



First Presbyterian Church  
**the LENTERN**

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Dear Church Family,

As we look back over the past year and a half, I think that we have a lot to be proud of. We have faced many challenges: personally, as a church and as a community in part because of COVID, but also because of the ebb and flow of life. I have felt very down many times, but was touched by Rolf Christen’s sermon Sunday. He urged us to look for Joys and take delight in all the little things around us. So I began to think about all the wonderful things our church has done.



At the start of this strange journey, we had no way to have remote services, but very soon, many of us were able to watch services or call in to hear them thanks to all the work Anders put into getting that started. After Anders left and took with him the time and experience he was able to give to the job, Sami Shirk, our fearless college intern, took over this position. I am so grateful to Sami for all the time she has put into learning how the program works, but also learning about all kinds of microphones and sound equipment. I am also grateful to Paul Yoder, Scott Thatcher, Greg Marshall and Charles Gran who have helped this project along the way. Very soon, the church will have a way to broadcast our services clearly while having an in-person service. This work will improve our church well beyond COVID!

I am also so pleased that Alex Sandefur, Scott Thatcher and Greg Marshall worked to get our new screen up in the fellowship hall. We now have that available for meetings that need to be held over zoom and in-person. The congregation will get a lot of use from it during the winter months for movie nights/Superbowl parties, etc. Thank you to everyone who has helped enliven our fellowship hall.



Even without a pastor, our church has been able to have very meaningful Sunday services. We have had such special music from so many members and families in our congregation over our time of virtual church. Hearing those families sing was a little like seeing their beautiful faces. Easter Sunday was so joyful with a Sunrise Service, special brass musicians and a message from Dale Stone. We are so lucky to have Dale in our midst, moderating session, leading services and helping us move forward without a pastor. We have also been blessed with messages from a variety of people, both pastors and lay leaders from our own congregation and elsewhere. Every time we have a new speaker, I learn so much more about what it means to walk in the Christian Faith.

We have managed to have fellowship--sometimes in person and sometimes over zoom. Thanks to Scott Thatcher for continuing to host virtual fellowship after each church service. Beginning next Sunday, in-person worshipers will also be able to grab a water or coffee and visit outside. We’ll also have an in-person communion option as soon as supplies are received.

Michele has faithfully continued Operation JOY and Sunday School in various forms over the past year a half. Currently JOY kids are meeting each Wednesday 3:30-4:30. Thank you Dale Stone for teaching a confirmation class and confirming that group, plus the group that was interrupted by COVID. This summer, Ginger Nolker and Kate Sandefur are hosting the middle and high school PYF groups, so keep an eye out for those dates and activities.



We also had several virtual book clubs and have begun a new book club for this summer. If you’d like to join, we’re meeting in the fellowship hall (or there is a zoom option thanks to that screen!) on June 24th at 7PM. Grab a copy of “The Bible Tells Me So” by Peter Enns and be ready to discuss it at the meeting. It is a great read: very funny, but deep. (continued on page 2)



Our church has also worked to reach out to our community to those in need. Jeanne North has been the liaison between Take Root and our church. Take Root is an organization dedicated to feeding the hungry in Adair County. Each month, Take Root cooks nutritious meals, with locally sourced products when available, and delivers them to homebound people, gives them away to those who can not afford to pay and also provides to the public who would like a fabulous meal and would like to donate to the Take Root organization. Many church members have volunteered to assist in these meals and many more will be needed in the coming months. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates and let Becky or Jeanne know if you would like to volunteer.

## Clothes Closet

With the First United Methodist church, the Clothes Closet was able to open sparingly last summer for outdoor service and this summer has opened more regularly for people to shop indoors. We are so grateful to the service Lisa Ahrens has given to this project. Lisa is planning to move soon to Iowa to be closer to her family, so a person is needed to fill her shoes. Please prayerfully consider if this is a way you would like to serve. (see last page of this newsletter for job description)

A new support group began in January called NAMI Connections Recovery. NAMI stands for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Sarah Berke and Jeanne North are facilitating this group which meets every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The group currently meets over zoom, but is hoping to move in person or possibly a combination of zoom and in-person meetings thanks to the Fellowship Hall Screen. Meetings are open to anyone 18 or older who has or has had a mental illness, they just need to contact Sarah to participate. Sarah presented NAMI Family and Friends many times throughout the year for Missouri residents. She also taught NAMI Basics during the months of April and May for Missouri residents. Finally, she gave NAMI In Our Own Voice Presentations for two Kirksville organizations and another for an organization in the Kansas City area. Another component of the NAMI organization is a support group for caregivers of a person with a mental illness. Sarah is looking for a person to facilitate this class with her. Please let her know if you are interested in this opportunity or any of our other opportunities through NAMI.

First Pres has also been blessed with funds to give to special projects. Last summer, the session held a matching competition with the congregation to raise money for RIP Medical debt. This organization raises money to pay back debt that individuals or families are not able to pay. This is a nationwide organization and has a far reaching impact on our communities. We began with debt close to home, and then gave the leftover dollars to wherever it was most needed. Our congregation raised close to \$10,000.

For our Christmas offering, we raised money to buy much needed food and personal care/medical items to be sent to Venezuela to offer relief to family and friends of the Marquez-Ovalle family. The crisis there makes it difficult to procure many things that we take for granted each day. Our generous congregation sent 4 large boxes.



The Pentecost offering was due by June 13 and will be used by PCUSA to offer services and relief to local and global communities in need. Currently we have a local opportunity to give. We are taking donations for the Pantry for Adair County. PAC is needing to expand their services and have asked First Presbyterian to give \$5000. Session has voted to match up to \$2,500 given from the congregation.

The last thing I would like to leave us with is to remember our community. I mentioned Rolf at the beginning of this letter and I'm going to reference him again. He urged us to call each other or send cards to each other. Could you call one person from our congregation that you have not seen recently? Or send a card to one person? Perhaps this could expand to two or three people.

I have been a part of Kirksville FPC for 19 years and have been immeasurably blessed by all of the people who make up our congregation. Thank you to you all!

In Christ's Love,  
Elaine AuBuchon

For the safety of all attendees, the following measures continue to be in place for in-person attendance in the sanctuary: *Masks are required* upon entering the building and at all times while within the building, for everyone. This applies regardless of the county mask mandate expiring.

The session will continue to review the mask requirements at their next regularly scheduled meeting. We will sing the hymns and take the offering. Plates will not be passed, but ushers will carry the plates down the center and side aisles. Attendees may enter the church up to 15 minutes prior to service beginning, and are expected to *exit the building as soon as the service concludes. We recommend that anyone considering in-person attendance be fully vaccinated.*

If you attend in person, the procedure will be as follows:



Enter via the *west door*. No greeter will be inside these doors. Proceed upstairs to the sanctuary.

*All attendees will remain in their seats, with masks on at all times, for the duration of the service. There will be no Passing of the Peace or other greeting time. If you choose to visit with other attendees, please gather outside the building after service, please continue masking and distancing.*

**Session is continuing to research, monitor and address concerns from the congregation.  
Members are doing their best to guide our congregation through this unknown, difficult time.  
While they welcome your input, please offer your opinion in an attitude of Christian love.  
Be kind.**

### June Birthdays

Russell Shirk—6/13  
Gabriel Nolker—6/13  
Kaitlin Prendergast—6/15  
Mark Easley—6/21  
Charles Gerdes—6/25  
Charles Gran—6/29  
Eliana Nolker—6/29  
Esme AuBuchon—6/30

### June Anniversaries

Scott & Carol Thatcher—6/14  
Chad & Sarah Mohler—6/19  
Curran & Jocelyn Prendergast—6/24  
Jesse & Kate Krebs—6/25  
Burt & Janie Picht—6/25

### July Birthdays

John Giovannini—7/3  
Hunter Giovannini—7/3  
Julie Lochbaum—7/4  
Andrew Giovannini—7/9  
Stanley Bohon—7/10  
Joy Bulen—7/12  
Jean Crawford—7/14  
Brent Nolker—7/15  
Dorothy Link—7/16  
Scott Thatcher—7/17  
Greg Marshall—7/19  
Mike Ahrens—7/20  
Mark Novinger—7/22  
David Murphy—7/23  
Ginger Nolker—7/29

### July Anniversaries

Alex & Kate Sandefur—7/2  
Tim & Elaine AuBuchon—7/5  
Joel & Wanda Cagle—7/14

Please contact Margaret Ferrell for date, time and place of the next meeting for the Presbyterian Women.

### June Peace and Justice Calendar

June 19--Juneteenth  
June 20--Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday  
June 20--World Refugee Day  
June 27--PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday



## Check out our upcoming speakers

In order to make our worship service more comfortable for our guest speakers and more meaningful for our congregation, we need additional volunteers for liturgists and music. Please contact Elaine AuBuchon for instructions to be a liturgist or provide music.

Date	Speaker	Liturgist
June 20	Dale Stone	Mary Flam
June 27	Chad Mohler	Outdoor service
July 4	Dale Stone	
July 11	RIM Massey	

# the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

Primary Business  
Address  
Address Line 2

Email articles: [brendak75@hotmail.com](mailto:brendak75@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.presbykv.org](http://www.presbykv.org)  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbykirksville](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbykirksville)

Sunday Worship 9:30 am	Sunday School 11:00 am
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The technology committee is still working to make the livestream more audible and clear. The team will be checking our equipment to determine what we will need to improve our online experience. New microphones have arrived and we are beginning to assess other items that will continue to make your online worship more meaningful.



## We are looking for one/two Clothes Closet Coordinator(s)

Lead coordinator(s) oversees the ministry together with the coordinator from First United Methodist Church. Hours needed vary according to demand, but a broad range would be 5-10 hours a week.

Carol Lockhart is currently the FUMC coordinator and contacts volunteers from FUMC. Brenda Martin tends the Facebook page, the coordinator will also be added as administrator to post emergency needs, cancellations, etc.

### Responsibilities include, but are not necessarily all inclusive:

Overseeing volunteers stocking during the week

Assuring there is a lead volunteer during open hours to assist other volunteers

Emergency contact for family emergency assistance or police/fire emergencies

Do building checks weekly for: locked doors, leaks, air/heating, lighting, cleaning, donations left outside (all building requests are turned into FUMC)

Checking in with both church offices concerning help requests and donations left at the churches

Search out, complete and follow up on grants to help with the monthly cost share due to FUMC (CAP NEMO has awarded us funds in the past and they require statistics to complete the application)

Place Bombas sock order annually (statistics are sometimes required, all orders and communications are done by email) and secure the order once delivered.

Search out community events to attend or assist, such as Community Connect in the fall, Kiwanis Halloween costumes in October Connect with other community agencies: Community Mission, Department of Family Services, Headstart, etc.

Keep statistics from all events and open days: dates, number of families and number of individuals in the families

Coordinating college group volunteers (2-3 groups might contact us for hours)

### Final decision maker for:

Accepting donations, how and where to collect items and making appeals for items we need

Arranging in-house events (swimwear, Christmas, holidays, etc.)

Community events and volunteers to cover such events

Hours and days open, calling volunteers for closure during bad weather, lack of volunteers, etc.

Bombas sock distributions (must monitor as people tend to forget to share)

Disposing of donations that are not usable

Limits for customers

(many of these items may be delegated to additional volunteers)