



FIRST PRES. PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2013

LAUNCHING INTO FALL

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After the relative quiet of summertime, fall usually descends upon us like a raging storm of activities and "things-to-do." Instead of being swept away by the business of our schedules, and carried wherever the winds of the mighty "to-do list" take us, we instead want to launch ourselves in a purposeful direction: a direction for God. This fall, as we conclude our *Voyages of Faith* sermon series, take some time to reflect on how we could change priorities in order to put God in charge of our boat. Even though our boat might feel tossed about in the midst of everything we feel we need to accomplish, try putting God in charge and see what happens: you might find that the waters quickly calm down.

In order to facilitate our launch into fall, we have a launch event planned for September 8. The worship service that day will be a joint venture at 10:00am, with elements both traditional and contemporary that celebrate the rich ministries that exist through our church family. After the service, we will head over to Forest Lake for a potluck lunch at 12:15pm and water activities featuring cardboard and duct tape boat building, races, swimming, a "walking-on-water" contest, and more. We will also launch the Family Ministry boat that was built this summer. We hope you can join us!

-Nathan Jacobs



Jeremy Finn directs construction during Family Ministry boat building

SAVE THE DATE:

- Fall Launch Sunday is September 8
- Children's Ministry Kick-off and Family Day is September 15
- Flood Relief Celebration is September 15, 3pm-5pm at Home Depot
- Peacemaking Sunday is September 22

ENCOURAGE OUR COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Please consider taking a moment out of your busy schedule this fall and writing a letter of encouragement to our incoming college freshmen. They will be facing a lot of new pressures and challenges as they transition to new places and cultures, so any support and love you can give would be appreciated.

- Andrew Jenkins**
740 Nathaniel Rochester Hall
Rochester, NY 14623
- Laura McKeown**
Box 8003
Lafayette College
111 Quad Dr.
Easton, PA 18042

- Eli Simeon**
FSU Brophy Hall #105
1502 Knollview Dr.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
- Charlotte Wade**
Robertson Hall
Cottey College
1000 West Austin Blvd.
Nevada, MO 64772



Dear Friends,

It's only the ninth month of 2013, but we still look at September as the beginning of a new year. And there is a great deal of exciting "newness" as we move into this new school year!

As we write this page, moms and dads are helping their first-year college students load up the car, move onto campus, and begin freshman orientation.

** Pray for Andrew Jenkins, Laura McKeown, Eli Simeon, Charlotte Wade and all of their parents in this new stage of life. Pray for the young adults in our midst- whether they are in school, working, or trying to figure out what's next in their lives.

The transition in our front office is going well- thanks to the competence of both Janet Frederick, who is retiring, and Nathan Jacobs, who has become our Office and I.T. Manager.

** Pray for the ministry that happens in and through our front office as people are welcomed, needs are met, and office/technology support is provided for all that happens in and through FPC.

We have welcomed Ronne Sisco as our new Director of Education of the Nursery School. Her first few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, which she has met head-on with energy, warmth, and vision.

** Pray for the staff, children and families of our nursery school. Be open to how God might use you to reach out to these families in our community.

On Sunday, September 8, we will officially "launch" into fall with a celebration that includes a joint service, shared meal, and water/boat activities at Forest Lake.

** Pray that those who lead and volunteer in the many ministries of FPC will start up with renewed energy and vision, and that what is said and done within this faith community will bring honor to God and people into God's kingdom.

On Sunday, September 15, Sunday morning discipleship opportunities begin again. The Children's Ministry will kick off with a Family Day from 10:30- 11:45 am. Parents, you know what that means... you are encouraged to come with your children that day. Be sure to see the new look and theme downstairs!

That same afternoon, from 3-5 pm, we will celebrate 100 houses repaired/rebuilt and "the end in sight" following the flood of September, 2011. Faith Partners in Recovery is hosting the celebration in the parking lot of the Johnson City Home Depot. There will be food, music, presentations, fellowship and media coverage for this witness of the Body of Christ caring for the community around us.

*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

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

Since this is my first entry into FPP, I'd like to take just a moment to say thank you. I've gotten to know many of you over the last nine months and you have welcomed me with open arms. Since I began here in January, you have entrusted me with helping lead your worship, both through music and preaching, and now as the Office/Information Technology Manager. These

are important tasks and I'm honored by your faith in me and in my wife.

It has truly been a time of change in the staff here at FPC as we also welcome Ronne Sisco to our family as the Nursery School Director of Education. Ronne has a background in both Early Kindergarten and UPK, so she comes to us with both experience and enthusiasm for teaching children.



Help us welcome Ronne Sisco to our staff!

BLESSINGS...

Welcoming Ronne is one of many joys we have had this summer. These last couple of months have seen Jim and Norma Santacrose celebrate 35 years of marriage, while Sandy and Don Tillotson celebrated 61 years, and the Engstrom's 71! While these couples recognized many years of successful marriage, several others began their lives together: Stacey Moynahan and

Tony Paradiso were married on Aug. 24, Andréa Kerr and Aaron Shulski also on Aug. 24, and Jessica Santacrose will marry Eric Small on Sep. 7. We also celebrated several birthdays as Malcolm Bauer was born on June 27, Jamie Jacobs turned 28 on August 27, and Ellie Taylor marked 90 years on August 30. Kristen Shafer and Jim Santacrose both won awards this summer as well. Kristen,

who is studying chemistry at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, won the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education award for its Undergraduate Consortium Leadership Institute. Jim was given an award by the Southern Tier Independence Center. Many of our members spent time traveling for religious reasons this summer:

- Morgan Talley went to Triennium at Purdue
- 14 Kids and 7 youth spent time at Rock Mountain Bible Camp
- Kristin Talley, Sarah Early, and the Flannagans were on mission in the Dominican Republic
- The Devines and Tandis went to Westminster College for a mission conference

...AND STORMS

This summer unfortunately saw too much sadness as well. On July 22, Betty Forman's spirit went home to our Lord at the age of 89; services were held here at FPC. Adele Everett's father, Al Jeffers, also passed away this summer on Aug. 10. Sarah McKeown died in the night on Aug. 17, and a service in witness to her resurrection in Christ was held

on Aug. 21. Carol and Lynn Smith's daughter-in-law, Jen, passed away suddenly the next day on Aug. 18. Finally, on Aug. 24, former member Arthur Brundage laid down to eternal rest after 100 years of life. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Please also keep Grace King, Jean Whittemore, Kim Heinle,

and Dawn Weber in your prayers as they have all faced health concerns this summer. Though these last few months were a rollercoaster of blessings and storms, I continue to be impressed by how this family has praised God through all of it. Amen!

-Nathan Jacobs

Thank You!

- To Melissa from BDA for all her help in flood relief
- To Paul Everett, Nathan Jacobs, Hemant Tandi, and Ed Fiaschi for preaching over the summer
- To everyone who offered their musical gifts to the worship of God in July and August

In July of last year, lightning struck the church and caused extensive damage to the organ. In July of this year, our insurance company agreed to pay the entire cost of the repair: \$50,000!

YOUTHHOUSE

FALL-ING UP EDITION

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION



It has been a priority to improve FPC Youth's communication with families throughout this past year. The main focus of the improvement has been the addition of a weekly FPC Youth email.

I hope the email has been helpful. Our desire for the future is to ensure that the FPC Youth email will be consistently sent out each Monday morning. Expect emails to start up again in September. If you have not received FPC Youth update emails in the past please email me ASAP at: jmfinn@firstpresendicott.org

Another way we desire to connect with you is through the FPC Youth Facebook Group. This group will be updated regularly and will hopefully provide those of you who do less emailing and more "Facebooking" a better channel for receiving important information.

FPC Youth will also refocus its attention on routine parent meetings. We will begin providing quarterly parent meetings throughout the next school year.

**Our first meeting will be:
Sunday, October 6,
12:15-1:00pm @ the yOuthouse**

I appreciate ALL of our families and the effort that they put into their children's spiritual development. Thank you for being there!

PRAISE THE LORD!



FALLing Into Opportunity

Summer has left as swiftly as it arrived! But don't worry, Fall is an exciting time of year. It is a time to reconnect.

FPC YOUTH IS PREPARED TO KICKOFF WITH A BANG!

FPC Youth is revving up this fall, ready to make an impact on families. Our FPC Youth team is excited to reconnect with you. There are some really amazing opportunities for youth and families to plug into this coming year.

SMALL GROUPS BACK IN ACTION

Small groups are back in action beginning Sunday, September 22. Make sure you block out the date. During our exciting kickoff event students will be given our plans

moving into winter (and YES, we will send information home to parents).

BE THE CHURCH BREAKFAST GROUPS ARE BACK IN OCTOBER!

Breakfast groups will begin the first week of October. Make sure to stay tuned to Facebook and your email for all of the details!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

We will officially begin Sunday School Sunday, September 15. We will start things off with an open house at the yOuthouse where Jr. and Sr. Highers and their parents can receive IMPORTANT information about the Sunday School year.

Our studies will begin Sunday, September 22.



SMALL GROUP KICKOFF

Sunday, September 22
6:00-8:00pm
@ The yOuthouse



FLOOD RECOVERY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 15
3:00-5:00pm
@ Home Depot, Johnson City
CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS!



2013 - 2014 Lesson Schedule

- ** September 8 – Boat Launch at Forrest Lake!
- ** September 15 – **FAMILY DAY!** (10:15-11:45am)

- September 22 – Starlight Station Lesson 1 - Joseph's Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)
- September 29 - Starlight Station Lesson 2 - Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 37:18-36)
- October 6 - Starlight Station Lesson 3 - Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 39:1-23)
- October 13 - Starlight Station Lesson 4 - Joseph Interprets Dreams (Genesis 40-41:44)
- October 20 - Starlight Station Lesson 5 - Joseph's in Charge! (Genesis 39:2-6, 21-23, 41:37-57)
- October 27 - Starlight Station Lesson 6 - Judah Takes Responsibility for Benjamin (Genesis 42-44)
- November 3 - Starlight Station Lesson 7 - Joseph Reveals his Identity (Genesis 45:1-15)
- November 10 - Starlight Station Lesson 8 - Jacob Moves to Egypt (Genesis 45:16-47:12)

- ** November 17 – **FAMILY DAY!** – Recap of Joseph's Life
- ** November 24 – **HILLTOP VISIT**

December 1 - **Happy Thanksgiving!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

December 8 - Christmas Lesson 1
** **LOVING HANDS EVENT** @ 4pm

December 15 – Christmas Lesson 2

December 22 – **Merry Christmas!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

December 29 – **Happy New Year!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

SEE and CELEBRATE...

- New Rooms
- '13 Family Challenge
- New Team Members
- Same GREAT BIG GOD!

SEPTEMBER 15



Bring your kids to
check out what's new during our

Family Day

10:15 - 11:30am



From September 2011 to September 2013

400+ homes and businesses pumped out, mucked out, torn out, cleaned out.
100+ homes repaired or rebuilt.

Two Years of Sharing:

Tears and Laughter
Broken Dreams and Restored Dreams
Despair and Hope
Hammer in Hand and Hands joined Together

Volunteers blessing flood survivors.

Flood survivors blessing volunteers.

Blessed to be a blessing...

So that others might come to bless and serve God.



-
- Broome County Council of Churches
 - Broome County Habitat for Humanity
 - First Presbyterian Church of Endicott
 - First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City
 - First Congregational Church of Binghamton
 - United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
 - Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM)
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
 - United Church of Christ Disaster Response
-

YOU ARE INVITED

TO A CELEBRATION FOR FLOOD SURVIVORS AND VOLUNTEERS
WHO HAVE WORKED SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH FAITH PARTNERS IN RECOVERY.

WHEN: Sunday, **September 15, 2013** from **3-5 pm**

WHERE: The Parking Lot of the HOME DEPOT in Johnson City

FOOD (Pig Roast) & FELLOWSHIP
MUSIC (FPC Endicott Worship Team)
TESTIMONIES

To help us plan, please RSVP to Info@FaithPartnersInRecovery.org or 748-1545 by Sept 8.

Transitions

I can't retire without saying "thank you" for what has been the most rewarding work experience of my professional career. Thanks to each of you, the members of this congregation, for the privilege I've had to interact with you, in many different capacities. The variety of experiences I've had always made the job interesting, and your kindness and support made it very gratifying. I also want to thank the staff that I have worked with. We, as a congregation are blessed to have the quality of personnel we do, each of whom is completely dedicated to the mission of 1st Pres. and to serving God. I especially want to thank Jan and Tim for the opportunities they have given me to grow professionally and spiritually in the position of Office Manager and for their leadership and friendship.

I leave the front office in the very capable and much more technologically-savvy hands of Nathan Jacobs. If you didn't know it before, you will soon realize that Nathan is multi-talented. We first met Nathan and his lovely and talented wife, Jamie, when they assumed the position of worship team leaders for the 9:09 service. Nathan also uses his musical gifts singing in the well-known local band Brotherhood. His college training was at Binghamton University, in both technology and English, and he opted to begin a career teaching English, most recently at Seton Catholic High School. However, the opening for the position of Office Manger at First Pres. came at a time when he was considering a career change and so the "conversation" began. We interviewed Nathan, along with several other candidates, and were impressed with his strong writing skills as well as the potential for utilizing his technology skills. For some time, the staff and leadership of First Pres. have felt a real need for someone to take charge of our current technology capabilities, but also to take us to the next level. I am confident that as a congregation, we and Nathan will be blessed by the opportunity to serve together doing God's work.

Peace & Blessings,
Janet Frederick

Calling All Voices!

Over the busy months of summer, plans have been taking shape for yet another vibrant year of choral praises at FPC. This is the perfect opportunity for me to extend a warm welcome to all singers who would like to become members of our Chancel Choir. If you read music and love to sing, we have a place for you in our choir.

Our choral library has been expanding over the summer months with many new anthems; some with lush harmonies, some upbeat and soulfully energetic, some late Renaissance and early Baroque, some quietly thoughtful and reflective, and yes, several that will have the congregation tapping their toes to the music.

If you would like to sing in our choir, this is the perfect time for you to join us. Our fall rehearsal schedule will begin with a Pot Luck Dinner on Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Our first rehearsal will commence immediately following dinner.

Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday evening in our choir room at 7:00 pm sharp. I'm looking forward to a spiritually rewarding year for all of us, so let our praises to God begin anew as we start our fall choral season.

Musically yours in Christ,
Larry Hoey

Don't Do Dunkin

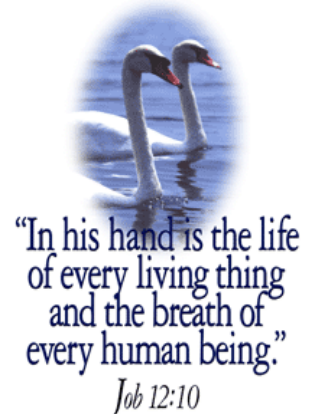
Last year the Don't Do Dunkin' class studied *The Story* where we learned how God's upper story has shaped the lives and actions of people in the Bible. This year we are looking at studying one or two books by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend who provide practical and biblically-based insights on daily living that may help us to let God's light shine forth to others and improve our day-to-day relationships. Please feel free to join us Sunday mornings. The class will meet at 10:45 AM in the Library during the Children's Ministry time. All are welcome to join us as we continue to develop and grow along our faith journey.

-David Jenkins and Larry Pierce

Our lives are truly in God's hand, but do we believe this? Too often we want to believe we are in control, but in reality, as many of us found out this summer, life as we know it can change in an instant. If that were to happen, would you have been using your life the way God would desire?

The scripture below from Isaiah 30:9–11 (NLT) relates to a society that really isn't any different than the one we live in today. It takes guts and courage to be true to our faith and share with others our hope in a God who saves and rescues us from ourselves.

These people are stubborn rebels
who refuse to pay attention
to the LORD's instructions.
They tell the seers, *'Stop seeing visions!'*
They tell the prophets,
*'Don't tell us what is right.
Tell us nice things. Tell us lies.
Forget all this gloom.
Get off your narrow path.
Stop telling us about your
'Holy One of Israel.'*



One of the impressions I came away with from the celebration of Sarah McKeown's life was that she didn't bow to society and conform to what people wanted to hear. She was honest about her faith with others. After the service, someone shared with me that they wished they had gotten to know Sarah better, and Tim had an interesting insight as to why that might not have happened. He said that many of us don't live in community with each other the way Sarah had at camp or during the internship she had this summer. When you share your life with someone else on a daily basis: eating, doing devotions together, sharing life - the good and the bad- you get to know each other on a much more intimate basis.

Which finally gets me to my connecting thought for the month. Who are you in community with? Are you willing to get to know someone on such a level that you are able to support each other to live life the way God intended? Do we know what God instructs us to do, and are we willing to share that with a world that typically doesn't want to hear that there are boundaries in our lives? Take time this month to connect with others and gain the courage necessary to share Christ's love and salvation with others!

Life is Precious....

Life is Fragile

Are You Living as Though You Believe This?

Spotlight on the Staff



The Personnel Committee is going to start writing an article for the church newsletter about a different staff member each month. It is very appropriate that we begin with Janet Frederick as she transitions to retirement. (The only way this article got into the newsletter is because Janet is no longer the newsletter editor!)

Janet has been such a presence as Office Manager for the past 5+ years that you may not remember or know the other hats Janet has worn as part of the FPC staff. From January, 2001 to December, 2002, Janet served in the temporary shared position of FPC Christian Education Director/N.S. Director. During those two years, she worked hard to renew and strengthen the partnership between the church and nursery school. Janet served as church secretary under Betty Rando from July, 2006 to April, 2007, and then became the Office Manager upon Betty's retirement.

Janet has modeled the title of "Servant-Leader"-quietly serving behind the scenes when needed and on the front line leading when needed; she has worked behind the desk doing administrative and organizational tasks and among the people relating and connecting.

On Sunday, September 15, we will have a chance to formally recognize Janet's service. For now, we end the article the same way she began hers ("Transitions," page 7):

You can't retire without letting us say 'thank you'!"

Session Update

Before taking a short break for the summer, Session met to take care of some outstanding business and to act upon some items needing attention before fall.

- Elders approved a request by the pastors to take study leave in July to attend the New Wilmington Missionary Conference and in September to attend the Conference of the Presbyterian Mission Family.
- On behalf of the Membership Committee, Janet Cook said that Pamela Hunsinger has requested to have her name removed from the active membership role. The motion to grant this request was approved.
- Elder David Jenkins, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that his committee members have been meeting regularly and contacting possible candidates for open positions.
- After conferring with our insurance company, the staff developed a policy on Guidelines for Volunteers Working with Children and Youth; Session voted to approve the guidelines as presented.
- Following a recommendation from the Mission and Stewardship Committee, elders voted to ask Rev. Cris Mogenson from Broome County Jail Ministry to be our Peacemaking Sunday speaker on September 22.
- In order to accommodate plans for our Fall Launch, Session approved a plan from the Worship Committee to hold only one service at 10:00 am on September 8 in order to allow time for afternoon activities at a nearby lake.
- Based on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Session voted to appoint Nathan Jacobs as the Office/Information Technology Manager and to appoint Jamie Jacobs as the paid employee of the Worship Team co-leadership, with Nathan Jacobs as the volunteer member.

Janet Frederick
Clerk of Session

THIS MONTH'S OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

Each month, we take a moment to acknowledge our over 80 members that have birthdays in the upcoming month. Consider dropping a note, writing a card, or giving a phone call to help celebrate life with these friends.

September 1

Janet Weber

September 5

William Stuempfle

September 7

Roberta Hunsinger

September 14

John Hinton

September 16

Helen Jephson

September 25

Sandra Tillotson

September 29

Dorothy Melrose

September 30

Winona Norris

Call the FPC office at (607) 748-1544 for contact information for our over 80 members

GO AHEAD AND LAUGH...THEN THINK ABOUT IT



So people in the first world are just a bunch of whiners? Yeah but here's a dose of reality: regardless of which world they belong to, humans are all whiners at heart. Give us the right amount of money and leisure and we'd all start whining about ridiculous things eventually. Every human suffers from a universal condition: being human. We've got issues, whether it is selfishness, unforgiveness, pride, lust... insert your favorite weakness here. What's the cure to a society that is filled with self-centered egoists whose problems are created by luxury? Reminding them how selfish they are and showing them the nobility of people who get the other pair of TOMS thereby shaming them in to better behavior? Nope. I'll leave you with words that are far better than mine:

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" - Romans 7:24-25

Jesus is the only one who can rescue me from the plague of my own selfishness. He is the one who lovingly shows me how ridiculous I am and transforms my heart to be more like his. It's through him that I can laugh at the all-too-real First World Problems that plague my daily existence (THE INTERNET IS SO SLOW!!!!) while waking up to a world that doesn't revolve around my personal comfort.

Even better news? I'm not special. He can do the same thing for you. (Courtesy of www.insertimg.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:09 am 10:45 am 5:00 pm Rev. Hemant Tandil Preaching Worship Service (Contemporary) Worship Service (Traditional) Boat Building	2 7:00 pm Office Closed Relevant Ministries Labor Day	3 12:15 pm Staff Meeting	4 6:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm Men's Group Session Worship Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary	5 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Nursery School Parent Orientation - Sanctuary Chancel Choir Dinner Chancel Choir- Choir Room	6	7
8 10:00 am 12:15 pm Fall Launch Sunday Joint Worship Service Lunch and Water Activities- Forest Lake	9 9:00 am 7:00 pm NS Welcome Refrements in Gathering Area Relevant Ministries	10 9:00 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm NS Welcome Refreshments in Gathering Area Small Group Samaritan Supper Deacons	11 6:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm Patriot Day Men's Group M and S Committee Worship Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary	12 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Mary-El Ringers Chancel Choir- Choir Room	13 6:30 pm NS Ice Cream Social	14
15 9:09 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 3:00 pm FPP Deadline Sunday School Begins Worship Service (Contemporary) Celebration for Janet Frederick Worship Service (Traditional) Flood Relief Celebration- Home Depot parking lot	16 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm NS Parent Council Meeting - Choir Room Personnel Relevant Ministries	17 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:45 pm Small Group Samaritan Supper Small Group Leaders Gathering	18 6:00 am 1:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm Men's Group Women's Circle House Committee Worship Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary	19 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Worship Committee Mary-El Ringers Chancel Choir- Choir Room	20	21 Presbytery- Laurens PC
22 9:09 am 10:45 am Jail Chaplain Preaching Peacemaking Sunday Worship Service (Contemporary) Worship Service (Traditional)	23 12:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Women's Club- Library NS Let's Get Together w/Ms. Terry - Dining Room Relevant Ministries	24 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm Small Group Samaritan Supper Nursery School Board Meeting - Library Nominating Committee- Small Group Room	25 6:00 am 7:00 pm Men's Group Worship Team Rehearsal- Sanctuary	26 9:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Small Group Mary-El Ringers Chancel Choir- Choir Room	27 6:30 pm NS Homecoming Wagon Decorating- Dining Room	28
29 9:09 am 10:45 am Worship Service (Contemporary) Worship Service (Traditional)	30 12:00 pm 7:00 pm Women's Club- Dining Room Relevant Ministries					

VISION STATEMENT

(What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

¹ *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

³ *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

⁴ *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

MISSION STATEMENT

(What God wants us to do)

We believe God wants us to share the life-changing power and love of Jesus Christ in such compelling ways that more people become fully devoted followers of Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

(The reason we exist)

To reach more people and grow together in Christ.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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