



FIRST FACTS

A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · April 2019



Sunday, March 3, was snowy in the morning, but nothing like what had been predicted. So, unfortunately, many of you missed a wonderful Minute for Mission by Shelly Gerard, Regional Manager of Care Portal.

Shelly told us that child welfare professionals are overwhelmed daily by needs of children and families in their communities. Care Portal is a way to connect children in need with churches and organizations that want to help.

First Presbyterian Church recently joined the Care Portal network with a financial commitment of \$100 per month. More importantly though, is the opportunity Care Portal offers to respond directly to the needs of local children and families.

Here's how it works:

When a child welfare professional identifies a need of a local child or family – like a bed for a foster child or a washer and dryer for a single mom – the request is submitted online into Care Portal's platform. Participating churches in the area receive an email with a brief summary of the need.

As the "Point Person" for our church, I would review the request and pass the email on to church members who have expressed interest in participating. You read my email and reply if you can help. I then reply to Care Portal, get more information from the caseworker, and receive contact information for the individual or family.

For example, let's say that a family has just received two foster children, and they don't have beds for them. I send the request to church members who have signed up. You have two beds at home that are not being used. You reply that you're willing to donate those beds if someone can pick them up and deliver them. This might be another participating church or someone else in our congregation.

Every request presents the opportunity for churches to make meaningful connections. Sometimes that connection involves meeting one need at just the right time. At other times, it develops into a lasting relationship.

If you sign up to participate, your only obligation is to receive emails. Please contact the church office or me. I would be happy to include you or answer any questions you may have.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

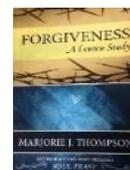
Stated Meeting of the Session March 25, 2019

1. Voted to change the May Stated Session Meeting from Memorial Day, May 27 to May 20.
2. Approved changing the days of church office operations, effective April 1, 2019, to be Monday through Thursday. The church office will no longer be open on Fridays.
3. Received Rev. Gurnon's written Report of Activities from February 9 to March 22. Included were 7 visits/calls to members and 30 church/community/Presbytery meetings and activities.
4. Rev. Gurnon reviewed a list of tasks involved in hosting Presbytery at our church Saturday, May 4, 2019. The Pastor and Session members will be asking church members for assistance with these. Elder Charles Wiles reported he is hopeful that most of the art work, benches and signage for the church's Peace Park will be completed and in place in time for Presbytery.
5. Treasurer Wiles reported our Wells Fargo liaison Bill Duffy contacted him about scheduling a meeting with members of the Endowment Fund Committee for the annual review of our church's account (which consists of five funds). He also reported our account is up 8.7 % (about \$77,000) at this point of 2019.
6. Approved revisions in counting and recording procedures for the weekly church offering.
7. Approved proposed changes in the church's Wedding Guidelines as presented by the Worship & Arts Committee.
8. Approved decision by Property Committee to hire Integrity Cleaners as of April 1 to replace ServiceMaster to clean our church for 10 hours a week for a savings of \$300 a month.
9. Received report from Stewardship, Mission & Outreach Committee about the Souper Bowl of Caring results this year. \$ 1,286 was raised for FISH and 126 cans of food collected. The Committee also reported that to date \$ 2, 324.50 has been donated by members for their Per Capita assessment, and 28 of the 35 payments came in after the last letter was sent by Rev Gurnon that explained how the Per Capita assessment is used.
10. Rev. Gurnon reported for Member Care & Fellowship that Gather, Share and Eat will be April 28 instead of April 14, and it will not be the Boy Scout Barbecue fundraiser because the Troop no longer has anyone to smoke the meat since Will Bahn moved away.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LENT LESSONS

During the six Sundays in Lent the Children's Sunday School Class will meet from 9:15a.m. until 10:15a.m. in their classroom beginning on Sunday, March 10th. The lessons will discuss Ash Wednesday, the meaning of Lent, and Lenten Traditions. The focus will be on activities and projects that show ways to live more like Jesus as we prepare for Easter and The Resurrection by learning about "Forgiveness", "Self-Control", "A Life of Faith", "A Life of Prayer", "Service to God", and "Holy Week". During this time, and Easter Sunday, the children will join us for worship. As part of the children's lessons, watch for the children to help their parents serve Communion.



Pastor Ellen will lead a Sunday School class during Lent using the book, "Forgiveness-A Lenten Study." Call or stop by the office to get a copy. The class will meet in the Parlor at 9:15 am.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, April 9, 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 334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening, April 7 so that arrangements can be made to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



The next meeting of the book club will be on April 11th, we will meet at the home of Ruth Needle and the book is "The More" by Mary Gaitskill. For May, the place is the home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is "Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan. We have selected books until August, but the locations have not been chosen. For June 13 "The Silver Star" by Jeannette Walls. The July 11th book is "The Transcription" by Kate Atkinson and for August 8 the book is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



April Meal-a-Month

- 1 lb. package of pasta
- Can of Spaghetti Sauce
- Can of Carrots or Peas
- Can of fruit



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:
Jo Renfrow, from Bekki & John Cook
Freck Shivelbine, from Bekki & John Cook



Heifer Donation—The Stewardship, Mission and Outreach (SMO) workgroup is pleased to report that FPC has contributed \$1105.17 to Heifer International for 2018. This outstanding gift will support agricultural families and communities worldwide to live free from hunger and poverty. One of Heifer's goals is to allow children to go to school rather than have to work in the fields. **Funding this great project are our Birthday and Anniversary gifts on the 3rd Sunday of each month, as well as proceeds from recycling your donated aluminum cans. THANK YOU and keep on giving! (bring cans to church at any time and leave in narthex or at office).**



You're Invited!

Invitation to the Women of our Church

Reverend Gurnon and women of the Session are pleased to invite the women of our church to join them for the community's 5th Annual Power of Praying Women's Prayer Lunch on Wednesday, May 1.

The luncheon will be at Ray's Conference Center, and the cost is \$ 15 per person. The doors will open at 11:15 a.m. and the buffet lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the program to follow at noon. Featured speaker will be Angela Beise, a former pastor and educator at LaCroix Church and now a church staff member in St. Louis.

If you would like to attend, please make your reservation by April 15 with the church office and write a \$15 check payable to our church. We hope to have at least one table of eight representing our church and entitling us to be an event sponsor. Several tables would be even better! If you have questions, contact Nancy Bray at 450-5894 or nabray4442@gmail.com





EASTER LILIES:

Easter Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21st. They may be purchased for (\$10.00 each) in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. The deadline for ordering is Monday, April 15th.

Please complete this form and return it to the church along with your check or cash.

I/We wish to purchase an Easter lily.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

From _____

Enclosed \$ _____ For _____ Lilies

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

Please note that we have a new email address at the church:

fpresbytcape@gmail.com

We will still be able to receive email at the old address for awhile but encourage you to make the change on your computer.

Changing of office operations—Starting April 1, the church office will be open Monday thru Thursday 9am-3pm, closed on Fridays.

The new Church Directory is available in the Narthex.

April 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 Presbytery of Beaver-Butler
- 2ND Sarah Holt (birthday)
- 3RD Presbytery of Carlisle
- 4TH Presbytery of Donegal
- 5TH Kathy Brown (birthday)
- 6TH The Presbytery of Huntingdon
- 7TH Joan Gohn (birthday)
Will Bahn (birthday)
Hannah Taylor (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of Lackawanna
- 9TH Joanna Shaver (birthday)
- 10TH The Synod of Alaska-Northwest
- 11TH John Broeckling (birthday)
- 12TH Presbytery of Northumberland
- 13TH The Presbytery of Philadelphia
- 14TH Pittsburgh Presbytery
- 15TH The Presbytery of Redstone
- 16TH Presbytery of Shenango
- 17TH Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery
- 18TH Presbytery of Lake Erie
- 19TH Washington Presbytery
- 20th San & Sharon McCune (anniversary)
- 21ST Synod of Alaska-Northwest
- 22ND The Presbytery of West Virginia
- 23RD Ann Ritter (birthday)
- 24TH Presbytery of Central Washington
- 25th Presbytery of Northwest Coast
- 26TH Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- 27TH Bob & Cherie Herbst (anniversary)
- 28TH Presbytery of Olympia
- 29TH Emily Harris (birthday)
- 30TH Stephanie Bengtson

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.

April 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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7 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service w/Communion 9:15 am Children & Adult Sunday School	8 3:00 pm SMO Committee meeting	9 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at Chateau	10 12:00 Lenten Prayer Services 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 7:00 pm Book Club	12 office closed	13																																																																																																																
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