

THE LEAVEN

First Presbyterian Church

Leavenworth, Kansas

July 2014

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8 :00 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Noon to 4 p.m.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!

EUGENIA'S THOUGHTS

Did you get to hear our church's children Thursday evening of our family night for camp? If not you missed a wonderful evening. Just think, in a number of years those children may be in our church choir, serve as deacons and elders. Some of them may be members that will come each Sunday to worship our God who gave us life and the ability to love one another.

SERMON REFLECTIONS CLASS

The Sermon Reflections Class is an exciting adult Sunday School class that normally meets at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. We gather in the Living room for an interesting discussion about a selected sermon and the related scripture. A team of discussion leaders take turns selecting a sermon and leading the discussion. There is no homework (except to read the sermon that will be emailed to you each week), and you won't be "behind" if you have to miss a week or two.

The class is taking a break for the summer but extends an invitation to every interested adult to join us when we start up again in the Fall. It's fun; it's interesting; and we want you to be a part of our class. Please watch for the announcement for the starting date in the Fall.

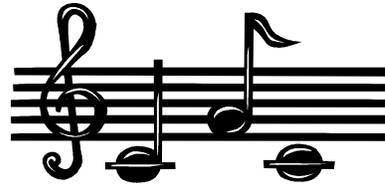
THESE DAYS

Just a reminder "These Days Daily Devotions for Living by Faith" for **July/August/September** are located on the table next to the office door.



ACOLYTES IN WORSHIP

Children in the congregation are invited to take part in worship leadership by serving as an Acolyte. This role is more than candelighting and the **Pastor, Barbara Finch**, the Worship and Education Committees are uniting to assist our young people in taking a proactive role in worship leadership. There are periodic training sessions announced in advance. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry/narthex. If your child is interested please talk to the Pastor.



CHURCH WORSHIP HYMN SING

SUNDAY, JULY 13

It's summer time so let's do something a little different! On this Sunday we will DRESS CASUALLY like we are attending a picnic and our worship experience will also be casual as we sing favorite hymns. The hymn sing will be followed by a picnic in Fellowship Hall.

PICNIC TIME!! AFTER WORSHIP JULY 13 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring picnic-related items to our regularly scheduled Second Sunday Potluck. DRESS FOR THE DAY IS CASUAL PICNIC ATTIRE!

You can bring your favorite picnic food

FROM THE DEACONS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-

Please join us for a special time of fellowship at an **old fashioned ice cream social!** The event will take place on **Sunday Evening August 24th at 6 p.m.** on the "south lawn" across the alley. Thanks to the Methodist Church for allowing us to share this space. More to come next month!



BELATED THANK YOU

BELATED THANK YOU to **Dick Gibson** for the coordination of the kitchen construction project. The communication regarding the progress was greatly appreciated and allowed for coordination of all functions.

A SPECIAL thanks for the extraordinary cleaning to Dick and all involved!!

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MERNA ROE, Co-Chair

Membership and Outreach Committee met Wednesday, June 25th for a luncheon meeting.

Duties such as weekly worship attendance and visitors/guests contacts were assigned.

Some of the best ways to greet church visitors is simply with an appropriate facility, complete with clear signage, and clean appearance. The committee is working with the Building and Ground committee to improve the Narthex.

Remember hospitality to visitors is not just for this committee and you are spreading spiritual love by saying "I don't think we've met before"

The outreach project, "**Blessing of the Animals**" will be on **Sept. 14th at 4:00 P.M.** the church. If you would like to help with this event it is not too early to let the committee and pastor know. There were about 35 animals blessed last year and people and pet snacks were enjoyed and door prizes given away.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOROTHY M. WALKER

Dorothy M. Walker went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 24, 2014. Dorothy was born March 1, 1923 in Kansas City, MO the daughter of Sterling Morten and Hazel Matina (Disney) Ringo. Dorothy is survived by her beloved husband Howard Walker and would have celebrated their 71st anniversary on July 17th.

YOUR TURN FOR TREATS? CHECK OUT THE LIST!

Here is the schedule for providing treats for JULY

July 6 - **Congregation A-F** July 13 – **Potluck (PICNIC)** July 20 - **Congregation G-P**
July 27 - **Congregation Q-Z**

PRAYER CONCERNS – Roger Frazer, Jack Fulton, Marilyn Ferbert, Judy Jahn, Bernice Buchanan, Howard Walker, Eugenia Cloud, Taylor Dearing, , Yvonne Bruce, Bob Ketter, Ellen Carter, Holly Fulton, Judy Fulton, Bill Kendall, Dann Cloud.



July Anniversaries

July 7- **Harold and Carla Hathaway**

July 9 – **Chuck and Annette Allen**

July 12 – **John and Ginnie Strand**

July 15 – **John and Gayle Zillman**



July Birthdays

July 5- **Tom Stovall**

July 12 – **Gary Auchard**

July 13-**Gail Garrett**

July 15 - **Daniel Williams**

July 15 – **Erick Sanford**

July 16 – **Ellen Morton**

July 19 – **Robert Chambers**

July 22 – **Ann Keeling**

July 22 – **Dakota Austin**

July 27 – **Anna Hurt**

July 28 – **Barbara Katzenberger**

July 29 – **Maggie Aus-Peterson**

July 30 – **Edward Chapman**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4 – Church Office Closed

July 20 – Presbyterian Women Officers Installation

July 22- 6:00 PM Renovation/Capital Campaign Meeting July 22-26 – Christmas in July Bell Ringing

NEW ADDRESSES

Daniel and Elizabeth Williams new address is 716 Rees, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048 and

Dwaine and Kathie Wagner's new address is 860 Meadowlark Court, Lansing, Kansas 66043

Web site

fpc-lvks.org is up and running. Church members need to register with an ID and password going to lower right corner. Call Tom Stovall with any questions.

RENOVATION AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Committee is working diligently to move toward installing new and improved lighting fixtures on the porch facing Fourth Street. Also, lighting across the arch in the chancel/choir area is forthcoming as well as enhanced, redirected lighting for the organ pipes and chancel (including pulpit). The two-person elevator plans are moving forward and when realized, will assist ones with physical limitations in moving between Fellowship Hall and the main floor.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

We tend to think of “membership” as either “Active” or “Inactive.” But did you know that our military who are temporarily in Leavenworth, as well as college students and retirees living here to be close to children can be an “Official Member” without moving their membership from their home church?

Person in the above positions of life can become an AFFILIATE MEMBER. This is an important step of inclusion and a way to embrace individuals who are at First Presbyterian Church or in Leavenworth. The Pastor has extended communion to ones in retirement facilities as a way to include them in the ministry and mission of the church.

INVITATION TO RECEIVE HOME COMMUNION

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home, please call the church office or the Pastor. The congregation will celebrate Communion on July 6 and taking Communion to ones unable to be at worship is a way to include all at the table.

JUNE STATED SESSION MEETING

At the June 12, 2014 Stated Session Meeting the following business was conducted:

- Approved transfer of letter of Steve and Diane Becker to First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN. The Clerk will send a letter to the Beckers.
- Received the report of the Presbyterian Women Council. Elaine Carder will be installed as Vice Moderator and Maria Traynham as Treasurer during the service on July 13 (*since has been changed to July 20.*)
- Pentecost Offering received was \$255 with 40% of it going to a local mission.
- The Clerk of Session reported that the church’s 2013 Session Minutes and Congregational Registers were reviewed and approved on June 7.
- Reported that handbells will be shipped for refurbishment from the Music Endowment funds.
- Modified a line item in the budget to provide funding for the new Membership and Outreach Committee
- Approved the Deacons hosting an Ice Cream Social at 6 PM on August 24 outside on the UMC grounds with their permission
- Approved the Membership and Outreach Committee hosting the Blessing of the Animals at 4 PM on September 14 on the UMC grounds with their permission.
- Received the Pastor’s Report

Thank You

Thank you so much for offering me a scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year. My family and I really appreciate your support of my education. This scholarship will help me so much with financing my college education.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Reilly

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT AVAILABLE

The 221st General Assembly of the PCUSA met June 14-21 in Detroit. Copies of many of the decisions are included in this newsletter. Please note that some decisions will now go back to Presbyteries for study and discussion over the next 12 months. Although the Session is not meeting in a Stated meeting in July, the GA report will be addressed and information discussed with the congregation in the future.

This GA was termed the Assembly of YES mostly. The Assembly approved the denomination at all levels being open to and seeking opportunities for respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with entities and persons from other religious traditions. Also, an initiative was adopted to provide quality education to 1 million children in the US and around the world as a way to alleviate poverty, especially for women and children. The Assembly approved the granting to pastors discretion in determining whether or not to conduct same-gender marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal. This takes place immediately. Whereas a proposed amendment changing the definition of marriage will go before the 171 presbyteries for ratification during the next year. In a narrow vote, Commissioners voted to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions because business practices were deemed as contributing to non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine. The Assembly voted to send the Belhar Confession to the presbyteries for ratification . This confession has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s. The Assembly also voted to reduce the number of PCUSA synods from 16 to between 10 and 12. These are some of the decisions made in Detroit.



Here we stand, so to speak: THE 221ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

DETROIT, MICHIGAN — JUNE 14-21, 2014

BY **LESLIE SCANLON**, *Outlook* national reporter
and **JACK HABERER**, *Outlook* editor

Following years of debate, the 2014 General Assembly decided to act — choosing to divest from three American companies whose products support Israel's occupation of Palestine, and granting PC(USA) ministers permission to perform same-sex marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal.

Realizing that their actions would please some and alienate others both in the United States and overseas, commissioners also pleaded for reconciliation with those who would disagree. "In no way is this a reflection of a lack of love for our Jewish brothers and sisters," moderator Heath Rada said immediately after the divestment vote, one of the first by an American mainline Protestant denomination.

Asked after the votes on same-sex marriage how much it would cost to send representatives to each presbytery for conversations about unity, Stated Clerk Graye Parsons said he wasn't sure, but "the cost of not doing this is higher."

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

MODERATOR. The committee chose as its moderator Heath Rada (christened #modeRada on Twitter), the only ruling elder among three candidates, and a hearty North Carolinian who selected as his vice-moderator his demographic opposite: Lantssa Kwong Abazia, a young Chinese-American pastor from New York. From the start, the young adult advisory delegates (YAADs) resonated with the white-haired Rada, who passed out Heath bars and danced during breaks on the platform.

DIVESTMENT. Two years after a GA rejected a similar proposal by just two votes, commissioners gasped when the divestment vote result was posted — 310-303 — for a proposal that the PC(USA) begin phased divestment of about \$16.5 million from three companies that provide equipment used by the Israeli military in the occupation of Palestine: Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. The assembly did specify that its action was "not to be construed" as support of the global Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. In response to the contention that the denomination's restrictions were impeding pastors' ability to provide pastoral care to committed same-sex couples in their churches, the GA approved two measures to permit ministers to perform same-gender marriages in jurisdictions where legal (at present, 19 states plus the District of Columbia).

An authoritative interpretation, approved 371-238 (61 percent in favor), took effect immediately after the assembly adjourned, giving PC(USA) ministers freedom of conscience to perform same-sex marriages. The assembly also voted 421-175 (71 percent in favor) to recommend for ratification by the presbyteries a constitutional amendment adjusting the definition of Christian marriage, changing the phrase "a man and a woman" to "two people, traditionally a man and a woman."

Both actions support freedom of conscience. The proposed amendment says explicitly, "Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service" that either of them "believes is contrary" to their "discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God."

Adoption of the amendment requires ratification by 87 of the 172 presbyteries, the votes to be taken over the next 12 months.

BELHAR CONFESSION. The assembly approved recommending for presbyteries' ratification (by two-thirds vote) adding the Belhar Confession, written in South Africa and focused on justice and reconciliation, to the PC(USA)'s Book of Confession.

BROKEN PRESBYTERIAN RELATIONS. Already 350 churches have left the PC(USA) for other denominations over the past four years. Now more departures are expected. Also, Hunter Farrell, director of World Mission, said preliminary inquiries indicate 17 of the denomination's 54 global-partner denominations may break relations with the PC(USA) over the same-sex marriage decision.

LANGUAGE ABOUT ISRAEL. The assembly disavowed a controversial study guide, "Zionism Unsettled," produced by the Israel Palestine Mission Network. The commissioners overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to trim back references to Israel in liturgical materials published by the church.

GUN VIOLENCE. The assembly appealed to fellow Presbyterians to work to reduce gun violence by advocating for stricter background checks and a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles.

FOSSIL FUELS. Despite pleas from the YAADs that "we can't wait" to protect the earth, the assembly voted not to divest from fossil fuel companies, choosing instead to explore related issues that might lead to action by a future assembly.

DRONES. The assembly passed a resolution criticizing secrecy in the U.S. military's use of drones for surveillance and targeted attacks, calling for legislation governing the use of military drones.

YOUNG ADULT COMMISSIONERS? A proposal to turn YAADs into voting YACs failed, given that the new title would not require them to be ordained elders.

MID COUNCILS. The assembly approved consolidating the number of synods from the current 16 to somewhere between 10 and 12 reconfigured synods. ●

FOR COMPLETE REPORTING, GO TO WWW.PRES-OUTLOOK.ORG

PHONE TOLL-FREE: 1-800/446-6008 • RICHMOND: 804/359-8442

FAX: 804/353-6369 • BOX 85623, RICHMOND, VA 23285