



FIRST FACTS



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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I am grateful to all of you for making my first year as your pastor so enjoyable and fulfilling. Thank you for all the ways in which you participate and encourage my ministry among you.



The Session, along with a few others we've invited, will be kicking off 2019 with a Visioning Retreat on January 12. The retreat will be led by Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Presbytery Executive for Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. Dr. Howard has asked participants to read the book, *Canoeing the Mountains – Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, by Tod Bolsinger. I was already studying the book with some of my clergy peers when Craig suggested it, so I am excited to dig in more deeply.

You may think that title – *Canoeing the Mountains* – sounds very odd. I thought so, too. But the leadership lessons come from looking at the explorers, Lewis and Clark. When they set out on their journey west, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, they were looking for a water route that would connect the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. What they found instead, was the Rocky Mountains. “If you're going to scale the mountains of ministry, you need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools.” The book is written to help churches reimagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world.

I like the idea that we're on an adventure – our whole congregation, not just those in leadership. Together, we'll be exploring a new and unfamiliar landscape. It's both exciting and scary. It will involve trial and error. We'll experience good days where we make lots of progress and bad days where we might have to backtrack and start again. But I am confident that we will find great rewards as we stick together, encouraging and supporting each other to keep pushing forward for the good of our church and community and for the glory of God's kingdom.

I want to invite everyone to please keep your church leaders in prayer as we set out on this journey. Pray starting today, that the weather or illness will not keep us from meeting on January 12. Pray for Rev. Dr. Craig Howard as he leads us. Pray for us that day, that we will have open ears to listen for God's call, that we will be guided by God's wisdom, that we will feel inspired by the Holy Spirit with creativity and enthusiasm. Pray that we will communicate well with one another and with the congregation as we make plans and decisions. Pray that we will lead this church – as we have promised – with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

May we all find beauty and opportunity in whatever we face in 2019.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, December 18, 2018

1. Remembered with gratitude the dedicated church service and Session leadership of Elder Paul Farris who had died earlier in the day and included his wife Donna and family in the opening prayer of pastoral concerns.
2. Received Rev. Gurnon's written Report of Activities from November 27- December 17, 2018. Included were three visits/calls to members and friends of the church family, 12 church and community activities/meetings and home Communion for members Annabelle Spencer, Ron, Barb and Hannah Taylor, Harold Buxton, Erica McBride and Vonda Slinkard. Assisted with Communion by Elders Evelyn Stover, Georganne Syler and Nancy Bray. Rev. Gurnon also reported she will lead the Blue Christmas (longest night) service at Chateau Girardeau December 19 to comfort those who have experienced grief or some sort of loss in the past year.
3. Discussed plans for Session's strategic planning and visioning Retreat to be held January 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In the home of Charles and Judy Wiles, weather permitting, otherwise at the church. Decided to invite a few non-Session members to participate too because of their particular involvement (recent or longtime) in the work of the church.
4. Approved Sunday, January 27, 2019, as the date for the Congregation's Annual Meeting to be followed by Gather, Share and Eat. During that meeting, the Congregation upon the recommendation of the Session will be asked to approve a 3% increase in the salary package of Rev. Gurnon.
5. Session approved for 2019 an increase of 2% in the salaries of the church's secretary/office manager, bookkeeper and music director/organist.
6. Session voted to eliminate the paid position of Nursery Attendant. If there are young children/infants who need care some Sunday, the Elder in charge can recruit a member from the list of those who have had approved background checks to work with children as their Sunday School or VBS teachers.
7. Treasurer Wiles reported that to date the Stewardship Campaign has resulted in pledges totaling \$129,084. He also commented that because of a bad year for the Stock Market and a resulting decline in our investments, we will have to tighten our 2019 Budget and closely watch expenses.
8. Session voted to approve the naming of several areas of the new " Peace Park " to the east of the church and also approved a campaign to raise funds for additions to the Park in honor or memory of someone.
9. Approved accepting a request from member Juanita Wyant to be removed from the church Roll and a request from Rebecca Nelson to be removed as well. Also approved removing from the Roll eight other members who have not been participating in any way in the life of the church and who did not respond by December 14, 2018, to a letter Rev. Gurnon and the Session had sent asking if they wanted to continue their membership. They included: Sarah Barnes, Michelle Bryan, Bella Carlson, Trinity Carlson, Deborah Ebaugh, Linda Harper, Dusti Miller, Tami Miller.
10. At Rev. Gurnon's request, Session voted to change the January Communion date from the 6th to the 13th since the Installation Service for new Elders is scheduled for January 6.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 3334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening, January 6, 2019, so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



January Meal-a-Month

- 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese mix
- Can of evaporated milk
- Can of green beans
- Can of peaches



The next meeting of the book club will be Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is "Orphan Keeper" by Camron Wright. On February 14, 2019 we will meet at Sharon Metcalfe's house to discuss "The Bookshop on the Corner" by Jenny Colgan. All are welcome and the reading of the books are optional.



JANUARY GATHER, SHARE AND EAT

Please join us after church, January 27, 2019, for Daryl's famous (and delicious) chili! There will also be pimento cheese and chicken salad sandwiches & chips for lunch...and of course, dessert. We look forward to sharing a meal and fellowship with you in the New Year. Please sign up on a pew pad or call the office at 573-335-2579.



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Paul Farris, from Sharon Metcalfe, Ann & Bob Parkinson, Madge Ridings, Don & Shirley Gibson

Sue McNeely, from Virginia Goodwin, Jim & Beverly Hirsch

Fern Harris, from Don & Shirley Gibson



"I am the resurrection and the life"

Paul Farris

May 19, 1957-December 18, 2018



"I am the resurrection and the life"

Suanne Harbison McNeely

August 30, 1931-December 20, 2018

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Pastor Ellen is working with the members of the Christian Education Committee as we focus activities and lessons that take us on "A Journey through the Church Year." The Church Year begins with the celebration of Advent and in keeping with the Advent lessons, we focused on three projects. Our church members helped us to write and collect Christmas cards for four people serving in the military who are relatives of church family members. The committee members added Christmas treats and small gift items to the gift boxes that we sent with the Christmas cards. We included a note letting them know that we were sending Christmas greetings from the church family of their grandparents or aunt and uncle. Our second project was to again pack pajama boxes for the children at The Women's Safe House in Cape. Our children helped to pack 28 boys' and girls' boxes with a pair of pajamas and a "snuggle toy." We also sent 18 girls' and boys' baby sleepers. These boxes help the children at The Safe House to transition to a new place. The third project was to share our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus Party" with our whole church family. THANKS to the Fellowship Committee we were all able to share a wonderful meal together. The Christian Education Committee provided a big "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cake for dessert. After dinner everyone stayed to play games, (BINGO with Cheri Herbst was a treat!), work puzzles, make Christmas ornaments, and pack 12 bags of "goodies" to take to church family members who needed some Christmas cheer. All of these activities combined to help us remember that preparing for Advent is a time for sharing with others, treating people fairly, and of being kind to others. Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate!

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our Christmas mission project for the Presbyterian Children's Home in Farmington was a great success again this year! Through your generous donations we were able to purchase three Playstation 4 machines for the three cottages that did not have them. They will provide the children the ability to play games together. The Playstations were \$300.00 apiece. We were also able to purchase 30 \$25.00 Walmart gift cards for a total of \$750.00. These cards are used for the children's needs throughout the year. The gifts were delivered before Christmas but any extra money that has come in since then will also be used to give them more gift cards for Walmart. THANK YOU once again for helping to support one of our church's oldest and favorite mission projects!

Dear First Presbyterian,

First off, I would like to say thank you for your donations every year that are so very important to our kids. I would like to inform you that the Cotton Candy Machine, Pic-Nic Table, and Snow Cone Machine are very much used, and appreciated! I received my annual call from Mrs. Brown to informed me you all would like to do another recreational item this year as well. We are thrilled. In addition, I wanted to inform you about what the gift cards are used for throughout the year as you all are our main supplier of those. We use them for swim suits, shoes, and coats for the kiddos. We also use them sometimes to supply snacks/food for our kid's recreational parties like Back to School Bash and Sweetheart dance. Included is our new agency video please share this, as the beginning of 2018 we merged with our Texas counterpart. Thank you all so much for all you are do for us in the Holiday Season, this follows our mission statement here as We Provided Christ Centered Care to children and families in need. Thanks!!

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14psjx5RoazVi9vhpouVJAh6kq004h7-v>

Dianna "Kayleigh" Dollins

Senior Site Secretary, Farmington Children's Home



POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY



IN MEMORY OF

Mr & Mrs A.P. Rueseler (her parents) from Ruth Knote
Charles Knote (husband) & Barbara Knote Head (daughter) from Ruth Knote
Charles, Sam & Mark Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
Austin & Martha Cairns, (her parents) from Jean Cairns
Elizabeth Marshall, (her cousin) from Jean Cairns
Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from their daughter, Nancy Bray
Freck Shivelbine, from Nancy Bray
Jo Renfrow, from Nancy Bray
Fern Harris, from Nancy Bray
John L Ritter, M.D. (son) from Ann Ritter
Raymond A Ritter, Jr, from Ann Ritter
Her parents, from Ann Ritter
Our parents, from Don & Shirley Gibson
William Stover, from Evelyn & Family
Willie Phillips, from Evelyn Stover
David O. & Esther Benstson, (his parents) from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
Robert & Rogene Stroup, (her parents) from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
Betty Whitelaw Turner & Bruce Turner and parents Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Whitelaw
Lou Sewell, from Betty Sewell
Gerald McDougall, from Karen McDougall
Bill Miller (who loved Xmas & this church) from Jean Miller
Guy C. Pinckley
Fletcher Chasteen, from Betty Chasteen & family
Sina Kaiser, from Ed Kaiser
Alex Bunch, (Our Great Nephew) from Peter & Peg Hirschburg
Elmer & Dorothy Farrow, from Lana & Ron Johnson
Evla Johnson, from Lana & Ron Johnson
Evelyn Shaver, (grandmother) from Phil, Joanna & Maybry Shaver
Donald Driscoll, (grandfather) from Phil, Joanna & Maybry Shaver
Bernie Driscoll, (uncle) from Phil, Joanna & Maybry Shaver
Hank Niemann & Danny Niemann, (father & brother) from Deanna Ware
John & Geneva George, (her parents) from Joyce Rayfield

IN HONOR OF

Lauren Syler Weedon's Birthday (Dec. 24), from Bill & Georganne Syler
Col. Kenneth Crawford
Our Families, from Paul & Ruth Pautler

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1ST Synod of Rocky Mountain
- 2ND Presbytery of Denver
- 3RD Presbytery of Glacier
- 4TH Yellowstone Presbytery
- 5TH Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
- 6TH Presbytery of Pueblo
- 7TH Bill Port (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of Western Colorado
- 9TH Georganne Syler (birthday) Oliver & Caroline Manuel (anniversary)
- 10TH The Presbytery of Utah
- 11TH Cherokee Presbytery
- 12TH Synod of South Atlantic
- 13TH Central Florida Presbytery
- 14TH Charleston Atlantic Presbytery
- 15TH Ruth Needle, Lisa Bishop (birthday)
- 16TH Flint River Presbytery
- 17TH Presbytery of Florida
- 18TH Lizbe Knote (birthday)
- 19TH Christian Unity
- 20TH Foothills Presbytery
- 21ST Horton Miller (birthday)
- 22ND Presbytery of New Harmony
- 23RD Synod of the Living Waters
- 24TH Peace River Presbytery
- 25TH John & Jeanne Hirsch (anniversary)
- 26TH Kate Broeckling (birthday)
- 27TH Savannah Presbytery
- 28TH Presbytery of St. Augustine
- 29TH Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- 30TH Trinity Presbytery
- 31ST The Presbytery of Tropical Florida

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

God of all creation, teach us to protect and preserve; teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves; teach us humility before all you have created. Teach us to treat our food and the land from which it comes with reverence. In the name of Jesus, who is the true bread of life. Amen.

January 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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