

THE MESSENGER

Session News for the Pews

MAY 2022



Word-Share-Prayer: Deacon's Prayer by Amy Ekeh

First Presbyterian Deacons want to share this prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of all, send your Spirit upon me as I serve your Church. Give me eyes to see the needs of your people. Give me a discerning mind to know your truth. Give me a generous spirit when I am tired but needed. Give me a humble heart when my work goes unnoticed. Give me peace of mind in obedience and service. Give me health of body so I may serve with strength. Make me fertile ground for your inspiration and love. Comfort me when I question myself and my ministry. Grant me grace as I age so I may share your wisdom. Make my heart like yours so I may love your people. Amen.

JUNE JAMBOREE

Save the Date! Father's Day, June 19

Fathers' Day – Sunday, June 19. Circle that date on your calendar to attend the worship service and festivities immediately after in the Meditation Garden. Think of it as an extension of our traditional "Strawberry Festival." We will be offering a variety of food, games, and activities for all ages. Plans are currently underway for this exciting event for members, their families, and friends. Those planning the June Jamboree include Mickey Armstrong, Barbara Balog, Terrie Eroh, Becky McVey, and Bill Woehrle.

If you would like to help (and the more, the merrier), please contact Mickey Armstrong.



In Appreciation

Pat Willwerth is retiring from her role as supply organist after decades of serving.

We are grateful for the time and talent that she has selflessly gifted to our congregation, stepping into Sunday worship whenever the need has arisen.

It was Pat's musical expression (together with Dianne Newberry) that lifted our hearts during the long months our church was closed for the pandemic.

Many thanks, Pat!

Worshipping as a Community

During this new phase of the pandemic, some people are choosing to wear masks during worship while others are comfortable without. This is a matter of personal choice.

As a congregation grounded in mutual respect and love, we ask that you honor the choice of one another and refrain from judgment and criticism.

Acts of Service: Please Pray for the Nominating Committee

Susan Brown, John Coffey (chair), Arleta Greer, Bonnie Leutheuser, Debra Manchester, and Fred Lupton serve on this year's Nominating Committee. They are working toward forming a slate of nominees for the next class of Deacons and Elders. Once completed, a congregational meeting will be called to vote on the slate of candidates. Please pray for members of the Nominating Committee and their work for the church.

**Mission
Statement:**

As we grow in faith and live in hope, First Presbyterian Church of Saline will seek to make God's story our story by: Nurturing a healthy, supportive church culture.



Monday, May 30, 2022

Arleta Greer Presents at Session Meeting

Elder Arleta Greer presented information about the LGBTQ community, making pertinent connections to the church’s Mission Statement, *Welcoming, Accepting, and Affirming all to be part of the story!* Arleta Greer answered questions, particularly about terminology and definitions. If you would like to receive this information or are interested in attending a presentation/Q&A, please contact Arleta through the Church Office.



From the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

The search for our Designated Pastor continues. The Great Resignation has had implications for all types of work, and that includes ministry as well. Each month we have requested a new match from the Church Leadership Connection. Last month’s match yielded 10 candidates, but only one responded to phone and email outreach to let us know that they were in discernment about another call.

The positive news is that we are moving forward to a 2nd interview with a candidate, and a first interview with a candidate who was referred to us by our Transitional Executive Presbyter, Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins. Our team continues to explore every possibility, work collaboratively as a group, and to proceed with patience and deliberation. We ask that the congregation surround the process in prayer – for the discernment of our search committee and the candidates we consider. Please continue to be steadfast in commitment to building up this congregation and its ministries, and in your own spiritual formation. Pastoral candidates are considering these things as they discern a call.

Donation to Care Village

Session approved the removal of an upright piano in the Bell Choir room and transport to the container loading for Care Village. So many at Care Village will enjoy the instrument for years to come. The tradition of First Presbyterian's strong support for music ministry means we can share this gift. Thank you!



Cabinet Piano Sent to Care Village

Clerk's Session Notes -April

Note: a more detailed version was emailed to the congregation on 4/27/2022. If you have a question for Session, please use the "Ask Session" button on the church website, salinepres.org

Session met at the church and the Moderator, Rev. Budge Gere, opened the meeting with prayer. Word-Share-Prayer was presented by Nancy Ryan using Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35, the biblical account of The Walk to Emmaus.

The Clerk reported that as of Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 65 member surveys have been returned. If you did not receive a survey, please let the church office know.

A Special Meeting of the Congregation was held on April 10, 2022 and approved Session’s recommendation that initial conversations continue with parties interested in the potential purchase of the church properties located at 100 Hall Street, 102 E. McKay Street and 155 E. Michigan Avenue. Prior to the vote the Moderator reminded the congregation that while the Session provides leadership in church matters, issues surrounding the acquisition and disposition of church real estate require congregational and presbytery involvement and final approval.

Treasurer Report:
YTD Income: \$55K;
YTD Expenses (\$34K);
Net \$21K

Prayer for Memorial Day

As our nation pauses to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to You for strength, comfort, and guidance. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces today. Bless them and their families, and grant Your loving protection. Amen.