

First Presbyterian Church
221 East Sixth Street at Lincoln
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812) 332-1514



First Press

Celebrating Christ and Serving Community

October 2020 Volume 62, No.10

Inside this Issue

October Birthdays	2
Prayer Gathering	3
Adult Education Oportunities	4-5
Area 10 Food Drive	6
History of FPC and Area 10	7-8
Drive Through	9
Posoltega Mission	10
Peace and Global Witness	11
Take time to smell the Roses	12
Earth Stewards	13
Report of the Treasurer	14
Calendar	15



OCTOBER



10/1 - Sherry Middleton, Gary Crow

10/2 - Mary Beth Novy

10/3 - Linda Zager, Ann Edmonds,
Dan Fuson, Matei Ciucu

10/4 - Judy Fulford

10/5 - Karen Watts

10/6 - Aidan Johnson

10/7 - Drew Barlow, Isabel Schneider

10/10 - Peg Creech, Enid Richards,
Sarah McKenney

10/11 - Michael Donovan

10/13 - Mary Bohenkamp

10/14 - Sandra Canizares, Nancy Nelson,
Elaine Schenck, George Strycker

10/16 - Rich Van Doren

10/17 - Paul Rothrock

10/18 - Spencer Varner

10/19 - Daniel Watts

10/20 - Leah Johnson

10/23 - Boyd Hahn, Linda Potter

10/25 - Isabelle Rauh

10/27 - Sophie Giedroc

10/28 - Elias Bobo

10/29 - Judy Holy, Nick Blackwell

10/30- Ava Mitchell, Gabriel Mitchell

10/31 -Jim Ernest

New Prayer Gatherings!

*I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.*

- Psalm 17:6 NRSV

Thursday, October 1 @ 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Thursday, October 15 @ 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

All are invited to join Sherry Knighton-Schwandt and Pastor Kelley for a time of corporate prayer. We will gather on Zoom, establish a few simple ground rules, immerse ourselves in Scripture and begin a journey of prayer for our community and world.

Feel free to bring scriptures or prayers to share during our time together. We hope this will be a powerful time of gathering together, of sharing what is on our hearts and minds with God, and of upholding our world in prayer.

For the link to either session, please contact Sherry or Kelley at the information below:

Sherry – sks@indiana.edu

Kelley – kelley@fpcbloomington.org



Adult Education in October

One of the best ways to maintain your connection with the Church and with other FPC members during this time is by attending exciting adult education programs. During October, these opportunities are available.

Lectionary Bible Study: New Day, New Time

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. The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm through Zoom.

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

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

Meeting ID: 828 2069 2230

Passcode: 082786

The Friday announcements will include material for each week's class.

Aging: Its Opportunities, Challenges and Concerns for our Congregation—Oct 1 at 7:30pm.

Aging brings challenges, opportunities, and concerns for not only those who have reached older adulthood but for caregivers and children. This session introduces some of these features facing our society, community, and congregation from the perspective of those ministering and caring for older adults. Rev. Wendy VanderZee and Mary Beth Novy will lead our Zoom discussion. After working with Hospice for over 28 years, Wendy brings to the table questions and concerns of persons and families confronting the issues of older adulthood. Mary Beth has been a part of FPC since 1993 and became particularly involved in caring for her parents when they settled here after her dad's stroke ten years ago. The session will meet by Zoom on Thursday, October 1 at 7:30pm. The Zoom link will be provided in the Friday announcements.

Election: Plan Your Vote —October 15 at 7:30pm

We plan two Faith Forum sessions related to the election, much as we had two years ago, but held virtually on Zoom this time. Bill McGregor will lead the sessions with professionals sharing their views. Note: Details are still in development. The Zoom link will be provided in the Friday announcements before the sessions.

(1) Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:30 pm, on Zoom: "Plan Your Vote." The session will include presentations from experts, including George Hegeman from the League of Women Voters, and Russ Hanson, political scientist, who will focus on election topics, such as voter suppression.

(2) Thursday, Nov. 18, 7:30 pm, on Zoom: "What we did to ourselves." Discussion with experts. It will no doubt be complicated.

The Lure of Genetic Technology and its Implications—Part 1—October 18 at 7:30pm

Genetic technology has changed our world and continues to do so, whether we like it or not. Access to our DNA and information about it has become widely available, leading to potentially embarrassing discoveries. Genetic engineering to cure inherited diseases like cystic fibrosis or haemophilia may allow us to “play God” before a child is born. Join with us to discuss case studies involving life and death decisions that have no easy answers from a Christian perspective. The session will be led by Karen Bush and Dan Watts and will be held by zoom on Sunday, October 18 at 7:30pm. The Zoom link will be provided in the Friday announcements.

PC(USA) General Assembly report—October 28 at 7:30pm

Each two years as part of the connected nature of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a General Assembly is held to make decisions that affect our lives as a community of faith. This year was unlike any other by virtue of the GA being held via Zoom. Elder Mary McClellan and the Rev. Felipe Martinez served as commissioners. Susan McGhee, our Presbytery Executive, participates as well. Susan and Mary will share their reflections on this year’s assembly and answer your questions. The session will occur on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 PM via zoom. Watch the Friday announcements before October 28 for the Zoom link.



Area 10 Food Drive

Our annual Area 10 food drive will be on October 18th. Due to the virus, we are asking you to donate to the food drive by writing a check instead of donating food. This helps Area 10 to use the cash to purchase the food items that are particularly in need.

Please write your check payable to FPC. Write in the memo line Area 10 food drive and mail the check to the church to the attention of Mary McClellan.

When considering your gift, think about how much you would have spent on the food you donated in past years. Our congregation has been very generous in the past. The dollar value of the food given usually ranged from \$400 to \$500.

Your generous contributions are very much appreciated by the Outreach committee and Area 10. We adopted Area 10 as a major mission project fifteen years ago. We deliver the food purchased with your donations to the Area 10 seniors in need,

The Outreach committee.



HISTORY OF FPC AND AREA 10 AGENCY ON AGING

In 2020 we celebrate the 15th year of the relationship between our two organizations. We have helped Area 10 and the low income and homebound seniors that they serve by delivering groceries to them once a month. Each person receives two bags full of groceries.

In 2005 FPC was doing a church wide study under the supervision of Interim Pastor Gavin Meek. One of the outcomes of this study was to identify a local mission project to be a major focus for our mission work. A committee was organized to find and recommend a community nonprofit with whom we could partner. After a thorough study the committee recommended to the congregation the Area 10 food project for low income and homebound seniors. A now 15-year relationship was created.

Our work involves meeting on the last Wednesday of the month to fill the grocery sacks to be taken to the seniors. Today we fill approximately 100 bags each month. On Wednesday and Thursday, we deliver the groceries to the seniors in their homes. Currently we deliver 9 routes each month. Each route has from 5 to 9 clients. We have 18 members who are active each month and 6 or so who are substitutes.

During the course of the year our 9 routes deliver around 1300 bags of groceries to these seniors. Over 15 years, that would be over 19,000 bags!

We can celebrate the good work of a lot of our members who have done this work over the 15 years.

Enjoy some memorable pictures from over the years.

Thanks to all who have helped the Area 10 seniors who need us.



**A whole crew of FPC volunteers inside the Girls Inc. location,
including original coordinators
Jim Rusie and Lou Moir - plus Lou's helpers, husband Denny Moir and
grandchildren**



Mary & Ron Jensen - 2006



Doug & Sandra Tracy pass the leadership torch to Gail Dunning (and Allan Edmonds)



Nicholas Swank helping breakdown boxes - 2007



Jim Rusie & Gail Dunning helping bag groceries -2019- These two have been involved since FPC began this Outreach project!

DRIVE THROUGH COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, & TEA – October 4, 2020

11:30-12:00, after the live-stream worship service

Help support small farmers and our mission work in Posoltega, Nicaragua, by purchasing Equal Exchange fairly-traded items via pick-up or delivery.

And if you feel like visiting with others, please bring a lawn chair, wear a mask, and stay a while in the parking lot, as we did in September.

1. Please order ahead of time.

Email debbiconkle@gmail.com or call 812-333-1712.

2. Write checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, with “Coffee” on memo line, or have exact change.



Photo taken during FPC's 2015 Mission Trip to Posoltega

3. Drive through the church parking lot between 11:30 – 12:00 noon, on Sunday, **October 4**. There will be no direct hand-to-hand transactions.

4. If you prefer to have a delivery to your home, please contact Debbi Conkle.

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 \$4: Panama Extra Dark (80%), Very Dark Chocolate (71%), Dark Chocolate w/ mint crunch (67%), 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 Baking Cocoa Mix (8 oz.)

The profits will go toward FPC's mission in Posoltega, Nicaragua. Thank you!

FPC Provides New Windows for Posoltega Church

Due to Covid-19, we could not complete our 2020 mission trip to Posoltega, Nicaragua. But our mission continues from a distance. Most recently, using funds that we would have used for trip projects, we sent \$2,100 to our impoverished sister church, the Jesus of Nazareth Parish, to pay for seven large wooden windows for the parish's colonial building.



These beautiful windows will provide the church with much-needed security and also will preserve the building's interior from dust, rain, and pigeon damage. Notably, they will help protect FPC's earlier investments in the Posoltega church, including especially new pews that were purchased a few years ago with \$10,000 in FPC capital campaign funds.



On behalf of the Posoltega parish, Padre Gabriel Pallavicini expressed deep gratitude for our support. He added that "we remain united in prayer" and said that he and his parishioners were praying for us as "beloved brothers and sisters in faith," asking that God bless and protect us during these difficult times.

Peace and Global Witness



Please join us in contributing to PCUSA's Special Offering for Peace & Global Witness on Sunday, October 4, also World Communion Sunday. One of three special offerings in which we participate each year, it gives our congregation the opportunity to give together with other Presbyterian Churches so that we can have a larger, deeper impact on the world.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community, and across boundaries.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. The Outreach Committee has chosen to support the work of Wheeler Mission as they help people experiencing homelessness in the Bloomington area with housing, food, and support.

25% of this Offering will go to our presbytery and synod to support peacemaking work in our region. 50% of the Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Please consider giving generously to this Special Offering,
Sunday, October 4.**

You can contribute by mailing checks to First Presbyterian Church, 221 E. 6th St., Bloomington, IN 47408. Please write PEACE on the memo line. Or you can contribute online by going to the church website: <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/> Click on the Giving tab, then on the green "Give Now" button that will allow you to set up your donation. Please include in the Notes section that this is for the PEACE offering.

Thank you for sharing Christ's peace with others!

Oct 2020 - Take Time to Smell the Roses by Pat Stackhouse



Spring has passed, summer is gone and now Fall is in the air.
I am in the habit of looking out my back window that faces some trees.
Gazing out the window,
I look at the trees that are now donning their lovely fall colors. This may seem like a waste of time to some, but not to me.
I feel the need to sometimes relax and feel peace somewhere.

We rush through life, often failing to notice the little things in life and the beauty in them. How often do we notice the little squirrels scampering about, hiding nuts for the winter? Also, have you 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 beautiful roses from a friend. I stopped by them, at first forgetting to smell them, so I decided to stop and smell their lovely scent. I'm glad I did.

Many of you grow flowers. I am not so fortunate to have a green thumb. I hope you took time to smell the flowers you so carefully tended.

We fail to notice the little things as well as the scenery we pay for faraway places.

People are in the habit of saying they are busy when you ask them how they are. Just once I was happy to hear something different. My brother, a minister most of his adult life, said when I asked him how he was, answered, "Enjoying life." He lives on a lake. He said, "Oh I'm doing a little fishing." He had found the key to peace.

May you all enjoy the beautiful fall weather with all its blessings. Praise God, He's done it again.

Our Global Extinction Crisis By Norm Holy and Allan Edmonds

Our planet now faces a global extinction crisis never before witnessed by humankind. Scientists say that more than 1 million species appear to be on track for extinction in the coming decades.

Scientists have recently estimated that there are all together around 8.7 million species on Earth. Of those around 1 to 2 million of those species are animals.

But there's still time to halt this crisis. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, we need bold, life-changing initiatives, including a call for a \$100-billion investment in endangered species and the creation of 500 new national parks, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries.

All the taxonomic groups of animals — fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, as well as invertebrates — are in decline. Here is what the Center for Biological Diversity says about mammals:

“Perhaps one of the most striking elements of the present extinction crisis is the fact that the majority of our closest relatives — the primates — are severely endangered. About 90 percent of primates — the group that contains monkeys, lemurs, lorids, galagos, tarsiers, and apes — live in tropical forests, which are fast disappearing. The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates that almost 50 percent of the world's primate species are at risk of extinction. Overall, they estimate that half the globe's 5,491 known mammals are declining in population and a fifth are clearly at risk of disappearing forever with no less than 1,131 mammals across the globe classified as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable. In addition to primates, marine mammals — including several species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises — are among those mammals slipping most quickly toward extinction.”

Explore the website of the Center for Biological Diversity and especially their page on the Extinction Crisis at https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/ to read more about the issues involved and more about their plan for confronting this emergency.



Report of the Treasurer

August 31, 2020

General Fund

Balance on Hand January 1, 2020

\$26,524.25

Income

Prepaid pledges for 2021

Current pledges and contributions of record

269,879.35

Future pledges and contributions of record

Prior pledges

400.00

Plate Offering

1,076.00

Building Use Income

2,890.00

Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers

74,524.80

Bank Interest

5.40

Ledger entries

Total Receipts

348,775.55

Disbursements

Payroll

(201,670.07)

Non-payroll GF

(89,262.62)

Other GF Checks/Disb (includes fund transfers, non budgeted items)

(75,772.71)

Total Disbursements

(366,705.40)

Balance on Hand August 31, 2020

\$8,594.40

Special Funds, Balance on Hand August 31, 2020

\$51,098.77

Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand August 31, 2020

\$ 83,366.59

Reserve Fund August 31, 2020

\$ 54,379.63

Campaign Fund August 31, 2020

\$ 69,656.34

Campaign Fund Mortgage Balance (monthly payments: 4,934.50,)

\$ (242,639.90)

4.97%

Parking Lot Fund August 31, 2020

\$ 53,362.39

Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,413.99)

\$ (220,882.67)

2.75

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)

\$ 10,296.55

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)

\$ 30,889.72

IUCU CD (13 month APY: 1.5%)

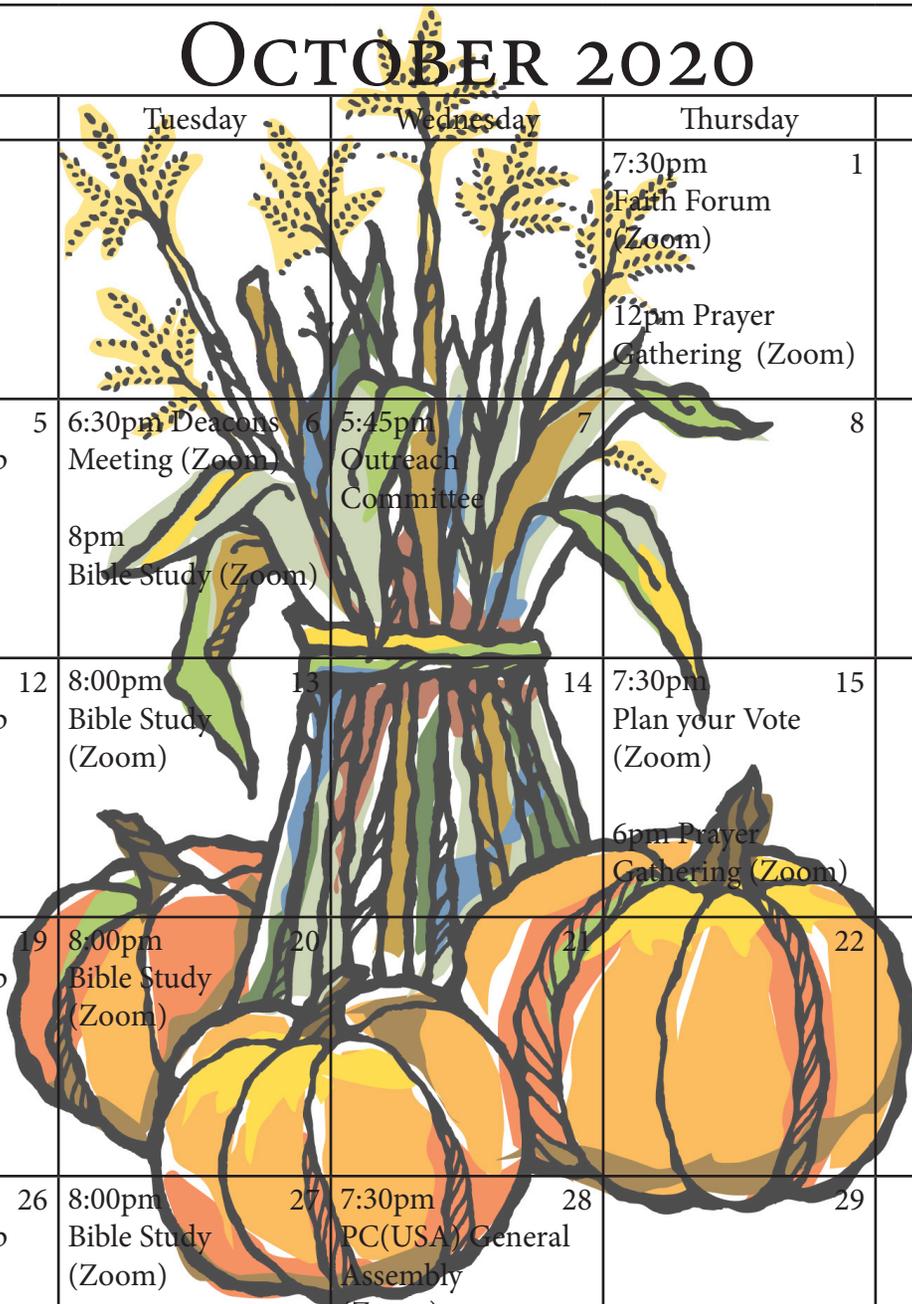
\$ 50,239.38

Mary C. McClellan

Treasurer

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				7:30pm Faith Forum (Zoom) 1	2	3
11:00am Children's Choir (Zoom) 4	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 5	6:30pm Deacons Meeting (Zoom) 6 8pm Bible Study (Zoom)	5:45pm Outreach Committee 7	8	9	10
11:00am Children's Choir (Zoom) 11	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 12	8:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 13	14	7:30pm Plan your Vote (Zoom) 15 6pm Prayer Gathering (Zoom)	16	17
11:00am Children's Choir (Zoom) 18	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 19	8:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 20	21	22	23	24
11:00am Children's Choir (Zoom) 25	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 26	8:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 27	7:30pm PC(USA) General Assembly (Zoom) 28	29	30	31



OCTOBER

Halloween