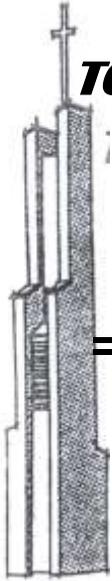


First Presbyterian Church
1803 - 83rd Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143



TOWER TOPICS

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

DATED MATERIAL

May 30, 2019



Vacation Bible School will take place here at the church June 17-21, from 9:00 -11:30 a.m., for children in grades K - 5. The theme this year is “To Mars and Beyond”. If you would like to register a child, or sign up to volunteer, go to <http://www.myvbs.org/kenoshafpc2019/>.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we finish up this year's Sunday school rotation, I wanted to give my take on what we have learned from the minor prophets in the Digging Deeper class.

First, if you are not familiar with that term, the minor prophets refer to the otherwise unrelated prophetic books at the end of the Old Testament: the twelve books that start with Hosea and end with Malachi. These are not books in which we spend a lot of time. We may know Jonah (thanks Veggie Tales!) or parts of Amos or a verse from Micah, but by and large we avoid the books of prophecy of the OT. Each prophet had a time period, a historical context, and congregation to whom he preached. Each prophet had a point for the people of his day, but as it is God's Word to us, we have to ask ourselves what meaning lies in these books for the modern reader. So here are a couple of highlights from our discussions on these important books of the Bible.

One: How are we to take these prophesies? We had a lot of discussion about whether this material should be taken literally or poetically/metaphorically. Should we just read this Word of God or interpret it? Most of us seemed to recognize the importance of interpreting the Word of God rather than trying to apply it literally to our context. As a matter of fact, I do not think it is possible to read without interpretation as we ask the question, "So what does this mean for me?" To understand these texts it helps to know the context of the writers, but we also look for meaning beyond their context into our world.

Two: God values action over belief. All throughout the minor prophets, one of the harsh theological points we confront is the idea that God punishes/disciplines the people of God for their lack of righteousness. Sometimes that is linked to worshipping other gods or failing to follow the Law, but most of the time it is wrapped up in a lack of mercy, grace, and hospitality to the stranger, the widow, the orphan, or the alien in the land. Empty religion is something that God seems to despise. Like the Book of James, true religion is defined as faith that serves the good of others. True faith makes a difference in the lives around us.

Three: Though politics and religion go together as the pillars of society, be careful how you pair them. God has a lot to say about how we do community, but God does not seem to appreciate being subverted or used for political causes. God is not at our beck and call like a genie to be used. Rather, we serve God and as such need to follow where God would lead us in all parts of life.

Four: God is more merciful than we like. Though the prophets are filled with warnings and consequences of ignoring those warnings, they are also filled with evidence of God's mercy and long-suffering (patience) with the people of God. God seems to be tireless in giving people chances to return to God for mercy and grace and find in God true meaning

and joy. Yes, the idea of God’s disciple can be hard to take, the prophets are also filled with God’s mercy and forgiveness to those who come to know themselves in their proper light as the people of God.

There are, of course, three hundred more things I could mention, and the conversation has been interesting and lively. I offer these books up to you as a way of saying, “Try them, you may find yourself in those pages.”

Lance

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**Treasurer’s Report:**

General Operating Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 4/1/2019 | \$52,741.08        |
| Receipts                   | \$26,238.87        |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$22,460.60</u> |
| Ending Balance 4/30/2019   | <u>\$56,519.35</u> |

Building Reserve Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 4/1/2019 | \$60,254.80        |
| Receipts                   | \$ 80.00           |
| Disbursements              | \$ 0.00            |
| Interest                   | <u>\$ 5.27</u>     |
| Ending Balance 4/30/2019   | <u>\$60,340.07</u> |

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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.

DAILY LECTIONARY PASSAGES

JUNE 2019

- June 1** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Ezek. 3:4-17; Heb. 5:7-14; Luke 9:37-50
- June 2** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Ezek. 3:16-27; Eph. 2:1-10; Matt. 10:24-33, 40-42
- June 3** - Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Ezek. 4:1-17; Heb. 6:1-12; Luke 9:51-62
- June 4** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Ezek. 7:10-15, 23b-27; Heb. 6:13-20; Luke 10:1-17
- June 5** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Ezek. 11:14-25; Heb. 7:1-17; Luke 10:17-24
- June 6** - Psalm 47, 147:12-20; Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32; Heb. 7:18-28; Luke 10:25-37
- June 7** - Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Ezek. 34:17-31; Heb. 8:1-13; Luke 10:38-42
- June 8** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Ezek. 43:1-12; Heb. 9:1-14; Luke 11:14-23
- June 9** – Psalm 104, 150, 29, 33; Isa. 11:1-9; 1 Cor. 2:1-13; John 14:21-29
- June 10** – Psalm 62, 145, 73, 9; Deut. 30:1-10; 2 Cor. 10:1-18; Luke 18:31-43
- June 11** - Psalm 12, 146, 36, 7; Deut. 30:11-20; 2 Cor. 11:1-21a; Luke 19:1-10
- June 12** – Psalm 96, 147:1-11, 132; Deut. 31:30-32:14; 2 Cor. 11:21b-33; Luke 19:11-27
- June 13** – Psalm 116, 147:12-20, 26; Song of Sol. 1:1-3, 9-11, 15-16a, 2:1-3a; 2 Cor. 12:1-10; Luke 19:28-40
- June 14** – Psalm 84, 148, 25, 40; Song of Sol. 2:8-13:4a, 5-7, 9-11; 2 Cor. 12:11-21; Luke 6:12-26
- June 15** – Psalm 63, 149, 125, 90; Song of Sol. 5:10-16, 7:1-2, 6-7a, 8:6-7; 2 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 20:1-8
- June 16** – Psalm 103, 150, 117, 139; Deut. 6:1-9; Eph. 4:1-16; John 1:1-18
- June 17** - Psalm 5, 145, 82, 29; 1 Sam. 1:1-20; Acts 1:1-14; Luke 20:9-19
- June 18** – Psalm 42, 146, 102, 133; 1 Sam. 1:21-2:11; Acts 1:15-26; Luke 20:19-26
- June 19** – Psalm 89:1-18, 147:1-11, 1, 33; 1 Sam. 2:12-26; Acts 2:1-21; Luke 20:27-40
- June 20** - Psalm 97, 147:12-20, 16, 62; 1 Sam. 2:27-36; Acts 2:22-36; Luke 20:41-21:4
- June 21** – Psalm 51, 148, 142, 65; 1 Sam. 3:1-21; Acts 2:37-47; Luke 21:5-19
- June 22** – Psalm 104, 149, 138, 98; 1 Sam. 4:1b-11; Acts 4:32-5:11; Luke 21:20-28
- June 23** - Psalm 19, 150, 81, 113; 1 Sam. 4:12-22; James 1:1-18; Matt. 19:23-30
- June 24** - Psalm 135, 145, 97, 112; 1 Sam. 5:1-12; Acts 5:12-26; Luke 21:29-36
- June 25** – Psalm 123, 146, 30, 86; 1 Sam. 6:1-16; Acts 5:27-42; Luke 21:37-22:13
- June 26** – Psalm 15, 147:1-11, 48, 4; 1 Sam. 7:2-17; Acts 6:1-15; Luke 22:14-23
- June 27** – Psalm 36, 147:12-20, 80, 27; 1 Sam. 8:1-22; Acts 6:15-7:16; Luke 22:24-30
- June 28** – Psalm 130, 148, 32, 139; 1 Sam. 9:1-14; Acts 7:17-29; Luke 22:31-38
- June 29** – Psalm 56, 149, 118, 111; 1 Sam. 9:15-10:1; Acts 7:30-43; Luke 22:39-51
- June 30** – Psalm 67, 150, 46, 93; 1 Sam. 10:1-16; Rom. 4:13-25; Matt. 21:23-32

SOUP KITCHEN

On Tuesday, June 4th, our congregation is helping prepare and serve a nutritious meal for those in need at the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen. In May, 9 volunteers served 70 adults and 20 children. New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

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## **FIRESIDE FRIENDS**

“June is Bustin’ Out All Over” on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. when Fireside Friends will meet in Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we focus on a flower theme, as summer will hopefully be getting into full swing. We’ll have our usual fellowship, prayer, and meeting time, then everyone can participate in a special flower project. (No creative talent required!) If you have questions, please contact Mary Wirch or Julie Iorio.

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SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Our senior luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th (please note this is one week later than usual) at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All seniors and guests are welcome. Please join us for delicious food and wonderful fellowship!

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## **PRAYER SHAWL**

Prayer Shawl will meet on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. All knitters and crocheters are welcome!

## **JAM MINISTRY – BETTER LATE THAN NEVER**

**Mark your calendar:** the first Jam Table will be in the Link on **June 2**, with a number of your favorite jams available, and at least one new one.

It had been announced that there would be a three-month hiatus, but that was before health problems caused additional delay. Still, a supply of jams has been slowly being put together for you to taste for free and obtain for a donation towards our 2019 Missions Project – which we will tell you about later. The minimum contribution for most jams will be \$8, with seedless jams being \$2 more.

The strawberry season is almost here. In early May the farms were optimistically talking about opening in mid-June. When they do, we need volunteers to pick, wash and mash berries. We need lots of nice ripe (but not squishy) strawberries to build up a supply for immediate and later use. (John will not be allowed to go picking this year, so others must step up and bend over!) Strawberry jam is easy to make and we will try to arrange a Saturday event in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to demonstrate safe jam-making procedures. Then we can arrange for times when volunteers can work together at the church or in John's kitchen to prepare strawberry, strawberry-rhubarb, and other strawberry preserves. And, of course, other fruits will soon be in season even if things are late locally because of our odd weather.

Thanks to the Chili Cook-off, we already have \$300 in the Jam Ministry fund, but please come and support our famous mission effort on June 2 (and subsequent Sundays, of course). Donations of jars, lids, and pectin (pink "Less Sugar" boxes preferred) are always welcome, of course. We have a few dozen returned jars left but they won't last long once the strawberries arrive, so clean out the refrigerator and pantry and bring back the empties so they can be filled!

Remember too that this is not a business – it is an outreach project so give to family, friends and neighbors and spread the gospel at the same time.

## **OUR 2019 GRADUATES**



**We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following high school and college graduates:**

Tyler Peroutka will be graduating from Indian Trail High School and Academy this year. He will be attending Gateway Technical College and working towards his Associate's Degree in Automotive and Small Engine Repair.

Ryan Rasmussen graduated May 11th with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dave Robinson graduated on May 18<sup>th</sup> from Carnegie Mellon (Pittsburgh) with a Master's Degree in Information Technology and Data Analytics.

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SAVE THE DATES

June 10th - Rhonda Kruse, Mission Engagement Director for the Presbyterian Church, will be visiting us to tell us of mission possibilities, and her work - which involves many aspects of the church's mission activity at home and worldwide. We shall host her for a potluck in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM - main dish to be provided by Fellowship Committee and congregation will bring a salad or dessert (sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall). Note there will be no committee meetings that night. We hope to present a lot of interesting insight into the workings and possibilities for mission in our PCUSA, so please try to attend.

June 26th at 6:30 PM - The Simon sisters will give a presentation on their father's experiences as a holocaust survivor, and how it relates to civil rights and reconciliation today. Karl Simon was a Presbyterian minister in Milwaukee (Steve & Elaine Azuma were members of his church at one time) and former Director of our Presbytery. We will be inviting some nearby churches in our Presbytery to also come hear this presentation. A meal will be catered and congregation will be asked to provide desserts. Should be very interesting!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer office hours will begin the week of June 9th. That week, Jenny will only be in the office on Monday, June 10th. Starting the following week, she will be in the office on Wednesdays, from 8:00-11:30 a.m.

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## **GARDEN NEWS**

The church garden is mostly in as of 5/22/19 - a bit later than planned for the early veggies due to weather, but on track for later plants. Waterers will be starting their tasks (if you did not get my email or written instructions, please let me know). We still will need volunteers to harvest, sell and transport to Shalom Center. Please let me know if you can help with that - we would like to have weekend pickers to sell on Sunday and midweek pickers to pick and deliver midweek. I will also put out a sign-up sheet. Also hope everyone will donate generously when “purchasing” on Sundays. Funds again go to the Presbyterian Giving catalog for food related items.

Sandy Billingsley

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FATHER'S DAY

We will be serving root beer floats during Fellowship Hour on Father's Day, June 16th. Mark your calendars so you remember to join us after worship for fellowship and floats!

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering will be collected on Sunday, June 9th. Envelopes can be found in the pew holders or in the back of the sanctuary.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

On Sunday, May 17th, we made a plea for volunteers to pack up merchandise at Lake Forest Presbyterian on Saturday, September 28th. We need 10 more volunteers from 1:30 to 5 PM. We can ride share to and from Lake Forest.

We will be parking the merchandise trucks overnight at our church. After fellowship hour on Sunday, September 29th, we will begin setting up the tables and fixtures. Once the tables are ready, we will unload the trucks and bring the merchandise to its general location for set up and display. We will need volunteers of all ages, gender, and good spirits. Our goal will be to get all the merchandise onto the tables and floor locations.

Please consider volunteering for Sunday work from 11:30 to 3 PM. We need you as an individual or a family. You don't have to stay the entire time, but we sure need help for this critical set up.

Charles Leicht
262-942-1205
knobdealer@wi.rr.com

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## **MISSING CROCKPOT**

Someone took home the wrong crockpot after the Maundy Thursday soup supper. Please bring the Pottorff's silver crockpot with lock-top back to Fellowship Hall. Your crockpot is awaiting pickup in the kitchen.

## **THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the choir will complete their 2018-2019 season of singing. This year is significant for two reasons. First, this will be Ron's last year as choir director. Ron has been directing the choir for many years (including all 18 that I have been here). He tried to retire once, but we dragged him back in. Now he is ready for a well deserved break for the every week effort of directing the choir. Thank you, Ron, for all of your hard work over the years of providing music during worship. We have not heard the last from Ron – he will continue to be active in worship and music in the church and as chair of the Worship Team. But we do thank him for all he has done to make worship at FPC inspiring.

Secondly, with Ron's retirement, several members of the choir are taking the opportunity to "retire" as well. Many of the members of the choir have been lending their voices to the congregation for decades. Thank you all, current and former members of the choir who have sung for generations or for only a short time. Your music has helped inspire our worship, not only on Sunday mornings but also at special services throughout the year. You have been a blessing to us!

The worship committee and the session are exploring ways that we might want to use music in worship going forward. Without fielding a dedicated choir each Sunday, we have need and opportunity to explore many other options from individuals, to groups, to congregational singing. If you have ideas about how to move forward, if you have interest in coordinating or leading some of the musical talent of this congregation, we are open to all suggestions. What I do know is that we are not short on talent, we just need to use it creatively.

Thank you Ron and choir members for all your faithful service. I look forward to seeing what comes next!

## **THANK YOU!**

At a recent Finance Team meeting we were caught up in gratitude for the faithful stewardship of the people of this congregation and we thought, “We should say thank you!” So, THANK YOU! Thank you for your stewardship and your love of ministry and mission in this congregation. Thank you not only for helping balance a budget, but more importantly for doing the work of Christ in this community and in the world. Thank you for all you contribute to the church and to what we do. Thank you!

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PARISH NURSE NOTES

There’s still time to sign up for the Blood Drive on Monday, June 3rd, between 2:00 and 7:00! As I write this, there are only ten people who have signed up to donate. The need for blood is always there, and supplies get especially low in the summer. It will only take an hour of your time, and your donation has the potential to save three lives. The signup sheet is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. (An added incentive this time is a gift of a sunshade for your car.) Eleven years ago, ten units of blood were used to keep my daughter alive. If those ten people had excused themselves because of being too busy or said “I don’t do needles, sorry”, she would not be alive today. The gift of life is a wonderful thing to be able to give to someone. FYI, the very first person to sign up for this drive was an 18 year old senior in high school. That can be the inspiration for the rest of us. Please add to the number of heroes who donate. Thank you!

Although it may not seem like it, the sun will come out. This is my never-ending reminder to please slather on the sunscreen when you are out and about. Also, remember to reapply it after a few hours. You can get skin damage even on cloudy days, and the worst sunburn I ever had happened on a day when the sun was trying to burn through a dense fog! Tough, wrinkly, “saddle-leather” skin is not all that pretty, and melanoma is deadly. Be smart and safe in the sun.

Remember to keep moving! There is a lot of truth to the saying, “Move it or lose it!”

Blessings to all.

Karen Sorenson, Parish Nurse



JUNE WORSHIP

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE



Head Usher: Jourene Frederick

June 2nd

N. Door Greeter: Penny Ingraham
Greeters: Volunteer Needed
Reader: Mary Jane Misamore
Sound System: Don Mandry
Counters: Miriam Johnson
Nancy McGovern
Nursery Helper: Molly Bergnach
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team
Comm. Prep: Carole Serpe

June 9th

N. Door Greeter: Tana Baldwin
Greeters: The Mandrys
Reader: Julia Robinson
Sound System: Tyler Peroutka
Counters: Miriam Johnson
Nancy McGovern
Nursery Helper: Markie Peroutka
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

June 16th

N. Door Greeter: Brenda Langerman
Greeters: Nancy McGovern
Reader: Todd Kotten
Sound System: Tom Berry

June 16th (cont'd)

Counters: Tana Baldwin
Volunteer Needed
Nursery Helper: Deb Kovachik
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

June 23rd

N. Door Greeter: Lori Barnes
Greeters: B. Grund/J.Rivera
Reader: Charlie Leicht
Sound System: Walter Deignan
Counters: Miriam Johnson
Tana Baldwin
Nursery Helper: Linda Putrow
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

June 30th

N. Door Greeter: Lisa Hawley
Greeters: The Meinhardts
Reader: Linnea Elrod
Sound System: Jerry Jones
Counters: Miriam Johnson
Julie Iorio
Nursery Helper: Tana Baldwin
Fellowship Host: Mariners

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS