

the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church



January 2022

A note from Dale Stone, our moderator

Hello Friends,

Serving as moderator in 2021 has been interesting! Supporting our Session and staff in on-going ministries has been gratifying. Even with Covid, our church continued many important and effective activities and programs. We see visitors at our in-person and online worship. Great strides were made in the use of worship technology. Financial support remained strong.

Most importantly, the Good News of Christ's birth and the joy of the Easter Resurrection were again proclaimed!

We do miss our face-to-face gatherings, snack times, or sharing pot-luck dinners, and can feel isolated and alone. The pandemic is new for all of us and the way through it is not easy, has bumps, and challenges.

Still, during Christmas Eve worship service, knowing how many volunteered to read, provide music, help light candles, decorate, serve, help in any way, and encourage one another, several times I found my eyes filling with tears of love and joy. I thought, "I just love this group of people, this church, and am glad First Presbyterian is the community where I can live and grow as a Christian."

2021 was an odd, challenging year with no pastor and the on-going pandemic. Earlier Christmas week, during the special music at Jan Martinson's memorial service I was also touched by these words:

And now, I'm glad I didn't know the way it all would end, the way it all would go—I could have missed the pain but I'd have missed the dance." (Garth Brooks)

Trusting in God, let's dance into 2022 with hope, faith, and love.

Rev. Dale Stone



Deacon's Corner

Reconnecting. Greetings! After being temporarily on hold due to pandemic protocols, the FPC Deacons have been meeting monthly since August 2021. We reviewed an article titled "It's time to reconnect, creative ways to care for others" from Presbyterian Today (July/August, 2021). We have all missed connecting with members and friends of the congregation. Along with our other duties, we were prayerfully inspired for 2021-22 to begin a "Caring Connection" of phone calls and sending cards as a way to be spiritually and emotionally supportive of one another. The purpose of the phone calls is to have conversations to keep in touch, to ask for Joys and Concerns for the prayer list, and to respond to needs on behalf of the church and the Deacons. As the New Year begins we look forward to connecting with you!

Blessings, Barbara Stone (moderator of deacons), Diane Baer, Charles Gerdes, John Montgomery, Elaine Aubuchon, and Michele Yoder



(A note from Kate Sandefur! Thankyou for letting me put together the newsletter! I am learning the ropes and appreciate your patience as I learn new programs and ways to do things! I have been attending our sweet Church for over 10 years now! Elaine asked me to take over the newsletter and I said i would try! If you have any news you would like me to put in the newsletter please email me! Kateannesandefur@gmail.com Thankyou for your grace as I learn this while juggling teaching and homeschooling and parenting!!)

To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, And a time to die;
A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is
planted;
A time to kill, And a time to heal;
A time to break down, And a time to build up;
A time to weep, And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, And a time to
gather stones
A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from
embracing;
A time to gain, And a time to lose;
A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
A time to tear, And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
A time to love, And a time to hate;
A time of war, And a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3



Prairie Song News

Prairie Song Academy is getting ready to return from our winter break for our second semester, and we're looking forward to seeing one another again! We delayed the beginning of our spring semester due to the rise in Covid cases, and will be meeting only half days temporarily. This allows us to avoid eating lunch together, helping to prevent transmission. We will have 38 students this semester, and we can't wait to see what they do. They put together an ancient history museum at the end of last semester, each student in both elementary and secondary contributing a project. It was so fun for students and caregivers to walk through it on our last day in December! Our secondary students are always working on projects of their choice, and currently one group is writing a murder mystery to perform, while another group writes a school play that they will direct and produce with our elementary students. We continue to find that we are able to serve students who would not or did not thrive in public schools for a variety of reasons, and are building a supportive learning community together. We're so thankful for all of your support that makes this possible!

Ways to Serve our Community ADAIR FOOD PANTRY

Is your club or organization looking for a fun project to start off 2022? Have we got a plan for you!! How about building BIRTHDAY CAKE BUNDLES for the kids served by Pantry for Adair County. Each bundle should include the following:

9 x 13 aluminum pan, cake mix, tub of icing, pkg of candles, and pkg of birthday napkins. Seal all items in pan with saran wrap and a bow. Deliver to the Pantry and know that it will bring a smile to a child's face.

This bundle is intended for children ages 12 and under.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Jaimee Miller—1/5
Alex Hall—1/7
Adriana Gonzalez—1/13
John Thomas—1/20
Esther Nolker—1/22
Kate Krebbs—1/24
Elias Nolker—1/26
Grace Mohler—1/28
Dale Stone—1/28**

February Birthdays

**Jay Bulen—2/1
Heidi Micheal 2/2
Sarah Berke—2/3
Christine Gran—2/12
Robert Sprehe—2/19
Christine Gran—2/12
Robert Sprehe—2/19**

Anniversaries

**Robert and Diane Baer 2/10
Mike and Lisa Ahrens 2/15**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH



Sledding Fun with PYF



Operation Joy Christmas Caroling

The Upper Elementary, Middle and High School students will begin rehearsing: **Fired Up: The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** for the Spring Musical.





Take Root News

Take Root piloted the Community Dinner program in partnership with the First Presbyterian Church in the winter of 2021, serving two dinners cooked in our Cafe kitchen in Pickler's Famous. We served Penne Bolognese and Pulled Pork (the same 'cuban style' as we served in our popular Cuban sandwiches!), serving an average of 65 meals at each dinner.

Based on the success of these dinners, we decided to move ahead with the partnership in 2021. To prepare for this we got the kitchen licensed by the Adair County Health Department for public food service - something that was not difficult at all, thanks to the thoughtful design and construction of the kitchen. From this point on, all our Community Dinners have been prepared, as well as served out of, the Church.

Our 2021 Season wrapped up this November, with a dinner of Braised Beef Short Ribs, served with potatoes & kale or carrots. In keeping with our mission's focus on rebuilding the local food economy as we address food insecurity, the beef was sourced from our longtime supplier, Coleman Farms in Callao, MO. We have been fairly successful over the course of the year in this regard, with close to 70% of the food we serve (by dollar volume) sourced from Missouri farmers.

Over the course of the year, we have provided 654 meals to 244 groups (mostly families). Dinners are distributed for curbside pickup, at no cost, to anyone who shows up. While we can't measure the level of food insecurity among our patrons - meals are provided no questions asked - we do know meals are going to folks that enjoy - and need - them. We average about 25% of meals given out at no cost, and roughly 10% given out below the nominal cost.

Cooking for 80 - our average dinner size - is a lot of fun, and we usually have a good crew of volunteers in the kitchen. We've been serving on Tuesdays, steaming vegetables and unloading roasts from the oven. By mid afternoon, the kitchen smells great, the tent is up, and we are prepared for the controlled chaos of service. Monday is our prep day, spent peeling and chopping and baking - we make all of our breads and desserts from scratch.

Providing scratch-made food from locally sourced ingredients costs a little more - and we believe that in the long run, it is worth it. The value returns to our community in terms of improved health and keeping our food dollars circulating in Adair County.

For 2022, we anticipate restarting service in March. We will be reaching out for volunteers - and donations - as the time approaches. We are grateful to the First Presbyterian Community for hosting us, allowing Take Root to deliver on our mission of to alleviate hunger and promote health by offering nourishing, high quality, local food on a pay-what-you-can basis. Please feel free to contact me via email (will@takerootkirkville.org) if you would like more information - or just to talk food!