

MARCH 2021

SESSION NEWSLETTER*

First Presbyterian Church of Saline

*Name the Newsletter Contest!

Visit salinepres.org or call the church office to submit your idea. Entries are due by March 31st. Winner receives a \$20 Carrigan Cafe Gift Card!



A Brand-New Newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter, brought to you by Session, with the goal of sharing more information with the Congregation. As the governing body of the church, it is important that Session makes you aware of important business, current members, committee information, and more. Inside, you'll find ways for you to communicate with Session. Questions or suggestions? We'd like to hear from you. Visit the website to submit your suggestions or questions.

Why a paper newsletter?

During this pandemic, electronic communications have increased to the point of being overwhelming. We thought this approach may provide a bit of relief, so feel free to grab a beverage, find a cozy spot, and read at your leisure. In the future, we plan to offer a way to opt-out of paper and receive via email if you choose. We hope you find this and future issues beneficial and informative.

OVERVIEW:

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Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday Combined
Thursday, April 1, 7pm

Easter Sunday Service:
Sunday April 4, 10:30am

Lombard Workshops

Next Steps

First Presbyterian hosted two workshops led by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in January: **Healthy Congregations** was a 1-day event and **Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches** (CTSC) was a Friday evening/Saturday event. Held via Zoom, approximately 43 members participated, plus the IPT and a member of the Detroit Presbytery.

We had great conversations, discussed case studies, and learned useful tools. These workshops were part of the conflict resolution process and an important step toward our future goals for the church and our upcoming pastor search process.

What's Next?

At its February meeting, Session approved the formation of a "Mission and Visioning Task Force" that will be charged with long-range/future vision planning for our church. Information regarding this team will be shared soon.

Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacons

During the pandemic, those Elders and Deacons whose terms were to end in 2020 graciously extended their commitment and have provided great service to our Church. Recently Session directed the Nominating Committee to begin its process of nominating upcoming Elders and Deacons.

The Nominating Committee for Elders and deacons is chaired by Elder John Coffey. Members include Susan Brown, Nick Clark, Joyce Leslie, Rachelle Nyitray, Jackie Buse (Deacon), and Arleta Greer (Elder). Reverend Dr. Judy Shipman will act as Ex-Officio Member/Advisor.

Be Connected!

First Presbyterian Church of Saline
143 East Michigan Avenue
Saline MI 48176
salinepres.org 734-429-4140

Session Wants to Hear From You!

Session would like to hear from you! The church office will forward messages to the group or you may use the new "**Ask the Session**" form on the church website.



Session Meeting Notes

-Session met Tuesday evening, February 16.
 -Rev. Zambon led the Session's time of officer training. As the Nominating Committee is preparing the slate of officers to be nominated, Rev. Zambon referred to the Presbyterian Book of Order G-2.03 Ruling Elders: The Ministry of Discernment and Governance – "Ruling elders are so named not because they 'lord it over' the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life."

-Session approved the appointing of a Mission & Vision Task Force to determine God's plan for who we are and where we are going and how we get there. More on this in the weeks ahead.

-The Communications Task Force continues its work to discern how to use print media, email, the church website, and other communication tools effectively.

-The Pandemic Health Team continues to monitor the COVID-19 impact in our community and in our congregation.

-Session approved a request from Linda Brown, Youth Director, to arrange an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth and to film a Palm Parade to be used on Palm Sunday.

Carey Pellerin requested permission to have an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children also. All activities would occur outside, with masks and social distancing.

-The Nominating Committee is going forward with preparing the slate of officers for deacons and elders. The Committee Chair is John Coffey.

-Treasurer's Report: January Income: \$12K; January Expenses: \$(15K); Net: \$(3K)

If you have questions or comments, please contact the clerk at janyce1950@gmail.com.

God Bless,

Janyce Durnell

Clerk of Session

A Church Building and Gathering Update

We hope you are all well and will soon receive your Covid vaccine. The PHT makes recommendations to Session, which then makes the decisions regarding the status of gathering and use of the church building. While our building remains closed and Worship is virtual at this time, we are all working, praying, and planning on how to get to 'yes' in regards to church activities.

Property is making required updates to the building and Community Connection is visualizing celebrations for when we can gather again. *Continued on next page*

A Church Building and Gathering Update *Continued*

We are all so frustrated waiting for vaccine opportunities and by the presence of the new, even more serious variants present in our community. Young people and adults alike are suffering from isolation. It seems so odd that the best way we can show love is to stay apart for now.

Keith Brown and others have donated their time and talents, and are continuing to do incredible work by shifting to electronic formats for Worship, meetings, and gatherings.

While we long for the day when we can gather again, we remain thankful we can be connected in other ways and, most importantly, in Spirit during this time. Updates will be available via the Weekly Connect email and this newsletter.

If you have a specific request, please email it to the church office or valentines550@gmail.com for consideration by the PHT, who will then make a recommendation to Session.



The Pandemic Health Team

The Pandemic Health Team (PHT) meets regularly and its members cover a broad spectrum of medical knowledge.

- Dr. Carter Bishop
- Dr. Richard Beil
- Debbie Brunelle (Involved with the County, a contact tracer with the State),
- Dana Burkley (front line administrator at Michigan Medicine)
- Mica Blauw (Epidemiologist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital)
- Rev. Dr. Judy Shipman (Represents the IPT, former microbiologist)
- Peg Woehrle (Strong background in social work and mental health issues)
- Ann Valentine (Background in laboratory medicine, Session Liaison)

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More About Session: Session Committees

Session Members are noted in italics. Committee chairs are noted with an asterisk.

Administration and Personnel

Keith Brown
*Trisha Pickett**
Lindsay Ryan

Worship

Claire Barnich
Bob Cindric
Marcia Frye
Joan Starkey
Nancy Ryan
Debra Manchester
*Ann Valentine**

Community Connection

Laurie Champion
Nick Clark
*Arleta Greer**
Debra Manchester
Julie Neuhauser

Stewardship

*Dana Burkley**
John Coffey
Karen Collins

Finance

Lisa Clark
*Kurt Leutheuser**
Troy Newberry
Scott Carter

Mission

Bill Armstrong
Dana Burkley
*Lisa Clark**
Linda Kiser
Bob Cindric
Kurt Leutheuser
Nancy Ryan
Taylor Jacobsen
Lee Wilwerth

Session Committees have
regular members and
Session Members serving
on them. If you are
interested in a committee,
please contact the chair.

Property

*Keith Brown**
John Coffey
Bill Armstrong
Bob Bailey
Tom Brown
Scott Carter
Nick Clark
John Coffey
Jan Haupt
Barry Jacobsen
Taylor Jacobsen
Fred Lupton
Mark Valentine
John Young

Christian Education

Mickey Armstrong
Linda Brown,
Director of
Youth Ministry
Karen Collins
Susan Brown
Carey Pellerin
*Trisha Pickett**
Marcia Frye
Bill Woehrle

Nominating Committee

Susan Brown
Jackie Buse (Deacon)
Arleta Greer
*John Coffey**
Nick Clark
Joyce Leslie
Rachelle Nyitray

More About Session

What is Session? It is *not* a Board of Directors; it *is* the gathered body of ruling elders chosen by God through the voice of the congregation. Together, they are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Prayerfully, they envision, lead, and oversee the congregation's mission and ministry, ever challenging them to submit all efforts to the rule and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Church members decide who serves on Session: each member has a vote about who serves on the Nominating Committee, which then discerns who might serve as Session Elders. The congregation has a final vote on the perspective Session members at the Annual Meeting of the congregation in January.

Session members serve three-year terms, called a "Class." A member serving the Class of 2022, for example, will finish their term mid-year in 2022. In addition, each Elder is also assigned to serve on various Committees (see next page).

Class of 2020 (Term extended due to Pandemic):

Keith Brown
Lindsay Ryan
Debra Manchester
Bill Woehrle

Class of 2021:

Dana Burkley
Lisa Clark
Trisha Pickett
Ann Valentine

Class of 2022:

John Coffey
Arleta Greer
Kurt Leutheuser

Non-Session Members:

Janyce Durnell, Clerk of Session
Rev. Dr. Budge Gere, Moderator
Troy Newberry, Treasurer

Non-session members do not have a vote. The Moderator is the 'chairperson' of Session and must be an ordained minister.

Christian Education News

In this history-making year, only the Adult Forum program went dormant. We are delighted to announce its return! Bill Woehrle, leader of this forum, writes: this will not be a "Bible Study," nor a "Book Study," as those programs already exist. Adult Forum will study articles and news media. Yes, we'll deal with government (local, state, and national) and politics (liberal, conservative, and "neutral"); but it will be structured, respectful, and informative.

For example, President Biden's inauguration marked the 60th anniversary of President Kennedy's inauguration (seems like only yesterday). One of my favorite Kennedy quotes was: "we're here not to curse the darkness but to light a candle." After all these years, how are we doing? As a nation? As a church? As an individual?

We will decide as a group on the meeting time, perhaps outside the usual Sunday. Please respond with your interest and suggested times. Lastly, if you want to share in leading, let me know!

Bill

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