

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

269.964.3700

firstpresbc.org



The Carillon

Volume
27
Issue 5

July 2020



From our Lead Pastor

Dear Friends:

But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Is 40:31 NRSV).

We are continuing to monitor the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our best assessment at this point is that we will not be having in-person, in-building (church) worship prior to September 13. This is consistent with the recommendation we have received from presbytery.

We are continuing to offer an online worship experience. Included in this month's newsletter is a listing of July Worship Themes and Scriptures along with a brief Prayer. Even if you have little or no internet access, you can still "connect" with us each Sunday by reading the Scripture and praying the Prayer. The weekly Worship Moment video is available on our YouTube page, which you can get through firstpresbc.org which is our website.

For July 5 you will once again have the opportunity to participate in virtual communion. You will need bread or a cracker and either unfermented wine (grape juice) or regular wine. Watch the video as usual. At the end you will see me celebrate the Lord's Supper. When I eat of the bread you eat of yours. When I drink from the cup you drink from yours.

May God watch over you and give you peace.

Yours in the love of Christ,


Jeffrey S. Carlson



From our Associate Pastor

I cut an article out of the AARP Bulletin about viral infections and pre-existing medical conditions. The information suggests that people with these medical issues should "take every precaution to protect yourself", and to talk with your doctor before loosening your vigilance, in times of high infection rates. The conditions especially mentioned are *Obesity, Diabetes, Cancer, Heart Disease, Respiratory Diseases, and Autoimmune Disorders*. Many of us have experience with those, personally or in our immediate family.

Although it's tough to be isolated, it doesn't make sense to be too lax, too soon. I pray for you and hope you will continue to reach out if you have unmet physical, emotional or especially spiritual needs.

Did you read in last month's Carillon that I'm suggesting a sequel to the Hendrik Groen book we read before? I'm writing up a quiz so you can decide how like Hendrik **you** are! Look for the book: "**On the Bright Side: The New Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 85 Years Old**" and the quiz, will be available next month. It will encourage some important reflection and cause a few chuckles, too.

God loves you and so do I!



Pat Weatherwax

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BATTLE CREEK

111 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017

Firstpresbc.org 269.964.3700

July 2020 Carillon

Called Congregational Meeting

July 19, 2020, at 11 a.m.

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

During the June 8 Session meeting, a motion prevailed to call a Congregational Meeting to elect Officers and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee and to give our consent to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship with Pastor Jeff along with any other business which could properly come before the meeting. Due to current restrictions regarding n-person gathering within buildings, the Congregational Meeting will be held on July 19, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the main church parking lot. The elections are being held in July since we were unable to hold elections on the first Sunday in May as is our custom. The consent of our congregation to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship is necessary in complying with Pastor Jeff's desire to retire this year. His last day of active service will be October 25. Our vote will clear the way for necessary Presbytery action to be taken at their September 19 meeting.

Further Information About the Meeting

Larry Turpin (Safety) and Carrie Hoglen (Worship)

1. The meeting will be held in the main Parking Lot behind the Church, so no parking there on July 19, 2020. The lot entrances will be taped off to prevent parking.
2. Please park in the lot behind the Youth Center, if you are able. Please park in the Farley Estes parking lot if you have mobility issues. Note the East Drive will be closed.
3. Bring your own lawn chairs, if you need to sit. Standing will also be acceptable.
4. Do not use the Church restrooms, as we cannot assure they will be sanitized between use.
5. Wear a mask.
6. Maintain social distance (6 ft or greater) between family groups.
7. Please abstain from shaking hands or hugs (we know this is difficult!)
8. A PA system will be used for sound, and the length of the meeting is expected to be less than 30 minutes.
9. Carrie Hoglen will be the point person on July 19 if questions arise.
10. A means of shelter will be available in case of rain

Notes from the March, April, May and June meetings of Session

Carl McCune, Clerk of Session

Due to the current public health emergency of the COVID-19 Pandemic, from March 30 until June 8 Session has had 4 virtual meetings using the ZOOM electronic meeting technology. Following state and federal guidelines along with advice from our Presbytery, motions have prevailed to close the church buildings to any group meetings or worship services first through April 30, later May 10, then July 5 and now through September 6. Pastor Jeff is authorized to control building use until that time. Possible outdoor worship at the Retreat Center is being explored.

In March, because of the financial impact of the Pandemic, a motion prevailed to designate up to \$20,000 from the church reserves to be used with the approval of the Ministry Advisory Council through the rest of this year to assist the community or our church members.

In May, a motion prevailed to have the Safety Ministry Team and the Worship Ministry Team propose a plan for restarting in-person worship. Another motion prevailed that we explore the possibility of hiring a technology person to facilitate live-streaming, video recording and to enhance the use of our website and social media, with the Worship MT to describe a potential job description.

Also in May, the Property Committee reported that we have a leak in the bottom of the church boiler (a leak of condensate, not steam) and a complete failure of the boiler could occur during the winter of 2020/21. Quotations have been received from Martin & Associates for asbestos removal and Power Engineering & Supply for boiler replacement. Church funds had previously been set aside for this type of expenditure.

A motion prevailed authorizing a Boiler Replacement Project as described above with cost not to exceed \$135,795 consisting of the following:

1. Asbestos Removal = \$3,450
2. Removal of existing boiler and installation of new boiler = \$120,000
3. 10% Contingency = \$12,345

In June, since we could not hold the May 3 Congregational Meeting to elect new officers, a motion prevailed to extend the term of office for the class of 2020 until new officers can be installed. The following elections were held (year-long terms): Carl McCune - Clerk of Session; Ruth Hetletvedt and Carl McCune - Commissioners to Presbytery (Mary Burg will serve as an alternate); Tom Cole - Church Treasurer; Officers of the Corporation: Jeffrey Carlson - President; Francie Winslow - Vice-President; Tom Cole - Treasurer; Carl McCune - Secretary.

Also in June, a motion prevailed to appoint Lisa Brown, Pete Christ, Tom Cole, Doug McCune and Karen Rich to an Ad-hoc Transitional Pastor Search Team. Another Ad-hoc Team will facilitate the process of Pastor Jeff's retirement and will consist of Pastor Pat along with Linda Holden, Sue Keitel, Cathy Lucas, and Jim and Karen Rich. (continued at top of page 4)

(SESSION NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

We are asked to keep the date of October 24 open for a celebration of Pastor Jeff's ministry.

Financial reporting shows that YTD income now trails expenses by \$26,248. It is important to remind people that their contributions are needed to keep the church functioning.

We are saddened by the deaths of Patricia Carr on February 29, Dorothy Hoglen on March 11, Fred Sawchuk on March 20, Ilene Woodman on April 12, 2020 and Edyth Walter on April 19. Current Active Membership is 294.

The next regular Session meeting will be July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held as a virtual meeting.

REOPENING OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

By Larry Turpin (Safety) and Carrie Hoglen (Worship)

In the May 2020 Session meeting, the Worship Ministry Team and the Safety Ministry Team were commissioned to develop guidelines for when and how we should resume in-person worship at Battle Creek First Presbyterian Church, as a result of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The combined teams have already met several times in this effort. Please see the following key points that so far have been developed.

First Pres is following guidance of the following organizations as to when and how we will reopen our Church buildings for Worship and general business:

- State of Michigan, Calhoun County and Battle Creek City
- PCUSA and Presbytery of Lake Michigan
- Church Mutual Insurance (First Pres insurer)
- CDC and NIH guidance

Based on the most recent guidance of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, we will not be holding in-person worship inside our Church buildings until at least September 13.

Meanwhile, the combined teams are developing the guidelines that we will follow for worship. We wish to keep all of you as safe as possible, so please be patient with our approach and timing.

There are many details to resuming in-person worship, but our approach will include social distancing guidelines and the need to wear masks. Please follow these guidelines whenever entering the building.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Larry Turpin (lturpin103@aol.com) or Carrie Hoglen (jehoglen@att.net)

We are again posting the sermon manuscripts to the church website at www.firstpresbc.org and mailing printed copies to shut-ins and those requesting a hard copy. Call the church office to have your name added to the mail list.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Boiler Replacement – Construction Update

By Larry Turpin - Property Committee Chair

In case you did not know, we are replacing the Church boiler this Summer. The existing boiler has served us well since 1963 but has leaks in the main boiler body and can not be repaired. Due to our piping/radiator network throughout the Church, we really had no choice but to stay with a boiler steam-heat system.

The plan is to replace the boiler in late July / early August. Total construction time will likely take 2-3 weeks, and during that time the East driveway will be closed.

Here are the major steps in this project:

- Asbestos removal from affected pipes will be completed on June 25
- Need to relocate hostas by East driveway. Some hostas are available for members to take home to replant. Also, we have a dogwood tree that will be available for someone to remove and replant. Please contact Kathy Baker if interested in hostas or the dogwood tree. These need to be removed by mid July.
- South boiler room walls will be removed and ground excavated to allow existing boiler (and associated equipment) to be removed and replaced with a new steel boiler unit.
- After the new boiler (and associated equipment) is placed inside the boiler room, the boiler room wall will be replaced and excavated soil will be replaced, along with landscaping.

We expect to "fire up" the new boiler in September, well before our heating season. Also, we should see improvements in natural gas consumption with the new boiler, as the old boiler was about 70% efficient and the new boiler will be about 80% efficient.

This project has a total estimated cost of \$135,795 and will be funded through a capital fund established for basic building infrastructure.

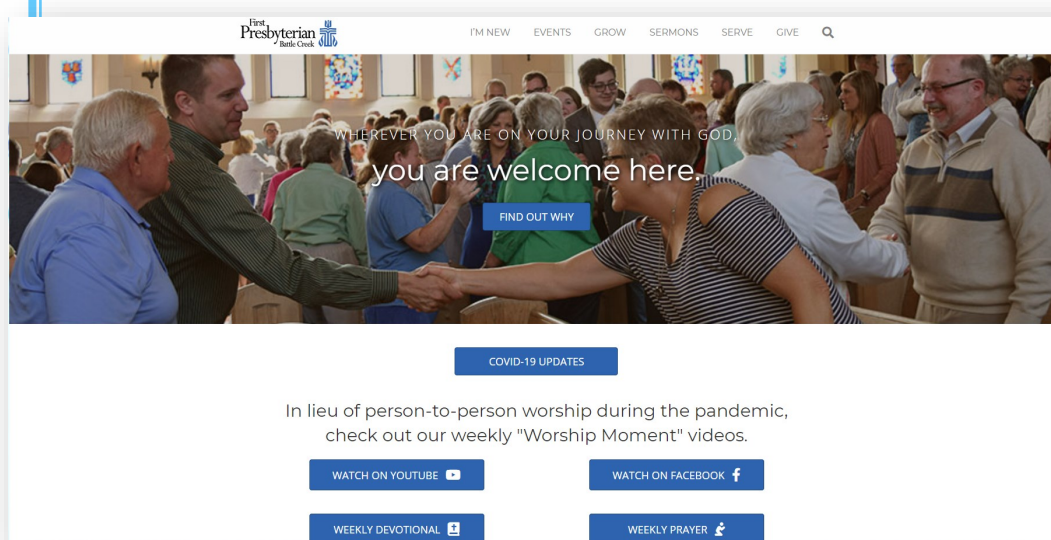
Contact Larry Turpin (lturpin103@aol.com) if you have any questions.

Pictured on this month's cover from top left and going

clockwise: Ruth Azar surrounded by Second Mile Center kids (see article on page 5); preparing for virtual communion, graduate Josiah Turpin (see article on back cover), Isabella Trainor (see article on back cover), David Brown with a baby wood duck he rescued from one of his family's wood duck houses, Hamlin Lake behind the Retreat Center photographed by Dena Haas, Pastor Jeff giving the sermon from home, Jodine Bandlow providing music for worship from home, Pastor Pat preaching, Lisa and Taylor Brown during "lockdown" (see article on back cover). **SEND US YOUR PICTURES OF YOU, YOUR FAMILY, ACTIVITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC!** Send to office@firstpresbc.org

Pointing People to Jesus Online

New additions can be found on the homepage of our website, www.firstpresbc.org. They are easily accessible - simply scroll down the homepage to a section titled "**COVID-19 UPDATES**". There you will find four large buttons. Each of these buttons is a way to point people to our one true hope – Jesus Christ.



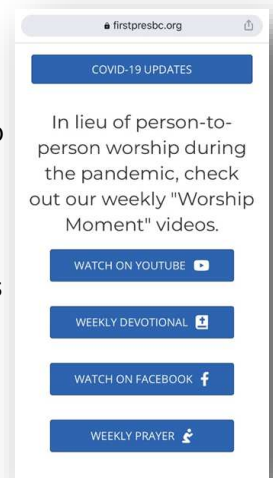
WATCH ON YOUTUBE/WATCH ON FACEBOOK – Connect you to our weekly "Worship Moment" videos which are posted each weekend.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL - The weekly devotional is posted on our church Facebook and website every Monday morning. The key purpose is for members of our church family to share how their faith has equipped them to cope in this time of crisis. We anticipate the devotional will help us to share the hope that can only be found through Jesus, grow bolder in

our witness, and connect on a deeper spiritual level as a church family. The first post reached over 450 people on Facebook!

WEEKLY PRAYER - Join in prayer with others throughout the world for a miraculous healing of our lands from the coronavirus and a spiritual awakening among the nations. Unite714 (www.unite714.com) – is a prayer movement uniting churches, pastors, leaders, and individuals across the globe. Each Sunday a new prayer is posted for the coming week. This prayer is then uploaded to our Facebook account and the homepage of our website giving the opportunity to pray along with others throughout the world.

(Image above shows the church website homepage on a computer or laptop screen. Image at right shows how it appears on a mobile cell phone screen)



Second Mile Center's Ruth Azar Receives 2020 Woman of Faith Award

Our friend and sister in Christ, Ruth Azar of the Second Mile Center, was one of three women in the PC/USA and Presbyterian Women to receive a 2020 Women of Faith Award at the General Assembly of our church .

She has brought systemic change to the children at the Second Mile Center, along with their families. Positive changes have also happened to the neighborhood through the Center and its outreach. Ruth founded the Second Mile Center; she had a vision, faith in God and saw a need in the community to do something for kids. It took a lot of perseverance to build relationships with the Detroit Presbytery, Synod of the Covenant, PC/USA, the community, and the families. She has shared her faith and love for Jesus, teaching and working with the children through their daily devotions of scripture and prayer, has created a safe place for the them and earned their respect and that of their parents. Ruth shows the children love, understanding and compassion, but still holds her ground when necessary. Her love for the children and their families is endless.

We have been blessed with our faith partnership with the Second Mile Center and Ruth. It all began with the children sharing their signing to inspirational music as the program for our PW Spring Gathering in 2011. Since then, a team of First Pres volunteers has traveled to Detroit each year to assist with their Health Fair. Our congregation has been inspired by the faith and participation in worship of the Second Mile Center during their annual weekend visits to our Retreat Center.

After study in Maumee Valley Presbytery and Dubuque Theological Seminary, Ruth became a lay pastor. She is both pastor and director of the Second Mile Center at 18391 Morang Ave., Detroit, MI 48205.

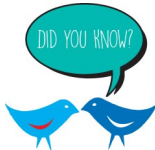


Pearl Hickey

Pearl joined First Pres in 2004 when she was just 84 years old. She turns 100 on July 29th and would enjoy a note or a card from her friends here.
700 North Avenue #203 Battle Creek, MI 49017

Virginia Weenink

Virginia is the wife of our late Senior Pastor, Rev. Allan J. Weenink. They served First Pres and our community for 24 years.. Virginia is a remarkable lady, in good health with a positive and inspiring attitude, a love for God and family and still active in her Holland church. Her family and friends will help her celebrate on the 4th of July. She would be delighted to receive a note or card from her First Pres friends. 4905 Rosabelle Beach, Holland, MI 49424



Did you know Jean & David Rost and Jan & Jim Ritter got married on the same day? Both couples celebrated their 49th anniversary on June 12th.

VOLUNTEER VIBE

St Thomas Summer Breakfast Program is operating this summer in a get-and-go format. First Presbyterian has signed up for the week of August 10 – 14 and will be in need of volunteers to help cook (eggs/pancakes), make up the to go



Roses to Sue Stetler for providing our new JOY paraments for special Sundays in advent and lent.



Alpha has been updated and even has a totally on-line version available now. The **Discipleship and Connections Teams**, working together, are considering using this great resource. If you'd like to be part of the planning, connect with Pastor Pat via email at patwwax@gmail.com.

Even though, the "Heart in the City" Health Fair had to be cancelled for this year due to the coronavirus, our neighborhood and community still have many needs for the Health Kits. Health Kit items can't be brought to church until the church reopens in Sept, but in the meantime you can, 1. be collecting items or 2. put together some Health Kits. **Health Kit Items are: Toothbrushes- individually wrapped, Toothpaste – 6.4 oz., Dental Floss, Shampoo – minimum size 15 fl. oz., (or close) Conditioner – minimum size 15 fl. oz. (or close), Bars of Soap – Bath Size, Deodorant, Chapstick, and a Wash Cloth. We put these items in a gallon zip lock bag.** Donations of money are also greatly appreciated. (Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write Health Kits on the memo line

Many thanks for your generosity, caring and support of this Mission Project.



Thanks to you

My family and I want to thank all of you for all the support, prayers, kind thoughts, cards and now condolences which have been extended to us over the past few months during my sister Mary Beth Brandli's illness and since her passing.

It has truly been a blessing to have church family during these times in our lives. It has meant so much to me as we were going through this time.

Nan Jones

To our church family—we have enjoyed the cards, notes and phone calls we have received. We miss being with you. Thank you for caring and thinking of us.

Art and Judy Angood

It is with immense gratitude I thank you for the healing prayers, flowers, cards, food, visits during my recent surgery. I am on the mend. Love this church family.

Jenny Moore

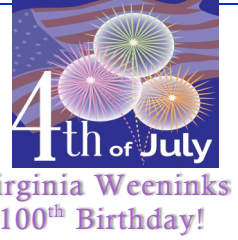
Presbyterian Women wish to thank everyone who donated socks and underwear during the month of February. The socks (211 pairs) and underwear (147 pairs) were delivered to the Charitable Union to be given to those in need. Thank you to all who participated.

Thanks to **Kathy Baker** for all her time and hard work in planning the Member Photo Directory. We are hopeful that we can resume this project next year.

Thanks to **Dena Haas** for extending her talent and expertise in creating the new logos, slogan and photography for our **Retreat Center, A Heart for God in the Heart of Nature.** And thanks to Dena and **Cheryl Luts** for their work outdoors at the Center this spring and summer.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
<i>Worship Moments and Virtual Communion are shared on our Facebook page, website, and YouTube account.</i> <i>(Z) means it is a ZOOM meeting or gathering. The link for the Zoom Coffee Fellowship and TalkBack will be out before July 5. YES, you can do it!</i>			1	2	3	4
5 10A Worship Moment Virtual Communion 11A Zoom Coffee Fellowship 11A TalkBack (Z)	6 9A Safety Ministry (Z) 1P Property Com (Z)	7	8	9	10	14
12 10A Worship Moment 11A Zoom Coffee Fellowship 11A TalkBack (Z)	13 7P SESSION (Z)	17	18	16	17	18
19 11A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10A Worship Moment 11A Zoom Coffee Fellowship 11A TalkBack (Z)	27 Pearl Hickey's 100 th Birthday! CARAVAN at the Retreat Center 9A to 3:30P	28	29	30	31	



MEETINGS, GATHERINGS AND KEEPING IN TOUCH

From now until September 13, meetings of more than 10 persons in any First Pres building must be approved by Session. Groups smaller than 10 can be approved by the Lead Pastor but he is hesitant to grant such permission before August 1.

BUT have you tried a virtual meeting?! Many families and friends are using their cell phones and computers to meet at scheduled times via Zoom. You can see and hear each other. First Pres has a Zoom account that is being used for Session and other meetings. If you would like information or assistance with a Zoom meeting, contact the office Monday—Thursday between 9am and 3pm and talk to Mary.

Caravan 2020

is still a go with a few new changes. We are planning to get some work done out at the Retreat Center the week of July 27-31 daily from 9:00 am till about 3:30. Here are some of the details as of right now:

- 1) All work projects are outside: staining the building (we can spread people out all the way around), repairing/staining picnic tables, working on landscaping in front of the building. Tools and brushes will be provided or you can bring one from home.
- 2) Bring your own lunch OR I will have one person serve lunch cafeteria style. Provided lunches will be hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cookies, condiments—all in individualized bags, and bottles of water. We will be eating outside also.
- 3) We have decided that we will not have anyone stay over night at the Retreat Center. If transportation is a problem, please let me know and we can work something out.

We will be doing all that we can to keep everyone as safe as possible. As with everything else these days, please remember that the theme of 2020 is **BE FLEXIBLE**. I am planning on either a virtual or in-person meeting as we get closer to go over any questions or concerns. Meanwhile, I will keep people updated via Facebook, email, and the church website. **Doug McCune**

Our 2020 Scholarship & Book Reimbursement Recipients

The **Mission Ministry Team** has the privilege of designating Scholarship and Book Reimbursements each year to students from First Presbyterian Church Battle Creek.

Josh Leichty is the recipient of a \$500 Scholarship to Kellogg Community College from the Burtis portion of the [Heinze/Woodard/Burtis/ Hill/Swan Scholarship Fund](#). Josh is studying to be an EMT.

Taylor Brown is the recipient of another \$500 Scholarship from the fund to attend Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (online). The Heinze Scholarship is presented to a child of/or active First Presbyterian Church member pursuing education for the purpose of entering Christian service. Taylor is doing High School Ministry at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is one year away from being full-time at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in the Chicago area.

Isabella Trainor, Sy Turpin, Keegan Aimesbury, and Taylor Brown each received book reimbursement scholarships.

Isabella graduated from Western Michigan University this spring with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She is studying to take the Medical College Admission Test and intends to apply to Medical School.

Sy graduated this spring from Purdue University in Chemical Engineering and will be employed in the Richland area.

Keegan is a student at Ripon College in Wisconsin.

First Presbyterian Church is very proud of our students and their accomplishments. Many are pictured on this month's Carillon cover. We give thanks to those who have provided for these scholarships.

JULY WORSHIP THEMES AND SCRIPTURES

First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek

July 2020

Common Prayer (For any day, but especially Sunday)

God of love and mercy, grant us a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Look upon the people in our land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our disservice to these our neighbors. You are the author and lover of peace and lover of concord, to know you is to live eternal life, and to serve you is to live in perfect freedom; defend against every attack those who cry to you. Look with mercy on those who do wrong. Grant justice and peace within our communities and in our hearts. Help us to live as ambassadors of the Prince of Peace. You, O Lord, are our hope and our trust. We pray in your name. Amen.

July 5

VIRTUAL COMMUNION

"Permission Granted"

Galatians 5:1

Prayer

You always give us the freedom to turn back, O Lord, and to take a better road. But when we have the strength to carry on and ask for the aid of your Spirit, we find blessing upon blessing. Help us to live as people who have found freedom in Jesus Christ. Amen.

July 12

"Sowing Seeds"

Matthew 13:3-9

Prayer

Holy, Great Master Gardener: As you provide us opportunities, may we continue to sow seeds of faith in our world that desperately needs to know you. Help us do our part, trusting the results to your grace. We pray especially for your guidance as we sow seeds with people we know and love. Thank you that those we love are also loved by you. Amen.

July 19

MEETING OF CONGREGATION (11:00 a.m. church parking lot)

"Be Careful What You Think"

Proverbs 23:7

Prayer

Touch us, O God, with your holy presence. Let your fragrant oil of blessing pour over us and be felt as inward peace and lasting joy. Help us to believe what is true and be true to what we believe. Bring forth in us confidence to speak your word, awareness to recognize your blessing and courage to be your faithful witnesses. In Jesus' name. Amen.

July 26

"Harvesting Pearls"

Matthew 13: 44-46

Prayer

Holy Story-teller, Creative and wise: your children all learn differently. Thank you for sharing your truths in a variety of ways. We often think we are pretty smart, but compared to you our knowledge is limited and often faulty. Thank you for loving us, anyway. Amen.

THE CARILLON IS A FREE PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BATTLE CREEK

111 CAPITAL AVENUE NE 49017

269-964-3700

FIRSTPRESBC.ORG

JUNE 17, 2020

TAYLOR'S TIDINGS

The official Newsletter of Taylor Brown, Thirteenth Issue

Complex Times



I think 2020 will go down in the history books as an exceptionally turbulent year. Many people I know are just overwhelmed by the changes this year has brought. From COVID-19 to murder hornets, and now the outcry of injustice regarding the racially profiled murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others. I have felt somewhat emotionally whip-lashed and uncertain on how I can best be of help. You might feel this way too. As a ministry team, we have focused on passages such as Micah 6:8 which reminds us that the Spirit-filled Christian will act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with God.

It has been uncomfortable having conversations about race and racism, but the leading of the Holy Spirit has been guiding me to care about things God really cares about: particularly justice and opportunity for the vulnerable and unity among Christians. I would love your prayers as we seek to have these hard discussions with our students. The image of the cactus pictured in the top left was taken last week after an uncommonly heavy rainfall. I share it with you now because I believe that God can make even prickly things blossom in their time. That is my prayer for our country and for you--maybe a beautiful blossom is just around the corner. Prayer is the rain that makes this happen.

Pastoral Encouragement

Last week I reflected with a group of our sixth grade girls on this passage:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (Lamentations 3:22-24)

Ann Voskamp says that "all fear is but the notion that God's love ends." I think she is right. I asked the girls what they thought of the idea that God's steadfast love never ends. As is true for every person, this truth is hard to believe because even the best of our human relationships seem to have some limit eventually. Not so with God. I encourage you to meditate on this passage this week. How much freedom and joy would we have if we believed our "portion," our sweet savior Jesus, was always for us, loving us with his mercies each morning. His love for you will never end.

**CONTACT
ME**

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Colorado Springs, CO 80917
269-580-6165

Email
tbrown@v7pc.org

Giving Website
<https://www.v7pc.org/give>
Taylor Brown Support

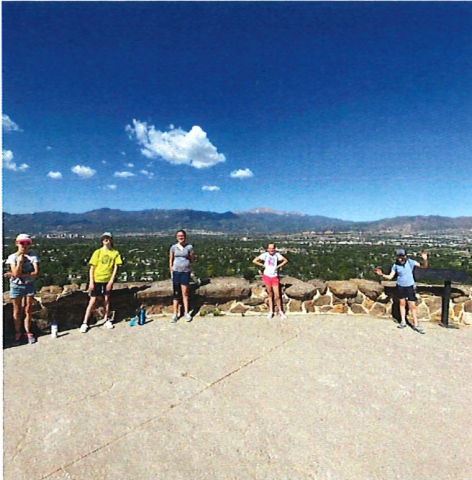


VILLAGE SEVEN

Presbyterian Church

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF GRACE

Summer Ministry



As you can imagine, we have had to go back to the drawing board for our summer ministry program. Instead of our missions trips, day trips, and youth group, we have decided to work by an "elective" system. This has allowed us to divide 120+ students into 19 weekly activities in which they can be socially distanced in groups of less than 10, doing activities they love with their friends. We also discuss a Bible passage during each of these activities.

Prayer Requests

The following prayers would be a wonderful help to me this month:

1) As mentioned on page one, I would greatly appreciate prayer as we seek to have more difficult discussions with our students on race and justice in America. Pray that we all would have listening hearts and that real healing and change would come as a result.

2) Pray for us as we continue to be creative with ministry in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to really care for all of our students and get as close as the CDC allows. As included in the last two newsletters, please pray for those especially vulnerable to this virus.

3) Please pray that I abide in Jesus regularly. I have become increasingly aware that if I don't draw near to him, satan's lies become overwhelming. We are all in this battle and I truly appreciate your prayers in the midst of it.

Looking Forward

Last issue I expressed a deep sense of gratitude that, with your help, I was able to complete my first year of this residency program. I am now continuing on to my second and final year. If I have not called you yet, I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting me for one more year as I try to connect with you in the midst of summer youth ministry. I should be in touch with you soon.

As a reminder, there are two ways to give, one is by mailing a check (saying "Taylor Brown support") to the address given at the bottom of page 1. The second is by going to www.v7pc.org/give and submitting a gift on the "Taylor Brown support" cell. Thank you for building Jesus' kingdom with me.

