



first edition

First Presbyterian Church Saint Joseph, Missouri, 64501
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HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE

Pastor's Pen



I'll send down plenty of rain in season – showers of blessings! The trees in the orchards will bear fruit, the ground will produce, they'll feel content and safe on their land, and they'll realize that I am God.

(Ezekiel 34:26-27 The Message)

I just love garden fresh produce! During this bountiful tomato time, I never seem to tire of bacon and tomato sandwiches! Having been raised in agriculture, I know how easy it can be to take the wonderful produce for granted. I know the effort it takes to grow a garden to produce crops on a larger scale, but when harvest time comes, it is easy to step back and say, "Look what I have done! I sure am a good gardener or farmer." It is easy lose sight of God's hand in everything and how God has blessed us with the bounty of His creation.

But isn't that true in all areas of our lives? Sometimes we are so busy patting ourselves on the back that we forget to thank God for God's providence, care, and love. And this attitude can lead to arrogance, pride, and feelings of superiority. All of a sudden, we think that we not only know what is best for us, but we think we know what is best for everyone else as well! The result; prejudice and discrimination, a couple of ugly human conceptions.

When we begin with the certainty that God is the Master of Creation and Lord over all; and we center ourselves on this understanding, our human-made prejudices and discriminations don't have the final word. We begin to treat one another as we are called to, as brothers and sisters in Christ. This does not mean that we will never disagree! Heavens no! We are Presbyterians. We can have three Presbyterians in a discussion and have four viewpoints! But it should mean that we can disagree in love. We work to find the common ground and move forward. Always moving forward.

I think Paul says it well in his letter to the church in Ephesus:

*Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns,
and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,
always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

May each and every one of us put God first in all we do and say.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kemper

THIS 'N THAT

Church Re-Opening

Your Session will visit about gathering for in-person worship at their September meeting. Pastor Kemper sent out an e-mail polling members as to their feelings and preferences concerning gathering for worship. If you have not responded, please let Kemper or the office know. The health and safety of the church membership is, of course, the priority in this discussion.

Pastor Search

The Session is in conversation with the COM of Heartland Presbytery about the pastor search process. Please keep the Session in your prayers as they work during these difficult times and under these unprecedented circumstances as they discuss and discern the best way to move forward.

Survey Results

The results of the congregational survey and mission study have been e-mailed to all members with an e-mail address. We will mail those members without e-mail as well. Please take time to look over the results and the analysis. The Session is visiting about the best way to have conversations about the results and how best to utilize them moving forward.

Pledges and Tithes

Thank you to everyone who has been keeping up with their commitment to the church during this time of separation. We are working to establish a way members and friends can contribute electronically and we will let everyone know when this is in place. Until then, please consider mailing in your financial commitment or dropping it off at the church.

First Presbyterian Church
301 North 7th Street * St Joseph MO 64501

Joys & Concerns

Please let Pastor Kemper or your Deacon know of any specific prayer concerns. Not meeting in person limits the opportunity we have to share our prayers with each other. But we can continue to lift in prayer those that are in need. Our prayers are not limited by a building; the church is not the building. The church is us! Thanks be to God!

Mission Outreach

First Presbyterian continues to serve those in need in our community through the Food Pantry and the Kitchen Closet. Donations of food or kitchen and other items such as pillows, are greatly appreciated. If you have time to come and help arrange donated kitchen items, we would appreciate the help!



Birthdays

2- Gary Patterson, Darren Verbick
4- Karen Parham
11-Suzie Bradley
12-Amanda Davis, Sherry Hawley
15-Loah Stallard, Tucker Lukehart
17-Alyssa Davis
20-Teresa Parks
21-Evelyn McClure
22-Ed Andres
24-Dick Gibson
26-Reed Graves
28-Jackie Thomas
30-Heidi Hornaday, Sue Patterson

Anniversaries

3- Bill & Bev Barr
4- Tom & Nancy Duggins
7- Dave & Carol Merrifield
8- Pat & Leslie Speiser
9- Steve & Jo Lovely
22- David & Suzie Bradley

Regular Session Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2020, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Moderator: Pastor Kemper Huber	Clerk: Janet Storts	
<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Karen Parham	Dave Lichliter	Becky Hampton
Jerry Reeves		Michael Jasper
Jim Ringer	Natalie Ward	Jan Storts

Excused: Dan Trifan

Pastor Kemper opened the meeting at 7:11 p.m. with a devotion and prayer. He welcomed our new members, Karen and Dave, and welcomed back for a new term Becky, Michael and Jan.

Michael Jasper **nominated** Janet Storts to be Clerk. Karen Parham seconded. There were no further nominations. Jan will serve another year as Clerk of Session.

Jan Storts asked permission to send sympathy cards to Bob Simpson on the death of his wife Kay and to Susie Burmont on the death of her son Todd, on behalf of the Session. Permission was granted.

Michael Jasper **moved** and Natalie Ward seconded that the Minutes of the June 23 Session Meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Committee reports or discussions

Buildings & Grounds – Natalie Ward expressed her appreciation for Bobby emptying the pew racks.

Mission and Social Justice – Kemper said that he has received a request for fans for people on the southside who were trying to dry out after the flood. He will send an email to the congregation.

Personnel – Pastor Kemper and Becky will be meeting with Terresa for a job description and review.

Finance – Teressa is in contact with Miller Accounting. Hope to have reports by September.

Worship – Kemper was pleased with the joint worship with First Christian and Zion. He is looking for different options for virtual worship with more participation from membership. He has purchased mics for his iPad to improve the sound quality.

Ad Hoc Building Use – Jerry Reeves said the Laura Wyeth and Lynn Dempster had walked through the building and should be getting back to him this week with ideas.

Nominating Committee – Kemper expressed his thanks for the work they have done. They will reconvene to choose a Pastor Nominating Committee after Presbytery and Session approve the formation.

Survey comments - Rev. Amstutz received the report from Dorothy but we had a problem getting her the hard copies. Hopefully she will have them this week and we will have her report within the next two weeks.

Dr. Sarah Lyons and Dorothy Glick Maglione have resigned to take positions closer to where they live.

Re-opening discussion – Pastor Kemper thinks it is important to set a date. Karen Parham volunteered to work on a subcommittee to work out a plan. Natalie Ward suggested the congregation be contacted. She, Dave Lichliter, and Pastor Kemper will work on that. It was agreed that we need to see how opening school goes.

Dave Lichliter **moved** and Karen Parham seconded that we would vote at our September 22 meeting if we would re-open sometime in October.

Our next meeting will be **August 25** via Zoom.

Pastor's comments – Pastor Kemper has been talking with the COM. The work that needs to be done as a result of the surveys needs to take place face-to-face and heart-to-heart. This must be done before the PNC can do its work. Everybody needs to be involved.

The interim process will start over when we can gather again and it will take two years from when we get back together to hire a new pastor. The survey needs to be distributed to everyone, but it needs to be done with conversation.

Because Pastor Kemper is uncomfortable spending longer than two years in as an interim, he will be leaving when his contract ends in November.

We have the possibility of either another Interim or a Designated Pastor.

Tim Soule, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, KS is our COM liaison. He will be contacting us about setting up a Zoom meeting in the near future.

We need to think about what is best for the church.

The meeting was terminated by Zoom at 8:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Storts, Clerk

