

First Press

August 2019 - September 2019

First Presbyterian Church

321 West First Avenue

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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

***On the contrary, we believe
that we will be saved through the
grace of the Lord Jesus, just as
they will."***

Acts 15:11(NRSV)

This sentence comes during a discussion that the Apostle Peter was having with some of the other church leaders, wherein he was arguing that anyone—Jew or Gentile—could be a faithful Christian. Some believed one had to be Jewish first, and the disagreement cause no small difficulty in the early days of the Church.

But it is a good thing to remember, even if you are not a part of that early church controversy. And it is good because we so often want to say that

in order to be a Christian, or a believer, or in order to be saved, or in order to be loved by God, we have to do thus and so, or say thus and so, or pray thus and so.

And none of it is true. We are saved by grace—a gift—and nothing more or less. It is always God's act, and not ours.

Still, we Christians do things, don't we? And we believe it matters that we do things. We see ourselves as called to be merciful and forgiving. We believe we are called to serve others. We feel called to gather together to sing and pray and worship God.

But all of the things we do—the things we are called to do and to be in the world—these things are our response to God's grace. We don't carry them out in order to bring about God's goodness to us. We do

them in grateful response to God's already-given grace.

So it was with a mission trip that some of us took earlier this summer, to Belize. I think everyone on that trip would say that whatever good we might have done, it was a gift to us as well.

Likewise with our gathering on Sunday mornings. You may or may not know that sometimes this summer, the congregation has been on the small side. On one hand, that is OK. It works. "Wherever 2 or more are gathered . . ." as Jesus says.

On the other hand, if you are not with us, you are missed. Of course we do not gather so that we can build up some credit with God, and I hope you never come to see church attendance in that way. But we gather to check in with each other, to worship God, to sing, to pray, and to thank God for the blessings of our lives.

As summer begins to wind down, I hope you will find your way to 321 West First Avenue on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Blessings,

Brian Jones

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meeting on
June 12, 2019 at 7pm

Communion

June 2, 2019 (served 60)

Funerals-Memorial & Prayer

Services

Margaret Graham

June 15, 2019

Dorothy Stevens

(103 yrs old)

July 12, 2019



PW Bible Study Groups

Evening Bible Study Group will meet September 18 at 8:00 P.M. at the Church Basement

Morning Bible Study Group will meet September 18 at 9:00 A.M. at the Miller Plaza.

**** Don't forget the Fall Luncheon on Sept. 21—lots of good food and fellowship! ****



The Circle groups are still on summer break. Please consider joining one of the groups next fall when we convene again.

She extends her hand to the poor. Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. Proverbs 31:20 (NKJV)

Thank you to everyone who offered donations of shoes, sandals and children shoes to be taken by the mission group that went to Belize. You certainly extended your hands to the needy.

There were several suitcases packed with shoes. The first batch was the shoes for children delivered to an orphanage. They were so thankful to have them for the kids!!

The next group was taken to the local park and the kids were given the chance to pick out shoes that worked for them. These kids were also just thrilled to receive shoes.

Winter shoes continue to be accepted with plans to distribute them to either

Goodwill or one of the Native American reservations later this fall. The "Soles to Souls" project has been a wonderful success thanks to you!!

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. **1**

Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

The call for volunteers for the work night at the church cleaning had a great turnout with much accomplished. Kitchen cleaned and reorganized, fridge and freezer cleaned, floors and windows scrubbed.....you know, all those projects that need extra efforts every so often – was done in short time by the approximately 16 volunteers that showed up to help. Closing with pizza and fellowship, it was truly a fun night.

Another group that I would like to recognize is each funeral group that is always ready to make food, set up, build sandwiches and serve with a smile. They are truly a blessing to the church and to the families. Thanks so much!

Christian Education

"We love because God first loved us."

First John 4:19

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**It's time to return for
S'More fun at Sunday school!!**



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Schedule for returning to Sunday school: (pending Session approval)

August 25 Rally Day – Come to church and Sunday school. Students will go to opening and then find their classrooms, meet their teachers, and have a shortened lesson. There will be a **potluck dinner** followed by **S'Mores** outside in the parking lot. We will have a fire pit there and all the makings for S'Mores!



Aug. 28 First classes for Gr. 6-8 at 7:00 p.m. There will be 2 7:00 Wed. night classes this year because there are so many students in this age group.

Sept. 1 No Sunday school – Labor Day weekend

Sept. 8 Sunday school resumes

Third Graders get Bibles during worship. **Christian Ed. Leaders will be commissioned** during worship.

This is the breakdown of classes and teachers for this year.

Preschool – kgtn.: Laura Duxbury
Sept. – Dec.
Angie & Shaylee
Anderberg Jan. - May

Gr. 1-3: Kelly Johnson
Alexis Johnson
Kelly Wagner

Gr. 4-5 Nicole Trefz (Sept. – Dec.)
We need a teacher in this class for Jan. – May.

Gr. 6-8: Jody Speck
We need a co-teacher for this Wed. night class.

We need 2 teachers for a second Wed. night class.

Opening: Tyann Jones
Pianist: Susan Jones

Adult Class: Janice Palmer
Brian Jones

Junior Youth Group:

Kevin Hofer
Sarah DeHaai

If you are interested in helping with this group let us know.

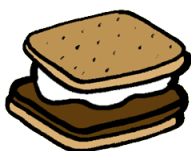
Senior Youth Group:

Brian & Tyann Jones

Christmas Program: Laura Duxbury
We need a co-chair.

Please consider making Christian Education part of your ministry. Please call Tyann Jones, Kevin Hofer, Gayle Vrooman or Carolyn Rediger to volunteer.

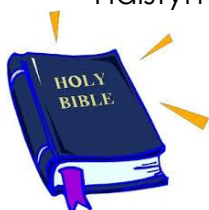
Jesus loves you S'More than you know!!



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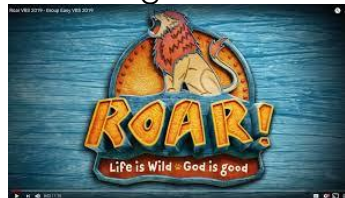
Third Graders get Bibles in church
on **September 8**

Rylie Moss
Cade Trefz
Haistyn Huss



Vacation Bible School

We want to **ROAR** about our VBS organizers: **Andrea Mushitz and Kelly Wagner**. They did a great job with VBS. We ROAR a great big **thanks to everyone** who helped make it such a great week.



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Our church family is amazing in many ways. The thing that has struck me this summer is how involved our congregation is with our Christian education programs. I contacted our Sunday school teachers about teaching this next year and every single one of them said, "Yes," to some aspect of our programs!! I believe that is nearly unheard of! What a blessing!!!

The showing of Presbyterian help at VBS was also outstanding! I should not be surprised in the least. This is who we are! WAY TO GO!!

Submitted by Tyann Jones

Vacation Bible School Report

June 17-20 was a fun-filled week at the United Methodist Church. This year's vacation bible school theme

centered on ROAR! Life is Wild; God is Good.

Throughout the week there was an average of 150 kids/helpers. The children learned that no matter the situation presented to us in life whether it be unfair, sad, changing, or happy, always remember God is Good.

Just over \$300 was collected with the funds going to the Backpack Buddy program.

A special thank you to the following: Andrea Mushitz and Kelly Wagner for being on the planning committee, Nicole Nelson and Jayce Pugh for assisting throughout the week with games, all of the older Sunday school students who were crew leaders, Brain Jones for opening/closing prayer, and the kitchen crew: Tyann Jones, Sue Jones, and Dee McGirr.

Thank You!

Bell Choir

Calling all adult bell ringers—our new season will begin with Wednesday weekly practice beginning September 18 at 6:00. Interested? All are welcome! We will be practicing songs for worship and the upcoming Christmas season. Three of our members (Tammy Caffee, Marilyn Dyer, and substitute Michelle Wieseler attended bell camp at the International Music Camp held at the Peace Gardens in July. They will be sharing what they learned and no doubt pass along

renewed enthusiasm or bell ringing. We look forward to a fun and rewarding session of sharing God's love through music—consider joining our group!

Ray Caffee
Bell Choir Director



Choir

Choir practice will bring all of the songbirds back together on Wednesday evening August 28 at 7:00 pm. We'll tune up our chirps, tweets, and peeps and resume our Sunday morning anthems in worship on Sept. 8. Anyone who would enjoy chirping, tweeting, and peeping along with us is welcome to squeeze onto one of our branches. We accept occasional squawks, but screeches are off limits.

renewed enthusiasm or bell ringing. We look forward to a fun and rewarding session of sharing God's love through music—consider joining our group.



Kid's Hope
Anyone interested in
volunteering to be a mentor for
Kid's Hope please contact
Dawn Haar.

**If you have an address
change or a
birthday/anniversary date
that is not on our calendar—
please let the office know.**



Birthdays in August
2 - Kylie Selting

4 - Jaden Anderberg
6- Mike Edwards
10 - Avis Chipman
12 – Edith Croll Herman
13 - Riley Pugh
14 -Kim Johnson
15- Heather Resel
June VanZee
17 - Sandra Selting
20 - Greg Rediger
Dayken Bossert
Bailey Strasburg
Ruby Carder
21 - Robert Crackel
Davon Rombough
23 - David Johnson
22- Stephanie Bonebright
Stephan Resel
25 - Sarah Resel
26 – Kristy Strasburg
28 - Ellen Parmely
31- Kohen Resel

Anniversaries in August

4 – Kevin & Tiffany Hofer
10 - Travis & Angie Anderberg
12 - J.D. & Deb Bushfield
21 - Whitey & Joyce Wieland
22 - Rich & Pat Waldrop
26 – Robin & Gayle Vrooman

Birthdays in September

1 - Ian Johnson
6 - Amy Meyer Werdel
Ava Johnson
Vaelynn Welk
7 - Rich Waldrop
9 - Corbin Kruml
11 -Luis Koeck
12 - Dale Dyer
14 - John Rombough
Dee Sivertsen
16 - Roberta Harvey
17 - Carolyn Rediger
- Colton VanDerWerff
- Carol Swaney
19 - Libby Brahmhatt
Tyson VanDerWeff
20 - Taylor Droz
Daniel Palmer
Kirby VanDerWerff

21 - Leonard Fischer
22 - Carter Kruml
23 - Vance Caffee
Wayne Ruhnke
Ryland Nelson
24 – Tanner DeHaai
25 - Patricia Waldrop
Jennifer Welk
27 - Tammy Caffee
Jason Mentzer
Chip Rombough
Teague Resel
28 - Joan Sivertsen
29- Hadlee Duxbury
30 - Lee Skinner
Roxanne Stevens

Anniversaries in September

18 - Donnie & Bonnie Ehlers
19 – Tony & Kristen Moss
26- Dick & Janice Palmer
29 – Travis & Kassandra Foreman

Greeters for August

4 – Jim & Marilyn Dyer
11 – Ray & Tammy Caffee
18–Kay & Doyle Foreman
25 – Travis & Angie Anderberg

Greeters for September

1- Jim Jones
8 – Brian & Jan Winter
15 – Larry & Janice Arbogast
22 - Wayne & Shar Ruhnke
29 - Sarah Resel

Ushers for August

Charlene Beckett, Angie Rosemore,
Jim & Marilyn Dyer

Ushers for September

Rich Waldrop, Mike Mentzer,
Wayne & Shar Ruhnke

Deacons for August

Padyn Resel & Sue Jones

Deacons for September

Sarah DeHaai & Pat Crackel