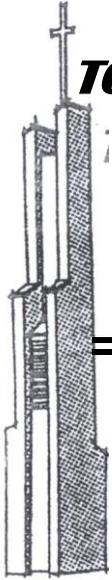


First Presbyterian Church
1803 - 83rd Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143



TOWER TOPICS

Church Phone: 262-652-6838
Church e-mail: k1stpres@yahoo.com
Church Website: www.kenoshafpc.org
LANCE LOVEALL, Pastor

DATED MATERIAL

July 29, 2020

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

All Sunday morning worship
and other ramblings are available on our website at
www.kenoshafpc.org



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This has been some year. A global pandemic, international civil rights protests with accompanying riots and violence on both sides, a huge economic setback, high unemployment, and uncertainty about future plans for schools, businesses, sports and extracurricular activities all make for stressful times. Add to that personal losses and a general feeling of disconnection and isolation. This year as a church we have had to say goodbye to several members who have helped define the ministry and fellowship of the congregation. We were able to say goodbye to Mary Wirth and Norma Jones before the church building closed, but many of us did not have that same chance with Vince Shuler, Jan Griffin, or Jamie Davis, not to mention all the people in our lives we have lost in this time. Each loss makes us feel more disconnected. Of course, that is where church is supposed to help. The church connects you to God, each other, and even yourself. In this time, though, even that is different, leaving many people to feel even more disconnected.

As a session we have voted to keep the church building closed to meetings and gatherings for the safety of the members of the church and a responsibility to the community to do what we can to stem the tide of this pandemic. However, that does not mean we have to be disconnected. Now, more than ever, we need each other. At the last session meeting, most of the conversation was taken up with how to be the connected in this time of distance. Since March, the elders and deacons have been trying to reach out to members of the church to check in. Along with Sara, the first couple of months saw the officers reach out to everyone in the directory in one way or another. Since May we have whittled the list down to the Deacons contacting people we think might be most vulnerable to feeling isolated and disconnected. We have also been offering a Zoom Bible study (on Thursdays for the time being), and offered a Zoom bingo night. But we need to do more. Coming soon – fellowship times, more zoom bingo, mid-week email check-in to keep you up to date with church news, and more. These will be socially distanced or virtual opportunities, so we will need your cooperation to be sure any guidelines are followed. But we need each other! So stay tuned and we will see you soon!

Lance

MISSION STATEMENT

Called into being by God's grace, we are Christians in progress;
Called to grow together in God's ways through worship, study, fellowship, evangelism,
and service;
Called to be servants of God's love to one another, to our community, and to the world.
We welcome all to our community of faith.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### General Operating Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 5/1/2020 | \$92,368.34        |
| Receipts                   | \$23,978.04        |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$18,345.90</u> |
| Ending Balance 5/31/2020   | <u>\$98,000.48</u> |

### Building Reserve Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 5/1/2020 | \$69,117.30        |
| Receipts                   | \$ 40.00           |
| Disbursements              | \$ 0.00            |
| Interest                   | <u>\$ 1.19</u>     |
| Ending Balance 5/31/2020   | <u>\$69,158.49</u> |

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WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CHURCH?

The answer is, not too much. We have had some work done on the Memorial Garden to trim, replant, and weed the beds. We are having two trees removed, including the beautiful but now half-dead Japanese maple (the one with the red leaves). It seems to have suffered a devastating freeze over the winter. The refrigerator in the old kitchen is still not working

(we are waiting for a part) and we are working on getting the garage door back in working order. We are rebuilding the website, and thanks to Vince Shuler's generosity, we are setting up a new account with Raymond James for endowments. Giving has remained strong (THANK YOU!), so I do a count and deposit about once a week or so. Some meetings are happening online, but most have ceased for the time being. Laurel comes in to practice and both Laurel and Stacy come in to record, Jenny comes in when there is a Tower Topics to do or other pressing business, but otherwise it is quiet around here and things look about the same as when you last saw them in March. I did eventually change the church vestments from purple for Lent to green for ordinary time (we skipped white for Easter altogether). I do a few cleaning projects a week to keep up on things, but otherwise everything is fine. And that is the news from FPC.

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## **NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!**

The time has come to update our Church website. Our current platform has become technically outdated in several ways during a time when our online tools are serving as a mainstay for our members. In addition, COVID 19 has made internet connectivity more important than ever.

We recognize we have members who are not using computers, but it's clear our website serves as a utility rather than an "add on" in our Church's ministry and outreach. We also need a content management system that is more user friendly for smart phones.

In addition to tech upgrades, we're hoping to build a website that will highlight the creativity and collaborative efforts of our members. Our goal is to develop a communications tool that can enhance outreach to members and visitors alike; sharing the ministries, mission, and values of our fellowship in Christ.

In the next week we'll be sending out a brief online survey asking you to share your experience with our current website. It will take 5 minutes or less for you to respond. This will help us as we work to improve the usability of our new website. We'll be sending out instructions with the survey, including how long it will be open for your responses. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Your feedback is very important to us.

Lydia Spottswood, Building & Grounds Team.

## **BOOK STUDY**

Starting in August, I will be leading a book study for synod commissioners on the book White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. As I will be preparing that study for synod commissioners, I would be willing to lead a book study by Zoom for anyone from our church who is interested. I will ask that you get the book on your own. You can either read it before the study or along with the study. Please email the church office letting me know you are interested and the best time for a zoom study. Thanks!

Lance

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Leslie has decided it is time to step down as organizer of Operation Christmas Child. Due to Covid19 and other considerations, for this year, at least, we are going to cease our participation in that ministry. Please do not purchase or drop off items for OCC to the church as we will not be collecting them this year.

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## **CALLING ALL HOME MUSICIANS!**

I want to thank Scott, Ron, Sarah, Markie, and Wyatt for providing music in this time of online worship. Scott continues to grace us with his music, for which I am grateful. But there is always room for more. If you would like to submit a piece, let me know. It can be by video or audio recording. I love variety, so be brave, step up, and share your music.

Lance

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Tower Topics

Kenosha, WI 53143

Issue #272

## **PEOPLE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

People to keep in your prayers:

Mark and Linda P - Mark has entered hospice care at home and Linda is caring for him there.

Lucelia, Gary, and Kathy - Lucelia is recovering from a fall and broken hip.

A couple starting the process of IVF.

Royce and Penny and family - Royce's mother Ella died recently.

Deb, Brad, Len and the girls and all Jamie's family for their loss.

Jackie N - her sister died in July after being hospice.

Kathy M - her sister died recently, but mercifully Kathy was able to see her briefly before she passed.

Anne and Bonnie L - feeling disconnected and uncertain about the future.

Mary and Bob P - in the hospital battling Covid19.

Jan's family as they prepare for her memorial service – see below

Janet Griffin's family has asked me to share that Jan's memorial service will be held on September 5, 2020 at either the Kemper Center or the Kenosha Country Club. More information should be available soon.

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CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-INS

We would like to Thank the members of First Presbyterian Church for all of the cards, prayers, and phone calls for our loss of Royce's Mom - Ella Ingraham. Having a church family there for us in our time of need is heartwarming.

Thank you to Pastor Lance for the wonderful memorial of Ella, you captured her life and loves in a way we will always hold close to our hearts.

Love,

Royce, Penny, Natalie, Courtney Ingraham, Gordon Sennett,
Doug, Nicole, and Oliver Pierce

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the outpouring of love, prayers and support we received from our Church Family at the passing of our beautiful daughter Jamie. The unimaginable pain of losing a child is truly the hardest thing a parent will ever have to endure. Your emails, cards, phone calls, meals, flowers and donations have been very comforting and a true testament to the innumerable lives that she touched.

Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks,

Deb & Brad

On July 6th of this year Mr. Ronald J. Christman died peacefully at the age of 93. Ron was an interesting man who studied five years in the Catholic seminary, got his bachelor of science degree from St. Norbert's College, was drafted into the army and sent to Germany in 1945 for post-war duties, became a teacher of English, Spanish, and Latin for K.U.S.D., and owned and operated Christman Boy Blue and Custard shops in Kenosha. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church here in town, but he had married a member of our congregation, Jane George. When they married Ron had a large nativity scene that was too large for their household, so they gifted it to First Presbyterian Church and it is still the nativity scene we use to this day. His obituary was in the paper on July 12th or you can find it here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/ronald-christman-obituary?pid=196474160> Every time we use the nativity scene we can be thankful for this good man.

(courtesy of Lois Van Dahm)

Dear Church family,

Thank you for the wonderful celebration that you put together on behalf of the graduates. I was overwhelmed by kindness and love shown by the church. Thank you again for the ongoing support.

Emma Brueckert

Nick and I have been busy over the past month. We made some additions to our homestead! Meet Gwen, Callie, Cassie, and Luke! They are miniature Silkie fainting goats. And yes, they do faint. They have been so much fun getting to know and watch grow. Our chicken run was also completed earlier this summer and the hens and our rooster Olaf are loving it! Hobby farming at its finest! Our garden is also doing amazing! And of course our pup Harper is loving life! Keeping our spirits up and hoping for the best for our lives and all of yours. Stay safe and healthy!

Nick and Kortnie Ruth



During the time of Covid, I've been keeping busy training this little lady named Molly. She was born on Mar. 16th and has really changed my life (in a good way)! I want to thank the deacons for their cards and phone calls. I have never felt truly alone during this time because of the kindness of our church family. I'm looking forward to the day we can be together in body as well as spirit!



Sheryl Becker

Good day everyone,

My name is Nancy McGovern. I would like to share with you my experience with Covid. My hopes are that it brings understanding about the importance of the social distancing recommendations and the hope that things will and can get better.

I am a mild asthmatic, with some allergy triggers. On Tuesday April 21, I started having difficulty breathing. I called my daughter Kimberly to take me to the hospital for a breathing treatment. Little did I know that the next 60 days would be the fight of, and for my life. I was taken back for some tests. Around 9:00 PM, I was diagnosed with COVID, Pneumonia and had blood in my urine. They informed me that I was to be admitted and transferred to 2 Palmer/ COVID floor at Kenosha Memorial.

The nurses and doctors informed me and the family that they would do everything in their power to keep me off the ventilator. "At this time there was not much success of patients recovering/surviving once being intubated" nurses said. As the evening progressed, so did my condition. My breathing became weak, along with my heart rate and blood pressure. Just after midnight, my daughter had received a call that I was crashing, and there was no other option but to intubate.

Over the course of the next week, I was not improving. From what the doctors, nurses and Kimberly tell me, I was getting progressively worse. In fact, I was starting to have kidney failure, heart rate kept dropping and was unable to stabilize, and my lungs were still full of pneumonia. It had been 5 days of intubation and the doctor told Kim, "If she is going to

beat this, she needs to show improvement over the next couple of days, if not, we may have some tough decisions to make. She may die no matter what we throw at her”.

It was at this time my son, Keith McGovern, and my daughters Kim and Katie, got a prayer chain started. They reached out to members of this church, St.Marks, and a plea on Facebook. The next morning, the doctor called Kim saying “For some unclear reason, Nancy has turned the corner. Her heart rate is up, blood pressure stabilizing and oxygen levels appear normal, today is a good day. Even if there is a setback tomorrow (I hope not) I want to see progress over the next three days.”. They told me there were over 1,000 people praying for me, and the prayers continued over the next few weeks.

The family got together and decided to call my room every day. The nurses said that even though I was unconscious, I was reacting to the voices of my family on the phone. Over the next couple of weeks, I continued to improve, and was extubated on May 12. One of the nurses stated on Facebook that it was the way the family came together and my incredible support group that made the difference in my turn around. It was 20 days of being on the ventilator. The hospital staff called me a miracle. Many of the staff did not expect me to make it. Kim said some of the nurses were there when I was intubated and slipping fast, they were not optimistic about my chances. Now that the fight is over, the battle for recovery begins.

At this stage, I was unable to speak or move. It took a few days after being extubated to recover enough to gather my thoughts. They told me “For every day in a vegetative state, you lose 3 days of muscle ability. You were under heavy medication so long; it takes time for them to run their course and be flushed from your body.” It took so long for the meds to flush from my body, and the lack of movement down the right side, they thought I had a stroke while intubated. On May 25, after a couple of speech therapy sessions, I was able to tell my brother (Eddie Piehl), and sister-in-law (Karla Piehl) what I had seen while under. A man dressed in white was walking with me. He reached his hand out to me. He didn’t say a word, just reached out. I told him “I am not ready yet”. I turned and started to walk away. There is no doubt in my mind it was God.

After a few complications and setbacks, I was able to transfer to an inpatient rehabilitation center in Illinois. I worked hard at the center for 2 weeks. After 60 days of fighting COVID, and therapy, I was able to be discharged. I am currently home and continuing my therapy. Though I am still using a walker, I am optimistic about being able to switch to a cane soon. My strength is coming back slowly, and I am still experiencing numbness in my

right foot and fingers. I realize my full recovery will take some time, but I hope to be close to 100% very soon.

This disease is very deadly and taken many lives. With God's healing hands and all the prayers, this pandemic did not take me. I am a survivor. Thank you all for your love, support, and continued prayers.

Nancy McGovern

I like to read Fresh Impressions, the weekly online newsletter from the Presbytery. This June, one article in particular caught my eye due to the protests in the news. It was the Poor Peoples' March on Washington. I'd never heard of it, and was intrigued. I learned of the first Poor Peoples' March in 1968, shortly after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Some of you may remember it. From that grew the Poor Peoples' Campaign, which is still active.

The Campaign does address systemic racism, but I discovered it was much broader than that. Black, brown, and white people were all represented; Native Americans and immigrants; Christians, Muslims, and Jews; straight and LGBTQ; urban and rural; the sick and disabled. Poverty in our country cuts across many cultural divides.

The Poor Peoples' Campaign is not affiliated with any political party. Rather, it seeks to give an equal voice to poor and low-income people in our current political arena. It calls for a moral revival in our country, rooted in the constitutional value of "liberty and justice for all", and in religious values. When one of the Campaign's leaders was asked if their values were rooted in a particular political party, he said, "No. They come from the Bible." He quoted Isaiah 58:16 about God's concern for justice for the poor and marginalized, and the words of Jesus, "As you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me." The Campaign promotes justice in many areas such as a living wage, and safe working conditions that do not harm workers or the environment. They advocate for green ecology, and preserving protected lands. They call for reform of the criminal justice system, and equal access to healthcare. They strive for a 'peacetime economy' rather than a 'wartime economy', because a peacetime economy helps all people to benefit equally. They value equality and justice.

A new Poor Peoples' Assembly and Moral March on Washington was planned for June 20-21, 2020. Due to COVID-19, it was transformed into primarily a virtual event. The program was live-streamed and included messages from various religious and cultural leaders, as well as speakers from the various backgrounds represented. The arts and music were also included.

One of my favorite things was that people from all over the country could sign in to register their support, and submit pictures of themselves and a brief statement of why they were participating in the event. One African-American woman from Detroit shared how drinking the unsafe water there contributed to her miscarrying two sets of twins; her daughter also lost a pregnancy. An immigrant from a Middle Eastern country described how her father dreamed of a better life for his family in America. But when he was unable to find steady work to adequately provide his family's needs, the shame he felt led him to take his own life. One older Caucasian man simply said, "Now is the time for change."

To learn more about the work of the Poor Peoples' Campaign, you should be able to simply log in to june2020.org, or google Poor Peoples Campaign. I also encourage people to check out Fresh Impressions to find more educational events and opportunities to increase our understanding of these issues.

DAILY LECTIONARY PASSAGES

AUGUST 2020

- Aug 1** – Psalm 122, 149, 100, 63; Judg. 5:19-31; Acts 2:22-36; Matt. 28:11-20
Aug 2 – Psalm 108, 150, 66, 23; Judg. 6:1-24; 2 Cor. 9:6-15; Mark 3:20-30
Aug 3 - Psalm 62, 145, 73, 9; Judg. 6:25-40; Acts 2:37-47; John 1:1-18
Aug 4 – Psalm 12, 146, 36, 7; Judg. 7:1-18; Acts 3:1-11; John 1:19-28
Aug 5 – Psalm 96, 147:1-11, 132, 134; Judg. 7:19-8:12; Acts 3:12-26; John 1:29-42
Aug 6 - Psalm 116, 147:12-20, 26, 130; Judg. 8:22-35; Acts 4:1-12; John 1:43-51
Aug 7 - Psalm 84, 148, 25, 40; Judg. 9:1-16, 19-21; Acts 4:13-31; John 2:1-12
Aug 8 – Psalm 63, 149, 125, 90; Judg. 9:22-25, 50-57; Acts 4:32-5:11; John 2:13-25
Aug 9 – Psalm 103, 150, 117, 139; Judg. 11:1-11, 29-40; 2 Cor. 11:21b-31; Mark 4:35-41
Aug 10 – Psalm 5, 145, 82, 29; Judg. 12:1-7; Acts 5:12-26; John 3:1-21
Aug 11 - Psalm 42, 146, 102, 133; Judg. 13:1-15; Acts 5:27-42; John 3:22-36
Aug 12 – Psalm 89:1-18 147:1-11, 1, 33; Judg. 13:15-24; Acts 6:1-15; John 4:1-26
Aug 13 – Psalm 97, 147:12-20, 16, 62; Judg. 14:1-19; Acts 6:15-7:16; John 4:42
Aug 14 – Psalm 51, 148, 142, 65; Judg. 14:20-15:20; Acts 7:17-29; John 4:43-54
Aug 15 – Psalm 104, 149, 138, 98; Judg. 16:1-14; Acts 7:30-43; John 5:1-18
Aug 16 – Psalm 19, 150, 81, 113; Judg. 16:15-31; 2 Cor. 13:1-11; Mark 5:25-34
Aug 17 - Psalm 135, 145, 97, 112; Judg. 17:1-13; Acts 7:44-8:1a; John 5:19-29
Aug 18 – Psalm 123, 146, 30, 86; Judg. 18:1-15; Acts 8:1-13; John 5:30-47
Aug 19 – Psalm 15, 147:1-11, 48, 4; Judg. 18:16-31; Acts 8:14-25; John 6:1-15
Aug 20 - Psalm 36, 147:12-20, 80, 27; Job 1:1-22; Acts 8:26-40; John 6:16-27
Aug 21 – Psalm 130, 148, 32, 13; Job 2:1-13; Acts 9:1-9; John 6:27-40
Aug 22 – Psalm 56, 149, 118, 111; Job 3:1-26; Acts 9:10-19a; John 6:41-51
Aug 23 - Psalm 67, 150, 46, 93; Job 4:1-6, 12-21; Rev. 4:1-11; Mark 6:1-6a
Aug 24 - Psalm 57, 145, 85, 47; Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21; Acts 9:19b-31; John 6:52-59
Aug 25 – Psalm 54, 146, 28, 99; Job 6:1-4, 8-15; Acts 9:32-43; John 6:60-71
Aug 26 – Psalm 65, 147:1-11, 125, 91; Job 6:1, 7:1-21; Acts 10:1-16; John 7:1-13
Aug 27 – Psalm 143, 147:12-20, 81, 116; Job 8:1-10, 20-22; Acts 10:17-33; John 7:14-36
Aug 28 – Psalm 88, 148, 6, 20; Job 9:1-15, 32-35; Acts 10:34-48; John 7:37-52
Aug 29 – Psalm 122, 149, 100, 63; Job 9:1, 10:1-9; Acts 11:1-18; John 8:12-20
Aug 30 – Psalm 108, 150, 66, 23; Job 11:1-9, 13-20; Rev. 5:1-14; Matt. 5:1-12
Aug 31 – Psalm 62, 145, 73, 9; Job 12:1-6, 13-25; Acts 11:19-30; John 8:21-32



August Birthdays

Elaine Azuma
Kim Mock
Kristen Sorenson
Kathy Misun
Dana Anderson
Carl Edenhofer
Karen Edenhofer
John Miles
Beth Djuplin
Jerry Jones
Brad Behling
Jackie Natzke
Dana Berry
Pete Wynstra



August Anniversaries

Boyd & Jennifer Frederick
Carl & Karen Edenhofer
Brad & Deb Kovachik
Carole & George Serpe
Bob & Laryssa LeFebve

SESSION

Gary Anderson (Fellowship, Memorial)
Kelly Andrichik (Worship & Music, Personnel*)
Scott Barnes (Building & Grounds, Worship)
Mark Bourque (Building & Grounds*)
Walter Deignan (Building & Grounds)
Cris Doil (Stewardship & Finance*)
Marcy Hufendick (Christian Ed*, Personnel, Memorial)
Shari Infante (Fellowship*, Mission, Memorial, Nominating)
Todd Kotten (Building & Grounds)
Ron Meinhardt (Worship and Music*)
Leslie Pottorff (Mission*, Fellowship, Personnel, Memorial)
Jodi Prince (Fellowship, Nominating)

() indicates committee assignments;
*indicates Team Leaders

DEACONS

Lori Barnes, Ron Bauman, Renee Brueckert,
Sherry Craig, Teddi Griffin, Lisa Hawley, Penny
Ingraham*, Brenda Langerman, Nancy
McGovern