

August

2022

THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
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From the Interim Pastor's Study

When I drove up the church this Tuesday morning, I was surprised to see about a half dozen cars and trucks in the church parking lot. Normally there might be one if I arrived before the cleaning crew had left. When I entered, I soon heard voices and discovered that one of the air conditioners wasn't working. (There are six for the entire building). The Property Committee official and unofficial was here checking out the systems, trying to determine the issue before calling a repairman. The building is ten years old now, so they seem to be here a lot. Last week it was the hot water heater.

They are not the only ones I see around the church on a weekday. Nancy Cox comes in and practices, making her selections for the prelude and postlude, checking on the hymns for that week. Of course, Dave Hanson is in working on the endless list of responsibilities listed (and not listed) in a church administrator's job. The PPOW team is in and out bringing in food purchases and later packing the groceries up for distribution. This week VBS workers are pulling together supplies ready to greet the young people that will be here to learn about Bread and the Bible. The Worship Committee pops in to change the paraments and Connections to check on the coffee supply. Then there is Norm Walmer for whom the church property is like an extension of his own home, riding around on the lawn mower, keeping this large yard in tip top shape. (We will be thanking Norm for all his work early in August—the kind of work that happens with no one is watching, except to see the well-kept lawn when we drive up.)

I am not here on Wednesday nights, but I know that the Sunday before the choir sings there are a bunch of people who give of their time rehearsing for Sunday worship. Before them is Tom Mielke conducting and Sue Mielke accompanying. Tom and Sue are around a lot more than those hours. Tom is picking out music and learning/re-learning it to be able to conduct. He always seems to be rearranging this chair or that speaker to enhance the worship experience for both the choir and the congregation, especially those watching later at home. Sue doesn't sit at the piano without practicing. We will miss the way both the Mielke's have shared their talents in the last many years, but are grateful that they will be around - maybe not quite as often as retirees who will make frequent trips to grandchildren. (Remember to join us in a recognition of

From the Interim Pastor's Study (cont'd.)

of their gift of music and their retirement on August 21. Potluck - with cake, of course - following worship. See more details elsewhere.)

And there are meetings. LOTS of meetings where members gather to make decisions, establish policy, review finances and personnel matters (especially the search for new pastor and new music personnel these days), to education and envisioning the future.

It takes the time, commitment, and talent of many people for a church to run, to make worship possible, to sustain mission outreach, and help us maintain our relationships with one another.

It has been my pleasure to work with all these people - with all of you - this last year. I know whoever comes to serve you will find a group of dedicated and talented people with whom a pastor can "do church" together.

Blessings,
Sue

Mission



PPOW — Presbyterian Pantry on Wheels August Collection

Our collection for August is, once again, going to be cereal. We give two boxes per family per month so we go through a lot of cereal. And, as a reminder, the less sugary cereals are best - Cheerios, Honey Bunches of Oats, Life, Special K and the like. And, also again, Pick N Save usually has good deals on cereals, with a digital coupon or your shopper's card.



In July you donated 20 jars of jelly! Wow! That will last us at least two months (we give peanut butter and jelly every other month.) And an extra special *thank you* to our school supplies angel, Marcia McDermid, who donated Walmart gift cards to our 10 families! Who better than a retired teacher to think of our families and the expense of school supplies as the school year soon begins.

PPOW (cont'd.)

As we approach the beginning of our fourth year of doing PPOW - through a pandemic, snow, cold, heat, rain - the Mission committee is continually awed by the support of the congregation. I know we say this often but we could not have made it to year four without the ongoing support of all of you! Our relationship grows with our contact family as we watch their children grow and mature from newborns to a senior in high school. That alone is a gift we treasure.

PPOW Distribution in July

For the July distribution we had 10 families. Several families and their children came to help unload groceries and asked us to thank the congregation for the food gifts. Our church pantry provides each of our families with a large bulk of their groceries for the month. It is due to the generosity and kindness of the congregation that we have **not** been forced to cut back on the amount of groceries given each month even with food prices skyrocketing.



PPOW is grateful for the individuals who provide food or contribute to the cost of food, the food collections that enable us to give on average \$50 - \$60 dollars of additional groceries each month and to Vacation Bible School participants who donated 10 loaves of bread for the PPOW families. Families struggling with food insecurity before the Pandemic and before high inflation began affecting food prices, now face even greater challenges. Our church is reaching out to help these families with love, friendship, and food to help meet those challenges.

The PPOW Pantry is one way we fill the Future Focus charge "To reach out to the disadvantaged in our community so that we met our Biblical call to love our neighbors and work for social justice to improve their daily lives". Thank you!





Happy Birthday and Thanks!

Please join us **after church on August 7** for CUPCAKES to celebrate Norm Walmer's 80th birthday and to acknowledge him for all the work he does keeping the church yard looking nice and watching over the building.

Norm is a long-time member of the church, but does most of his "worshiping" while mowing, weeding, fertilizing, herbiciding, and picking up golf balls on the lawn. At the old church, Norm was employed as our fix-it-upper person. At the new building, we didn't have sufficient funds to continue his paid employment, but...Norm continued as a volunteer fix-it-upper to help out. Not only does he donate his time, but he also donates all costs associated with his work.

Sue and Tom Mielke Potluck Retirement Reception - August 21



Join us during and **after church on August 21** to celebrate Sue and Tom Mielke's retirement after a combined 30 years of music contributions to our church. During the service, the choir will perform two musical pieces commissioned for our 175th anniversary as a church.

After the service, we will have a potluck luncheon and brief program. The Connections Committee will be providing an entree chicken salad, rolls, cake and beverages. Everyone is asked to bring a "side dish" to share. Please bring non-meat sides and no desserts, as the cake will be our dessert. Thank you!!



Your Giving Status Report

You will be receiving a report showing your giving during the first half of 2022. Thanks to everyone who is able to contribute financially to FPC! As you continue to enjoy your summer, please keep up the good work. On those Sundays you are unable to attend worship in person, you're welcome to mail your check to the church office or use our [online giving page](#).



Session Updates from July

- Agreed to hold a joint deacon/session meeting on August 25.
- Approved the extension of the Interim Pastor contract with Rev. Sue Melrose for one month, to the end of September 2022.

"Songs for the Journey"

You are invited to a vocal recital at Christ Presbyterian Church, which is a fundraiser for their Deacon's Compassion Fund. Kirstin teaches voice at Academy of Sound which is housed at FPC, and will be accompanied by FPC's Nancy Cox. The following paragraphs give more details.

On **Sunday, August 21st at 2 pm**, Alto Scholarship Quartet member Kirstin Roble will present a recital entitled "Songs for the Journey." The recital will feature repertoire from A. Vivaldi, W.A. Mozart, G.F. Handel, Ofenbach, J. Kandor, Rogers and Hammerstein, among others. Each song will discuss the idea of a journey, either physical, emotional, or mental, and will span a wide range of styles and eras of music.



Kirstin will be accompanied by Nancy Cox and will be joined on duets by Soprano Katie Anderson. The recital is free but an offering for the Deacon's Compassion Fund will be taken both in person and online. The recital will also be live-streamed. The recital will be approximately 1 hour in length and will include a short intermission.



August

- Aug. 4 Norm Walmer
- Aug. 8 Cheryl Rogers
- Aug. 9 Wendy Goist Jones
- Aug. 13 Nathan Weigt & Renee Martell
- Aug. 19 Scheryl Seymour
- Aug. 20 Leah Rogers
- Aug. 31 Connie Mitchell

Per Capita for 2022 — IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID, please complete your Per Capita payment for 2022, as you are financially able. You have three ways to make your payment: a check to the church left in the offering plate on Sunday, a check mailed to the church, or via our online giving page. The amount this year is **\$33.70 per church member**, including children who may no longer be living at home. Payment of your per capita is much appreciated by the church and helps meet our budget.

Agrace Offers In-Person and Virtual Grief Support Options in September

In September, Agrace is offering one-on-one grief support and professionally led grief support groups to *anyone*, even if the person who died did not have hospice care.

- **One-on-one grief support** is available in-person, by phone or video chat.
- **Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday and pre-registration is required. In-person meetings are September 7 and 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center. Virtual meetings are [September 14 and 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.](#), online.
- **Grief on the Move** invites any adult to join Agrace grief specialists for a gentle walk to connect, heal and ease the isolation of grief. The group meets September 6 and 20, from noon to 1 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center to walk the paved Badger State Trail, weather permitting. There is no cost to attend this group.
- **Journey Through Grief** is a grief support group series for adults. The virtual group meets Tuesdays, September 8 to October 13, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., via Zoom.
- **LGBTQ+ Spouse/Partner Grief Support** is a seven-week grief support group for people in the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced the death of a partner/spouse. It meets Wednesdays, September 7 to October 19, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

There is no fee for these programs if a participant's family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Call (608) 327-7118 with questions, to register or make an appointment.

Agrace Adult Day Center Offers Daytime Care

Do you care for or know an older adult who cannot—or chooses not to—stay alone all day? The Agrace Adult Day Center in Madison gives seniors the reassurance and comfort of having others with them throughout the day. It's especially helpful for people who have dementia or trouble with their memory. It's a welcome break for family caregivers, too. Learn more at (608) 327-7303 or Agrace.org/AdultDayCenter.

How to Watch our Worship Service

We post the recording of our worship service on YouTube on Sunday afternoon or evening. The YouTube service will be linked to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fpcoregon, and the homepage of our website: www.fpcoregonwi.org.



OCA media will continue to air our worship from the previous week every Sunday morning at 10am on their channel. You can find this station at either Spectrum Channel 983 or TDS Channel 1019.

Mid-Year Financial Summary

The Financial Snapshot below shows FPC spent more than we expected to spend in the first half of the year (by \$6200) and our Operating Cash balance was thusly reduced from the first of the year. Also the FPC New Covenant investment mutual funds were reduced during the second quarter by about 10% as the stock market took it's plunge, but there is some good news, too. We reduced our mortgage by almost \$5,000 to about \$195,000. The snapshot shows pledged giving less than the congregational commitment, but we are actually right on target given a substantial lump-sum 2022 pledge was received in late 2021. Finally, although our Operating Cash balance has been reduced from the first of the year, that starting balance included unspent funds from 2021 so our operating cash is in a decent position. Overall, our financial status is reasonable as we begin the second half of the year. If you have any questions, please contact the Session Finance Chair, John Mehl at johnwmehl@gmail.com or 608-622-2864.

June Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon				
Monthly Financial Summary				
as of	June 30, 2022			
		Monthly Amount	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$128,420)				
	Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 7,731	\$ 57,874	\$ 64,210
Operating Income				
	Total Income	\$ 9,108	\$ 73,596	\$ 71,640
	Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 11,874	\$ 71,251	\$ 71,946
Adjustments to Cash:				
	Add: Transfer from Current Assets	\$ -		\$ -
	Deduct: Transfer Memorial Fund Donations	\$ -	\$ 3,925	\$ -
	Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 761	\$ 4,619	\$ -
	Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED	\$ (3,527)	\$ (6,200)	\$ (306)
Cash Balance-Operating Fund				
	Beginning Balance	\$ 38,097	\$ 40,994	
	Ending Balance	\$ 33,961	\$ 33,961	
	Increase in Available Operating Funds	\$ (4,136)	\$ (7,033)	