time. {This worthwhile organization reminds me of CURE (Christians United Relief Effort)

which operated under the umbrella of Christians United in the ‘80s, and of which I was a part

for about 20 years. The needs in our community have not diminished!}

The next meeting will. Be July 21 at Smyrna PC with speaker Keenan Rogers from the

Board of Pensions.

--Betsy Ruehl

\*Hermitage, Finley Memorial, First, Second, Smyrna and Westminster



MEMORIAL DAY

May 27, 2024

“This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn’t come home.

This is not Veterans Day. It’s not a celebration.

It is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom.” --Tamra Bolton

“And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free.

And I won’t forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.”-Lee Greenwood



**Preschool News!!**

Where has the time gone??? We can’t believe it is May already!! Our preschool has enjoyed watching the flowers bloom, listening to the birds’ chirp, and watching the squirrels roam around, and on a crazy rainy day we even saw ducks hanging around on our playground. Oh boy, was that a sight for the children to see!!! We took a walking field trip to the library for story time with Ms. Jamie, and the children absolutely loved visiting with her in her environment for a change.

Mrs. Carol and her 2.5-year-olds spent last month learning all about gardening and butterflies. They had fun learning about purple and the ins and outs of the shape of a rectangle.

Mrs. Lynda’s class has almost finished learning all the letters of the alphabet and they can recognize them. Our 3-year-olds have planted flowers to take home so they have been watering them and hoping to see beautiful flowers grow, while learning about growth.

A group of children coloring on paper

Description automatically generated Mrs. Mary has fit in so well with the 4s class and they love having her! The 4-year-old class has improved its scissor skills and is working on assessments to see what needs to be reviewed with each child. They have done so well; we are so proud.

A group of children sitting on the floor in a room with a person in a black dress

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Spring Concert and Graduation

May 23,2024 at 6:30

Sanctuary



**MISSION/OUTREACH MARCH 2024**

 Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank March 12 and 26.

Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.

 Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.

 Food Bank held March 7, 14, 21 and 28.

 Purchased eggs, bread, margarine for Food Bank weekly.

 Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.

 Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 98 individuals and 37

households.

 Collecting chicken noddle soup for Food Bank.

 Next Disciples’ Kitchen is May 16.

 2024 Mission Budget: Food Bank $15,000; Disciples’ Kitchen $1,000; WARM

Shelter $500; Preschool $150

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**NEEDED:**

**FOOD BANK – CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP**

(unavailable for purchase at Blue Ridge Area Food Bank)





**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

**Total collected for 2024 was $735.00.**

**Liturgists**

May 5 Betsy Ruehl

May 12 Bill Pannill

May 19 Jo Pannill

May 26 Cynthia Hoover

**REV PETTIT’S WORK SCHEDULE**

Monday – work at home

Tuesday and Thursday– onsite First Pres

Wednesday – visitation

Friday – off

**BIRTHDAYS**  **ANNIVERSARIES**

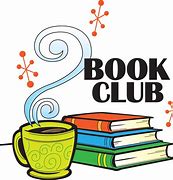
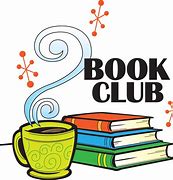
May 12 Roger Bryant May 19 Burnie &Carol Powers

May 14 Don Hashagen May 24 Cary &Holly Bennett

May 15 Betty Dixon May 25 John & Cynthia Hoover

May 16 Carrol Smith May 31 Danny &Pam Leech

May 26 Ron Smith

**Do you enjoy reading?**

**Do you find discussions on books interesting?**

**Do you find kinship with others that love to read?**

**Do you remember *Faith and Fiction?***

**If so, please consider joining a founding meeting for a book club here at First Presbyterian Church.**

**Topics to be considered:**

* **How often and when to hold meetings? Will they be hosted in someone’s home or at the church?**
* **How will the meetings be run? Will there be one leader or will the responsibility be rotated?**
* **What genre or book list to read?**

**Formational meeting to be held on May 20 at 2PM in the parlor of First Presbyterian Church.**

**Questions, call Cynthia Hoover 540-255-9616.**

**May Calendar**

**Thursday, May 2**

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Friday, May 3**

12:15pm First Friday Organ Concert

**Sunday, May 5**

11 am Worship Service

**Monday, May 6**

1 pm Bible Study, Smyrna Presbyterian

**Thursday, May 9**

2-4 pm Food Bank

**Saturday, May 11** Sarah Braverman Recital Practice

**Sunday, May 12** Mother’s Day

11 am Worship Service

**Monday, May 13**

1 pm Bible Study, Second Presbyterian

2:30 Session Meeting Room 212

**Tuesday, May 14** Presbytery Meeting Westminster Church

**Thursday, May 16**

9am – 10:30 FMS Graduation Practice

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Saturday, May 18**

12-1pm FMS Graduation

3-6 pm Sarah Braverman Recital

**Sunday, May 19 Pentecost**

11am Worship Service

**Monday, May 20**

1 pmBible Study, Hermitage Presbyterian

**Thursday, May 23**

2-4 pm Food Bank

6:30 pm Preschool Graduation Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 26**

11 am Worship Service

**Monday, May 27 OFFICE CLOSED**

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