



June 2020



We are Holding On!

When I started to write the June article for the Loveletter I looked back at what I said in May. I gave a fleeting thought to cut and paste because we find ourselves in the same storm. Monnie discouraged the idea.

So here are some random thoughts about moving forward ...

This is an open door to show God's love. I cannot tell you how proud I am and blessed by God at the response of our church family and community to feed those who have lost jobs and income during the epidemic. Over 50,000 meals served. That is incredible. This is example #1 of what I mean. Serving those most vulnerable is what Jesus would do. Thank you all!

History is not aimless. God is in our midst from creation, through the fall into sin, and the ongoing story of redemption. Jesus said he did not come to condemn but to save. Through good times and bad, God is working to redeem. God is working now. Look for it.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18 (NIV) This is a time for us to be smart, not fearful. Listen to health professionals. Wear a mask, because that is how we show love for one another during this time.

Use the time to go deeper. God has gotten our attention, hasn't he? So what is God trying to teach us in this time? Reminding us how important our church family is? Teaching us patience? (I suppose that is ongoing!) Helping us learn to trust him in the midst of so much uncertainty? I think for each of us the lesson will be different, but we must use the time to listen to God speaking to us.

Psalm 46 (CEV) says,

God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.

And so, we won't be afraid!

Let the earth tremble and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.

Let the ocean roar and foam, and its raging waves shake the mountains.

The Lord All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Let these words guide us in this difficult time.

Blessings,

Mike

From the Session

The Session met on May 19, 2020 for its regular Stated Meeting. The following are the highlights from that meeting:

1. Mike provided the Session with a handout 'What Will Worship Look Like When We Return'.
 2. A donation of children's athletic shoes from Athlete's Locker was accepted.
 3. PPP Funds received by the Preschool Board is being used for payroll.
 4. The Congregational Care Committee recently sent out letters to the entire congregation.
 5. FPC youth are meeting via Zoom. An online VBS is in the works. FPC Youth will meet June 14-18 in the Fellowship Hall.
 6. A roof insurance claim has been filed due to the 4/12/2020 wind damage to the Educational Building.
 7. The FPC Budget is still in good shape in spite of COVID-19.
 8. The PNC is continuing to meet via Zoom.
 9. A decision about re-opening the church will next be considered on 6/16/2020.
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Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

We've sorted through over 200 Pastor Information Forms, reached out to thirty or so individuals, and conducted dozens of Zoom meetings and interviews. We've identified several very promising candidates and started checking references. Overall the process has moved more quickly than originally anticipated. The issues and technical work-a-rounds resulting from the Corona virus have actually sped things up with multiple interviews each week being possible via Zoom. Please keep the committee and the pastors we're contacting in your prayers that the process will proceed apace and for God's will to lead us.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

From Stewardship and Finance Committee

Through April, donations are running about 8% behind pledges, which is excellent given the circumstances.

Expenses are also down 8% YTD so our cash flow hasn't been a problem.

Cash reserves are holding steady at just over \$30,000 so we're in pretty good shape heading into the summer.

Typically giving slows in the summer months as folks go on vacation but this year may be different. Many thanks to all those who have continued their faithful giving during these trying times.



The Life of the Apostles A Zoom Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday Pastor Mike invites you to explore the life of the apostles, using both the biblical as well as extra-biblical materials to tell their story. Plan now to join us. Using either your computer's browser at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88489678211> Or the Zoom app Meeting ID: 884 8967 8211 No Password Required

**GIVE
BLOOD** 

Red Cross Blood Drive

June 3rd

10:00am - 3:00pm

2nd floor Upper Room

In order to practice safe distancing the blood drive will be set up in the Upper Room.

To schedule an appointment go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: firstprescartersville

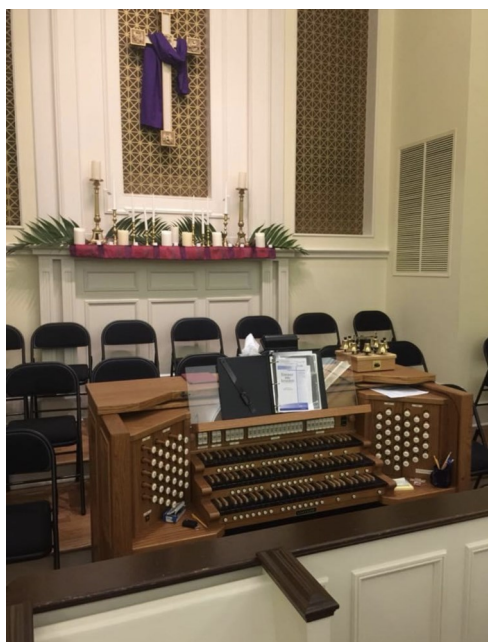


Ladies Night Out

**Thursday, June 18th,
6:30pm**

**El Charro Mexican
Restaurant**

Come enjoy food, fun and fellowship! All women of the congregation are welcome, please feel free to invite your friends too!



Music Live from FPC!

Join our organist, Pam Radford live on our Facebook page Wednesdays at 2:00pm for **Music Live from FPC**. Each week we'll listen and discuss different hymns of the church. Watch your inbox for a Constant Contact email that includes the weekly music.

Youth Group

Sundays at 4 p.m.
Meeting virtually
via Zoom

Youth Summer Events

We will continue to have our Youth Group Zoom meetings each Sunday at 4 p.m. throughout the summer, except for holidays and other special events. We are also planning some outdoor events, where we can be together, but also socially distance ourselves. Email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to make sure you are on our Youth Group email distribution list to receive the most up to date information on what the youth is doing this summer.



Vacation Bible School

We will not be meeting in person for VBS this summer, but we will be having VBS! Illustrated Ministry will be releasing an online VBS soon, for us to adapt to our congregation's needs. Make sure you are on the Children's Ministry email list for more information.

Email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to be put on the list.



MONTREAT[®]
 CONFERENCE CENTER

High School Montreat

Although we cannot go to Montreat this summer, we will be meeting at the church **June 14-18** for a Montreat Experience as a group. If you are willing to help out with meals, planning, or decorating, please let andrea@cartersvillepres.org know.

Getting to know FPC's Confirmation Class

Katherine Bowen

Confirmation Mentor: Frank Weathersby

An experience from confirmation that Katherine remembers is baking bread during class.

She looks forward to going to the beach this summer.

Julian Cline

Confirmation Mentor: Craig Godfrey

Julian liked talking with other confirmands during class.

This summer, he looks forward to meeting up with his friends and just getting to see them.

Meredith Gaines

Confirmation Mentor: Katie Godfrey

"I loved coming to First Presbyterian Preschool and playing with my friends. I especially loved getting to put glitter on my artwork all by myself in Ms Marsha's Pre-K class!"

Meredith looks forward to spending time at Montreat this summer—hopefully.

Hayden James

Confirmation Mentor: Brac Panter

Hayden appreciates how much closer he is to God because of confirmation.

He is looking forward to hanging out with his family this summer.

Eden Olson

Confirmation Mentor: Mary Gilreath

"An experience at confirmation that I'd like to share is honestly just being able to talk about anything and everything each week! Conversations would range anywhere between talking about what it's like to be Presbyterian to what's on our upcoming Spanish test!"

Eden looks forward to a family beach trip in late June.



During the confirmation retreat in February, students served at the Red Door Food Pantry, hiked Pine Mountain and dug deeper in their study. They baked unleavened bread during class. Sometimes the fails are the more memorable lessons.

June Birthdays

1	Karen Russell	18	Karen Rodgers
2	Anna Godfrey	19	Mike Rawls
4	Thomas Morrison	21	Susan Ingram
6	Paul Green	21	Richard Bailey
6	Eden Olson	22	Terry Nelson
6	Emily Godfrey	22	Lynn Herman
7	Rebecca Broome	22	Emily Ireland
8	Molly Layne	23	David Gregory
10	Marilynn Devine	24	Georgie Russell
10	Alec Lavender	25	Thomas Clark
10	Call Brownlow	26	Jason Clark
11	Brandy Forbes	27	Tom Mendenhall
11	Edward Shrader	27	Phil Bridges
13	Rachel Keith	27	Susan Panter
13	James Mukete		
15	Katherine Bowen		
15	Maddie Pullen		
17	Alan Bowen		
17	Skylar Henderson		
18	John Herman		



In June We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Becky Ferguson, Sue Elder (ASP), Linda Ferguson (ASP), Donna Duncan, (Preschool), Sandra Earl (Preschool)

Officers: Beth Weathersby (Session), Diane Wrinkle (Diaconate)

Ministries: Mission and Service Ministry

Families: June 1-7: Nannette Enloe, Lars and Jennifer Ennerberg (Ian, Rowan), Kathy Farnon, Matt and Jess Farnon (Jackson, Audrey), Vernon and Becky Ferguson

June 8-14: Bonnie Floyd, Rob and Brandy Forbes (Tripp, Clayton), Rich and Rhonda Gaffoglio, Trey and Beth Gaines (Margaret, Meredith), Jessica Gardner (Patrick)

June 15-21: Mark and Veletta Gebert, Betty Gilbert, Jean Gilliland, Charles and Emily Gilreath, Mary Gilreath

June 22-30: Candler and Susan Gill, Craig and Katie Godfrey (Anna, Emily), Paul and Joan Green, Christine Greene, David and Sara Gregory (Megan, Ethan)

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Becky Ferguson, secretary

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Angie Hood, receptionist

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Beth Weathersby, preschool co-director

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Lindsay Scoggins, preschool co-director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

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Araceli Munoz, after school program

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Andrea Roche, interim children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Story Vernon, children & youth intern

June Calendar

June 3

10:00am Red Cross Blood Drive in the Upper Room till 3:00pm

June 14 - 18

High School Montreat Experience

June 18

6:30pm Ladies Night Out @ El Charro

The Session will determine month by month the activities allowed in the church. Activities are currently suspended until the session meets again on June 16th.

