

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE MESSENGER

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For Word-Share-Prayer

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

Friends: planning, planning, planning is going on at First Presbyterian! The Vision and Mission Team presented its plan to Session late last month (See page 3). Committees are re-forming and reforming, carefully laying a path that will take our church into the next year, even the next decade. A Designated Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected (Also page 3). At the same time, the church's strengths have never been so apparent. The Worship Committee has brought dynamic guest ministers to us to lead Sunday worship services. The Mission Committee is moving projects forward. The building is filling up with music rehearsals and groups that are meeting. Christian Education has a group for everyone to call home. So, if you are seeking more spiritual food, give one a try. And when a committee invites you to join its ministry, join! *There is a path for you to follow as you make God's story your story at First Presbyterian.*



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First Presbyterian Church of Saline

734-429-4140 salinepres.org

The Christian Education Committee continues to reach out and meet families where they are most comfortable. In the ongoing uncertainty of our times, we will provide Sunday School resources as a way to support the faith development of children and youth. Our current plan is listed below. Please reach out if your family has additional needs.

Children (Preschool-5th Grade)

September: We will remain virtual. We will be continuing to provide weekly Grace Sightings Material to families and an activity packet. We will not have in-person Sunday School.

October: We are planning to provide in-person Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:15. This class will be a single multiage Sunday school class. Stay tuned for details



Youth (Grade 6-12)

September 12th Worship service will be youth-led. They have been working on the service for the last few weeks.

Youth Parent Meeting September 20th. Parents will work to determine the activities and focus of the Youth ministry. Our Fall Schedule will be determined and posted after the Parent meeting.



All plans are of course subject to revision based on often-changing needs and circumstances. Please reach out with any questions, ideas, or comments. Karen Collins (collika1@gmail.com), Carey Pellerin (clm_pellerin@yahoo.com) and Linda Brown (youth.pastor@salinepres.org).

From the Worship Committee

Worship has arranged for the following pulpit supply schedule. Pastoral care is provided by our Deacons during this time.

Sept. 12 - Youth Director Linda Brown

Sept. 19 - Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner

Sept. 26 - Rev. Janice Langwig

Oct 3 - Rev. Faith Fowler, Executive Director of CASS Community Social Services. Rev. Dr. Budge Gere will administer communion.



If you have questions, go to our salinepres.org website and click the "ask Session" button.

In the spring, Session, anticipating the need for the church to enter into a planning process in the foreseeable future, as a first step appointed a team to develop a vision and a mission to address the church's potential near-term goals and aspirations. Erica Brown, Laurie Champion, Jim Dell'Orco, Taylor Jacobsen, Shannon Janeczek (co-chair), Mark Pellerin and Nancy Ryan (co-chair) were selected. For several months the Vision and Mission Team has met almost weekly in fulfilling their task. On Tuesday, August 24, the Team met with the Session. Meeting in groups comprising members of Session and Team Members, discussion of the following took place:

2021 Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

First Presbyterian Church of Saline will be a Church that seeks to make God's story our story by joyfully growing in faith and serving in love.

Mission

As we grow in faith and live in hope, First Presbyterian Church of Saline will seek to make God's story our story by:

- Living and deepening our faith through worship, prayer, study, fellowship, and serving
- Inviting people to discern their spiritual gifts for ministry and acts of service
- Sharing Christ's good news of joy, hope, and healing
- Sharing stories of God's presence in our lives
- Being a physical and spiritual presence in the community and the world through acts of justice and compassion
- Honoring our Presbyterian heritage while integrating new traditions
- Nurturing a healthy, supportive church culture
- Welcoming all to be part of the story!



After discussion, Session moved to accept the Vision and Mission Statement and to be faithful in carrying it out. At its September meeting, Session will discuss ways to begin discussing in depth and implementing the Vision and Mission throughout the life of the congregation and the work of the committees.

Congregation Elects a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

At a specially called meeting of the congregation held on Sunday, August 29, the congregation elected a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC). Those elected were serving on the Vision and Mission Committee.

The Reverend Neeta Nichols, representing the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery Detroit with whom the committee will work closely, met with those elected after the meeting so they could begin their work as quickly as possible. The committee's first task is to prepare a Mission Information Form (MIF), which the group has already begun to do.



Session Meeting Notes, August 10 2021

*The session notes below are edited—see full notes on the website or in your Session Notes Email.
You may also contact the office for a complete set of notes.*

Session met at the church Tuesday August 11, 2021, with Rev. Budge Gere opening the meeting with prayer. Bill Woehrle presented the Word-Share-Prayer based on Luke 15.

Session Committee/Team Assignments were approved : **Administration and Personnel:** Keith Brown. **Worship:** Dianne Newberry and Nancy Ryan. **Community Connections:** Arleta Greer, Laurie Champion, Barbara Balog. **Mission:** Bill Armstrong, Lisa Clark, Kurt Leutheuser, Nancy Ryan. **Finance:** Laurie Champion, Bari Livsey, Kurt Leutheuser. **Property:** Keith Brown, John Coffey, Bill Armstrong. **Congregational Communications:** Keith Brown, Lisa Clark, Bari Livsey, Bill Woehrle.

In response to the continued presence of COVID-19, Session voted to mirror the current recommendations of the Washtenaw County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, among the current recommendations being that everyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The church elected a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee. See article page 3.

It was reported that Tyler Driskill has been hired as an interim accompanist for services of worship.

Christian Education Committee reported that Church Librarian Mickey Armstrong had determined that a number of books would get more use and be a greater benefit to individuals or other organizations than to members of the congregation. Accordingly, at Mickey's suggestion, Session voted to make those books available, first to members of the congregation and then to organizations outside the church. Session, learning that Mickey has served in the capacity of Church Librarian for more than 40 years, then voted to recognize her for her extraordinary service to the church in this role.

Christian Education reported about Sunday School. See article page 2.

Mission Committee reported that the committee is making plans to sponsor a mission trip to Cass Community Center October 4-9 and that its Executive Director, Faith Fowler, will preach at Saline First Presbyterian Sunday October 3.

Janyce Durnell. Clerk of Session

