

First Presbyterian Church  
 221 East Sixth Street at Lincoln  
 Bloomington, IN 47408  
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# First Press

*Celebrating Christ and Serving Community*

May 2021 Volume 63, No.5

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5/5 - Judy Schroeder  
 5/8 - Nancy Swank  
 5/9 - Tim Baldwin  
 5/11 - Eliza Carmichael  
 5/13 - Jim Rusie  
 5/14 - Tom Dukeman  
 5/15 - Lidetta Mathen  
 5/16 - Tom Sechrist,  
 Calvin Prenkert  
 5/18 - Jon Chickedantz

5/19 - Yvonne Reinier,  
 Sylvia Garrison  
 5/20 - Mihai Ciucu  
 5/22 - Baileigh Goodlett  
 5/23 - Martin Burkhead  
 5/25 - Eva Harriss,  
 Mason Riggie  
 5/26 - Bob Rout  
 5/28 - James Mitchell III  
 5/31 - Phyllis Little

## Living into an Unknown Future

By Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake

Spring is in the air here in Bloomington and I have sensed a feeling of increased optimism as High School and College students prepare for their graduations, vaccination rates against Covid-19 are on a steady rise, and more and more congregations like ours are gradually re-opening. However, there are also some signs of anxiety and fear: Will we reach herd immunity by mid-summer or will vaccine “doubters and hold-outs” prevent this? What will church and Christianity be like after the pandemic is over? Will people return to worship in pre-pandemic numbers, or will some decide their lives are fine without church? Will young people continue to leave church in significant numbers, or will there be renewed interest in living out deeply held spiritual commitments in community?

Of course, the only answer we can give to such questions at this point is: We simply don’t know.

Church Historian, Diana Butler Bass, put it this way recently:

*“I’ve learned a thing or two about conversations regarding the future.*

*1) No one knows what the future holds, not even the most intuitive historian, skilled trend spotter, or well-trained futurist.*

*2) Time is an odd thing. We experience it (mostly) in terms of change and chronology. But in sacred perspective, time exists differently. Indeed, theologically there is no past, present, or future. God holds time without reference to what has been and what will be.”*

But before we rush headlong into an unknown future, I think it is important to fully embrace and understand what we have lost over the past year:

*Many have lost friends and relatives to death, we’ve lost a year of our lives, many have lost income, we’ve lost a sense of security, we’ve lost our ability to move freely through the world. We’ve lost a lot.*

But lost doesn’t just refer to what is gone. It also means that which is mislaid, out of place, dislocated. Sometimes lost just means that we’re lost. And that is the other task for the post-pandemic world: to help others find what has been lost, to point the way beyond the thicket. We need to find ourselves again; we need to be relocated in the world.

<sup>1</sup> Diana Butler Bass, Religion After Pandemic, The Cottage, April 26, 2021

**“1) Temporal dislocation**

*We’ve lost our sense of time as it existed before the pandemic. How often have you thought: What day is this? What time is it? Did I miss an event? What month is it? That’s temporal dislocation.*

**2) Historical dislocation**

*We’ve lost our sense of where we are in the larger story of both our own lives and our communal stories. History has been disrupted. Where are we? Where are we going? The growth of conspiracy theories, the intensity of social media, political and religious “deconstructions” – these are signs of a culture seeking a meaningful story to frame their lives because older stories have failed. That’s historical dislocation.*

**3) Physical dislocation**

*We’ve lost our sense of embodiment with others and geographical location. For millions, technology has moved “physicality” into cyber-space and most of us have no idea what to do with this virtual sense of location. Without our familiar sense of being bodily in specific spaces, things like gardening, baking, sewing, and painting have emerged as ways of feeling the ground and the work of our hands. We’ve striven to maintain some sort of embodiment even amid isolation. But the disconnection between our bodies, places, and other bodies has been profound. That’s physical dislocation.*

**4) Relational dislocation**

*We’ve lost our daily habits of interactions with other humans, the expression of emotions together in community. Have you worried you won’t know how to respond when you can be with your friends without distance, with no masks? How will it feel to be in large groups again? How will work or school feel back in person, with others at the next desk or waiting on customers face-to-face, or in the first in-person meeting? What happens when the plexiglass comes down, the mask is off? That’s relational dislocation.”*

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

With these dislocations in mind, the task comes into focus. Surely, religious communities need to be about the work of *relocation* – finding what has been lost, repairing what has been broken, and re-grounding people into their own lives and communities.

Did you know that the word religion is believed to have come from the Latin, *religare*, meaning to “bind” or “reconnect?” *Religare* is about mending what has been broken, recovering what has been mislaid, and reconnecting that which is frayed.

What is the future of religion post-pandemic? Well, it depends. It depends if we continue to insist on the other definition of religion – as obligation to a particular order of things (like doctrine, polity, or moral action – a “bounden duty”). If nothing else, the pandemic has revealed that particular orders of things can be upset, overturned by the most unanticipated of things. If *religion* is about maintaining a certain order of liturgy, dogma, or practice, well, then, we can consider religion one more pandemic loss.

If we think of *religion* in terms of *religare*, however, the task of the post-pandemic church – the work of finding, repairing, and relocating – is clear. We must reconnect ourselves and others with time, history, physicality, and relationships. In this sense, the future of religion has never been brighter – our lost world needs finding. Pandemic dislocation calls for guides and weavers of wisdom. We don’t need to return to the old ways, we need to be relocated. We need to find a new place, a new home in a disrupted world.

And at the very heart of finding our lost selves is relocating our hearts in and with God. There is a journey beyond the pandemic, and we will find the way a step at a time. We haven’t been to this particular future before. And we will need one another to get there.

Food for thought.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake

Transitional/Interim Senior Pastor

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## SESSION MEETING NOTES April 11, 2021

### Session Actions:

- Approved the transfer of membership of Patsy Smith to First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, IN
- Approved the recommendation of the Reopening Task Force to begin in-person worship on a limited basis beginning April 25, 2021 (note: this approval was done via an email vote completed on March 25, 2021)
- Accepted into membership the following members of the Confirmation Class: David Ciucu, Holden Eckard, Tigh Eckard, Eva Harriss, Aidan Johnson, Mason Riggle, and Ava Schneider.
- Approved the recommendation from the Racial Justice Task Force that First Presbyterian become a Matthew 25 congregation.
- Approved Chris Holmes to serve a three-year term on the Sexual Misconduct response team.
- Approved the recommendation from the Personnel Committee that FPC initiate a search for Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.
- Authorized the Nominating Committee to recruit a Senior Pastor Nominating Committee that is broadly representative of the congregation at large and to be approved by the Congregation when constituted.
- Approved the recommendation from the Property Committee setting policies and procedures for in-person worship services (note: includes procedures for entering and exiting the building, seating arrangements and protection policies).
- Approved the acceptance of a Paycheck Protection Program loan. Funding is to be used only for payroll. The loan becomes a grant once FPC certifies its use of the funds.

### Informational Items:

- Rev. Kenafake stated that the mission study reports from the committees are being compiled and will be distributed to Session for review in the next couple of weeks.
- Elders met with the confirmands to discuss their statements of faith.
- Confirmation Sunday will be May 2.
- A sign-up process is being developed for the first non-trial in-person worship service on May 9.
- Youth Sunday will be May 16.
- Members donated \$695 for cleaning supplies for Exodus Refugee International.
- The Membership Committee is arranging greeters for in-person worship services.
- Work on the 7-Line project to construct dedicated bicycle lanes on Seventh Street will begin some time this spring and will last for several weeks.

## Report of the Treasurer

A Payroll Protection Plan loan of \$62,786.91 was applied for and received. These funds will be used exclusively for payroll.

The church has received 88 signed pledge cards; it is not too late to make a pledge for 2021.

Per capita Of \$16,984 has been paid. Thank you to those who have paid their share; if you have not yet done so, please consider paying your share of \$44/active member.

To date, \$122,109 in pledge money has been received. Additionally, \$39,300 was received in 2020 for the 2021 budget year.

If you have questions regarding giving to First Presbyterian Church, please contact Mary McClellan ([mary@fpcbloomington.org](mailto:mary@fpcbloomington.org) or 812-332-1514).



<b>Report of the Treasurer</b>		
March 31, 2021		
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Balance on Hand January 1, 2021</b>		\$0.00
<b>Income</b>		
Prepaid pledges for 2022		
Current pledges and contributions of record	122,109.31	
Future pledges and contributions of record	-	
Prior pledges	-	
Plate Offering	-	
Building Use Income	-	
Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers	94,403.82	
Bank Interest	2.85	
Ledger entries		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		216,515.98
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Payroll	(92,433.28)	
Non-payroll GF	(42,079.97)	
Other GF Checks/Disb (includes fund transfers, non budgeted items)	(13,934.82)	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		(148,448.07)
<b>Balance on Hand March 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$68,067.91</b>
<b>Special Funds, Balance on Hand March 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$78,694.18</b>
<b>Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand March 31, 2021</b>	\$ 91,221.71	
<b>Reserve Fund March 31, 2021</b>	\$ 62,272.88	
<b>Campaign Fund March 31, 2021</b>	\$ 58,192.53	
<b>Campaign Fund Mortgage Balance (monthly payments: 4,934.50, )</b>	\$ (215,014.00)	4.97%
<b>Parking Lot Fund March 31, 2021</b>	\$ 66,104.46	
<b>Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,413.99)</b>	\$ (207,466.63)	2.75
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)</b>	\$ 10,366.34	
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)</b>	\$ 31,099.12	
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)</b>	\$ 50,804.47	
<i>Mary C. McClellan</i>		
Treasurer		

## First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington—A Matthew 25 congregation!!

In Matthew 25, Jesus responds to his disciples when they asked him when they met his needs, “Just as you did it unto one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it unto me.”

Our denomination, PC(USA), created an initiative to challenge congregations to walk the walk of Matthew 25 in terms of dismantling systemic racism. At its meeting on April 11, 2021, FPC Session took up that challenge and voted for FPC Bloomington to become a Matthew 25 congregation.

This decision, based on the recommendation of the Racial Justice Taskforce (see previous First Press), was prompted by several events: racist events in our country in recent years, the closest being the white supremacy vandalism of First Presbyterian Columbus over Easter weekend; a couple of FPC group book discussions on antiracism; and the recent Lent for Liberation sermon and study series.

The session’s decision affirmed that it is time for our church to join the movement that seeks to dismantle the structures of systemic racism.

There are several benefits to our church of becoming a Matthew 25 congregation. First, we join a network of over 700 Presbyterian churches that are listening, learning, acting. Listening to become aware of the racial injustices facing our society, learning how racial injustice and white supremacy affects everyone in our society, and acting to diminish the systemic nature of racial injustice in our community and society. Being part of this network allows us to get first-hand accounts of the struggle and actions of these other congregations in confronting and meeting these needs. Second, the denomination provides a wealth of resources, including Bible studies, worship aids, outreach and mission ideas, Christian education programs, films, etc. Third, the Matthew 25 initiative visibly and powerfully demonstrates to our community that we believe and act to support antiracism. It also provides this sign to our children and youth as well as adults to understand the sins of racial injustice and white supremacy. And we believe our becoming a Matthew 25 congregation provides a strong sign to potential pastors to indicate what our church believes and does, and to invite youth, young adults, and others to join with us to be part of a critical and active justice agenda.

What does being a Matthew 25 congregation mean for FPC? First, being a Matthew 25 congregation means that we ask the tough questions about how we spend our time and resources and ask how our decisions impact racial justice in our community. Second, several Session committees are already discussing how to intensify what they are already doing toward creating racial justice, plus initiate new education, worship, outreach, membership, and other programs to address anti-racism. In this way, our Matthew 25 strategies will be integrated into the total ministry and mission of FPC. Third, being a Matthew 25 congregation means that the Session and the larger congregation take a courageous and leadership role in actually doing justice unto one of the least of these and therefore to Jesus.

Watch future First Press issues for ways you can listen, learn, and act to meet the challenge Christ has set before us. For more information on the PC(USA) Matthew 25 initiative, including stories and resources, see [Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 in the PC\(USA\): A bold vision and invitation | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)

Gary Crow  
Chair, Racial Justice Taskforce



## Adult Education in May

Not too late to join the Lectionary Bible Study.

### Lectionary Bible Study—Every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm.

This ongoing class gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into the Lectionary passages for the previous Sunday and be part of a supportive, energetic group. The class discusses Bible passages based on the weekly Revised Common Lectionary and uses the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, to enrich the study. Volunteers take turns leading the spirited discussion.

- No prior Biblical knowledge is necessary
- You do not have to take a leader role
- Not necessary to attend every session.

The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm through Zoom.

Zoom link and Passcode (**NOTE: you may need a passcode to enter the meeting**)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820692230?pwd=c016Y0w4eUFUT1BPMEpBRmNiTVFDdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2069 2230

Passcode: 082786



## Celebrating 50 Years of FPC Membership - *By: Nate Nickel*

The Deacons are excited to announce that several people have achieved a very special milestone. As of last year, Gail Dunning and Michael and Mary Ellen Donovan all officially became 50 year members of the First Presbyterian Church. Gail became a member of FPC in June of 1970, and Michael and Mary Ellen Donovan joined FPC in December of 1970.

Like many other important events both at our church and across the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately forestalled timely recognition in 2020 to Gail, Michael and Mary Ellen. However, we're no longer letting it get in the way as we would like to appropriately honor and celebrate them. Please join us either live or virtually for the May 9th service, during which time Pastor Jepsen will recognize each of them individually for this outstanding accomplishment.

One of the Deacons' ministries is to research all upcoming 50 year membership anniversaries so that they can be properly recognized and celebrated by the church. Both Jim Ernest and myself are currently working on a plaque project that will feature the names of all 50 year members going back to when First Presbyterian was originally founded in 1819. Jim has absolutely done phenomenal research in this area and come across some truly fascinating information. Since there are so many names, we'll likely need multiple plaques. All of us on the Deacons have commented many times how humbling and extraordinary it is to belong to a church where the names of all the 50 year members will literally cover an entire wall. That is truly a blessing and gift from God.

It's easy to say 50 years, but I think to get a better understanding of what that really means, it helps to know what FPC was like in 1970 when Gail, Michael and Mary Ellen joined the church. I visited the archives room over several weekends and dug into file cabinets and old folders. A big thanks to Judy Holy for steering me in the right direction, Sandra Canizares for getting me access and Steve Berry for checking in periodically to make sure that I was still alive in there.

I discovered copies of The Presbyterian Visitor, the predecessor of our current First Press. It was extremely interesting, to say the least. Then, as we are now, FPC was actively involved in the Bloomington community's social justice issues of the day, as well as dealing with greater challenges and events that were defining moments for the entire nation. FPC was certainly experiencing some familiar themes that are eerily similar to what we're now facing as a congregation in 2021, while others seem almost quaint by today's standards. Below is a little glimpse of FPC life from just over 50 years ago.

The Reverend Paul Miller and Associate Pastor George Reed were the ministers. They both remarked that it was hard to see members of the congregation leave town due to job transfers with (now all closed) major local employers GE, RCA and Westinghouse. The Clerk of the Session, Ralph Cleland, reported on the strong push to merge FPC with the First Baptist Church and the upcoming vote to finalize this merger in 1971.

It seems that the junior high school ushers (a duty strictly assigned to males) were fond of skipping the sermons in favor of running down to the corner of Kirkwood and Dunn for fresh Sunday morning donuts at Spudnuts. "Pastor Paul" surely looked the other way at these unauthorized side adventures, but was extremely well liked by the boys for his compassionate leadership and guidance. If the kids skipped a sermon in April, they likely missed FPC giving thanks for the Apollo 13 astronauts safely returning home after a near disaster in orbit.

Frank Westie, the President of the FPC Trustees, issued a "sobering assessment" of the current financial situation due to the failure to meet pledge commitments and dipping into reserve accounts to meet payroll. Miss Elizabeth Dodds of the Women's Association summarized the many efforts they conducted volunteering at the Opportunity House, raising funds for World Community Day, participating in the "Live Alone Alert Service" and supporting the Girl Scout troop at Fairview School. One of the Association's active members, a Mrs. McCracken (wife of legendary late IU basketball coach Branch McCracken), helped lead a panel discussion on the changing role of women in the world.

Rev. Miller was very concerned by the recent invasion of Cambodia and found himself "caught up once again in the elusive quest for terminating the war in Southeast Asia. Our society, thank God, withstood the severe test of dissent and reaction". Many young men at FPC were awaiting their draft orders, already serving in the U.S. military home and abroad, "or actively deployed to combat operations in Viet Nam". The congregation was encouraged to write to the serviceman, and they celebrated when FPC member Captain William "Bill" Harrington, U.S. Army, was discharged from the Walter Reed Military Hospital in Washington, D.C., and could finally return to his home on E. 2nd Street in Bloomington following an aircraft crash in South Vietnam that left him seriously wounded. Pastor Reed completed U.S. Army clergy training at Fort Hamilton, New York, so that he could minister to Bloomington's Army Reserve units on their drill weekends. This duty often took him away from his one-year old daughter, Jennifer Anne.

The Social Concerns Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Ellson, was very busy studying how to locally implement the social improvement and racial equity recommendations of both the Pronouncements of the General Assembly and Kerner Commission Report on Civil Disorders following the late 1960s race riots in cities across the country. This included FPC members hosting children from "inner-city ghetto Chicago neighborhoods" as part of the Friendly Town program, as well as petitioning the County Council to adopt the new U.S. Food Stamp funding program for Monroe County.

As you can see from these snapshots, 50 years ago is a long time and many things change. However, these members have been through it all with us here at FPC. Congratulations to Gail, Michael and Mary Ellen! Please join us on May 9th, or reach out to them and pass along your best wishes; it's really a special occasion and honor that we're all very proud to share with them at FPC.

## Coffee Cart!!! May 2021



**“Flags of Understanding” by Isabelle Rauh**

**Supporting FPC’s work in Posoltega, Nicaragua,  
through coffee cart sales and youth art!**

We will continue to require ordering in advance,  
with pick-up outside in the parking lot after  
worship.

**Youth Sunday, May 16, in the FPC parking lot 11:00-11:45**

**(after worship online or in-person)**

**or call for free delivery to your front porch any time.**

Contact Debbi Conkle at [debbiconkle@gmail.com](mailto:debbiconkle@gmail.com) or 812-333-1712.

**Coffee \$10:** Breakfast Blend Drip, Organic **Decaf** Drip, Breakfast Blend BEAN,  
Café Nica French Roast BEAN (dark)

**Coffee \$12:** Sisters’ Blend Drip (1 lb.)

**Tea \$4:** English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Chai, Green, **Decaf** English Breakfast,  
Ginger Caffeine free, Peppermint Caffeine free, Rooibos Caffeine free

**Chocolate bars \$4:** Panama Extra Dark (80%), Very Dark Chocolate (71%),  
Dark Chocolate w/ mint crunch (67%), \*Dark Chocolate w/ Orange 65%,  
Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch w/ sea salt (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Almond pieces (55%),  
Dark Chocolate w/ Whole Almond & Sea Salt (55%)

**Cocoa \$6.50:** Organic Hot Cocoa Mix (add water) (12 oz.) (no more Baking Cocoa)

**“Flags of Understanding” by Isabelle Rauh was inspired by our relationship with Posoltega, Nicaragua,  
as sister cities and sister churches. Isabelle was a finalist in Sister Cities International’s national  
competition, Young Artists and Authors Showcase, in 2017.**

## FPC LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE FOR 2021



MONTH	MOWING TEAM	CONTACT INFORMATION
APRIL	Primary – Steve Berry Backup -	(812)- 345-6886
MAY	Primary – Tom Dillon Backup -	
JUNE	Primary – Backup -	
JULY	Primary – Backup -	
AUGUST	Primary – Backup -	
SEPTEMBER	Primary – Backup -	
OCTOBER	Primary – Backup -	

Have them contact Tom Dillon at [judytomdillon@aol.com](mailto:judytomdillon@aol.com) or they can call at 812-824-1692 if they want to volunteer.

## May 2021 - Take Time to Smell the Roses by Pat Stackhouse

I am in the habit of looking out my back window that faces the woods.  
Does that seem like a waste of time?  
This may to some, but to me it seems like we all need to relax  
and find peace some place.

A beautiful tree is in the back of the house, not far from my window.  
I noticed for the first time this spring that the tree was filled with  
beautiful flowers. I thought, "How in all these years could I have failed  
to notice that beautiful sight?"

We rush through life often failing to notice the little things and the beauty in them.

Have you ever listened to the little bird, just singing his heart out for you? Listen to his song.

I literally took time to smell the roses the other day. I had received some lovely roses from my daughter.  
I passed by them at first forgetting to even smell them. Then I stopped and smelled their lovely scent. I  
was not so fortunate to have a green thumb. If you were, I hope you took time to smell the flowers in  
your yard.

God has provided beauty in so many ways. Take time to view the little things as well as the scenery in  
faraway places.

The first thing people say when you ask them how they are is, "busy." Just once I was happy to hear  
something different. My brother, a minister all his adult life is now retired. I asked him the other day  
how he was, and he answered,  
"Enjoying life." He lives on a lake. I said, "What do you do all day?"  
And he said, "Oh a little fishing."

He's found the key to peace. We all should find the key and slow down and smell the roses along the  
way.



## The Move to Electric Vehicles

By Allan Edmonds & Norm Holy

Can the United States possibly move to all-electric cars, vans, and pick-ups?

If the United States really wants to move to a fully electric fleet by 2050 — to meet the goal of net zero emissions — then sales of gasoline-powered vehicles must end altogether by around the year 2035. That's because the average vehicle on the road today is 12 years old. Older cars can stick around for a long time.

In the US today there are about 250 million cars, SUVs, vans and pickup trucks. The vast majority run on gasoline. Currently only about 500 thousand out of 17 million new vehicles are electric, less than 3%. Automakers are now starting to shift to electric vehicles, which are predicted to make up one-quarter of new sales by 2035. But at that rate, only 13 percent of vehicles on the road would be electric.

To have any chance of achieving an all-electric fleet by 2050, production of electric vehicles would need to ramp up dramatically in the next few years. There would surely need to be an incentive program. In Sweden, for example, already one-third of all new vehicle sales are all-electric or electric-hybrid. It's a national priority there. Vehicles with very small CO2 emissions receive incentives on a sliding scale of up to \$11,000, while vehicles with higher emissions pay additional yearly taxes.

In addition to converting to manufacturing only electric vehicles, we will need to have many more fast charging stations installed throughout the country.

This will all be an expensive logistical challenge. Do we have the will? Do we have a choice?



# MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
10am Service (Communion) 11am Children Choir	3	4:00pm Membership Cmte 7:30 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study	5:45pm Outreach Committee  Cinco De Mayo	6	7	8
10am Service  11am Children Choir	10	7pm Koinonia Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	12	13	14	15
10am Youth Service (Coffee Cart) 11am Children Choir	17	7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	19	20	21	22
10am Service  11am Children Choir	24	7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	26	27	28	29
10am Service  11am Children Choir	31					