

First Presbyterian Church
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First Press

Celebrating Christ and Serving Community

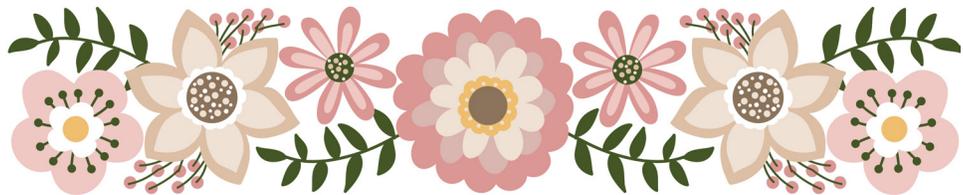
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4/1 - Philip Blackwell
4/2 - Mary Lou Novy
4/5 - Zoe Rauh
4/9 - Bob Wingard, Mary Williams
4/10 - Norma Miller
4/16 - Vivian Harriss
4/17 - Sharon Ackerman, Kathy Hollinger,
Kevin Potter, Stephanie Kingsley Riggle
4/19 - Penelope Bobo
4/21 - Richard Nazzari
4/22 - Beth Burcham
4/24 - Karon Wingard, David Ciucu
4/26 - Anne Honeycutt
4/28 - John VanderZee
4/30 - Virginia Baude



Dear Faith and Film friends

If you have received Andy's most recent e-mail, you know that there will be no face-to-face worship services or meetings for the next 8 weeks. This means that Faith and Film will not be able to meet as scheduled until June 7th.

We hope that each of you are staying safe and healthy. We miss all of you, and look forward to seeing you then.

Transitional Associate Pastor Nomination Committee (TAPNC) Update

As of mid-March, the TAPNC actively continues the search for our transitional associate pastor. We continue to conduct interviews by phone and in person and are very excited by several of the candidates we are getting to know. In addition, we recently received several new applications from people who also look interesting.

We hope to bring a recommendation to session fairly soon. Please continue to keep this search in your prayers, particularly the individuals who at this point are discerning whether they are being called to FPC.

Adult Education Opportunities for April

A reminder that the On-Line Lectionary gathering will happen on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. during this time. This will take place on Zoom.

Zoom link: <http://zoom.us/j/925446899>

Gary Crowe is moderating/leading this event.

Please be in touch with him with any questions. gcrow@indiana.edu

An Important Note from Our Treasurer, Mary McClellan

For the moment we have chosen to safeguard the physical health of our community by practicing social distancing. This physical separation is necessary for all of us. However, this does not separate us from our obligations as a Christian community. We don't know how long we will need to distance ourselves physically from each other, but we do know that we cannot distance ourselves from the ongoing expenses of First Presbyterian Church. You can contribute by mailing your checks directly to the church or you can make a contribution online. To do that go to the church website: <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/>. Once there click on the Giving tab, then click on green Give Now button that will take you to a screen that will allow you set up your donation. If you have questions, you may email me at:

mary@fpcbloomington.org or you may call and leave a message for me at 812-332-1514. Together we can ensure our individual health without compromising our sustainability.

Help Wanted

The Property Committee is looking for a few able-bodied men or women to volunteer to cut the grass at the church this summer. Volunteers will cut the grass on a monthly rotating schedule. For example, two people will sign up each month, one being the primary volunteer and the other the backup in the event the primary person is unable to do it when it's time. We are trying to get enough people to sign up so a volunteer only has to be the primary lawn mower for one month during the summer. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for each month starting in April and ending in October. The church has a very good push power mower and a battery powered trimmer that you can use or you may use your own equipment. It takes about 90 minutes to cut the grass with the church's mower.



If you need additional information, please contact Tom Dillon at H - 812-824-1692 or C – 812-345-6886 or judytomdillon@aol.com.

April 2020 - Here I Am by Pat Stackhouse

The Coronavirus has affected most of us in one way or another. But we all must admit it strikes a note of fear in most all of us. The following story was of some comfort to me and I hope it will be to you. By the way it is a true story.

A friend was caring for her elderly grandfather, as she did on a regular basis. She often came from her home to her grandfather's home to help care for him day and night.

She shuffled this between caring for her own family. She cooked for her grandfather, read to him and in general cared for his needs. She knew her grandfather was grateful, but she expected no praises. She did it because she wanted to.

Then one day her grandfather told her just how much he appreciated everything she did for him. Sometimes he said he got up in the middle of the night. He didn't know what time it was. He got confused and didn't know where he was. He called out saying, "Is anybody there?" He heard a voice saying, "Here I am," and he knew his granddaughter was on the job taking care of him. His granddaughter said this show of appreciation choked her up.

Isn't this like God? When we are out there, in need, we often say or feel like saying, "Is anybody there?" And Jesus will answer, "Here I am." How fortunate we are to have a God who gives us this assurance? Praise God and bless His Holy name.



Additional giving opportunities

The Outreach Committee agrees, First Presbyterian Church needs to remain strong if we are to help others. Please continue to support our church - our staff, our place of worship, our connection to each other and to God as we grow in faith. This is first and foremost, especially during this difficult time. At the same time, the Outreach Committee wants to bring to your attention two opportunities to help others which occur every year at this time (albeit maybe never before in the time of a national emergency). For those who would be burdened by giving even more, we understand, but we wanted to let you know of the following items in case you wish to support them.

Monroe County United Ministries Spring (Food) Drive

The Outreach Committee watches over our large wooden food collection box, and the box has recently returned to the narthex! Several times each month, Ann and Steve Schechter, collect the food and deliver it to the MCUM food pantry. Thank you for your donations – 485 lbs. already this year!

However, in the spring and fall of each year, MCUM hosts large food drives to raise food reserves and funds for their food pantry. The current drive, called the Hunger Games, is going on now through April 30. Unfortunately, during this time of COVID-19, everyone needs to be cautious of multiple interactions, and so they are asking that congregations make financial donations rather than food donations. If you are interested in helping, please consider giving a financial donation in place of the food you would have purchased. Also, as MCUM clients experience layoffs and job loss due to COVID-19 business closings, the need for food is higher than ever, so if possible, please consider giving a bit more than the value of the food you would have donated. You may write a check to First Presbyterian Church with MCUM on the memo line. Thank you.

Easter Time—Time for One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Presbyterians have been giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) since it started in 1947. At FPC our custom has been to receive the special offering during the Easter Season. We have had fish banks for Sunday School students, posters on the bulletin boards, inserts in the bulletins, minutes for mission, special envelopes in the pew racks, and announcement from the pulpit.

This year, we have given out fish banks, but much of the rest will be complicated or not easily possible. That does not mean that the needs supported by OGHS have gone away. Indeed, they likely will increase.

One Great Hour of Sharing funds support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Assistance (PDA) of the Church, the Presbyterian programs for Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The contributions to OGHS from First Presbyterian Church are joined with those of the other Presbyterian Churches to provide support for affected communities when a natural disaster strikes such as a flood or a hurricane. Many agencies show up right after the disaster occurs, the Presbyterians are known to stay afterward to continue to help the affected people rebuild their houses and to get permanently back on their feet.

The Self Development of People program works to help low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2018, projects focused on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues and capacity building. Over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception. Last year there were projects nearby to Bloomington in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and eliminate root causes. In 2018 the program supported 113 grant partners, with \$925,960 in grants, to making an impact in the United States and 20 other countries. In addition to grant partners, the program works with 20 presbytery Hunger Action Advocates, 116 Hunger Action Congregations, and 213 Earth Care Congregations. Among many accomplishments in 2018, nearly one million lbs. of fresh produce was grown and prepared by five U.S. grant partners and 329 farms and gardens provided healthy food to families in need.

The reasons to support One Great Hour of Sharing are compelling. With the current strain on national and local resources to respond to people's needs and with predictable economic impacts from a series of business suspensions the need for the services funded by One Great Hour of Sharing will only increase.

We are asking you therefore to consider a monetary gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, and if possible to increase the amount of the gift from previous years. Certainly, an increase is not possible for all people, but if it is an option, we ask that you prayerfully consider the possibility.

Although the One Great Hour of Sharing gifts have traditionally been received on Palm Sunday and Easter, our ability to do that this year during a worship service is uncertain. We are asking therefore that you send a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "One Great Hour of Sharing" or "OGHS" in the memo line.

The check can be sent alone or with your regular offering to the church to: First Presbyterian Church; Mary McClellan, Treasurer; 221 E. Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408.

If you prefer on-line giving, that is also possible. To do that go to the church website:

<https://www.fpcbloomington.org/>. Once there click on the Giving tab, then click on green Give Now button that will take you to a screen that will allow you set up your donation. For special contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing, designate your gift for the General Fund and then contact Mary McClellan to inform her of the amount that you have contributed to the Special Offering. If you have questions, you may email her at: mary@fpcbloomington.org or you may call and leave a message for her at 812-332-1514.

Thank you for your continuing support of First Presbyterian Church and the impacts the church has in Bloomington and throughout the world.





All FPC's regular activities are cancelled until further notice, so we are not including a Calendar of Activities for April 2020.



