



FIRST FACTS



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



You'll find in this newsletter, our new **Policy for Use of the Peace Park**, approved by the Session on August 26th. I hope you will read it and share with family and friends how we hope our park will be used and enjoyed by our community. An important excerpt from the policy regarding the purpose of the Park follows.

Our mission is grounded in the Greatest Commandment as expressed by our Lord Jesus Christ: To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our *neighbor* as ourselves. *Neighbors* are not just those who attend our church, not just our family and friends, not just those who look like us, worship like us, or speak our language. To love our neighbor means that we seek to be inclusive, welcoming, and accepting of all people, regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, or gender.

To that end, we have designed this Peace Park and established these guidelines to ensure that all activities support and express a welcoming, inclusive, and *peaceful* attitude.

On another subject, you may have heard that our friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church are now without a pastor, as Rev. Karen Dumey has answered the call to pastor First Presbyterian in Jackson, MO. Westminster is facing decline – as so many of us are – and they are seeking discernment about the path forward.

Some of you will remember the folks who left this church to help start Westminster in the early 1960's. We also partnered with them in providing Vacation Bible School for many years. In the spirit of Christian love and support, and to reach out and strengthen our connection as Presbyterians, **the Session will be inviting the congregation of Westminster to join us for a Gather, Share, & Eat congregational meal on Sunday, September 8, following worship.** I hope that you will all make this a priority to show hospitality to our friends and neighbors.

This may or may not open the door for more conversation about coming together for ministry in Cape Girardeau. Regardless, it is an important step in exploring God's desire for both churches.

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church TOGETHER." I pray you will join us on the journey.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session August 26, 2019

1. Received Rev. Gurnon's Report of Activities from July 19 to August 22, 2019. Included were 4 visits/calls to members and 24 church/community/Presbytery meetings and activities. She also informed us one of those meetings was with RustMedia staff to update our church's website on the Community page and in the Photo Gallery.
2. Received a \$500 grant from the Schwab Charitable Donor Advised Fund thanks to Bekki and John Cook.
3. Upon learning that Rev. Gurnon is now serving as Moderator of the Session meetings for Westminster Presbyterian Church and as their partner/liaison with Presbytery until the church has a pastor again, our Session voted to invite the members of Westminster to be our guests at Gather, Share and Eat on September 8 to show our support and concern for them. Fellowship Chair Elder Joyce Rayfield will plan/coordinate this meal.
4. The Session scheduled its next Visioning Retreat for Sept. 22 immediately following Worship, and the meeting will focus on our church's finances and possible new sources of revenue as we envision our future.
5. The Congregation's Nominating Committee has begun meeting to prepare a slate of nominees for the 2022 Class of Elders and for At Large positions on the Nominating Committee. If interested in being a nominee, contact Elder Sarah Holt or Elder Harvey Hecht who are co-chairing the Committee.
6. The Session authorized the Property Committee Chair Elder Dave Bengtson to purchase a new ice machine, not to exceed \$1,000, to replace the one used at our church the past 19 years.
7. It was agreed a manger scene should be acquired to be placed under the pergola in the Peace Park for this Christmas season.
8. Children's Sunday School will begin Sept. 8. An adult Sunday School class date and topic will be announced later by Rev. Gurnon.
9. Elder Ann Ritter, Member Care Chairperson, reported she is continuing personal visits to church members (10 this past month) who are unable to attend church or who have pastoral concerns in their family.
10. Treasurer Charles Wiles reported that as of July 31, 2019, the church's Total Assets were \$1,043,472.46. Income To Date was \$114,371.77, and Expenses were \$148,898.65 for a negative cash flow of \$34,526.88. He noted that in our checking account August 26 (date of this Session Meeting), was \$39,115, but \$20,000 is earmarked for specific uses plus the Foeste Masonry bill will soon need to be paid.
11. Worship & Arts Committee, after the first of the year, will begin presenting special music events throughout the year as fundraising concerts for mission projects and a way to attract visitors to our church.
12. The Executive/Personnel Committee presented a Policy they have developed for use of the Peace Park and guidelines for donations to the Park along with a form to be filled out when someone/ a group wants to request use of the Park. The Session unanimously approved the Policy and asked that it be included in this issue of First Facts so all church members are aware of its existence and content.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet in the Chateau dining room for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. We will order off the menu with everyone being responsible for their own lunch. Please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening if you would like to attend so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. All are welcome.



The next meeting of the book club will be on September 12, and the book is "Before We Were Strangers" by Brenda Novak. We will meet at the home of Ruth Needle. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional



Sept Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans beef ravioli
- 2 cans green beans,
- Can of applesauce.

Please put in the box in the Narthex.



Flowers for Worship

Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.



Gather Share & Eat will be on September 8th. We will serve appetizers along with a fried chicken dinner with all the sides & dessert. We will be inviting Westminster Presbyterian to join us for dinner that day. We will be furnishing lunch.



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Ed Kaiser, from Shirley & Don Gibson, Betty Chasteen.



Dear Partners in God's Mission,

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian Formation, education and witness.

On July 17, 2019, we received \$418.20 for the Pentecost Offering. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission.

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings and Appeals

First Presbyterian Church

To say thank you is not enough! What you have done for my family through these difficult times is so much more appreciated than you will ever know. We are so grateful and blessed to have met such wonderful people here! You have made these hard times so much easier on all of us. We thank you from the bottom of my heart, I truly thank you all!!!

Thank you so very much,

Love the Lopez family

Dear Hunger Action Congregation,

Congratulations and thank you for responding to the biblical call to alleviate hunger! You have joined the faithful ranks of churches around the country that respond with compassionate action to end hunger in a country and world that have the potential to feed everyone. Through your local hunger ministry commitment, and now as a recognized PC(USA) Hunger Action Congregation, you march side by side with other Presbyterians committed to alleviating hunger and to addressing the prejudices, practices, and policies that undergird a system that perpetuates hunger and poverty in even this rich country, the United States. We pray God uses this network of Hunger Action Congregations to share best practices, to communicate challenges and celebrations, and to multiply the effect each of us can have in our own neighborhoods to a much broader impact. We celebrate you now, and we will more formally recognize your congregation along with the growing number of Hunger Action Congregations around the country on World Food Day (October 16) during the Churches Week of Action on Food.

Blessings on your congregation and your ministries!
Rev. Rebecca Barnes
Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA)

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
POLICY FOR USE OF THE PEACE PARK**

PURPOSE

Established in 1835, First Presbyterian Church – on the corner of Broadway and Lorimier – has been in this location since 1854.

In the June 2019 dedication of our Peace Park and the Joyful Noise Playground, on the East side of the church building, we have sought to honor faithful and generous members past and present who have given of themselves to serve their church and the community of Cape Girardeau.

Our mission is grounded in the Greatest Commandment as expressed by our Lord Jesus Christ: To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our *neighbor* as ourselves. *Neighbors* are not just those who attend our church, not just our family and friends, not just those who look like us, worship like us, or speak our language. To love our neighbor means that we seek to be inclusive, welcoming, and accepting of all people, regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, or gender.

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GROUP EVENTS

Priority for use of the Park is to be for church activities, groups and organizations sponsored by the church, and then for local organizations, outreach programs, and community events deemed as appropriate use of the park. No commercial activity will be permitted, other than acceptable fundraising events by the church, sponsored groups and organizations, or other approved civic events.

RESERVATIONS

Any use of the Park by a group or organization is to be approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Session. All requests for usage are to be scheduled through the Church office, including dates, time, size of group, and name of responsible person/s along with contact information.

A refundable deposit (amount to be determined case-by-case, but no less than \$100) must be paid to First Presbyterian Church no later than 2 weeks prior to the event. Failure to comply with any part of this policy will result in forfeiture of deposit.

INSURANCE

Persons or organizations requesting to use the building and/or grounds of First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau shall be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance. The church shall be listed as “additional insured” and the minimum coverage shall be:

General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
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Products Completed Ops Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
Personal Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000
Fire Damage	\$ 300,000
Medical Expense	\$ 1,000

It is suggested that the insurance be obtained through Guide One, the church's insurance carrier (local agent, John Wondel, Capital Insurance & Associates). Building use will not be approved until a valid Certificate of Insurance has been received. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

DONATIONS

All in-kind donations to the Park must be approved by the church's Executive Committee. No item donated may indicate the name/s of the giver/s, except in rare circumstances when it receives the approval of the Executive Committee and the full Session.

CONDUCT

It is expected the Park, including all vegetation and structures – trees, shrubs, signs, benches, sculptures, pergola walkways and other permanent fixtures will be respected, properly utilized, and kept neat and clean at all times. Litter shall be placed in the available receptacles.

Only pedestrian foot traffic, children's strollers, and wheelchairs are permitted in the Park. No motorized vehicles, scooters, bicycles, skateboards, hoverboards, segways, etc., will be allowed.

Any use of signage must be approved in advance by the Executive Committee. Protest signs will not be allowed, no matter the cause.

No camping – overnight, temporary, or permanent.

Disorderly conduct that breaches the peace of others using the park is prohibited. Including, but not limited to loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language.

No smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages at any time is allowed on church premises, both indoor and outdoor.

Before leaving the Park, responsible person should police the area and remove all items used for the event, such as tables and chairs. All litter should be picked up and properly disposed of. If trash cans are full, they must be tied up and taken to the dumpster in the parking lot across the street (Broadway).

ENFORCEMENT

The Church pastor, staff, and members shall have the authority for monitoring, surveillance, and regulation of the activities of individuals using the park to secure the comfort, safety, and convenience of all.

SEPTEMBER 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 Taiwan
- 2nd Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
- 3rd Ron Johnson (birthday)
- 4th Vi Smith (birthday)
- 5th Lana Johnson (birthday)
- 6th Don & Shirley Gibson (anniversary); Evelyn Stover (birthday)
- 7th Heartland Presbytery
- 8th John Calvin Presbytery
- 9th Missouri Union Presbytery
- 10th Bryan & Melissa Harris (anniversary)
- 11th The Presbytery of Southern Kansas
- 12th Presbytery of Northern Kansas
- 13th Jenna McAbee, (birthday)
- 14th Abingdon Presbytery
- 15th Atlantic Korean-American Presbytery
- 16th The Presbytery of Baltimore
- 17th Presbytery of Charlotte
- 18th Paul & Ruth Pautler (anniversary) John Cook (birthday)
- 19th The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
- 20th Presbyterian Mission Agency
- 21st Sharon Wickham, (birthday)
- 22nd Emma Grace Smith (birthday)
- 23rd Native American Day
- 24th Action against Gun Violence
- 25th Lea Hecht (birthday)
- 26th Neva Kay Ross, Quentin DeCota (birthday)
- 27th New Castle Presbytery
- 28th The Presbytery of New Hope
- 29th The Presbytery of the Peaks
- 30th Shirley Gibson (birthday)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

When we think we have all the answers, God, help us to pause and consider other points of view and other ways of doing things. Show us how to be partners in mutual mission, able to receive as well as to give. Amen.

September 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
1 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion	2 Labor Day office closed	3	4 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5	6 office closed	7																																																																																																			
8 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service Sunday School Begins Noon Gather, Share, & Eat	9 6:30 pm Property Meeting	10 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at the Chateau	11 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12 7:00 pm Book Club	13 office closed	14																																																																																																			
15 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service	16	17	18 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19	20 office closed	21																																																																																																			
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29 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service	30	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Aug 2019</th> <th colspan="7">Oct 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Aug 2019							Oct 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3								4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		
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