

First Press

June 2020—July 2020

First Presbyterian Church

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From the Pastor's Study

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."—Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)

There is an awful lot in this passage for us today. As we find it difficult to come together because of the pandemic, we read Jesus promise that as we go out into the world to tell of the Good News, Jesus is with us always. And yes, we are called to make disciples of all nations. And how do we do that?

I ask because, in these strange days, it is so hard to think about how to do anything, because almost nothing works the way it used

to. People are out of work. Business are closed. People are sick and some are dying. And we don't really have anyone who can tell us when things will be better.

And I have no answers either. But let's at least notice that at a very trying time for Jesus' first disciples, they went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them, and they did this together. They went together.

The future was uncertain and there was much to fear. And they stayed together.

In this time of uncertainty and fear, I don't think I can overemphasize the need for us to stay together. If we have ever needed each other, we need each other now. And when we think about how to be together, there are roadblocks everywhere.

We have to find other ways for us to be together. I am glad that some of us can still get "together" for worship, all in our own homes, via the church's website. But that doesn't include everyone, and this is not a time to leave anybody out.



If you are feeling alone, I hope you will contact me, or an elder or deacon or friend in the church. If you have a few minutes, why not call somebody from the church, who might be wishing for just such a visit?

If we want to stay together, we will have to use our hearts and our imaginations to make it so.

Please do this. Let's make sure we are taking care of each other. If you have questions or ideas, or if you just want to talk, I would welcome a call.

Blessings,
Brian Jones

PW activities were abruptly suspended due to Covid-19. Hopefully, we will be able to start up again in the fall.

Please don't forget the Bakeless Bake Sale we are having for a fundraising project since we were unable to have a luncheon. Checks or cash can be mailed to our treasurer, **Nancy Williams, at 1802 East 3rd Street, Miller, SD 57362.** Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser.



Music Notes

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on April 8th, via Zoom and May 13, socially distant in the Fellowship Hall.

Funerals

Larry Hrdlicka March 17th
committal service May 8th

Madonna Blachford March 24th
committal service May 1st

Leonna Schilling April 11th

When to reopen? Elders have all agreed we need to have "live" capabilities before we reopen our doors and some kind of structure in place to protect all of our congregation. We must continue to be careful and safe. Your welfare is a top priority of ours. Thank you for your patience.

Thanks to those who have agreed to observe the 6' social distance guidance in order to help provide special music for the past 8 weeks, Marilyn dyer, Dawn Haar, Kay Foreman, Susan Jones, Dick Palmer, Jim Jones, Brian Winter and Brian Jones. Rich Waldrop has served us, also, as our sound technician.

It is hard to say when we will all be back together again to sing the songs of the Church, the music of praise to our good God, but we are all looking hopefully to the day that will happen. Perhaps we will all sing like songbirds—with no rehearsal at all—tweet, tweet!

Bell Choir

Our bell choir came to an abrupt end with the Covid-19. We didn't get to perform our last couple of songs like we wanted. Hopefully, we will be able to start up again in the fall. If you have a desire to do bells with us, please let Ray Caffee know — we can always use more ringers!

Christian Education Report

We honored our Christian education leaders on May 3rd.

Christian Education Leaders 2019-2020

Preschool/Kindergarten

Angie and Shaylee Anderberg, Laura Duxbury

Grades 1-2

Kelly and Alexis Johnson, Kelly Wagner

Grades 3-5

Nicole and Evelyn Trefz, Marilyn Dyer

Grades 6-7

Jody Speck, Cecilee Miner

Grade 8

Jennifer Poindexter-Runge

Pete DeGeest

Adult

Janice Palmer, Brian Jones

Opening Exercises and Pianist

Tyann Jones, Susan Jones

Jr. Youth Group

Kevin Hofer, Sarah DeHaai

Sr. Youth Group

Brian and Tyann Jones

Substitutes

Patty Crackel, Dawn Haar,
Chelsea Pugh, Nicole Nelson,
Christina Kruml, Brian Winter

Christmas Program

Kelly Wagner, Laura Duxbury
Brian and Tyann Jones

VBS Planning Committee

Kelly Wagner and Tyann Jones

CE Committee

Kevin Hofer, Tyann Jones,
Stephanie Dietterle, Gayle Vrooman

Thank You!

Thank you all for helping write God's teachings on our hearts!

YOU are APPRECIATED!

"My child keep my words and store up my commandments with you. Keep my commandments and live, keep my teachings as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart."

Proverbs 7: 1-3

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Congratulations to our 2020 high school graduates:

Dayken Nelson

Janelle Kenaston

Kaden Sivertsen



We wish you many blessings as you go forth. Remember you are a beloved child of God.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Kelly Wagner, Angie Anderberg, and Marilyn Dyer for helping with the Sunday school recordings and for all the other behind-the-scene things they did to make it all happen with the recordings and the packet mailings.

A big thank you goes to Sarah Resel, Brian Jones, Stephanie Dietterle, Dee Sivertsen, Rich Waldrop, Janice Palmer, and Patty Crackel for all the help with organizing and presenting information and pictures to honor

our high school graduates.

Thanks, Gayle Vrooman for the extra help with the CE leaders' gifts.

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Children's Sunday School



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Even though Sunday school has concluded until September, be sure to tune into the Sunday morning worship recordings because **there will still be children's messages during worship.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As of right now, VBS has been postponed until **June 2021.**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



Submitted by Tyann Jones

E-Mail Addresses Wanted

Our church would like to have the e-mail addresses of our congregation members and friends. If you could e-mail me at secretary@firstpres.miller.org I can save your address in a folder, or please get them to me in writing if e-mailing is not an option. We are hoping to e-mail as many of the newsletters as we can in order to be more efficient with time and money. Thank you!

Ushers and Greeters Wanted

Our ushers and greeters lists are becoming smaller. We would appreciate anyone interested in ushering or greeting to contact the office. We really appreciate those people who do these services and find that it adds a lot to welcoming people and serving our Church. *Thank you!*



Birthdays in June

2 - Jeff Heasley
 3 - Janice Arbogast
 4 - Lisa Droz
 8 – Haistyn Huss
 9 - Jesse Vrooman
 12- Ian Speck
 13 - Jay Welk
 15 - Chad Selting
 16 -Marilyn Dyer
 17 - Kevin Hofer
 19 - Brian Winter
 Brooks Johnson
 21 - Fern Droz
 22 –Jennifer Templeton
 J.D. Bushfield
 Sena Rombough
 23 - Robin Vrooman
 24 - Jeanette Hastings
 Nikki Heidepriem
 Ivan Caffee
 26 - Jack Snodgrass

Anniversaries in June

1— Randy & Gwen Johnson
 2 - Jeff & Peggy Meyer
 Dennis & Mary
 Ellen Letsche
 3 - Shane & Amy Bertsch
 9 - Larry & Janice Arbogast
 Wayne & Shar Ruhnke
 15 - Steve & Linda Zeigler
 18 - Larry & Suzy Blaseg
 Brian & Tyann Jones
 21 - Charles & Fern Droz
 Bob & Connie Templeton
 Curtis & Kelly Johnson
 23- Will & Brooke Jones
 25 - Jack & Annette Snodgrass

Birthdays in July

4 - Justin Evans
 5 - Julie Taylor
 Curtis Johnson
 7 - Mickael Huss
 Tiffany Huss
 8 - Jean Johnson
 Alice Mareska
 Charles Droz
 9 - Robert Lager
 Mary Ellen Letsche
 10 - Robert Taylor
 11 - Pam Williams
 Warren Skinner
 14 - Joyce Wieland
 Rusty VanDerWerff
 15 - Connie Templeton
 Kay Mentzer
 Aubrey DeHaai
 16 - Naomi Caffee
 18 - Wendy Anderberg
 19 - Ben Moeller
 21 - Bob Templeton
 Jamie Mentzer
 23 - Christina Kruml
 Jennifer Jones
 Steve Zeigler
 27 – Landon Wagner
 29 - Peggy Meyer
 Ryan Fischer
 31 - Todd Lager

Anniversaries in July

19 - Leonard & Beth Fischer
 22 - Loni & Monica Haar
 Bob & Tammie Waldrop
 29 - David & Jean Johnson
 Scott & Holly Kopplin

Greeters for June

June 7: Jeff & Peggy Meyer
 June 14: Patty Crackel
 June 21: Marcy Lander
 June 28: Warren & Carole Skinner

Greeters for July

July 5: Angie Rosemore
 July 12: Wanda Stevens
 July 19: David & Jean Johnson
 July 26: Sue Jones

Ushers for June

Jim Jones, Eli Jones
 Ray & Tammy Caffee

Ushers for July

Susan Jones, Nancy Williams
 Pat Crackel, Angie Rosemore

Deacons for June

Mary Ellen Letsche
 Annette Snodgrass

Deacons for July

Padyn Resel
 Patty Crackel